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## **The Coalition Report**

### **Wednesday, November 30, 2022**

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#### **Coalition Actions**

Giving Tuesday has come and gone, but it's not too late to [support the Coalition's work!](#) Contributions are incredibly important in helping us preserve our national parks and public lands for the enjoyment of generations to come. Thank you to everyone who has already given!

[Nominations](#) for the George Hartzog Award are still open. The Hartzog Award is given annually to an individual or group who demonstrates outstanding support for the mission of the National Park Service. Recipients may be current or former NPS employees of members of the general public.

The Coalition joined a [letter](#) to the Department of the Interior urging it to update and revise the regulations on the oil and gas lease sales before the Bureau of Land Management initiates an additional round of sales in second quarter of 2023.

We also joined in signing a [letter](#) to the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate expressing support for regulations to protect mature forests from logging.

The Coalition hosted [a webinar](#) for members to learn more about national monument advocacy. Panelists included representatives from the Nevada Conservation League, the Frontera Land Alliance, and the Wilderness Society.

Coalition Chair Mike Murray was quoted in a *National Parks Traveler* [article](#) discussing concerns about the regulatory process for Air Tour Management Plans.

## **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.*

- *Barriers to firefighter recruitment and retention* - On November 17, the Government Accountability Office released a report about the difficulty of recruiting and retaining federal wildland firefighters, outlining seven main barriers: low pay, career advancement challenges, poor work-life balance, mental health challenges, remote or expensive duty stations, limited workforce diversity, and hiring process challenges. The Tim Hart Wildland Firefighter Classification and Pay Parity Act, which is currently in the House subcommittee on conservation and forestry, is aimed at resolving some of these issues. *The Washington Post* published [an article](#) about the act that interviewed 6 wildland firefighters. Source: [U.S. Government Accountability Office](#), *The Washington Post*
- *2022 Park Partners Report* - The National Park Foundation, in partnership with the NPS and National Park Friends Alliance, released its [2022 Park Partners Report](#) and [infographic](#), outlining the impacts, challenges, opportunities, and successes within the national park partner community. They intend to host a webinar about the findings in early 2023. Source: *National Park Foundation November 2022 Park Partners Newsletter*
- *Lead ammunition ban proposed* - Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, the American Bird Conservancy, and the Union of Concerned Scientists have submitted a rulemaking petition to ban lead-based ammunition and tackle in National Park units. (The Coalition has also [recently advocated](#) for this ban.) Source: [Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility](#)
- *\$2 million in battlefield land grants* - On November 18, the NPS' American Battlefield Protection Program awarded \$1,903,065 in Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants for four parcels involved in Civil War battles. Source: [National Park Service Office of Communications](#)
- *NPS study of first amendment expression* - The National Capital Region of the NPS recently released [a report](#) called, "Landscapes of Protest: A Study of First Amendment Expression in the National Park Service," written by Roneva C. Keel. Source: Randy Myers, *National Park Service History eLibrary*
- *NPF awards 84 grants for connecting classrooms to parks* - On November 22, the National Park Foundation announced that it has awarded nearly \$3 million in grants to 84 groups through its Open OutDoors for Kids program, focused on connecting classrooms to national parks, including in-person, virtual, and hybrid park experiences. The program is supported by many donors, including Union Pacific

Railroad, Alicia and Peter Pond, Columbia Sportswear, Sierra, Parks Project, Humana, and the Batchelor Foundation, Inc. Source: [PR Newswire](#)

- *Place names committee to meet* - On December 7 and 8, the Department of the Interior's Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names will hold its inaugural public meeting. The committee is tasked with identifying federal land unit names and geographic feature names that may be derogatory and making recommendations for replacement names. Source: [Sierra Sun Times](#)
- *NPS team supports Native American boarding school grave project* - A team, including NPS staff utilizing ground-penetrating radar, has been working to document lost graves at the site of the former Genoa Indian Industrial School in central Nebraska. Over 4,300 children lived at the school over its history, and at least 86 students died at the school. The report from the team's work should be available in the next month. Source: [AP News](#)
- *"Growing interest in Tribal National Parks"* - *How Stuff Works* published [an article](#) about the growing trend of parks established on sovereign Tribal lands, as well as growing co-management arrangements at national park units. Source: *How Stuff Works*
- *"Museums honoring women and Latinos belong on the National Mall"* - *The Washington Post* published [an op-ed](#) by Lonnie G. Bunch III, the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, arguing that the Mall should tell the full American story, including more diverse stories than are currently told on the Mall. The op-ed references an NPS foundational document that says the Mall is "destined to evolve with and through the voices and values of the American people...it is a collection of stories that together define who we are as a nation." (Coalition Vice Chair Don Hellmann's [op-ed](#) in *The Washington Post* on 11/11/22 argued against putting the two museums in the Reserve on the Mall, as reported in the [11/16/22 Coalition Report](#))
- *"Top 8 opportunities President Biden should pursue to meet his America the Beautiful commitment"* - The Center for American Progress published [a report](#) arguing for the top executive actions that should be taken to reach President Joe Biden's conservation goal of protecting 30% of the U.S.' lands and waters by 2030. These include designating new national monuments and marine sanctuaries, among other actions. Source: Center for American Progress
- *Viral toad post debunked* - The NPS social media post about not licking Colorado River toads that went viral with over 1.7 million hits across media outlets was revealed to be a non-issue. A records request of NPS reports detailing interactions between visitors and toads yielded zero results, and an NPS Freedom of Information Act officer stated that the post "was not prompted by any specific incident." Source: [Sky-Hi News/The Colorado Sun](#)

## **Around the Parks**

*Park reports are in alphabetical order.*

- *Acadia National Park* - A new study from the University of Maine has found that ticks have clustered more densely in areas with deciduous forest cover at a low elevation. The study will inform prevention strategies for tick-borne illnesses, going forward. Source: [UMaine News](#)
- *Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve* - The park has released a photograph of a Tyrannosaurus rex track, the first evidence that the species in Alaska. Source: [The News and Observer](#)
- *Antietam National Battlefield* - The park finalized its landscape management plan, which is now an added amendment to the General Management Plan. The new plan will restore native habitat and improve water quality while maintaining historic agricultural uses. Source: [National Parks Traveler](#)
- *Badlands National Park* - The *Borneo Bulletin* recently published [an article](#) documenting the recent relocation of bison from the park to Tribal Nations, including a short history of buffalo harvesting in North America. Source: *Borneo Bulletin*
- *Bandelier National Monument* - *National Parks Traveler* published a 7-minute [video](#) about the park's reintroduction of beavers to the Frijoles River watershed. Source: *National Parks Traveler*
- *Big Cypress National Preserve, Biscayne National Park, Dry Tortugas National Park, Everglades National Park* - The park announced that the Florida National Parks Association provided \$527,225 in aid in the last year to the four park units to support programming, staffing, operations, and a renovation of the Guy Bradley Visitor Center in Flamingo at Everglades. Source: [Everglades National Park](#)
- *Biscayne National Park, Dry Tortugas National Park* - The National Park Service released [a short film](#) called "Weightless," about a group of women military veteran volunteers who did underwater environmental and cultural restoration projects at the two parks in Summer 2022. The film was produced by Sound Off Films. The National Park Foundation funded the film and the restoration projects, with support from Publix Super Markets. Source: [Little Black Book](#)
- *Cape Hatteras National Seashore* - The park officially announced a Finding of No Significant Impact for the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Repair and Landscape Improvement Project, selecting and approving Alternative C, the preferred alternative. The park is finalizing design documents, and seeks to award a contract and begin work in 2023. Source: [Cape Hatteras National Seashore](#)

- *Coronado National Memorial* - *High Country News* published [an article](#) about Arizona Governor Doug Ducey's actions staging shipping containers in the park as an ad hoc border wall. The efforts, started in October 2022, are illegal and do not have the approval of the federal government. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation sent the governor a letter calling for the removal of the containers, and Governor Ducey responded by suing the federal government for a "dereliction of duty" around illegal immigration. The article also outlines the ecological consequences of the wall.  
Source: *High Country News*
- *Cumberland Island National Seashore* - *National Parks Traveler* published [an article](#) about the park's visitor management planning process (see "Open for Public Comment" below), including abrupt changes from the park's 1984 General Management Plan. Source: *National Parks Traveler*
- *Devils Tower National Monument* - Chief Ranger Matt Roland was recently recognized by the National Registry of Emergency Technicians for 20 consecutive years of National EMS Certification. Matt has worked for the NPS for 22 years.  
Source: [Devils Tower National Monument](#)
- *Effigy Mounds National Monument* - The park established the NPS' first Tribal Sister Park relationship between a U.S. national park unit and a Tribal Nation's national park. They signed an agreement to promote cooperation and support between Effigy Mounds and Ioway Tribal National Park. Ioway is managed by the Ioway Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska, which is one of the affiliated Tribes of Effigy Mounds.  
Source: [National Parks Traveler](#)
- *Eisenhower National Historic Site, Gettysburg National Military Park* - The park announced that, with support of the Gettysburg Foundation, it has acquired the winter parka that President-elect Dwight D. Eisenhower wore during a secret visit to Korea in 1952. The parka is displayed in a new temporary exhibit at the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center, and will remain on display through July 2023. The Gettysburg Foundation also acquired multiple drafts of a statement Eisenhower made upon his return from Korea, which are now part of the Eisenhower NHS collection. Source: [Eisenhower National Historic Site](#)
- *Gateway Arch National Park* - The NPS selected the Tarlton Corporation of St. Louis, Missouri to lead the renovation of the Old Courthouse. The project will cost \$24.5 million, funded in collaboration between the NPS and the Gateway Arch Park Foundation. The renovation is the final piece of the bigger CityArchRiver project, which is considered the largest public-private partnership in the history of the National Park Service. Source: [Gateway Arch National Park](#)
- *Gettysburg National Military Park* - The Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association recently purchased 50 acres of land across the road from (and

previously part of) the Historic Daniel Lady Farm. It includes Wolf Hill, an important historic location. The parcel will eventually be donated to the park. Source:

[Gettysburg Connection](#)

- *Glacier National Park, Yellowstone National Park* - On November 15, a Montana state district judge ordered Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks to place temporary restrictions on wolf hunting and trapping near the two parks and imposed tighter statewide limits. A hearing between conservation groups and the State of Montana regarding wolf hunting practices was scheduled for November 28. Source: [KFYR](#)
- *Governors Island National Monument, Statue of Liberty National Monument* - Friends of Liberty State Park, Stop the Chop (a grassroots organization aimed at banning nonessential helicopter flights over the New York metropolitan area), and newly-elected U.S. Senator Rob Menendez (D-NJ) have all publicly stated opposition to the parks' Air Tour Management Plan (currently open for comment; see below). Source: [Hudson Reporter](#)
- *Grand Canyon National Park* - The park has renamed the location formerly known as "Indian Garden" to Havasupai Gardens, per a request by the Havasupai Tribe. The name change comes after the U.S. Board of Geographic Names voted unanimously to approve the NPS' request on behalf of the Tribe. Havasupai people were removed from the location in the early 1900s due to federal policies, with the last individual ousted in 1928. Source: [AZCentral](#)
- *Kobuk Valley National Park* - The *Anchorage Daily News* published [an op-ed](#) documenting the decline of the Salmon River due to the increase in iron, likely due to climate change-driven mechanisms. Source: *Anchorage Daily News*
- *Lake Clark National Park and Preserve* - *Smithsonian Magazine* published [an article](#) about the park's grizzly bears, and the challenges and opportunities in accessing the park. Source: *Smithsonian Magazine*
- *Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail* - Mining claims near Lemhi Pass will be prohibited at least another 20 years, extending an existing 20-year ban. The location is a day-use area, national historic landmark, and the site of the Lewis and Clark expedition's crossing of the Continental Divide. Source: [The Bulletin](#)
- *National Mall and Memorial Parks* - At East Potomac Park, the NPS will replace one vehicle travel lane with a dedicated bicycle and pedestrian lane. The 2.5-mile segment will be on Ohio Drive from the East Potomac Golf Course to Hains Point and back to Buckeye Drive. The work will begin in early December in partnership with the District of Columbia Department of Transportation. Source: [National Mall and Memorial Parks](#)
- *Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NPS program)* - *The Blade*

published [an article](#) about the Ohio History Connection, Ohio's historical society, which has the second-largest number of Native American human remains and funerary objects in the country that are due to be returned to Tribes. The University of California, Berkeley is the only institution with more remains and objects. The article examines how so many artifacts came into the group's archives, as well as the challenges and ongoing efforts at repatriation. Source: *The Blade*

- *New River Gorge National Park and Preserve* - On December 8, the park will host an open house to provide information on its proposal to demolish 16 deteriorating and non-historic structures. The project is a deferred maintenance project that has received funding from the Great American Outdoors Act. The environmental and cultural review process will take place in early 2023. Source: [New River Gorge National Park and Preserve](#)
- *Pictured Rocks National Seashore* - Two park rangers, one volunteer, and a Michigan State Police Trooper received awards from the Department of the Interior for their role in a rescue operation in September 2021. Two kayakers were lost during gale force winds and five- to seven-foot waves, and the search covered an area of over 516 square miles. Unfortunately, the two kayakers perished in the incident, but the actions of the team were deemed heroic due to the conditions and risks. Source: [UP Matters](#)
- *Redwood National and State Parks* - The Save the Redwoods League, in collaboration with the Yurok Tribe Construction Corporation, Cal Trout, the California State Coastal Conservancy, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Restoration Center, the Wildlife Conservation Board, and the Ocean Protection Council, is restoring the old Orick Mill Site near the town of Orick. The site was heavily altered by asphalt, erosion, and invasive plants, and is now undergoing a five-year restoration before it will be donated to the parks. Source: [Public News Service](#)
- *St. Croix National Scenic Riverway* - The Wild Rivers Conservancy, with support from the National Park Foundation, is partnering with the NPS to create a mobile visitor center for the riverway. Source: [CBS Minnesota](#)
- *Tribal Historic Preservation Program* (NPS program) - 5 new Tribal Historic Preservation agreements were completed for five Tribes across two states in 2022: the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians, Santa Rosa Indian Community of the Santa Rosa Rancheria, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, and Sokaogon Chippewa Community of Mole Lake. There are 212 Tribes nationwide with signed agreements. Source: [Red Lake Nation News](#)
- *Wilson's Creek National Battlefield* - Starting on January 1, 2023, the park will no longer charge an entrance fee to access the park. Source: [Wilson's Creek National Battlefield](#)

- *Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve* - The park is accepting applications for seats on its Subsistence Resource Commission through January 30. Source: [Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve](#)
- *Yellowstone National Park - Fox Nation* is streaming a four-part series called "Yellowstone: One Fifty," a commemoration of the park's 150th anniversary, hosted by actor Kevin Costner. The series premiered on November 20. *Slate* published [an op-ed](#) that reviewed the series, arguing that the story falsely builds a narrative of one individual fighting against the federal government to create the park, playing into an ongoing trope about the historic West. Source: [Fox News](#), *Slate*
- *Yosemite National Park* - The park announced that it will not be implementing a reservation system in 2023, as it has the last three summers. In its announcement, the park said it would soon open a public comment process that would help design future actions around balancing visitor experience with resource protection. Source: [Smithsonian Magazine](#)
- *Zion National Park* - The park has begun a project to improve drainage near the south entrance and resurface parts of the Zion-Mt. Carmel Highway. One lane will be closed during construction, and the project is expected to be complete in Spring 2023. Source: [KUTV](#)

### **Personnel Changes**

- *Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park* - Lewis Rogers has been selected as the new superintendent. Lewis has over 38 years of NPS experience, most recently as superintendent at Petersburg National Battlefield for 12 years. He begins his new role on December 18. Source: [Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park](#)
- *National Park Foundation* - Dawn Rodney has been selected as the organization's Chief External Affairs Officer. Dawn brings 30 years of marketing and media experience, most recently as Chief Innovation and Growth Officer at the National Wildlife Federation. Source: [National Park Foundation](#)
- *Shenandoah National Park* - Raquel Montez has been selected as the new deputy superintendent. She has 10 years of NPS experience, most recently as acting superintendent and administrative officer at Manassas National Battlefield Park. Source: [Culpeper Star-Exponent](#)
- *Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River* - Lindsey Kurnath was selected as the new superintendent. She has 12 years of NPS experience, most recently as the deputy superintendent of Fire Island National Seashore. Source: [Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River](#)

## **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.*

### **Retired**

- Doug Smith, an NPS biologist who has directed Yellowstone National Park's wolf project since 1995, retired on November 22. He also oversaw the park's bird and elk programs. Source: [KBZK](#), [Jackson Hole News and Guide](#)

### **In the News**

- Jack Oelfke, a former NPS ranger in Glacier and North Cascades National Parks, wrote [an op-ed](#) that was published in [goSkagit.com](#) in support of grizzly bear reintroduction in the North Cascades. Source: [goSkagit.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](#)
- *Acadia National Park* - Public comment is now open on a proposal to increase the entrance fees at the park. [Comments](#) are open until December 29. Source: [Acadia National Park](#)
- *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](#) have been extended through December 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](#)
- *George Washington Memorial Parkway* - Public comment will open on December 6 on a plan to improve safety and conduct maintenance along the southern end of the parkway and the Mount Vernon Trail. [Comments](#) are open until January 4.

Source: [National Parks Traveler](#)

- *Glen Canyon National Recreation Area* - Public comment is now open on a proposal to authorize bicycle use on the Stud Horse Trail network. [Comments](#) are open until December 16. Source: [National Parks Traveler](#)
- *Grand Canyon National Park* - Public comment is now open on a Wetland Statement of Findings for the Transcanyon Water Distribution Pipeline project, which will relocate potable water intake from Roaring Springs to an area on Bright Angel Creek near Phantom Ranch. The pipeline project was approved after public comment in 2019, and this plan acknowledges that the proposed project will impact 0.68 acres of wetland resources, with restoration mitigation nearby. [Comments](#) are open until December 23. Source: [Williams-Grand Canyon News](#)
- *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](#)
- *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](#)
- *Rocky Mountain National Park* - Public comment will open on December 12 on a Day Use Visitor Access Strategy. [Comments](#) will be open until February 1. Source: [National Parks Traveler](#)
- *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 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](#) have been extended to remain open until December 12. Source: [San Juan National Historic Site](#)
- *Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks* - Public comment is now open on a Visitor Experience and Access planning process. [Comments](#) are open until January 17. Source: [Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks](#)
- *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](#)

- *Chesapeake National Recreation Area* (proposed) - A draft bill was introduced by Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) and U.S. Representative John Sarbanes (D-MD) that would unite regional sites and partner parks into the Chesapeake National Recreation Area. The lawmakers have established a 90-day public comment period to help finalize the legislation. [Comments](#) are open until February 12, 2023. Source: [Bay Journal](#)

### **Other Department of the Interior News**

- *LNT founder receives DOI award* - Jeff Marion, an adjunct professor in Virginia Tech's College of Natural Resources and Environment and recreation ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, was awarded the Department of the Interior's Distinguished Service Award for his efforts researching the impact and management of visitors on public lands, including as a founding member of Leave No Trace principles and publications. Source: [Virginia Tech X](#)
- *DOI at Climate COP27* - Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Tanya Trujillo represented the Department of the Interior at the 27th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Assistant Secretary Trujillo focused on an "all-of-government" approach to climate change and drought management and participated in many sessions and on panels. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *Agreements on international trade of wild flora and fauna* - The Department of the Interior sent a large delegation to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, held in Panama City, Panama from November 14-25. During the convention, the U.S. was able to increase international measures against the trade of U.S. native species, such as specific species of turtles, frogs, and fish. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *Efforts to reduce methane release on BLM and Tribal lands* - The Department of the Interior announced a proposed Bureau of Land Management rule that would require the modernization of methane gas capture equipment and limit venting, flaring, and leaks. Non-compliance would result in royalty payments. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *Salton Sea Restoration* - On November 28, the Department of the Interior announced an agreement with the California Natural Resources Agency, Imperial Irrigation District, and Coachella Valley Water District to accelerate dust suppression and aquatic restoration efforts at the Salton Sea in southern California.

The effort will enable water conservation that is deemed necessary to protect Colorado River reservoir storage volumes amid record-low levels. \$22 million in new funding for the effort will be provided by the Bureau of Reclamation from the Inflation Reduction Act. 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.*

**November 17** – The Senate agreed to S. Res. 845, 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.

The Senate and House were out of session last week for the Thanksgiving holiday.

### **Incidents**

*Incidents are listed in alphabetical order by park.*

#### **Fort Matanzas National Monument**

##### **Historic trunk washes up**

A 1930s-era steamer trunk washed up on shore in the park. Visitors posted pictures of the trunk on social media, which alerted park staff to investigate. "Nothing of interest" was found inside. The trunk was from a brand called "NEVERBREAK Trunks," manufactured by L. Goldsmith and Son of Newark, New Jersey. Source: [CBS News](#)

#### **Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve**

##### **Bear contracts avian influenza**

In the fall, a black bear cub was observed at Bartlett Cove struggling to walk and keep up with its two siblings and mother, eventually being abandoned. Visitors filmed the cub and shared it with NPS staff. The cub was deemed to be hours away from death due to cerebral edema, and it was euthanized. After an autopsy, it was determined that the cub had contracted a highly-contagious strain of avian influenza called H5N1. It is the first bear in the country to test positive for that strain. It is likely the bear was infected after scavenging a sick or dead bird, as the influenza does not currently pass from bear to bear. Humans are at low risk of being infected by this strain of influenza. Source: [KRBD](#)

#### **Glen Canyon National Recreation Area**

##### **Boat ramp closed to larger vessels**

On November 21, the park closed the Bullfrog North Boat Ramp to houseboats and larger vessels due to record-low lake levels. It remains operable for smaller vessels until the lake

declines 4 more feet, at which point it will be closed to all vessels. Source: [Glen Canyon National Recreation Area](#)

## **Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park**

### **Volcanic eruption**

On November 27, Mauna Loa erupted for the first time since 1984. The eruption began in the summit caldera, then migrated into the northeast rift zone. The park has closed Mauna Loa Road from the gate at Kīpukapuāulu, as well as the Mauna Loa Observatory Road (outside the park). A temporary flight restriction for a five-mile radius around Mauna Loa summit was enacted by the Federal Aviation Administration. The park expects an influx of visitors to witness the rare dual eruption of both Mauna Loa and Kīlauea, which has been erupting since September 2021. Neither eruption is threatening homes of infrastructure at this time, and visitors are advised to be cautious, informed, and prepared. Source: [Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park](#)

## **Lake Mead National Recreation Area**

### **Person sentenced for sexual assault on minor**

An individual was sentenced to 20-55 years in prison for attempted sexual assault, child abuse resulting in bodily harm, and second-degree kidnapping related to an incident with a 14-year-old in May 2018 at Sandy Cove. The individual pleaded no contest to the charges and did not admit to any wrongdoing or take responsibility for the crimes or impacts on the survivor. The case was investigated by the NPS' Investigative Services Branch and prosecuted by the Clark County District Attorney's Office. Source: [Lake Mead National Recreation Area](#)

## **San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park**

### **Deterioration shuts down pier**

On October 27, the NPS closed San Francisco's Municipal Pier until further notice. The pier has been in need of major repair for quite some time, and a 5.1-magnitude earthquake to the south of the area warranted an assessment. The subsequent survey by the U.S. Public Health Service deemed the pier unsafe for public use, and it is now closed to the public until permanent, long-term repairs can be made. Repairs could cost as much as \$100 million to complete. Source: [SFist](#)

## **San Juan National Historic Site**

### **Equipment theft**

On November 22, the park announced that three gas trimmers and four gas blowers had been stolen from the Castillo San Felipe del Morro area. The suspect was caught on camera, but has not yet been identified. The park is looking for any information the public may have. Source: [San Juan National Historic Site](#)

## **Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area**

### **Famous mountain lion kills dog on leash**

On November 9, an individual was walking two dogs on leashes near the Hollywood Reservoir. A mountain lion stalked them for a bit before attacking and killing one of the dogs. The NPS later confirmed that due to GPS tracking collar data and security video footage, the puma was P-22, an individual well-known by the public for charismatic wildlife camera captures in Griffith Park and frequently championed by the National Wildlife Federation. The NPS did not find other evidence that P-22 was habituated or a danger to humans at this time. Source: [Los Angeles Times](#), [Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Facebook Page](#)

## **Steamtown National Historic Site**

### **Boiler system failure**

Recently, park staff discovered a failure to the parkwide boiler system when they began to fire it up for winter use. On November 20, the park closed multiple park buildings to address the mechanical issues. The park otherwise remains open and all November and December events will take place as scheduled, possibly with temporary heating measures in place. There is no expected completion date for the fixes, but the park is working on getting temporary boilers in place to be able to open quickly. Source: [Steamtown National Historic Site](#)

## **Zion National Park**

### **Hiker passes away**

On November 22, a 33-year-old and a 31-year-old began a permitted hike down the Narrows, which is a 16-mile trek in the Virgin River. They stopped about a mile and a half from the north end of the Riverside Walk, where a paved trail begins. Early the next morning, one individual continued on to get help while the other remained behind. The individual who went for help was assisted down the Riverside Walk by other visitors, while others went down trail and alerted a shuttle bus driver of the need for help. Other visitors administered CPR on the individual who had stayed in place upriver before Zion Search and Rescue team members arrived, but the individual passed away. The Washington County Sheriff's Office, Utah Office of the Medical Examiner, and the NPS are still investigating the victim's death. The other individual survived the incident and reported that they became dangerously cold overnight and experienced symptoms consistent with hypothermia. Source: [Zion National Park](#)

## **Follow-ups on Previously Reported Incidents**

- *Curecanti National Recreation Area* - On November 18, the park removed its "No Contact Advisory" warning for the Iola Basin in Blue Mesa Reservoir. High levels of cyanotoxins had been unusually high during the summer, necessitating the ban on swimming and other types of body-contact with water. Two consecutive tests have come in below toxin advisory levels set by the Colorado Department of Public

Health and the Environment. Source: [Curecanti National Recreation Area](#)

- *Yellowstone National Park* - The park announced that they were able to identify the victim whose foot was found floating in a hot spring at Abyss Pool in West Thumb Geyser Basin in August 2022 through DNA analysis. It is unclear how the 70-year-old-individual ended up in the spring and concluded that it happened the morning of July 31. Officials said, to the best of their knowledge, it was unwitnessed and they did not suspect foul play. In addition to the NPS, Teton County's Coroners Office and Search and Rescue, as well as the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation supported the investigation. Source: [ABC7](#), [Yellowstone National Park](#)

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- Editor: Katie Wallace
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- Regular Correspondent: Don Hellmann
- Issue Contributors: Mike Murray, Randy Myers, Cassie Thomas, Bill Walters

If you see something that might be of interest to Coalition members, send it to [report@protectnps.org](mailto:report@protectnps.org).

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