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The Coalition Report

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Editor Note: *In the November 2, 2022 Coalition Report, we mistakenly reported the former location of Bus 142 (popularized by the book and film, Into the Wild) as being inside Denali National Park and Preserve. However, it was located outside the park. The grant for stabilization of the bus, now located at the University of Alaska Museum of the North, was funded through the Save America's Treasures Program, which is a program managed by the NPS and Institute of Museum and Library Services. Thanks to Sarah Hayes for bringing the mistake to our attention.*

Coalition Actions

Please [join us](#) **today**, Wednesday, November 16 at 1pm EST for a virtual conversation about national monument advocacy, with the Coalition, the Nevada Conservation League, the Frontera Land Alliance, and The Wilderness Society.

The Coalition has [opened nominations](#) for the annual George Hartzog Award. The Hartzog Award is given to the individual or individuals who demonstrate outstanding support for the mission of the National Park System and/or the National Park Service. Recipients may be current or former NPS employees or members of the general public.

The Coalition joined with numerous organizations in a [letter](#) to the Prince William County Board of Supervisors urging a "no" vote on the Prince William Digital Gateway due to its effects on Manassas Battlefield Park and other natural and historic resources. (The county voted in favor; see "Around the Parks" below).

The Coalition joined in a submission providing detailed scoping [comments](#) on the

proposed management plan for Bears Ears National Monument in Utah (a unit managed by the Bureau of Land Management). The complete 150-page document is available [here](#).

Coalition Chair Mike Murray was interviewed on the *National Parks Traveler* [podcast](#) alongside Kristen Brengel, the senior vice president of government affairs for the National Parks Conservation Association, about current issues in the NPS.

[An op-ed](#) by Coalition Vice Chair Don Hellmann was published in *The Washington Post*, arguing for the American Women's History Museum and the National Museum of the American Latino to not be placed within the Reserve area of the National Mall, in accordance with the Commemorative Works Act and the legislation that enabled the two museums.

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 and its programs, or intersecting with the parks on a more regional basis.

- *Keeping NPS waste out of landfill* - Since 2015, the NPS has collaborated with the National Parks Conservation Association, National Park Foundation, and Subaru on a "Don't Feed the Landfills" initiative at Denali, Grand Teton, and Yosemite National Parks. The NPS recently published an article about the program's accomplishments. Source: [National Park Service](#)
- *Veterans get lifetime entry* - Starting on Veterans Day, November 11, lifetime passes to federal public lands for U.S. Military Veterans and Gold Star Families became available for the first time. Source: [Fredericksburg Today](#)
- *\$345K in battlefield grants* - On November 8, the NPS announced \$345,205 in Battlefield Restoration Grants for four civil war battlefield sites in Pennsylvania and Virginia. This is a new type of grant administered by the NPS' American Battlefield Protection Program, focusing on restoring "day-of-battle" conditions at the sites. Source: [National Park Service Office of Communications](#)
- *Glaciers may disappear by 2050* - A new report by the United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization predicts that at least one-third of World Heritage sites with glaciers will cease to have any by 2050. Yosemite and Yellowstone National Parks were specifically named in the report as sites that would lose glaciers by that date. On November 4, Yellowstone Superintendent Cam Sholly acknowledged to the *Jackson Hole Daily* that there are no glaciers in Yellowstone National Park, and that the park had notified UNESCO of their mistake. He acknowledged that there are other NPS units where receding glaciers are a significant issue. Source: [The Washington Post](#), [The Sun Dance Times](#)
- *"Descriptathon" results in audio-described brochures* - The University of Hawaii's

UniDescription Project hosted its 9th annual Descriptathon, a 3-day audio description "competition" that works to help parks get their brochures translated into verbal descriptions for people with visual impairments. Source: [Agate Fossil Beds National Monument](#)

- *TrashBlitz report* - A project called the Plastic-Free Parks TrashBlitz recorded litter found from July 1 to September 30 at 44 volunteer cleanups in national parks and other public lands. The results found that single-use plastic made up 81% of the 14,000+ pieces of trash found. Cigarette butts were also the top item. A report from the project recommends that parks make it easier for visitors to access water refill stations, use reusable food items, and set up deposit return stations. They also gave recommendations to visitors for having a smaller impact on the landscape. The project was hosted by 5 Gyres, with corporate and non-profit partners, including Oceana, Plastic Free July, Break Free from Plastic, and Klean Kanteen. Source: [Ecowatch](#)
- *NPS social media advises to not lick toads* - An NPS social media [post](#) has gone viral and been republished in several dozen major media outlets for advising visitors to not lick Colorado River toads. The secretions of the toads are known to contain bufotenine, a derivative of a psychedelic substance that has been popularized by celebrities and some wellness advocates. Licking toads can make people sick and is detrimental to the toads. Source: [The Sacramento Bee](#) (and many others)

Around the Parks

Park reports are in alphabetical order.

- *Badlands National Park* - In October, the park completed the largest bison gathering operation in park history. 1,600 animals were gathered, microchipped, weighed, and tested for health. 655 yearlings and two-year-old bison were sent to five Tribes, while the rest were released back into the park. The bison population is managed in partnership with the Tribes and other government agencies for conservation goals and to support traditional uses of bison. Source: [Badlands National Park](#)
- *Cape Hatteras National Seashore* - *Island Free Press* recently published [an article](#) about the threats of septic seeping into the ocean in Rodanthe due to rising seas and outdated local policies. Source: *Island Free Press*
- *Channel Islands National Park* - On November 8, the park reopened Anacapa Island to public visitation. The island had been closed to the public since February 2022 to construct a new wharf. Though open, final construction is ongoing, and the wharf will be completed in early 2023. The \$4 million project has been managed by the NPS' Denver Service Center and implemented by JMG Constructors, LLC. Source: [Channel Islands National Park](#)
- *Death Valley National Park* - The park released its Finding of No Significant Impact

for improvements to the Stovepipe Wells area. The proposed actions include upgrades and changes to utilities, roads, parking areas, campgrounds, and buildings. Due to public comment, the park will evaluate the Furnace Creek and Stovepipe Wells Airstrips in relation to one another, and with more consultation with the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe and local pilots. Source: [Death Valley National Park](#)

- *Fort Union National Monument* - On December 3, the park will do a ribbon-cutting ceremony to unveil its newly renovated visitor center exhibit area, including better interpretation, and improved accessibility and orientation. Source: [Fort Union National Monument](#)
- *Glacier National Park, Yellowstone National Park* - On November 10, WildEarth Guardians and Project Coyote filed a new motion, building on an October lawsuit, accusing the State of Montana of violating the law by utilizing outdated and insufficient data to open up wolf hunting, as well as overstepping its management authority by allowing hunting right at the federal land boundary. The new wolf hunting season is set to begin at the end of November and the motion asks the court to pause opening the season to consider the October suit. 19 Yellowstone-area wolves were killed in last year's season, eliminating one of the park's packs. Source: [Deseret News](#)
- *Great Smoky Mountains National Park* - The park announced that the Federal Highway Administration has awarded a \$1.3 million construction contract to Bryant's Land and Development Industries, Inc. of Burnsville, North Carolina to conduct repairs on 19 bridges across the park. Work will be ongoing through August 2023, with temporary lane and road closures on a case-by-case basis. Source: [Great Smoky Mountains National Park](#)
- *Haleakalā National Park* - The park released a new 7-minute film, "Heart of Maui," which follows two biologists working to save Hawai'i's endangered forest birds, as well as the critical need to control mosquitoes and avian malaria. The film was funded by the NPS and the Haleakalā Conservancy. Source: [Haleakalā National Park](#)
- *Katmai National Park and Preserve* - The park announced that it will increase fees for overnight camping at the Brooks Campground, starting in 2023. Source: [Katmai National Park and Preserve](#)
- *Keweenaw National Historical Park* - The park is seeking applicants to fill an expired seat on their Advisory Commission, which is composed of seven volunteer citizens appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. The empty seat would represent the Franklin and Quicy Townships. Source: [Keweenaw National Historical Park](#)
- *Manassas National Battlefield Park* - On November 2, the Prince William County Board of Supervisors voted 5-2 to approve the construction of data centers on

2,139 acres of rural land bordering the park. The public hearing over the issue lasted 14 hours overnight, including comments by 239 members of the public. 128 voiced opposition, including members from the Prince William County Historical Commission, Manassas Battlefield National Park, and the American Battlefield Trust. (The Coalition also expressed its opposition in a joint letter; see above in "Coalition Actions.") 111 expressed support, including 65 landowners who will sell their properties for the data centers and six developers' representatives. The vote fell along party lines, with Democrats voting in favor of the data centers and Republicans voting against. Source: [The Washington Times](#)

- *Natchez Trace Parkway* - On November 4, the park issued a Finding of No Significant Impact for the Double Arch Bridge Safety Improvements Environmental Assessment, which will allow the parkway to install a permanent safety barrier to deter suicide on the bridge. Source: [Natchez Trace Parkway](#)
- *Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NPS program)* - On November 10, Harvard University's Peabody Museum publicly apologized for the ownership of hair taken from about 700 Native American children. The hair was "collected" from children at U.S. Indian Boarding Schools for an anthropological study and donated to the museum in the 1930s. The museum expressed a commitment to returning the hair to their families and Tribal nations. The announcement comes one year after the Association on American Indian Affairs accused the museum of being in violation of NAGPRA. Source: [Huffington Post](#)
- *North Cascades National Park* - The NPS and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have restarted efforts to consider grizzly bear reintroduction to the North Cascades range (see "Open for Public Comment" below). *The Spokesman-Review* published [an article](#) chronicling efforts dating back to 2014 with over 140,000 public comments about reintroduction, as well as some of the scientific studies, management issues, and advocacy groups involved in the issue. Source: *The Spokesman-Review*
- *Petersburg National Battlefield* - On November 19, the park and the Northeast Archeological Resources Program will host the public in a community meeting for the Enslaved Field Laborers Project to share historical and archeological information learned from four seasons of field work and ongoing interpretation of the Whitehill Plantation and its enslaved community. Source: [Petersburg National Battlefield](#)
- *Prince William Forest Park* - On November 1, the Prince William Forest RV Campground (concession-operated) closed for infrastructure improvements. It is scheduled to reopen on June 1, 2023. Source: [Prince William Forest Park](#)
- *Rock Creek Park* - On November 2, the park announced it will keep much of Beach Drive closed to cars year-round. This differed the plan released in July that would have implemented a system of seasonal closures. A round of public comments and

further review caused the NPS to revise its plan. Source: [The Washington Post](#)

- *Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area* - On November 6, the park, in partnership with Clarins and The Malibu Foundation, held its third annual "Replant Love" event, which aims to replant native trees and plants lost in the Woolsey Fire at Paramount Ranch. The 2022 event hosted 500 volunteers, and 8,000 trees and shrubs were planted. Source: [yahoo!](#)
- *Shenandoah National Park* - The park has added two new [webcams](#) inside the park, from Big Meadows and the Valley, near Luray, VA. The webcam installation is made possible by the Shenandoah National Park Association. Source: [Shenandoah National Park](#)
- *Shiloh National Military Park* - On November 28, the park will start a new project to upgrade its visitor center exhibits, which will take several months. During that time, the visitor center will be closed and a temporary visitor contact station will be set up outside the building. Source: [Shiloh National Military Park](#)
- *Valles Caldera National Preserve* - The New Mexico State Game Commission approved a change to increase fall elk hunt licenses in the park from 265 to 350 tags in 2023, a 32% increase over the 2022 season, and a 67% increase since the NPS took over management in 2015. Source: [Los Alamos Daily Post](#)
- *Virgin Islands National Park, Buck Island National Monument, San Juan National Historic Site* - Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland and Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor visited Lind Point, Annaberg Sugar Plantation, and Buck Island, as well as The Nature Conservancy's Coral Innovation Lab, which has received collaborative funding from the NPS. Afterward, they traveled to Puerto Rico and toured Castillo San Felipe del Morro and Castillo San Cristobal to discuss ongoing projects around climate change resilience, as well as ongoing support for Puerto Rico with government officials. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *Yosemite National Park* - A couple articles have been published by major news media outlets calling into question the recent record youngest ascent of El Capitan (reported in the [November 2, 2022 Coalition Report](#)) by 8-year-old Sam Baker. The question is with regards to the method in which the mountain was scaled - Sam and his father ascended via fixed ropes that were set by two climbers ahead of them rather than climbing the rockface itself. The articles also document conflicting statements about how donations related to the ascent would be spent. Source: [Los Angeles Times](#)

Personnel Changes

- *Bluestone National Scenic River, Gauley River National Recreation Area, New River*

Gorge National Park and Preserve - Charles Sellars has been selected as the new superintendent for the three park units. Charles has 37 years of NPS experience, most recently as the superintendent at Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. He will begin his new role in 2023. Source: [New River Gorge National Park and Preserve](#)

- *Delaware Gap National Recreation Area* - Doyle Sapp was selected as the new superintendent. Doyle has 29 years of NPS experience, most recently as superintendent of Richmond National Battlefield Park and Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site, as well as acting superintendent at Delaware Gap. Doyle will begin his new role in 2023. Source: [Delaware Gap National Recreation Area](#)
- *Fire and Aviation Management* - Amanda Rumsey has been selected as a data scientist for the Division of Fire and Aviation's Information Technology and Resource Management Branch. Amanda has eight years of federal service, including with NASA Earth Observations, the Department of Homeland Security's Flood Apex Program, and the U.S. Census Bureau. Source: [National Park Service Division of Fire and Aviation Management](#)
- *Fort Laramie National Historic Site* - Casey Osback has been selected as the new chief of interpretation and visitor services. Casey has over 30 years of NPS experience, most recently as the chief ranger at Badlands National Park for 11 years. Casey grew up near the park and visited the fort as a child with his family. Source: [The Lingle Guide](#)
- *Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Rainbow Bridge National Monument* - Michelle Kerns has been selected as the new superintendent. Michelle has over 25 years of NPS experience, and was most recently the deputy superintendent of operations at Glen Canyon, as well as the acting superintendent since August. She will begin her new role officially in December. Source: [Glen Canyon National Recreation Area](#)
- *Indiana Dunes National Park* - The Dunes Learning Center has selected Heather Hahn Sullivan as the new executive director. Heather attended the Dunes Learning Center as a high school student, and has worked for the organization as their Development and Marketing Director since 2018. Source: [Indiana Dunes National Park](#)
- *Wildland Fire Program* - Jennifer "Jen" Gibson has been selected as the post-wildfire coordinator for the Burned Area Emergency Response team. Jen has been an active line-qualified Resource Advisor since 2004, and was most recently the chief of resources and fire at Crater Lake National Park. Source: [National Park Service Wildland Fire Program](#)

Park People

Here we honor deceased park employees, as well as important news about Coalition Members and other current and former NPS employees or volunteers. People are listed alphabetically by last name.

Deceased

- Ivan Tolley, 87, passed away on November 6. Ivan worked for the NPS for 30 years, including at Gateway Arch National Park and Isle Royale National Park. Source: [The Daily Mining Gazette](#)

In the News

- Dana Morris, a flight operations chief of the Flagler County (FL) FireFlight emergency helicopter, retired after 20 years in his role. Before coming to Flagler County, he flew the same helicopter for Yosemite and Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and followed it to Flagler when it was sold to the county. Source: [FlaglerLive.com](#)

Open for Comment

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

- *Acadia National Park* - Public comment is now open on a plan to restore the 166-acre Great Meadow wetland. [Comments](#) are open until December 10. Source: [Acadia National Park](#)
- *Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument* - Public comment is now open on a proposed General Management Plan for the park. [Comments](#) are open until November 21. Source: [Alabama Newsletter](#)
- *Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park* - Public comment is now open on proposed updates and expansion to the Cedar Creek Battlefield and Belle Grove Plantation National Historic Landmark district. [Comments](#) are open until November 30. Source: [Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park](#)
- *Cumberland Island National Seashore* - Public comment is now open on a visitor use management plan. [Comments](#) are open until November 30. Source: [Cumberland Island National Seashore](#)
- *Delaware Gap National Recreation Area* - Public comment is now open on a plan to replace a failed salt storage shed at the Chado Farm maintenance complex in Walpack Township on the New Jersey side of the park. [Comments](#) are open until December 6. Source: [Delaware Gap National Recreation Area](#)
- *Golden Gate National Recreation Area* - Public comment is now open on a proposal to remove an earthen dam and restore native habitat in lower Tennessee Valley to improve visitor safety and access. [Comments](#) are open until November 17. Source:

[Golden Gate National Recreation Area](#)

- *Governors Island National Monument, Statue of Liberty National Monument* - The NPS and the Federal Aviation Administration have opened public comment on a proposed commercial air tour management voluntary agreement for the two parks. [Comments](#) are open until November 21. Source: [Governors Island National Monument](#)
- *Isle Royale National Park* - Public comment is now open on a proposal to increase passenger and freight fees on the NPS ferry to and from the park on the *Ranger III*. [Comments](#) are open until November 25. Source: [Isle Royale National Park](#)
- *Isle Royale National Park* - Public comment is now open on a wilderness stewardship plan. [Comments](#) are open until November 21. Source: [Keweenaw Report](#)
- *Lake Mead National Recreation Area* - Public comment is now open on management options on how to maintain launch ramp access to the lake and other visitor services amid record low lake levels that continue to drop. [Comments](#) are open until December 23. Source: [Lake Mead National Recreation Area](#)
- *Natchez Trace Parkway* - Public comment is now open on the John Coffee Memorial Bridge Replacement or Rehabilitation project. [Comments](#) are open until November 28. Source: [Natchez Trace Parkway](#)
- *National Capital Parks - East* - Public comment is now open on design ideas for a 1.25-acre park known as Parkland, located in Congress Heights. [Comments](#) are open until November 20. Source: [National Capital Parks - East](#)
- *North Cascades National Park* - The NPS and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have opened public comment on an Environmental Impact Statement process to evaluate options for restoring and managing grizzly bears to the North Cascades. [Comments](#) are open until December 14. Source: [The Spokesman-Review](#)
- *Pullman National Monument* - The NPS and Illinois Department of Natural Resources are developing a joint general management plan for the park/state historic site. They are hosting open houses at the visitor center and virtually November 15-17, and future opportunities for engagement will be open on the Planning, Environment, and Public Comment page. Source: [Pullman National Monument](#)
- *Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park* - Public comment is now open on a plan to remove maintenance facilities at the park. The facilities were intended to be temporary and are poorly located, both due to weathering and the presence of cultural resources. The proposal would remove the facilities, restore the site, and

assign a site for new facilities. [Comments](#) are open until November 27. Source: [Big Island Video News](#)

- *Saguaro National Park* - Public comment is now open on improvements at the Rincon Mountain Visitor Center, including expanded parking areas, additional restrooms, additional shade structures, and changes to travel routes and the location of the fee kiosk to improve safety and traffic flow. [Comments](#) are open until December 2. Source: [Saguaro National Park](#)
- *San Juan National Historic Site* - Public comment is now open on a Free-Ranging Cat Management Plan to humanely remove feral cats from the site. [Comments](#) are open until November 22. Source: [San Juan National Historic Site](#)
- *Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Yosemite National Park* - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has opened public comment on an expanded geographic region of critical habitat for the southern Sierra Nevada fisher, which is listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The expanded acreage includes zones within Sequoia, Kings Canyon, and Yosemite. [Comments](#) are open until December 20. Source: [Sierra Sun Times](#)

Other Department of the Interior News

- *Badger-Two Medicine drilling appeal* - On November 2, a coalition of environmental and Tribal groups filed an appeal in federal court to overturn a U.S. District decision in September that would allow the Department of the Interior to reinstate a federal lease and drilling permit in the Badger-Two Medicine area of the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest, adjacent to Glacier National Park. The lease began in 1982 and the drilling permit was issued in 1985, but it has never been developed for drilling due to nearly 40 years of "circular administrative review" and litigation. The coalition consists of Earthjustice, the Pikuni Traditionalist Association, Glacier-Two Medicine Alliance, Blackfeet Headwaters Alliance, Montana Wilderness Association and National Parks Conservation Association. Source: [Missoulian](#)
- *\$122.5 million for mine land economy revitalization* - On November 2, the Department of the Interior announced it will make \$122.5 million in Fiscal Year 2022 funding available for Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization grants to six eligible states and three Tribes. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *\$91 million in conservation challenge grants* - On November 10, the Department of the Interior and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation announced \$91 million in America the Beautiful Challenge grants. 55 grants were awarded in 42 states, three U.S. territories, and 14 Tribal nations, and are matched by \$50.7 million in contributions. The grants support projects that conserve, restore, and connect habitats for wildlife, while improving community resilience and access to nature. The grant program is a partnership between the NFWF, Departments of the Interior,

Agriculture and Defense, Native Americans in Philanthropy, and Bezos Earth Fund. It is the first time these grants have been given, and 527 proposals requested \$1.1 billion in funding in the application process. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)

- *\$45 million for climate change resilience for Tribes* - On November 2, the Department of the Interior announced \$45 million in Tribal Climate Resilience projects that help groups in planning, capacity building, relocation, and managed retreat actions related to climate risks. The funding comes from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Fiscal Year 2022 annual appropriations. 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.

The Senate and the House conducted no formal business the past two weeks, as they are in recess until after the November elections.

Incidents

Incidents are listed in alphabetical order by park.

Biscayne National Park, Canaveral National Seashore, Cumberland Island National Seashore, Fort Frederica National Monument, Fort Pulaski National Monument, Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Hurricane Nicole

Biscayne remained open, but with minimal services available. As of November 10, there were no updates as to hurricane damage. Source: [Biscayne National Park](#)

Cape Canaveral sustained some damage from the hurricane, causing the park to close. On November 14, parts of Apollo Beach reopened. Other areas, including parts of Apollo, Seminole Rest, and Playalinda Beach remained closed for assessment and repair. Source: [Canaveral National Seashore](#)

Cumberland Island closed on November 9 ahead of the hurricane, including a mandatory evacuation of all campers, visitors, staff, and volunteers. After an assessment, the park reopened and ferry service began normal operations on November 13. Source: [Cumberland Island National Seashore](#)

Fort Federica closed on November 9 ahead of the hurricane, and reopened on November 11. Their Lime Rick Burn event, scheduled for November 12, was postponed due to the storm. Source: [Fort Federica National Monument](#), [Fort Federica National Monument](#)

[Facebook page](#)

The Savannah River at Fort Pulaski was expected to reach moderate to major flood stage during high tide, so it delayed opening of the park on November 9 and was closed all day on November 10. Source: [Fort Pulaski National Monument](#), [Fort Pulaski National Monument Facebook page](#)

Timucuan closed from November 9-11 for the hurricane, and reopened on November 12. Source: [Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve](#)

Grand Teton National Park

Vehicle fatality

On November 8, a collision occurred near Teton Point Turnout, involving a semi-truck and an SUV. The two occupants from the SUV were transported by ambulance to St. John's Medical Center. One died as a result of injuries sustained in the crash, and the other was treated and released. The semi-truck driver was treated on scene and released. Wyoming Highway Patrol is conducting an investigation. Source: [East Idaho News](#)

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Wildfire

On November 6, a wildfire began along the western boundary of the park on Highway 129 near Chilhowee Lake. Many agencies responded and on November 9, the fire was considered 100% contained. It burned about 40 acres. Highway 129 and Parson Branch Road closed temporarily during the response. Source: [WLOS](#), [Knox News](#), [Great Smoky Mountains National Park](#)

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

Area closed for nēnē

On November 9, the park closed the Uēkahuna overlook, restrooms, and parking lot to protect breeding and nesting nēnē in the area. Nēnē are endangered, with only 30 existing in the wild in 1952, and close to 200 now living in the park. Source: [Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park](#)

New River Gorge National Park and Preserve

Wildfire

On November 9, a fire started on a private inholding inside the park at Teays Landing. Temporary evacuations were put in place for the Wild Rock area, and residents were able to safely return on November 11. As of November 14, the fire was about 200 acres and 90% contained, with no structures damaged. The response included crews from the NPS and local departments, as well as the West Virginia National Guard. Source: [WSAZ](#), [lootpress](#), [WVNS](#)

Olympic National Park

Hiker missing

On October 30, a 35-year-old embarked on a two night backpacking trip to Pyrites Creek and Enchanted Valley. The individual did not return, and a search was started by NPS personnel and a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter on November 3. During the search, 19 agencies were involved, including ground searchers, dog teams, drones, boats, and helicopters. Search efforts were somewhat impeded by storms and flood warnings. On November 10, the park announced that the search has moved into "limited and continuous operation." Source: [The Olympian](#), [Radio Pacific](#)

Follow-ups on Previously Reported Incidents

- *Death Valley National Park* - On November 7, the park reopened Daylight Pass and Beatty Cutoff Roads for the first time since the record floods on August 5. On November 9, the Hole in the Wall Road and Echo Canyon Road also reopened. Campsites along these roads have now been designated and require free backcountry permits. On November 13, the Towne Pass section of CA-190 reopened, as well. That section of CA-190 has been closed since additional flooding took place in September. Source: [News 3 LV](#)
- *Everglades National Park* - On November 11, the park reopened the Gulf Coast region for the first time since late September, when Hurricane Ian landed at the park and damaged facilities and roads in the area. Source: [WGCU](#)
- *Great Smoky Mountains National Park* - The park reopened the Gatlinburg Trail and Twin Creeks Trail. The trails had been closed due to a large concentration of bears feeding in the area. They are no longer feeding on the trails, but hikers are cautioned to be aware of bear activity. Source: [Great Smoky Mountains National Park](#)

Acknowledgments

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- Editor: Katie Wallace
- Tech and Production Support: Steve Pittleman, Emily Thompson
- Regular Correspondent: Don Hellmann
- Issue Contributors: Sarah Hayes, Bill Walters

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."

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.

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