



## The Coalition Report

### Wednesday, April 30, 2025

*This report goes out every two weeks. For more frequent updates, follow the Coalition on social media:*



#### Coalition Actions

The Coalition joined a diverse group of 19 non-profits, labor organizations, and municipal and county governments in [filing a lawsuit](#) against Executive Order 14210, the workforce optimization initiative. Our complaint argues that it violates the Constitution's fundamental separation of powers principles, that only Congress has the power to change the federal government in the ways the Executive Branch has attempted recently.

On April 18, ahead of National Park Week, we co-hosted a [national parks press call](#) with Vet Voice Foundation and U.S. Representative Gabe Vasquez (NM), outlining the staffing and safety crisis facing the National Park Service.

We made [a statement](#) arguing against efforts at a Reduction in Force across the National Park Service. We also published [a press release](#) outlining the ways in which the “stay open” mandate and other recent actions by the Trump Administration are hurting national park units and their visitors.

The Coalition submitted [a letter](#) to Interior Secretary Doug Burgum and [comments](#) on a plan to lease Bureau of Land Management parcels for oil and gas drilling adjacent to Theodore Roosevelt National Park, arguing that the BLM has failed to adequately analyze impacts of leases on the park. A previous Environmental Assessment for a separate parcel near the park had deferred leases to protect park wilderness.

Our Executive Council, members, and staff continue to give many interviews and submit letters to the media about the ongoing assault on the National Park Service, including [this op-ed](#) in

*National Parks Traveler* by Clara Wooden.

### **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.*

- *Leaked DOI draft for shrinking national monuments, later refuted* - An internal Department of the Interior draft document was leaked to the press, outlining a plan to shrink the boundaries of six national monuments. Sources familiar with the plan stated that they included Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni-Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument, Ironwood Forest National Monument, Chuckwalla National Monument, Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, and Bears Ears National Monument. However, on April 25, Interior Secretary Doug Burgum said that downsizing national monuments “is not a top priority” for the Trump Administration. Source: [SFGate](#), [E&E News](#)
- *DOI admin functions to be consolidated* - On April 17, Interior Secretary Doug Burgum issued Secretary’s Order 3429 to consolidate department functions, including human resources, communications, contracting, IT, training and development, international affairs, and financial management. The restructuring will be led by the interim Assistant Secretary of Policy Management and Budget Tyler Hassen. Source: [Utah Public Radio](#)
- *Probationary-status employee status still in limbo*
  - In mid-April, the Office of the Special Counsel sent emails to several probationary-status employees that it had concluded their claims on unlawful termination because they were not fired for individual cause, but en masse, even though there does not appear to be legal precedent to do so. The message also said the firings were not part of an official “reduction in force.” At this point, challenges to the firings are making their way through two separate federal courts and the Merit Systems Protection Board. Source: [New York Times](#)
  - *Judge orders mass termination terms be in writing* - On April 18, a federal judge ordered the six agencies that fired probationary-status federal workers provide written statements by May 8 that their terminations were not based on performance, but as part of a mass termination, in order to protect their future employment opportunities. The court cases around the firings are still working their way through the system. Source: [Reuters](#)
- *NPS staff must submit resumes* - On April 24, NPS staff were asked to submit an updated resume and verify their personnel records by April 29 “as part of workforce optimization efforts.” Source: [National Parks Traveler](#)
- *First responder health programs funding axed* - *Politico* published [an article](#) about the funding cuts and job eliminations that have gutted several programs that support the study and treatment of health and prevention of occupational hazards for first responders. Source: *Politico*

- *“Green and Grey Report” newsletter discontinued* - On April 14, the NPS Office of Communications stated they are discontinuing *The Green and Grey Report*. The weekly email with news from around the NPS has been in circulation since 2017. The notice read “The G&G’s time has come to an end for a variety of reasons, but we know this community will always connect with one another to care for America’s incredible places for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations. Thank you, dear readers, for coming along with us on this ride!” Source: [The Green and Grey Report, Volume VII, Issue 28](#)
- *Op-ed by Chris Lehnertz and Cassius Cash* - On April 21, *National Parks Traveler* published [an op-ed](#) by former NPS superintendents Christine Lehnertz and Cassius Cash, who now serve as the CEOs & Presidents of the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy and Yosemite Conservancy, respectively. It argues that national parks are at a critical moment, needing Congress to reauthorize the Great American Outdoors Act to protect infrastructure. Source: *National Parks Traveler*
- *Web platforms for former civil servants* - Several new websites have emerged to help former federal employees find work in the private sector, including an online directory, primers on how to translate federal work into layman’s terms, and job boards for positions in state and local government. Source: [Government Executive](#)
- *Ranger stress study (new survey link)* - Researchers at Penn State’s Department of Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management are conducting a study on mental health in the NPS. There are surveys for [current rangers](#) and [retired rangers](#). Responses are anonymous and \$10 electronic gift cards will be given for the 30-minute survey (email for compensation collected separately). On April 22, a high volume of false bot submissions was received, so if you completed the survey that day, the researchers ask you retake it using new links above. Source: Elizabeth Himschoot
- *Fundraiser for Ranger Relief Fund* - The Association of National Park Rangers is collaborating with the Hello in There Foundation and Oxford Pennant in selling a [limited-edition John Prine tribute flag and patch](#), with 100% of proceeds supporting ANPR’s Ranger Relief Fund. The fund supports park staff facing unexpected financial challenges. Source: Bill Wade, Association of National Park Rangers

### Around the Parks

*Reports are in alphabetical order by park/program name.*

- *Arches National Park* - *SFGate* published [an article](#) about the park’s water and septic infrastructure, which is deteriorating, with water contaminants “at risk of increasing beyond what is safe.” On April 8, the Moab (UT) city council voted to ask Senator Mike Lee (UT), chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to earmark Great American Outdoors Act funding to connect the park to Moab’s water and sewer system,

which was upgraded in 2018. Source: [SFGate](#)

- *Arches National Park, Canyonlands National Park, Hovenweep National Monument, Natural Bridges National Monument* - On April 15, the Grand County (UT) commission voted 6-0 to approve a letter asking Utah's Senators and Representatives to maintain the leases for three Moab-based federal offices, utilized by the NPS and U.S. Geological Survey. Source: [KPCW](#)
- *Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area* - On April 22, the park announced the opening of a commercial use authorization application process for the operation of the Blue Heron concession stand, food trucks, and food carts. Applications are due June 1. Source: [Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area](#)
- *Boston African American National Historic Site, Boston National Historical Park, Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site* - An investigation by *The Boston Globe* found "at least six instances" where the Boston-area NPS sites removed stories from their websites related to LGBTQ+ history. A non-profit, The History Project, has made an LGBTQ+-focused audio tour of Beacon Hill and downtown Boston available [on their website](#) after its page was erased from the Boston African American NHS site. Source: [LGBTQ Nation](#)
- *Bryce Canyon National Park* - The park will soon open a solicitation for proposals for a 10-year concession contract managing lodging, food and beverage, and retail in the park. Proposals will be due September 23. Source: [National Parks Traveler](#)
- *Canaveral National Seashore* - On April 28, the park began a pavement repair project in the Apollo Beach district. There will be "limited access" to some parking areas and roadways, including the Visitor Center and the boat ramp, for the foreseeable future. The project is being managed by the Federal Highway Administration. Source: [Canaveral National Seashore](#)
- *Cape Cod National Seashore* - On April 21, the park announced the opening of new food truck operations opportunities for the 2025 season at Herring Cove Beach in Provincetown, Massachusetts. The commercial use authorization application process is open through May 19. Source: [Cape Cod National Seashore](#)
- *Channel Islands National Park* - *KCLU* published [an article](#) about efforts by the NPS and the Benioff Ocean Science Laboratory at UC Santa Barbara to locate "ghost traps," lobster traps that have been inadvertently abandoned, often by lines that got severed. It is estimated that 13% of all traps are lost each year, killing thousands of lobsters and other sea life. Source: *KCLU*
- *Great Smoky Mountains National Park* - On April 22, the NPS announced the selection of LeConte Lodge L.P. as the concessioner for a new contract to provide services at LeConte Lodge. LeConte Lodge L.P. has operated the lodge since 1989, and their new contract will

run through 2035. Source: [Great Smoky Mountains National Park](#)

- *Great Smoky Mountains National Park* - On May 5, the park and Friends of the Smokies began a project to rehabilitate the Bullhead Trail. The project is expected to last several years. The Bullhead Trail will be closed Mondays through Thursdays through November 6, then begin again in May 2026. Source: [Great Smoky Mountains National Park](#)
- *Great Smoky Mountains National Park* - The *Citizen Times* published [an article](#) about the efforts of Jim Costa and Leslie Costa, who are writing and illustrating an insect field guide for the park as part of the Steve Kemp writer-and-illustrator-in-residence program, hosted by Smokies Life. Source: *Citizen Times*
- *Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park* - On April 18, the park announced the debut of a new video series called *Kūpuna Talk Story*, featuring community *kūpuna* (elders) sharing knowledge through native traditions, such as *hula*, *kālai ki'i* (carving), and taro cultivation. The films can be seen [on the park's website](#) and on social media. Source: [Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park](#)
- *John Day Fossil Beds National Monument* - On April 17, the NPS announced the discovery of 50 million-year-old fossilized footprints of birds, invertebrates, lizards, a “cat-like predator,” and an ancestor of a large herbivore such as a tapir or rhinoceros. They are the first known tracks of birds and lizards at the monument. The research was published in *Palaeontologia Electronica*. Source: [National Park Service Office of Communications](#)
- *Mammoth Cave National Park* - On April 15, Superintendent Barclay Trimble sent a letter to the Kentucky Public Service Commission, expressing opposition to the Wood Duck Solar project after multiple unanswered attempts to get clarity on safety measures to prevent groundwater contamination. Source: [Bowling Green Daily News](#)
- *Minute Man National Historical Park* - On April 16, the U.S. Postal Service and NPS held a ceremony at the park to dedicate a new set of stamps focused on the battlefields of the American Revolution. Source: [U.S. Postal Service](#)
- *National Historic Landmarks* (an NPS-administered program) - On April 28, the Kregel Windmill Factory Museum in Nebraska City, Nebraska, celebrated its designation as a National Historic Landmark. The museum has carefully preserved over one million artifacts from the early 1900s through its closure as a windmill factory in 1991. It is the 23rd national historic landmark in Nebraska. Source: [KOLN](#)
- *Pearl Harbor National Memorial* - On April 28, staff from the park and the Historic Preservation Training Center began restoration work on two of the six historic mooring quays along Ford Island. Two of the other quays have already been restored. The current phase of project is expected to be complete in 2026, with the final two quays restored by 2028. Source: [Pearl Harbor National Memorial](#)

- *Rock Creek Park* - On April 24, the NPS opened a Request for Proposals for Little House, a residential building that could be used for services and amenities. Proposals are due July 31. Source: [Rock Creek Park](#)
- *Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks* - On April 1, the park and Federal Highway Administration began a major rehabilitation project on Mineral King Road. The project is expected to take several years, and be complete in Fall 2027. Delays and closures will be in place on weekdays. Source: [Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks](#)
- *Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks* - New research published in *Madroño*, a journal of the California Botanical Society, documents the highest-altitude Jeffrey pines on the slopes of Mount Kaweah. Typically, Jeffrey pines grow in the upper montane areas of the Sierra Nevada (~5,500-7,500 feet above sea level). These trees were recorded up to 12,657 feet in elevation, possibly reflecting adaptation to climate change. Source: [UC Davis](#)
- *Shenandoah National Park* - On April 28, the park and Rappahannock Electric Cooperative began a project to upgrade 11 utility poles to allow for installation of communication lines from wells to the Big Meadows reservoir. The project is expected to last two weeks, and there will be intermittent power outages in the Big Meadows area during this time. Source: [Shenandoah National Park](#)
- *Voyageurs National Park* - On April 21, the park opened up a Request for Expressions of Interest for properties in the Kettle Falls area, including the Kettle Falls hotel, three villas, four camper cabins, two marinas, a portage road, a general store, a staff housing complex, and other outbuildings. Expressions of interest are due June 30. Source: [Voyageurs National Park](#)
- *Yellowstone National Park* - On April 16, *Nature* published research from scientists at Rice University, the University of New Mexico, the University of Utah, and the University of Texas at Dallas that shows there is a large magma cap about 2.4 miles beneath ground level in the park that “works as a sort of ‘lid,’ trapping heat and pressure beneath it.” Bubbles are released and vented through porous rock, preventing explosive eruptions in the region. The research also may offer new technology solutions for detecting early warning signs of volcanic unrest. Source: [USA Today](#)

## **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**

- Paul D. Faircloth, 65, passed away on April 2. Paul did an internship at Shenandoah National Park while in college, leading him to a career with the Delaware State Parks.

Source: [Cape Gazette](#)

- Ann Daplin Schneider, 85, passed away on April 22. Ann worked as “a park ranger” at Glacier National Park in her retirement. Source: [Legacy/Press Democrat](#)
- Connie Sue Porter Schultz, 80, passed away on April 17. Connie worked summers at Rocky Mountain National Park in high school. Source: [The Ponca City News](#)
- Claudine Florence Scott, 104, passed away on April 3. Claudine and her partner Bill worked at Yellowstone National Park for six summers in their retirement. Source: [Legacy/Bolivar Herald-Free Press](#)

### **In the News**

- David Titley will give the Spring 2025 commencement ceremony for the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences at Penn State University on May 10. David is a retired U.S. Navy rear admiral and university professor who volunteered at Grand Teton National Park on the “wildlife brigade” in his retirement. Source: [Penn State University](#)

### **Open for Comment**

*Items will stay on this list until public comment has closed. Listed alphabetically, except for items affecting entire NPS, which are listed on top.*

- *Civil War Defenses of Washington* - Public comment [open from through May 9](#) on a management plan update, which will serve as an amendment to the 2004 Fort Circle Parks General Management Plan. Source: [Civil War Defenses of Washington](#)
- *Great Dismal Swamp NHA Feasibility Study* - Public comment is [open through May 19](#) on a feasibility study for designating a Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area in North Carolina and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Source: [National Park Service Region 1](#)
- *Guilford Courthouse National Military Park* - Public comment is [open through May 30](#) on a development concept plan that will help the park adapt to “recent changes at the park and the acquisition of new parts of the battlefield.” Source: [WFMY](#)
- *Mojave National Preserve* - The NPS and the Federal Highway Administration have [opened public comment through May 8](#) on a plan to repair 41 miles of the Kelso-Cima and South Kelbaker roads, expand parking, add scenic pullouts, and install features to protect wildlife. Source: [Mojave National Preserve](#)
- *Morristown National Historical Park* - Public comment is [open through May 17](#) on a proposed 0.33-mile Penn Line Mutiny Trail, which would connect the Bettin Oak Monument to the former Fort Hill redoubt location, in the Jockey Hollow area of the park. Source: [Morristown National Historical Park](#)

- *Mount Rainier National Park* - Public comment is [open through May 15](#) on a proposal to rehabilitate and reconstruct the Paradise wastewater collection system and treatment plant to better accommodate higher numbers of visitors. Source: [Mount Rainier National Park](#)
- *Rock Creek Park* - Public comment is [open through May 17](#) on a multimodal safety and operational improvements plan for Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway. Source: [Rock Creek Park \(extension\)](#)

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

- *Temporary transfer of lands from BLM to U.S. Army* - On April 15, the Department of the Interior announced the “emergency withdrawal and transfer of administrative jurisdiction” for 109,651 acres of Bureau of Land Management lands along the U.S.-Mexico border to the Department of the Army for three years. The Army requested the transfer to “allow for the increase in regular patrols by federal personnel [and] construction of infrastructure to prevent unlawful entry.” Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *Proposed end to habitat protection for endangered species* - On April 16, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service posted a proposed rule in the U.S. Federal Register that would “rescind the regulatory definition of ‘harm,’” which currently includes any habitat degradation that hurts wildlife. The proposal seeks to narrow harm to the “take” of individuals. Public comment on the proposed rule is [open through May 19](#). Source: [Rhode Island Current](#)
- *Weakened migratory bird protections* - On April 11, the Office of the Solicitor published a memo reinstating the 2017 “Jorjani Opinion,” which concludes that the Migratory Bird Treaty Act does not apply “to the accidental or incidental taking or killing of migratory birds,” only to intentional killing. The Jorjani Opinion was overturned by a federal court in New York after a lawsuit by the Natural Resources Defense Council, and an appeal was withdrawn by the Biden Administration in 2021. The Trump Administration argues that because proper review by a Court of Appeals was never done, the Jorjani Opinion now stands, with the exception of the jurisdiction of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. Source: [National Parks Traveler](#)
- *Plan to remove BLM conservation rule* - On April 14, the Executive Office of the President published a notice that it is considering the rescission of the Bureau of Land Management’s Conservation and Landscape Health Rule, finalized in May 2024. The rule had given the BLM authority to weigh conservation and restoration as equally valid uses under a multiple-use mandate. Source: [National Parks Conservation Association](#)
- *Emergency energy permitting* - On April 23, the Department of the Interior announced it is implementing “emergency permitting procedures to accelerate the development of domestic energy resources and critical minerals, taking “a multi-year process down to just

28 days at most.” This is in response to the declaration of a “National Energy Emergency” by President Donald Trump. This includes “adopting an alternative National Environmental Policy Act compliance process,” implementing an “expedited Section 7 consultation process” for the Endangered Species Act, and following “alternative procedures for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.” Source:

[Department of the Interior](#)

- *Streamlining mining permits* - On April 18, the Department of the Interior announced its the addition of five minerals infrastructure projects to the FAST-41 program, the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act, which provides streamlined permitting for interagency projects related to infrastructure and energy production. The five projects are located in Idaho, Oregon, Utah, Nevada, and Alabama. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *Boosted offshore oil production* - On April 24, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement implemented new parameters for “downhole commingling in the Paleogene reservoirs,” allowing an increase in offshore oil production output “by roughly 10%.” Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *Another wind project halted* - On April 16, Interior Secretary Doug Burgum ordered the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to halt the Empire Wind Project offshore of New York because “approval for the project was rushed through by the prior Administration without sufficient analysis or consultation.” The federal lease for the project had been signed during the first Trump Administration in 2017, had secured federal permits, and had broken ground. Source: [National Public Radio](#)
- *Opened national monument for commercial fishing* - On April 17, President Donald Trump signed an executive order opening up the Pacific Islands Heritage Marine National Monument to commercial fishing. The monument was established by President George W. Bush in 2009, and expanded by President Barack Obama in 2014. Source: [SFGate](#)
- *New leasing program for Outer Continental Shelf* - On April 18, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management announced the 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Program, including leases offshore of Alaska for the first time. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *Seafloor mining fact sheet* - On April 24, the U.S. Geological Survey published a factsheet showing “prospective locations of critical minerals on the seafloor” located within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone. 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.*

Congress was on spring recess and conducted pro-forma sessions for four days on April 14, 17,

22, and 24.

### **New Public Laws**

Nothing to report.

### **Senate Actions**

Nothing to report.

### **House of Representative Actions**

**April 17** - The House of Representatives reported H.R. 249, a bill to re-designate certain facilities at Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park in honor of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. Congressman Pascrell died in 2024 and was a champion for Great Falls National Historical Park. The areas to be re-designated are Great Falls Scenic Overlook Trail Bridge, to be hereafter known and designated as “Bill Pascrell, Jr. Scenic Overlook Trail Bridge,” and Overlook Park, to be hereafter known and designated as “Bill Pascrell, Jr. Overlook Park.”

### **Incidents**

*Listed alphabetically by park.*

#### **Acadia National Park**

##### **Visitor fatality**

On April 21, a 911 call reported an unresponsive individual outside a vehicle in a pullout on Schoodic Loop Road south of Frazier Point. Personnel from the NPS, Maine State Police, Winter Harbor (ME) Police, and Schoodic EMS responded to the scene. The individual was pronounced deceased at the scene, and their body was taken to the state medical examiner’s office to determine identity and cause of death. The NPS is leading the investigation. Officials have stated there “was no threat to public safety at any time during the incident.” Source: [News Center Maine](#)

#### **Blue Ridge Parkway**

##### **Hiker fatality**

On April 18, a 40-year-old hiker fell into “waters adjacent to the Boone Fork Trail” (near milepost 297). Personnel from the NPS and Watauga and Blowing Rock (NC) EMS responded to the incident, recovered the individual from the water, and performed CPR. Resuscitation efforts were unsuccessful and the individual was pronounced deceased at the scene. A preliminary investigation suggests the individual died from injuries sustained in the fall. Source: [WLOS](#)

#### **Crater Lake National Park**

##### **Lawsuit over newt**

On April 17, the Center for Biological Diversity announced its intent to sue the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for its failure to protect the Crater Lake newt (also known as the Mazama newt),

despite its acknowledgement in 2023 that it may qualify for protection under the Endangered Species Act. Rising lake temperatures have allowed introduced non-native crayfish to decimate newt populations by preying on them and outcompeting them for food. The newt is found only in the park. Source: [Center for Biological Diversity](#)

## **Gateway National Recreation Area**

### **Surfer fatality**

On April 12, a bystander spotted a surfboard sticking halfway out of the water, upright, in Bay 1 in Jacob Riis Park, indicating an unconscious surfer below the water on the board's leash. The individual and one other in their party ran into the water, where they then found another surfer attempting to pull the unconscious surfer out. The three called 911, pulled the individual from the water, and began CPR. EMS and fire personnel arrived on scene about 20 minutes later and took the individual to Coney Island (NY) Hospital. The individual was pronounced deceased at the hospital. Source: [The Rockaway Times](#)

## **Glen Canyon National Recreation Area**

### **Vandalism caught on livestream**

On January 5, an anonymous tip was submitted to the NPS about an instance of vandalism at Horseshoe Bend. The tipster had viewed a livestream video of an influencer in which the individual threw rocks on the trail, then used a rock to scratch their website into "a portion of sandstone." The NPS reviewed the footage, noting the individual had also livestreamed their lodging. The NPS coordinated with local police in Page, Arizona, and tracked the individual down at their lodging. The NPS then conducted an interview with the suspect. The suspect also livestreamed the interview, in which they admitted to the vandalism. The individual was issued a misdemeanor citation for vandalism, and they were due to appear in court on April 25. Source: [The Independent](#) [Editor note: The article mistakenly identifies Horseshoe Bend as part of Grand Canyon National Park.]

## **Golden Gate National Recreation Area**

### **Missing person**

On April 15, a 37-year-old went missing. Their car was found at the Battery Rathbone parking area. Over 120 searchers attempted to locate the individual, including support from the NPS, Marin County (CA) Search and Rescue, U.S. Coast Guard, Stinson Beach Lifeguards, Marin County Sheriff's Office, and others. As of April 28, the individual had not been found. Source: [Press Democrat](#), [KRON4](#)

## **Mammoth Cave National Park**

### **Flood damage**

During a historic flooding event the week of April 7, the park experienced "extensive damage" to the navigational cables and support towers at the Green River Ferry. On April 16, the park announced that the ferry operation and boat ramp will be closed for several months until repairs

can be made. The flood reached a record 59.54 feet, which is about 40 feet above the average April height. The Green River Ferry area remains open for day use, including human-powered watercraft. Source: [Mammoth Cave National Park](#)

### **Mount Rainier National Park**

#### **Access blocked by unsafe bridge**

On April 14, the Fairfax Bridge on State Route 165 outside the park was closed after an inspection found deterioration of steel supports. On April 22, the Washington Department of Transportation announced that the bridge would permanently close. It is 103-years-old. The bridge provides access to the Mowich Lake Entrance, Carbon River Ranger Station, and other areas. There is currently no funding to replace the bridge, and the state is working on options to address the situation. Source: [KING5](#)

### **Mount Rainier National Park**

#### **Soldier mountaineering injury**

On April 11, a group from the U.S. Army 1st Special Forces was conducting mountaineering training on Pinnacle Peak when a 32-year-old took a 100-foot fall. The individual broke their leg in the fall. Personnel from the NPS and Naval Air Station Whidbey Island responded via helicopter and utilized a hoist to extract the individual and an Army medic. They were flown to Madigan Army Medical Center at Joint Base Lewis-McChord. Source: [KOMO News](#)

### **Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore**

#### **Storm damage**

On April 28, heavy rains and melting snow washed away “roughly 75 feet” of the paved Munising Falls trail. As a result, the area is closed to all visitors, with no timeline yet for repairs. Source: [Detroit Free Press](#)

### **Rocky Mountain National Park**

#### **Wolf mortality**

On April 20, a female gray wolf known as 2514-BC was reported dead in the park. The wolf had been released in January in British Columbia, and wandered over 1,200 miles to the park. No further details were given about the individual’s death. Source: [Colorado Sun](#)

### **Wind Cave National Park**

#### **Elevator malfunction**

On April 27, a transformer in the elevator malfunctioned. All cave tours have been suspended until it can be fixed, and no estimated timeline for repair has been given. Source: [Wind Cave National Park](#)

### **Zion National Park**

## Visitor rescue

On April 13, an individual fell 30 feet in Pine Creek Canyon. Staff from the NPS and Hurricane Valley (UT) Fire and Rescue responded and were able to extract the individual via a litter carryout. The patient was said to have sustained “multiple injuries,” but was in “stable condition.” They were taken to St. George Regional Hospital for evaluation and treatment. Source: [KUTV](#)

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

- *Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park* - On April 13, multiagency staff were able to perform a recovery of human remains located in a remote part of the park (see [3/19/25](#) and [3/5/25 Coalition Reports](#)). The recovery utilized NPS staff from Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, Capitol Reef National Park, Canyonlands National Park, Colorado National Monument, and Curecanti National Recreation Area, as well as personnel from the Montrose County (CO) Sheriff’s Office, Montrose County Coroner’s Office of Medical Investigations, Montrose County Road and Bridge, Friends of the Black Canyon Search and Rescue Volunteers, and Mountain Blade Runner Helicopters. Source: [Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park](#)
- *Death Valley National Park* - On April 25, the park announced the reopening of Emigrant Canyon Road for the first time since severe flash flooding in August 2023. The road was repaired by the NPS and Federal Highway Administration. Source: [Death Valley National Park](#)
- *Lake Mead National Recreation Area* - On April 18, the 56-year-old that went missing on April 6 (see [4/16/25 Coalition Report](#)), was found deceased near the Boulder Islands. The cause of death has not been released. Source: [8 News Now](#)

### **Corrections**

In the 4/16/25 *Coalition Report*, we mistakenly identified the home state of Senator Martin Heinrich. He is a Senator for New Mexico. Thanks to Frank Norris and Joan Anzelmo for bringing this to our attention.

### **Acknowledgments**

This newsletter is supported through Coalition staff and invaluable volunteers:

- Editor: Katie Wallace
- Tech and Production Support: Steve Pittleman, Debbie Reed, Emily Thompson
- Regular Correspondent: Chris Soller
- Issue Contributors: Joan Anzelmo, Frank Norris, Bill Wade, 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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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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