Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park Violations – 2020

This is a summary of violations that have occurred at the park in the last couple of years including 2020. The damage includes vandalism and natural resource damage. The data comes from records of State Parks enforcement division.

Time and Date:  Occurred between 12/21/18 and 12/28/18
Violation:   Damage to the Hell's Kitchen gate.
Description:  Gate appeared to have been pushed by a vehicle and the lock was missing. Requires post be reset and lock hasp re-welded. A game camera installed a month before also missing. The estimated cost in material to repair the gate is about $200 plus about 2 hours of staff time. The estimated cost to replace the game camera is about $80. There are no suspects at this time.
Time and Date: Not Available – Pending Further Investigation

Violation: Resource Violation on the Natural Area trail

Description: Several white bags, identified as Grant County PUD trash bags, were found filled with petrified wood approximately .5 miles from the trailhead. 30 bags were recovered. The bags were Grant County PUD trash bags that are put out at PUD boat launches. I recovered 30 bags of filled with petrified wood, I estimate weighing between 15 and 25 lbs apiece. I estimate total weight of petrified wood collected and recovered to be approx. 600 lbs. After recovering as many bags as I could find I cleared the area at 1600 hrs and deposited the petrified wood in the Natural Area garage on Vantage Hwy. Given the scope of the petrified wood collection, and the existence of extensive deposits of petrified wood in the area, more patrols are being conducted to deter future natural resource collection and theft. This case is inactive pending further investigation.
Time and Date: Occurred between 8/9/20 and 10/31/20

Violation: Vandalism of Metal Cages on Interpretive Trail

Description: Damage to the #16 Sweet Gum Petrified Log display cage. A square had been cut out in the lower left corner about 14” x 14”. Small pieces of the log were scattered throughout the cage floor and on the log.
Time and Date: Occurred between 8/9/20 and 08/9/20
Violation: Vandalism of Metal Cages on Interpretive Trail
Description: Metal gates/cages covering Log Number 2, which is a Douglas Fir, had been cut into. It appears as though a bolt cutter or similar type tool was used to cut through the metal cage material.