

**Statement of Robert Hester**  
**Before The House Committee on Oversight & Government Reform**  
**September 22, 2016**

My name is Robert L. Hester. I work in Yellowstone National Park. I was hired in July, 2010, as a seasonal truck driver. I worked from May to November as a seasonal employee. From 2010 to 2012 I worked in the Special Projects Division. Since 2012 I have been working in a permanent position at Yellowstone as engineering equipment operator.

From the date I started to work at the park, I was shocked and amazed at what I saw and heard in regard to the talk and acceptance of sexual exploitation of female workers in the Special Projects Division. It was like a men's only club. They spoke openly about a certain female employee with Special Projects, a laborer who never did any work. This laborer was kept drunk by our supervisor and they were involved in a relationship, which was common knowledge throughout Yellowstone Park. The Special Projects Chief of Maintenance, [REDACTED] was well aware of his supervisor's involvement with the female employee. He did nothing to remedy the situation and he allowed it to continue.

[REDACTED] has been heard making inappropriate comments in regard to the time that [REDACTED] the supervisor, was spending with the much younger female employee. The female laborer was drunk, and it is believed that she had a nervous breakdown at work in 2012, as a result of the way she had been treated. She was terminated shortly after she quite possibly suffered a breakdown.

In addition to this behavior, I have witnessed open sexual groping. This was done in front of several people by Chief of Maintenance, [REDACTED]. Further, the Chief of Maintenance is alleged to have only hired a certain female employee because she is attractive and he felt that she seemed vulnerable. This young lady was allegedly terminated because she refused the sexual advancements of [REDACTED] as he fired her approximately one week after she refused his advances.

Both of these female employees were spoken of and treated like whores. Men talked about them behind their backs saying they are being used for the only things they are good for. This was acceptable behavior with some of the crew, the supervisor, and the Chief of Maintenance engaged.

It is also alleged that financial misconduct takes place in Yellowstone Park. Another employee and I were instructed by [REDACTED] to violate federal credit card rules and regulations in regard to the purchase of repair parts and maintenance. This type of credit card violation is very serious and can lead to incarceration. I asked a supervisor, why is it that if employees are stealing items from the park service, no one ever gets caught. That supervisor responded, if they catch you stealing, someone higher up has to take the responsibility.

This non-accountability and failure to impose serious consequences for severe misconduct is what I came to expect from certain supervisors and at the highest levels in Yellowstone National Park's administration. No, firings, no resignations, no consequences, after humiliation, abuse, discrimination, reprisals, and harassment are imposed upon decent, hardworking, and honest people.

-Robert L. Hester