View this email in your web browser.

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

The Coalition Report
Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Coalition Actions

The Coalition has launched their annual giving campaign and we hope you'll consider making a financial gift this year. Your support allows the Coalition to expand their advocacy efforts, tackle more issues, and continue to act in support of our national park system. To make a gift to the Coalition, or to learn how to give online or by mail, please click here. Thank you for your support of the Coalition and our national parks!

Each year, the Coalition accepts nominations for the George Hartzog Award, which is given to the individual or individuals who demonstrated outstanding support for the mission of the national park system and/or the National Park Service. Recipients can be active NPS employees, NPS retirees, or members of the general public who have demonstrated support of or service to the national park system. Nominations can be submitted here and are open until **November 30, 2021.**

We issued a quote in support of BLM's press release announcing the agency's intention to defer a number of leases from upcoming onshore oil and gas lease sales: https://protectnps.org/2021/10/29/coalition-supports-blm-decision-to-defer-leases/

The Coalition joined with partners to request that the Division of Air Quality grant a 45-day extension on the public comment deadline for West Virginia's Regional Haze State Implementation Plan ("SIP") for the Second Implementation Period: https://protectnps.org/2021/11/09/coalition-supports-extension-of-comment-period-for-wvs-regional-haze-state-implementation-plan/

The Coalition also submitted comments regarding the proposed Air Tour Management Plans for Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Muir Woods National Monument, Point Reyes National Seashore, and San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park: https://protectnps.org/2021/11/10/37978/

National/Regional NPS Updates

A summary of news pertaining to management and oversight of the NPS, to current trends and issues affecting the National Park System or on a more regional basis.

- *Sams' NPS Director nomination moves forward* - On November 2, the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee approved Charles F. Sams III's nomination to be the director of the National Park Service. It will next go to the full Senate for a vote. Source: Many

- *DOI signs joint statement about climate change* - At the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), the Department of the Interior joined land managers from around the world to endorse and commemorate a Protected and Conserved Areas Joint Statement on Climate Change and Biodiversity Crisis. The statement shows the U.S.' commitment to addressing critical needs through protected lands and working together with other nations to share information and strategies. Source: *Mirage News*

- *Solutions for the growing NPS housing issue* - *National Parks Traveler* published an article outlining the severe housing shortages across the national park system, as well as successes and potential solutions. Source: *National Parks Traveler*

- *NPS renews agreement to host naturalization ceremonies* - On November 10, the National Park Service and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services signed an agreement to continue to host naturalization ceremonies in national parks. The partnership has existed since 2006. Source: National Park Service

- *PEER sues NPS over air tour management plans (again)* - Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility is once again suing the National Park Service over its air tour management plans. In their latest motion, they state that the ATMPs that have been drafted have not included any sort of environmental review, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act. Rather, they have all grandfathered in the precise number of current air tours. They also do not address administrative flights by the NPS in each park. Source: *Hungry Horse News*

- *NPS "buried its own study on harassment"* - *High Country News* published an article outlining the Voices Tour Report, which documents how women, LGBTQ+, and Black, Indigenous, and other people of color are treated in the workplace. The report was compiled by Sepler & Associates, a human resources consultant, and was distributed to national and regional directors, but never released publicly or shared with other NPS employees. Source: *High Country News*

- *November is Native American Heritage Month* - Many parks are honoring Indigenous cultures and communities this month through special events and social media campaigns. Source: National Park Service

- *Most expensive and affordable national parks to live by - Travel + Leisure* ran an article that compared property prices adjacent to national parks ("national parks," by name, not all NPS units) to state-wide averages to come up with a list of most expensive and most affordable national park communities. The most expensive were Grand Teton, Indiana Dunes, and Glacier, and the most affordable were Voyageurs, Congaree, and Petrified Forest. Source: *Travel + Leisure*

Around the Parks

Park reports are in alphabetical order.

- *Canyonlands National Park* - On October 23, a 300-million-year-old fossilized skeleton of a four-legged animal was extracted from Lost Canyon. Paleontologists believe it to be an early amniote, which is a land-living vertebrate that laid eggs. It is possible this fossil is a new species. It was originally discovered by a park ranger in October 2020. The fossil was brought to the Petrified Forest National Park fossil preparation lab for tests and scans. Source: *CNN*

- *Chaco Culture National Historical Park* - On November 15, during the first White House Tribal Nations Summit, President Biden announced that the Bureau of Land Management will withdraw any new oil and gas exploration within a 10-mile radius of the park. The removal will last for a period of 20 years before it is up for consideration again. Source: *National Parks Traveler*

- *Congaree National Park* - The Department of the Interior has recommended to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission that a nuclear fuel plant near Columbia only receive a 20-year operating license rather than the 40 years requested due to environmental problems at the facility that could "have potential impacts" on the park and the Congaree River. Source: *The State*

- *Cuyahoga National Park - Cleveland.com* ran an article describing the success the park has had with its 2020 restoration of Stanford Run, a tributary of the Cuyahoga River that goes through a culvert and had previously caused flooding and had poor ecological function. The restoration cost $1.6 million, which was funded through the federal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and executed in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Source: *Cleveland.com*

- *Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area* - The *New Jersey Herald* published an article about the recent visit of the assistant chief of the Leni Lenape nation, Jeremy Johnson, to the park. His official visit was part of a study of the Lenape culture before contact with Europeans, done by East Stroudsburg University. The Lenape people lived on the banks of the Delaware until forcible removal to Oklahoma 200 years ago. The visit was Johnson's first visit to his ancestral homeland (and the first in his family since removal), and he was able to connect many aspects of his culture to the landscape. Source: *New Jersey Herald*

- *Dry Tortugas National Park* - In October, seven volunteer divers from the Wounded American Veterans Experience Scuba (WAVES) Project spent a week repairing demarcation and reef mooring buoys in the park. Source: Dry Tortugas National Park

- *Gettysburg National Military Park* - On October 22, The Gettysburg Foundation gifted a Model 1860 cavalry saber to the Gifu Sekigahara Battlefields in Gifu Prefecture, Japan, which has a sister park agreement with Gettysburg NMP. It was given to commemorate the opening of the site's new museum. Source: Gettysburg National Military Park

- *Glacier National Park* - A new study by University of Montana researchers, published by the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research, provided a review of various national park reservation systems used in protected areas to project the impact they might have on a park like Glacier, and its surrounding public lands and communities. Source: ScholarWorks, University of Montana

- *Glen Canyon National Recreation Area* - The NPS announced the release of a prospectus to solicit concession contract proposals for a business that would provide gasoline, food and beverage, a campground, showers, and UTV/ATV tours and rentals at Hite, Utah. Source: *Lake Powell Life*

- *Grand Teton National Park* - On November 12, Phase 2 of the Spread Creek Fish Passage Project started. The project is a 10-year collaborative effort between the park, Trout Unlimited, Bridger-Teton National Forest, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to ensure native fish migration in the creek by installing fish screens to keep fish out of the local irrigation system, making improvements to flood-damaged infrastructure, and protecting riparian habitat. In 2010, the Spread Creek dam was removed, greatly enhancing the migration of Snake River cutthroat trout, but more recently, the fish have become trapped in the irrigation system. $1.5 million in financial and in-kind support has come from over 20 partners. Source: Grand Teton National Park

- *Independence National Historical Park - WHYY*, a Philadelphia affiliate of *PBS* and *NPR*, ran an opinion piece by Clear Air Council's executive director, Joseph Otis Minott that argues that the NPS' plan to engage in partnership with Philadelphia

Gas Works in onsite gas boilers is troubling, both due to its production of greenhouse gases and its lack of robust public review. Source: *WHYY*

- *Indiana Dunes National Park* (and others) - The Indiana Department of Environmental Management has recently proposed a new regional haze plan that the National Parks Conservation Association is calling "woefully inadequate" for improving air quality and limiting haze pollution and not in compliance with the Clean Air Act or Environmental Protection Agency's Regional Haze Rule, particularly for parks such as Indiana Dunes, Mammoth Cave, Shenandoah, and Great Smoky Mountains. Source: National Parks Conservation Association

- Muir Woods National Monument - *Vice* published an article outlining the fate of Druid Heights, a collection of buildings in the park that is eligible for listing as the first LGBTQ historic district in the United States, but is rapidly falling into disrepair due to competing priorities at the park. Source: *Vice*

- *Olympic National Park* - On November 15, the park held a virtual meeting to discuss the Section 106 consultation process that will take place about the Enchanted Valley Chalet. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires consultation for historic properties and mitigation measures to protect them. There are no documents or public comments currently associated with this project. Source: Olympic National Park

- *Olympic National Park* - On November 5, five fishers were released near Lake Ozette. This is the latest release in a state-wide effort that has been going since 2008 in partnership with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Geological Survey, and Conservation Northwest to restore the species to the state of Washington Source: Olympic National Park

- *Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument* - On November 13, the park opened up new road lanes and parking to greatly increase access to the park. Previously, visitors have parked on nearby access roads and entered the park on foot. The project was supported by the Lennar Corporation and the City of North Las Vegas. Source: *PR Newswire*

- *Yellowstone National Park* - A new study by Montana State University will collect samples and remap the entire Sour Creek Dome area in order to better understand the massive Lava Creek eruption that occurred 631,000 years ago, creating the formation known today as the Yellowstone Caldera. Source: *Jackson Hole Radio*

Personnel Changes

- *Division of Fire and Aviation's Branch of Information Technology and Resource Management* - Justin Kirchmeier has been selected as the new data analyst for the branch. He has over 10 years of NPS experience, most recently as an information technology specialist/systems administrator for the branch. Source: NPS Fire and Aviation Management

- *Missouri National Recreational River* - Curt Dimmick was selected as the new superintendent. He has 26 years of NPS experience, most recently as chief of resource management and visitor protection at Pinnacles National Park. Source: *Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan*

Park People

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

Deceased

- Berlene Armijo, 82, retired career financial analyst with the former Southwest Regional Office, passed away in October in Santa Fe, NM. Source: David Donohue, *Legacy*

- Kimberly (Sullivan) Haase, 54, passed away on October 12. Early in her career, she was a park ranger at Glacier National Park. Source: *The Salem News*

- Zachary Kirkland, 82, passed away on November 2. He retired after over 25 years with the National Park Service, including stints at Everglades, Smoky Mountains, and Cumberland Island. After his retirement, he continued to live near Cumberland Island until his passing. Source: *Tribune & Georgian*

- Gregory L. Melton, 74, passed away on October 27. He was a park ranger at Sequoia and Kings Canyon early on in his career, as well as a wildland firefighter with the Southern Idaho Timber Protective Association, before moving onto a 30-year career with United Airlines. Source: *Legacy*

- Darwina Neal, 79, passed away on September 4. She retired from the NPS in 2009 as chief of cultural resources in the office of lands, planning, and design after 44 years with the agency. Source: *The Washington Post*

Retirements

- Bernadette Johnson, superintendent at Manzanar National Historic Site, retired from the NPS on November 8. She completed 31 years of federal service, including 7 as the superintendent at Manzanar. Source: *Inyo Register*

- Jeff Mow, superintendent at Glacier National Park, will retire at the end of 2021. He worked for the NPS for over 33 years, including the last 8 years at Glacier. *The Flathead Beacon* ran an article profiling his career and achievements. Source: *The Flathead Beacon*

Open for Comment

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

- *Big Cypress National Preserve* - Public comment is now open on a Draft Hydrologic Restoration Management Plan. Comments are open until December 7. Source: Big Cypress National Preserve

- *Big Cypress National Preserve* - Public comment is now open on a proposal to modify Burnett Oil Company's existing plan of operations for the Nobels Grade 3D Seismic Survey. Comments are open until December 7. Source: Big Cypress National Preserve

- *Cape Hatteras National Seashore* - Public comment is now open on a Wetland Statement of Findings for Highway 12 improvements. Comments are open until November 22. Source: *Island Free Press*

- *Denali National Park* - Public comment is now open on proposed development of trails and related infrastructure in the area between the Nenana River and the Parks Highway. Comments are open until November 24. Source: *National Parks Traveler*

- *Golden Gate National Recreation Area* - Public comment is now open on the Stinson Beach Parking Area Rehabilitation Project. Comments are open until December 10. Source: Golden Gate National Recreation Area

- *Great Basin National Park* - Public comment is now open on a proposed expansion and rehabilitation of the Lower Lehman Creek Campground. Comments are open until December 1. Source: *Lincoln County Record*

- *Ozark National Scenic Riverways* - Public comment is now open on a plan to change camping fees and cave tour fees for the Round Spring Cave. Comments are open until November 30. Source: Ozark National Scenic Riverways

- *Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway* - Public comment is now open on a plan to improve the Fairy Falls Day Use Area. Comments are open until November 21. Source: Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway

- *Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area* - Public comment is now open on an Environmental Assessment for the redevelopment of sites burned in the 2018 Woolsey Fire. Comments are open until November 24. Source: Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area

- *Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve* - Public comment is now open on an Environmental Assessment of the Spanish-American War Battery, a newly acquired asset for the park. Comments are open until December 13. Source: Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve

- *Theodore Roosevelt National Park* - Public comment is now open on site plans for several developed areas of the park: Painted Canyon Overlook, South Unit and North Unit entrances, Peaceful Valley Ranch, and Elkhorn Ranch Unit. Comments are open until November 30. Source: *Bismarck Tribune*

- *Vicksburg National Military Park* - Public comment is now open on a Parkwide Road System Study. Comments are open until December 3. Source: *The Vicksburg Post*

- *Yellowstone National Park* - Public comment is now open on revisions to Commercial Use Authorization plan rules. Comments are open until November 23. Source: *Idaho State Journal*

Other Department of the Interior News

- *DOI Chief of Staff named* - On November 8, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland announced Rachael S. Taylor as the agency's new Chief of Staff. She has more than 20 years of public service experience, and most recently served as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget at the DOI. Source: Department of the Interior

- *Federal agencies recommit to Urban Waters Federal Partnership* - The Department of the Interior, Environmental Protection Agency, 13 other federal agencies, and non-governmental partners came together to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership and pledge their recommitment to the partnership. Source: Department of the Interior

- *First Landsat 9 satellite images released* - A joint satellite mission from the U.S. Geological Survey and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration launched on September 27. Landsat 9 is meant to provide improvements to Earth observation capabilities. On November 5, the Department of the Interior released the first images from the mission. Ongoing data from the satellite will be available to the public for free on the USGS website once the satellite begins normal operations. Source: Department of the 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

October 31 – The president signed into law H.R. 5763, to provide an extension of federal-aid highway, highway safety, and transit programs (Public Law 117–52). The law includes a short-term extension through December 3, 2021, for the surface transportation programs of the federal government, including those that benefit the national park roads system.

Senate Actions

November 2 – The Senate agreed to S. Res. 436, honoring the individuals fighting and the individuals who have fallen responding to wildland fires during the ongoing 2021 wildfire season.

November 2 – The *Committee on Energy and Natural Resources* ordered favorably reported several nominations including Charles F. Sams III, of Oregon, to be Director of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

November 3 – The *Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs* ordered favorably reported a number of bills, including S. 138, to waive certain pay limitations for Department of Agriculture and Department of the Interior employees engaged in emergency wildland fire suppression activities.

November 4 – The Senate agreed to S. Res. 440, recognizing National Native American Heritage Month and celebrating the heritages and cultures of Native Americans and the contributions of Native Americans to the United States.

House Actions

November 2 – The House passed H.R. 3616, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Bear River National Heritage Area in UT and ID, by a vote of 399 yeas to 23 nays.

November 5 – The House agreed to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3684, to authorize funds for federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, by a yea-and-nay vote of 228 yeas to 206 nays. The two-part bill consists of the Biden Administration's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act as well as a five-year reauthorization for federal highway programs.

While no specific amounts of funding were set aside for the National Park Service in the infrastructure part of the bill, the NPS could benefit from individual programs such as those funding wildland fire management and various mitigation activities for floods, wildfires, and drought, as well as projects for ecosystem restoration, abandoned mines, and dam removal.

Additionally, the bill provides the following for the NPS in federal highways funding as follows:

- $1.731 billion from FY 2022 – 2026 for roads, bridges, and transportation systems of the NPS in the Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP), which is an increase of $321 million over the previous five-year period.
- $1.7 billion from FY 2022 – 2026 for the Federal Lands and Tribal Major Projects program, which is a competitive grant program among federal land management agencies and tribes for large repair projects that are funded separately from the amounts noted above.
- $1.488 billion from FY 2022 - 2026, for state and local entities to provide access to public lands, including national parks.

The bill now goes to the president to be signed into law.

November 9 – The *Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands* held a hearing on the following, among other bills:

- H.R. 268, to provide for the boundary of the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Park to be adjusted, and to authorize the donation of land to the United States for addition to that historic park;
- H.R. 1469, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain river segments within the York watershed in the State of Maine as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System;
- H.R. 2512, to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Chisholm National Historic Trail and the Western National Historic Trail;
- H.R. 3600, to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Route 66 National Historic Trail;
- H.R. 4358, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the Little Manatee River in the state of Florida as a component of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System;
- H.R. 4404, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the Kissimmee River in the State of Florida as a component of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System;
- H.R. 4494, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire land in Frederick County, Maryland, for the Historic Preservation Training Center of the National Park Service; and
- H.R. 5118, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to prioritize the completion of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail.

Testimony was heard from Representatives LaHood, Buchanan, and Soto; Tom Medema, Acting Associate Director, Interpretation, Education, and Volunteers, National Park Service, Department of the Interior; Sandra Watts, Associate Deputy Chief for National Forest System, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; Daniel E. DeYoung, Commissioner, Josephine County, Oregon; and public witnesses.

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.

Cape Lookout National Seashore
Body washes ashore

On November 8, the body of a 65-year-old washed up on the north end of South Core Banks. High winds and coastal flooding could have been contributing factors. The victim had been staying at the Great Island Cabin Camp and fishing gear was found among his belongings. The incident is under investigation and foul play is not suspected. Source: *Associated Press*, *Carteret County News-Times*

Death Valley National Park
Visitor dies at dunes

On November 6, two family members went hiking together at the Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes. After about half an hour, they split up, one returning to the parking lot, and the other, an experienced hiker, was to return in 1-2 hours. After waiting a few hours, the one at the parking lot returned to the dunes, but was unable to find the other party and reported her overdue. An NPS search that evening was unsuccessful. The next morning, search teams found tracks leading to the victim, who was deceased about 1.5 miles from the parking lot on flats adjacent to the dunes. Foul play is not suspected, and the incident is under investigation by the Inyo County Coroner's Office. Source: *National Parks Traveler*

Denali National Park
Mountaineer charged with lying to try to get airlift

On May 24, a party of two climbers attempted to summit Denali from a 14,200-foot camp they had established. One of them experienced altitude sickness before tumbling close to 1,000 feet off Denali Pass. The other member of the party requested emergency support via a Garmin inReach texting device and the victim who fell was able to be rescued by helicopter within 30 minutes. He was subsequently transported to an Anchorage hospital, where he was classified in critical condition. An hour later, the individual still on the mountain had met up with another party of two, and sent an emergency request text, saying the group was without equipment and needed evacuation. They were advised by the NPS to start descending and that a helicopter would not be available. The individual then claimed the other climbers had early signs of hypothermia and shock. A helicopter began to fly, but turned around after getting a report that the climbers were starting to descend. The party of two with the individual reported that the individual said the NPS was "obligated" to help them because "we've paid our fee." They also said they did not have hypothermia or shock and that they spent hours trying to convince the individual to descend. On November 9, the individual was charged in federal court with interference with a government employee, violating lawful order, and false report. The detention hearing is scheduled for December 6. Source: *Charlotte Observer*

Glacier National Park
Girl reunited with teddy bear after 1 year separation

On October 9, 2020, while hiking with her family and a family friend (who lives near the park), a child lost a teddy bear on the Hidden Lake Trail. The bear had been a gift from the girl's parents just before adopting her as a way to keep her company before she could be united with her new family. The family realized the teddy bear was lost that evening, but it snowed overnight and the trail was closed for the season, preventing a return to the park. A ranger specializing in bear management was doing some end-of-season work when he found the stuffed animal. He brought it home and eventually decided to put the bear on the dashboard of his patrol truck as a "mascot." The family friend who lives near the park returned to the park the following year with other friends and happened to see the bear on the dash at a trailhead. She was able to track down other rangers who helped her retrieve it. The teddy bear and young girl were reunited, and the family friend bought a new teddy bear for the ranger's truck. Source: *NBC News*, Glacier National Park Facebook

Padre Island National Seashore
Car accident damages entrance booth

Early in the morning on November 6, a southbound vehicle struck the entrance booth on the west side of the road, damaging the structure. The driver was transported to the hospital and later released. The accident is under investigation. Source: Padre Island National Seashore

Pinnacles National Park
Caves close for graffiti clean-up

From November 7-10, the NPS closed Balconies Caves for an extensive graffiti removal project. News media did not specify when the graffiti had appeared. The park reported that the project would take over 100 personnel hours, utilizing over 500 pounds of equipment. Source: *Miami Herald*

Rocky Mountain National Park
Found human remains thought to belong to man missing for 38 years

In August 2020, a hiker discovered skeletal remains in the Skeleton Gulch area near avalanche debris. Rangers conducted an initial investigation at the scene, but could not complete it due to personnel needs due to the Cameron Peak and East Troublesome Fires, followed shortly thereafter by early snow. In the summer of 2021, rangers were able to further search the scene and found skis, poles, and boots, along with personal items. The victim is suspected to be Rudi Moder, a 27-year-old German visitor who disappeared on February 13, 1982, while on a two- to three-night ski mountaineering trip over Thunder Pass. Moder was reported overdue, and searchers were able to find a food cache and a snow cave with Moder's sleeping bag and other gear, but a snow storm hampered finding tracks or other clues. The search included the Skeleton Gulch area. The FBI Evidence Response Team assisted the NPS with recovery of the remains and the Grand County Coroner's office attempted to confirm identification through dental records, but the results were inconclusive. The German government has assisted with repatriation, family notification, and dental record analysis. Source: Rocky Mountain National Park

Yellowstone National Park
Treasure hunter fined and banned from park for disorderly conduct

On August 2, 2018, a visitor was dropped off at the Mount Holmes trailhead with the intent to find and dig up the famous Forrest Fenn buried treasure. Along the trail, he came across bear scat and fur, so he thought it would be safer to stray from the trail. He got lost and eventually called park personnel. After several hours of trying to communicate with the visitor, rangers organized a helicopter rescue and he was cited for disorderly conduct. He was fined $2,880 for the cost of the rescue and banned from Yellowstone for five years. Source: *Sacramento Bee*

Zion National Park
Rockfall closes highway

On November 12, a rockfall occurred west of the Zion-Mount Carmel Tunnel, blocking both lanes. The road was able to reopen the following day to standard-sized vehicles, and two days later for oversized vehicles. Park officials have said that no significant damage to the road was sustained. Source: *KJZZ*, *ABC4*

Follow-ups on Previously Reported Incidents

- *Blue Ridge Parkway* - The incident related to a body found near the Yadkin Valley Overlook on October 9 is still under investigation as a homicide. The NPS is now asking for anyone who took pictures or videos that day along the highway to share them with the park's anonymous tip channels. Source: *Smoky Mountain News*

- *Cape Hatteras National Seashore* - The remains of a shipwrecked scallop trawler, *Ocean Pursuit*, were removed from the northern shore of Oregon Inlet. Pictures of the removal can be seen here. The area will be closed one more week to ensure all debris is removed and to restore the natural shape and slope of the beach, post-excavation. The NPS will continue its attempts to recoup the cost of removal from the ship's owner. Source: *OBX Today*

- *Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks* - Part of Sequoia National Park reopened on November 11 for the first time since the KNP Complex Fire started on September 9. The foothills area, from the Ash Mountain Entrance Station to Hospital Rock Picnic Area, and most of the trails in that area are now open. Access to Giant Forest and Lodgepole remain closed. As of November 16, the fire is 88,307 acres, 75% contained, and has 179 personnel assigned. Source: Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Inciweb

Acknowledgments

This newsletter is supported through Coalition staff and invaluable volunteers:

- Editor: Katie Wallace
- Tech and Production Support: Steve Pittleman, Emily Thompson
- Regular Correspondent: Don Hellmann
- Issue Contributors: David Donohue

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

* * * * *

The Coalition is a non-profit organization of past and current NPS employees and their allies that "studies, educates, speaks, and acts for the preservation and protection of the National Park System and mission-related programs of the National Park Service."

To receive a copy of this free publication, join or support the Coalition. Any current, retired, or former-salaried (GS, Wage System, Seasonal, Temporary, or SES) National Park Service employee or volunteer who served under a signed volunteer agreement can join the Coalition. Coalition supporters who do not qualify under those criteria may also join and receive the newsletter.

--- ### ---

Change Your Contact Info

Support the Coalition By Donating Today

Copyright © 2021 Coalition To Protect America's National Parks, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.