

## LEGISLATIVE ISSUES (cont'd)

To add another nail in the proposed coffin, Pacific Coast Business Times now reports that AGI is facing a major hurdle this June: The maturity of a big secured credit agreement. Business evaluator Standard and Poors is reported as saying it sees an uncertainty about AGI's ability to get financing to take the place of the big agreement that's coming due. As a result, S&P has lowered their rating of AGI to CCC, meaning the firm is "currently vulnerable and dependent on favorable economic conditions to meet its commitments."

A possible lifeline, S&P says, is a non-binding agreement from a different lender to bail the company out, assuming AGI sold off its Camping World chain of RV parts and accessory stores. Even this offer comes with a significant hazard—the likelihood of a much higher interest rate than the company is presently working to meet. At present, Affinity Group listed assets of \$309 million and liabilities totaling \$496 million on Sept. 30.

So what happens to the myriads of RVers who put their faith and trust in AGI and their offspring? What happens to fulltimers who've put money on AGI "insurance" plans against major RV component failure? What about the RVer who breaks down somewhere on America's Loneliest Road, picks up the cell phone and dials for AGI sponsored Emergency Road Service? Will the phone ring endlessly in some vacated call center? These are questions that have to give all of us a bit of a pause.

### NATIONAL PARKS GET \$750M STIMULUS INJECTION

The National Park Service will invest \$750 million in 750 restoration and protection projects at parks across the country to create jobs and preserve American history and heritage for future generations, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced Wednesday (April 22).

The funding comes under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, part of the \$3 billion allotment to the Interior Department, according to the *Environment News Service*.

"From the Civil War to the Great Depression, America's best ideas for protecting our national parks and open spaces have often come when our nation has faced its greatest challenges," said Salazar.

"Today, by investing \$750 million to restore and protect America's most special places, we are creating a new legacy of stewardship for our national park system while helping our economy stand up again," he said.

"These projects at places like Ellis Island in New York and Dinosaur National Monument in Utah are ready to go and will create jobs in communities across the country."

### THIS JUST IN:

The National Parks System has just received an additional \$170 Million through the Transportation Department to be used to repair and update park roads. (Just when I was getting used to dodging those pot holes!)

### UPDATED LIST OF RV MANUFACTURERS OUT OF BUSINESS OR BANKRUPT. By Chuck Woodbury Updated April 28, 2009

Here is a list of RV makers who have gone out of business or who have filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in 2008 and 2009. We believe this list is accurate, but there could be a mistake. If you spot one, please go to our forum thread on this subject and leave a comment. We'll update this list as we get new information.

#### RV manufacturers out of business:

Alfa Leisure  
 Alpenlite (division of Western RV)  
 Ameri-Camp  
 Bigfoot  
 Chinook/Trail Wagons  
 Dolphin (a National brand)  
 Extreme RV  
 Fleetwood trailer division (closed for good)  
 National RV  
 NuWa Industries (plant closed. Plans to build Hitchhiker 5th Wheels again in June)  
 Pilgrim International  
 Sun Valley Inc.  
 Sunline Coach  
 Teton Homes  
 TravelSupreme  
 Weekend Warrior  
 Western RV, Inc.  
Companies that have declared Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection:  
 Country Coach (factory open again but on much smaller scale)  
 Fleetwood (still building motorhomes and manufactured homes)  
 Monaco (factory closed, but will start up again soon on limited scale)  
 Rexhall (bankruptcy, still operating)  
 Blue Bird is no longer making motorhomes.