



The Coalition Report

Wednesday, October 1, 2025

The federal government has [shut down](#) and national parks will remain [largely open](#) under a [contingency plan](#) that is similar to the plan utilized during the 2018-2019 partial government shutdown. The majority of NPS employees will be placed on furlough, with a minimal number of employees continuing to perform “excepted” activities, such as law enforcement or emergency response, border and coastal protection and surveillance, and fire suppression and monitoring. The plan also states that Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) funds will be used to provide “basic visitor services” such as trash collection and cleaning restrooms. This use of park entrance fees to fund operations was [found](#) to be illegal by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), following the 2018-2019 shutdown.

Last week, over 40 Coalition members who are former NPS superintendents joined [a letter](#) to Interior Secretary Doug Burgum asking for parks to close if the government shuts down in order to protect resources and facilities and maintain emergency services. News about the letter was widely publicized across media outlets, including [The New York Times](#).

Coalition Actions

On September 12, a federal judge ruled that the Trump Administration illegally fired federal workers in February, conducting them indiscriminately with no regard for job performance or public safety. The Coalition to Protect America’s National Parks was the plaintiff representing the NPS in the case. [More info](#)

On September 17, the Circuit Court for Orange County, Virginia, partially denied a motion to dismiss litigation challenging the rezoning of land adjacent to Wilderness Battlefield at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, which would have allowed for the development of large-scale data centers. The Coalition, National Parks Conservation

Association, and National Trust for Historic Preservation filed a joint amicus brief in the lawsuit, which was filed by American Battlefield Trust, Central Virginia Battlefield Trust, Inc., Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, and nearby homeowners. The legal challenge will now move forward through the courts. [More info](#)

We joined the National Parks Conservation Association in submitting [comments](#) to the U.S. Forest Service expressing our strong opposition to proposals that rescind or weaken the Roadless Rule.

The Coalition joined the Appalachian Mountain Club and National Parks Conservation Association in submitting [comments](#) to the Environmental Protection Agency opposing its proposed reconsideration of the 2009 Endangerment Finding and Greenhouse Gas Vehicle Standards.

We submitted [comments](#) to the Environmental Protection Agency, opposing their partial disapproval of Colorado's Regional Haze Plan.

The Coalition continues to give interviews and make press releases to amplify the threats to the National Park Service:

- [a press release](#) and [article in the Times Standard](#) arguing against the censorship of history at parks
- [an op-ed in the Citizen Times](#) arguing that cuts to the NPS are affecting North Carolina's economy
- [an op-ed in the Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) co-written with Senator Catherine Cortez Masto arguing that cuts to national parks and public lands are bad for Nevada's economy

Know someone outstanding at supporting the mission of the National Park Service?

Nominations for the Coalition's George Hartzog Award are due October 15.

Nominate them today!

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.

- *2024 NPS economic report released* - On September 25, the National Park Service released its 2024 visitor spending report, showing a \$56.3 billion benefit to the nation's economy. Data can be sorted through the NPS' [interactive tool](#). Source: [National Park Service Office of Communications](#)

- *Content disappearing from NPS websites and signs* - The National Parks Conservation Association published [an article](#) documenting the removal of references to scientific research, climate change, Japanese American incarceration, and slavery on a variety of park websites and interpretive signs. Source: *National Parks Conservation Association*
- *ICE training displaces NPS LE training* - KING5 published [an article](#) about the prioritization for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers (FLETC), which has caused delays to NPS FLETC training programs. Source: *KING5*
- *Books on slavery to be removed from park stores* - *National Public Radio's* "Morning Edition" show published [a piece](#) about President Donald Trump's Executive Order requiring NPS units to remove or edit negative information about Americans, including books about slavery. Source: *National Public Radio*
- *AK petitions Supreme Court over fishing rights* - On September 15, the State of Alaska filed a cert petition with the Supreme Court, asking it to take up its case that the state, not the federal government, has the power to regulate fishing in navigable waters on federal land. The issue stems from an Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act provision that gives rural Alaskans preferential treatment, while the Alaska Constitution forbids it, creating differences between state and federal lands. The lawsuit has been underway since 2021, with a federal appeals court upholding the current system last month. Source: [Alaska Beacon](#)
- *Top national parks for stargazing* - The outdoor gear company KÜHL compiled data about stargazing events, light pollution, altitude, campgrounds, and dark-sky status to make a ranking of national parks for stargazing. [Editor note: *It appears the ranking only included "national parks" in name, not all NPS units*] The top five were Great Basin National Park, Death Valley National Park, Zion National Park, Big Bend National Park, and Capitol Reef National Park. Source: [KÜHL](#)

Around the Parks

Reports are in alphabetical order by park/program name.

- *Assateague Island National Seashore* - On October 6, the park will begin a major paving project on parking lots in the Maryland District, on Old Ferry Landing Road, and the Bayside Camping Loops. Short-term closures will be in place (timeline undisclosed). Source: [Assateague Island National Seashore](#)
- *Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve, Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument, Minidoka National Historic Site* - The three jointly-managed parks received \$15 million in Great American Outdoors Act funding to support the restoration of the Block 22 Barracks, Mess Hall, and Root Cellar buildings, and construct a new maintenance building

at Minidoka; restore a park operations building at Craters of the Moon; and install a fire suppression system at the paleontology lab building at Hagerman Fossil Beds. The projects are expected to be completed by Summer 2027. Source: [KMVT](#)

- *Gateway National Recreation Area* - On September 24, the NPS and Environmental Protection Agency announced that they signed a consent agreement to improve lead hazard disclosure practices, improve staff training, and ensure safer renovations across 43 pre-1978 housing units at the park. The settlement also includes an agreement to waive over \$175,000 in penalties if the NPS takes necessary actions to follow federal lead requirements. Source: [Environmental Protection Agency](#)
- *Grand Teton National Park* - On September 18, the park held a ribbon cutting at Moose Landing to celebrate the completion of a multi-year project to rehabilitate three access points on the Snake River. This included educational signage, boat launches, shaded gathering areas, revegetation, and riverbank restoration. The \$13.3 million project was supported through federal funds and private funding from the Grand Teton National Park Foundation, and project partners Blue Trident, Bland Hoke, EDX, Jorgensen Engineering, Lost Art Stone Masonry, Otak, and Southern Customs Exhibits. Source: [Grand Teton National Park](#)
- *Grand Teton National Park* - On September 17, the park announced the opening of a prospectus for a 15-year concession contract providing lodging, campgrounds, food and beverage, retail, marina operations, guided horseback and float trips, and other visitor services throughout the park. Source: [Grand Teton National Park](#)
- *Great Basin National Park* - On October 20, the park will begin a major project to replace the Lehman Caves lighting system. The project is expected to take six months, and the caves will be closed throughout that time period. The \$5.8 million project is being funded through land sales made through the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act. Source: [Great Basin National Park](#)
- *Hampton National Historic Site* - On September 23, the park announced the award of a contract to restore and rehabilitate up to 14 historic buildings, including interior and exterior work, abatement of hazardous materials, updates to utilities and safety systems, and accessibility improvements. The work will begin this fall and last about two years. The \$14 million project is being funded by the Great American Outdoors Act. Source: [Hampton National Historic Site](#)
- *Harpers Ferry National Historical Park* - “More than two dozen items” were removed from the park due to being noncompliant with President Donald Trump’s Executive Order requiring parks to take down materials “disparaging” Americans. Source: [WTRF](#)
- *Hot Springs National Park* - The park recently opened a prospectus for a ten-year concession contract providing traditional bathhouse and massage therapy services within the park. Proposals are due January 5. Source: [Hot Springs National Park](#)

- *Independence National Historical Park* - *Metro Philadelphia* published [an article](#) about local efforts to push back on the proposed removal of exhibits related to slavery at the President's House site. On September 18, the City of Philadelphia (PA) Council passed a resolution condemning the Trump Administration's efforts to rewrite American history, including the proposal to remove the exhibits at Independence NHP. Source: *Metro Philadelphia*, [City Council Philadelphia](#)
- *Isle Royale National Park* - On November 1, the park will open the Commercial Use Authorization application period for operators providing guided water-based tours. Applications are due November 30, and the CUAs will last for two years. Source: [Isle Royale National Park](#)
- *Lyndon B Johnson National Historical Park* - The NPS published [an article](#) about efforts to remediate and conserve the park's archives after long-standing issues with black mold and pests. Source: [National Park Service Office of Communications](#)
- *Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park* - Several staff at the two parks were recently awarded for their efforts, including Administrative Officer Kelly Fox as the 2025 recipient of the NPS Director's Award for Administration Leader of the Year, Budget Analyst Clara McNamara as a 2024 recipient of a Director's Award for Excellence in Customer Service, and Facility Management Specialist Kieran Kelly as a 2024 recipient of a Northeast Region Award for Excellence in Cultural Resource Management and Stewardship. Source: [Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park](#)
- *Pearl Harbor National Memorial* - On September 18, 106-year-old Alice Beck Darrow, donated a historic bullet from the attacks on Pearl Harbor to the park. Alice's husband, Dean Darrow, survived the attack at Pearl Harbor as a young man, then was shot as he tried to board a rescue boat. Several months later, before he went into surgery to have the bullet removed, he asked his nurse, who was Alice, to go on a date with him if he survived. They married later that year and were together for almost 50 years before he passed away in 1991. Source: [New York Post](#)
- *Rocky Mountain National Park* - On October 2, the Rocky Mountain Conservancy, Estes Park Mountain Shop, and Kep Expeditions are hosting an Accessibility Showcase to highlight initiatives that increase access for all abilities in the park, as well as demonstrations of specialty equipment. Source: [Estes Park News](#)
- *San Juan National Historic Site* - On September 15, the park began a project to replace sod and realign water drainage systems on the esplanade of Castillo San Felipe del Morro. Parcel A will remain closed throughout the first phase of the project, which is expected to wrap up in July 2026. Source: [San Juan National Historic Site](#)
- *Santa Monica Mountains National Park* - On September 29, the NPS and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority began a project to repair the Hastain Trail in

Franklin Canyon. The trail will be closed Mondays through Thursdays. After complete, the Discovery Trail will be repaired. The trails were damaged during storms in February 2024. The full project is expected to take about three months. Source: [Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area](#)

- *Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area* - The park received the 2025 Excellence in Volunteerism Innovation Award for volunteer efforts to monitor wildlife recovery after the 2018 Woolsey Fire. Over 4,300 volunteers provided 12,500 hours of service in working with wildlife cameras and footage. Source: [Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area](#)
- *Voyageurs National Park* - On September 17, the park announced that it will open a prospectus in 2026 for a contract concession providing lodging, retail, food and beverage, guest transportation, marina services, and mechanical boat portage services at Kettle Falls. A pre-solicitation site visit was held on September 29 to discuss the opportunity. Source: [Voyageurs National Park](#)
- *Yellowstone National Park* - The U.S. Geological Survey published [an article](#) about thermophiles, organisms that thrive living in thermal features in the park. The BioNitrogen Economy Research Center is studying them to design sustainable alternatives to agricultural nitrogen products, which are derived from fossil fuels. Source: U.S. Geological Survey
- *Yosemite National Park* - *NBC Los Angeles* aired a segment about the Yosemite Facelift cleanup and its founder, Ken Yager. Source: [NBC Los Angeles](#)

Personnel Changes

- *U.S. Park Police* - Scott H. Brecht was appointed the new chief of the U.S. Park Police. Scott has over 22 years of federal law enforcement experience, most recently as the deputy chief and commander of the field operations division of the U.S. Park Police. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)

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

- Jeremy K. Spiess, 49, passed away on September 23. Jeremy worked as a wildland firefighter for over 15 years, including time at Dinosaur National Monument in 2013. Source: [Legacy/Ricker Funeral Homes and Crematory](#)

In the News

- Chuck Sams, former NPS director, joined the Yale Center for Environmental Justice as its inaugural director of Indigenous programs. Source: [Yale News](#)

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.

- *National Park Service* - Public comment is [open through October 9](#) on efforts to improve visitor services in national parks, “including more efficient methods for delivering and managing those services.” The request for information is in response to Executive Order 14314, “Making American Beautiful Again by Improving Our National Parks.” Source: [National Park Service Office of Communications](#)
- *George Washington Memorial Parkway* - Public comment is open through [October 9](#) on a plan to replace the cantilever structure and retaining walls between Cabin John Parkway and the Macarthur Boulevard exit ramp, and demolishing the unused Glen Echo Overpass. Source: [George Washington Memorial Parkway](#)
- *National Mall and Memorial Parks* - Public comment is [open through October 8](#) on the location for the proposed Women’s Suffrage Memorial. Source: [National Mall and Memorial Parks](#)
- *National Mall and Memorial Parks* - Public comment is [open through October 12](#) on the design for the Fallen Journalists Memorial, to be located in Washington, DC. Source: [WUSA9](#)
- *Pearl Harbor National Memorial* - Public comment is [open through October 4](#) on a Ford Island NPS Sites Management Plan. Source: [Pearl Harbor National Memorial](#)

Other Department of the Interior and U.S. Forest Service (Dept. of Ag) News

- *New lands opened for coal leasing* - On September 29, the Department of the Interior announced the opening of 13.1 million acres of Bureau of Land Management lands for coal leasing. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *Concerns about mining at Boundary Waters* - *The Washington Post* published [an article](#) about a proposed copper-nickel mining project adjacent to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in northern Minnesota, and the threats of pollution in the wilderness area. Source: *The Washington Post*
- *\$54 million for migratory birds* - On September 18, the Department of the Interior announced the award of \$54 million from the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund to conserve 21,737 acres of waterfowl habitat and increased public access at four national

wildlife refuges in three states. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)

Congressional Actions

Editor note: News of the government shutdown took place at midnight last night. Please see links at the top of this report regarding the shutdown and its affects on the National Park Service, which are still evolving in real time. The following reflects Congressional news prior to September 29.

New Public Laws

Nothing to report during this period.

Senate Actions

Nothing to report during this period.

House of Representatives Actions

September 15 - The House reported:

- H.R. 528, to require the Secretary of the Interior to carry out a program for post-disaster reforestation and restoration. The Department of the Interior must identify covered lands requiring reforestation and restoration following unplanned disturbances that are unlikely to experience natural regeneration without assistance. Covered land means (1) any federal land or interest in land administered by the National Park Service, and other federal lands managing agencies; and (2) any Indian Forest Land or Rangeland.
- H.R. 2290, to provide that the memorial to commemorate the sacrifice and service of the women who worked on the home front to support the efforts of the United States military during World War II may be located on the National Mall, and for other purposes, with an amendment; and
- H.R. 4285, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to designate an entrance-fee free date in 2026 at National Park Service sites in order to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States of America, with an amendment.

September 16 - The Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential.” Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

September 17 - The Committee on Natural Resources held a markup on several bills including:

- H.R. 2306, the “Adams Memorial-Great American Heroes Act”; and
- H.R. 2306, was ordered reported, as amended. The bill would reauthorize the Adams Memorial Commission through 2032. The Commission was originally authorized in Section 2406 of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act.

September 18 - The Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a

hearing on a number of bills, including:

- H.R. 2196, to provide for an extension of the legislative authority of the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs through 2032;
- H.R. 4386, to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to clarify entrance privileges for vehicles with respect to the America the Beautiful interagency pass; and
- H.R. 4467, the “Vicksburg National Military Park Boundary Modification Act.”

Testimony was heard from Representatives Leger Fernandez, Walberg, Begich and Nehls; David J.Zinn, Brigadier General, U.S. Army; Mike Caldwell, Associate Director of Park Planning, Facilities, and Lands, U.S. National Park Service, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

September 19 - The House passed H.R. 5371, the Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2026, making continuing appropriations and extensions for Fiscal Year 2026, by a yeay-and-nay vote of 217 yeas to 212 nays.

Incidents

Listed alphabetically by park/program.

Canyonlands National Park **Hiker fatality**

On September 17, a 76-year-old was hiking on Mesa Arch Trail when they collapsed. Emergency responders attempted to resuscitate the individual, but were unsuccessful. Source: [NJ.com](https://www.nj.com/news/nj-herald/2025/09/17/hiker-dies-on-mesa-arch-trail-in-canyonlands-national-park.html)

Cape Hatteras National Seashore **Five houses collapse**

On September 30, five unoccupied houses collapsed in Buxton, North Carolina, onto the beach due to storms and high surf. The beachfront from northern Buxton through off-road vehicle ramp 43 are closed for public safety. Source: [Cape Hatteras National Seashore](https://www.wtsp.com/story/news/local/2025/09/30/five-houses-collapse-buxton-north-carolina/8444444002/)

Death Valley National Park **Tropical Storm Mario**

On September 18, the remnants of Tropical Storm Mario hit the park. Furnace Creek received 0.6 inches of rain, about 25% of the park’s average annual rainfall. It caused damage to Badwater Road, North Highway, West Side Road, Twenty Mule Team Canyon, Cottonwood-Marble Roads, Mustard Canyon, and Keane Wonder Mine Road. Those roads remain closed for assessment and repair. Source: [Death Valley National Park](https://www.nps.gov/deathvalley/learn/management/tropical-storm-mario.htm)

Gettysburg National Military Park

Fossil stolen from historic bridge

On September 25, park staff noticed a large cap stone missing from the South Confederate Avenue Bridge over Plum Run, also known as “Dinosaur Bridge,” for the fossilized dinosaur track found in its stone work. The missing stone, with the fossil embedded, was found below the bridge along the creek. Evidence suggests a heavy object was used to strike the stone and pry it free, and it either fell or was dropped after the removal. The fossil was not harmed in the incident and is now safely in park custody. The park is looking for any information the public can provide about the incident. Source: [Gettysburg National Military Park](#)

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site

Lawsuit over endangered trout

On September 17, a federal judge issued a temporary restraining order against the park and West Side Ditch Company to stop diverting water from the Upper Clark Fork River. The ruling came after a lawsuit by Save the Bull Trout and the Alliance for the Wild Rockies, claiming the diversion violates Endangered Species Act protections for bull trout during low stream flows. The park holds water rights to grow hay and maintain livestock pastures. Source: [KPAX](#)

Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Deceased individual found on beach

On May 16, a “significantly decomposed” body washed up on shore at Ocean Beach. On September 18, the California Department of Justice confirmed that they were able to use DNA analysis to identify the body as a 38-year-old individual that had gone missing in April. The individual’s vehicle had been found abandoned in the Marin Headlands, and a large-scale search ensued at the time. No cause of death has been released. The investigation remains ongoing. Source: [KRON4](#)

Grand Canyon National Park

Water conservation measures (again)

On September 29, the park announced water conservation measures for the South Rim of the park due to a broken section of pipeline north of Phantom Ranch. Park staff are working to repair the line. Source: [Grand Canyon National Park](#)

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Missing person found deceased

A 21-year-old went missing after last being seen in Nashville, Tennessee, on September 18. On September 20, the individual’s vehicle was found in the Big Creek area of the park. The NPS and “several organizations” did a search of the area. On September 21, they found the individual deceased in the Big Creek area. Officials stated that no foul play is suspected in their death. No further details have been given. Source: [Great Smoky Mountains National Park](#), [People](#)

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Landslide

On September 27, a landslide occurred near the entrance sign on the Gatlinburg Bypass due to heavy rains, causing 150 feet of mud, trees, and other debris covering both lanes. Personnel from the NPS, City of Gatlinburg (TN), Sevier County, and the City of Sevierville removed over 140 truck loads of debris, and cleared ditches, drainages, and a culvert. The road reopened on September 30. Source: [Great Smoky Mountains National Park](#)

Kenai Fjords National Park

Bear-inflicted injury

On September 24, two individuals were hiking on the Exit Glacier trail when they “sustained injuries in a bear incident.” They self-transported to a local hospital and were said to be in stable condition. The trail was closed, as well as the NPS gate on Herman Leirer Road. Personnel from the NPS, Alaska State Troopers, and Alaska Department of Fish and Game investigated the incident site, and no sign of the bear, food cache, or cubs were found. On September 27, the trail and Herman Leirer Road reopened to the public. Source: [Kenai Fjords National Park](#)

Lewis and Clark National Historical Park

White-nose syndrome

On September 19, the NPS announced that bat guano collected from a roost at the park tested positive for the fungus *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, which causes white-nose syndrome in bats. It is often lethal for bats. It is the first documented case of the fungus in Oregon. Source: [Lewis and Clark National Historical Park](#)

National Mall and Memorial Parks

Trump-Epstein art removed

A permitted art installation on the National Mall depicting President Donald Trump holding hands with deceased sex offender Jeffrey Epstein was removed by the NPS representatives at 5:30 AM on September 24, four days before the end of the NPS permit. Video footage of the removal captured an NPS staff member saying the statue was not compliant because “it is too big.” It was taken to a government warehouse. The permit says that it can be revoked if 24 hours written notice is given to the permittee, though the permittee stated that they did not receive advance notice, and that the art was damaged in the removal process. The Department of the Interior told media that it was removed for noncompliance with the permit, but did not specify. The permittee said in subsequent interviews that the permit had been approved by local staff, but overridden by the deputy director of the NPS, and that they were also told that the deputy director instructed local staff to never issue another permit to them again. Source: [USA Today](#), [WUSA9](#)

National Register of Historic Places (an NPS-administered program)

Lawsuit for shipwreck

On September 23, a salvage company, JJM, LLC, filed a lawsuit against the NPS after a 125-year-old shipwreck off Bar Harbor, Maine, was designated eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. JJM has a separate pending lawsuit attempting to obtain title for the ship, the *Delhi*. The State of Maine has contested the lawsuit, arguing that federal law has established that unclaimed shipwrecks in state waters are property of the state. The designation on the National Register would render the attempts to obtain title useless. Source: [Bangor Daily News](#)

Wildfires

- *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. On August 20, the park reopened the South Kaibab Trail from the trailhead to the Tipoff, the Tonto Trail from the Tipoff to Havasupai Gardens, and the Bright Angel Trail from the trailhead to Pipe Creek Resthouse. All three had been closed since July 13. On August 24, an interagency Burned Area Emergency Response team [published](#) a Soil Burn Severity map for the fire. As of September 29, the fire was 145,504 acres and 100% contained, with 276 personnel assigned. On October 1, the park partially reopened select areas of the North Rim to public access. Source: *Watch Duty* (app), [AZ Central](#), [Inciweb](#), [Grand Canyon National Park Facebook page](#), [KJZZ](#), Grand Canyon National Park ([8/20](#), [8/24](#), [9/25](#))
- *Mount Rainier National Park* - On September 5, the park announced the closure of the Naches Peak Loop Trail, Pacific Crest Trail south to Laughingwater Creek/Three Lakes Trail, Shriners Peak Trail, Deerk Creek Trailhead, and Owyhigh Lakes Trailhead due to heavy smoke and hazardous air quality caused by the Wildcat Fire, which is burning outside the park on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. Source: [Mount Rainier National Park Facebook page](#)
- *North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area*: On August 28, lightning struck the area near Little Beaver at Ross Lake. As of September 29, the Perry Fire was estimated at 1,772 acres and 61% contained. Trails and camps in the Little Beaver area of Ross Lake are currently closed. Source: North Cascades National Park ([8/28](#), [9/1](#), [9/8](#), [9/11](#), [9/12](#), [9/14](#)), [Cascadia Daily News](#), [Inciweb](#)

- *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. 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. As of September 29, the Bear Gulch Fire was 20,185 acres and 5% contained, with 75 personnel assigned. 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

- *Great Smoky Mountains* - *Knox News* published [an article](#) about efforts to repair damaged roads, structures, and trails in the park in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, which hit the region in September 2024. It is estimated that there is still \$30 million in repairs remaining. Source: *Knox News*
- *Yellowstone National Park* - The 29-year-old that was injured by a grizzly bear on September 16 (see [9/17/25 Coalition Report](#)) was treated for their injuries (undisclosed) and released from the hospital. Park staff investigated the attack site and discovered a carcass near the trail, and confirmed grizzly tracks. The Turbid Lake Trail remains closed. Source: [Yellowstone National Park](#)

Acknowledgements

This newsletter is supported through Coalition staff and invaluable volunteers:

- Editor: Katie Wallace
- Tech and Production Support: Steve Pittleman, Debbie Reed, Emily Thompson
- Regular Correspondent: Chris Soller
- Issue Contributors: Mike Murray, Bill Walters

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

report@protectnps.org.

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.