



The Coalition Report

Monday, August 18, 2025

Editor Note: Due to staff leave, this Coalition Report is two days earlier than our normal schedule. Our next Report will be published on Wednesday, September 3.

Coalition Actions

The Coalition and the Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility submitted [a letter](#) to Colorado Parks and Wildlife urging it to commit to phasing out the use of lead-based ammunition and fishing tackle in state waters.

We joined 227 organizations in [a letter](#) to *Regulations.gov* (multiple dockets) opposing sweeping changes to the National Environmental Policy Act, arguing they do not give enough time for stakeholder to engage, ignore statutory purposes articulated by Congress, flaunt 50 years of jurisprudence, and do not allow for governmental transparency.

The Coalition joined three other organizations in [comments](#) to the Bureau of Land Management Utah Office on the 2025 Fourth Quarter Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale, encouraging the deferral of six additional parcels due to wildlife habitat needs.

We continue to advocate fiercely for the National Park Service in interviews to the media, including articles by the [Australian Broadcast Corporation](#) and [Conde Nast Traveler](#).

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.

- *NPS Fire Awards* - The National Park Service announced the [2025 Director's Fire Achievement Awards](#) for "vision and empowerment," fire prevention and protection, and achievement in fuels management. Source: National Park Service Office of Communications
- *NPS Wilderness Awards* - The NPS announced the 2025 Excellence in Wilderness Stewardship Awards, including for an individual, team, and external partner. Source: [National Park Service Office of Communications](#)
- *Potential budgetary futures for the NPS* - The National Parks Conservation Association published an article outlining the stark differences in Fiscal Year 2026 funding summarized in President Donald Trump's budget proposal, the House of Representatives appropriations bill, and the Senate bill draft. Source: [National Parks Conservation Association](#)
- *Ongoing attacks on NPS personnel protections* - Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility published [an article](#) outlining the ongoing actions intended to destabilize the federal workforce, including new classifications for that may make it easier to fire and replace employees, the addition of "loyalty" questions to federal hiring, a new rule making it easier to fire probationary-status employees, and a memo asking supervisors to give high reviews to staff sparingly. Source: Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility
- *"Why no National Park Service Director?"* - *National Parks Traveler* published [an article](#) with this title, describing President Donald Trump's long history of interim directors at the head of the agency Source: *National Parks Traveler*
- *"5 things" email discontinued* - A Department of Government Efficiency practice of asking employees to document five things they did over the previous week, enacted in February, was discontinued on August 4 by the Office of Personnel Management. Source: [The Hill](#)
- *Car pollution in parks* - The National Parks Conservation Association recently published a report, "Driving Dirty Air," that outlines the ways in which vehicle traffic affects national parks. Source: [National Parks Conservation Association](#)
- *"Hidden art of parkitecture"* - *The History Channel* published [an article](#) about NPS aesthetics and architecture, with several examples of early NPS buildings that are still standing. Source: *History*

Around the Parks

Reports are in alphabetical order by park/program name.

- *Badlands National Park* - On August 12, the NPS announced the selection of Explor Badlands, LLC, for a concession operating lodging, campground, food and beverage, and retail services for 10 years, starting November 1. Source: [Badlands National Park](#)

- *Big Bend National Park* - Sierra published [an article](#) about the challenges to controlling livestock wandering into the park from across the border in Mexico, and the effects on the park's ecosystems and the visitor experience. A 2018 Livestock Management Plan was intended to reduce the livestock population in the park, though no actions have been taken. [Editor note: The Coalition is mentioned in the article for our efforts to bring attention to the issue.] Source: Sierra
- *Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park* - On July 28, a group of divers made a structural assessment, including underwater photos and videos, of the Slater Mill Dam and river retaining walls. This will allow engineers to put together a plan to make repairs and ensure that the waterpower system in place serves the Wilkinson Mill waterwheel and protects the site against flooding. This project was funded by the Great American Outdoors Act. Source: [Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park](#)
- *Cape Lookout National Seashore* - On August 8, the park announced the start of a project to restore the historic Cape Lookout Lighthouse, built in 1859. The restoration will include repair or replacement of the metal stairs, handrails, landings, glass panes, windows, doors, and other materials as well as new paint. Stone and Lime Historic Restoration, Inc., will lead the project. Source: [Cape Lookout National Seashore](#)
- *Cape Krusenstern National Monument, Kobuk Valley National Park, Noatak National Preserve* - Edward "Ed" Talaq Viglione was given the 2024 NPS Director's Award for Frontline Hero of the Year for his efforts supporting infrastructure in the three parks. Source: [Kobuk Valley National Park](#)
- *Denali National Park and Preserve, Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve* - The NPS published [an article](#) about new research that shows interconnectivity of wolf populations between the two parks, despite being 250 miles apart. Source: National Park Service Office of Communications
- *Dinosaur National Monument* - On September 8, the park will begin a major reconstruction project of the road, parking lot, and sidewalks at the Dinosaur Quarry Hall. The exhibit hall will remain closed through late October. This is part of a larger Federal Highways Administration project that will also reconstruct the monument road from the boundary to the exhibit hall. Source: [Dinosaur National Monument](#)
- *Fire Island National Seashore* - On August 16, the park will open the Old Mastic House at the William Floyd Estate for a temporary exhibit that highlights life at the estate and recent restoration work. William Floyd was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. The exhibit will remain open through September 27. Source: [Fire Island National Seashore](#)
- *Flight 93 National Memorial* - On August 15, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey transferred New Airport's Gate A17 sign to the National Park Service. Flight 93 departed Gate A17 on September 11, 2001. Many local public officials attended the ceremony.

Source: [northjersey.com](https://www.northjersey.com)

- *Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park* - The park recently started a project to repair the western switchbacks of the Kilauea Iki Trail. Work is taking place Monday through Thursday, with closures in place. It is open on the weekends. The project is expected to be complete by September 30. Source: [Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park](#)
- *Minidoka National Historic Site* - On August 6, the Bureau of Land Management revoked the plan to allow a large wind farm at Lava Ridge, located in Idaho adjacent to Minidoka NHS, and in the footprint of the historic incarceration site. [Editor note: *The Coalition has been active in its opposition to the wind project, which would have dramatically affected the viewshed and experience at the park.*] Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *Olympic National Park* - The park's utilities team received the 2025 NPS Excellence in Facility Management - Facility Team of the Year Award for its response to five major system failures in 2024, as well as innovation in safety and communication and modernization efforts. Source: [National Park Service Office of Communications](#)
- *Rocky Mountain National Park* - On August 25, the park will begin a project to eradicate non-native fish from the Grand Ditch and upstream and downstream tributaries inside the park. This will include the use of a piscicide, and some closures will be in place for hiking and fishing through August 31. After completion, native Greenback cutthroat trout will be reintroduced into the headwaters of the Cache la Poudre River. The project is being led by the U.S. Forest Service, with support from the NPS, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Trout Unlimited, and the Rocky Mountain Conservancy. Source: [Rocky Mountain National Park](#)
- *Roger Williams National Memorial* - The park recently completed a redesign of its junior ranger booklet, created in collaboration with artist MJ Robinson. It will soon be available in print. Source: [Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park](#)
- *Stones River National Battlefield* - The park recently began a project to restore about 2,770 headstones in its historic cemetery. The project is part of the National Cemetery Investment Initiative, and supported by Friends of Stones River National Battlefield, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of America, Amazon, Civil Air Patrol, Blackman High School JROTC, and other community groups. Source: [National Park Service Office of Communications](#)
- *The White House and President's Park* - President Donald Trump recently announced a \$200 million expansion of the White House, including a new State Ballroom on the grounds, with seating to up to 650 people. Construction will be contracted to Clark Construction in Virginia, and will begin in September 2025. The White House has stated that the project will be privately funded through donations from President Trump and other supporters. The NPS will be involved in design planning. Source: [The Center Square](#)

- *Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail* - The Newport (RI) Historical Society was selected for the NPS' 2025 Excellence in Education Award for the "Women on the Water" program, which introduces girls in grades 6-12 to STEM education, maritime history, and career exploration through sailing, kayaking, and navigation programming. Source: [What's Up Newp](#)
- *Yellowstone National Park* - The NPS published [an article](#) about a multi-year effort to eradicate invasive lake trout in order to support native cutthroat trout populations. The project is supported by Yellowstone Forever. Source: National Park Service Office of Communications

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

- Carol Barbee, 87, passed away on July 30. Carol was the spouse of Bob Barbee, who worked for the NPS for 42 years (and passed away on 2016). Together, they spent time in Rocky Mountain National Park, Yosemite National Park, Carlsbad Caverns National Park, the Albright Training Center at Grand Canyon National Park, Point Reyes National Seashore, Cape Lookout National Seashore, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the Pacific West Regional Office in San Francisco, Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, Redwood National and State Parks, Yellowstone, and at the Alaska Regional Office in Anchorage (where Bob was regional director). Source: Joan Anzelmo
- Gwyneth "Gweny" Elizabeth Davidson, 103, passed away on July 2. Gweny worked for the NPS in Boulder City, Nevada, for a time. Source: [The Record-Courier](#)
- Daniel "Dan" J. DiResta passed away on August 2. Dan volunteered at Biscayne National Park, studying coral reefs and introducing hundreds of students to park science as a professor at the University of Miami. Source: [University of Miami News](#)
- Mike Gagnon, 77, passed away on August 12. Mike worked for the NPS for 29 years, including time at Isle Royale National Park. Source: [Keweenaw Report](#)
- Keith Fellbaum, 87, passed away on March 15. He worked for the NPS for many years, including time at Glacier National Park, Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Jewel Cave National Monument, Wind Cave National Park, and Yellowstone National Park. Source: [Shelley Funeral Chapels](#), Tim Hudson
- Dwight McCarter, 80, passed away on August 11. Dwight was a backcountry ranger at Great Smoky Mountains National Park for many years, and was well-known as a talented tracker for search and rescue incidents. Source: [WBIR](#)

- Karen Lewis McClure, 85, passed away on July 22. In her retirement, Karen worked as a seasonal volunteer at Rocky Mountain National Park. Source: [The Denver Post](#)

Open for Comment

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

- *American Beach National Historic Landmark Study* - Public comment is [open through September 7](#) on a nomination for National Historic Landmark status for American Beach, a historic African American resort community on the Atlantic coast in northern Florida. Source: [Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve](#)
- *Clara Barton National Historic Site* - [Public comment is open through September 9](#) on a plan to rehabilitate the Clara Barton home. Source: [George Washington Memorial Parkway](#)
- *Fort Raleigh National Historic Site* - Public comment is [open through August 20](#) on a plan to stabilize one mile of shoreline for erosion control and protection of the Lost Colony Waterside Theater and historic Dough Cemetery. Source: [Fort Raleigh National Historic Site](#)
- *Valles Caldera National Preserve* - Public comment is [open through August 31](#) on a general management plan/ Valles Grande District development concept plan. Source: [Valles Caldera National Preserve](#)

Other Department of the Interior News

- *Lawsuit defending Chuckwalla* - On August 11, nine organizations joined five Tribal Nations in filing motions to intervene in a lawsuit attacking Chuckwalla National Monument, which is managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Source: [National Parks Conservation Association](#)
- *Spending restrictions on BLM* - On August 4, the White House Office of Management and Budget sent guidance to the executive leadership team of the Bureau of Land Management directing it to cut spending outside of salaries, “minimum expenses to maintain safe operations,” and payments required by law to a set of agency programs. These include renewable energy, land acquisitions, the wild horse and burro program, and the management of cultural resources and wilderness. The BLM’s budget division is to develop a spending plan for these divisions, to be submitted to OMB. The spending prohibitions are applicable through the end of the fiscal year (September 30). Source: [E&E News](#)
- *USFWS loses in court over wolves* - On August 5, a federal court judge ruled in favor of

nine organizations and one Tribal Nation against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The decision determined that the USFWS violated the Endangered Species Act because it did not use the “best available science” in determining gray wolves are not threatened. The court ordered the agency to re-analyze threats to the gray wolf population in the West, including the loss of its historic range. Source: [Idaho Capital Sun](#)

- *Offshore wind rule review* - On August 7, the Department of the Interior announced it is “launching a full review” of offshore wind energy regulations “to ensure federal regulations do not provide preferential treatment to unreliable, foreign-controlled energy sources over dependable, American-made energy.” Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *Coal leases* - On August 6, the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service completed its first expedited coal lease, allowing the Skyline Mine project to move forward in central Utah. On August 8, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement modified a plan for the Antelope Mine in Wyoming to extend the life of the mine through 2037. On August 12, the Department of the Interior announced its intent to prepare an environmental impact statement in 28 days for the expansion of the Black Butte Mine in Wyoming. Source: Department of the Interior ([8/6](#), [8/8](#), [8/12](#))
- *Higher revenue sharing from outer shelf* - On August 12, the Department of the Interior announced a raise in the annual revenue-sharing cap for energy leases on the Outer Continental Shelf in the Gulf of Mexico, from \$500 million to \$650 million. These funds support coastal protection, restoration, and infrastructure projects in gulf states, as well as the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)

Congressional Actions

Due to staff leave, we’re taking a pause on Congressional Actions this Report. This section will return for the 9/3/25 Coalition Report.

Incidents

Listed alphabetically by park/program.

Buck Island Reef National Monument, Christiansted National Historic Site, Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve Hurricane Erin

On August 15, the parks closed due to the approach of Hurricane Erin. They will remain closed until the storm passes and staff are able to assess and mitigate damage. Source: [Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve](#)

Cape Cod National Seashore Hiker rescue

On August 11, a group of three hikers became lost “in the woods” in the area of the Wood End Dike and Provincetown Municipal Airport. Personnel from the NPS and the Barnstable County (MA) Tech Rescue team responded to search for the individuals. They were located about an hour later. The group was evaluated by medical personnel. No other details regarding the incident were released. Source: [CapeCod.com](https://www.capecod.com)

Curecanti National Recreation Area

Toxic algae

On August 11, the park announced the presence of blue-green algae that produces cyanotoxins at levels exceeding public health safe exposure levels at North Willow East on the east side of Sometimes Island on Blue Mesa Reservoir. Due to shifting currents and winds, visitors are encouraged to avoid the Iola Basin area. Source: [Curecanti National Recreation Area](https://www.curecanti.com)

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

Rabies

On August 13, the park announced a positive test for rabies in a raccoon that had been exhibiting strange behavior near the Smithfield Beach commercial launch. Park staff are working with NPD Office of Health and Safety and Wildlife Health Branch to ensure rapid testing of deceased wildlife. Visitors are encouraged to keep their distance and report any unusual animal behavior. Source: [Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area](https://www.delawarewatergap.com)

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Rainbow Bridge National Monument

Ramp damage

On August 7, the park announced the closure of the north side of the Wahweap Main Launch Ramp due to “recent damage” (unspecified). This limited access to only vessels shorter than 30-feet. On August 18, the park will close Wahweap Main Launch Ramp due to low water. On August 25, the park will move the Rainbow Bridge dock to deeper water, making it difficult to access the trail to Rainbow Bridge National Monument. Source: Glen Canyon National Recreation Area ([8/7](https://www.glen-canyon.com), [8/14](https://www.glen-canyon.com))

Grand Teton National Park

Bat encounters

A bat colony was discovered in the attic space of the Jackson Lake Lodge, and eight overnight guests have come into contact with bats since June. Several bats from the colony were captured and none have yet tested positive for rabies. Several rooms have been closed, and the NPS and Wyoming Department of Health have been working to notify anyone who may have stayed in the lodge between May 15 and July 27 to determine if anyone might be at risk of rabies. Source: [SFGate](https://www.sfgate.com)

Grand Teton National Park

Head-on collision

On August 14, a vehicle with five occupants was traveling northbound on the Inner Park Loop Road two miles north of Jenny Lake when it crossed over the center line. It got into a head-on collision with another vehicle with three occupants. Multiple people were injured, with two transported by helicopter to a medical center in Idaho, and another later flown from Jackson, WY, to a nearby medical center. Driver inattention is considered a “possible primary factor in the crash.” Only two of the eight individuals in the crash were wearing seatbelts at the time of the accident. Source: [Oil City News](#)

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Visitors feeding bears

On August 13, the park put out a press release chronicling three recent documented incidents of visitors feeding bears, including one at Maloney Point in which a visitor fed a mother bear and two cubs. Source: [Great Smoky Mountains National Park](#)

Isle Royale National Park

Habituated wolf euthanized

The park recently euthanized a wolf after it was observed repeatedly taking human food from campsites and other developed areas. Though efforts were made to de-habituate the wolf and one other, their efforts were unsuccessful. Federal, state, and Tribal officials were consulted before deciding to euthanize the individual. Source: [Detroit Free Press](#)

Lake Mead National Recreation Area

Cold case solved

In May 1987, a rancher found a human skull on the ground near Bonelli Landing. A further search uncovered additional human remains buried in a shallow grave and wrapped in a blanket. Attempts to identify them were unsuccessful at the time, but a dental report was entered into a national database. A DNA profile was obtained much later and also entered into a national database. In February 2025, a forensic odontologist for the Missing and Unidentified Persons Unit at the California Department of Justice was able to match the dental records to Carol Ann Riley, a 43-year-old that went missing in 1986 from San Diego County, California. The day she went missing, she had a dinner date scheduled with the individual she was dating, Robert Dean Weeks, and she planned to break up with him. He had a long history of going by false names and for strange disappearances of romantic and business partners. In 1988, he was convicted of two murders of previous partners, and he died in prison in 1996. Source: [Mohave County Sheriff's Office Facebook page](#)

National Capital Region

Unhoused evacuated from DC parks

The United States Park Police has worked to clear 75 camps of individuals experiencing homelessness around Washington, DC. The NPS is also said to have “scrubbed up 80 graffiti

sites from Capitol Hill parks,” as of August 6. The NPS has been directed to no longer hand out warnings before clearing federally-managed parks of camps. Source: [New York Post](#)

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore

Mutual aid for overturned vessel

On August 9, a vessel (of unspecified size) overturned on Lake Superior, five miles northwest of Autrain Island. The two individuals aboard went into the water and were able to cling to other debris from the boat to stay afloat, and called for rescue. Personnel from the NPS, Alger County (MI), the U.S. Coast Guard, and nearby private boats responded to the scene. Personnel from the Michigan State Police, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and U.S. Forest Service also supported the incident. The incident is under investigation by the MDNR. Source: [The Mining Journal](#)

Olympic National Park

Flooding

On August 15, the western Olympic Peninsula received over three inches of rain, with heavy rain continuing through the 16th. On the Upper Hoh Road, outside the park, Jefferson County (WA) has been fixing a culvert at milepost 1.24, including a vehicular detour onto a temporary bypass road. The bypass road experienced “some backup flooding” during the event. Due to concerns about its condition, it closed for assessment and repair on August 15. Subsequently, the park closed the Hoh Rain Forest area of the park to access. As of August 16, it had not been reopened. Source: [Olympic National Park](#)

Rocky Mountain National Park

Missing person

On August 7, a 23-year-old was dropped off in the Upper Beaver Meadows area by a ride share service. On August 11, their family reported them missing. A large search ensued. On August 13, a body was discovered above Emerald Lake. It is believed to be the missing individual. The individual’s body was recovered by helicopter, flown to a landing zone in the park, and transferred to the Larimer County (CO) Coroner’s Office for identification. Source: [Rocky Mountain National Park](#), [People](#)

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

Mutual aid for drowning

On August 9, a 61-year-old and one other person were swimming adjacent to their boat on Lake Ann in Michigan when high winds pushed their boat away and out of reach. The two called for help, and a nearby boat came to help. The 61-year-old was discovered to be missing at that point. Personnel from Almira Township Fire and EMS, Benzie County Sheriff’s Office, the NPS, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the Inland Township Fire Department responded to the scene. When they were unable to locate the individual, they called in Green Lake Township Emergency Services, the Grand Traverse County Sheriff’s Office and the Northern Michigan

Mutual Aid Dive Team to support recovery efforts. The individual's body was found and recovered on August 10. Source: [The Benzie County Record Patriot](#)

Wildfires

- *Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, Curecanti National Recreation Area* - On July 10, lightning strikes ignited wildfires on both the North Rim and South Rim of Black Canyon of the Gunnison. All visitors and staff were evacuated from the park. As of August 16, the South Rim Fire was 4,232 acres and 60% contained, with 24 personnel assigned. On July 18, Curecanti closed all boating activities on the Blue Mesa Reservoir, west of Middle Bridge, due to firefighting scooper aircraft. On July 20, the reservoir was reopened. On July 24, the park announced that a team of hydrologists and soil scientists began conducting rapid assessments, and have thus far noted that drinking water supplies have not been affected. On July 30, the North Rim of Black Canyon of the Gunnison reopened to the public. On August 18, the South Rim of Black Canyon reopened a small area around the visitor center. The rest of the South Rim remains closed. Source: Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park ([7/10](#), [7/24](#), [7/25](#), [8/14](#)), [Inciweb](#), Curecanti National Recreation Area ([7/18](#), [7/20](#)), *Watch Duty* (app)
- *Grand Canyon National Park* - On July 4, lightning struck south of an area known as the Basin near the W1 Road, causing the Dragon Bravo Fire. It was originally allowed to burn, with fire crews monitoring its progress. It grew slowly to 120 acres after seven days. On July 11, winds shifted and increased dramatically, headed toward the North Rim facilities. All facilities were evacuated. On July 12, the fire jumped several fire containment lines, and personnel detected a potential chlorine gas leak from the water treatment facility, requiring the evacuation of firefighters, grounding of aircraft, and evacuation of the North Kaibab Trail, South Kaibab Trail, and Phantom Ranch area. Early on July 13, the fire burned over the developed area of the North Rim, destroying or damaging 235 structures, including the historic Grand Canyon Lodge and an NPS visitor center. On August 15, the park posted a photo of the popular "Brightly the Burro" bronze statue, which was safely removed from the remains of the lodge, with a small amount of damage. It is unclear whether the statue will be restored or replaced when the lodge is rebuilt. As of August 17, the fire was 144,991 acres and 66% contained, with 744 personnel assigned. Source: *Watch Duty* (app), [AZ Central](#), [Inciweb](#), [Grand Canyon National Park Facebook page](#), [KJZZ](#)
- *Olympic National Park* - On July 6, a human-caused fire began on the Olympic National Forest near the Mt. Rose Trailhead, southeast of the Staircase area of the park. As of August 17, the Bear Gulch Fire was 8,368 acres and 3% contained, with 688 personnel assigned. On July 30, the Staircase Campground and "areas across the causeway on the north side of Lake Cushman" were evacuated. Many trails and wilderness camps around the Staircase area and in the North Fork Skokomish Drainage remain closed. Source: Olympic National Park ([7/7](#), [7/8](#), [Fire Conditions and Updates](#)), *Watch Duty* (app), [Inciweb](#), [Mason County \(WA\) Sheriff's Office Facebook page](#), [Olympic National Park Facebook page](#)

Follow-ups on Previously Reported Incidents

- *Blue Ridge Parkway* - On August 15, the parkway reopened 30 campsites at Julian Price Campground (milepost 297). The rest of the campground will remain closed through 2025 for further repair. Also on August 15, the NPS reopened the parkway from milepost 221.8 to 229.7, south of the North Carolina-Virginia state line. This reopening also included a long-planned bridge maintenance project at milepost 225. The campground and road segment have been closed since Hurricane Helene hit the region in September 2024. Source: Blue Ridge Parkway ([8/8](#), [8/15](#))
- *Great Smoky Mountains National Park* - The NPS, in collaboration with the Federal Highways Administration, plans to award a contract later this month for emergency repairs on Highway 441/Newfound Gap Road after the August 1 landslide (see [8/6/25 Coalition Report](#)). Source: [Great Smoky Mountains National Park](#)
- *Grand Canyon National Park* - On August 9, the park enacted further water restrictions on the South Rim due to the Transcanyon Waterline break on August 5 (see [8/6/25 Coalition Report](#)). They included closing concession services for campers, and water spigots at Mather Campground. The break on the line has been repaired, but there is a mechanical issue at Havasupai Gardens preventing pumping to the South Rim. The park is working to fix the issue. Source: [Grand Canyon National Park](#)

Corrections

In the 8/6/25 Coalition Report, we mistakenly omitted the support of the Friends of Dyke Marsh, among other partners, for water bottle refilling stations on the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Thanks to Glenda Booth for bringing this to our attention.

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- Editor: Katie Wallace
- Tech and Production Support: Steve Pittleman, Debbie Reed, Emily Thompson
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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 to Protect America's National Parks 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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