



The Coalition Report

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

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



Coalition Actions

Alongside [the lawsuit](#) the Coalition joined to stop the unlawful reorganization of the federal government, we also [filed a temporary restraining order](#) to halt the Trump Administration from proceeding with its current reorganization actions until a hearing can be held. The restraining order [was granted](#) (more under “National/Regional NPS Updates” below).

The Coalition and the Association of National Park Rangers organized [a letter](#) to Interior Secretary Doug Burgum, signed by five former directors, eight deputy directors, and four associate directors of the NPS. It argues that Secretarial Order 3426, mandating all park units remain open and accessible with visitor services trumping all other priorities, is counter to the Organic Act, which requires park managers to balance use with preservation.

We sent several letters to the Committee on Natural Resources regarding provisions in the budget reconciliation package, including:

- [a letter](#) arguing against provisions that would enable permitting for the proposed Ambler Road (which would go through Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, among other public lands);
- [a letter](#) co-signed with over 30 other conservation organizations in opposition to provisions that would open oil and gas leases, decrease royalty rates, enact “noncompetitive” leasing, imposing arbitrary fees to file formal protests against decision-making, rescinding existing land use plans, allows for drilling to continue while legal proceedings are pending, and exempting projects from permitting, bonding, and mitigation requirements; and
- [a letter](#) opposing provisions that target oil and gas development in the Arctic.

We also put out [a press release](#) to highlight the threats to public lands from provisions in the budget reconciliation package.

The Coalition also put out [a press release](#) against the last-minute amendment to the budget reconciliation package that would allow for public land sell-offs in Utah and Nevada.

We joined four other conservation groups in submitting [comments](#) to the Bureau of Land Management Wyoming State Office on the 2025 Fourth Quarter Competitive Oil and gas Lease Sale, arguing that the BLM's current proposal provides inadequate analysis about its effects and utilizes outdated data.

The Coalition joined over a dozen conservation groups in submitting [a letter](#) to the New Mexico Environmental Department in support of their Regional Haze State Implementation Plan Revision for the Second Planning Period.

Coalition Executive Council Member Jeff Mow was interviewed for [an article](#) by the National Parks Conservation Association, "'Hollowed Out' - 3 Retired National Park Superintendents Speak Up."

Coalition Member Mike Soukup wrote [an op-ed](#) for the *Bangor Daily News* arguing that Interior Secretary Doug Burgum's actions to downsize the National Park Service are irresponsible and will have drastic effects on parks.

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.

- *Trump draft budget cuts \$1.2 billion in NPS funding* - On May 2, the Office of Management and Budget provided a letter to the Committee on Appropriations offering President Donald Trump's recommendations on discretionary funding levels for Fiscal Year 2026. They include a \$1.2 billion cut to National Park Service funding, a reduction of "almost 40%." Furthermore, the proposal would include turning many NPS sites over to state governments. Source: [SF Gate](#) [Editor note: Coalition Executive Director Emily Thompson is quoted in the SF Gate story.]
- *RIF postponed by court order* - In early May, many sources internal to the NPS reported that a Reduction in Force was to take place around May 15, targeting 1,500 employees at national and regional offices, and staff from cultural resources and natural resource stewardship and science. On May 9, a federal district judge placed a 14-day restraining order on any Reductions in Force, ruling that "the President may broadly restructure federal agencies only when authorized by Congress." A hearing is scheduled for May 22 to consider a longer-lasting preliminary injunction. (Editor note: *The Coalition to Protect America's National Parks* was one of the plaintiffs in the suit.) Source: [Reuters](#), [National](#)

[Parks Traveler](#), [Government Executive](#)

- *NPS grant programs on chopping block* - A *New York Times* [article](#) reported that a spreadsheet of grants “likely to be canceled” was developed by the Department of Government Efficiency recently, including the Scientists in Parks program, several grants focused on climate resiliency and watershed protection, a project to protect cultural resources at Louisiana State University, a grant to support a local park in Washington State to create modifications for children with disabilities, and a study to survey properties associated with LGBTQ+ history for possible nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. All of the grants listed for termination are related to “climate change/sustainability” and “D.E.I” (diversity, equity, and inclusion). Source: *New York Times*
- *NPS air quality monitoring suspended, then reversed* - The Department of the Interior issued stop-work orders to two contractors running their air quality monitoring program. However, NPS spokesperson Rachel Pawlitz later said the stop-work orders would be reversed and contractors notified immediately. Source: [Red Lake Nation News](#)
- *National Park Service Academy canceled* - *SF Gate* published [an article](#) about the cancelation of the 15-year-running National Park Service Academy, a partnership between the NPS and American Conservation Experience that supported individuals from marginalized backgrounds in entering the National Park Service. The program also provided valuable interns at parks across the country for three to four months. Source: *SF Gate*
- *Firefighter shortage* - *CBS News* published [an article](#) about the deficit in U.S. Forest Service workforce that will affect wildland firefighting this season. Many national forests have large vacancies due to incentivized retirement, the federal hiring freeze, and attrition due to the firing of probationary-status employees (many of whom found other employment before their jobs were hired back). The article points out that about “three quarters” of USFS personnel have their Red Card, which allows them to “provide crucial surge capacity” for wildland fires, so vacancies in non-firefighting positions will have effects on response. Source: *CBS News*
- *Jon Jarvis in the news* - *Inside Climate News* published [an interview](#) with former NPS Director Jon Jarvis about his experience in the role, climate impacts to parks, and the impacts of Executive Orders by the Trump Administration on the NPS. Jon Jarvis and Gary Machlis, former science adviser to the NPS Director, also wrote [an article](#) for *The Guardian* arguing that the Trump Administration’s actions are attempting to privatize the National Park System. Source: *Inside Climate News*, *The Guardian*
- *“Opportunities and challenges for building homes on federal lands”* - The National Association for Home Builders published [an article](#) with this title, outlining previous and ongoing efforts to privatize public land parcels for housing. Source: National Association of Home Builders

- *GIS for fossils* - Esri, the producer of ArcGIS mapping technology, published [an article](#) about how the NPS uses their mapping tools to catalog fossils across the National Park System. Source: *Esri*
- *New film about visiting national parks* - *Boise State Public Radio* published [an interview](#) with filmmaker Brendan Hall on the show “Idaho Matters” to talk about his film, *Out There: A National Parks Story*. It chronicles Brendan’s journey with friend Anthony Blake to visit the 63 national parks (in name rather than all NPS units). The film has been on tour since April 2023. Source: *Boise State Public Radio*

Around the Parks

Reports are in alphabetical order by park/program name.

- *Anacostia Park* - On May 6, the park released the Reimagine Anacostia Park Development Concept Plan, focused on the area of the park east of the Anacostia River between the 11th Street Bridge and the CSX railroad bridge. The park is working to finalize funding and construction is expected to begin in Summer 2026. Source: [Anacostia Park](#)
- *Appalachian National Scenic Trail* - *The Philadelphia Inquirer* published [an article](#) about the NPS’ intent to demolish two shelters along the trail in 2026, the 501 Shelter in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, and the Eckville Shelter in Berks County, Pennsylvania. Both shelters are considered “nonconforming infrastructure,” and “do not fall within modern NPS housing, volunteer, and visitor use policies.” Both shelters are maintained by the Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club. Source: [The Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- *Big Cypress National Preserve* - On May 8, the park published a press release honoring the efforts of park volunteers Ginny and Andy Skok, who have supported natural resource projects for the past two years. Among their accomplishments, they helped document the first known occurrence in North America of a particular fern. Source: [Big Cypress National Preserve](#)
- *Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area* - On May 6, the park began a rehabilitation project on the wooden stairs and ladders on the Twin Arches Loop Trail. Sections of the loop will be closed during the project, but continued access to Twin Arches via an out-and-back hike will be maintained. The project is expected to be complete by mid-June. Source: [Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area](#)
- *Blue Ridge Parkway* - The week of May 12, the park began a project to resurface 22 miles of the parkway between milepost 122 at US 220 to milepost 143 near Pine Spur. Delays and lane closures may be in place. Work is expected to be continue through September. Source: [Blue Ridge Parkway](#)
- *Bryce Canyon National Park* - In late May, the park and the Federal Highway Administration

will begin construction on the final 2.3-mile segment of a 22-mile shared use path from the park to Red Canyon on the Dixie National Forest. There may be some temporary delays on Bryce Point Spur Road while construction is underway. The project is expected to be complete in the fall. Source: [Bryce Canyon National Park](#)

- *Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park* - On May 5, the park began a project to rehabilitate Brotherton and Glenn-Viniard Roads in Chickamauga Battlefield. The project is expected to be complete at the end of October. Phased closures will be in place during the project, including for equestrians, pedestrians, and bicycles. Source: [Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park](#)
- *Fort Vancouver National Historic Site* - In April, the park installed “historically accurate reproduction carpet” in the Chief Factor’s House to replace worn and damaged carpet dating to the 1970s. The project was completed by the NPS and contractor Stark Carpet. The park will next work on replacing window and bed curtains with reproductions produced by volunteers in the park’s costume shop. Source: [National Park Service Office of Communications](#)
- *Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park* - On May 2, a reburial ceremony, hosted by the NPS and City of Fredericksburg with support from the Sons of Union Veterans and Missing in America Project, was held at the Fredericksburg National Cemetery. The ceremony honored human remains discovered by City of Fredericksburg staff in 2015 during the construction of Riverfront Park. An extensive excavation of the site revealed the remains of three Union soldiers, textiles, and artifacts from the Civil War. Source: [National Park Service Office of Communications](#)
- *Glacier National Park* - The *Flathead Beacon* published [an article](#) chronicling the colorful history of several of the park’s early backcountry rangers. Source: *Flathead Beacon*
- *Golden Gate National Recreation Area* - On May 4, President Donald Trump said on social media platform *Truth Social* that he is directing the Bureau of Prisons, the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Department of Homeland Security to “reopen a substantially enlarged and rebuilt Alcatraz, to house America’s most ruthless and violent offenders.” The prison on Alcatraz Island has been closed since 1963 because the prison was too expensive to continue to operate, costing three more times per prisoner to operate than other federal prisons. In 1972, the island became part of Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Source: [CBS News](#)
- *Grand Teton National Park* - The *Jackson Hole News and Guide* published [an article](#) about an August 2024 high school student project to sample lakes in the park for microplastics. They sampled eight lakes in the park over five days, finding microplastics in Two Ocean Lake and Lake Solitude. Samples in Jackson, Jenny, Taggart, Marion, Amphitheater, and Delta Lakes came back negative. Source: *Jackson Hole News and Guide*
- *Grand Teton National Park* - *Popular Science* published [an article](#) about efforts to keep

greater sage-grouse from colliding from aircraft at the Jackson Hole Airport by deploying papier-mâché sage-grouse decoys. The decoys were made through a collaboration between the NPS, Teton Raptor Center, Jackson Hole Middle School art students, and local artist Lori Solem. The park has deployed four of the decoys and has posted trail cameras to track their efficacy. Source: *Popular Science*

- *Great Smoky Mountains National Park* - On May 9, the park announced the reopening of the Cosby Area after the construction of a new culvert under Cosby Entrance Road. Single lane closures may be in place through June for ongoing road rehabilitation activities. The Cosby Campground and Picnic Area are currently closed and “will open when operational capacity allows.” The complete rehabilitation will include new pavement, two handicap accessible parking spaces, shoulder improvements, and new road signs. The project is being funded by recreation fee revenue and the Federal Lands Transportation Program. Source: [Great Smoky Mountains National Park](#)
- *Honouliuli National Historic Site* - The park recently published *Breaking the Silence*, a collection of essays and articles written by staff from the NPS, University of Hawai’i, and Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai’i. Source: [Honouliuli National Historic Site](#)
- *National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program* (an NPS-administered program) - On May 1, the NPS announced the addition of 31 sites in 13 states to the program. Source: [National Park Service Office of Communications](#)
- *Rock Creek Park* - On May 9, the NPS announced the transfer of the concession contract for the Rock Creek Park Horse Center from Guest Services, Inc., to Metropolitan Equestrian Team, Inc. The contract transfer will begin on May 21 and expire on December 31, 2028, per the original 10-year contract. Source: [Rock Creek Park](#)
- *Rocky Mountain National Park* - On May 12, the park announced a prospectus for six concession contracts for instruction and guided services for rock climbing and ice climbing. The contracts would run for 10 years, starting on January 1, 2026. Applications are due August 14. Source: [Rocky Mountain National Park](#)
- *Rocky Mountain National Park* - On May 12, the park announced a prospectus for the sale of bundled firewood at Moraine Park, Glacier Basin, Aspenglen, and Longs Peak campgrounds. The contract would run seven years, starting on January 1, 2026. Applications are due July 24. Source: [Rocky Mountain National Park](#)
- *Saguaro National Park* - The Trust for Public Land, with support from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Pima County (AZ), and the Southern Arizona Hiking Club, was able to purchase 47 acres that will be added to the western unit of the park. Source: [AZ Central](#)
- *Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument* - On May 2, the park published [a press release](#) honoring 15-year volunteer Donna Deiner, who organizes and catalogs the park’s library and research collections. Source: Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument

- *San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park* - In April, the *Balclutha*, *C.A. Thayer*, and *Eppleton Hall* ships were safely moored at Mare Island on the Napa River in Vallejo, California. The *Eureka* remains at Hyde Street Pier and will eventually move to Mare Island. The *Hercules* is undergoing maintenance at Bay Ship and Yacht in Alameda. The move was necessary for a major renovation project on Hyde Street Pier. Interpretive signage has been installed at Mare Island, and rangers will be on-site on weekends “and as staffing allows.” Source: San Francisco Maritime National Park Association May newsletter
- *Shenandoah National Park* - On May 8, the park announced the cancellation of a previously announced 15-year concession contract for lodging, food and beverage, campgrounds, and a variety of other services across the park. The cancellation is “because a revised financial analysis revealed a change to the value of the overall concession contract opportunity.” The current concessioner, Delaware North Parks and Resorts, has been provided a one-year extension on its current contract. A new solicitation will be announced in the future, with a future contract beginning on January 1, 2027. Source: [Shenandoah National Park](#)
- *Southeast Utah Group (Arches National Park, Canyonlands National Park, Hovenweep National Monument, Natural Bridges National Monument)* - *The Times-Independent* published [an article](#) about what could be lost if the lease is canceled for the parks’ headquarters in Moab, Utah. The building is on a list of federal leases currently under threat of cancellation for cost saving. Source: *The Times-Independent*
- *Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks* - On May 21, the parks will move to a fully cashless fee system. Passes may be purchased with cash from one of five local third-party vendors. Source: [Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks](#)
- *Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site* - On May 5, the George Washington Carver Museum, located on the campus of Tuskegee University, reopened to the public after restoration project. A ribbon cutting with interactive educational stations was held on May 5. Source: [Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site](#)
- *Yosemite National Park* - The week of May 11, the park released its 2025 seasonal reservation system for entry, requiring reservations between June 25 and August 15, and during Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends, between 6 AM and 2 PM. This is a marked difference from the park’s previous proposal to require reservations from Memorial Day to Labor Day from 5 AM to 4 PM, and additional weekend-only reservations in the shoulder months. Source: [National Parks Conservation Association](#)

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

- Larry Gene Allen, 78, passed away on May 11. Larry worked for the NPS at Smoky Mountains National Park for over 30 years. Source: [Atchley Funeral Home](#)
- 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](#)
- Joy Thompson passed away on April 17. Joy worked at North Cascades National Park for a time around the 1960s. Source: [Legacy/Skinner Funeral Home - Cumberland](#)

Retired

- Steven Fuller is retiring this month after 51 years as a “winter keeper” at Yellowstone National Park, responsible for snow removal on historic buildings. *SF Gate* published [an article](#) about his career. Source: *SF Gate*

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](#)
- *Deseret News* published [an article](#) about Steve “Tberry” Young and his adventures as an NPS ranger. Steve retired last year from his position as a Canyonlands National Park district ranger. Source: *Deseret News*

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.

- *Grand Teton National Park* - Public comment is [open through June 6](#) on a plan for improvements at Mormon Row, including a pedestrian and cycling-only zone, expanded parking lot, enhanced interpretation and wayfinding, vegetation restoration, and improved facilities. Source: [Grand Teton National Park](#)

- *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](#)
- *Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park* - Public comment is [open through May 30](#) on a King Family Home Site Plan. Source: [Atlanta News First](#)
- *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

- *18 short-term agreements for Colorado River* - On May 7, the Department of the Interior announced the execution of 18 short-term System Conservation Implementation agreements. These agreements will provide funding to Tribal, municipal, and agricultural water users in the Lower Colorado River Basin, totaling a savings of 321,000 acre-feet in Lake Mead storage through 2026. This will allow for the development of Post-2026 Colorado River Operating Guidelines. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *Proposed expansion for hunting and fishing* - On May 2, the Department of the Interior proposed the opening or expansion of hunting and sport fishing at 16 National Wildlife Refuge System station and one National Fish Hatchery System station, spread across the United States. The proposal will soon be published in the Federal Register and will be open for public comment. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *New mine fast-tracked for permits* - On May 12, the Department of the Interior announced the utilization of a newly-expedited permitting review process for the Velvet-Wood Mine on Bureau of Land Management lands in San Juan County, Utah. The process is utilizing

“emergency authorities under existing regulations for the National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and Endangered Species Act.” Source: [Department of the Interior](#)

- *Revision to BOEM regulatory framework* - On May 2, the Department of the Interior announced its intent to revise the Bureau of Energy Management’s Risk Management and Financial Assurance for Outer Continental Lease and Grant Obligations Rule, lessening the requirements for financial assurance of decommission liabilities. The rule is expected to be published soon in the Federal Register for public comment. 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 Actions

May 6: The Senate began consideration of H.J. Res. 60, providing for Congressional disapproval under Chapter 8 of Title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Park Service relating to “Glen Canyon National Recreation Area: Motor Vehicles.” During consideration of the measure, the Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution by a vote of 53 yeas to 47 nays.

Author’s Note: The rule that the National Park Service had proposed and finalized in January 2025 would prohibit the use of Off-Road Vehicles and street-legal all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) on approximately 24 miles of park roads. The rule did not affect the additional 388 miles of park roads that remain within Glen Canyon with opportunities for a diverse collection of motorized and non-motorized recreation forms.

May 8: The Senate passed H.J. Res. 60 (see above), by a vote of 50 yeas to 43 nays.

House of Representative Actions

April 28:

The Committee on Rules held a hearing on a number of measures including H.J. Res. 60 (see above). The Committee granted, by voice vote, a rule providing for consideration of H.J. Res. 60.

The House filed a report on H. Res. 354, providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 60 - see above).

April 29: The House passed H.J. Res. 60 (see above) by a yea-and-nay vote of 219 yeas to 205 nays.

Incidents

Listed alphabetically by park.

Arches National Park

Hiker fatality

On May 6, a 77-year-old took a fall while hiking on The Windows Loop trail. Bystanders called for emergency response and initiated CPR. Personnel from the NPS, Grand County (UT) Sheriff's Department, Grand County EMS, and Classic Air Medical responded to the scene. Resuscitation efforts were unsuccessful and the individual was pronounced deceased at the scene. Source:

[Arches National Park](#)

Bryce Canyon National Park

2 people die in fall, cat survives

On the evening of April 28 or morning of April 29, a 45-year-old and 58-year-old crossed over safety railings at Inspiration Point and fell about 380 feet. The two individuals likely died due to injuries sustained in the fall. A local visitor observed their deceased bodies on April 29. A 12-year-old cat was found alive in a soft carrier case next to their bodies. "Preliminary investigations have not been able to definitively determine the cause of the fall," though conditions were "slick and wet from snow." The cat was taken to Pawz Dogs boarding facility in Panguitch, Utah, then transferred to Best Friends Animal Society in Kanab. Vets said the individual was "matted and sore but alert, friendly, and able to eat and drink on her own." X-rays were pending to see if the cat suffered broken bones or internal injuries. Agencies involved in the recovery and rescue were the NPS, Garfield County (UT) Sheriff's Office, and the Utah Department of Public Safety. Source: [KUTV \(4/29, 5/1\)](#), [KSL](#)

Canyonlands National Park

Motorcycle fatality

On May 8, a 71-year-old motorcyclist got into an accident at the entrance of the Island in the Sky district of the park. Personnel from the NPS, San Juan County (UT) Sheriff's Department, and Utah Highway Patrol responded. Resuscitation efforts were unsuccessful and the individual was pronounced deceased at the scene. Source: [Canyonlands National Park](#)

Cape Hatteras National Seashore

Trespassing

Between the evening of May 5 and the morning of May 6, a person or group forcibly entered the Bodie Island Lighthouse. The park is looking for any information the public can provide. Source:

[Cape Hatteras National Seashore](#)

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park

Theft

On May 4, two individuals removed three bronze plaques valued at \$18,000 from the Sherman Reservation. The individuals and their vehicle were observed [likely on camera due to the details given, but the press release is not specific], and the NPS is looking for any information the public can provide. Source: [Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park](#)

Delaware Water Gap

High water

On May 9, the park announced the closure of the Delaware River and all access points within the park due to high water levels. It will reopen after the river crests and falls below 15 feet at the Montague, New Jersey, gauge. Source: [Tri-County Independent](#)

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area

Officer-involved shooting

On May 3, the Kane County (UT) Sheriff's Office sent an alert for "potentially dangerous suspect" traveling on Highway 89. NPS law enforcement officers attempted to stop the vehicle near the Lone Rock Beach Campground road junction. The subject drove their vehicle into a patrol vehicle at the junction. The officers fired shots in response, and the driver was taken into custody. The suspect was treated for "noncritical injuries" at the Page (AZ) Hospital. No officers sustained serious injuries. The incident is being investigated by Kane County, the NPS, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Source: [KSL](#), [Glen Canyon National Recreation Area](#)

Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Individual dies after attempting dog rescue

On May 8, an individual jumped into the water at Ocean Beach to try to save their dog. Two bystanders saw the individual struggling in the water and pulled them out of the ocean. A crew from the NPS ocean rescue team and local fire departments responded and began performing CPR. The individual was taken to the hospital in critical condition, then later passed away. The dog made it to the beach independently without serious injury. Source: [Los Angeles Times](#)

Grand Teton National Park

Grizzly bear hit by vehicle

On May 6, the grizzly bear known as GB1058, a 5-year-old male bear, was found deceased along Highway 26 east of the Buffalo Fork River. NPS and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel performed an investigation, which indicated the bear was hit by a vehicle and wandered about 125 yards from the road before dying of its injuries. Source: [Grand Teton National Park](#)

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Hiker rescue

On May 8, a hiker broke their leg several miles into the Alum Cave Trail on Mount Le Conte, and called for help. Two NPS rangers responded to the scene and stabilized the individual. They transported the individual to the Lodge at Mount LeConte, and due to inclement weather, sheltered overnight at the lodge. At first light, a larger rescue crew, comprised of NPS and Tennessee Highway Patrol personnel, hiked six miles in, placed the individual on a rescue litter, and transported them to the trailhead. The individual was then transported by ambulance to LeConte Medical Center in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Source: [Fox Weather](#)

North Cascades National Park

Climbing fatalities

On May 11, a group of four was rappelling down a gully during a climb on the North Early Winters Spire when an anchor failed. Three of the four individuals, ages 36, 47, and 63, died in the accident. The fourth individual survived and called for emergency help. The individuals' bodies were recovered that day. Personnel from Okanogan County (WA) Sheriff's Office and the NPS supported the incident. Source: [NBC News](#)

Ozark National Scenic Riverways

Jurisdiction battle between county and NPS

On May 12, the NPS released an 18-minute "community briefing" containing body worn camera footage from a March 20, 2025, traffic stop just outside the park, conducted by NPS law enforcement officers. The briefing was released because "it generated a high level of interest by local law enforcement and the neighboring community" due to its location outside of the park. The rangers observed a vehicle with an expired registration and non-functioning brake light while patrolling within the park. The officers waited to stop the vehicle until outside the park boundary due to a lack of safe stopping locations and other vehicle traffic. The driver was given two verbal warnings and no citations were issued. A sheriff's deputy arrived on scene, questioned the NPS law enforcement rangers as to why they stopped a vehicle outside the park, and conducted a call with the Shannon County (MO) Prosecutor and Sheriff regarding the "potential for arrest related to traffic stops made outside of park jurisdiction." Later that day, while on patrol in an area south of the traffic stop, a supervisory NPS law enforcement officer was pulled over by a Shannon County deputy, asking who the officers were that made the traffic stop and saying that there is no jurisdiction for the federal officers to make the traffic stop. The NPS officer argued that federal officers have the authority to follow vehicles to a safe location outside the park after observing a violation. The incident is under review by the NPS, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Missouri, and the Shannon County Prosecutor's Office. Source: [Ozark National Scenic Riverways](#)

Yellowstone National Park

Bison goring

On May 4, a 47-year-old approached and was gored by a bison in the Lake Village area of the park. The individual sustained "minor injuries" and was treated by emergency medical personnel. Source: [Yellowstone National Park](#)

Follow-ups on Previously Reported Incidents

- *Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site* - On May 24, the park will reopen ranger-led tours of the fort. The fort has been closed since December 2024, when a major snow event destabilized the building (see [12/26/24 Coalition Report](#)). The park has stabilized the structure and monitoring and further stabilization efforts are ongoing. Source: [Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site](#)
- *Olympic National Park* - On May 8, the Upper Hoh Road reopened for the first time since it washed out due to storms in December 2024 (see [12/26/24 Coalition Report](#)). Funding for the \$650,000 repair was provided from the Economic Development Strategic Reserve Account (\$623,000) and private donations (\$27,000). Source: [The Bellingham Herald](#)
- *Olympic National Park* - *The Seattle Times* published [an article](#) about the status of the Hurricane Ridge Day Lodge, which burned down in a fire in May 2023 (see [1/24/24](#) and [5/10/23 Coalition Reports](#)). The project has been delayed by fluctuations in funding earmarks and changes to administration priorities. Source: *The Seattle Times*

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- Regular Correspondent: Chris Soller
- Issue Contributors: Larry Perez, Bill Walters

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

report@protectnps.org.

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The Coalition is a non-profit organization of past and current NPS employees and their allies that "studies, educates, speaks, and acts for the preservation and protection of the National Park System and mission-related programs of the National Park Service."

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