



The Coalition Report

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

Take Action!

We've launched our #ParksAreProof campaign, including detailed reports, media outreach, and Congressional engagement to advocate for **sustained investment in park staffing, science, resource manage, biodiversity, and climate research.**

You can help! [Take a minute to send an advocacy letter.](#)

Send a letter

Coalition Actions

The Coalition joined a group of animal welfare, public health, and wildlife management organizations in [filing a formal petition](#) to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission asking it to prohibit the use of lead-based ammunition for sport hunting.

We joined four other conservation groups in submitting [comments](#) to the Bureau of Land Management Wyoming Office's Third Quarter 2026 competitive oil and gas lease sale, asking for the deferral of parcels that overlap sensitive habitat or have other conservation conflicts and for a more complete analysis of environmental effects.

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

- [Coalition to Protect America's National Parks urges court to block construction of President Trump's ballroom](#), press release
- [Park Service orders removal of 'woke' quotes at Boston's Bunker Hill monument](#), *The*

Washington Post

- [As park fees go to DC, Yellowstone, Grand Teton face \\$1.5B backlog](#), *WyoFile*
- [National parks crisis hits home](#), *Illinois 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.

- *Changes to civil service* - On June 3, President Donald Trump issued an Executive Order implementing a new job category of the federal government, stripping protections and making 8,000 employees now “at-will,” allowing for politically-motivated removal. Within the National Park Service, the following positions were listed: business plan manager, supervisory Native American affairs liaison, program analysis officer, associate regional director, natural resources program manager, program manager, and supervisory program manager (see pages 168-169 of [the Executive Order appendix](#) for further details on positions description numbers). Agencies were given one week, until June 10, to reclassify those workers. The Trump administration claims the positions are all policy-based, and therefore should be removeable if they are not in alignment with the current administration’s policy goals. Several unions have stated they will pursue litigation. Source: [Government Executive](#)
- *Off-road vehicles now allowed in parks* - On May 29, President Donald Trump rescinded two Executive Orders from the 1970s under Presidents Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Carter that established strict criteria for the use of off-road vehicles on public lands and authorized the government to shut down off-road driving if it was causing ecological damage. This includes ATVs, dirt bikes, and snowmobiles. The White House’s [statement](#) called the restrictions “unnecessary and counterproductive,” and stated that they have “adversely impacted rural economies, permitting, tourism, American manufacturing, organized motorsports, volunteer stewardship efforts, and public confidence.” Federal agencies are now ordered to rescind or revise regulations adopted to implement these Executive Orders. Source: [The New York Times](#)
- *Opportunities and risks of U.S. Wildland Fire Service* - *Resources* published [an article](#) highlighting benefits, such as streamlined response, compensation, and coordination, and risks, such as diverse land management goals, and fuel mitigation, to the new Wildland Fire Service. Source: *Resources*
- *Federal mapping tools* - On June 1, the Department of the Interior launched new datasets for mapping for easements related to recreation access. Additional recreation access data will follow. This effort follows the mandates of the MAPLand Act and the MAPWaters Act. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- “5 national parks most threatened by mining exploration” - The National Parks

Conservation Association published [an article](#) with this title, listing Mojave National Preserve, Joshua Tree National Park, Grand Canyon National Park, Arches National Park, and Canyonlands National Park. Source: *National Parks Conservation Association*

- *Backlash to snatch on parks* - A Freedom of Information Act request to the Department of the Interior revealed all comments made to the QR codes posted at NPS sites in Summer 2025, asking visitors to report “any signs or 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 vast majority of comments encouraged the NPS to not alter park signs, in favor of making sure a full American history is told. Source: [KOAA](#)
- *National Parks Traveler to close* - On July 1, the media outlet *National Parks Traveler* will suspend operations due to “a lack of capital.” They have stated that they “won’t permanently shut down, but will continue to seek a financial solution” in hopes of keeping afloat. Source: [National Parks Traveler](#)
- *Most missing persons* - *Islands* published [an article](#) highlighting that Yosemite National Park has the most unsolved missing-person cold cases of any national parks, with 10 total. They reported that Grand Canyon National Park has five, and Great Smoky Mountains National Park has four. Source: *Islands*
- *“Great American Expedition”* - On June 4, the Department of the Interior announced the creation of the “Great American Expedition,” a nationwide initiative to highlight “a national record celebrating America’s first 250 years of history.” At each stop of the expedition, participants will display an expedition flag and highlight the important stories associated with that place, allowing Americans’ to follow along and learn. Interior Department leadership has already made stops at Yellowstone National Park, Rocky Mountain National Park Steamtown National Historic Site, Denali National Park and Preserve, and the National Park of American Samoa. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)

Around the Parks

Reports are in alphabetical order by park/program name.

- *Blue Ridge Parkway* - On June 1, the NPS announced a Request for Proposals for a concession operating the historic Bluffs Lodge, located at milepost 241.1, near Laurel Springs, North Carolina. Proposals are due September 30. Source: [Blue Ridge Parkway](#)
- *Buck Island Reef National Monument* - The park recently began rehabilitation of the 1.8-mile Buck Island Trail, including trail maintenance and sign replacement. The project is being funded by the Great American Outdoors Act, and executed by park staff, a Maintenance Action Team from the Historic Preservation Training Center, and interns from the American Conservation Experience. Source: [Buck Island Reef National Monument](#)

- *Crater Lake National Park* - *SFGate* published an article about a common misperception of would-be-visitors that the park is closed due to media reports with sensational headlines about the closure of the Cleetwood Cove Trail for a multi-year rehabilitation project. Gateway communities have noted very low visitation. The park remains open, though the Cleetwood Cove Trail will be closed until 2029. Source: [SFGate](#)
- *Cumberland Island National Seashore* - *National Parks Traveler* published an article about proposed land exchanges at the park that may conflict with the park's wilderness character. NPS staff have stated the two signed preliminary agreements are still subject to public comment this fall. Meanwhile, the NPS has already sought support from the Camden County (GA) Commission to access Land and Water Conservation Fund grants to support the swaps. Source: [National Parks Traveler](#)
- *Fort Donelson National Battlefield* - The park will soon begin a new phase of rehabilitation at the visitor center. A previous contract for the project began in 2015. The new contract will be undertaken by National Contracting Services, and will focus on "completing the rehabilitation using an updated, carefully assessed scope that reflects the building's needs after years of partial construction." Source: [Fort Donelson National Battlefield](#)
- *Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park* - On June 6, the park reopened Chatham after a major rehabilitation project that began in August 2024. Improvements include interior repairs, a new fire-suppression system, and upgraded infrastructure. Source: [Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park](#)
- *George Washington Memorial Parkway* - On June 8, the NPS held a ribbon cutting for the completion of a rehabilitation project on the north section of the parkway, including bridges, drainages, pavement, barriers, and restored overlooks. The \$167 million project was funded by the Great American Outdoors Act. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *George Washington Memorial Parkway* - A study recently published in *Urban Forestry and Urban Greening* was conducted on the parkway, demonstrating that that park provides "cultural ecosystem services, meaning benefits such as "inspiration, spiritual enrichment, recreation, sense of place, cultural identity, and opportunities for formal and informal education." This was amplified by the proximity of visitor residence to the park. Source: [ScienceDirect](#)
- *Glacier National Park* - *GearJunkie* published [an article](#) about the effects of the park dropping its timed entry reservation system and challenges with the park's shuttle system. Source: *GearJunkie*
- *Grand Canyon National Park* - The park recently added a dog to its wildlife management team. Named "Blue," the dog will use barking and "herding pressure" to move wildlife away from developed areas on the South Rim. "While working, she is always on a leash in direct control of her handler and never makes physical contact with animals." Source: [ABC15](#)

- *Grand Canyon National Park* - On May 28, the NPS announced a Finding of No Significant Impact for the North Rim and Roaring Springs Water System Improvements project. The project will be funded by the Great American Outdoors Act. Contractor solicitation will begin this summer, with construction to begin in Spring 2027. Source: [Grand Canyon National Park](#)
- *Grand Canyon National Park* - On June 22, the park will close Lipoan Point and Lipan Point Road for a rehabilitation project, including asphalt removal and trail reconstruction. The Tanner Trail will remain open, with visitors parking at No Name Point just to the west of Lipan Point Road. The project is expected to continue through December. Source: [Grand Canyon National Park](#)
- *Honouliuli National Historic Site* - On July 18, the NPS will open the park for the first time for limited guided tours. The park also announced a series of special community events and activities marking 80 years since the camp closed in 1946. The tours are done in partnership with Hawaii's Plantation Village, while programming is supported by Pacific Historic Parks. Source: [Honouliuli National Historic Site](#)
- *Ice Age National Scenic Trail* - Jamieson Hatt, 46, recently completed the longest-ever distance-hike without resupplying at any point, along the Ice Age Trail. He covered 1,160 miles in 31 days, starting with a 70 pound load. Source: [GearJunkie](#)
- *Lake Mead National Recreation Area* - Over Memorial Day weekend, the governors of Arizona and Nevada, a Bureau of Reclamation acting regional director, and other public officials participated in an America250 celebration at Hoover Dam, including public remarks, and the suspension of a 350-foot by 250-foot American flag across the dam. The flag is adorned with red, white, and blue LED lights, and will remain installed through July 4. Source: [Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority](#)
- *National Mall and Memorial Parks* - An analysis of federal records demonstrates that the NPS has used over \$67 million in recreation fees to fund beautification projects around Washington, DC, funneling money from other deferred maintenance in the queue across the National Park System. Between December 2025 and March 2026, over 90% of all recreation fee spending went to Washington, DC-based projects. Source: [The New York Times](#)
- *National Mall and Memorial Parks* - A review of federal documents shows that the NPS is diverting \$90 million in recreation fees for the July 4 celebrations in Washington, DC. Source: [Independent](#)
- *National Mall and Memorial Parks* - *The New York Times* published [an interactive article](#) highlighting the challenges to repairing the reflecting pool at the Lincoln Memorial, including shifting soils, broken pipes, and algal blooms. Evidence suggests that efforts by the Trump administration to seal the pool will not resolve all of the issues. Source: *The*

New York Times

- *National Mall and Memorial Parks* - A review of a contract awarded in April revealed that four bronze horse statues in West Potomac Park, known as “The Arts of War” and “The Arts of Peace,” are being partially covered in 23.75-karat gold leaf. The contract was also awarded without competition in a desire to complete it before July 4 for the United States’ 250th anniversary. Source: [People](#)
- *National Mall and Memorial Parks* - On May 27 at a Cabinet meeting at the White House, President Donald Trump stated that his administration is investigating coating the basin of the World War II Memorial, similarly to the Lincoln Memorial reflecting pool. Source: [People](#)
- *National Mall and Memorial Parks* - On May 29, the Interior Department held a ribbon cutting for the completion of a rehabilitation project at Columbus Circle, including the rehabilitation of the Columbus Fountain, which has not operated since 2007. The project also included structural repairs, stone conservation, modernizing water systems, and improvements to accessibility and pedestrian circulation. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *National Trails System* (an NPS-administered program) - On June 6, the Department of the Interior designated five new National Recreation Trails and one National Water Trail, consisting of 162.5 total miles across five states. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *Rock Creek Park* - New documentation obtained through the Freedom of Information Act shows that the NPS skipped the necessary National Environmental Policy Act process in a proposed expansion of the Rock Creek Tennis Center, endangering a federally endangered species and bypassing public comment. Source: [National Parks Conservation Association](#)
- *Rocky Mountain National Park* - *The Denver Post* published [an article](#) outlining why Rocky Mountain has kept its day-use permit system, while others, such as Yosemite and Arches National Parks, have not. It is believed to be because community leaders expressed support for the policy, which is not a deterrent to visit, with visitors attaining access outside peak hours with relative ease. Source: *The Denver Post*
- *Stonewall National Monument* - On June 3, Lambda Legal launched a film series highlighting the fight to restore the Pride flag to the park, which was settled by the federal government out of court on April 13. Source: [Lambda Legal](#)
- *The White House and President’s Park, National Mall and Memorial Parks* - The *Los Angeles Times* published [an article](#) about two upcoming events, the UFC Freedom 250 (Ultimate Fighting Championship), which will be held on the South Lawn of the White House, and the Freedom 250 Grand Prix, and Indy Car race around the National Mall. Jon Jarvis, former NPS director, called the events “inappropriate and disrespectful to the history and importance of the White House and the National Mall.” Meanwhile, White House officials state that they are “exuberant celebrations of patriotism and pride.”

Source: *Los Angeles Times*

- *Theodore Roosevelt National Park* - On May 7, the NPS announced it was ending its 74-year partnership with the Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association, a cooperating association. The organization vacated their work at the visitor center on May 31. Leadership at the organization said they were “caught off-guard by the decision,” and stated that they remain committed to the mission and are investigating an alternative retail location. No further details have been given. Source: [KFYR](#)
- *Theodore Roosevelt National Park* - *RE:PUBLIC* published [an article](#) about the proposed presidential library for President Teddy Roosevelt, which would be located near the South Unit of the park. It highlights Interior Department Secretary Doug Burgum’s complicated relationship to the legacy of President Teddy Roosevelt, juxtaposing his efforts to see the creation of the library against the dismantling of public lands protections. Source: *RE:PUBLIC*
- *Yellowstone National Park* - A citizen who has been tracking the viability of the last remaining pay phones in the park found that the final phone, located at Norris Campground, is no longer in service. Source: [Cowboy State Daily](#)
- *Yosemite National Park* - On May 26, the park announced that fishing seasonal closures have been rescinded, now allowing winter fishing access, in alignment with California fishing rules. This rule aligns with Secretary’s Order 3447, an effort to expand recreation access and remove barriers for hunting and fishing. Hunting remains closed in Yosemite. Source: [Yosemite National Park](#)
- *Yosemite National Park* - The *San Francisco Chronicle* published [an op-ed](#) by Coalition member Bob Binnewies about the High Sierra Camps, a series of backcountry cabins in the park, which have been struggling with issues related to deferred maintenance, aging infrastructure, and major staffing shortages. The camps have struggled to open in recent years, and two of the camps are rumored for closure. Source: *San Francisco Chronicle*
- *Zion National Park* - On May 29, the park will reopen the South Campground after a two-year rehabilitation. The project was funded by the Great American Outdoors Act. Source: [St. George News](#)

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.

- *Acadia National Park* - On May 20, a law enforcement ranger at the park sued the NPS for discrimination, claiming they were passed over for positions due to race and age. The individual was passed over for jobs on three separate occasions, including one in which they purported to meet minimum qualifications and the position was opened to a larger

pool afterward because of a lack of candidates meeting the qualifications. Source: [Bar Harbor Story](#)

- *Independence National Historical Park* - A federal appeals court heard arguments about the NPS' attempted removal of exhibits related to slavery at the President's House. A judge had ruled in favor of the City of Philadelphia, ordering full restoration of the exhibit in February. A decision from the court of appeals is pending. Source: [Courthouse News Service](#)
- *National Mall and Memorial Parks* - On May 27, federal officers demanded an "8647" flag be removed from a permitted public demonstration on Constitution Avenue, threatening to revoke their permit. On June 1, a federal judge issued a temporary restraining order prohibiting the NPS from taking action against protesters. 8647 is a reference to "86" (get rid of) President #47 (Donald Trump). The judge ruled that the expression of speech does not threaten the life or safety of the President. Source: [ACLU - District of Columbia](#)
- *The White House and President's Park* - On May 28, the Constitutional Accountability Center filed an amicus brief in federal court, arguing that the White House did not have the authority to demolish the East Wing and build a ballroom in its place. Proceedings in a federal appeals court took place on June 5. As of June 8, no decision had yet been made. Source: [Constitutional Accountability Center](#), [The Hill](#)

Park People

Deceased

- John L. Clark, 80, passed away on December 15, 2025. John spent "several seasons managing the Old Faithful Service Station in Yellowstone National Park." Source: [Franzen-Davis Funeral Home, Crematory, and Monument Company](#)
- Cornelius "Neil" DeJong, 79, passed away on May 27. Neil worked for the NPS for 30 years, including time at Blue Ridge Parkway, Death Valley National Park, New River Gorge National Park and Preserve, Voyageurs National Park, Everglades National Park, and the Intermountain Region. Source: [Association of National Park Rangers Community Page \(Facebook\)](#)
- Adelaide Luverne Levno, 89, passed away on May 27. Adelaide "ran a first aid station in Glacier National Park" for a time. Source: [Legacy/The Hutchinson Station](#)
- Karen Lissa Najarian, 72, passed away recently. She worked for a time as a "backcountry backpacking guide in Yosemite National Park." Source: [East Bay Times](#)
- Mary Louise Hilling Rohlf, 91, passed away on May 16. May worked for a time at Fort Necessity National Battlefield. Source: [Herald-Standard](#)

- Donald “Don” Kenneth Ross, 82, passed away on May 26. Don lived in Mesa Verde National Park as a child, then later worked there for over 15 years as an interpretive ranger. Source: [Hood Mortuary](#)

In the News

- Former Interior Secretary Deb Haaland won the Democratic primary for governor in New Mexico. The general election for the office will take place on November 3. Source: [Carlsbad Current-Argus](#)

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.

- *Amache National Historic Site* - Public comment is [open through July 15](#) on a General Management Plan for the park. Source: [National Park Service Planning, Environment and Public Comment](#)
- *Civil War Defenses of Washington, National Capital Region, Rock Creek Park* - Public comment is open through June 15 on an updated management plan for the Fort Circle Parks. Source: [Civil War Defenses of Washington](#)
- *Denali National Park and Preserve* - Public comment is [open through July 17](#) on a proposal that would increase the number of vehicles per day by roughly 60% on miles 15-90 of the Denali Park Road. Source: [Anchorage Daily News](#)
- *George Washington Parkway* - Public comment is [open through June 15](#) on the proposed Triumphal Arch adjacent to Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery. Source: [WTOP](#)
- *Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park* - Public comment is [open through July 1](#) on a comprehensive site management plan for the Kahuku Unit. There is [a storymap](#) for the project. Source: [Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park](#)
- *Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore* - Public comment is [open through June 22](#) on an accessibility self-evaluation and transition plan. Source: [Pictured Rocks National Seashore](#)
- *Yosemite National Park* - Public comment has been delayed and will now [open on June 11](#) and be open through July 13 for a proposal to improve the John Muir Trailhead and the Mist Trail corridor. Source: [Yosemite National Park](#)

Congressional Actions

Reports on legislation, hearings, and new public laws of relevance to the national parks, prepared by

Chris Soller, former superintendent of Fire Island National Seashore and legislative specialist for the National Park Service.

New Public Laws

Nothing to report this period.

Senate Actions

May 23 - May 31 - Congress was in recess for the Memorial Day holiday.

No other actions to report for this period.

House of Representatives Actions

May 23 - May 31 - Congress was in recess for the Memorial Day holiday.

June 2 - The House debated H.R. 7618, the American Battlefield Protection Program Amendments Act of 2026. The bill, as was amended, would amend title 54, United States Code, to modify certain cost-sharing requirements for grant programs under the American Battlefield Protection Program. The bill extends through Fiscal Year 2036 grant programs for the acquisition, interpretation modernization, and restoration of certain U.S. battlefields. (Under current law, the grants are authorized through FY28.) The bill also requires the NPS to prepare or certify studies of locations tied to significant events during the French and Indian War (1754-1763) and the Mexican-American War (1846-1848) for potential preservation.

June 3

The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 7618, amended (see above), by a two-thirds yeas-and-nays vote of 404 yeas to 13 nays.

The Committee on Appropriations met to markup the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY27; and the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY27. Both bills were ordered reported, as amended. The Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill includes the FY27 appropriation for the National Park Service. The language of the bill was outlined in the [5/27/26 Coalition Report](#). For the most part, the FY27 proposed budget retains NPS funding at the current FY26 levels.

Other Relevant Department of the Interior News

- *Proposed grazing reform* - On June 1, the Department of the Interior put forth a proposed rule to streamline grazing administration and expand “rangeland health standards.” Public comment on the rule is [open through July 13](#). Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *New guidance for orphaned wells* - On May 29, the Department of the Interior announced new guidance for the State Orphaned Wells Grant Program intended to “improve oversight and accountability to ensure grant recipients meet performance goals, and decrease risk

of fraud, waste, and abuse.” The specifics of the guidance was not listed in the press release. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)

- *\$461 million for parks and rec* - On June 8, the Department of the Interior announced \$461 million in grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the development and rehabilitation of parks, conservation areas, and outdoor recreation facilities across all 50 states, U.S. territories and the District of Columbia. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)

Incidents

Listed alphabetically by park/program.

Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area

Child rescue

On June 3, a child was hiking with their family when they fell down an embankment into Vickery Creek. The individual was able to get out of the water, but could not climb back up the steep bank. Responders from the Roswell (GA) Fire Department launched an inflatable boat from the other side of the creek and extracted the individual. No injuries were reported. Source: [11 Alive](#)

Curecanti National Recreation Area

Low water

On June 1, the park announced that low winter snowpack has resulted in low water levels, resulting in the closure of some boat ramps and the relocation of marina infrastructure. Source: [Curecanti National Recreation Area](#)

Denali National Park and Preserve

Climbing accidents

On May 27, a part of seven was climbing on the West Buttress Route near Denali Pass, at 18,200 feet, when four of them took a fall. The other three climbers in the party attended to the fallen individuals, then returned to High Camp at 17,000 feet due to deteriorating conditions. On May 28, a helicopter using “a long line extraction” was able to transport one surviving individual to the Kahiltna Base Camp, and they were then transported by a LifeMed air ambulance to a local hospital. The three members of the party who helped the patient “experienced declining physical conditions” and also needed extraction from High Camp. They were flown by three separate long line extractions to the 14,200-foot camp, then flown to Kahiltna Base Camp. There, they were evaluated by medical personnel and transferred to an air taxi off the mountain. The other three individuals in the fall did not survive injuries, and recovery efforts remain ongoing.

Also on May 27, in a separate incident, two climbers were evacuated from the mountain by helicopter, but no further details were given. Source: [Associated Press](#), [Seattle Times](#), [Denali National Park and Preserve](#)

On May 31, a climber on a guided trip experienced “a medical event” while descending from the summit of Denali. The individual did not survive the event, and a recovery of the individual’s body was enacted. Source: [Denali National Park and Preserve](#)

Denali National Park and Preserve

Employee fatality

On June 4, an NPS seasonal mountaineering ranger fell into a crevasse while on patrol near 14,000 Foot Camp on Denali. They did not survive their injuries. No further details were given about the incident. Source: [Denali National Park and Preserve](#)

Denali National Park and Preserve

Wildlife activity

On May 28, the park closed Savage River Campground due to “ongoing wildlife activity in the area.” A deceased young moose was observed near the campground, as well as a cow moose and a grizzly bear. Cow moose can be highly defensive around calves and bears can be aggressive near carcasses. The campground will remain closed until conditions are deemed more safe for visitors. Source: [Denali National Park and Preserve](#)

Glacier National Park

Bear incident

On May 28, a 32-year-old was hiking about 3.5 miles into the Grinnell Glacier Trail when they had a surprise encounter with a bear near Lake Josephine. Rushing water nearby may have made it difficult for the two to hear each other. The bear charged the visitor, breaking their arm. The bear left the area afterward. Nearby hikers provided first aid and requested emergency support. The hiker was transported by helicopter to Logan Health Medical Center in Kalispell, Montana. The Grinnell Glacier Trail and North Shore Josephine Lake Trail are currently closed. It was the second bear incident in Glacier in May, with the previous individual dying due to injuries sustained in the incident (see 5/13/26 Coalition Report). Source: [SFGate](#), [Backpacker](#)

Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Surfer fatality

On May 28, a surfer became distressed just outside the surf line at Ocean Beach, and began waving their hands above their head. An off-duty NPS lifeguard who was surfing nearby, along with three on-duty NPS Ocean Rescue lifeguards swam toward the location. When they arrived, the individual was face down, unconscious, and not breathing. They began life-saving measures while bringing the victim back to shore. Paramedics from the San Francisco Fire Department also provided advanced life support care and transported the individual to a local hospital. The individual later passed away. Source: [KRON4](#)

Grand Canyon National Park

Hiker fatality

On June 3, an 18-year-old was hiking on the Bright Angel Trail below Havasupai Gardens and began experiencing “heat-related symptoms.” The individual was reportedly attempting to hike from the South Rim to the Colorado River and back to the rim in a day hike. NPS personnel responded and found the individual about 30 feet below the trail in a “remote area near Garden Creek.” Lifesaving measures were enacted, but unsuccessful. Source: [Grand Canyon National Park](#)

National Mall and Memorial Parks

Fuel spill

On May 17, over 30 gallons of fuel leaked from commercial generators at an event called “Rededicate 250: A National Jubilee of Prayer, Praise, and Thanksgiving” on the National Mall. The fuel seeped into underground cisterns that collect rainwater to irrigate the Mall. Representatives from the organization Freedom 250 said the incident was the result of vandalism. The NPS and Freedom 250 began a cleanup response and are remediating the site with support from contractor Lewis Environmental, and the incident is under investigation. Source: [NBC News](#)

New River Gorge National Park and Preserve

Climber rescue

On May 30, a 23-year-old took a fall while climbing along Fern Creek at Millers Folly Rapid near Fayette Station Road. Personnel from the NPS and the Fayetteville Fire Department responded to the scene. They utilized a high line rope system to extract the individual. They were lowered to the railroad tracks, and a CSX high rail track transported the individual to a Jan-Care ambulance at Fayette Station. Source: [ABC4](#)

Obed Wild and Scenic River

Kayak rescue

On May 30, four kayakers ended up on the wrong side of the Emory River in Oakdale, Tennessee, requiring a rescue. Personnel from the NPS, Morgan County Rescue Squad, Roane County Rescue Squad, and Morgan County Sheriff’s Office responded with a boat to rescue the individuals. Source: [WVLT](#)

Olympic National Park

Climbing accident

On May 23, a group of four individuals were climbing on Mount Deception, when one individual, age 41, took a fall in a “slushy couloir.” They attempted to self-arrest with their ice axe, but the snow was too soft to grab hold. They fell ~240 feet, eventually striking a large boulder and landing in its snow moat, which stopped their fall. They remained conscious, but found they could not bend their leg. A bystander party on a nearby summit called 911. About half an hour later, a second individual in the party reached the area where the first had fallen, and they also

slipped, falling into the slide track of the previous person. That person also crashed into the boulder and slid to a stop about 20 feet below the first individual. They were slipping in and out of consciousness in the aftermath. The bystander party once again called 911. Another individual in the party also broke two of their fingers after dislodging a large rock. NPS staff and a helicopter utilizing short-haul techniques were able to extract the four individuals and transport them to Royal Basin. They were then flown to Port Angeles Airport, and the individual who took the second fall was taken by Airlift Northwest to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, Washington. They suffered injuries to their ribs, nose, spinal process, abdominal cavity, lungs, and head. The other three individuals were taken by ambulance to a local medical center, treated, and released. Source: [The News Tribune](#)

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

Drownings

On May 25, a 29-year-old was taking a picture of Roaring River Falls when they slipped off a rock into the water. The individual's spouse (age 30) attempted to rescue the individual. Both individuals drowned in the incident. Source: [SFGate](#)

U.S. Park Police

Driving fatality

On June 6, a crash between two vehicles took place at the intersection of 17th Street NW and Constitution Avenue NW in Washington, DC. The driver of one vehicle fled the scene on foot and was apprehended by members of the U.S. Secret Service Uniformed Division. The driver of the other vehicle was transported to a local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, while a passenger was ejected during the crash and pronounced deceased at the scene. The individual who fled the scene was taken into custody. Road closures were temporarily in place for the investigation, and have since reopened. Source: [U.S. Park Police](#)

U.S. Park Police

Fugitive arrested

On May 26, federal officers, including U.S. Park Police, were conducting "proactive enforcement operations in a public park" as part of the D.C. Safe and Beautiful Task Force when they approached an individual. They refused to identify themselves and provided officers with false identifying information. After "additional investigative steps and database checks," the individual was identified as a fugitive wanted on an active homicide warrant. The individual was arrested and taken into custody. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)

U.S. Park Police

Illegal firearm seizure

From June 6-7, U.S. Park Police and the DC Safe and Beautiful Task Force conducted "Operation Make DC Safe and Beautiful," resulting in the recovery of seven illegal firearms. Source: [U.S. Park Police](#)

Wind Cave National Park

Hiker rescue

On May 27, a hiker fell on “steep terrain” and broke their leg, about a mile from Highway 87 in the park. They used a satellite device to request emergency support. Personnel from the NPS, Custer County (SD) Sheriff’s Office, Custer Ambulance Service, and the Pringle Volunteer Fire Department responded to the incident. The patient was treated and placed into a wheeled litter on a rope belay line, then transported to a utility vehicle. They were then transported to an ambulance at the trailhead and brought to medical care. Source: [KOTA](#)

Wildfires

- *Channel Islands National Park* - On May 15, a fire was started on Santa Rosa Island. New evidence suggests that the fire started due to the sailboat wreckage rather than the flares set off by its captain. As of June 4, the Santa Rosa Island Fire was 18,379 acres and 100% contained. Two structures, the Johnson’s Lee Equipment Shed, and Wreck Line Camp Cabin, have been destroyed. The island’s grove of rare Torrey pines “appears to have been mostly spared” from the fire, as well as the historic South Point Light Station. The island will remain closed “at least through June 30” to assess impacts. It is estimated that “less than 40%” of the island burned. Source: [The Guardian](#), [CAL FIRE](#), [SFGate](#) ([5/20](#), [5/21](#), [6/4](#)), [Santa Barbara Independent](#) ([5/22](#), [6/4](#))

Follow-ups on Previously Reported Incidents

- *Death Valley National Park* - On June 3, the park announced the reopening of Lower Wildrose Road, which has been closed since it was damaged by Hurricane Hilary in August 2023. The road was previously paved and will now remain an unpaved surface. Source: [Death Valley National Park](#)

Corrections

In the 5/27/26 *Coalition Report*, we repeated information from an erroneous source about an alleged refusal to issue maintenance permits at Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park that might have prevented the Potomac Interceptor sewer collapse in January, coming to light in a recent Congressional hearing. However, during the hearing, the NPS did not speak about the permit history, citing ongoing litigation on the matter. Thank you to Tina Cappetta for bringing this to our attention.

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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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