THE COALITION TO PROTECT AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS
VOICES OF EXPERIENCE

The Coalition Report

Wednesday, October 28, 2026

Coalition Actions

The Coalition and Ecological Collective, USVI, Inc., filed a lawsuit against the NPS for its plan to lease all of Caneel Bay in Virgin Islands National Park, arguing that it goes against the park's own environmental assessment and plan.

We joined seven other organizations in submitting official comments to Cumberland Island National Seashore in opposition to proposed land exchanges that would allow for private development within the park. We also joined several dozen organizations in a letter to the park.

The Coalition submitted comments to the NPS in opposition to its proposal to issue a special use permit to allow the Jemez Pueblo to kill a bald eagle or golden eagle within Valles Caldera National Preserve.

The Coalition joined two organizations in submitting comments on the North Carolina Supplement to the Regional Haze State Implementation Plan for the Second Implementation Period, arguing that it uses flawed analyses and does little to curb emissions.

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

- Park advocates urge Supreme Court to reject renewed border wall construction in Big Bend, press release
- This private company is failing Yosemite National Park, *GearJunkie*

National/Regional NPS Updates

News on NPS management and oversight, and on trends and issues affecting the National Park System.

- *NPS ranks most favorable of agencies* - In a recent opinion poll by the Pew Research Center, the National Park Service was ranked as the most favorable federal agency. They were followed closely by the National Weather Service and the U.S. Postal Service, while the lowest three included Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Department of Justice. Source: *Pew Research Center*

- *Surveillance cameras* - *The Washington Post* recently published an article chronicling the U.S. Park Police lease of mobile surveillance camera trailers from LiveView Technologies around Washington, DC. Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility has asked the Department of Interior to disclose whether the cameras are integrated with facial recognition or other tracking technologies, and to explain how the data is collected and what privacy protections and accountability mechanisms are in place. Source: *Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility*

- *Most dangerous national parks* - *Outforia* published an article that chronicled visitation numbers and visitor deaths in national parks (only "national parks" in name, not all NPS units) from 2014 to 2022. It found that the leading cause of deaths was falls, causing 36% of all accidental deaths, which is more than vehicle crashes. Yosemite National Park had the most accidental deaths, while Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve had the most deaths per visitation at 15.3 per 1 million visits. Dry Tortugas National Park and Virgin Islands National Park ranked second and third for deaths per visitation. Source: *Outforia*

Around the Parks

Reports are in alphabetical order by park/program name.

- *Acadia National Park* - The park recently completed a project to make 500 feet of Ocean Path, west of Otter Point Overlook, more accessible. The project was supported by the NPS, Friends of Acadia, and Appalachian Mountain Club. Source: *Bar Harbor Story*

- *Alaska Region* - On October 16, the NPS announced a final rule restoring Alaska state-specific regulations for governing wildlife harvest, subsistence-related activities and public access. This includes the rescission of rule changes in 2015, 2017, and 2024, including a rule that had banned bear baiting. The new policy will go into effect in late November. Source: *Department of the Interior*

- *American World War II Heritage City Program* (an NPS-administered program) - On October 16, the NPS announced the designation of 10 new locations in the program. Source: *National Park Service Office of Communications*

- *Appalachian National Scenic Trail* - *Outside* published an article about the NPS' plan to tear down the Eckville shelter and the 501 shelter due to deterioration and to "restore this section of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail to a more natural backcountry setting." The structures are considered "nonconforming" because agency policy requires all shelters to be more than two miles from a road. A group of individuals has launched a

campaign to stop the demolition, called “Save Our Shelters.” Source: *Outside*

- *Blackwell School National Historic Site* - Arcadia Publishing recently published *The Blackwell School*, a book by Cristobal Lopez and Kirsten Gardner. The book chronicles the history of the site. All proceeds will go to the Blackwell School Alliance. Source: *National Parks Conservation Association*

- *Boston National Historical Park* - On October 26, the park began a major rehabilitation project on Building 107 at the Charlestown Navy Yard. The $50.2 million project is being funded by the Great American Outdoors Act. Source: *Boston National Historical Park*

- *Bryce Canyon National Park* - On October 15, the NPS and the Federal Highway Administration announced the completion of the final 2.7-mile segment of the Canyon2Canyon Trail, a 24-mile multi-use pathway from Bryce Point to Red Canyon in Dixie National Forest. Source: *Bryce Canyon National Park*

- *Cape Hatteras National Seashore* - On November 2, the Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative will begin a project to upgrade the electric transmission system between the Sandy Bay parking lot and Hatteras Village. Part of the Sandy Bay parking lot will be closed and Highway 12 lane closures may be in place during the project, which is expected to be complete in late January 2027. Source: *Cape Hatteras National Seashore*

- *Cape Krusenstern National Monument, Kobuk Valley National Park, Noatak National Preserve* - On October 16, the parks announced that the 2026 Eileen Devinney Award will be given to the Kiana Traditional Council, Tessa Baldwin-Cyrus, Robin Kornfield, and Thomas Jackson for their long-term collaboration on an ethnographic project between Kiana, neighboring communities, and Kobuk Valley. Source: *Kobuk Valley National Park*

- *Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site* - On November 7, the park will reopen to the public, following a major rehabilitation of the historic home, the addition of a visitor center, and an expansion of exhibits. The project was supported by the National Park Foundation and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. Source: *Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site*

- *Chiricahua National Park* - On October 20, President Donald Trump signed the Chiricahua National Park Act, redesignating it as a national park. The site was originally designated as a national monument in 1924. Source: *Department of the Interior*

- *Death Valley National Park* - On October 21, the park broke ground on a rehabilitation project for the Furnace Creek and Cow Creek water and wastewater systems. The $69.5 million project is being funded by the Great American Outdoors Act. It is expected to take three years to complete. Source: *News3LV*

- *Denali National Park and Preserve* - On October 15, the NPS announced a final rule raising the number of vehicles that can travel on the restricted section of the Denali Park Road

(mile 15 to mile 90). Source: *Denali National Park and Preserve*

- *Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve* - On October 19, the NPS announced the opening of a concession prospectus for a 10-year contract to provide kayak rental services at Bartlett Cove. Applications are due December 28. Source: *Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve*

- *Grand Teton National Park* - On October 19, the Jackson, Wyoming, Town Council voted unanimously to send a letter to the Department of the Interior in opposition to the way an amendment to the Moose-Wilson Corridor Comprehensive Management Plan was made. A recent decision to construct a multi-use pathway on the corridor contradicted a 2016 decision that had taken years of review and public comment to create. Source: *Buckrail*

- *Great Basin National Park* - The National Park Foundation published an article on Great Basin National Park Foundation Executive Director Aviva O'Neil and her efforts to grow the organization through NPF capacity building grants. Source: *National Park Foundation*

- *Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park* - *SFGate* published an article about "the Great Crack," an 8-mile-long fissure in the earth formed by volcanic forces in the southwestern end of the park, and the difficulties of accessing it. Source: *SFGate*

- *Historic Preservation Fund* (an NPS-administered program) - The Homewood (AL) Historic Preservation Commission, using a Historic Preservation Grant, worked with TravelStorys to create a new self-guided driving tour tracing the city's development. Source: *The Homewood Star*

- *Indiana Dunes National Park* - The park announced that it is no longer charging entrance fees for the Douglas Center Loop and Paul H. Douglas Trail at Miller Woods to increase access. Source: *NWI.com*

- *National Mall and Memorial Parks* - On October 24, the NPS announced the opening of the Desert Shield and Desert Storm Memorial on the National Mall. The memorial commemorates the service of U.S. military and the international coalition that supported the liberation of Kuwait from Iraqi forces in 1991. It is located near the Lincoln Memorial and Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Source: *Department of the Interior*

- *National Mall and Memorial Parks* - On October 19, the National Park Service hosted a Tidal Basin Master Plan/Development Concept Plan consulting party meeting, which they stated was intended to realign management to better conform with the McMillan Plan, a blueprint for the Tidal Basin from 1902. The plan was also expressed as a maintenance plan to resolve "heavy visitation," "exposed tree roots" and the flooding of sidewalks. Notably, the plan did not include the proposed "National Garden of American Heroes," a series of 250 statues of Americans proposed by President Donald Trump in his first administration and discussed early in his second. However, the plan did include a circular area to be called Oval Park and a rectangular plot to be called the Great Lawn, either of

which might be placeholders for the garden. Critics have stated that this may be a "shell game" in order to get the Garden of Heroes approved through bypassing public comment and other necessary compliance measures. Source: *The Washington Post*

- *National Mall and Memorial Parks - The Washington Post* published an article about the East Potomac Golf Course, highlighting that the Trump administration's attempts to depict the course as dilapidated and dangerous are not a complete picture of the park's status. President Donald Trump has called the course "Trash Island," and has used misleading photographs support his plan to remake the course for an upscale clientele. Source: *The Washington Post*

- *Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park* - The NPS published an article about staff efforts to monitor invasive nilgai, an antelope native to South Asia, via wildlife cameras. The project allowed park staff to estimate the population at 58 individuals and documented their preference for non-native vegetation. Source: *National Park Service Office of Communications*

- *Rock Creek Park - Bay Journal* published an article about Rock Creek's water quality, which is considered "very poor," but better than many other polluted urban streams. Local municipalities have taken steps to reduce impacts on the watershed since the early 2000s. Source: *Bay Journal*

- *Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area* - On October 14, the NPS announced a coordinated protocol with California State Parks, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for closing parklands during National Weather Service red flag warnings to provide more consistency for visitors and park management. Source: *Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area*

- *Shenandoah National Park - RE:PUBLIC* published an article about the recent discovery of human remains in conjunction with "wildlife activity" (see 10/14/26 *Coalition Report*), highlighting the NPS' current policy of not reporting on deaths in parks and how that may put other hikers at risk. Source: *RE:PUBLIC*

- *Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore - The Cool Down* published an article about the tension between the conservation of beaver habitat on Shalda Creek and Little Traverse Lake and flooding on lakefront properties. The NPS used to allow preventive beaver dam removal, but changed its policy in 2012. In May, the park announced it is reconsidering "targeted intervention with beaver dams." Source: *The Cool Down*

- *Yellowstone National Park* - On October 16, Tallgrass, an energy and infrastructure company, made the single largest donation in the history of the NPS. They provided $105 million to Yellowstone Forever, including $35 million for a visitor center at Norris Geyser Basin, and funding for conservation and research, infrastructure, and educational opportunities for Wyoming residents and students. Source: *WyoFile*

Legal Actions

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

- *U.S. Department of Agriculture* - On October 13, a federal court put a temporary halt on the reorganization of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, responding to a lawsuit by several federal employee unions, counties, and nonprofit organizations. The order stated that the USDA "has almost certainly been violating" the law, and bars officials from moving Congressionally-appropriated funds toward the reorganization and from relocating or reassigning employees while the case moves forward. [*Editor note: The National Park Service is housed under a separate agency, the Department of the Interior, but this ruling may have ramifications for efforts to also reorganize the DOI.*] Source: *Politico*, *More Than Just Parks*

- *Alaska Region* - On October 18, the Center for a Humane Economy and Animal Wellness Action announced that it will file a lawsuit against the NPS for its final rule (see "Around the Parks" above) that reverses a 2024 regulation prohibiting the use of bear baiting. Source: *Center for a Humane Economy*

- *Big Bend National Park* - On October 21, the Trump administration filed an appeal with the Supreme Court to allow it to continue its effort to construct border walls in the Big Bend region. The project is currently on hold due to an injunction while lawsuit proceedings continue. Source: *New York Times*

- *George Washington Memorial Parkway, National Mall and Memorial Parks* - On October 21, the NPS and the Executive Office of the President filed a notice that they may begin construction on the proposed "Triumphal Arch" as early as November 5, pending approval of the construction by the National Capital Planning Commission. On October 22, plaintiffs in the ongoing lawsuit against the proposed arch asked the federal judge to block construction until the case can be heard. It is one of two lawsuits against the project. Source: *ABC News*

- *National Mall and Memorial Parks* - On October 18, President Donald Trump announced on social media that a renovation of the East Potomac Golf Course would begin "immediately" despite a court order halting all construction through at least October 26. On October 19, President Trump posted on social media that the judge is "a crazed lunatic" and that the Department of the Interior does "not need approval." On October 19, during the ongoing lawsuit hearings, Superintendent Kevin Griess admitted that claims by the Department of the Interior and President Donald Trump that several hundred trees were removed from the course because they were diseased and dangerous was incorrect. On October 26, a preliminary injunction was ordered, preventing the damage of any further trees and barring staged equipment on the site without a court order. Later that day, President Trump announced that the golf course would close on November 15, as

scheduled, and that they are asking a federal court of appeals for “immediate remedy.” The lawsuit is ongoing. Source: *AlterNet*, *NBC Washington*, *WUSA9* (10/26, 10/27)

- *North Cascades National Park Complex (Lake Chelan National Recreation Area)* - The week of October 11, a federal judge extended a temporary restraining order against the NPS for a project intended to reconstruct Company Creek Road in Stehekin. The project would move the road to a new location because major flooding in December 2025 shifted the Stehekin River and took out part of the road. The North Cascades Conservation Council filed the lawsuit in September, arguing the NPS failed to adequately review environmental impacts, particularly effects on kokanee salmon. Source: *SFGate*

- *Valles Caldera National Preserve* - On October 26, the Pueblo of Santa Clara and Pueblo of Zia filed a lawsuit against the NPS over its decision to grant the Pueblo of Jemez a take permit to kill an eagle within the park. The lawsuit claims it violates the National Environmental Policy Act, and the plaintiffs state that eagles are considered essential to their cultural and religious practices within the preserve. Source: *Courthouse News Service*

Personnel Changes

- *Amache National Historic Site* - Jenn O’Neill was selected as the new superintendent. Jenn has over 10 years of NPS experience, most recently as the partnerships program manager at Grand Canyon National Park. Source: *Amache National Historic Site*

- *Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park* - Ed Wenschhof was selected as the new superintendent. Ed has 42 years of NPS experience, most recently as the park’s deputy superintendent and interim superintendent. He began his new role on October 18. Source: *Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park*

- *Intermountain Region (Regions 6, 7, 8)* - Martin Traylor was selected to serve as the new regional director. Martin most recently worked as the deputy garrison commander of Redstone Arsenal for the U.S. Army. Source: *Redstone Rocket*

- *Yellowstone National Park* - Barclay Trimble was selected to serve as the new interim superintendent. His permanent job is as superintendent at Mammoth Cave National Park. Barclay started his new role on October 14. Kristin Kosick was selected as the new deputy superintendent. Kristin has 15 years of NPS experience, and was most recently employed as the chief of Michigan State Parks. Source: *KHOL*, *NBC Montana*

Park People

Deceased

- Beverly Parrish Davenport, 84, passed away on October 9. Beverly worked as a legislative specialist for the NPS for 12 years. Source: *Wheeler and Sundberg Funeral Homes*

- Mary Delores (Arneson) Olmsted, 91, passed away on October 7. While in college, Mary worked two summers at Yellowstone National Park, as a waitress and a maid. Source: *Legacy/Cremation Society of Minnesota*

- David Irving Paul Sandbakken, 76, passed away on October 24. David worked as a law enforcement ranger for the NPS for many years, including time at Pinnacles National Monument (now National Park), Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Isle Royale National Park, Death Valley National Park, Everglades National Park, Carlsbad Caverns National Park, and as an instructor at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. Source: Dennis Burnett

- Edward "Ed" Sturm, 82, passed away on October 15. Ed worked for the NPS for 30 years as an exhibit specialist at the "Building Preservation Laboratory" in Boston, Massachusetts. Source: *Joseph V. Leahy Funeral Home, Inc.*

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 November 2 on a proposal to eliminate some review requirements for bicycle access on roads and trails in national park units. Source: *Federal Register*

- *Alaska Region, Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve* - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has opened public comment through November 2 on the Arctic Mine Development Project proposed by Ambler Metals, LLC. This would be the first mine permitted on the proposed Ambler Road, which would cross Gates of the Arctic and have effects on the greater Alaska Region ecosystems. Source: *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

- *Amache National Historic Site* - Public comment is open through December 3 on a general management plan for the park. Source: *Amache National Historic Site*

- *Big Cypress National Preserve* - Public comment is open through December 1 on a proposal to update special regulations allowing the superintendent to establish designated off-road vehicle trails in the parcel known as "the Addition" using existing historic trails. Source: *Big Cypress National Preserve*

- *Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve* - Public comment is open through December 18 on a proposed rule to allow qualifying rural residents of Anaktuvuk Pass to use off-road vehicles for lawful subsistence activities in the park. Source: *National Park Service Office of Communications*

- *George Washington Memorial Parkway, National Mall and Memorial Parks* - On November

5, the National Capital Planning Commission will hold a public meeting, with the primary action item of the approval of final site and building plans for the proposed "Monumental Arch." The final agenda for the meeting will be released on October 30. To communicate your views in writing or in person, visit https://go.ncpc.gov/register. Source: *National Capital Planning Commission*

- *Grand Canyon National Park* - Public comment is open through November 6 on draft redevelopment concepts for the North Rim, which burned during the 2025 Dragon Bravo Fire. Source: *Grand Canyon National Park*

- *Grand Canyon National Park* - Public comment is open through November 6 on a draft Memorandum of Agreement to resolve adverse effects on the Hermits Rest National Historic Landmark associated with the replacement of a water tank at the site. Source: *Grand Canyon National Park*

- *Rock Creek Park* - The NPS and District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment have opened public comment through October 30 on a proposed Pinhurst Branch stream restoration project. Source: *WJLA*

- *Vicksburg National Military Park* - Public comment is open through November 5 on a redesign of the primary gateway and entrance road system. Source: *Vicksburg National Military Park*

Other Relevant Department of the Interior News

- *Expansion of grazing* - On October 27, Interior Secretary Doug Burgum signed a Secretary's Order to prioritize the needs of the domestic livestock industry, including directing the Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Reclamation to identify lands that can be made available for grazing, requiring the renewal of grazing permits for the full 10-year term, and reforming policies that limit the ability of ranchers to cull predators. Source: *Department of the Interior*

- *Natural gas in AK* - On October 21, the U.S. Geological Survey released a new report estimating the availability of 96 trillion cubic feet of previously undiscovered natural gas on Alaska's North Slope. Source: *Department of the Interior*

- *FHTC generates $9.6 billion* - On October 13, the Department of the Interior released its annual economic impact report for the Federal Historic Tax Credit, finding that it generated ~$9.6 billion in private economic investment and supported about 163,000 jobs. Source: *Department of the Interior*

Incidents

Listed alphabetically by park/program.

Blue Ridge Parkway
Hiker rescue

On October 23, a hiker took a fall near the Graveyard Fields Loop Trail (milepost 418.8). Personnel from Haywood County (NC) Search and Rescue, the U.S. Forest Service, and other agencies responded to the scene and used a wheeled litter to transport the individual to the road. A helicopter from Mountain Area Medical Airlift landed at a nearby overlook on the parkway and transported the individual to a local hospital. Source: *CBS17*

Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, Wright Brothers National Memorial
Storms

On October 17, the parks announced closures due to forecasted strong winds and coastal impacts. As of October 25, the parks had reopened. Cape Point and Frisco campgrounds, and several off-road vehicle routes at Cape Hatteras remain closed for post-storm assessments and repairs. Source: *Cape Hatteras National Seashore* (10/17, 10/18, Current Conditions)

Death Valley National Park
Missing person found deceased

On October 5, an individual was reported missing in Las Vegas, Nevada. On October 11, the individual's rental vehicle was found at the Badwater Basin parking area. A ground search began on October 12. A California Highway Patrol helicopter sighted the individual's body in Badwater Basin, and they were recovered the following day. No further details were given. Source: *SFGate*

Gateway National Recreation Area
Trapped dolphins

On October 18, a visitor was birding on the north side of Spermaceti Cove at Sandy Hook when they spotted three adolescent common dolphins trapped in marsh grass. Staff from the NPS, the Marine Mammal Stranding Center (MMSC), and Sea Bright (NJ) Fire Rescue responded to the scene. The dolphins were found to be "weak, lethargic, thin, and in poor body condition." Each dolphin was loaded onto a stretcher and carried to the beach for an initial exam, then taken to the MMSC for further care. It is likely the pressure of their body weight caused damage to internal organs. Following veterinary assessment, all three dolphins were euthanized to prevent further suffering. They were taken to the New Jersey Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory for necropsy analysis. Source: *People*

Glacier National Park
Angry confrontation on trail

On September 3, two individuals left the Hidden Lake Overlook Trail to get a better view of mountain goats. Another group on the trail yelled at them to rejoin the trail, which escalated into

an angry, shouting confrontation, including racial epithets. Several individuals approached each other as if to fight; then the confrontation broke up. A bystander filmed the encounter. The NPS is looking for any information the public can provide about individuals involved in the incident. Source: *NBC Montana*

Glacier National Park
White-nose syndrome

On October 21, the park announced that it has had its first detections of the fungus *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* and the disease it causes in bats, white-nose syndrome. They were found in samples taken in May in the Saint Mary area and in June on the park's east side. White-nose syndrome is not dangerous to humans, but has a high mortality rate for bats. Source: *Glacier National Park*

Glacier National Park
Tularemia

On September 26, a dead snowshoe hare was found in the Many Glacier staff housing area. Another dead hare was found on September 30 along the trail to the Swiftcurrent Falls viewing area. On October 15, the park announced that both hares tested positively for tularemia. The bacteria is mostly spread through small mammals, but can cause serious illness in humans, as well. Source: *Glacier National Park*

Grand Canyon National Park
Rockfall

On October 13, a rockfall took place on the Bright Angel Trail. The trail closed between the One-and-a-Half Mile Resthouse and Havasupai Gardens for several days for repairs. Source: *12News*

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park
Missing person found

On October 18, a 70-year-old went hiking in the park (location undisclosed). When they failed to return to their bed and breakfast, the owner alerted the Hilo (HI) Police Department. A police officer with a canine found the individual slightly off trail two miles from their car, in the bushes, lying on their back. It is possible they became confused in the dark and took a fall, though the individual does not fully remember the incident. The individual was taken to Hilo Medical Center and treated for "extreme dehydration and other injuries." Source: *KHON2*

Olympic National Park
Hiker fatality

On October 5, a 58-year-old passed away from a cardiac event while hiking on the Mount Storm King trail. The individual's body was recovered by emergency personnel the same day. Source: *Kitsap Sun*

Point Reyes National Seashore
Group swept off rocks

On October 17, three people were swept off rocks at South Beach during 12-foot swells. Two of the individuals were able to reach the shore safely, but the third remains missing. Personnel from several agencies, including the NPS, Coast Guard, and Marin County (CA) Sheriff's Office, began a search by boat, by helicopter, and by foot on the beach. As of October 25, the individual had not been found. Source: *East Bay Times*, *New York Post* [*Editor note: One of the reports called the individual a surfer, while other reports did not. Reports were in agreement that the individuals were standing on land when the incident occurred.*]

Redwood National and State Parks
Lost hiker

On October 8, a 66-year-old went hiking on the Ossagon Trail at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park and became lost. They were able to send a text message to a family member, who contacted emergency services. Personnel from Humboldt County (CA) Sheriff's Office and California State Parks were dispatched to the area. The individual was found by a rescue team at 2 AM that night, and escorted safely back to the trailhead. They were said to be in "good condition." Source: *Humboldt County, California*, *AccuWeather*

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks
Bear incidents way up

The park announced that bear incidents are way up from 2020 to 2026. Total property damage costs have gone up 1,800% in that time, and total incidents rose from 158 in 2020 to 256 in 2026 (only through September). Park staff noted that visitation and black bear behavior patterns have changed due to pandemic closures, wildfire disruptions, and recent mudslides. Source: *New York Post*

Yosemite National Park
Bear-vehicle collisions

Between October 1 and 22, seven black bears were struck by vehicles, with four of those fatal to the animals. Combined with 26 other vehicle collisions in 2026, the park is at a 10-year high, with two months remaining in the year. Source: *SFGate*

Wildfires

- *Yosemite National Park* - On September 15, an abandoned campfire ignited the Dome Fire north of Wawona Dome, near the Chilnualna Falls Trail. As of October 18, the fire was 100% contained at 6,788 acres. Source: *Watch Duty*, *Yosemite National Park (Facebook)*, *Yosemite National Park (nps.gov)*, *KCRA3*, *ABC30*

Follow-ups on Previously Reported Incidents

- *Gulf Islands National Seashore* - On October 18, the park reopened portions of the Florida District and the Fort Pickens Area for day use for the first time since the park closure for Hurricane Isaias on October 7. On October 26, the rest of the park reopened. Source: *Gulf Islands National Seashore* (10/18, 10/26)

- *Yellowstone National Park* - On October 14, the dog that went missing in the park in early September and eluded rescuers for several weeks (see 10/14/26 *Coalition Report*) was successfully captured. The dog was taken for evaluation by a veterinarian, which found that the dog had lost about half of its body weight. Source: *SFGate*

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If you see something that might be of interest to Coalition members, send it to: report@protectnps.org.

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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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