



The Coalition Report

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Coalition Actions

The Executive Council and staff of the Coalition have been working on a transition document for the incoming administration. In the coming months, we will finalize this document and will plan to share it with the new administration in early 2025. As a non-partisan organization, our mission remains steadfast - to help protect our national parks, regardless of who holds elective office. We will continue to serve as strong advocates for the National Park Service and System, and we look forward to continuing the work.

We provided [comments](#) to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for its Section 106 Review of the Bureau of Land Management's Western Solar Plan. Our comments outline the shortcomings of the plan to protecting historic properties, particularly its wide-reaching exclusion criteria.

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.

- *Director's Order for consultation with Tribes* - On November 4, the NPS issued [Director's Order #71C](#), which outlines policy guidance for Tribal consultation to supplement prior NPS guidance and laws, further codifying the prioritization of respectful, thorough, and thoughtful consultation with Indian and Alaska Native Tribes (the Order states that "separate Director's Orders on consultation with the Native Hawaiian Community and Alaska Native entities will be issued subsequently"). Source: [National Park Service Office of Communications](#)
- *Further afield agency employment challenges* - A Government Accountability Office report published on October 15 showed that federal government agency sites in Hawai'i, Alaska, or the U.S. territories struggle the most with hiring and retaining federal employees,

compared to their counterparts in the lower-48 states. The report advocates for the Office of Personnel Management to streamline pay incentive approval, pay for moving costs, and provide affordable housing. Source: [Federal News Network](#)

- *NPCA Mather Awards* - The National Parks Conservation Association announced that it has given the 2024 Stephen T. Mather Award to Dave Hallac, superintendent of Cape Hatteras National Seashore and the Outer Banks Group, and Vincent Santucci, senior NPS paleontologist. Dave is credited with climate mitigation efforts with a strong community engagement component. Vincent has led the long-term success of the NPS' paleontological inventorying and monitoring process, cultivating many new scientific discoveries and strong educational efforts for the public. Source: [National Parks Conservation Association](#)

Around the Parks

Reports are in alphabetical order by park/program name.

- *Big Cypress National Preserve* - The park recently released its final backcountry access plan and wilderness study, which ultimately declined to recommend official wilderness designation for park lands. It is not recommended due to opposition from the Miccosukee and Seminole Tribes and the the park's need for motorized access for management purposes. The preferred alternative also calls for the reopening of 15 miles of off-road-vehicle trails and 39 miles of airboat trails, as well as the addition of 53 miles of "secondary off-road vehicle trails." Source: [Big Cypress National Preserve](#)
- *Buffalo National River* - On November 7, the NPS issued a prospectus for 12 concession contracts to operate canoe and kayak rentals, as well as shuttle services. Proposals are due February 11. Source: [KTLO](#)
- *Cape Hatteras National Seashore* - The park recently awarded a \$1.7 million contract to Yorkshire Industries of New York, New York, to resurface the parking lot at Oregon Inlet Marina. The project will begin on November 4, with the road-based fueling station closed for "roughly 45 days." Access to the public kayak launch and the RV dump station will be closed "approximately 60 days," starting December 9. Other access at the site is not expected to be impacted. The project is expected to be completed by March 31, 2025. Source: [Cape Hatteras National Seashore](#)
- *Catoctin Mountain Park* - The park celebrated efforts by the Youth Conservation Corps and Appalachian Conservation Corps this year, including re-staining the boardwalk at the sawmill exhibit at Owens Creek Campground, assisting with vegetation removal at one of the park's cabin camps, building trails, and removing and treating invasive plants. Source: [Catoctin Mountain Park](#)
- *Death Valley National Park* - *The Washington Post* published [an article](#) about "heat tourism" in the park, both the allure for visitors and the challenges to managing it. Law

enforcement ranger Spencer Solomon is profiled in the article. Source: *The Washington Post*

- *Denali National Park and Preserve* - On November 1, the Federal Highway Administration announced the award of \$14 million in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding to replace the Ghiglione Bridge at mile 42 of the Denali Park Road. The bridge will be constructed next to the existing bridge to allow traffic to continue for the duration of the project. Source: [Denali National Park and Preserve](#)
- *Glacier National Park* - In late September, a “level two” electric vehicle charger was installed for public use in the Apgar Visitor Center parking lot. The charging station is free to use, but limited to two hours of charging time “when in heavy demand.” It is the second electric vehicle charger in the park. It was funded and is being maintained by the Glacier National Park Conservancy. Source: [Glacier National Park](#)
- *Glen Canyon National Recreation Area* - *Deseret News* published [an article](#) about the difficulties of managing silt buildup within Lake Powell and the threats it poses to potable water, electricity, and ecosystem functionality. Source: *Deseret News*
- *Grand Teton National Park* - On November 7, the Wyoming State Board of Land Commissioners voted three to two to approve the sale of the Kelly Parcel to the NPS. The sale is dependent on a final record of decision from the Bureau of Land Management. The two dissenting votes were in support of the sale, but wanted a “better deal,” such as an exchange for resource-rich lands elsewhere rather than cash-for-land. Source: [KHOL](#)
- *Haleakalā National Park* - The park has opened applications for commercial use authorizations for guided astronomy and hiking tours. Each CUA will last two years, from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2026. Applications are due December 13. Source: [Maui Now](#)
- *Hawaiʻi Volcanoes National Park* - On November 4, the park began a survey, drilling, and soil sampling project on Mauna Loa Road. The road is closed at the gate past Kīpukapuauolu during work hours, Monday through Friday, will reopen on weekends. The project is an initial step toward the design of a major rehabilitation of Mauna Loa Road to Mauna Loa Lookout, which is expected to begin in late 2025. The temporary closures will be in place until mid-December. Source: [Hawaiʻi Volcanoes National Park](#)
- *Jewel Cave National Monument* - On November 11, the park began a project to replace the HVAC system at the visitor center. Visitor center exhibits may be closed for two weeks, and cave tours will be unavailable November 19-21. Source: [Jewel Cave National Monument](#)
- *Lake Mead National Recreation Area* - The park recently received \$8.66 million in Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act funding for a five-year project addressing illegal roads and off-road vehicle trails. The park estimates there are over 1,500 miles of illegal

roads. Source: [Lake Mead National Recreation Area](#)

- *Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area* - On January 1, the park will increase camping and boat launch fees and introduce a new dump station/water fill fee. Source: [Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area](#)
- *Manzanar National Historic Site* - On October 26, the historic baseball field at Manzanar reopened for the first time since the 1940s. The backstop and bleachers were rebuilt by park staff and volunteers, and supported with a grant from The Fund for People in Parks. Several teams of Japanese American baseball teams played ceremonial games to honor the field's reopening. Source: [NBC News](#), [KCRW](#)
- *Mojave National Preserve* - On January 1, the park will increase fees for developed campgrounds and move reservations to *Recreation.gov*. Source: [Mojave National Preserve](#)
- *Reconstruction Era National Historic Network* (an NPS-administered program) - On October 31, the NPS announced the addition of seven new sites in four states to the network. Source: [National Park Service Office of Communications](#)
- *Salem Maritime National Historic Site* - On November 13, the *Friendship of Salem* tall ship will be towed to the shipyard at Gloucester Marine Railway for an eight-month repair project. This is the final stage of a multi-year project, including replacing the deck and portions of the stern, rails, and framing, as well as "critical structural repairs" to the bow. The project is being funded by entrance fee dollars. Source: [Salem Maritime National Historic Site](#)
- *Virgin Islands National Park* - On November 1, the park announced that it awarded a contract for the second phase of environmental cleanup work at the Caneel Bay Resort, including the removal of contaminated soil and sediment from the maintenance area and drainage channel. On-site work is expected to begin in 2025. Honeymoon Beach and Caneel Beach will remain open to visitors, though portions of parking lots may be closed off for staging. The project is being funded by the Department of the Interior's Central Hazardous Materials Fund and Inflation Reduction Act. Source: [Virgin Islands National Park](#)
- *Virgin Islands National Park* - On October 20, the park welcomed Samuel Acquah, head of the Education Department of Ghana Museums and Monuments Board and officer-in-charge of the historic Christianborg Castle (Osu Castle), as an International Volunteer-In-Parks. He "hopes to bring his vast knowledge, experience, and expertise to connect with the communities in the U.S. Virgin Islands and help to foster a deeper understanding of West Africa's shared history and heritage," including public and school programming. His stay at Virgin Islands was facilitated through collaboration with the U.S. Embassy Ghana, U.S. State Department, the NPS Office of International Affairs, and NPS staff from Virgin Islands NP and Christiansted National Historic Site, as well as funding from Friends of Virgin Islands National Park and the National Park Foundation. He will wrap up his time in

mid-December. Source: [Virgin Islands National Park](#)

- *Women's Rights National Historical Park* - On November 4, the park began an exterior rehabilitation and restoration project on the historic M'Clintock House. The project is being performed by a Maintenance Action Team from the Historic Architecture, Conservation and Engineering Center with funding from the Great American Outdoors Act. The project is expected to last "several weeks." Source: [Women's Rights National Historical Park](#)
- *Wright Brothers National Memorial* - The park recently released a "Wright Brothers Monument and Powerhouse Historic Structure Report," detailing challenges inherent in the original design of the monument and possible technological solutions to maintain it. Source: [CoastalReview.org](#)
- *Yellowstone National Park* - The *Cowboy State Daily* published [an article](#) about the Yellowstone River Bridge replacement. The \$118 million project began in 2023, and is expected to be open by the end of 2025. The existing bridge will be removed by November 2026. The article outlines the challenges inherent with a project of its size, as well as the opportunities to make the new bridge safer and better for the environment and visitor experience. Source: *Cowboy State Daily*
- *Yellowstone National Park* - New research published in [PloS ONE](#) did an analysis of steroid markers in dung from ancient lake sediments that shows the presence of large ungulates ("either bison, elk, or both") in the park dating back 2,300 years. The use of steroid biomarkers is a new technique in the field. Source: [Discover Wildlife](#)
- *Yucca House National Monument* - 160 acres have been transferred to the park through support from the National Park Trust and Benard and Nancy Karwick. This expands the park from 33 to 193 acres. Source: [National Parks Traveler](#)

Personnel Changes

- *Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site* - Tom Smith was selected as the new superintendent. Tom has 20 years of NPS experience, most recently as the site manager of Manhattan Project National Historical Park at Los Alamos. He also served as the acting superintendent at Knife River from October 2022 to January 2023. He begins his new role in December. Source: [Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site](#)
- *National Trails Office - Regions 6, 7, 8 (Intermountain Region)* - Patrick Malone was selected as the new program manager for the office. Patrick has 19 years of NPS experience, most recently as the regional manager of natural resources for the Intermountain Region. Source: [National Trails Office - Regions 6, 7, 8](#)
- *Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park* - Rachel Davidson was selected as the new superintendent. Rachel has 24 years of NPS experience, most recently as the chief of law enforcement and resource management at Vicksburg National Military Park. She will begin

her new role in January. Source: [Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park](#)

Park People

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

Deceased

- Ray Bane passed away recently. Ray worked as a cultural anthropologist with the NPS for many years, helping establish several parks in Alaska. He also served for a time as the superintendent of Katmai National Park and Preserve and Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve. Source: James Pepper
- Constance “Connie” Field (Holloway), 82, passed away on October 18. Connie worked for the NPS, “both as a trail maintenance crew volunteer and in the park headquarters” at Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area for a time. Source: [Knox News](#)
- James Christopher (“Chris”) Gay, 39, passed away on October 15. Chris worked for several summers as a member of the Yosemite Search and Rescue team, and was a well-known rock climber in the park. Source: [Legacy](#)
- Cathy Lusk passed away on October 28. Cathy worked for a time at Glacier National Park. Source: Bill Wade, Butch Farabee
- Gordon Dexter Malarkey, 64, passed away on September 28. Gordon was a “volunteer summer park ranger” at Olympic National Park for a time. Source: [Legacy/Peninsula Daily News](#)
- Jerry Alton Turner, Sr., 73, passed away on November 1. Jerry worked for the NPS for a time at Fort Pulaski National Monument. Source: [Legacy/Connect Savannah](#)

Retired

- On October 19, Angela Bates retired as the founding president and executive director of the Nicodemus Historical Society, founded in 1986. Angela helped spearhead the movement toward the designation of Nicodemus National Historic Site in 1996 and has supported the preservation and interpretation of the site. Source: [Hays Post](#)

Open for Comment

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

- *Arches National Park* - Public comment is [open through November 23](#) on a Visitor Access and Experience Plan, including a timed entry reservation system, which the park has

piloted for three years. Source: [Arches National Park](#)

- *Carlsbad Caverns National Park* - Public comment is [open through November 30](#) on a proposal to increase tour fees for the first time since 2012. Source: [Carlsbad Caverns National Park](#)
- *Glen Canyon National Recreation Area* - Public comment is [open through November 15](#) on a proposal to change regulations about Off Road Vehicle use on shoreline access areas and unpaved roads in the Orange Cliffs Special Management Unit. Source: [Glen Canyon National Recreation Area](#)
- *Grand Teton National Park* - Public comment is [open through November 21](#) on design concepts for the Taggart Lake Trailhead. Source: [Grand Teton National Park](#)
- *Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park* - Public comment is [open through December 6](#) on a site management plan for the Kahuku Unit of the park. There is [a storymap](#) for the project. Source: [Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park](#)
- *Lava Beds National Monument* - Public comment is [open through November 24](#) on a Petroglyph Point site management plan. Source: [Lava Beds National Monument](#)
- *Mammoth Cave National Park* - Public comment is [open through November 15](#) on a land and river trail management plan for the park. There is [a storymap](#) and [informational video](#) about the project. Source: [Mammoth Cave National Park](#)
- *Natchez National Historical Park* - Public comment is [open through November 30](#) on a concept plan for the Forks of the Road Slave Market site in Natchez, Mississippi. Source: [The Natchez Democrat](#)
- *National Heritage Areas* (an NPS-administered program) - Public comment is [open through November 25](#) on a feasibility study for the designation of Ka'ena Point as a National Heritage Area. Source: [Maui News](#)
- *National Historic Landmarks* (an NPS-administered program) - Public comment is [open through December 20](#) on a landmark study of American Beach, a historic African American resort community in northern Florida, for possible National Historic Landmark designation. The study is expected to run through Spring 2026. Source: [Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve](#)
- *Padre Island National Seashore* - Public comment is [open through November 15](#) on a draft Feral Exotic Invasive Species Management Plan, including the removal of feral swine and antelope (nilgai) to protect federally threatened and endangered species. Source: [Padre Island National Seashore](#)
- *Richmond National Battlefield Park* - Public comment is [open through November 30](#) on the

Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis Report Addendum for the selection of a removal action at the Fort Darling Landfill Site. Source: [Richmond National Battlefield Park](#)

- *Rock Creek Park* - The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority and NPS have [opened public comment through December 6](#) on a proposal to construct the Piney Branch Tunnel Project within Rock Creek Park, part of the larger DC Clean Rivers Project to better control stormwater and sewage overflow. Source: [Washington Citypaper](#)
- *Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway* - Public comment is [open through December 31](#) on a comprehensive river management plan. Source: [Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway](#)
- *Yellowstone National Park* - Public comment is [open through December 3](#) on a proposal for improvements to the Northeast Entrance Road between Tower Junction and the northeast entrance boundary. Source: [Yellowstone National Park](#)
- *Yosemite National Park* - Public comment is [open through November 23](#) on a planning process for the Mist Trail Corridor. [A storymap](#) is available for the project. Source: [Yosemite National Park](#)

Other Department of the Interior News

- *American bison international agreement* - On November 1, the Department of the Interior announced the signing of a Letter of Intent between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Parks Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and Mexico's Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources to strengthen cooperation and coordination for the conservation of the American bison. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *Grizzly bear conflict fund* - On October 29, the Department of the Interior awarded Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks "almost \$5 million" over the next three years from a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Bezos Earth Fund grant to support landowners in using non-lethal grizzly conflict prevention tools, such as carcass removal, electric fencing, range riders, and bear-resistant garbage tools. Source: [Missoula Current](#)
- *Stronger sage grouse protection* - On November 8, the Bureau of Land Management published a proposal to incorporate new greater sage-grouse conservation science into 77 resource management plans. Protests of the proposed amendments may be filed through December 9. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *Tent Rocks reopening* - On November 21, Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument managed by the Bureau of Land Management, will reopen to the public. It has been closed since 2020 due to the pandemic, a need to reassess its management structure after visitation grew to twice the amount the BLM had estimated, and ongoing negotiations between the federal government and the Cochiti Pueblo. It will now implement a reservation system, with day-to-day operations managed by Cochiti Pueblo. Source: [Santa](#)

[Fe New Mexican](#)

- *\$16 billion in FY24 energy revenue* - On November 8, the Office of Natural Resources Revenue announced \$16.45 billion in revenue generated in Fiscal Year 2024 from energy production on federal and Tribal onshore lands and federal offshore areas. It is the fourth largest annual disbursement since 1982. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *\$82 million for clean drinking water for Tribes* - On October 31, the Department of the Interior announced the award of \$82 million in Inflation Reduction Act funding for 23 projects related to safe drinking water for Tribal communities. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *\$46 million for Klamath Basin water* - On October 30, the Department of the Interior announced the award of \$46 million in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding for 24 projects to restore the Klamath Basin ecosystem and improve water supply reliability for agriculture. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)

Congressional Actions

Reports on legislation, upcoming hearings, and new public laws of relevance to the national parks, prepared by Chris Soller, former superintendent of Fire Island National Seashore and legislative specialist for the National Park Service.

New Public Laws

Nothing to report.

Senate & House Actions

There is nothing to report, as both the Senate and House were either in Pro Forma Session or on recess during the last two weeks.

Incidents

Listed alphabetically by park.

Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area

Hazard trees

On November 1, the park announced the closure of several tent sites at Trail Creek Campground at Barry's Landing near Lovell, Wyoming, due to the presence of trees with dead and dying limbs. The park hopes to have the hazard trees removed by the start of the Summer 2025 camping season. Source: [Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area](#)

Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park

Vehicle crash, missing person found deceased

On October 28, a vehicle bypassed the park's entry gate at a high rate of speed. Later that day, the vehicle was found three miles down the steep East Portal Road, where it had gone off the side and about 150 feet down the slope into vegetation. Montrose County (CO) Sheriff's Office personnel responded to the reported crash and found the vehicle empty. There were signs that the driver's head "likely hit the inside windshield." The registered owner, a 19-year-old, matched the description of the driver observed bypassing the entry gate. An interview with the individual's roommate revealed that the individual's phone and wallet were left behind in their room, and the roommate reported that the individual had said they were going to "hide" their phone and they were going to Utah. A search for the individual in the area of the vehicle began on October 28, including ground teams, dogs, and drones, with support from Montrose County, the NPS, and Gunnison Search and Rescue. On November 5, the individual was found deceased by drones at the base of some cliffs. Technical rope rescue techniques were used to recover the individual's body. Source: [Montrose Press](#), [Idaho Statesman](#)

Canyonlands National Park

Sediment slump

Between October 25 and 29, 300-350 meters of shoreline slid from river-left into the river channel at Colorado River mile 175.1 in Narrow Canyon, a part of Cataract Canyon. River runners are advised that sediment and mud continue to move and alter river conditions for a three-mile stretch upstream of the slump, and a new small rapid is present at the site. Personal flotation devices should be worn between Dark Canyon and North Wash Access point. Source:

[Canyonlands National Park](#)

Cape Cod National Seashore

In-holding ADU in question

An Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) was recently built on School House Hill Road in Wellfleet, Massachusetts, within the park. The former building commissioner approved the building permit for the project in June without referring the applicants to the zoning board, as required by the town's ADU bylaw. The homeowners have since been asked to appear in front of the zoning board of appeals. The NPS submitted a letter to the zoning board of appeals that if the special permit is approved, the property will be out of compliance with the park's founding legislation, which prohibits new development. According to the park, the town's legislation allowing ADUs in park in-holdings "could put the entire town's certificates of suspension of condemnation at risk of termination." The certificates represent in-holdings that were not subject to eminent domain when the park was established. The town has stated that the town's ADU bylaw is not in conflict with the park's foundational documents and that ADUs are a lawful use. A special permit hearing on October 24 was left unresolved and will be carried over to a November 14 meeting. Source:

[The Provincetown Independent](#)

Gateway National Recreation Area

Explosive ordnance

On November 2, a visitor located an unexploded WWI-era explosive ordnance at South Gunnison

Beach at Sandy Hook. NPS staff cordoned off the area, and an ordnance removal team from Naval Weapons Station Earle in Colts Neck, New Jersey, removed the device at 2:30 AM the following morning, during a low tide. Source: [NJ.com](#)

Lake Mead National Recreation Area

Human remains identified

On November 11, 2009, construction workers on Highway 93 near Milepost 3 near Hoover Dam observed human bones and contacted the NPS. An investigation revealed a pair of blue jeans, red t-shirt, black athletic shoe, green sleeping bag, and a white towel. The items were turned into the Mohave County (NV) Medical Examiner's Office. Detectives investigated the incident, but were unable to find any leads. In February 2022, a detective submitted a bone sample to the Arizona Department of Public Safety lab to try to identify the individual, but they were unsuccessful in making a match. In April 2024, Othram Labs received grant funding to do "forensic genetic genealogy," creating a DNA profile in a database. In October, Mohave County received a report that the individual was a descendent of specific ancestors born in the mid-1800s that lived in Michigan. They were able to use that information to begin a new investigation and positively identified the individual as someone who had not been seen by their siblings since 1995 and was last known to be "travelling in the southwest area of the United States." The cause of death was unknown, and the individual is estimated to have died between 2006 and 2008. Source: [8 News Now](#)

National Mall and Memorial Parks

Artwork destroyed

Artwork that was permitted by the NPS to be displayed at Freedom Plaza was destroyed by two individuals. The artwork, molded to look like a tiki torch, was meant to parody comments by President Donald Trump in the wake of a white supremacist march in Charlottesville, Virginia in 2017. One individual, 34-years-old, was detained and arrested for felony property destruction for using a skateboard to damage the artwork. A small bag of drugs was found on the individual during the investigation. Another individual with a skateboard escaped the scene. Source: [NBC Washington](#)

Ozark National Scenic Riverways

Historic flooding

From November 3-5, the Current River received 9 to 12 inches of rain across its watershed, resulting in historic flood levels. The river gauge at Akers stopped functioning, but it is estimated that it reached 32 feet, which is six feet above the highest recorded level. NPS personnel performed "several river rescues" during this time, though no major injuries were reported. Many facilities, campgrounds, and river access points sustained damage throughout the park, and facilities at Akers and Pultite had "devastating impacts." As of November 11, the Current River was expected to be closed to all vessels between Baptist and Round Spring through at least November 13. Source: [Ozark National Scenic Riverways](#)

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore

Body washes ashore

On November 8, hikers near Miners Beach observed a body that had washed ashore, and called 911. Personnel from the Michigan State Police, Alger County Sheriff's Department, and the NPS responded to the scene. The individual has not yet been identified. Foul play is not suspected. The incident is under investigation by the Michigan State Police. Source: [Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore](#)

Point Reyes National Seashore

Boat capsizes north of park

On November 4, a 20-foot boat capsized near Mussel Point by Bodega Bay (located north of the park) with two passengers aboard. One individual, 48 years old, was found deceased. Personnel from several agencies, including the NPS, have supported a search for the other individual along the Marin County coast. Source: [The Press Democrat](#)

Statue of Liberty National Monument

Scam tickets

The *New York Post* published an article about "2,000 to 3,000" fake tickets being sold daily to the Statue of Liberty. The concessioner, Statue City Cruises, has requested New York City's Parks Department help in cracking down because most are sold on-site at Battery Park, one of the ferry departure points. The City has stated that they patrol the park regularly to enforce rules and the concession should consider hiring its own security measures. Source: [New York Post](#)

Yellowstone National Park

Out-of-bounds sentencing

On October 31, a 62-year-old was sentenced for entering Canary Spring, an area near Mammoth Hot Springs that is off trail and closed to visitors. The individual entered the area with one other adult and two children. The individual pleaded guilty to "destroying a mineral resource" and was sentenced to seven days in jail, five years of probation, a five-year ban from Yellowstone, and a fine of \$3,000. Source: [WDBJ7](#)

Follow-ups on Previously Reported Incidents

- *Blue Ridge Parkway* - On October 30, the parkway restored access to two sections, from Milepost 411.8 at US 276 to Milepost 421 at Black Balsam, and from Milepost 423.2 at NC 215 to Milepost 469 at US 441 in Cherokee, North Carolina. On November 1, the parkway opened two sections, 16 miles from Milepost 201 near Fancy Gap to Milepost 217.3 at NC Route 18, and six miles from Milepost 405.5 near NC Route 151 to Milepost 411.8 at NC Route 276. On November 6, the parkway reopened 11 miles from Milepost 382.5 at US 70 near the Folk Art Center to Milepost 393.6 at NC Route 191 near the North Carolina Arboretum. Recovery from Hurricane Helene is ongoing and much of the parkway and

assorted sites along open segments remain closed. Source: Blue Ridge Parkway ([10/30](#), 11/1 - [first](#), [second](#), [11/6](#))

- *Canyonlands National Park* - On November 4, two individuals, aged 39 and 43, were charged with theft of government property, possessing or distributing cultural or archaeological resources, and walking on or entering archaeological or cultural resources,. The charges are in connection with an incident at the Cave Springs Cowboy Camp on March 23 (see [5/29/24 Coalition Report](#)). The individuals' initial appearance will be scheduled "for a later date at the United States District Court in Moab" (UT). Source: [United States Attorney's Office: District of Utah](#)
- *Cumberland Island National Seashore* - On November 6, the park reopened backcountry camping and all trails above Stafford Beach. They have been closed since being damaged in Hurricane Helene. Source: [Cumberland Island National Seashore](#)
- *Grand Teton National Park* - The ashes of the grizzly bear known as #399, which was hit and killed by a vehicle on October 22 (see [10/30/24 Coalition Report](#)), were returned to the Pilgrim Creek area of Grand Teton, where the bear spent most of her life. The cremation and interment were coordinated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NPS, in response to "considerable public interest regarding how to honor the bear's legacy." Source: [Grand Teton National Park](#)

Acknowledgments

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- Editor: Katie Wallace
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If you see something that might be of interest to Coalition members, send it to:

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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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