

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019



the yearly magazine of the NPS Investigative Services Branch



Investigative Services Branch
Law Enforcement, Security, and Emergency Services

National Park Service
US Department of the Interior



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



MISSION: 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.

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

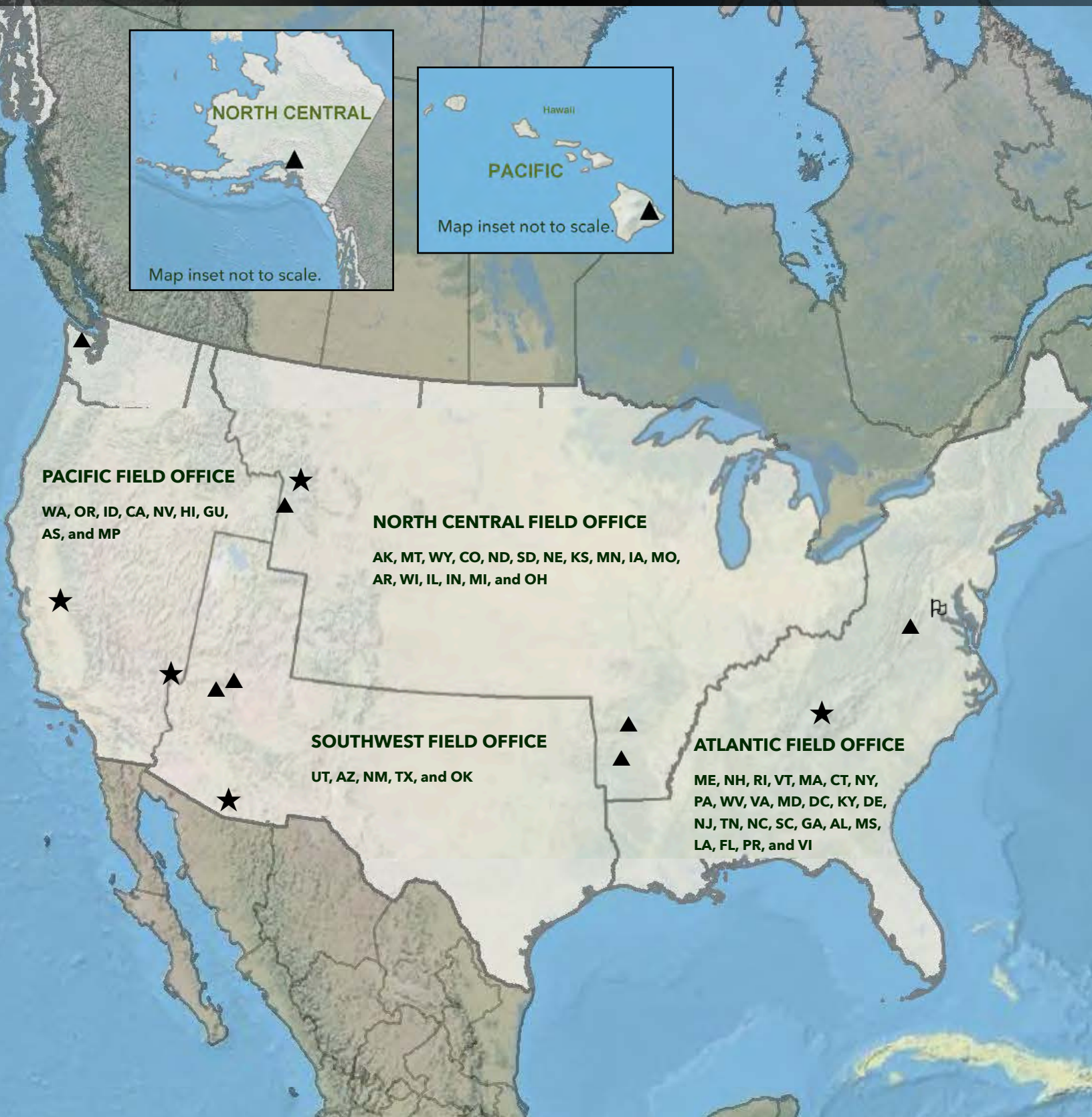
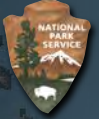
VALUES: Honesty. Integrity. Respect. Service.



Investigative Services Branch

Law Enforcement, Security, and Emergency Services

National Park Service
US Department of the Interior



★ 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).

In This Edition

The Year at a Glance

- 3 Map of ISB Field Offices
- 6 Message from the Chief
- 8 Message from the SAC
- 10 Awards & Recognitions
- 38 Statistics

From the Field

- 9 What We Do
- 12 Pacific Field Office
- 18 North Central Field Office
- 24 Southwest Field Office
- 30 Atlantic Field Office



www.nps.gov/ISB



@InvestigativeServicesNPS



@SpecialAgent_NPS



@SpecialAgentNPS

Features and Extras

- 20 - Felony Lacey Act
Violations in Noatak
National Preserve**
- 28 - DOI Border Surge:
Interagency Operations**
- 29 - IPC Training: Fighting
Crimes Against Children**

Behind the Scenes

- 36 - The Dynamics of
Intelligence Analysis**
- 37 - Leveraging
Computer Forensics**
- 39 - Reaching Out:
Your Portals to ISB**

Highlights of the NPS Investigative Services Branch
is produced in-house and meets federal IT Accessibility standards (Section 508-compliance).
Questions and comments are welcome.

Contact Us:

NPS Investigative Services Branch
1849 C St NW, Mailstop 2555
Washington, DC 20240

Business Line: 202-379-4761

A bristlecone pine and starscape in Great Basin National Park. NPS photo.

Cover: a Special Agent of the NPS Investigative Services Branch
and a US Park Ranger apprehend a suspect. NPS photo.

Inside Cover: a Special Agent in the field. NPS photo by H Voster.

All maps created by Brandon Lemire (NPS).

— MESSAGE FROM HUNTER BAILEY —
Chief of the NPS Investigative Services Branch



Chief Hunter Bailey. NPS photo.

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.

Dear Family, Partners, and Friends of the National Park Service:

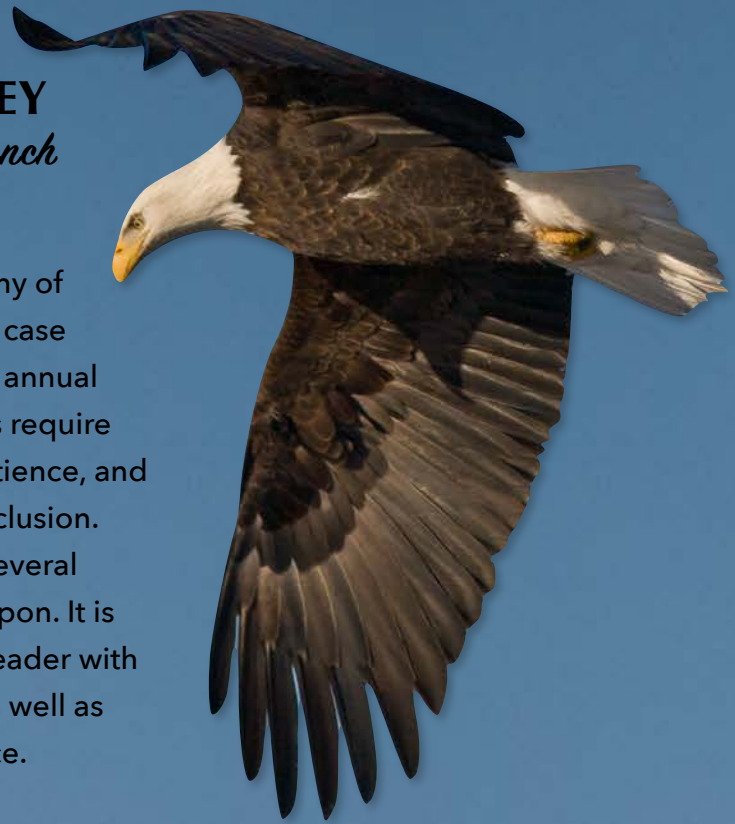
It is an honor and privilege for the team of the Investigative Services Branch (ISB) to serve you. Our core mission is the “long-term protection of park resources, visitors, assets, employees and residents. We accomplish this through the detection, investigation, apprehension, and successful prosecution of persons who violate the laws of the United States of America while within, or while affecting the National Park System.” Each and every day our Special Agents, Intelligence Analyst, and support staff work tirelessly in support of this mission – and in doing so ensure that violators are held accountable, victims are heard and served, and park resources are protected for future generations.

It would be impossible to capture every success story or significant case that came to fruition in 2019, but this annual report is designed to showcase some of the spectacular work this group of dedicated professionals has achieved over the past year.

Before I begin to highlight some of the accomplishments from 2019, I want to take an opportunity to recognize the strong work of outgoing Chief of ISB, Russell Roy, Jr. Chief Roy dedicated over 22 years of service to ISB as a Special Agent, an Assistant Special Agent in Charge, and finally as the Chief from 2014 - 2019. Through his dedication and leadership, Chief Roy greatly improved and advanced the ISB Program and many of the achievements we see in place today are the result of his vision. We extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to Chief Roy for his tremendous accomplishments and we wish him the very best as he enjoys retirement with family and friends.

MESSAGE FROM HUNTER BAILEY

Chief of the NPS Investigative Services Branch



2019 was an extremely successful year for ISB and many of the great achievements are related to the tremendous case work that are outlined in the subsequent pages of this annual report. These types of complex criminal investigations require an enormous amount of dedication, planning, skill, patience, and perseverance to see them through to their logical conclusion. Each Assistant Special Agent in Charge has selected several noteworthy cases from their Field Office to expound upon. It is our hope that these case summaries will provide the reader with a glimpse of the remarkable work that has occurred as well as the importance of this work to the National Park Service.

In addition to successful cases, we made several major programmatic advancements during 2019. This extraordinary work would not have been possible without ISB's extremely talented workforce. Although we lose agents to retirement from time to time, it was with great pleasure that in 2019 we welcomed two new members to the ISB Team. They came to us in the fall and brought significant experience from other investigative programs across the federal government. We look forward to the unique skills and contributions they will bring to our portfolio as well as the additional capacity they will add.

We also want to take an opportunity to recognize and thank the National Park Rangers who participated in the ISB Detailer Program in 2019. This program has been and will continue to be critical to ISB's success. These rangers assisted tremendously during their assignments and we extend our thanks to them for a job well done.

It is indeed an honor, and at the same time humbling, to have been selected to lead ISB and its incredible workforce. My goal as the new leader of the organization is to continue to build upon a strong foundation of success and explore additional ways to advance the program given its distinct niche which uniquely supports the mission of the National Park Service.

We are excited about a successful year and the journey ahead. We are extremely grateful and enthusiastic to have you as partners in this journey alongside us.

We look forward to continuing to carry out professional investigations while serving with honor, integrity, and respect.

Sincerely,

Hunter Bailey
Chief, NPS Investigative Services Branch

— MESSAGE FROM CHRISTOPHER SMITH —
Special Agent in Charge of the NPS Investigative Services Branch



SAC Christopher Smith. NPS photo.

The women and men of the Investigative Services Branch work tirelessly to ensure that justice is done and victims are heard by conducting and supporting criminal investigations into the most serious offenses committed within the National Park Service system.

This team, comprised of Special Agents and personnel in intelligence and support functions, is spread across the United States. They often work alone or in small teams, and generally avoid attention and accolades.

The investigative examples you will find in these subsequent pages are a mere sample of the work these dedicated professionals accomplished in 2019.

This past year ISB closed another chapter in its history with the retirement of Chief Russell Roy. Chief Roy worked from a field agent position up to the Chief of ISB and was with ISB when the program was created. He was an institution within this program; he understood the inner workings of the Washington Support Office (WASO), allowing him to solve problems that seemed monumental to others. His humility, kindness, and leadership will be greatly missed.

I would like to take a moment to thank Acting Visitor and Resource Protection Associate Director Louis Rowe and Acting Law Enforcement, Security, and Emergency Services Chief John Leonard. Together they ensured an effective and efficient transition occurred for ISB's Chief in 2019. Both AD Rowe and Chief Leonard solicited input from the ISB Leadership Team and acted quickly to select Hunter Bailey as the program's next Chief. Chief Bailey was unanimously supported by the ISB Leadership Team and he was able to transition smoothly into his new role.

In addition to filling the Chief position, ISB hired two new Special Agents in 2019. This not only secured critical skillsets that will serve the agency well; it also marked a significant milestone in that every approved Special Agent position on the ISB organizational chart is filled – one of the few times in recent memory for this to occur. We welcome them to the NPS Investigative Services Branch.

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

— MESSAGE FROM CHRISTOPHER SMITH —
Special Agent in Charge of the NPS Investigative Services Branch

Beyond the myriad investigations successfully conducted in 2019, the ISB program made significant progress in several initiative areas. We worked hard to further the ISB Health, Wellness, and Resiliency Program, seeking and securing an external subject matter expert to aid in the development of this critical program. The topic is vital to the sustainability of our workforce and I am excited and hopeful the program will effectively support the women and men of ISB.

The job of being an ISB Special Agent is difficult. In addition to seeing the worst of humanity, due to the complexity of the types of investigations ISB Special Agents often work, they carry these investigations for years. That combined with the traumatic nature of some of what they see and the unpredictability of deployments contributes to significant trauma exposure. The impact of this not only impacts the Special Agents, but also their families, their support system, and the ISB program itself.

While the nature of what we do will not change, I am hopeful that this new program will help our team be more sustainable, recover faster and more completely, and reduce the negative consequences of this noble profession.

In 2019 ISB implemented the ISB Duty Agent line, a single number for NPS Law Enforcement Rangers to call to get support and assistance from ISB. This number is staffed 24/7/365 by an ISB Special Agent and simplifies access to ISB for our customers.

Holding violators accountable through excellence in investigations is what the ISB Team does every day. The individual Special Agents and support personnel that make up this program work together for a single and common mission. They are dedicated, selfless professionals who I am incredibly proud to be associated with.

Christopher Smith
Special Agent in Charge of ISB

WHAT WE DO

— *investigations & more* —

- 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

AWARDS

— & 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.

Associate Director's Outstanding Service and STAR Awards

An ISB Special Agent was presented with the Associate Director's Outstanding Service Award in recognition of her outstanding work ethic and strong leadership abilities, as well as her engaging personality and unflagging commitment to helping those in need. She is an exemplary ambassador for our program, and can be counted on to handle any situation at any time, no matter how difficult, sensitive, or complex it may be. This Special Agent's skill, attitude, integrity, and dedication is of the highest example that the National Park Service has to offer. She is an inspiration to rangers and agents alike.



NPS photo.

Kalaupapa National Historical Park also honored this Special Agent's outstanding support and dedication to the park with a STAR Award. "[She] has been a tremendous asset to the park's Visitor & Resources Protection Division, which ultimately enhanced the overall safety of our entire community," noted the park's Chief Ranger. The Special Agent "never hesitates when looked upon for assistance" with the park's unique, challenging cases. "Her sheer dedication is a blessing to our agency [and] clearly exemplifies her pledge and love for her job and the National Park Service."

Victim Witness Award

An ISB Special Agent received the 2019 Victim Witness Award from Coconino County, AZ. She "had the vision and tenacity to lay the groundwork for a multi-disciplinary team approach to caring for crime victims," wrote Sarah Young Patton, Associate Director of Victim-Witness Services. "This is a small part of the work [the Special Agent] has done to improve services for victims of crime, ensure justice, and help them find healing." This Special Agent is a true champion for victims; her work reflects the best tradition of ISB and the National Park Service.



Logo of Coconino County
Victim Witness Services.

Moonrise in Joshua Tree National Park. NPS photo by K Rugg.

AWARDS

& recognitions

DOI Valor Award

An ISB Special Agent was recognized alongside four others with a Valor Award during the 74th DOI Honor Awards Convocation held in September 2019. The Valor Award is presented to DOI employees who have demonstrated unusual courage involving a high degree of personal risk in the face of danger. On October 3, 2014, these employees were part of a complex and dangerous rescue of a fallen climber approximately 1,700 feet above the valley floor on The Nose route of El Capitan in Yosemite National Park. The climber had fallen 20 feet, hitting a rock head first, and had been upside down and unconscious for about 10 minutes. After an intricate helicopter short-haul rescue operation, the patient was flown to a trauma center. Each team member performed a vital role in this mission, which might have ended tragically if not for their heroic actions.



NPS photo of the rescue operation in Yosemite National Park, October 2014.

Exceptional Service Awards:

Great Smoky Mountains National Park presented Exceptional Service Awards in 2019 to a team of ISB Special Agents in recognition of their efforts during the Chimney Tops 2 Fire response and recovery in 2016.



NPS photo.

Length of Government Service Awards:

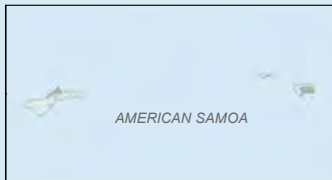
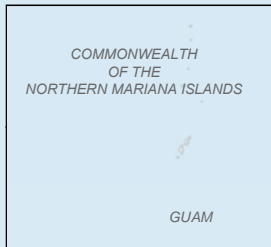
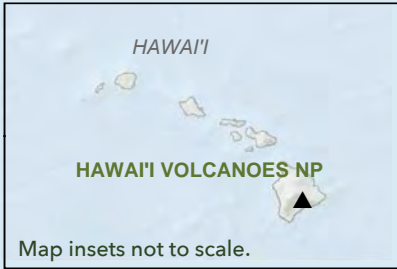
Two ISB Special Agents achieved the milestone of 20 years of government service, one Special Agent attained 15 years, another Special Agent reached 10 years, and one Special Agent marked 5 years. Congratulations, and thank you for your service.



GPO image.

PACIFIC

field office



Legend:

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

PACIFIC

field office

The Pacific Field Office of the Investigative Services Branch, seated in Yosemite National Park, provides investigations and law enforcement support services in large sections of three Unified Interior Regions – Columbia-Pacific Northwest, California-Great Basin, and Lower Colorado Basin. The office currently staffs Resident Offices at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, and Olympic National Park. The field office serves and supports 76 National Park Service units. Of these, 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, 1 is in Arizona, and 3 NPS sites are in the territories of the South Pacific Islands.

Though the Pacific Field office started out the year with 9 investigators working cases, assignments, details, and other operations meant that it did not enjoy a full capacity for the majority of the year. In November, our 10th Special Agent came onboard and is stationed at the Lake Mead Resident Office.

In 2019, the Pacific Field Office opened 54 new investigations and worked a total of 123 open cases. The successful closure rate on those cases as of the end of the year is a strong 59%. The 9 working field investigators carried an average case load of 14 investigations this year.

Those cases were primarily crimes against people (65%), resources crimes (15%), major property crimes (11%), with the rest a mix of narcotics crimes and crimes against society (i.e. felon in possession).

Of those crimes against people, the Pacific Field Office had 37 active sexual assault investigations with 18 of those being new complaints. Additionally, we conducted 13 homicide and manslaughter (or attempts) investigations with 4 of those being new complaints in 2019. Finally, in the category of crimes against people, investigators conducted 12 fatality investigations with questionable method of death.

The Pacific Field Office is carrying over 64 investigations into 2020, with 24 of those already in court awaiting indictment, trial, or sentencing.

We also provided 3 internship opportunities to Level 2 seasonal US Park Rangers during their off season; those interns provided valuable assistance to the working agents by doing research, organizing cold case files, and preparing those files for uploading into IMARS. This ensures the cold cases will be electronically stored for future investigation and archiving. The interns also assisted investigators by reviewing documents, assisting with records analysis, and researching information and leads for Special Agents to follow up on.

See the following pages for some of our cases of interest that closed in 2019.

PACIFIC

field office

Lake Mead National Recreation Area and Other Public Lands – International Smuggling of Federally Protected Plants

A man who stole more than 500 federally-protected cactus plants from Lake Mead National Recreation Area was sentenced in April to serve 24 months in prison. William Starr Schwartz, age 54, will then serve 3 years of supervised release, during which time he is banned from entering the park and surrounding public land. He must also pay \$22,655 in restitution. An extensive interagency investigation found that Schwartz had stolen and directed others to steal the plants for him between October 2014 and August 2018. Schwartz then sold the cacti through the Internet, illegally shipping them to more than 20 countries throughout the world. Investigators recovered numerous stolen cacti during a search warrant conducted on Schwartz's residence in August 2018. They also found methamphetamine and related drug paraphernalia. Schwartz pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine, theft of government property, smuggling cacti from the United States, and Lacey Act false labeling charges at a separate court hearing in October 2018. This 3-year investigation was a cooperative effort by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, ISB Special Agents, and US Park Rangers of Lake Mead National Recreation Area. The Assistant US Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona prosecuted the case. Restitution will be received by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.



Lake Mead National Recreation Area – Child Abuse

A timely response by US Park Rangers of Lake Mead National Recreation Area and an investigation by ISB Special Agents concluded with a woman being sentenced to prison for child abuse. In February, Justine R. Kirklen, age 33, was ordered to serve 30 months in prison followed by 3 years of supervised release for her actions in an incident that occurred previously in the park. Kirklen caused the victim to become submerged under water after taking her into Lake Mohave. Rangers and Bullhead City Police Department intervened and ensured the victim received immediate medical care. Kirklen pleaded guilty to child abuse at a separate court hearing. In addition to her prison term and probation, she must meet other conditions of sentencing. The US Attorney's Office, District of Arizona prosecuted the case.

PACIFIC

field office



Public and Tribal Lands – Destruction of Archeological Sites

Investigators from several agencies stopped a man who looted artifacts and destroyed archeological sites on public and tribal lands. Timothy Brian Harrison, age 50, was sentenced in February to serve one year and one day in prison and ordered to pay \$113,000 in restitution. Investigators determined that Harrison conducted illegal digging at prehistoric Native American archeological sites on federal lands in Alpine and El Dorado Counties, near Lake Tahoe. He collected tens of thousands of ancient artifacts from multiple archeological sites, and virtually destroyed two very significant archeological sites. Harrison was convicted on two felony counts of excavation and removal of archeological resources from public lands and one misdemeanor count of unlawful possession of methamphetamine. He was ordered to self-surrender and begin serving his sentence on April 23, 2019. Representatives of the Washoe Tribe of California and Nevada spoke about the impact on the tribe from this destruction of sites. They explained that Harrison's digging erased their past and interfered with the tribe's ability to teach younger generations about their history and culture. Archeologists explained that Harrison's conduct led to the irreplaceable loss of unique historical information. Archeologists learn the cultural history of the prior inhabitants from artifacts left behind by the inhabitants by carefully documenting where the artifacts are found, and looting of the artifacts destroys that context. An ISB Special Agent assisted the US Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, California State Fish & Wildlife Service, California Highway Patrol, and Alpine County Sheriff's Department on this investigation. The US Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California prosecuted the case.

Mount Rainier National Park. NPS photo by J Horn.

Inset: Some of the more than 500 cacti smuggled from Lake Mead National Recreation Area by William Schwartz. NPS photo.

PACIFIC

field office



Lake Mead National Recreation Area – Assault on a Federal Officer

On June 22, a US Park Ranger stationed at Lake Mead was attempting to contact and identify two subjects, Sevastin Cavada and Mikaela Cuevas, for watercraft violations. Though the ranger intended to obtain information to issue citations and release them, the two subjects became belligerent and refused to comply with any request. They further refused to comply with lawful orders to provide information. The exchange became heated and escalated with Cuevas attempting to physically assault the ranger. A third party, Marco Cuevas, became involved and was later charged with interfering and refusing a lawful order. ISB Special Agents investigated the incident and obtained arrest warrants for the three involved for a combination of charges including interference, lawful order violations, and assault on a federal officer. All three were arrested, pleaded guilty, and entered plea agreements. At their sentencing hearing in December, they were fined, issued special assessments, ordered to serve supervised probation, and banned from federal lands for the duration of probation.

The view from Copper Lookout in North Cascades National Park. NPS photo by T Kitterman.

Inset: Boulder Basin in Lake Mead National Recreation Area. NPS photo by A Cattoir.

Crater Lake National Park – Intentional Poisoning

In July 2016, ISB Special Agents and US Park Rangers of Crater Lake National Park began an investigation into the intentional poisoning of approximately 15 concession employees at Crater Lake Lodge. That investigation determined Christopher Morrison had intentionally placed a chemical substance in drinks of those employees. After delays for mental evaluation, Morrison was adjudicated guilty in 2019 on two counts of assault and sentenced to 2 years probation and 200 hours of community service.



Yosemite National Park – Attempted Murder

On July 10, 2018, an individual later identified as Abraham Lee was intoxicated when he confronted his roommates and began a physical altercation with them at a park residence in Wawona. Lee, age 33, then grabbed a kitchen knife and chased the two roommates out of the house. On the front porch of the residence, Lee stabbed the first victim in the back. Both victims fled the area with Lee in pursuit. Lee chased them to 3 additional residences, trying to stab them. Both victims escaped Lee and fled to contact law enforcement. When Lee lost sight of the two victims, he approached a third individual at that person’s residence. As Lee rushed toward the third party, that person picked up a rock and threw it at Lee, knocking him down. Lee was subsequently taken into custody. ISB Special Agents responded and worked a total of 5 crime scenes for this incident. Charged with multiple counts of Assault with a deadly weapon, Lee pleaded guilty to two counts and was sentenced in early 2020 to serve 33 months in prison followed by 36 months supervised probation.

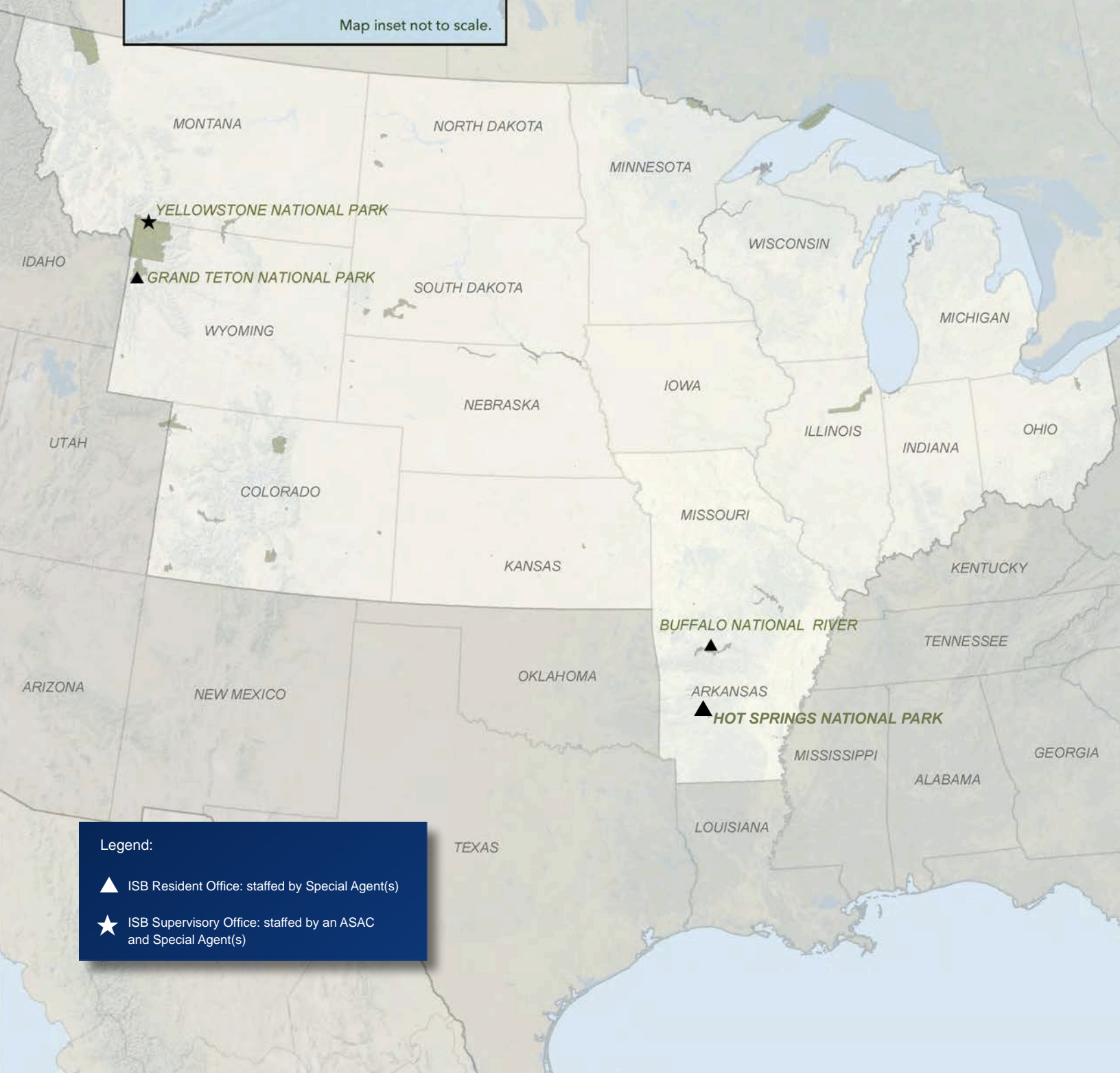


Upper inset: Crater Lake National Park. NPS photo.

Lower inset: Investigators process a crime scene in Yosemite National Park. NPS photo by the Investigative Services Branch.

NORTH CENTRAL

— *field office* —



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 Unified Interior Regions of the Great Lakes, Upper Mississippi Basin, Upper Colorado Basin, and Alaska. Seventeen states and 110 NPS sites fall under its umbrella.

ISB has a long tradition of protecting cultural resources and working long term and often complex investigations through enforcement of the Archeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA). Beginning in 2016, an ISB Special Agent, in close consultation with the NPS Law Enforcement Training Center (LETC), the NPS Advanced Program Manager, and a retired NPS Archeologist, began work on a preliminary training curriculum designed to replace the Archeological Resources Protection Training Program so that land management officers and archeologists could continue to receive basic training in the ARPA law, investigations, resource damage assessments, and ways to bridge the gap between ARPA, the Native American Graves Protection & Repatriation Act, and Section 106.

With dedicated and unwavering support from personnel of Mather Training Center, Learning and Development, throughout 2019 the new ARPA Training was presented through five additional courses to archeologists and officers of the NPS, US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), US Forest Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers and partners.

The training has been received enthusiastically and critical feedback has been used in the final training curriculum to be presented to LETC.

Alaska is the last area in the country with a vast roadless frontier. Over the years this area has produced some of the most complicated and successful resources cases for the National Park Service (see pages 22-23). However, one of the greatest obstacles to conducting law enforcement in the state is the ability to get into the areas where these illegal operations exist. In order to work with our parks and other agencies including USFWS and the Alaska State Troopers, ISB supported a Special Agent based in Alaska through the training needed to become an NPS pilot. This past year marked a milestone in reaching that point. While this is an immediate benefit for operations in Alaska, we are looking to use this resource for operations throughout the National Park System.

Towards the end of 2019, we hired a new Special Agent who comes to us with 13 years with the US Secret Service, with experience in computer forensics. He will be based in Hot Springs National Park.

New and significant cases from 2019 throughout the North Central Field Office are on the following pages.

NORTH CENTRAL

— field office —

Noatak National Preserve –

Following a multi-year interagency investigation that closed in 2019, a man who unlawfully provided guided bear and moose hunts in Noatak National Preserve was sentenced in federal court on January 22, 2020. Having pleaded guilty to two felony counts of violating the Lacey Act at a previous court hearing, Paul Silvis, age 52 and an Idaho resident, was ordered to serve six months of home confinement followed by five years of supervised release. He must serve 200 hours of community service, pay a \$20,000 fine to the Lacey Act Reward Fund, reimburse two clients their deposits for hunts not provided, and is required to write an article in a hunting periodical about his illegal activities. Silvis has been banned from any further hunting in the state of Alaska.

Noatak National Preserve falls within the Alaska game management area wherein with few exceptions, a non-resident hunter to legally hunt brown bear and moose must apply for a draw permit from Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and purchase a locking tag. Additionally, state law requires the non-resident hunter to contract with a licensed Alaska big game guide or be within second degree of kindred to an Alaska resident.

The state of Alaska takes the licensing of guide-outfitters extremely seriously; non-resident, and sometimes resident hunters, who contract with a Registered Guide-Outfitter for the required big game species of brown bear, Dall sheep, and mountain goats, are going into remote places of Alaska. While having a knowledgeable guide-outfitter substantially increases the chances of a client successfully harvesting a once-in-a-lifetime trophy, it is even more important that the requirements required for licensing and experience are a matter of safety for the clients. The licensing requirements are extensive, takes years of licensed guide experience, and must be approved by the Big Game Guides and Outfitter Board. In short, Silvis was providing unlawful outfitting/guiding services.



"We are stewards of some of the most impressive and important protected areas left on the planet," said Joel Hard, NPS Deputy Regional Director. "These lands were set aside by a concerned President and Congress for others to know, appreciate, and experience long beyond our own time."

NORTH CENTRAL

— *field office* —

Felony Lacey Act Violations

The case began from field contacts made by Alaska Wildlife Troopers in 2013 and 2014. Special Agents of the NPS Investigative Services Branch joined the case in 2015. The investigation revealed that from 2009 through 2014, Silvis conducted an illegal hunting guide operation under the name “Orion Outfitters” for clients from Idaho, Utah, Montana, and several other states. Silvis would obtain his clients information prior to the hunt and purchase airfare, lodging, Alaska hunting licenses, locking tags, as well as a general season hunting tag for moose. These clients did not possess all the appropriate permits, tags, or complete the required Alaska hunt reporting requirements. Many of the ADF&G hunt records were submitted with false information by Silvis. In addition, Silvis transported these illegally taken game animals across state lines. The investigation showed that in 2013 and 2014, Silvis repeatedly violated state and federal laws while being paid over \$121,500 for illegally guided/outfitted hunts for bear and moose in Noatak National Preserve.



During the execution of a search warrant at Silvis’ residence in August of 2015, several clients’ documents still in envelopes from ADF&G were seized as evidence. Silvis would complete and submit the hunt/harvest records to ADF&G with false information. Many of the moose harvested were not reported.

Silvis and a former colleague created a scheme to illegally obtain two Alaska brown bear tags. The scheme allowed the bears to be killed by clients, then falsified records were submitted to seal the brown bears with ADF&G. Silvis and his former colleague declared themselves brothers-in-law and would obtain two brown bear tags, one by the Alaska resident and one by Silvis claiming to be the brother-in-law. The investigation was not able to prove the former colleague of Silvis became an actual Alaska resident per hunting regulations.

Silvis would set-up the travel for his clients to fly commercially to the village of Noatak where he would pick them up in the jet boat and transport them to his camp then to hunting locations along the river. After harvesting big game, Silvis transported the hunters and the game in the jet boat back to camp, on to Noatak, and sometimes all the way back to Kotzebue.

Continued on the next page . . .

An illegally hunted brown bear in Noatak National Preserve. Image seized by the NPS Investigative Services Branch.

NORTH CENTRAL

— *field office* —

Noatak National Preserve – Felony Lacey Act Violations, continued

After completing the hunts, Silvis would cache some of his camp equipment and gear on state or federal lands and haul the rest back to Noatak. Some gear, along with the bear hides and skulls and moose antlers, would be transported back to Kotzebue. The brown bear rugs and skulls harvested by clients were taken into ADF&G in Kotzebue and sealed by Silvis and his former colleague using false information by claiming one of the two harvested the brown bear, then using the relative resident scheme to seal the second brown bear. Therefore, the brown bears taken were not only harvested illegally by non-resident clients, the brown bear tags were obtained illegally by falsifying documents to ADF&G, then additional false information provided during the sealing process allowed the brown bears to be sealed by ADF&G.

Interviews of clients revealed that Silvis would hand the clients a plastic bag once in camp with their license and hunting documents. Some clients told investigators they were asked to hand over the plastic bag at the end of the hunting trip.

The complexity of the case required ISB Special Agents and investigators with the Alaska Wildlife Troopers and Idaho Department of Fish and Game to collaborate across geographic and jurisdictional boundaries. A total of four search warrants were served, one by Alaska Wildlife Troopers and three by ISB Special Agents, in addition to other federal processes.

The investigation uncovered eight brown bears and four moose that were illegally taken within hunting seasons of 2012, 2013, and 2014. Additional Information developed during the investigation revealed that other co-conspirators and clients were suspected of illegally harvesting animals prior to 2012.

This case was successful because of the teamwork put forth by the Alaska Wildlife Troopers and ISB Special Agents, along with assistance and expertise from US Fish and Wildlife Service, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and the great work of the US Attorney's Office in Alaska and in Boise, Idaho.

Hot Springs National Park. NPS photo.

Insets: Trophy mounts and other evidence of illegally hunted animals in Noatak National Preserve. NPS images / images seized by the NPS Investigative Services Branch.



NORTH CENTRAL

— field office —

Noatak National Preserve is a six-million-acre unit of the National Park Service located entirely north of the Arctic Circle, and is one of the largest designated wilderness areas in the United States. Centered on the Noatak River, the preserve is also one of North America's largest mountain-ringed river basins, with an intact ecosystem and a wide array of Arctic flora and fauna, including free-ranging populations of grizzly bears and caribou.

The preserve is classified as a national wild and scenic river, and is popular with adventure travelers, river runners, fishermen and hunters. It is also the traditional homeland and hunting area for the Inupiaq people of Northwest Alaska.

Hot Springs National Park – Assault with a Dangerous Weapon

On February 21, US Park Rangers of Hot Springs National Park responded to a shooting along Summit Road and found a victim with a single gunshot wound to his back. ISB Special Agents were requested to respond, and the ensuing investigation revealed that Cedric Wiley, age 29, brought the victim to the scene with the intention to harm him. Wiley, a prohibited possessor (someone who cannot legally own or have a firearm), was indicted for assault with a dangerous weapon. He pleaded guilty in July 2019 with sentencing scheduled for a future date.

Hot Springs National Park – Assault of an Officer

On July 28, 2019, Jonathan Scott pulled a shotgun from his pants and started shooting along the busy tourist traffic of Bathhouse Row within Hot Springs National Park. Hot Springs Police Department (HPD) officers were the first to respond; one officer and his K9 officer were shot, sustaining non-life threatening injuries. HPD officers returned fire and shot Scott, stopping him from injuring others. In July, Scott was indicted on possession of a firearm by prohibited person, use/discharge of a weapon in a crime of violence, assault of an officer, and interference of an officer in performance of duties. This case is ongoing.

Yellowstone National Park – Lacey Act Violations

Three men who violated the Lacey Act in Yellowstone National Park (an act that prohibits hunting in the park) have been sentenced in federal court. The men, from Livingston, Montana, were charged with illegally hunting a mountain lion in the northern section of the park, north of the Yellowstone River, December 12, 2018. Austin Peterson, Trey Juhnke, and Corbin Simmons crossed the park's marked boundary to hunt mountain lions. Each hunter admitted to shooting the lion and transporting the carcass back to their vehicle. Simmons then falsely claimed to have harvested the animal north of the park boundary in Montana. This affected the state's quota system by denying a legal hunter the opportunity to legally harvest a lion. In May, 2019, the offenders were ordered to pay approximately \$5,100 in restitution and fees, and must serve three years of unsupervised probation during which time they are banned from hunting, fishing, or trapping worldwide.

SOUTHWEST

field office

WYOMING

SOUTH DAKOTA

NEBRASKA

NEVADA

UTAH

COLORADO

KANSAS

▲ GLEN CANYON
NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

▲ GRAND CANYON
NATIONAL PARK

ARIZONA

NEW MEXICO

OKLAHOMA

★ TUCSON, AZ

TEXAS

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 67 parks located within Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and Utah. These lie within the Unified Interior Regions of the Lower Colorado Basin, Upper Colorado Basin, and Arkansas-Rio Grande-Texas Gulf. We currently have Special Agents stationed at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Grand Canyon National Park, Saguaro National Park, and in Tucson, Arizona.

Throughout 2019, Special Agents from the Southwest Field Office investigated a wide array of cases involving crimes against people (sexual assault, physical assault, child sexual assault, stalking), property crimes (burglary, theft of government property, embezzlement), and resource crimes (vandalism, wildland fire). We investigated significant cases of drug trafficking and illicit weapons possession, assaults on federal officers, and assisted numerous parks with background information for investigations they chose to retain.

Special Agents of the Southwest 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 at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument and Amistad National Recreation Area. We traveled to other field offices as well, providing assistance with cases and taking the lead on investigations.

These included several deployments to the US Virgin Islands for counter drug operations and a missing persons case. We assisted the Pacific Field Office with a stolen NPS vehicle and an officer-involved shooting by another agency, and we assisted the North Central Field Office with a wildlife poaching case in Alaska. Additionally, ISB Special Agents of the Southwest Field Office provided training in a variety of settings to a variety of audiences.

A Special Agent of the Southwest Field Office was recognized with a Victim Witness Award by Coconino County, AZ. The award honored her tireless efforts to ensure justice is done, and those in need receive resources and support. See page 10 for more info.

We look forward to a productive and successful 2020 investigative year and greatly value our stakeholders and partners without whom we would not be successful.

Many 2019 investigations from this field office have been referred for prosecution; though no updates are yet available for them, some case highlights and significant investigations are on the following pages.

SOUTHWEST

— *field office* —



Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument – Drug Smuggling

At approximately 1325 hours on February 07, 2019, NPS Rangers working on an observation post in the southeast portion of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument saw subjects in camouflage gathering and preparing to cross over the US-Mexico Border with large rectangular packs on their back, consistent with bulk marijuana smuggling. A ground team was in place approximately 1 mile north from the border and began to move to intercept. Upon making contact with responding officers, the suspects dropped their backpacks and began to run southeast where they proceeded to attempt to conceal themselves in vegetation. Rangers made several arrests at the scene and recovered 226.2 lbs of bulk marijuana, with an estimated street value of \$180,960. The NPS Investigative Services Branch responded and investigated the incident, ultimately securing federal prosecutions. Two of the individuals in this case were prosecuted under the DOJ First Time Offender Protocol and pleaded guilty to violating 21 USC 844 (a). Both were sentenced in February to 180 days in federal prison. On August 27, the last individual in the case was sentenced upon his conviction for violations of 21 U.S.C. §846, 21 U.S.C. §841(a)(1), and 21 U.S.C. §841(b)(1)(D): Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute Marijuana, a Class C Felony offense, and 8 U.S.C. §1326(a): Reentry of Removed Alien with sentencing enhancement pursuant to 8 U.S.C. §1326(b) (2), a Class C Felony. He was sentenced to 24 months federal prison for each count, to run concurrently and 36 months supervised release. One of the involved offenders was also convicted of violating a previous term of supervised release for a drug smuggling conviction which occurred in 2016. He was sentenced to 15 months for this probation violation, 10 months of which will run consecutive to the sentence he received in August.

El Capitan in Guadalupe Mountains National Park. NPS photo by Buehler.

Inset: A bobcat in a saguaro in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. NPS photo.

SOUTHWEST

— *field office* —

Grand Canyon National Park – Domestic Violence

An investigation by a Special Agent of the National Park Service Investigative Services Branch (ISB) and US Park Rangers led to the conviction and sentencing of a man for domestic violence in Grand Canyon National Park. This man will serve a year of supervised probation and must attend domestic abuse and anger management counseling. The court also ordered that he may not own, possess, or have access to firearms, ammunition, destructive devices, and/or dangerous weapons. Court documents show that on December 28, 2018, rangers responded to a residence on the park's South Rim for an incident of domestic violence. The ISB Special Agent conducted a follow-up investigation leading to formal charges and, ultimately, a conviction. The US Attorney's Office, District of Arizona handled prosecution. The violator pleaded guilty to one count of domestic violence - disorderly conduct (fighting, threatening, and violent behavior) at a separate court hearing.

The outcome of this case was the result of a concerted team effort. Domestic violence in rural communities like Grand Canyon National Park involves unique challenges that must be addressed. We are grateful for the support provided by Coconino County Victim Witness Services who provide vital assistance to our residential park community and the visiting public.

Along with our partners, the National Park Service is dedicated to ensuring that every victim of or witness to a crime that occurs within the National Park System is treated with dignity and respect, that they are informed of their legal rights, and that their voices are heard. Support and services are available throughout the continuum of care. More information is on the US Department of Justice website: [ovc.gov/help](https://www.ovc.gov/help)



Inset: The view from Yaki Point in winter in Grand Canyon National Park. NPS photo by M Quinn.

— *DOI Border Surge* —
INTERAGENCY OPERATIONS



In furtherance of the priorities established by President Trump, in 2019 the NPS Investigative Services Branch continued to participate in ongoing Department of the Interior (DOI) Border Surge operations. These operations aim to stop the transnational smuggling of illegal drugs and weapons, stop illegal immigration, and to negatively impact the criminal organizations that profit from such activities. The operations we participate in specifically target National Park Service lands along the southwest border.

In coordination with parks and DOI Unified Regions, ISB's Southwest Field Office provides investigative assistance, support, intelligence analysis, and interagency representation to National Park Service lands most affected by illegal cross border activity. By leveraging our relationships with prosecutors and agency stakeholders, we help ensure those who commit crimes in the sensitive NPS areas along the border are held accountable.

Amistad National Recreation Area. NPS photo by C Hernandez.

Inset: a cadre of law enforcement officers of DOI bureaus stopped drug smuggling and other trafficking operations in Virgin Islands National Park. NPS photo.

— *IPC training* —

FIGHTING CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

In furtherance of the presidential efforts to combat human trafficking and as part of the Department of the Interior Secretarial priorities, a number of ISB Special Agents convened in Washington, DC in April 2019 to participate in Interdiction for the Protection of Children (IPC) training. This renowned two-day course is specifically designed to train law enforcement officers to identify children who may be in danger, missing, and/or subject to exploitation, as well as the legal tools to facilitate rescuing them from trafficking.

The training was created by the Texas Department of Public Safety and is credited with rescuing over 350 children from exploitation. In addition to awareness, it helps facilitate partnerships between law enforcement, child advocacy programs, and victim services. Due to the sheer number of visitors to our nation's national parks, educating National Park Service employees – including law enforcement officers – is a critical step in combating the trafficking and exploitation of children.

ISB Special Agents are often called to investigative instances of child abuse and exploitation. Becoming experts in identifying these crimes is the first step in stopping and then investigating them. As arguably the most vulnerable segments of society, protecting children from abuse and exploitation is one of ISB's most significant mandates.

Because of the importance and significance of this initiative and the feedback gained from ISB participants on its value, we are making it a priority that every Special Agent receives IPC training by 2022. This foundational skill set will greatly enhance our ability to effectively recognize and investigate these types of crimes.

Being the victim of a crime can be devastating, and crimes against children are particularly difficult; they also require additional, complex considerations.

Our goal is to ensure that every victim of or witness to a crime that occurs within the National Park Service community is treated with dignity and respect. Our responsibility is to inform them of their legal rights and to provide the necessary support and services they are entitled to throughout the continuum of care – and to help ensure a rescued child has the resources needed to be safe as they recover.

"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. "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."



Help is available. Visit the Office for Victims of Crime website at ovc.gov/help

ATLANTIC

field office



SHENANDOAH NP
WEST VIRGINIA

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NP
TENNESSEE

PUERTO RICO & US VIRGIN ISLANDS
Map inset not to scale.

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 ISB mission in four Unified Interior Regions – North Atlantic-Appalachian, South Atlantic-Gulf, Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands, and part of Mississippi Basin. 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.

During 2019 this field office was fully staffed for the first time in more than 5 years. This enabled us to send Special Agents to assist other field offices during significant investigations. This included Hot Springs and Big Bend national parks in the North Central Field Office as well as various National Park Service sites in the Southwest Field Office.

Special Agents of the Atlantic Field Office led many complex and labor-intensive investigations throughout the year, including several homicides, numerous sexual assaults, multiple manslaughter cases, kidnapping, and significant embezzlement and theft.

Our newest Special Agents in the northern half of the field office made a very positive impact, spending time working cases and meeting with law enforcement personnel in area parks and local jurisdictions. Their efforts improved our overall rapport with park areas we serve; we will continue with this initiative into 2020.

Throughout our entire Atlantic Field Office coverage area, we will remain dedicated to the mission of the National Park Service and ISB. We will continue to focus on building rapport with our customer base and providing our customers with the best investigative resources the agency has to offer.

See the following pages for overviews of new and significant investigations from 2019.

ATLANTIC

field office

New Significant Investigations

Great Smoky Mountains National Park - Homicide/Suspicious Death

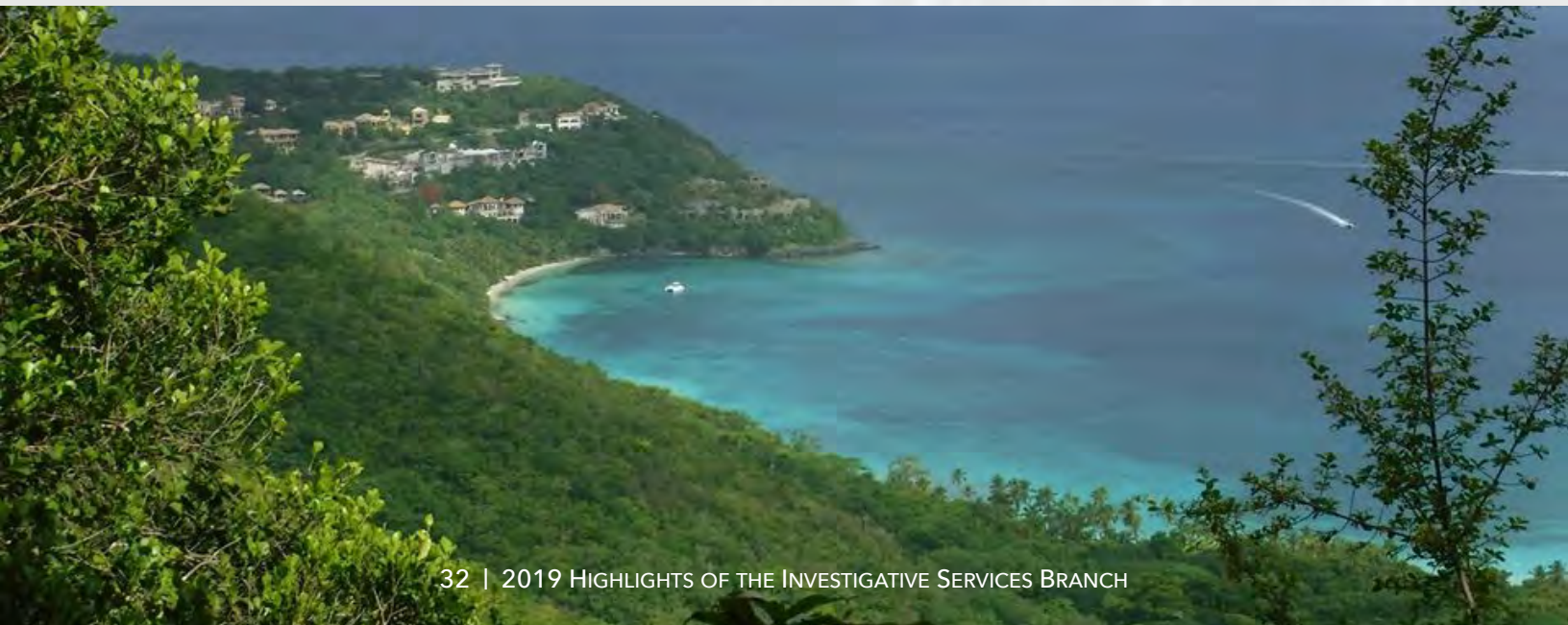
In August, ISB Special Agents, US Park Rangers, agents with the FBI and detectives with the local sheriff's office began an investigation into human remains located in the park. With the remains was identification belonging to 62-year old David Carver, Jr, who had been missing since April. The circumstances of Carver's death were suspicious due to Carver's location and one of his acquaintances locating his remains. The acquaintance reported another individual was with Carver when he died and admitted to killing him. Additionally, the investigators received information another man had also admitted to killing Carver. The case was thoroughly investigated and after receiving a confession from one of the suspects it was determined Carver likely died of a drug overdose and was left in the woods. The US Attorney's Office has declined prosecution of charges.

Virgin Islands National Park - Missing Person

ISB initiated a potential homicide investigation in September after an overdue hiker's belongings had been located along a park trail in Virgin Islands National Park. ISB Special Agents traveled to the park to conduct a criminal investigation and worked with the NPS search and rescue (SAR) team to find the missing person. The investigation remains open and to date the missing woman has yet to be located.

Spring waterfall at Historic Entrance in
Mammoth Cave National Park.
NPS photo.

Inset: Peter Bay in Virgin Islands National Park.
NPS photo.



ATLANTIC

field office



Great Smoky Mountains National Park - Attempted Sexual Assault

US Park Rangers received a report in February that a woman had been the victim of attempted sexual assault by a male acquaintance. The victim reported to have fought the man off and though she tried to call 911, the man took her phone and threw it over a hillside. The victim was able to fight her attacker off by clawing at his eyes. Fresh scratch marks were visibly noticeable on his face when he was interviewed by investigators. The suspect was indicted on one count of attempted sexual assault and remanded into the custody of the US Marshals Service pending trial.

Mammoth Cave National Park - Sexual Abuse of a Minor

In July, a father reported that both of his sons had disclosed to him that they had been sexually assaulted by a family friend; one assault had taken place in a campground within Mammoth Cave National Park. The investigation was led by the NPS and local detectives from the victim's hometown in Tennessee. The investigation revealed that the suspect's son had also been a victim, and resulted in multiple charges in state court and a federal indictment.

Acadia National Park - Vehicular Homicide

ISB Special Agents and US Park Rangers initiated an investigation in August after a man drove his car off of a park roadway, killing all three passengers in the vehicle. The suspect was arrested and later indicted in the killing of the three passengers after the investigation revealed he had been drinking alcohol prior to the collision.

Inset: View from Goram Mountain in Acadia National Park. NPS photo.

ATLANTIC

field office

Case Updates and Closures of Previous Investigations

Blue Ridge Parkway - Murder/Aggravated Sexual Abuse

On July 24, 2018, ISB Special Agents responded to a homicide near the Pisgah Inn on the Blue Ridge Parkway, initiating an investigation with the assistance of the FBI and state agencies. Shawn Pendergraft, who worked at inn, reported his co-worker Sara Ellis was missing. Pendergraft stated that he and Ellis both got off work shortly after 4:00 p.m. and decided to go for a hike on an unnamed trail near the employee housing area of the Pisgah Inn. Pendergraft stated that shortly after starting their hike it began to rain, and Ellis decided to return to the housing area while he continued to hike. Pendergraft stated that on his way back, upon reaching the point where he last saw Ellis, he saw her umbrella and hat lying on the ground. Pendergraft informed the management staff at the Pisgah Inn that Ellis was missing. Rangers and first responders searched the area and located Ellis, deceased, lying off an embankment near a trail. The next day Pendergraft admitted to investigators that he was responsible for her death. In December 2018, Pendergraft was indicted on first-degree murder and aggravated sexual abuse. He pleaded guilty in August 2019 and was sentenced in February 2020 to life in prison.



Great Smoky Mountains National Park - Reckless Endangerment

In July 2017, a 13-year-old girl standing next to a truck in a pullout in the park was hit by a motorcycle. The operator of the motorcycle had been going around a corner at a high rate of speed when he lost control. After hitting and severely injuring the girl, the motorcyclist fled the scene. ISB Special Agents investigated the collision and identified the driver of the motorcycle as Timothy King, who admitted to investigators that he was involved in the incident and had 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 sentenced in January 2019 to 64 months in prison and \$35,000 in restitution to the victim.

Salem Maritime National Historic Site. NPS photo.
Inset: Mabry Mill in Blue Ridge Parkway. NPS photo.

ATLANTIC

field office



Great Smoky Mountains National Park - Aggravated Sexual Abuse

In 2015 a homeless male reported being sexually assaulted on the Foothills Parkway near the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The investigation of this assault was very similar circumstances to another sexual assault of a homeless male from 2012 near Newfound Gap in the national park. Both of these cases were investigated simultaneously. The case went cold due to a lack of leads, but in 2018, ISB Special Agents met with the detectives from the local sheriff's office in an attempt to get surveillance images of the suspects released to the public. Shortly thereafter, names for both suspects were reported. The two called the sheriff's office and admitted the images were them. Both suspects were interviewed and gave consent for DNA samples. After further investigation in 2019, both suspects were indicted and arrested on two counts each of Aggravated Sexual Abuse and Aiding and Abetting. In December 2019, both suspects pleaded guilty in federal court. During a subsequent proffer interview, one of the defendants admitted to he and his partner targeting and assaulting as many as 30 homeless and intoxicated men. If you or someone you know has information about these men, please contact the NPS Investigative Services Branch: nps.gov/ISB > Submit a Tip

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, TN. ISB Special Agents initiated an investigation and identified the suspects, who were indicted in June 2018 and pleaded guilty in September 2018. Both were sentenced in January 2019 to 12 months in prison and nearly \$4,000 in restitution to the victims.

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 recovered. One now-former National Park Service employee was indicted, charged, and has pleaded guilty to felony theft. Sentencing was scheduled for January 2020.

— the dynamics of —
INTELLIGENCE ANALYSIS

Whether from the office or in the field, the NPS Investigative Services Branch has the integral support of an Intelligence Analyst. Photo by N Burke.

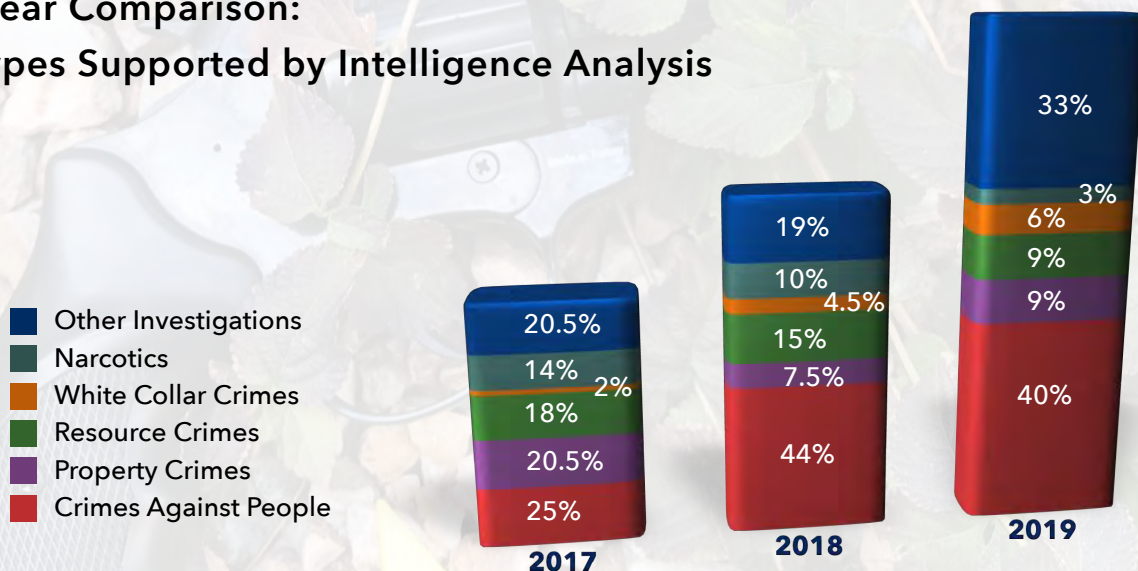


The NPS Investigative Services Branch has the integral support of an Intelligence Analyst who enhances investigations for ISB Special Agents stationed across the National Park System.

The analyst adds a critical depth to the wide range of crimes they investigate, regularly adapting to support an investigation focused on an illegal hunt one day and a homicide the next. Every day is different – and never boring.

The number of investigations supported by the Intelligence Analyst increases every year, with a 24% climb in 2019. This is alongside the analyst’s labor of love, helping to manage the NPS Investigative Services Branch’s nationwide Tip Line portals and social media sites. This in turn has opened communication lines with Chief Rangers across the system as they reach out to discuss investigative strategy or enlist our aid.

**Three Year Comparison:
 Case Types Supported by Intelligence Analysis**



— leveraging — COMPUTER FORENSICS

ISB houses a computer forensics lab in one of its field offices, and is launching a satellite lab in 2020. Augmenting criminal investigations, the lab processed numerous phones, tablets, computers, or removable media storage devices in 2019.

The ISB computer forensics program has specialized software, hardware, and expertise to lead or assist in a variety of areas.

Digital forensics is a fast-growing, ever-changing, and demanding field.

ISB Special Agents focusing on computer forensics dedicate considerable time to provide high-quality services - and to bring justice for victims of crime.



ISB Computer Forensics Lab.
NPS photo by the Investigative Services Branch.

ISB Computer Forensics Lab capabilities include (and are not limited to):

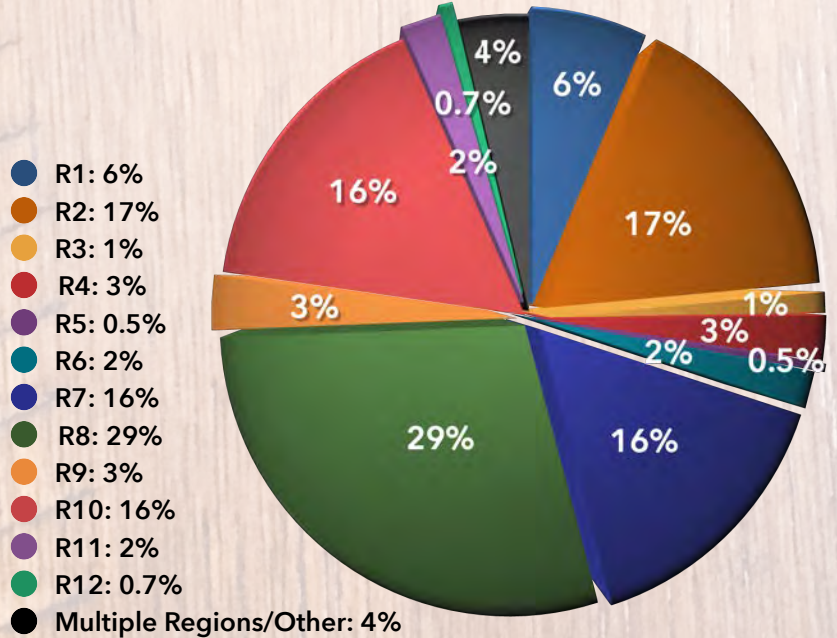
- Deployment of mobile systems to lead search warrant executions for computer systems, smartphones, and/or memory storage devices
- Triage of devices during warrant execution to determine whether they hold evidence
- On-site forensic imaging
- Consultation on isolating and packaging smartphones and computers to preserve device integrity and evidence
- Conquering some file encryption methods
- Unlocking certain types of smartphones and tablets
- Data extraction from most mobile devices
- Forensic imaging of laptops, desktop computer drives, and operating system files, and determination of what files were accessed or created by certain users
- Recovering recently-deleted files
- Limited consultation on cases related to social media, internet service providers, CCTV video, cellular providers, call detail records
- Data extraction from GPS devices and drones, including flight path, media, routes, waypoints, and favorites

DOI USFWS photo of a Canada lynx by L Hupp.

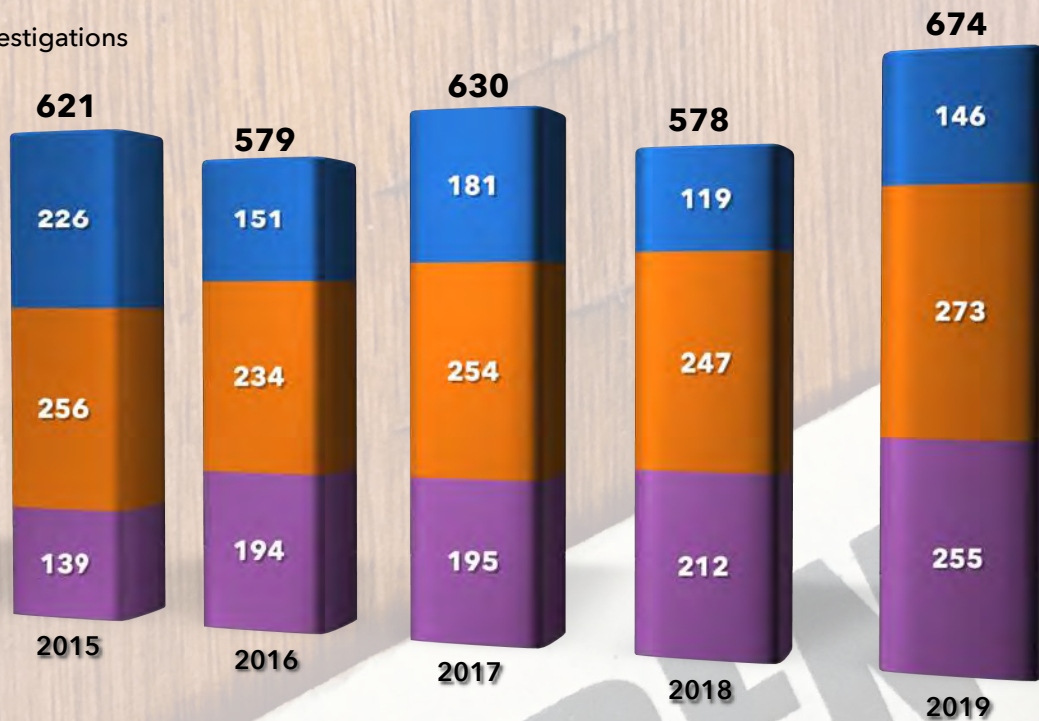
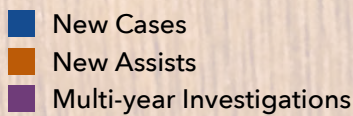
Types of New Cases in 2019



New ISB Cases & Assists by DOI Unified Region in 2019



Five Year Comparison: Total Cases by Type



— *reaching out* —
YOUR PORTALS TO ISB

duty agent hotline

For NPS Law Enforcement.



Duty Agent Hotline

US Park Rangers and Dispatchers may use this hotline to quickly reach an ISB Duty Agent. Brief the Duty Agent with the nature of your investigation/incident and they will assist you immediately by phone or initiate deployment of the nearest ISB resources.


The Duty Agent Hotline is restricted to agency use only by NPS Law Enforcement and Dispatch personnel, who may contact us for further information. Unauthorized use or dissemination is prohibited.


submit a tip


Any Park. Anytime.

ISB's Tip reporting portals are always on, and offer versatile, easy ways for people to report crimes or suspicious activity in any National Park Service site:

 **CALL** or **TEXT** 888-653-0009

 **ONLINE** www.nps.gov/ISB > "Submit a Tip"

 **EMAIL** nps_isb@nps.gov

 **EMERGENCY** dial 9-1-1

Whether or not ISB is involved in an investigation, parks and regions can put these tools to work anytime.

How? Contact us!

digital suite

Working for Good.

Help us continue to harness social media and the web to do good work. Join our audience across the globe on one or all of our online platforms – people from more than 50 nations using more than 45 languages reached our posts 1.5 million times in 2019. This outreach helps us protect parks throughout the National Park System and the resources, wildlife, visitors, employees, and residents therein. It also aids investigations and helps us bring justice for victims of crimes. We are thankful for our online visitors, contributors, and followers.



www.nps.gov/ISB



@InvestigativeServicesNPS



@SpecialAgent_NPS



@SpecialAgentNPS

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)

WAS
HERE
2019

NPS infographic by M Turner.

SUBMIT A TIP

ISB: THE INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE