



The Coalition Report

Wednesday, May 28, 2025

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



Coalition Actions

On May 22, a federal judge [issued a preliminary injunction](#) blocking the Trump Administration's unlawful reorganization of the federal government while the case proceeds through the judicial system. The Coalition to Protect America's National Parks was part of a group of unions, local governments, and non-profits involved in the lawsuit.

We submitted [comments](#) to the Departments of the Interior and Commerce opposing the rescission of the definition of "harm" under the Endangered Species Act, arguing it would set back decades of recovery work, habitat restoration, and protection of endangered species.

The Coalition submitted [a letter](#) to House of Representatives leaders in opposition to oil and gas provisions in the budget reconciliation bill, including mandatory lease sales, reductions to the royalty rate, noncompetitive leasing, imposing arbitrary fees to file formal protests, cutting the public out of the permitting process, and other actions.

We also submitted [a letter](#) to Congressional members leading Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittees in the House and Senate supporting full funding for National Heritage Areas.

The Coalition joined three other conservation organizations in [protesting](#) all 16 parcels listed in the Bureau of Land Management New Mexico Office 2025 Third Quarter Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale. We also submitted [comments](#) on the Wyoming Office's 2025 Third Quarter Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale, acknowledging the deferment or deletion of 14 parcels and urging the agency to comply with the Fluid Mineral Leases and Leasing Process Rule.

We joined five other conservation groups in submitting [comments](#) opposing the Environmental Protection Agency's proposal to approve West Virginia's Regional Haze State Implementation Plan for the second planning period.

The Coalition published [a press release](#) calling attention to how cuts to public lands will impact Californians, including maintenance of basic visitor services and slow emergency response times.

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.

- *Mandate to crowdsource revising history* - On May 20, Interior Secretary Doug Burgum issued Secretarial Order 3431, ordering all Interior lands to publicly post, ""(Property Name) belongs to the American people, and (name of land management bureau) wants your feedback. Please let us know if you have identified (1) any areas of the (park/area, etc. as appropriate) that need repair; (2) any services that need improvement; or (3) any signs or other information that are negative about either past or living Americans or that fail to emphasize the beauty, grandeur, and abundance of landscapes and other natural features." The order is an implementation of President Donald Trump's Executive Order titled, "Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History." Source: [National Parks Conservation Association](#)
- *Burgum grilled on cuts to NPS and efforts to hand parks to states* - On May 21, at a Senate Appropriations Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on the Fiscal Year 2026 budget request, Interior Secretary Doug Burgum was asked questions by senators of both parties that questioned the efficacy of cutting NPS budgets and handing some parks over to state control as a savings measure. Secretary Burgum stated that the the Department of the Interior would transfer parks to states on a "case by case, state by state" basis, and called out Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site as an example of a park that receives few visitors, mostly locals, but receiving federal funding. Source: [MSN](#)
- *No Green Book* - Within the proposed budget for National Park Service operations, the details of funding allocations, park by park, known as the "Green Book," have not been released in accordance with standard budgeting procedures. This has led some to speculate that the Department of the Interior may move funding around to shutter regional offices, national initiatives, and smaller parks. Interior Secretary Doug Burgum acknowledged that the Office of Management and Budget is preventing the release of a spending plan for the NPS. Source: [National Parks Traveler](#)
- *Plan to merge wildland firefighting* - The Associated Press published [an article](#) about a provision in the budget reconciliation bill that would centralize wildland firefighting into a

single Federal Wildland Fire Service under the Department of the Interior. Currently, wildland firefighting on federal lands is split among five agencies and two Departments. Critics of the plan argue that separating wildland firefighting from agency objectives would result in an over-focus on wildfire control rather than prevention, mitigation, and resource protection. Source: *Montana Free Press/Associated Press*

- *Joint memo on wildfire preparedness* - On May 20, the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture signed a joint memo on wildfire preparedness to increase interagency coordination across both departments, state, local, and Tribal entities. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *Oil and gas leases near national park sites* - *E&E News* published [an article](#) about the efforts of the Trump Administration to open up lands adjacent to NPS sites and inside national monuments managed by other federal agencies for oil and gas leasing, and the complexity of whether or not corporations will actually bid on those parcels. Source: *E&E News*
- *Single-use plastics ban rescinded* - On May 20, Interior Secretary Doug Burgum issued Secretary's Order 3407 rescinding the 2022 policy to phase out single-use plastic products and packaging by 2032. This order is in alignment with President Donald Trump's Executive Order titled "Ending Procurement and Forced Use of Paper Straws." Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *Friends Groups supporting parks during turmoil* - *The Denver Post* published [an article](#) about national park Friends Groups and the challenges they face in supporting parks during unprecedented budget cuts and staffing challenges. Source: *The Denver Post*
- *3 national park lodges "with uncertain futures"* - *National Parks Traveler* published [an article](#) about Bluffs Lodge on the Blue Ridge Parkway, which has not had an operator since 2011; the Chateau at Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve, which has been closed since significant structural issues were found during a 2018 restoration; and the Kettle Falls Hotel at Voyageurs National Park, which remains open through 2026, but had no proposals to operate the hotel when a prospectus was opened in 2023, and was recently opened for expressions of interest for alternative uses. Source: [National Parks Traveler](#)
- *Busiest hiking trails in U.S.* - *Travel + Leisure* published [an article](#) utilizing data from the hiking app, *AllTrails*, that identifies the "top five busiest hiking trails of 2024." These include Avalanche Lake in Glacier National Park (#1), Delicate Arch Trail in Arches National Park (#2), the Skyline Loop in Mount Rainier National Park (#4), and the Navajo Loop and Queens Garden Trail in Bryce Canyon National Park (#5). Source: *Travel + Leisure*

Around the Parks

Reports are in alphabetical order by park/program name.

- *Acadia National Park* - The park recently completed restoration projects on the Ocean Path and Beech Mountain Trail. Ocean Path washed out in late winter from a storm surge. Funding for that project came from “federal park dollars” and from Friends of Acadia. The Beech Mountain Trail restoration was the culmination of a two-year project to address erosion, with funding from park entrance fees. Source: [Mount Desert Islander](#)
- *Appalachian National Scenic Trail, Great Smoky Mountains National Park* - *Smoky Mountain News* published [an article](#) about a project that brought 80 locust logs by helicopter to the intersection of the Appalachian Trail and Boulevard Trail near the Icewater Spring Shelter, for use in trail stabilization. The operation was supported by two Smoky Mountains Hiking Club volunteers and two Appalachian Trail Conservancy employees, who staged in the area for three days before conditions were right to receive the logs. The project was also supported by the Carolina Mountain Club, whose members debarked the logs, in alignment with the park’s mandate to prevent the introduction of invasive species. SMHC received \$6,200 in funding from the ATC’s Tennessee license plate program, and the LeConte Lodge allowed the drops to be added to their annual airlift operation for non-perishable supplies, significantly reducing overhead costs. The operations took place in March, and SMHC volunteers have been slowly installing logs along the trail. Source: *Smoky Mountain News*
- *Denali National Park and Preserve* - The NPS recently published an article demonstrating a variety of studies ongoing in the park to balance wildlife viewing with conservation efforts. Source: [National Park Service Office of Communications](#)
- *Fort Scott National Historic Site* - On May 23, the park debuted the first-ever augmented reality experience of historic structures in an NPS unit, via the NPS app. The project was completed in partnership with GuideOne Mobile. Source: [Fort Scott National Historic Site](#)
- *Gateway National Recreation Area* - The *Asbury Park Press* published [an article](#) about the Sandlass House, a building dating to 1893 in the Sandy Hook unit of the park. The NPS has plans to demolish the building after investigating the costs of renovation, historic significance, and the likelihood of future storm damage. On May 9, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy wrote a letter to park leadership asking for the structure to be spared and instead leasing it to a private investor. Several other local public officials have also voiced support for the building coming under a lease. Source: *Asbury Park Press*
- *Glacier National Park* - On May 23, the NPS issued a prospectus for a concession providing backcountry lodging, food and beverage, and other services at Granite Park and Sperry Chalets. The 10-year contract would begin on January 1, 2026. Applications are due on August 12. Source: [Glacier National Park](#)
- *Glen Canyon National Recreation Area* - *Fox13* published [an article](#) about the poor upkeep of the Wahweap Marina by current concessioner Aramark. The concession has not come up for bid since 1969; Aramark took over in 1989 after purchasing the company that held the contract. Superintendent Michelle Kerns stated that new requests for bids are in the

works, though it is unclear when they will be issued. Aramark stated that they have a commitment to high standards that “ensures a memorable experience for all.” Source: *FOX13*

- *Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Grand Canyon National Park* - On May 22, the Bureau of Reclamation announced that it will not approve a spring flood through the Grand Canyon by releasing water from the Glen Canyon Dam due to an NPS-contracted project to eradicate non-native fish spawning just below the dam. The Grand Canyon Protection Act of 1992 requires some flood releases to restore ecological function downstream, and some critics are weighing whether this is contradictory to the act. Source: [Newsweek](#)
- *Great Basin National Park* - On May 19, the park closed Lower Lehman Creek Campground for a major renovation and expansion project, including RV capacity, accessibility improvements, and upgrades to sites. The \$3.7 million project is being funded by the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act. It is expected to be complete in late Fall 2025. Source: [Great Basin National Park](#)
- *Gulf Islands National Seashore* - 96 acres of private inholdings on Horn Island are currently up for sale. The island is part of the park’s designated wilderness. Though there currently are no developments on the island, there are “multiple parcels of land on the island that are privately owned.” The realty listing for the 16 parcels up for sale calls it “ideal for investors, developers, or visionaries looking to create a luxury retreat, eco-resort, or secure a legacy asset.” It is listed at \$25 million. Source: [Clarion Ledger](#)
- *Lake Mead National Recreation Area* - On June 2, the park will extend the launch ramp at Hemenway Harbor to 1,000 feet of elevation to maintain recreation and concession services during low water levels. The lake currently sits at 1,058 feet and could reach a record low this summer (below 1,040 feet). Source: [Fox5Vegas](#)
- *Mount Rainier National Park* - The park announced that it will scale its day-use reservation system this year to only include the White River Entrance Station, on weekends and holidays from July 11 to mid-October. Reservations opened on May 16. Source: [SFGate](#)
- *National Historic Landmarks Program* (an NPS-administered program) - On May 22, the Quindaro Townsite in Kansas City, Kansas, once a stop on the Underground Railroad, received National Historic Landmark status. Source: [KCUR](#)
- *Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act* - *My Journal Courier* and *Capitol News Illinois* published [an article](#) about efforts underway to return remains and funerary objects from the Illinois State Museum, Dickson Mounds Museum, the Center for American Archeology, and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign to Tribal entities. Source: *My Journal Courier/Capitol News Illinois*
- *Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve* - On May 7, the National Trust for Historic Preservation released its 2025 list of “most endangered historic places,” including the

Chateau at Oregon Caves. The Chateau has been closed since 2018 due to significant structural issues uncovered during a renovation (also see article in “National/Regional NPS Updates” above). Source: [National Trust for Historic Preservation](#)

- *Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park* - The City of Paterson has entered into a Cooperative Management Agreement with the park to rehabilitate the pathways and pedestrian bridges of Upper Raceway Park, a city-owned property within the park boundaries. The \$1.5 million project is being funded by NPS dollars, matched by the value of Overlook Park, a city-owned property donated to the NPS in 2022. Source: [TAP into Paterson](#)
- *Perry’s Victory and International Peace Memorial* - On May 15, the park announced the award of a contract to restore many aspects of the memorial, including rehabilitation of the upper and lower plaza areas, structural fixes, accessibility improvements, and restroom renovations. The “\$20+ million project” is being funded by the Great American Outdoors Act. The project is expected to begin in Summer 2025, with a first phase of structural assessment. Construction is expected to begin in March 2026 and continue through November 2027. During that time, the memorial and observation deck will be closed to the public. Source: [Perry’s Victory and International Peace Memorial](#)
- *Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument* - From May 19-22, park staff conducted a Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) and Photogrammetry Assessment of the Church and Convento to identify structurally vulnerable areas of the buildings. Temporary closures were in place during the assessment and have since been lifted. Source: [Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument](#)
- *Steamtown National Historic Site* - The park recently honored the contributions of volunteer Jack D’Apice and park preservation specialist John Bibalo in restoring the Empire Refineries, Inc., No. 4525 oil car and the Bullard No. 2 engine. Source: [National Park Service Office of Communications](#)
- *Yosemite National Park* - The backcountry High Sierra Camps will not open in 2025 because “the utilities which support [them] - potable water and toilets - will not be available.” Source: [Aramark: Yosemite National Park](#)
- *Yosemite National Park* - New research published in *Biological Conservation* by scientists from the University of California - Davis, NPS, and U.S. Geological Survey shows that invasive American bullfrogs have negatively impacted Northwestern pond turtles in the park. Source: [National Parks Traveler](#)

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

- Janet Rhees Ellis, 92, passed away on May 11. Janet “spent five summers working at the Grand Canyon National Park, where she was a member of performing groups.” Source: [Standard-Examiner](#)
- F. Eugene “Gene” Malcolm, 86, passed away on May 13. Gene worked as a payroll clerk at Yellowstone National Park for a time. Source: [Wheelan-Pressly Family of Funeral Homes](#)
- Lea McGovern, 97, passed away on April 10. Lea volunteered for some time for the NPS during her retirement. Source: [The News-Gazette](#)
- Jeffrey Wayne Olson, 57, passed away on April 6. Jeffrey worked for the NPS for many years, including stints in Yosemite National Park, Everglades National Park, and Grand Canyon National Park. Source: [Legacy](#)
- Nancy Stone, 83, passed away on May 15. Nancy worked for the NPS for about 35, years, including time at Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the Pacific West Regional Office Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, and as superintendent at Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site before retiring in 2008. Source: Marti Leicester, Phil Francis, [Harris-Hanlon Mortuary](#)
- Cedric Tally, 42, passed away on May 15. At his time of passing, Cedric was a member of the creative media branch at Grand Canyon National Park. He did previous work at Great Smoky Mountains National Park and other parks, and some of his previous roles included maintenance, concessions manager, and Youth Conservation Corps leader and supervisor. Source: Jan Balsom

Retired

- Jeremy Barnum retired from the NPS after 10 years of service, most recently as the chief of staff at Grand Teton National Park. He has taken the position of chief communications officer at the Jackson Hole Airport. Source: [Jackson Hole News and Guide](#)
- Anjna O’Connor retired after 35 years of federal service, most recently as superintendent at Big Bend National Park. Source: [MSN](#)

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.

- *Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Curecanti National Recreation Area* - Public comment is [open through June 27](#) on a grazing management plan for the two jointly-managed parks. Source: [Curecanti National Recreation Area](#)

- *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](#)
- *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](#)
- *Petersburg National Battlefield* - Public comment is [open through June 18](#) on a draft programmatic agreement for the second phase of a bluff stabilization project at Grant’s Headquarters in the City Point unit, including the protection of archaeological resources and the cultural landscape. Source: [Petersburg National Battlefield](#)

Other Department of the Interior News

- *Public lands sale removed from budget bill* - Late on May 21, the House of Representatives released a list of revisions to the budget reconciliation bill, including striking the section calling for the sale of 500,000 acres of public land in Nevada and Utah. Representative Ryan Zinke (R-MT), who was formerly the Secretary of the Interior, led the push to remove the provision from the bill. The House of Representatives passed a reconciliation bill that did not include the sale provision on May 22 by a vote of 215 to 214. The bill is now at the Senate for consideration. Source: [SFGate](#)
- *Judge rules Joshua trees need consideration under ESA* - On May 12, a federal judge ruled in favor of WildEarth Guardians in their assertion that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service failed to properly use climate change data in an analysis that denied giving Joshua trees protections under the Endangered Species Act. The USFWS has been mandated to reconsider the species for protections with a more scientific analysis. Source: [ABC News](#)
- *Confusion over authority and staffing at BLM* - On May 2, a memo was signed by Stephanie Holmes, the Department of the Interior’s acting chief human capital officer and former Department of Government Efficiency staffer, ordering most Bureau of Land Management staff to stop doing details filling in for vacant positions and return to their official positions by May 18. BLM Deputy Director for Administration and Programs Michael Nedd then instructed staff to ignore the memo, arguing it would result in fewer positions being filled. Source: [Politico](#)
- *Proposed renewable energy rule rescission* - On May 14, the Department of the Interior announced the proposed rescission of a rule that gave rate reductions for renewable energy development over other energy sources on Bureau of Land Management lands. In

the announcement, Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum stated, “Eliminating the Biden Administration’s preferential treatment of unaffordable, unreliable ‘intermittent’ projects and dismantling excessive, one-sided restrictions on traditional energy sources like oil, gas, and critical minerals, will unlock the full potential of America’s natural resources.” The rule is currently under review by the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs and will eventually be published in the Federal Register for public comment. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)

- *Crowd-sourced deregulation* - On May 16, the Department of the Interior announced the launch of a public comment period of “at least 30 days” “to identify outdated, overly complex, or burdensome regulations. The effort aims to lower costs, boost economic growth, and support energy independence - while ensuring that Interior continues to meet its legal and environmental responsibilities.” Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *UT mine approved* - On May 23, the Department of the Interior announced the approval of the Velvet-Wood uranium and vanadium mine on Bureau of Land Management lands in San Juan County, Utah. It is the first mining project approved under the Trump Administration’s 14-day environmental review process. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *BSEE to decommission oil platforms in marine sanctuary* - On May 22, the Department of the Interior announced that the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement will be the lead federal agency for the decommissioning of oil and gas platforms within the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *USGS assessment of “undiscovered” oil and gas in intermountain region* - On May 21, the Department of the Interior announced that the U.S. Geological Survey has released a new assessment “identifying significant undiscovered, technically recoverable oil and gas resources” in Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *American Samoa offshore lease proposed* - On May 20, the Department of the Interior announced the beginning of an evaluation of “a potential mineral lease sale in the waters offshore American Samoa.” The investigation is in response to a formal request by Impossible Metals to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management for a lease sale. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)

Incidents

Listed alphabetically by park.

Baltimore-Washington Parkway

Arrest for fatal car accident

On April 18, two vehicles collided on the parkway, south of Route 197. Four individuals were hurt and two minors passed away from the accident. On May 22, a 24-year-old was arrested and charged with involuntary manslaughter for their role in the accident. Source: [U.S. Park Police](#), [DC](#)

[News Now](#)**Canaveral National Seashore****Water rescue**

On April 27, the National Weather Service issued a red flag warning for rip currents and rough surf for the Canaveral area. Later that day a 17-year-old began to struggle offshore of Playalinda Beach. A bystander called 911, and two NPS law enforcement rangers that were already on patrol on a UTV on the beach, began to respond. While en route, they received word of a second individual that entered the water to attempt a rescue that was now struggling. The two rangers were able to assist the unresponsive 17-year-old out of the water, and began to perform CPR. After two minutes of CPR, the 17-year-old began breathing on their own. The officers also treated the second patient, “who was also suffering injuries from drowning.” Paramedics arrived on scene about 20 minutes later. Both patients were transported to the hospital and made a full recovery. On May 15, the park released a community briefing, including footage from one officer’s bodycam. Source: [Canaveral National Seashore](#)

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail**Multiple water rescues**

Between May 14-15, “at least five rescues” were made on the Potomac River due to “days of relentless rain,” creating major flood conditions. In one instance, a hiker became stranded on the pedestrian bridge at Harpers Ferry. On May 17, two people were found “clinging to a tree in the middle of the Potomac River, near the edge of a waterfall” near Riley’s Lock. They were rescued by local swift water rescue teams. Source: [WUSA9](#), [Miami Herald](#)

Death Valley National Park**Semi-truck crash**

On May 20, a semi-truck crashed into the historic former ranger station at Emigrant Junction, “likely caused by a brake malfunction.” The driver passed away in the accident. The wreckage blocked Highway 190, requiring the closure from Stovepipe Wells to Towne Pass for 22 hours. Sodium sulfate and diesel fuel contaminated the area and a hazmat team cleaned up the spill. Two stone columns, the roof, and windows of the historic building were damaged. The building was not in use, but is maintained for historical purposes. The incident was supported by the NPS, Caltrans, California Highway Patrol, Inyo County (CA) Coroner, and Ten West Towing. Eight other heavy vehicles have had brakes overheat on Towne Pass since 2024. Source: [Death Valley National Park](#)

George Washington Memorial Parkway**Storm**

On May 16, a “severe storm” caused tree damage along the parkway, with “extensive damage south of Alexandria.” This resulted in the closure of a 2.5-mile stretch of the parkway between

Belle View Boulevard and Alexandria Avenue. With the support of contractors, NPS staff removed over 50 trees, and the road was reopened on May 21. Source: [George Washington Memorial Parkway](#)

Grand Canyon National Park

Hiker fatality

On May 15, a 74-year-old became unresponsive while hiking from the South Rim to the North Rim, about a half-mile from the North Kaibab Trailhead. Emergency response was requested, and both bystanders and NPS personnel attempted to resuscitate the individual. Efforts at resuscitation were unsuccessful and the individual was pronounced deceased at the scene. The individual's cause of death is under investigation by the Coconino County (AZ) Medical Examiner's Office. Source: [Grand Canyon National Park](#), [AZFamily.com](#)

Grand Teton National Park

Deceased grizzly yearlings

On May 13, park staff discovered two deceased yearling grizzly bears in a closed area south of Colter Bay. The bears were found 250 yards apart, and "both showed signs of being preyed upon by a larger grizzly bear." Park staff conducted "extensive patrols" of the greater area to monitor bear activity. They observed a mother bear known as GB1063 that had previously been seen with three yearling cubs, was now ranging alone. Park staff believe "it is likely that a male grizzly bear in the area led to the separation of the yearlings from GB1063 and was responsible for the predation." There have been no observations yet of the third cub. Source: [Grand Teton National Park](#)

Gulf Islands National Seashore

Heavy debris

Due to floods on the Mississippi River and winter storms, the south beach of Ship Island was covered in an "appreciable volume" of woody debris, resulting in challenges for concessioner Ship Island Excursions to run its ferry service. On May 16, the NPS held a clean-up to remove debris from the beach. Source: [yahoo!news](#)

Indiana Dunes National Park

Child water rescue

On May 15, a six-year-old was sitting on a kayak when it drifted about 200 yards from shore due to a strong wind. Emergency response was requested, and while they responded, the individual fell off the kayak into the water. They were not wearing a life jacket. Personnel from Porter (IN) Police and Fire responded and were preparing to enter the water when two bystanders on wave runners lifted the child out of the water and brought them to shore. The child "and the child's father, who had also been in the water" were evaluated by Northwest Health EMS personnel. Neither sustained injuries in the incident. Source: [WIMS](#)

National Capital Region

Unhoused people removed

Between April and May, the NPS cleared 34 encampments of unhoused individuals across Washington, D.C., in accordance with President Donald Trump's Executive Order called "Making the District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful." Source: [WJLA](#)

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore

Boat rescue

On May 16, a "small recreational vessel" began taking on water on Lake Superior north of Grand Marais, off the coast of the park. The individuals aboard called for emergency response. Crews from U.S. Coast Guard and NPS responded with rescue boats, with navigational support from a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter. The rescue boats transferred all four passengers off the distressed vessel and towed it to shore. Source: [mLive](#)

Shenandoah National Park

Heavy rain event

On May 20, the NPS issued temporary closures to many trails and park areas due to heavy storms. As of May 27, Skyland Horse Trail, the Appalachian Connector Trail near Hawksbill Gap parking area, and Old Rag Parking Area remained closed for assessment and repair, with more significant rainfall predicted in the coming days. Source: Shenandoah National Park ([5/20/25](#), [5/23/25](#), [5/27/25](#))

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

Winds undercut structure

On May 22, the park announced winter storm winds shifted sand so that the western pilings of the viewing platform for the Lake Michigan Overlook on Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive were no longer on solid ground. Due to the loss of structural integrity, the platform was removed. Source: [Lansing State Journal](#)

Yellowstone National Park

Habituated bear euthanized

Between April 3 and May 13, an 11-year-old grizzly bear overturned several large bear-resistant dumpsters, uprooted smaller bear-resistant trash cans from their concrete bases, and obtained food near Old Faithful, the Nez Perce Picnic Area, and the Midway Geyser Basin Parking Lot. On May 14, park staff trapped and euthanized the bear. It is the first grizzly killed in a management action in the park since September 2017. Source: [Yellowstone National Park](#)

Yellowstone National Park

Assault on employee

On September 18, 2024, two park employees involved in traffic control for a construction project near Canyon Junction observed a vehicle approaching the intersection while driving the wrong way down the road to bypass the traffic. The two employees brought the vehicle to a stop - one stood in front of the vehicle with a stop sign while the other told the 67-year-old driver that they would need to back up. The driver accelerated, driving into the employee, pushing them backward before they were able to jump out of the way. The car drove away. Law enforcement responded to the scene, then later stopped and arrested the driver. On May 21, the individual was convicted for assaulting a federal employee with a dangerous weapon. Sentencing will take place on August 7. Source: [KTVZ](#)

Follow-ups on Previously Reported Incidents

- *Gateway National Recreation Area* - Due to ongoing erosion along the eastern shoreline of the beach at Jacob Riis Park (see [5/29/24 Coalition Report](#)), Bays 1 and 4 will remain closed due to unsafe conditions. In 2025, the Army Corps of Engineers will conduct an analysis to address erosion and stabilize the beach. Source: [Gateway National Recreation Area](#)
- *Glen Canyon National Recreation Area* - On May 22, the NPS released bodycam footage from the officer-involved shooting on May 3 (see [5/14/25 Coalition Report](#)). The incident is still under investigation by the Iron Garfield Beaver Kane Critical Incident Task Force, Utah Department of Public Safety State Bureau of Investigations, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the NPS Investigative Services Branch. Source: [Glen Canyon National Recreation Area](#)
- *Grand Teton National Park* - The *Jackson Hole News and Guide* published [an article](#) about court arguments that took place on May 20 regarding a trail runner's decision to cut a trail switchback while attempting a highly publicized speed record for the ascent and descent of the Grand Teton in September 2024 (see [10/30/24 Coalition Report](#)). The trial concluded on May 21, and the federal judge will review exhibits and arguments before issuing a ruling. Source: *Jackson Hole News and Guide*, [WyoFile](#)
- *Lake Mead National Recreation Area* - On May 14, the Clark County (NV) Coroner's Office announced that the 56-year-old who was found deceased in April near the Boulder Islands (see [4/16/25](#) and [4/30/25 Coalition Reports](#)) died by suicide. The individual, who was a veterinarian, was filmed kicking a horse in a video that later went viral on social media. Source: [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#)
- *National Park Service* - On April 1, the Department of the Interior settled with the Glacier Ranger Riders minor league baseball team over its use of branding resembling NPS imagery (see [5/1/24 Coalition Report](#)). The parties did not disclose the specifics of the settlement, though the communications director for the team said, "the case was resolved with prejudice in our favor, meaning that our use of the arrowhead shape does not imply any affiliation with the National Park Service." Source: [Daily Montanan](#)

Corrections

In the 5/14/25 *Coalition Report*, we mistakenly reported that a climbing accident on North Early Winters Spire occurred in North Cascades National Park. Though the spire is in the northern Cascades mountain range, it is on U.S. Forest Service land outside the park. NPS staff were not involved in the rescue. Thank you to Eric Burr for bringing this to our attention.

Acknowledgments

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- Editor: Katie Wallace
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- Regular Correspondent: Chris Soller
- Issue Contributors: Jan Balsom, Eric Burr, Teresa Ford, Phil Francis, Mike Murray, 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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