



The Coalition Report

Friday, August 28, 2026

Editor note: Due to staff vacation, we're publishing early for this edition, with the following report back on schedule on Wednesday, September 16.

Coalition Actions

The Coalition joined over 50 organizations in [a letter](#) to Interior Secretary Doug Burgum and Bureau of Land Management Director Steve Pearce in opposition to its proposed oil and gas leasing rule, including restricting public participation, restoring outdated bonding rates, eliminating protections for valuable public lands, and weakening private property protections. We also joined 17 other organizations and the Western Environmental Law Center in submitting official [comments](#), urging the BLM to withdraw the proposed rule.

We joined four other organizations and one individual in submitting [a protest](#) to the Bureau of Land Management Utah Office's Third Quarter Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale due to its severe impacts on the North Branch Route and the Northern Route of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail.

Our staff and Executive Council continue to provide statements and interviews to the media highlighting challenges to the National Park System. Recent work includes:

- [Don't let this administration dismantle public lands](#), *Daily Camera*, op-ed by Coalition Member Sheridan Steel

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.

- *IMTs pulled to DC* - Nearly 300 NPS employees who are a part of the agency's Incident Management Team have been deployed to Washington, DC, to work on beautification projects, including cleaning up the East Potomac golf course. IMT staff are usually deployed to large planned events and unplanned emergencies. Source: [Independent](#)
- *State of firefighting in U.S.* - *The Salt Lake Tribune* published [an article](#) about the current state of wildland firefighting, including Trump administration policies that call for full suppression of all fires and one of the worst fire seasons the United States has ever had. Source: *The Salt Lake Tribune*
- *Firefighter shortages* - *The Guardian* published [an article](#) about the lack of staff in U.S. wildland firefighting this year. Agencies are finding difficulty filling gaps with private contract resources because there are not enough qualified managers available to supervise them. The U.S. Forest Service also treated 35% fewer acres with prescribed burns in 2025 than in 2024. Source: *The Guardian*
- *Approved NPS projects shelved for DC projects* - New evidence obtained by *The Associated Press* and confirmed by confidential sources shows that 1,500 maintenance projects across the National Park System, representing \$400 million, that were approved for 2026 were moved at a new "low priority" list, with funds transferred to White House priorities, including the Lincoln Memorial reflecting pool and Freedom 250 events. Very few of the 1,500 projects on that list will get done this year. A sample of projects includes roof repairs at Golden Gate National Recreation Area, computer upgrades at Katmai National Park and Preserve, and bulk purchases of toilet paper and garbage bags at Yellowstone National Park. Source: [Daily Press](#)
- *\$5.5 million for service corps* - On August 18, the National Park Foundation announced \$5.5 million for 42 service corps projects across the National Park System. Source: [PR Newswire](#)
- *PAC for parks* - On August 17, [Parks PAC](#) launched, representing the first political action committee created for the purpose of defending national parks. It was founded by Ron Sundergill, who formerly worked at the National Parks Conservation Association for 20 years. Source: [Wes Siler's Newsletter](#)
- *CA calls for restored NPS funding* - The California Assembly unanimously passed Assembly Joint Resolution 9, calling for the President and Congress to restore full and consistent funding and staffing to the National Park Service. Source: [Z107.7](#)
- *UC research supports CA parks* - The University of California published [an article](#) highlighting research supporting the protection of species in national parks, including redwoods in Redwood State and National Parks, condors in Pinnacles National Park, giant sequoias in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, foxes in Channel Islands National

Park, Joshua trees in Joshua Tree National Park, and the hydrology of the Merced River in Yosemite National Park. Source: *University of California*

- *Spotlight on public lands volunteers* - Sierra published [an article](#) about volunteers, calling them the “unsung heroes of public land management.” The author, Elisabeth Kwak-Hefferan, was a Student Conservation Association intern in Rocky Mountain National Park in 2024 and in Great Smoky Mountains National Park in 2025. The article points out that staff cuts to volunteer coordinator positions has hurt agencies’ ability to put volunteers to good use. Source: *Sierra*
- *National park interactive experience* - Google Arts & Culture, in collaboration with the NPS, has released “[United Parks of America](#),” an online interactive feature designed for participants to explore the National Park System. Source: [News from Google](#)

Around the Parks

Reports are in alphabetical order by park/program name.

- *Apostle Islands National Lakeshore* - On August 25, the park announced the award of a \$167,400 contract for the demolition of the historic Chequamegon Point Light Tower on Long Island due to structural failure. The work is expected to begin this fall and be complete by October 31. Source: [Apostle Islands National Lakeshore](#)
- *Arches National Park, Canyonlands National Park* - SFGate published [an article](#) about biocrusts, also known as living soils or cryptobiotic soils, which are known to support erosion control and nutrient cycles in the parks’ ecosystems. Researchers at the park have monitored and studied biocrusts for several decades, including their effects on traffic accidents, snow melt patterns, and invasive species. Source: *SFGate*
- *Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area* - On August 10, the NPS announced a request for proposals for a 10-year concession contract managing lodging, food and beverage, retail, and stabling at Charit Creek Lodge. Proposals are due October 20. Source: [Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area](#)
- *Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Manhattan Project National Historical Park, Obed Wild and Scenic River* - On August 19, the NPS announced a new partnership with the University of Tennessee in Knoxville’s Outdoor Recreation and Park Management program. Students in the program will now support NPS programs and may participate in internships and research, while park staff will offer guest lectures and field trips. Source: [Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area](#)
- *Coronado National Memorial, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument* - U.S. Customs and Border Protection has begun construction of a second border wall through Organ Pipe. Road closures have been enacted, complicating access to Quitobaquito Springs. The park already has a 30-foot border wall across its full-length. At Coronado, construction on a

primary and secondary border wall is also underway. Source: [National Parks Conservation Association](#)

- *Flight 93 National Memorial* - Nexstar published [an article](#) about the development of the park, including an interview with NPS maintenance crew leader Pat Sparks. Source: Nexstar
- *George Washington Memorial Parkway* - On August 20, the Rails to Trails Conservancy announced the selection of the Mount Vernon Trail to its Hall of Fame. Source: [Rails to Trails Conservancy](#)
- *Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Lake Mead National Recreation Area* - On August 21, the Bureau of Reclamation published a Record of Decision for the Post-2026 Colorado River Operations Final EIS, establishing a 10-year decision framework for operating Lake Powell and Lake Mead. Priorities for 2027-28 include maintaining a minimum of 3,510-foot water elevation on Lake Powell (20 feet above “minimum power pool” at which water runs through electricity turbines). Lake Mead will reduce water deliveries, meaning Arizona, California, and Nevada will be required to cut use by 1.25 million acre-feet. Upper Basin states are encouraged to take on voluntary water conservation measures, but are not forced to make cuts. Source: [Bureau of Reclamation](#)
- *Grand Teton National Park* - WyoFile published [an article](#) about the recent amendment to the park’s management plan allowing for the construction of a multi-use path along Moose-Wilson Road. The article outlines arguments on both sides: proponents highlighting safe, non-motorized transportation, and opponents citing concerns about wildlife and cultural resources. Source: WyoFile
- *Grand Teton National Park* - The park currently is involved in several major construction projects, including at the Taggart Lake Trailhead, Teton Park Road Roundabout bypass, and on the Moose-Wilson Road. Source: [Grand Teton National Park](#)
- *Great Smoky Mountains National Park* - On August 24, the park began a project to replace footbridges, handrails, and stairs on the Abrams Falls Trail. The trail will be closed Mondays through Thursdays until the project’s completion, expected by October 1. The project is being funded by Friends of the Smokies. Source: [Great Smoky Mountains National Park](#)
- *Gulf Islands National Seashore* - On August 25, the park announced a final rule reducing flat-wake zones from one half-mile to 300 yards from shore in Mississippi and from 300 yards to 150 yards in Florida. The rule also formalizes existing closures around West Petit Bois Island and Fort Pickens ferry pier. Source: [Gulf Islands National Seashore](#)
- *Lake Clark National Park and Preserve* - The Economic Times published [an article](#) about Richard Proenneke, who lived in an off-grid cabin that he hand-built on a private inholding on Twin Lakes for 30 years, then donated the cabin to the NPS when he passed away in

2003. Source: *The Economic Times*

- *Monocacy National Battlefield* - On August 24, the park opened the new one-mile Monument Trail at Thomas Farm, tracing the route soldiers of the Sixth Corps advanced to stop a Confederate attack considered the “battle that saved Washington.” Source: [Monocacy National Battlefield](#)
- *National Mall and Memorial Parks* - On August 23, the Freedom 250 Grand Prix took place, a 250-mile IndyCar race around the National Mall. The event was in honor of the United States’ 250th anniversary. President Donald Trump waved the green flag to start the race. Source: [PBS](#)
- *Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act* (an NPS-administered program) - The Boston Children’s Museum will send 8 Native Hawaiian objects to Hui Iwi Kuamo’o. The items include a water container, two wooden bowls, an octopus lure, a poi pounder, a net holder for a bowl, a tapa beater, and a traditional bowling stone. The museum acquired them between the early 1900s and 1968. The museum intends to replace a former display of some of the items with a label explaining the repatriation process. Source: [Hoodline](#)
- *Petrified Forest National Park* - A new 14-minute film, “[The Conscience Files](#),” documents letters sent to the park from people who experience stints of bad luck after taking pieces of petrified wood. Source: [SFGate](#)
- *Rock Creek Park* - On August 20, the Carter Barron Amphitheater reopened for the first time since 2016. It had been closed due to “structural problems.” The amphitheater currently has a temporary stage in place. The Rock Creek Conservancy has stated that they are building support for a larger restoration effort. Source: [WTOP](#)
- *Vicksburg National Military Park* - On August 21, the park announced the reopening of Grant Circle and a section of Union Avenue after a multi-year rehabilitation project to repair damage caused by storms in early 2020. Source: [Vicksburg National Military Park](#)

Legal Actions

Legal actions involving the National Park Service. If the Coalition is involved in a lawsuit, those will be recorded in “Coalition Actions” above. Listed alphabetically, except for items affecting the entire NPS, which are listed on top.

- *National Park Service* - On August 20, Public Citizen filed a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit against the NPS to obtain documents related to the cooperative agreement and contracts with the National Park Foundation for the Freedom 250 initiative and events. The lawsuit seeks to provide public disclosure about the identity of corporate contributions and contractors. Source: [Public Citizen](#)
- *Mojave National Preserve* - In July, the Bureau of Land Management approved a permit for

a private water company, Cadiz, to convert a 220-mile gas pipeline into a water pipeline, extracting water from the Fenner Valley Aquifer System and delivering it to communities in California and Arizona. The pipeline runs across Mojave Trails National Monument (managed by the BLM) and Mojave National Preserve, and the water extraction could have dramatic effects on springs and ecosystems across the greater Mojave Desert. The Sierra Club, Center for Biological Diversity, and Earthjustice filed a lawsuit against the BLM, arguing that the BLM's environmental analysis of the project is flawed. Source: [Sierra Club](#)

- *Point Reyes National Seashore* - The *Los Angeles Times* published [an article](#) about the ongoing tension between ranching and conservation at the park. The Niman family has an ongoing lawsuit against the National Park Service, arguing that the NPS was negligent in allowing ranches to be bought out and rehabilitated because agriculture is written into the park's enabling legislation. Source: *Los Angeles Times*
- *The White House and President's Park* - On August 23, the Supreme Court temporarily stayed a federal judge's preliminary injunction in the National Trust for Historic Preservation's lawsuit against the NPS over the construction of the White House ballroom. Construction on the ballroom may continue while the Supreme Court considers the NPS' request to block a lower court injunction. Source: [SJO Daily](#)

Personnel Changes

- *Cedar Breaks National Monument* - Allana Olbrich was selected as the new superintendent. Allana has 17 years of NPS experience, most recently as acting superintendent at Bryce Canyon National Park and Colorado National Monument. She will begin her new role on September 20. Source: [Cedar Breaks National Monument](#)
- *Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area* - Devon Bradley was selected as the new superintendent. Devon has four years of NPS experience, most recently as the superintendent at Chickasaw National Recreation Area and Washita Battlefield National Historic Site. Devon will begin his new role on October 4. Source: [Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area](#), [The Spokesman-Review](#)

Park People

Deceased

- Jerry Lester Carroll, Sr, 79, passed away on August 22. Jerry worked for the NPS in "the brick and stone mason trade" for many years, retiring in 2010. Source: [Herald-Mail Media](#)
- Shirley Faye (Smeath) Buck, 91, passed away on August 5. Shirley worked for the NPS for several years, retiring in 1990. Source: [Legacy/Jenkins-Soffe Funeral Chapel and Cremation Center](#)

- Jim Hines, 78, passed away on August 3. Jim worked for the NPS at Big Bend National Park for many years, retiring in 2014. Source: [Big Bend Sentinel](#)
- Daryl Raymond Miller, 82, passed away on June 9. Daryl worked as a climbing ranger at Denali National Park and Preserve for 18 years. Source: [The American Alpine Club](#)
- Billie Patrick passed away recently. Billie worked for the NPS in Yosemite National Park for many years, overseeing the jail and horse patrol operations. Source: [NPS Ranger News \(Facebook\)](#)
- Charles Lynn Vial, 85, passed away on August 10. Charles worked for the NPS for many years, including as superintendent at Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area from 1984-1988. Source: [Miller Funeral Home](#), [NPS History](#)
- Howard Robert Wagner, 85, passed away on July 31. Howard worked for the NPS for many years, retiring as the chief of roads and trails at the Denver Service Center. Source: [The Denver Post](#)

Open for Comment

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

- *Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site* - Public comment is [open through October 23](#) on alternative concepts for the site. The current structure at the site, built in 1976 on the footprint of the original mid-1800s structure, has had major maintenance and stability issues. Source: [Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site](#)
- *Blue Ridge Parkway* - On September 1, public comment will [open through September 30](#) (link not valid until 9/1) on a proposed site management plan for the Linville Falls Area, which was damaged heavily by Hurricane Helene in 2024. Source: [Blue Ridge Parkway](#)
- *First State National Historical Park* - Public comment is [open through September 28](#) on a proposal to open bicycle use on 25 miles of designated trails within the Brandywine Valley unit of the park. Source: [First State National Historical Park](#)
- *Great Smoky Mountains National Park* - Public comment is [open through September 7](#) on improvements to the Oconaluftee River Trail. Source: [Great Smoky Mountains National Park](#)
- *Manassas National Battlefield Park* - Public comment is [open through September 4](#) on a plan to transfer a partial set of human remains of a Union soldier and a personal object (comb) that were excavated during an archaeological study in March 2024 to the Office of Army Cemeteries so that the individual can be interred at Arlington National Cemetery. Source: [Manassas National Battlefield Park](#)

- *Mount Rainier National Park* - On August 26 and 27, the NPS and Federal Highway Administration hosted public meetings on a proposal to replace the suspension bridge and restore access to the Grove of the Patriarchs. The original 1961 suspension bridge was closed after major flood damage in November 2021. [A storymap](#) for the project is available. No other public comment periods have been announced thus far. Source: [Mount Rainier National Park, Kent Reporter](#)
- *Wrangell - St. Elias National Park and Preserve* - Public comment is [open through September 6](#) on a proposal to change the Superintendent's Compendium's rule in order to allow e-bicycles to access Kennecott Mines. Source: [Wrangell - St. Elias National Park and Preserve](#)

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

- *CEs for logging* - On August 20, the Department of the Interior finalized two categorical exclusions under the National Environmental Policy Act for timber salvage and forest thinning projects of up to 5,000 acres on Bureau of Land Management lands. "These categorical exclusions remove unnecessary delays so we can accelerate common-sense forest management projects that reduce hazardous fuels, strengthen forest health and resilience, and better protect firefighters, communities, and our public lands from catastrophic wildfire," said Deputy Secretary Kate MacGregor. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *UT geothermal leases* - On August 19, the Bureau of Land Management announced a record for the highest parcel lease and accepted winning bids for 32 parcels in geothermal leases in Utah, representing \$24.7 million. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)

Incidents

Listed alphabetically by park/program.

Bryce Canyon National Park

Flash flood

On August 24, the park experienced major flash flooding, leaving eleven people in four groups stranded on the Fairyland, Navajo, Peekaboo, and Queens Garden Trails, respectively. Personnel from the NPS, Garfield County (UT) EMS, and Garfield County Sheriff's Office responded to the scene and extricated the eleven individuals. Two of the individuals were taken to the hospital with hypothermia symptoms. Some trails in the park were damaged in the event. No further details were given. Source: [KSL](#)

Canyonlands National Park

Missing person

On August 22, a 71-year-old was reported overdue from a vacation in southeastern Utah. They had last been seen in Salina on August 16. Their vehicle was located at the Horseshoe Canyon trailhead on August 23. Personnel from the NPS, Bureau of Land Management, and Wayne County Search and Rescue have been conducting searches. As of August 27, the individual had not been located. The park is looking for any information the public may have. Source:

[Canyonlands National Park](#)

Curecanti National Recreation Area

Continued low water

On August 24, the park announced that, due to declining water levels, all developed boat ramps at Blue Mesa Reservoir are limited to hand-launching of non-trailer watercraft. Shoreline launching of trailer watercraft is permitted at park-regulated locations, with caution advised for low-water hazards. Source: [Curecanti National Recreation Area](#)

Death Valley National Park

Stranded visitor fatality

On August 17, two individuals were driving on West Side Road when their vehicle became stuck in mud near Queen of Sheba Mine Road. The two individuals began walking across the salt flats toward Badwater Road for help. After about 1.3 miles, one individual was unable to continue. The other individual continued another 1.5 miles to Badwater Road, where they received a ride from a bystander and reported the incident at Furnace Creek Visitor Center. Personnel from the NPS, Inyo County, and a California Highway Patrol helicopter began a search, finding the individual deceased. The heat was 116°F that day. Source: [Death Valley National Park](#)

Glacier National Park

Fall

On August 13, a 60-year-old was near the McDonald Creek Bridge when they moved closer to the edge to get a look at the creek. The ground gave way and the individual tumbled 120 feet into the creek. A bystander heard them land in the creek, then saw them face down in the water. The bystander brought them into a shallow area and began performing CPR for several minutes until the individual began breathing again. Personnel from the NPS responded to the scene to provide medical care. An ALERT medical helicopter was dispatched to the scene, but could not land in the rugged terrain. They landed at nearby Lake McDonald. Two Bear Air Rescue performed a hoist extrication of the patient via helicopter, and transported them a quarter-mile to Lake McDonald. The individual was transferred to the ALERT helicopter and flown to Logan Health Medical Center in Kalispell, Montana. The individual spent two days on a ventilator, and suffered multiple cracked ribs, a compound elbow fracture, and fluid in their lungs. Source:

[SFGate](#)

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area

Human remains found

On August 14, visitors on a houseboat located human remains (at an undisclosed location). Personnel from the NPS and Kane County (UT) Sheriff's Office responded to the scene and collected the remains. The remains have been transferred to the Utah State Medical Examiner's Office for autopsy and possible identification. No further details were given. Source: [CBS News](#)

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Car goes off cliff

On August 15, a car near the top of Newfound Gap veered into the oncoming lane before colliding with the barrier wall and going off an embankment, reportedly falling 200 feet before being stopped by a line of trees. The driver was said to have had a medical emergency. The individual was extricated from the vehicle and brought via a University of Tennessee Lifestar helicopter to a nearby hospital. The individual was said to have survived with broken bones and an injury to their kidney. On August 16, a local company was able to use a crane to extricate the vehicle. Source: [Road and Track](#)

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

Hurricane and further storms

On August 15 and 16, Hurricane Lala passed over the Big Island, causing winds up to 140 miles per hour and "as much as three feet of rain." Most of the park was left without power and phone service, and only a couple locations in the park reopened on August 18. On August 20, the park announced a closure of the remaining open areas of the park on August 21 due to another storm system predicted to bring in further rain and winds. On August 24, the park reopened some areas along Kīlauea summit, with other areas remaining closed for assessment and repair. Park electricity and communications were also restored after a weeklong outage. Source: [Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park \(Facebook\)](#), [GearJunkie](#), [Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park](#)

Lake Mead National Recreation Area

Human remains found

On August 16, a group of visitors were in shallow waters at Boulder Beach when one of them discovered a human jawbone. Other bones were found nearby. Personnel from the NPS, Las Vegas (NV) Metropolitan Police, and Clark County Coroner's Office responded to the scene. The remains are "categorized as noncriminal." Source: [KTLA](#), [SFGate](#)

National Mall and Memorial Parks

Alleged vandalism

On August 16, President Donald Trump posted a photo of the grassy area on the National Mall near the World War II Memorial, appearing patchy and brown. He called the area vandalized, even though the area recently hosted large events for the July 4 celebration, including a large bandstand and seating areas. Photos from the days that followed the events showed brown, damaged grass underneath. Source: [PBS News](#)

Point Reyes National Seashore**Boat runs aground**

On August 22, a 58-foot fishing boat ran aground at North Beach. No one was injured in the incident. Personnel from the NPS, U.S. Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Marin County (CA) Fire responded to the incident. The vessel was reported to have 1,000 gallons of diesel onboard, but no fuel leaks have been reported thus far. The Coast Guard is working to remove the fuel from the vessel. Source: [NBC Bay Area](#)

Zion National Park**Rockfall**

On August 24, rockfall blocked Zion Scenic Drive near the Big Bend shuttle stop. Crews cleaned up the debris and the road opened by the morning of August 25. No injuries were reported in the incident. Source: [St. George News](#)

Wildfires

- *Everglades National Park*

- On August 19, a lightning-caused fire was started near Shark Valley. As of August 24, the Movie Dome Fire was 6,207 acres and 100% contained.
- On August 21, a lightning-caused fire was reported two miles southwest of Shark Valley. As of August 26, the Chipmunk Fire was 17,956 acres and 100% contained.
- On August 22, a lightning-caused fire was reported east of the Shark Valley Tram Road. As of August 24, the Vulture Fire was 347 acres and 100% contained.
- The Shark Valley area closed for several days, and reopened on August 24. Source: [WUSF](#), [Everglades National Park](#)

- *Mount Rainier National Park*

- On August 7, the Grand Park 2 Fire started in the park about seven miles southwest of Snoquera. The park closed the Sunrise and White River roads and evacuated the Sunrise Visitor Center and White River Campground. As of August 26, the fire was 168 acres and 78% contained. Source: [KING5](#), [The Courier-Herald](#), [Watch Duty](#)
- On August 22, four new wildfires started in the park along the White River corridor, west of the Grand Park 2 Fire. As of August 26, the Clearwest Peak Fire was less than 0.1 acres, the Pigeon Fire was 2 acres, the White River Fire was 0.25 acres, and the Garda Falls Fire was 50 acres. Source: [The News Tribune](#), [Watch Duty](#)

- *North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area*

- On June 24, a series of lightning strikes hit the area, causing several fires north of Little Beaver Creek and west of Ross Lake. Of them, the Luna Fire, located east of Big Beaver Creek and north of McMillan Creek, continues burning. As of August 27, the fire was 4,776 acres and 31% contained. [Editor note: We incorrectly called this fire 100% contained in our 7/8/26 Coalition Report.] Source: *North Cascades*

National Park ([7/27](#), [7/31](#), [8/2](#)), [Inciweb](#)

- The week of July 12, lightning struck the area east of Ross Lake, igniting the Border 1 and Border 2 Fires. As of August 27, the Border 2 Fire was 15,311 acres and 42% contained. A historic cabin in the Hozomeen area has been wrapped in heat-reflective material and surrounded by sprinklers to protect it from the fire. Structures at Deerlick camp were also wrapped. Crews have also done a partial wrap of Desolation Lookout, allowing it to continue to be used for operations until it needs to be fully wrapped. Source: [Whatcom News](#), *North Cascades National Park* ([7/27](#), [7/31](#), [8/2](#), [8/14](#), [8/17](#)), [KING5](#), [Watch Duty](#)

- *Olympic National Park*

- Over the weekend of August 23-24, two lightning storms ignited. The Maiden 2 fire, located 1 mile north of Maiden Peak, burned 0.7 acres before it was contained. A single tree fire near Deer Park Campground was also extinguished.
- On August 14, a lightning-caused fire was reported by backpackers about 1.5 miles southeast of the Mt. Barnes summit. It burned 0.5 acres.
- On June 23, a lightning storm moved through the park. On June 24, backpackers reported a fire on “a remote mountain slope” on the west side of the park. As of August 26, the Mount Tom Creek Fire continued to burn, with minimal fire behavior.
- Source: [Olympic National Park](#)

- *Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks* - On August 22, a fire was reported in upper Paradise Valley at the confluence of Woods Creek and the South Fork of the Kings River. As of August 23, the Arrow Creek Fire was 3.5 acres and 0% contained. The cause of the fire is under investigation. Source: [Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks](#)

- *Yosemite National Park* - On August 12, lightning started eight new wildfires. As of August 13, the fires were as follows:

- The Ackerson Fire, burning 1 mile west of Aspen Valley, was 1.5 acres and 50% contained.
- The Long Fire, burning 1 mile south of Aspen Valley, was 0.1 acres and 100% contained.
- The Grouse Fire, burning in Grouse Creek less than a mile from Wawona Road, was 2 acres and 30% contained.
- The Steamboat Fire, burning in the top of the Grouse Creek drainage less than a mile from Wawona Road, was 0.1 acres and 0% contained.
- The Crocker Fire, burning in the Meadow Brook drainage less than a mile from the Inspiration Trail, was 0.1 acres and 0% contained.
- The Dewey Fire, burning near Dewey Point, was 0.1 acres and 0% contained.
- The McGurk Fire, burning 0.25 miles east of Dewey Point and north of the Inspiration Trail, was 0.1 acres and 0% contained.
- Source: [Yosemite National Park](#)

Follow-ups on Previously Reported Incidents

- *Grand Canyon National Park* - On August 20, the park announced the easing of water conservation measures, reopening water spigots at Mather and Desert View Campgrounds. Some water conservation measures remain in place due to challenges with the Transcanyon Waterline. Source: [Grand Canyon National Park](#)
- *New River Gorge National Park and Preserve* - On August 19, the 38-year-old former NPS employee who stole \$150 from a donation box at Canyon Rim Visitor Center (see 6/24/26 *Coalition Report*) was sentenced to one year of federal probation and ordered to pay \$150 in restitution for theft of government property. Source: [WTAP](#)

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

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

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