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THE COALITION TO PROTECT AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS
VOICES OF EXPERIENCE

The Coalition Report
Wednesday, July 28, 2021

We apologize for a mistake in the July 14, 2021 edition. The correct name of the tribe and location of the post office named after Ben Reifel is Rosebud. Thank you to Randi Smith for catching the mistake and bringing it to our attention.

Coalition Actions

Please note that the Coalition is having temporary technical difficulties with our website. *The links below may be temporarily disabled, but we hope to have it up and running soon!*

The Coalition signed on to a letter sent to Deputy Assistant Secretary Estenoz that raises concerns about Spaceport Camden, a proposed rocket launch site that would be located immediately inland from Cumberland Island National Seashore and Wilderness Area. The planned spaceport would launch rockets across the island and require a "limited access area" across the park. The Federal Aviation Administration is currently finalizing its review of the project's launch site license application and recently released the project's Final Environmental Impact Statement.
https://protectnps.org/2021/07/15/34142/

The Coalition also signed on to comments sent to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection on the state's Proposed Revisions to Regional Haze State Implementation Plan for the Second Implementation Period. We believe that the proposed revisions will not result in reasonable progress towards improving visibility at the Class I Areas its sources impact, which includes Everglades National Park.
https://protectnps.org/2021/07/12/coalition-joins-comments-on-floridas-proposed-regional-haze-plan/

National Park Service

National/Regional Updates

A summary of news pertaining to management and oversight of the NPS, to current trends and issues affecting the National Park System, or to either all or parts of the entire system.

- *NPS streamlining process for sharing data with White House* - The DOI put out a notice on July 14 that it is modifying the NPS Privacy Act system of records to better be able to share data with other agencies when deemed "reasonably necessary" to respond to a cybersecurity breach. Source: *Nextgov*

- *GAO releases report about agency spending for outdoor recreation* - The Government Accountability Office completed a study to identify programs carried out by federal agencies that directly impact the outdoor recreation sector and presents federal spending information for these programs. Ultimately, they found that all seven agencies they examined, including the National Park Service, do not precisely monitor agency spending on recreation. The NPS' best guess was that it funds ~$1.5 billion supporting outdoor recreation annually. Source: United States Government Accountability Office

- *Ten new resources added to African American Civil Rights Network* - The AACRN, which is managed by the NPS, is a preservation program that makes connections between the private and public sector to honor and preserve the people and stories of the civil rights movement. The new resources include a variety of places and programs throughout the South and one in Washington, D.C. Sources: *Picayune Item*, National Park Service

- *NPS named as defendant in ongoing battle over Obama Presidential Center* - A nonprofit group called Protect Our Parks has requested a preliminary injunction to prevent groundbreaking on the Obama Presidential Center in Jackson Park in south Chicago. The same group had attempted a suit in 2019, which was dismissed for lack of standing. However, the plaintiffs now include several individuals who can show "specific personal injury." Defendants in the case include the city of Chicago, Chicago Park District, the DOI, Federal Highway Administration, Army Corps of Engineers, Obama Foundation, and the NPS. Source: *Chicago Reader*

- *High visitation meets climate change challenges in parks* - As the West experiences record heat waves, drought, and wildfires, visitors have been undeterred from visiting the parks, with record visitation in many parks this summer. Source: *The Washington Post*

- *Post-pandemic visitation highlights equity gaps in parks* - As visitation skyrockets in the national parks this year, a number of factors still contributes to inequity in outdoor access. Source: The Wilderness Society

Around the Parks

Park reports are in alphabetical order.

- *Biscayne National Park* - The non-profit, Wounded American Veterans Experience SCUBA Project (WAVES) and Women Divers Hall of Fame, in collaboration with the National Park Foundation and NPS, recently formed an all-female dive team that completed a week of marine debris removal from the park. Source: Biscayne National Park

- *Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park* - Secretary Haaland signed on to the new official boundaries for the park and the creation of municipal historic districts that make up part of this cooperative park. The park was established in 2014, largely telling its stories through partnership with state and local organizations. In March 2021, the park acquired several properties and the DOI announcement this week formalizes those as part of the national park system. Source: Department of Interior

- *Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail* - The trail has released its annual State of the Trail Report for 2020, including its efforts around archeological research, youth programming, and partnerships. Source: Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail

- *Chattahoochee National Recreation Area* - The Chattahoochee National Park Conservancy is distributing "Bag and Bin It" backpack educational kits to local pet shelters as part of a larger program to promote proper dog waste disposal at the park. A multi-year study by the USGS, NPS, and EPA found that dogs are the primary contributor of fecal contamination within the park. Source: *Patch*

- *Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park* - After three years of engineering and construction, a reconstruction of a historic packet boat traveled down the canal for the first time on July 11. The boat, currently unnamed, is 80 feet by 12 feet and can accommodate 65 passengers. It will be propelled by the traditional method: mules (the boat has two motors when mules are unavailable or impractical due to conditions). The boat will dock near the NPS Visitor Center near Thomas Jefferson Street NW, and visitors will be able to ride it down a one-mile section of canal starting in 2022. Source: *Washingtonian*

- *City of Rocks National Reserve* - On July 22, the NPS acquired 22.2 acres of land within the park boundary between Register Rock and Elephant Rock. The property includes granite features known as the Dungeon, Crystal Cow, and Electric Avenue. Source: *Teton Valley News*

- *Federal Hall National Memorial* - A recent inspection found "multiple failed stone conditions" at Federal Hall that require immediate repair. A scaffolding platform is in the process of being installed to protect the public from falling debris from the repair. The popular stairs of the building will be closed until the scaffolding is finished in mid-September, and the scaffolding may remain in place for 5-10 years. Source: *CNBC*

- *Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park* - While archeologists from the Northeast Archeological Resources Program were utilizing ground-penetrating radar and magnetometer surveys to identify an appropriate location for a burial vault in a Civil War cemetery, they discovered a 19th century road and a brick-lined culvert. A small excavation was utilized to reveal a portion of the road. Source: *Smithsonian Magazine*

- *Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Curecanti National Recreation Area* - Lake Powell is now at its lowest point since it was filled in the 1960s. The NPS has closed the Wahweap main launch ramp to houseboats due to low water levels. The park has installed several temporary ramp extensions and is in the process of rehabilitating/extending others to increase access to the lake. Dangling Rope Marina, the only place to get fuel in the 100-mile stretch between Wahweap and Bullfrog, closed on July 19 for the remainder of the year. There are concerns that the elevation will dip below the minimum needed to avoid damaging the dam's turbines. It is currently 33% full. Blue Mesa Reservoir in Curecanti NRA (and other upstream reservoirs) will be drawn down starting in August through the end of October to release water into Lake Powell, and boat ramps, marina slips, and other related facilities, such as floating bathrooms, will be closed. Sources: *KSL News Radio*, *Salt Lake Tribune*, *Montrose Press*, *KUNC*, *The Daily Sentinal*

- *Grand Teton National Park* - The park is engaging in a renewal process for a permit with the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality to discharge treated wastewater into the Snake River Aquifer at Moose. The renewal is considered "routine," and the park has stated publicly that its wastewater treatment is much improved since a 2018 upgrade to a biomembrane reactor. When permits are updated once per decade, the public is welcome to comment to the state of Wyoming, which was open until July 23. Source: *Jackson Hole News and Guide*

- *Grand Teton National Park* - The park has announced continuation of its multi-year mountain goat culling program, which includes volunteer hunters as part of the management strategy. The goats are non-native and considered a threat to native Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. It is estimated that 50 goats remain in the park after volunteers successfully removed 43 in 2020. For the fall 2021 hunt, only qualified volunteers who were trained and participated in the program last year will be eligible. Source: *County 10*

- *Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site* - Archaeologists from the Northeast Archeological Resources Program have been conducting excavations on the Brison House, home of an African American man named George Brison who was a woodcutter at the site. The project is supported by the Civil Rights Initiative of the NPS. Source: *Daily Local News*

- *Indiana Dunes National Park* - The park hosted two open houses last week to discuss a Commercial Services Strategy for the park. Services discussed included food concessions, recreation opportunities, retail, transportation, educational tours, and fitness classes. Sources: *NWI Times*, Indiana Dunes National Park

- *Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail* - Visitors can now better connect with the expansive cross-country route through a new website that includes an interactive map guide. The website was created through a Geotourism stewardship program overseen by the NPS, and included partners from local, state, national, and tribal agencies. The new site can be found here. Source: Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail

- *Mount Rushmore National Memorial* - South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem filed a notice of intent to appeal an order by a federal judge to up hold the denial of a permit for a state fireworks display at Mount Rushmore for the Fourth of July. Though the celebrations are over for 2021, the state said it will apply for permits in the future and it continues to challenge that the NPS has the constitutional authority to deny the permit. Source: *South Dakota Public Broadcasting*

- *New River Gorge National Park and Preserve* - The newest national park now has all-new highway signage to reflect its status/name change. West Virginia Governor Jim Justice, U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito, Congressperson Carol Miller, and several other officials came together to celebrate the park in an event on July 23. 87 new highway signs will be installed across three counties by the West Virginia Division of Highways, starting this week. Source: *Gallipolis Daily Tribune*

- *Point Reyes National Seashore* - The park filed for a 60-day extension in the deadline for the Record of Decision for the finalization of the amendment of their General Management Plan. A statement by the park stated that "The National Park Service continues to work through the administrative process to ensure its planning effort and decision are responsive to public comments, the park's resources and needs, as well as our legal obligations." The GMP was to be finalized by the court-mandated date of July 14. Source: *Marin Independent Journal,* Resource Renewal Institute

- *Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument* - Superintendent Lisa Baldwin was selected as the recipient of the 2021 Regional Professional Achievement in Archaeological Management Award for her contributions to archaeological stewardship in previous positions at Flagstaff Area National Monuments and Dinosaur National Monument. Source: Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument

- *Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Yosemite National Park* - A new partnership called the Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition has formed in order to better enable land managers to protect the remaining giant sequoias after an estimated 10-14% were destroyed in the 2020 Castle Fire. Partners include the NPS, the Tule River Indian Tribe, the USGS, Western Ecological Research Center, Save the Redwoods League, Sequoia Parks Conservancy, USFS, BLM, the state of California, UC Berkeley, Tulare County, and Giant Sequoia National Monument Association. Source: *Sierra Sun Times*

- *Shenandoah National Park* - On June 27, the Madison County Historical Society held a grand opening for the Mountain Museum at Criglersville, which aims to tell a more complete story of the ways in which the Commonwealth of Virginia and federal government actively forced people off their land in order to create the park. Source: *CBS19*. *[Editor note: The park itself has also acknowledged this part of its history in its in-park interpretive displays, as well as in various parts of its website. To learn more, explore the park's History & Culture page]*

- *Voyageurs National Park* - On July 31, a new fishing pier at the Rainy Lake Visitor Center picnic grounds will open. The pier was built in partnership with the Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club and Voyageurs Conservancy, is ADA-compliant, and has monofilament line recycling containers and interpretive waysides that tell Ojibwe peoples stories of life on the lake. Source: Voyageurs National Park

- *Wind Cave National Park* - On July 14, a family of six marked the 7 millionth visitor to tour Wind Cave since it became a national park in 1903. The family was given a free tour, and presented with a Charley Harper print and other gifts from the Black Hills Parks and Forests Association. Tickets at the park sell out quickly, and there are often 200 people waiting to buy tickets when the visitor center opens. Source: *NBC Newscenter1*

- *Yellowstone National Park* - Fishing is now banned from 2pm until sunrise each day to protect fish from high water temperatures and low stream flows, which are stressful conditions that can have fatal consequences for fish, particularly if subjected to the stress of being caught. The ban is ongoing until conditions change. Source: *KTVQ*

Personnel Changes

- *Bryce Canyon National Park* - Jim Ireland was selected as the new superintendent. He was most recently the superintendent at Timpanogos Cave National Monument and has almost 30 years of NPS experience. Source: Bryce Canyon National Park

- *Canaveral National Seashore* - Cinda Waldbuesser was selected as the new superintendent. She was most recently superintendent at First State National Historical Park and has served in a number of NPS capacities at Eastern parks and the national level. She will begin her new position on August 29. Source: Canaveral National Seashore

- *Cuyahoga National Park, James A. Garfield National Historic Site, First Ladies National Historic Site* - Lisa Petit was selected as the new superintendent. She is a 21-year veteran at Cuyahoga, including most recently as deputy superintendent. Source: *Akron Beacon Journal*

- *Kalaupapa National Historical Park* - Nancy Holman was selected as the new superintendent. She is currently the chief of interpretation and education at Rocky Mountain National Park and has experience at many other parks, including North Cascades, Canyonlands, Arches, and Denali. She will begin her new position in September. Source: Kalaupapa National Historical Park

- *Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments* - Lloyd Masayumptewa (Piivayouma) was selected as superintendent. He has been serving as the acting superintendent since March and has 20 years of NPS experience, most recently as deputy superintendent for the Southern Four Corners Group of parks, which includes Navajo and Canyon de Chelly National Monuments and Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site. Source: Tuzigoot National Monument

Park People

Here we honor deceased park employees, retirements, as well as important news about Coalition Members. People are listed alphabetically by last name.

- Keldon Gross, a former NPS employee at Crater Lake who met his wife while working at the park, passed away on March 12. His memorial took place on July 17 in Halfway, OR. Source: *Baker City Herald*

- Jane Jacobsen, former president of the Friends of Fort Vancouver, passed away on May 22. Source: Oregon Live

- Kelly Kritzer was appointed as a new judge in the Klamath County Circuit Court by Oregon Governor Kate Brown. She has worked as a seasonal archaeologist at Crater Lake since 1998. Source: *KDRV*

- Tim Pharis, a former National Park Service employee, has been selected as park manager of Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park in Flag Pond, Tennessee. Source: Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation

- Karen Reyer passed away on July 12. She was the wife of Eldon G. Reyer, former Associate Regional Director of Resources Management in the Southwest Region, as well as the daughter of Lon Garrison, a 40-year veteran of the NPS who held many leadership positions. Though never an NPS employee herself, she was well-known in the NPS community. Sources: Rebecca Post, Legacy.com

- Stephen A. Thompson, a former historic preservation specialist with the NPS, passed away on July 22. Source: Legacy.com

Open for Comment

Items will stay on this list until public comment has closed.

- *Great Smoky Mountains National Park* - Public comment is now open on the park's Laurel Falls Trail Management Plan. The trail is one of the most popular in the park. Comments are open through August 7. Source: *Cherokee One Feather*

- *Mount Rainier National Park* - Public comment is now open on a transportation and visitor use management plan for the Nisqually to Paradise travel corridor. Comments are open until September 14. Source: Mount Rainier National Park

- *Olympic National Park* - Public comment is now open on the Quillayute River Restoration - Reach 3 Environmental Assessment. The project focuses on redirecting river flows, habitat restoration, and bank stabilization, and mostly takes place on tribal trust land under management of the Quileute Tribe. A portion of the project takes place in the park. The Bureau of Indian Affairs Northwest Region and Natural Resources Conservation Service are cooperating agencies. Comments are open until August 22. Source: Olympic National Park

- *Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial* - Public comment is now open on a Visitor Experience Plan focused on the visitor center and Peace Garden. Comments are open until August 7. Source: Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial

- *Rock Creek Park* - Public comment is now open for the future management of Beach Drive, which has undergone various management strategies of pedestrians and car traffic in its history. Comments are open until August 22. Source: *WUSA9*

- *Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway* - Public comment is now open for a proposed trail connection in the town of Cable on an abandoned railroad grade. Comments are open until September 14. Source: *Ashland Daily Press*

Other Department of the Interior News

- *DOI consulting with tribes to revise NAGPRA* - The DOI has announced proposed changes to attempt to simplify and streamline the regulations of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). They have begun consultations with tribal and native Hawai'ian community leaders to discuss these changes. Source: Department of Interior

- *DOI investing in upgrades to Colorado fire operation center* - Secretary Haaland announced a $6.1 million investment to replace facilities at the Grand Junction Air Center complex, a multi-purpose wildland fire management and operation center. Source: Department of Interior

Congressional Actions

Reports on legislation, upcoming hearings and new public laws of relevance to the national parks, prepared by Don Hellmann, former assistant director, legislative and Congressional affairs for the National Park Service.

New Public Laws

June 25 – The president signed into law H.R. 49, to designate the National Pulse Memorial located at 1912 South Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida, 32806. (Public Law 117–20). The law specifies that the memorial shall not be a unit of the National Park System.

Senate Actions

July 13 – The nomination of Sara C. Bronin, of Connecticut, to be Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for a term expiring January 19, 2025, was transmitted to the Senate.

July 14 – The *Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* Committee ordered favorably reported the following, among other business items:

- S. 629, to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to require Federal agencies to submit to the Comptroller General of the United States a report on rules that are revoked, suspended, replaced, amended, or otherwise made ineffective.
- S. 2150, to prevent catastrophic wildland fires by establishing a commission to study and recommend wildland fire prevention, mitigation, suppression, management, and rehabilitation policies for the Federal Government.

July 21 – The Senate rejected the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 3684, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, by a vote of 49 yeas to 51 nays. The motion required the vote of 60 Senator for approval. The bill includes funding for the NPS Federal Lands Transportation programs as well as the Biden administration's infrastructure plan.

House Actions

July 13 – The *Committee on Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Land held a hearing on H.R. 4300, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to make free National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Passes available to members of the Armed Forces, among other bills. Testimony was heard from Representatives Panetta, Schrier, Neguse, and Miller-Meeks; Barnie Gyant, Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; Gretchen Reuning, Forest Program Director, Fort Collins Conservation District, Colorado; and public witnesses.

July 14 *– The Committee on Natural Resources* approved the following, among other bills:

- H.R. 820, to establish the New Philadelphia National Historical Park in the State of Illinois as a unit of the National Park System.
- H.R. 1154, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land in Virginia and North Carolina as the Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area.
- H.R. 1664, to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs.
- H.R. 1908, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land in Honolulu County, Oahu, Hawaii as the Ka'ena Point National Heritage Area.
- H.R. 2278, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to designate the September 11th National Memorial Trail.
- H.R. 2444, to establish Fort San Gerónimo del Boquerón in Puerto Rico as an affiliated area of the National Park System.
- H.R. 2497, to establish the Amache National Historic Site in the State of Colorado as a unit of the National Park System.
- H.R. 2899, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating areas within the island of Guam as a National Heritage Area, and for other purposes;
- H.R. 3113, to require the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to digitize and make publicly available geographic information system mapping data relating to public access to Federal land and waters for outdoor recreation;
- H.R. 3616, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land in Utah as the Bear River National Heritage Area.
- H.R. 4300, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to make free National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Passes available to members of the Armed Forces.

July 15 – The *Select Committee on the Climate Crisis:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Advancing Environmental Action Through Climate Action''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

July 20 – The *Committee on Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held a hearing entitled ``Examining the Potential for a Civilian Climate Corps''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

July 20 – The *Committee on Oversight and Reform* approved the following, among other bills:

- H.R. 564, to provide 12 weeks of paid administrative leave for designated family reasons, and specifies that this leave is in addition to any annual or sick leave to which employees are entitled.
- H.R. 2994, to make a series of changes with respect to the appointment, tenure, and qualifications of acting officials of executive agencies, including the tenure of acting heads of agencies to no more than 120 days (rather than 210 days).

Incidents

Incidents are listed in alphabetical order by park. Where multiple sources are listed, the information evolved over the course of the two weeks this report was being compiled.

Bryce Canyon National Park
Closures due to rockfall and mudslides

Due to flashflooding on July 24, many trails have been closed due to damage from rocks and mudslides. They include the Queen's Garden, Navajo Loop, Peekaboo Loop, and Peekaboo Connector Trail. Sources: *KSL TV*, Bryce Canyon National Park

Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Airplane flips on landing

On July 25, a plane flipped onto its roof while landing at the Ocracoke Island Airport and came to rest in the grass near the north end of the runway. The piolot and single passenger did not need to be taken to the hospital. The FAA has been notified of the incident. Source: *WITN*

Catoctin Mountain Park
Human remains found, identified

On June 12, hikers found humans remains that have been identified as Joanna Michelle Amaya, who was also known as Dior Reyes. The FBI is investigating and the cause of death has not yet been determined. Source: *NBC Washington*

Jean Lafitte National Park
4-year-old missing after fall in water

On July 15, 4-year-old Ellis Baudean fell into the Twin Canals while visiting with his mother and 3-year-old brother. He is said to be non-verbal and on the autism spectrum. Public officials have stated there is no evidence of foul play, and the mother said she went to grab something from the car when she heard a splash, and turned to see her other child pointing at the water. Search efforts are ongoing and have included boats, sonar, divers, and crews from five agencies. The rescue also included an attempt to dam and drain the canal (by special permit), but they were only able to drain about half the water before the clay dam broke on July 21. Searchers said the drainage still helped them search areas they wouldn't have been able to otherwise. The active search was called off on July 21. Source: *WDSU* (7/19), *WDSU* (7/20), *WDSU* (7/23), The Times-Picayune

Glacier National Park
Highway closes due to officer-involved shooting

On July 15, a homicide and kidnapping suspect from Great Falls was located on Highway 2 near the Cascadilla Flat River Access. When law enforcement officers from the Flathead County Sheriff's Department approached, the suspect brandished a firearm, causing officers to shoot the suspect. The kidnapping victim was taken safely into custody. Highway 2 between West Glacier and East Glacier, which runs along the southern edge of the park, was closed for 9 hours while an investigation was conducted. The incident is under standard investigation for officer-involved shootings. Source: *KPAX*

Glacier National Park
Missing climber found dead

On July 18, a solo climber was reported missing by their emergency contact. The following morning, park staff were able to narrow the search area through interviews with friends and family and observation of images and video the climber had sent. The climber was found dead on Rogers Peak later that day. Source: *Saanich News*

Grand Canyon National Park
Flash flood kills one, injures several others

On July 14, active monsoonal weather caused a flashflood near Tathatso Camp near River Mile 38 on the Colorado River. NPS was alerted of 2 missing individuals and multiple injuries. Arizona Department of Public Safety helicopter flew out five patients. One was in critical condition. The two missing individuals were located the next morning, one uninjured and the other deceased. Rebecca Copeland, 29, was identified as the deceased victim. The floods across the region caused Arizona Governor Doug Ducey to issue an emergency declaration for Coconino County. Source: Grand Canyon National Park, *KULR8*

Grand Canyon National Park
Hiker dies on Bright Angel Trail

On July 19, a 56-year-old hiker was identified as unresponsive near the Mile-and-Half Resthouse on the Bright Angel Trail. Bystanders initiated CPR and NPS personnel responded, but attempts to resuscitate him were unsuccessful. He had been on a day trip to Plateau Point. An investigation is ongoing and the victim has not yet been identified. Source: Grand Canyon National Park

Grand Canyon National Park
4 hikers struck by lightning

A group was hit by lightning at the Bright Angel Trailhead, leaving two visitors unconscious and at least two others injured. One of the unconscious visitors was taken by ambulance to Flagstaff for treatment. Source: *KOLD News 13*

Grand Teton National Park
Camper fined $5K for improper food storage

While camping in Grand Teton, a visitor failed to properly store garbage and beverages, resulting in a grizzly bear obtaining the items. Other campers took video and photos of the bear. The bear was tranquilized, collared, and relocated by boat to another area of the park. The visitor was charged with the misdemeanor offense of improper food storage and received a restitution fine that covers the costs of the NPS bear removal operation and the GPS collar now accompanying the bear to monitor its future behaviors. Source: U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Wyoming

Lassen National Park
Closures due to Dixie Fire

On July 24, due to the proximity of the Dixie Fire, the park closed several areas of the park that would be difficult to evacuate during a fire or other emergency, including all backcountry camping, Warner Valley, and Juniper Lake. The fire has burned 181,289 acres in Butte and Plumas Counties and is 19% contained as of July 25. Source: *KRCR*

Katmai National Park and Preserve
Plane makes forced landing in park

On July 19, a plane made a forced landing in the lower American Creek area. The pilot and passenger were safely evacuated by an NPS float plane that was operating in the area. The plane was damaged in the landing and plans are being made to remove it from the park. Source: Katmai National Park and Preserve

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park
Vandalism on grave of unknown soldier

On July 9, park staff and volunteers observed drawn graffiti on the Illinois Monument, black carbon deposits on the grave site of the unknown soldier, and the charred remains of two American flags. The park worked quickly to remove the graffiti and burn marks and investigation is ongoing. Source: Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield

Picture Rocks National Lakeshore
Fire burns six acres

A fire started on July 19 near Twelvemile Beach Campground in the park. It was reported by a Coast Guard vessel, and responded to by NPS, Burt Township, and Michigan Department of Natural Resources firefighters. It burned six acres of park and state forest lands. Investigation into the start of the fire is ongoing. Source: *UPMatters*

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore
Man falls to death

On July 24, a man fell to his death from from a location near the upper viewing platform of Miners Castle into Lake Superior. He was reported to have been visiting the park with friends when he stepped over a barrier, lost his footing, fell 100 feet onto a cliff face, then continued to fall into the lake. Alger County Sheriff Department and NPS personnel responded and the investigation is ongoing. Source: Pictured Rocks National Seashore, *MLive*

Point Reyes National Seashore
Overdue hiker found dead

On July 18, a hiker was reported overdue at 10pm, having last been seen at the Bear Valley Visitor Center at 5:30pm. After searches by NPS, Marin County Search and Rescue, and California Highway Patrol H30, the body was spotted the following morning at 6am near the former location of Arch Rock. Investigation is ongoing and the victim's name has not been released. Source: *Sierra Sun Times*

Rocky Mountain National Park
Hiker dies after fall off Mount Lady Washington

On July 15, Ashley Haarman took a fall of 200 feet off the south face of Lady Washington. Her family said they were alerted via a satellite communication device that there was an emergency. NPS personnel were aided by Mesa Verde Interagency Helitak crew, who were able to extract her body via a long line operation. Investigation is ongoing. Sources: *CBS Denver*, Rocky Mountain National Park

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
Visitors leave 6-piece sectional sofa in park

After some visitors left a large sofa set overlooking the Pacific Ocean near Deer Creek, five NPS staff and two trucks were needed to remove the sofa and two garbage bags worth of other detritus. The story and pictures went viral on social media. Source: Santa Monica Mountains Facebook

Sequoia National Park
Hiker separates from group, is still missing

On July 21, a hiker who was part of a group was headed toward Crescent Meadow just east of Panther Creek when he walked off trail without his backpack. He has not been seen since. The park is looking for any information from hikers on the High Sierra Trail between Kaweah Gap and Crescent Meadow. Source: *Fresno Bee*

Shenandoah National Park
Missing woman's car found in Shenandoah, body found several days later

Julia Christine Devlin was last seen on July 14 in Charlottesville, VA, and her car was found wrecked and abandoned on Skyline Drive in Shenandoah on July 17. Security footage revealed the car entered the park on July 14. The park conducted a search with help from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, Albemarle County Sheriff's Office, the FBI, and the NPS Investigative Services Branch. On July 24, a body was found in extremely steep and rough terrain. It was taken to the Office of the Medical Examiner in Augusta County and was positively identified as Devlin. The investigation into her disappearance and cause of death is ongoing. Sources: *WHSV*, *Charlotte Observer*, *Associated Press*, *Culpeper Star-Exponent*, *WRIC*

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area
Theft suspect sought

On June 3, a theft was committed at East Beach. Through NPS investigation, it was found that the suspect was also picked up by surveillance cameras making fraudulent transactions at a business in Redding, CA. The NPS has released images from those cameras and is asking the public for any information they might have in identifying the suspect. Source: Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

Yosemite National Park
Hiker found deceased after attempt to hike Mount Clark

Fred Zalokar was reported missing on July 17 after he did not return to Yosemite Valley while on a day hike to Mount Clark from Happy Isles via an off-trail route from Bunnell Point. After a search of the area, his body was found on July 20 near the summit. Investigation into the incident is ongoing. Sources: *Fresno Bee*, *CBS SF Bay Area*, *Press Democrat*

Yosemite National Park
Backpacker missing

A backpacker has been reported missing after taking a day hike to Red Peak Pass from his camp near Lower Merced Pass Lake on July 25. He has been identified as 72-year-old Richard Judd. The NPS is seeking any information the public may have. Source: *Your Central Valley*

Yellowstone National Park

Guide sentenced for illegal activities

Theodore Eugene Garland was sentenced in federal court on seven counts of illegal activities and violations, including violating closures, providing unauthorized tours, disturbing wildlife, and trespassing. Evidence included a social media page, podcast, and guidebook, which described the violations in detail. Garland will serve seven days in prison, $1,100 in fines, fees, and a donation to Yellowstone Forever Geological Resource Fund, and a ban from Yellowstone for the remainder of 2021. He will also serve five years of probation and is required to remove all references of illegal activity from his media sources. Source: U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Wyoming

Acknowledgments

This newsletter is supported through Coalition staff and invaluable volunteers:

- Editor: Katie Wallace
- Tech and Production Support: Steve Pittleman, Emily Thompson
- Regular Correspondents: Don Hellman
- Issue Contributors: Bill Walters, Rebecca Post, Randi Smith

If you see something that might be of interest to Coalition members, send it to report@protectnps.org.

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