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

The Coalition Report
Wednesday, September 8, 2021

Coalition Actions

Coalition Executive Committee Member Sheridan Steele had an op-ed published in the *Bangor Daily News* that addressed the need for more funding for the National Park System as visitation at parks across the country continues to climb: https://protectnps.org/2021/08/30/member-op-ed-our-national-parks-need-more-funding-to-keep-up-with-rising-number-of-visitors/

The Coalition signed on to a letter sent to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee requesting $5 billion for the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund to address deferred maintenance needs in our national parks and other public lands and help them better adapt to and mitigate climate change impacts: https://protectnps.org/2021/08/31/coalition-signs-on-to-deferred-maintenance-letter/

The Coalition also signed on to a letter sent to President Biden urging him to immediately take action to restore national monument protections to Bears Ears, Grand Staircase-Escalante, and Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monuments: https://protectnps.org/2021/08/31/coalition-joins-call-to-restore-national-monument-protections/

Over 290 Coalition members signed on to a letter sent to Chairmen Manchin and Grijalva, requesting that significant reforms to our onshore oil and gas leasing program be included in their committees' recommendations under reconciliation: https://protectnps.org/2021/09/01/coalition-comments-on-reforms-to-onshore-oil-and-gas-leasing-program/

The Coalition also sent a letter to Secretary Haaland to express our deep concern about the need to make funding from the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) available to more units across the National Park System. Providing funding for deferred maintenance needs at more park units would be a tangible commitment to the administration's whole-of-government approach to racial justice, and the NPS goals of diversity, relevancy, and inclusion. This letter was a joint effort between the Coalition and NPCA. https://protectnps.org/2021/08/26/gaoa-funds-must-be-available-to-more-units-across-the-national-park-system/

We submitted comments on air tour management plans at several parks across the national park system, including Mount Rainier, Olympic, and Everglades. https://protectnps.org/2021/08/17/coalition-concern-over-air-tour-management-plans/

The Rosenwald Park Campaign was created to promote the establishment of a multi-site National Park celebrating the life and legacy of Julius Rosenwald. The Campaign was founded in 2016 with the support of the National Parks Conservation Association and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The Coalition was the third group to express its support for the park.

To date, 66 organizations have officially endorsed the creation of the Julius Rosenwald & Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park. While they represent a broad spectrum of groups, including national park advocacy organizations, synagogues and churches, and Black and Jewish organizations, the Campaign continues to seek out additional organizations to support the efforts of the Campaign. Please consider reaching out to your own network and ask the non-profit organizations that you are associated with to consider signing on in support of creating a Julius Rosenwald & Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park. Email dorothycanter@rosenwaldpark.org for assistance with a support request, or with your recommendations of additional organizations to contact.

You can also join the Rosenwald Park Campaign mailing list for updates and information, or visit their website for more information.

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.

- *January 6 investigation to include look at NPS permitting process* - A select panel investigating the U.S. Capitol attacks on January 6 is requesting records from many federal agencies, including a request to the DOI for "all documents and communications relating to National Park Service permits and permit applications for events in Washington, DC relating to the 2020 election" between Election Day and Inauguration Day. Source: *Politico*

    - Follow-up: Thus far, emails obtained via a Freedom of Information Act request from the U.S. Park Police and NPS have revealed a number of incidents involving guns, explosive devices, unpermitted backpacks, and large crowds in the hours leading up to the attacks. Source: *NBC Washington*

- *SAR incidents may be increasing in parks* - *National Parks Traveler* ran an article about the growth of search and rescue missions in the national park system, particularly as a percentage of visitation and at specific park units. Source: *National Parks Traveler*

- *NPS awards $7.27 million in grants for historic buildings* - The NPS announced its Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants to support the preservation of historic buildings in rural communities. They awarded them to 11 recipients in 10 states. Source: *Highland County Press*

- *NPS awards $2.5 million to NYC for National September 11 Memorial & Museum* - As authorized and funded by Congress, the Secretary of Interior can award a single competitive grant per year for the operation and maintenance of a memorial commemorating the victims of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and February 26, 1993 (World Trade Center). This year's grant will provide support for the continued operation, maintenance, and security of the memorial/museum in New York City. Source: National Park Service

- *NPF will fund $700K in invasive species removal this year* - The National Park Foundation is focusing a large amount of funding on invasive species removal this year - more than triple what they funded last year. Source: *National Parks Traveler*

- *Strategies for overcrowding at parks* - *The Guardian* ran an article outlining various strategies for dealing with overcrowding in parks, including, interestingly, an increase in "selfie stations." Source: *The Guardian* (*High Country News* also republished this article.)

- *Senators urge curbing of plastic pollution at national parks* - Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR), and a group of their colleagues requested that Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland reinstate a policy that allows parks to voluntarily establish disposable plastic water bottle sale elimination programs. Their effort dovetails off a letter by over 300 environmental organizations and businesses that was submitted in July. Source: *Sierra Sun Times*, Oceana

- *Groups present different opinions about qualifications of NPS Director nominee*
    - *E&E News* ran an article outlining a variety of opinions about Charles "Chuck" Sams III's experience and what that means for his ability to fulfill the NPS Director role. Source: *E&E News*
    - *National Parks Traveler* posted an op-ed by Jeff Ruch from the Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility deriding Sams' nomination due to his lack of experience at a critical junction in history for the NPS. Source: *National Parks Traveler*
    - The Trust for Public Land and over 70 other national, community, and business organizations around the country signed onto a letter to Senators Joe Manchin and John Barrasso (Chairman of Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and Ranking Member, respectively) strongly supporting Sams' nomination, and urging timely action in confirming him as Director. Source: *Native News Online*, Trust for Public Land

- *Should the NPS hire more indigenous people?* - The *Portland Tribune* ran an op-ed by Maritza S. Oropeza arguing that the NPS should have a federal Indigenous hiring preference and focus recruitment on Native people as reparation for historic forcible removal from those lands. Source: *Portland Tribune*

Around the Parks

Park reports are in alphabetical order.

- *Arches National Park* - The Grand County Commission heard a presentation by the National Parks Conservation Association and Walt Dabney, retired superintendent of the Southeast Utah Group, that proposes Arches be expanded via a public lands bill. It would include the Lost Spring, Salt Valley, and Moab Tongue areas. The commission did not take any action item related to the presentation. Source: *The Spectrum*

- *Buffalo National River* - The park received the NPS Director's 2020 Wes Henry Excellence in Wilderness Stewardship team award for its strong Leave No Trace efforts across the park, resulting in a Leave No Trace Gold Standard Site certification, only the 6th park in the system to achieve this standard. Source: Buffalo National River

- *Cabrillo National Monument* - Sita Antel, 17, was recently recognized with the NPS' George and Helen Hartzog Youth Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service. She has been volunteering at the park since she was 11-years-old and most recently researched, created, and presented an interactive display celebrating the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage and the 19th Amendment. Source: *NBC San Diego*

- *Castillo de San Marcos National Monument* - On August 30, the park had 22 historic cannons returned after several years of revitalization by a team at Texas A&M's Conservation Research Laboratory. They removed salts, old paint, corrosion, and concrete, painted them afresh, and put on new protective barriers. The project cost about $400,000 and was entirely paid for by visitor admission fees. Source: *News 4 Jax*

- *Cumberland Island National Seashore* - The *New York Times* ran an in-depth article about the proposal to construct a spaceport in Camden County, adjacent to the park. The NPS and DOI have questioned the thoroughness of the Draft EIS, particularly with regards to safety and resource damage (as reported here in the Coalition Report previously). Source: *New York Times*

- *Dry Tortugas National Park* - Recently, park staff, in collaboration with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, NOAA, and Nova Southeastern University, were able to complete a successful coral rescue mission to secure fragments of previously unknown pillar coral colonies within the park for preservation. Pillar corral is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act due to Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease. The coral specimens were transported to the Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science in Miami for further study and safekeeping for possible future replanting. Source: Dry Tortugas National Park

- *Flight 93 National Memorial* - This week marks the 20th anniversary of the events of September 11, 2001. Vice President Kamala Harris, former President George W. Bush, and Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland will attend an observance at the park. Source: Green & Grey Report

- *Fort Stanwix National Monument* - Four youth volunteers have been presented with National and Regional George and Helen Hartzog Youth Group Awards for developing virtual content to share the park's stories digitally during the pandemic. The volunteers made up the "Digital Youth Corps," and ranged in age from 7-18. Source: *Rome Sentinel*

- *Glen Canyon National Recreation Area* - The NPS is increasing incentives to anglers to remove invasive brown trout near Lees Ferry - $33 for a brown trout longer than six inches, $300 for a brown trout with a PIT tag, and $50 for every three brown trout harvested each month. Source: *KJZZ*, *Glen Canyon National Recreation Area*

- *Golden Gate National Recreation Area* - A group called Indians of All Tribes has asked Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland and the NPS to establish a cultural center on Alcatraz Island that would establish a permanent cultural presence as a space for learning and gathering for both Indigenous and non-Native peoples. They have requested a meeting with Secretary Haaland. Source: *Native News Online*

- *Grand Canyon National Park* - The park has selected 12 hunters to participate in "lethal removal" of bison on the North Rim, the result of a 2017 Environmental Assessment that showed that the bison herd is currently too big and is negatively impacting natural and archaeological resources. There were over 45,000 applicants. 25 applicants were picked at random, given background checks, and then interviewed by the NPS, who made 12 final selections, based on shooting skills, backcountry experience, and fitness to be able to haul a large animal. The hunt will take place in September and October. Source: *AZ Central*

- *Indiana Dunes National Park* - Superintendent Paul Labovitz was interviewed on *PBS Newshour Weekend* for their series, "Peril and Promise: the challenge of climate change." The program explored the effects of climate change on the park, including storms that have increased lake levels, creating and eroding sand in new ways at the park. Source: *PBS*

- *Kalaupapa National Historical Park* - The NPS has released the park's General Management Plan, with a focus on preserving the small community's history and resources. Source: *Maui News*

- *Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park - Seattle Unit* - The executive director of Discover Your Northwest, Jim Adams, received the James V. Murfin Award in recognition of his 20 years of work in partnership with the NPS and cooperating associations in the Seattle area. Source: Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park

- *Lake Mead National Recreation Area* - The park has banned certain pool toys, such as water wings, beach balls, and pool noodles, saying they give people a false sense of security that leads to drownings. Nine drownings over the past seven years have involved these types of implements. Source: *News3LV*

- *Lake Mead National Recreation Area* - Todd Austin, a law enforcement ranger, received the 2020 Harry Yount National Park Ranger Award for his work improving the nationwide NPS canine program. Source: National Park Service

- *Mount Rainier National Park* - Researchers have confirmed that a litter of wolverine offspring was recently born in the park. It is only the third wolverine family documented in Washington's South Cascades in a century (and the second at the park). Their images were captured on a remote camera. Source: *KATU*

- *Mount Rushmore National Memorial* - A coalition of 16 Republican attorneys general filed an amicus brief asking a federal appeals court to reverse a ruling that denied claims by South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem that the denial of a federal permit for July 4th fireworks was unconstitutional. Source: *Reuters*

- *Padre Island National Seashore* - The park has awarded the contract for the repair of the boat launch at Bird Island Basin, which was damaged in Hurricane Harvey in 2017. The $413,000 contract was awarded to Northern Management Services, Inc. of Sandpoint, Idaho and is expected to be completed in 6 months. Source: Padre Island National Seashore

- *Point Reyes National Seashore* - On August 28, nearly a hundred people carried water three miles to a pond that is on the verge of drying up to try to help the tule elk survive the current drought. They estimated they brought in 350 gallons of water. Source: *ABC 7 News*

- *Pullman National Monument* - The NPS, in coordination with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, officially opened the Pullman National Monument and State Historic Site with a program and ribbon-cutting celebrating the sites ties to Labor Day. Attendees included DOI Secretary Deb Haaland, Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker, Chicago Mayor Lori Elaine Lightfoot, NPF President and CEO Will Shafroth, U.S. Representative Robin Kelly, U.S. Senator Richard Durbin, and Chicago Federation of Labor President Robert G. Reiter. Source: Pullman National Monument

- *San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park* - Park interpreters Anne Monk and Sabrina Oliveros were honored with the national 2020 Freeman Tilden Award for their production of the podcast *Better Lives, Bitter Lies*. Source: San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

- *Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks* - The John Muir Trail Wilderness Conservancy, in collaboration with the NPS, the California Department of Fish & Wildlife, and a $100,000 match from Sierra Nevada Brewing Company, secured a $340,000 grant from the DOI and USFWS to advance the conservation and recovery of the federally-endangered Sierra Nevada red fox. Source: *Sierra Sun*

- *Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument* - The park opened its first recreational trail, the Aliante Loop Temporary Trail. It is 3.25 miles and has five virtual interpretive stops. "Temporary trails" are a way for new national parks to gather visitor use data before formal park planning can occur. Source: Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument

- *Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail* - NPS volunteer Sal Lilienthal became the first person to complete a full ride of the entire trail, which is 680 miles long and includes land and water corridors across 9 states. Source: Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail

- *Zion National Park* - Biologists confirmed the first flight of a California condor nestling, making it the second wild-hatched nestling to successfully fledge in the park. The 4.5-month-old chick, #1111, took flight on August 28 from a cliff just north of Angels Landing. The condor chick will continue to be dependent on its parents for another year or two before it is independent. Source: *KJZZ*

Personnel Changes

- *Devils Postpile National Monument* - Rebecca Carr Wong was selected as site manager. She has over 20 years of experience with federal lands, most recently as the first monument manager for Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument (both BLM and USFS land jurisdiction). She will start her new position in October. Source: Devils Postpile National Monument

Park People

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

Deceased

- On August 21, Daniel "Boone" "Steely" Foxen, 57, passed away. He worked as a ranger at Mount Rainier and Everglades. Source: *North Iowa Today*

- On August 10, Norman Douglas Hinson, 86, passed away. He worked for the NPS for 32 years, including at Rocky Mountain, Organ Pipe Cactus, Carlsbad Caverns, White Sands, Catoctin, Natchez Trace, and Yosemite (where he served as chief criminal investigator). He was the first of nine family members to work for the National Park Service. Source: *Mariposa Gazette*

- On August 31, Donald "Don" Carol Johnson, 87, passed away. He worked as a seasonal ranger at Big Hole Battlefield for 10 years after retirement from a career in education, and was a supporter of the Friends of Nez Perce Battlefields. Source: *The Joplin Globe*

- On August 29, Monica J. Rydzewski, 89, passed away. In her retirement, she volunteered at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts. Source: *Legacy*

- On August 13, E. Patrick Smith, 80, passed away. He worked for the NPS for 20 years, including as chief naturalist/ranger in Grand Teton National Park. Source: *Jackson Hole News & Guide*

In the News

- On August 27, Grand Teton National Park Public Affairs Officer Denise Germann retired after 34 years of government service, 17 of those with the NPS. Source: *Buckrail*

- The White House Office of Science and Technology has appointed University of California, Berkeley scientist Patrick Gonzalez as assistant director for climate and biodiversity. Gonzalez was the principal climate change scientist for the NPS under the Obama administration and is a faculty affiliate for the UC Berkeley Institute for Parks, People, and Biodiversity. Source: *UC Berkeley News*

Open for Comment

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

- Many parks currently have open public comment on draft Air Tour Management Plans to comply with the National Parks Air Tour Management Act of 2000. Comments for the below plans are due October 3.
    - Arches National Park
    - Bandelier National Monument
    - Bryce Canyon National Park
    - Canyonlands National Park
    - Glacier National Park
    - Great Smoky Mountains National Park
    - Natural Bridges National Monument

- *Arches National Park* - Public comment is now open on a Visitor Use, Access, and Experience plan. Comments are open until October 5. Source: *The Spectrum*

- *Golden Gate National Recreation Area* - Public comment is now open on a plan to increase or add fees for camping, parking, and evening lighthouse tours. Comments may be submitted by email or phone. Source: *NBC Bay Area*

- *Great Smoky Mountains National Park* - Public comment is now open on the Gatlinburg Spur Safety Improvements Project, which seeks to improve safety and traffic flow along the Spur while retaining the parkway character of the road. Comments are open until September 26. Source: *Cherokee One Feather*

- *Guadalupe Mountains National Park* - Public comment is now open on a new proposed fee for overnight Wilderness Use Permits. They are currently free and would move to $6 per permit, plus $6 per person per night. Comments are open until September 12. Source: Guadalupe Mountains National Park

- *Hovenweep National Monument, Natural Bridges National Monument* - Public comment is now open on raising campground fee rates at both sites. Comments are open until September 15. Source: Natural Bridges National Monument

- *Indiana Dunes National Park* - Public comment is now open on charging entrance fees, as well as six new backcountry campsites and a group campsite. Comments are open until October 1. Source: *CBS Chicago*

- *Joshua Tree National Park* - Public comment is now open on an Environmental Assessment to construct a new West Entrance Station. Comments are open until September 17. Source: Joshua Tree National Park

- *Joshua Tree National Park* - Public comment is now open on a plan to expand the Barker Dam parking lot. Comments are open until September 17. Source: Joshua Tree National Park

- *Minute Man National Historical Park* - Public comment is now open on a plan to minimize or mitigate effects to historic resources through its extensive strategy to revitalize the park in time for the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. Comments are open until September 19. Source: Minute Man National Historical Park

- *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

- *Pearl Harbor National Memorial* - Public comment is now open for a proposal to implement paid parking at the park for $7 per vehicle. Entrance to the visitor center and memorial will remain free. Comments are open until August 30. Source: *Honolulu Star Advertiser*

- *Point Reyes National Seashore* - Public comment is now open on a proposal to increase campground fees. Each of the types of sites (standard tent sites, small group sites, and large group sites) will double in cost. Comments are open until October 1. Source: Point Reyes National Seashore

- *San Juan Island National Historical Park* - Public comment is now open on a draft Accessibility Self Evaluation and Transition Plan. Comments are open until September 30. Source: *The Islands' Sounder*

- *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*

- *Shenandoah National Park* - Public comment is now open for proposed fee increases to campgrounds, backcountry permits, and an Old Rag pilot permit system. Comments are open until September 16. Source: Shenandoah National Park

- *Zion National Park* - Public comment is now open on a day-use permit lottery system for hiking the chained portion of the Angels Landing trail and a provision to increase fees at Lava Point Campground. Comments are open until September 12. Source: *Utah Public Radio*

- *Zion National Park* - Public comment is now open on proposed changes to the Superintendent's Compendium. Comments are open until September 10. Source:

Zion National Park

- *Nathan Hale Park* (belonging to the City of Parma, IL) - Public comment is now open on a proposal to amend the Program of Utilization agreement between the NPS and the City of Parma. The park is currently subject to an environmental assessment from the Federal Lands to Parks Program. The amendment would change part of the park's use from recreational to utilitarian so that a stormwater retention project can be constructed. Comments are open until September 19. Source: *Cleveland.com*

- *Environmental Protection Agency* - Public comment is now open for a proposed rule to revise existing greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks. Comments are open until September 27. Source: National Parks Conservation Association

Other Department of Interior News

- *BLM to convert seasonal firefighter positions to permanent* - The Bureau of Land Management is implementing direction from Congress to convert hundreds of their employees from seasonal to permanent status. This model will allow positions to run a longer season, as well as provide employees with career stability and upward mobility to improve employee retention. They have also added 76 new firefighting and support personnel positions to the workforce. The other four federal agencies who fight fire, including the NPS, have also been directed by Congress to convert some of their positions to permanent and/or year-round. Source: *Wildfire Today*

- *DOI announces largest expansion of fishing and hunting on USFWS lands* - The Department of Interior has opened new or expanded hunting and sport fishing opportunities across 2.1 million acres of U.S. Fish and Wildlife lands and waters. They opened or expanded 910 opportunities, with "opportunity" defined as one species on one field station, which is considered the largest expansion in DOI history. Source: Department of Interior

- *DOI announces newest Biden-Harris appointees* - The Department of Interior announced the appointment of five people, including the positions of Senior Advance Representative, Associate Deputy Secretary, Advisor in the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs, and Senior Advisor for Native Hawaiian Affairs. Source: Department of Interior

- *Secretary Haaland marries long-time partner* - On August 28, Department of Interior Secretary Deb Haaland married her partner, Skip Sayre, in a ceremony in Santa Ana Pueblo. Source: *The Paper*

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.

Senate Actions

The Senate is in recess until September 13, 2021.

House Actions

August 24 – The House agreed to S. Con. Res. 14, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2022 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2023 through 2031, pursuant to the provisions of section 4 of H. Res. 601, by a vote of 220 yeas to 212 nays.

The House was in recess until September 7, 2021.

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.

Many Parks
Hurricane Ida causes closures and damage

The NPS gave a summary of the response and effects of Hurricane Ida upon various parks across the East. Source National Park Service

Acadia National Park
Man arrested at gunpoint

On August 28, rangers came upon a man at an old ranger cabin on Schoodic Head Road. He appeared anxious and confused and told them he was having an intestinal issue and couldn't find a bathroom. Shortly afterward, the rangers found a pickup truck with a handgun in plain sight under the center armrest. They questioned the man, who tried to run and ignored shouts to stop. A ranger subdued him with a taser. Upon a more extensive search, several other guns, additional magazines and ammunition, hard body armor plates, homemade firearms suppressors, and an open container of alcohol were found in the truck. Several charges were filed. Source: *News Center Maine*

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore
Unoccupied dinghy recovered

On August 26, kayakers reported an unoccupied dinghy. NPS staff recovered it on the shore of Otter Island the following day, then conducted searches of the nearby areas in coordination with the U.S. Coast Guard for two days. The search was called off after the weather turned on August 28. The Ashland County Sheriff's department is looking for any information the public may have. Source: *WDIO*

Death Valley National Park
2nd fatality on Golden Canyon Trail in a week

On August 21, a visitor was found dead by an early morning hiker near the Manly Beacon formation on the Golden Canyon Trail. A SAR team recovered the body on foot. The Inyo County Sheriff's Office is investigating the cause of death. Foul play is not suspected. Temperatures have been around 109. It was the second death on the Golden Canyon Trail in a week (the first was reported in the previous Coalition Report). Source: *News3LV*

Denali National Park
Climate change-induced landslide closes half of park road

On August 24, the park announced that they would be closing the park road at Polychrome Pass (mile 42) due to a fast-moving landslide caused by unusually fast thawing of frozen ground at Pretty Rocks. The park typically closes the road to vehicle traffic at mile 30 in mid-September. The park is allowing administrative traffic to close down western park operations and evacuate visitors who are in the closed area. Source: Denali National Park

Denali National Park
Hiker survives grizzly attack

On August 23, a 55-year-old was attacked by a grizzly bear while hiking alone on Thoroughfare Pass. The bear was with two cubs and there was dense fog in the area. The bear attacked from about 100 feet away. The visitor was able to use bear spray after being knocked to the ground. The bear left quickly and the visitor hiked 1.5 miles to the Eilson Visitor Center, where he was taken by park bus and an ambulance to Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. He suffered puncture wounds to his calf, left ribs, and left shoulder. The park does not intend to locate the bear because the attack was defensive in nature due to the presence of cubs. Some backcountry areas near the attack site have been closed for a week. Source: *ABC News*

Glacier National Park
Hiker found deceased after multi-day search

On September 1, a dog boarding facility reported a woman missing to her family when she failed to show up to pick up her dogs. The woman's last contact had been a text message while hiking from Logan Pass/Highline Trail to Granite Park Chalet on August 30. NPS personnel found her car at the parking lot for the Highline Trail, and her belongings were undisturbed at her campsite. Personnel from the NPS, Flathead County Sheriff's Department, Glacier County Sheriff's Department, Two Bear Air Rescue, and Flathead National Forest conducted a multi-day search, and found her body in a steep and rocky area near the Continental Divide on September 5. The cause of death is currently under investigation. Source: *Cowboy State Daily*, Glacier National Park

Glacier National Park
Black bear euthanized

On September 2, a black bear was euthanized in the Many Glacier area of the park after getting human food and resisting hazing efforts. The park is comparing DNA samples to discern whether the bear is the same one who recently approached people and exhibited unusual behavior at Grinnel Lake. Source: *KXLF*

Grand Canyon National Park
Hiker missing for two days found alive

On August 23, two people were reported overdue from day-hiking on the Hermit Trail. One hiker reached the trailhead several hours later. The other had been last seen east of Hermit Creek Camp on the Tonto Trail. NPS personnel on foot and in a helicopter searched for the hiker on Monday and Tuesday, eventually finding him in stable condition on the Hermit Trail near Breezy Point. Source: *Grand Canyon News*

Grand Canyon National Park
Visitor dies after 50-foot fall

On August 28, park officials received a report of an injured river trip participant who could not be located by other members of the trip who were in the Deer Creek Narrows. He was found deceased the following day, and appeared to fallen 50 feet. His body was taken by helicopter to the South Rim and an investigation will be led by the Coconino County Medical Examiner's Office and the National Park Service. Source: *AZ Central*

Grand Canyon National Park
Search scaled back for missing person

On or around June 11, Charles Lyon, 49, left his vehicle on Desert View Drive near Lipan Point. He is believed to have been traveling alone and had been last seen at the Best Western Hotel in nearby Tusayan, Arizona. The NPS has searched the park extensively using ground teams and helicopter flights. The park announced that the search is now in limited and continuous mode. Source: *ABC4*

Grand Teton National Park
Climber found dead

On September 4, the NPS received a report from a climber ascending Teewinot Mountain, that a deceased climber had been found at the base of Black Chimney climbing route. The climber appears to have been climbing alone, and based on his location and a map he had with him, he may have been intending to climb the East Face route. Route finding is known to be difficult in this area. Source: *East Idaho News*

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Visitor drowns at base of waterfall

On August 27, a 73-year-old got caught in a current near the base of Abrams Falls and did not resurface. NPS officials and personnel from Blount County and Army National Guard searched for several hours and found the victim entrapped in underwater debris. Source: *Knox News*

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Motorcyclist dies in crash

On August 28, a 57-year-old motorcyclist was killed in a crash while driving on Foothills Parkway between Walland and Wears Valley. The motorcycle veered off the road and into a drainage ditch. Speed is believed to be a contributing factor. No other vehicles were involved. Rangers, Blount County Sheriff's Office personnel, and American Medical Response were called to the scene and performed CPR before taking the victim to Blount Memorial Hospital in Maryville. The victim was pronounced dead while in transport to the hospital. 3 other people have died in motorcycle crashes in Great Smoky this year. Source: *Charlotte Observer*

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park

Series of earthquakes hits park

On August 23, a series of over 140 earthquakes hit the park, nine of which were at least 2.5 magnitude, raising questions about whether Kilauea might be erupting. Officials have since confirmed that it is not erupting, but they are monitoring it closely. They believe it could indicate shallow movement of magma beneath the south part of the Kilauea caldera. Source: *WKRN*

Kenai Fjords National Park

Hiker with cramps assisted down trail

On August 29, a hiker on the Harding Icefield Trail, about 1 mile above Marmot Meadows, called the NPS to request assistance, reporting cramping and spasms in both legs. Rangers and volunteers from the Bear Creek Fire Department, as well as a LifeMed Alaska helicopter, were dispatched. The patient was treated on site and was able to walk down the mountain and the helicopter was canceled. Source: Kenai Fjords National Park

Olympic National Park

Armed man claiming "revolution" arrested after 2-day search

On August 29, a man began acting erratically after using methamphetamine. After dropping his kids off at his brother's house, he left notes with two acquaintances, outlining his grievances with the White House, describing his difficulty purchasing ammunition, and outlining "an imminent revolution" to be started in Texas and on the Olympic Peninsula. He and his girlfriend drove to the Deer Park Campground, where the man is suspected to have started a fire. His erratic behavior continued, and he allegedly assaulted his girlfriend before walking into the woods "screaming and yelling." She reported him to law enforcement and expressed concern that he might act violently toward anyone representing the government. The NPS closed several roads near Port Angeles out of fear to public safety. County sheriff's deputies, the NPS, and the FBI searched for the man for two days, and eventually found him and took him into custody in Deer Park. Source: *Peninsula Daily News*

Pearl Harbor National Memorial

USS Arizona tours closed due to structural issue

On September 3, the NPS became aware of an issue with the shoreside dock adjacent to the visitor center. To ensure safety and a thorough inspection, boat transportation to the *USS Arizona* memorial has been suspended until at least September 8. Source: Pearl Harbor National Memorial

Point Reyes National Seashore
Ranchers bulldoze sensitive creek

The leasers of the oldest ranch in the park, Home Ranch, bulldozed and removed brush from several sections of land, including along a sensitive unnamed creek. On August 12, birders hiking on the Estero Trail noticed the bulldozer operating in the riparian area upstream from Drakes Estero and reported it to the park. The ranching lease bars bulldozing or removing timber without first obtaining authorization. The park stated that the ranchers have agreed to restoration measures and that the investigation is ongoing. Source: *Point Reyes Light*

Redwood National Park
Poacher receives community service and probation

In January 2018, law enforcement rangers came upon a redwood poaching site within Redwood National and State Parks near Newton B. Drury Parkway. Large burls had been cut from trees. Upon noticing that there were still burls in the area, law enforcement set up remote cameras in hopes of catching the poacher upon return. Rangers were able to identify a truck and person through those images. They obtained a warrant and searched the home of Derek Hughes, 37, where they found burls that matched those stolen from the park, as well as methamphetamine, drug paraphernalia, illegal weapons, and stolen property. Though booked on many charges, only vandalism was tried. The trial took place in July and the sentencing in August gave Hughes 400 hours of community service and two years of probation, despite the district attorney's request for the maximum fine of 3 years in jail and a $10,000 fine. Social media comments suggest that many bystanders were upset by the ruling. Source: *SF Gate*

Yellowstone National Park
Woman sentenced for walking on thermal grounds

On August 18, a woman was sentenced to seven days in jail, a $1,000 fine, and a $1,000 payment to Yellowstone Forever Geological Resource Fund for illegally walking on thermal ground at Norris Geyser Basin. Multiple people took photos and videos of the woman and two others who walked off the clearly-signed boardwalk. Source: Yellowstone National Park

Zion National Park
Man dies after complaining of heat exhaustion

On August 30, a 32-year-old was reported to be complaining of heat exhaustion at the exit route of the Left Fork of North Creek. NPS staff responded and found the victim unresponsive. CPR was administered for an hour until instructed to stop by St. George Hospital medical control. The patient's body was extracted by helicopter via long line. Source: *ABC4*, *Lake Powell Life*

Zion National Park
Vehicle pursuit ends in crash

On August 31, an individual allegedly set fires in dumpsters and to LDS churches in St. George, UT. The suspect was pursued from St. George into the park, where he crashed at the Canyon Junction bridge. He was taken into custody. A small fire was started at the crash site and a Hurricane Brush truck was dispatched to put it out. The incident is under investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. Source: Zion National Park

Zion National Park
Overdue hiker found alive

On September 2, the NPS closed The Narrows to search for a missing hiker. The Narrows had been closed the day before due to the danger of flash flooding in the area. The hiker was found alive mid-day by rescuers. Source: *Utah Public Radio*

Follow-ups on Previously Reported Incidents

- *Grand Canyon National Park* - A body was found below Yavapai Point. It is suspected to belong to Gabor Berczi-Tomcsanyi, whose car was found at the South Rim visitor center after Las Vegas Police alerted the park that he had possibly traveled through the park in late July. Source: *ABC4*

- *Lassen National Park* - As of September 8, the Dixie Fire is 59% contained, at 922,192 acres, and has 4,752 personnel assigned, including 225 U.S. Army soldiers who recently arrived. A firefighter passed away from illness while assigned to the fire. 65,048 acres have burned within the park. Two Mill Creek Falls Trail bridges were destroyed, while a third was minimally burned. The Kings Creek Falls overlook was also damaged. The park now has park-specific Dixie Fire updates available on their website. The park has also highlighted how past fuel-reduction projects have protected park resources and structures. Source: *Record Searchlight*, Inciweb, Lassen National Park

- *Isle Royale National Park* - As of September 6, the Horne Fire is at 429 acres and 75% contained. The NPS reopened a number of trails and campgrounds that were closed due to the fire. A few places remain closed. Source: *Upper Michigan Source*, Isle Royale National Park

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

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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."

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