



## The Coalition Report

### Wednesday, April 2, 2025

**Editor note:** Federal workforce news continues to be highly dynamic. This report goes out every two weeks. For more frequent updates, you may follow the Coalition on any of the social media below (last button is for Bluesky).



#### Coalition Actions

The Coalition published [a press release](#) both celebrating the reinstatement of probationary-status employees and warning of further challenges ahead to protecting National Parks.

We continue to give many interviews to the media about the state of the NPS, including recent articles in [WBIR](#), [Lonely Planet](#), [Business Insider](#), and [Spectrum News 1](#). Coalition Executive Council member Sheridan Steele also published [an op-ed](#) in *National Parks Traveler*.

The Coalition submitted [comments](#) to the National Park Service on powered micromobility devices, arguing that the wording within its proposed rule leaves too much ambiguity around the use of such devices in backcountry and federal wilderness areas, and asking to mandate substantive analysis similar to current processes for authorizing bicycle use in parks.

The Coalition joined the National Parks Conservation Association and the Sierra Club in submitting [comments](#) to the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services on the Supplement to its Regional Haze Plan for the Second Implementation Period.

#### 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.*

- *Executive Order calls statues back, criticizes NPS unit's take on race* - On March 27,

President Donald Trump issued an Executive Order entitled “Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History,” arguing that U.S. history has replaced “objective facts with a distorted narrative driven by ideology rather than truth.” It noted that Independence National Historical Park recently held a training in which NPS rangers were “pressured...that their racial identity should dictate how they convey history to visiting Americans because America is purportedly racist.” Furthermore, the order asks the Department of the Interior to reinstate pre-existing monuments, memorials, statues, and markers that have been removed “to perpetuate a false reconstruction of American history.” It also asks that all monuments, memorials, statues, and markers “do not contain descriptions, depictions, or other content that inappropriately disparage Americans past or living...and instead focus on the greatness of the achievements and progress of the American people.” Another section of the order directs the Secretary of the Interior to “provide sufficient funding, as available, to improve the infrastructure of Independence National Historical Park” by July 4, 2026 for the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Source: [The White House](#)

- *Increased law enforcement, unhoused person removal, restoration efforts at D.C. parks -*

On March 28, President Donald Trump issued an Executive Order called “Making the District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful.” Among other provisions, it calls for “deploying a more robust federal law enforcement presence” to various areas of D.C., including the following NPS units: National Mall and Memorial Parks, Lafayette Park, Rock Creek Park, Anacostia Park, the George Washington Memorial Parkway, Suitland Parkway, and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. It also calls for a “coordinated beautification plan” for multiagency public lands around the city, graffiti removal, restoration of vandalized facilities, and the removal of all unhoused encampments on NPS property. Source: [The White House](#)

- *Employees reinstated, some put on admin leave -*

- Per the two court orders requiring probationary-status federal employees to be rehired (see [3/19/25 Coalition Report](#)), staff have been reinstated across the National Park System. However, some have been placed on immediate administrative leave, pending possible further cuts. “Some” employees have also “seen back pay appear in their bank accounts.” A court filing on March 18 by the Office of Personnel Management stated that administrative leave was “just one stage in the process of returning the probationary employees to their jobs, but did not give further details or a timeline for next steps.” Source: [New York Times](#), [National Parks Traveler](#),
- On March 24, the Justice Department filed an emergency application to the Supreme Court on behalf of the Office of Personnel Management asking it to halt the district court ruling that ordered the reinstatement of fired probationary-status employees at six agencies. A federal court of appeals previously denied the request to stay the ruling. As of April 1, the Supreme Court had not made any decisions regarding the application. [Editor note: *There were two court rulings in favor of reinstatement. This is the one the Coalition to Protect America’s National Parks is involved in.*] Source: [FedScoop](#)

- *EO against federal unions* - On March 27, President Donald Trump signed an Executive Order that attempts to outlaw collective bargaining across over “two thirds of the federal government”, citing a provision of the 1978 Civil Service Reform Act that allows the President to exclude agencies from unionizing if they are odds with national security requirements. This includes the Department of the Interior. The American Federation of Government Employees stated that the order was in retaliation for their efforts getting probationary-status employees reinstated and they will take legal action to block the order’s implementation. Source: [Government Executive](#)
- *\$25K severance offered for departure* - On March 17, the Department of the Interior sent an email offering employees a severance payment of “at most \$25,000” to leave the agency by May 31. Most employees were eligible except for safety-related positions and a handful of others related to human resources, maintenance, and permitting. Employees who took the buyout had to agree to not work for the federal government for five years. Employees had until March 26 to accept the offer. Source: [SFGate](#), [Government Executive](#)
- *Local officials call for public lands protections* - On March 26, over 300 local elected officials in the western United States signed onto [a letter](#) asking the Department of the Interior and Congress to protect lands from privatization, increased development, decreased funding, and attempts to reverse the Antiquities Act. Source: [National Parks Traveler](#)
- *Tracking public lands closures* - *The Next Summit* has published [a site](#) that is tracking closures, cancellations, and other impacts on public lands. The effort is crowd-sourced and anyone can submit a report to add to the database. Source: *The Next Summit: A Mountain Blog for All*
- *Laura Bush given APEX award* - On March 31, the National Park Trust announced the selection of Laura Bush as the recipient of their 2025 American Park Experience Award in honor of her “lifelong dedication to conservation, environmental education, and our national parks - as well as parks in her home state of Texas.” Source: [National Park Trust](#)
- *Musk falsely claims \$1 billion NPS survey* - On March 27, Elon Musk claimed that the Department of Government Efficiency has uncovered an example of “a 10-question survey” that “the government was being charged almost a billion dollars,” purportedly focused on the idea of, “Do you like the National Park?” The survey was said to be part of an \$830 million contract to conduct website customer satisfaction surveys. No such contract can be verified, nor does one show up on DOGE’s “wall of receipts” for canceled contracts. The entire Department of the Interior budget for 2024 was \$19 billion. Source: [CBS News](#)
- *Safeguarding deleted federal info*
  - The George Wright Society worked to capture over 3 TB of publicly available information from public lands management agencies from December 12, 2024, through January 19, 2025, before they were deleted. They material includes content

related to climate change, environmental protection, perspectives and experiences of historically marginalized groups, and diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. This effort is called The Stewardship Archive, and efforts are underway to make the information searchable and web-compatible. Updates on the archive will be made on the organization's social media pages. Source: George Wright Society newsletter

- A group of 1,000+ off-duty NPS rangers, the "Resistance Rangers," has created a site, [Rangers Uncensored](#), that compiles and edited and deleted NPS webpages, such as stories about transgender people, women, and people of color. They will also feature these stories on social media channels. Source: [National Parks Traveler](#)
- *Study on stress for current and retired rangers* - Researchers at Penn State's Department of Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management are conducting a study on mental health in the NPS. There are surveys for [current rangers](#) and [retired rangers](#). Responses are anonymous and \$10 electronic gift cards will be given for the 30-minute survey. Source: Elizabeth Himschoot

### Around the Parks

*Reports are in alphabetical order by park/program name.*

- *Acadia National Park* - On April 15, the park will move to a fully cashless fee system for entrance fees. Those desiring to pay with cash may purchase one designated local third-party vendors. Source: [Acadia National Park](#)
- *Arches National Park* - On March 21, the park announced the closure of Fiery Furnace to the public due to a lack of seasonal staff available to manage the area. (Fiery Furnace has been permitted for self-guided and ranger-guided walks since 1994.) The park has stated that "normal spring operations" will resume "once seasonal employees arrive." Source: [SF Gate](#)
- *Bandelier National Monument* - On March 31, the park closed Alcove House to begin a flood debris removal project to recover from the September 2024 flooding of Frijoles Canyon. The project is expected to last up to five weeks. Part of the Cottonwood Overflow Parking Lot will be closed during the project. Source: [Bandelier National Monument](#)
- *Big Bend National Park* - On March 21, U.S. Army and border agencies stated that they will expand the number of military in the region to 500 troops in the coming weeks. Some of them, "potentially with combat vehicles" will be operating near the border inside Big Bend. Military have not been authorized to arrest migrants, but will be located at "detection and monitoring sites, to provide that information to Border Patrol." Source: [Marfa Public Radio](#)
- *Big Cypress National Preserve* - On March 25, the Collier County (FL) Commission voted 5-0 to deny a 360-foot communications tower at the Ochopee fire station on U.S. 41, located inside the park. The NPS plans to demolish the current communications tower at

U.S. 41 and State Road 29 in Carnestown, FL, to make way for a new visitor center.

Source: [Coastal Breeze News](#)

- *César E. Chávez National Monument* - The park is undergoing a significant rehabilitation project, including replacing irrigation, repairing cracked and missing stucco, replacing carpet, cleaning and retiling the Paseo Fountain, rehabilitating the Desert Garden landscape, and improving trail drainage. The project is being funded by several sources, including the Great American Outdoors Act, and executed through support of park staff, NPS Maintenance Action Teams, National Park Foundation, the Corps Network, and the Farmworkers Institute of Education and Leadership Development's César Chávez Environmental Corps. Source: [National Park Service Office of Communications](#)
- *Crater Lake National Park* - The NPS announced that the Cleetwood Cove Trail will be closed in 2026 and 2027 for a rehabilitation project to the trail, marina bulkhead and dock system, and composting restrooms. Source: [SFGate](#)
- *Everglades National Park* - The NPS announced a Finding of No Significant Impact for the rehabilitation of park water and wastewater systems and of the Flamingo Bulkheads. Source: [Everglades National Park](#)
- *Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve* - On March 20, the Department of the Interior made explicit its efforts to establish the proposed Ambler Road in order to move forward with the Alaska Liquified Natural Gas Pipeline project (see more in "Other Department of the Interior News" below). Source: [Department of the Interior](#) [Editor note: *The proposed Ambler Road would cross about 20 miles of Gates of the Arctic.*]
- *George Washington Memorial Parkway* - On April 1, the parkway closed the exit to and from Turkey Run Park on the northbound side. The closure will last through late April for roadway demolition and asphalt paving. This is part of the ongoing North Parkway Rehabilitation Project. Source: [George Washington Memorial Parkway](#)
- *Glen Canyon National Recreation Area* - On April 9, the NPS will begin project to seal, resurface, and paint markings at the airstrip in Bullfrog, Utah. The airstrip will be closed during the project, and will reopen on April 25. Cal Black Airport at Halls Crossing will remain open throughout the project. Source: [Glen Canyon National Recreation Area](#)
- *Grand Canyon National Park* - On May 1, frontcountry standard campsite rates will go up to \$30 per night. Source: [Grand Canyon National Park](#)
- *Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park* - The park has a variety of projects currently open in the park.
  - Kīlauea Visitor Center is closed for 18 months for a renovation. While under construction, there is a temporary welcome center located 1.2 miles to the west at the Koa Room at Kilauea Military Camp.
  - The park is also working on the deconstruction of buildings and infrastructure at

Uēkahuna. Uēkahuna is expected to reopen to the public in Spring 2025.

- On April 14, the park will begin the construction of a roundabout on Crater Rim Drive just west of the park entrance station. Delays may be in place. The roundabout project will wrap up in September 2025.
- Source: [Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park](#)
- *Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site* - Due to the freeze on NPS purchasing authority, the Friends of Hopewell Furnace has stepped up to ensure the feeding and care of sheep and steers at the site. The Friends of Hopewell Furnace has put out a public ask for donation to help support their effort. Source: [Reading Eagle](#)
- *Indiana Dunes National Park* - The week of March 17, construction began on a three-mile segment of the Marquette Greenway Trail between the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education in Gary, Indiana, and the entrance to the park's West Beach in Portage. Construction is expected to last through the end of the year. Source: [Indiana Dunes National Park](#)
- *Indiana Dunes National Park* - On March 27, the park announced the opening of a Commercial Use Authorization selection process to operate the concession stand at the Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk Pavilion. The CUA would run from May 1, 2025, through November 30, 2026. Applications are due by April 10. Source: [Indiana Dunes National Park](#)
- *Jewel Cave National Park* - On March 28, the park finished the installation of an emergency generator. Cave tours were closed for five days and the visitor center was closed for one day during the installation. Source: [Jewel Cave National Park](#)
- *Joshua Tree National Park* - From April 7-10, the west entrance of the park and Park Boulevard from the entrance station to Quail Springs Picnic Area will be closed for a new entrance station project. This is reduced from the original estimate of a two-week closure. Ongoing construction updates are available [on the park's website](#). Source: [Joshua Tree National Park](#)
- *Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument* - The National Parks Conservation Association published [an article](#), "5 Reasons to Visit Katahdin's New Contact Station." The Tekakapimək Contact Station will open for the first time this summer. Source: [National Parks Conservation Association](#)
- *New River Gorge National Park and Preserve* - On March 24, the park reopened one lane of traffic on Cunard Road (Route 9) after a Federal Highway Administration project to upgrade the road that started in November. Construction will continue through Memorial Day, then cease for the busier summer season. Delays will be in place. The road will close again next winter for additional work. Source: [New River Gorge National Park and Preserve](#)
- *Ozark National Scenic Riverways* - On March 21, the park announced that all developed campgrounds and large group sites have moved to a reservation system, via



*Recreation.gov* or phone call. Backcountry campgrounds will remain first-come, first-served, via the *Recreation.gov* mobile app, which can be used remotely in the backcountry. Source: [Ozark National Scenic Riverways](#)

- *San Antonio Missions National Historical Park* - On March 27, three U.S. Representatives from Texas wrote a letter to the Government Services Administration opposing the proposal to terminate the lease for the park's headquarters. Source: [The Dallas Morning News](#)
- *San Juan Island National Historical Park* - On March 18, the San Juan County (WA) Council approved a resolution authorizing a direct sale of a portion of the Frazer Homestead Preserve from San Juan County Conservation Land Bank to the park. The property encompasses the homestead of Lyman Cutler, an important figure in the events of the "Pig War" dispute between the U.S. and Great Britain. Source: [The Journal of the San Juan Islands](#)
- *The White House and President's Park* - On March 30, President Donald Trump announced that the NPS will remove a southern magnolia tree planted by former President Andrew Jackson. The tree came from President Jackson's home in Tennessee. President Trump stated that the tree is "in terrible condition, a very dangerous safety hazard" and that it would be replaced by a new tree. Source: [Washington Examiner](#)
- *Theodore Roosevelt National Park* - On March 27, the North Dakota Senate passed a resolution urging U.S. Congress to establish federal protections for the wild horse herd at the park. Source: [North Dakota Legislative Branch: 69th Legislative Assembly](#)
- *Yosemite National Park* - News media outlets leaked a planned press release to move forward with a new pilot reservation system for spring and summer. However, the press release was never published. U.S. Representative Tom McClintock (CA) stated at a Tuolumne County Business Council luncheon, "I raised hell with the White House, and they're backing off at least for the moment." Source: [SFGate](#)
- *Yellowstone National Park* - In August 2024, an NPS employee observed steam coming up from a new location between Mammoth Hot Springs and Norris Geyser Basin, just north of the Nymph Lake overlook. On March 17, the U.S. Geological Survey publicly announced that it is a new thermal feature in the Roadside Springs thermal area. The feature remains active, though the amount of steam has decreased, likely due to water in the steam vent from winter precipitation. Source: [U.S. Geological Survey](#), [SFGate](#)
- *Yellowstone National Park* - The *Cowboy State Daily* published [an article](#) about the process for naming geographic features on federal lands, musing that the bureaucracy of both the U.S. Board on Geographic Names and the Wyoming Board of Geographic Names may prevent any new thermal features in Yellowstone from being named in the future. Source: *Cowboy State Daily*

## **Park People**

*Here we honor deceased park employees, as well as important news about Coalition Members and other former park employees or volunteers. People are listed alphabetically by last name.*

### **Deceased**

- Jean Abbot, 91, passed away recently. She worked for a time at Colonial National Historical Park, “driving a tour bus and narrating the battlefield history” at Yorktown. Source: [Williamsburg Yorktown Daily](#)
- Gwendolyn “Gwen” Ruth D’Epiro, 102, passed away on March 20. Gwen worked for a time as an “accountant” with the NPS in Washington, D.C., starting in 1946. Source: [Legacy/Memorial Park Funeral Home and Crematory - St. Petersburg](#)
- Bob Fuchigami, 94, recently passed away. Bob was held at Camp Amache, a Japanese American incarceration camp, during World War II when he was 11-years-old. He later went on to testify in front of Congress for the successful establishment of Amache National Historic Site. Source: [Colorado Public Radio](#)
- Troy Hagwood, 62, passed away on March 23. Troy worked for the NPS at Blue Ridge Parkway for 16 years. Source: [Blue Ridge Parkway](#)
- Terri (Adrian) Hardy, 72, passed away on March 11. Terri worked as a “tour guide” for the NPS at The White House and President’s Park while she was in college “during the Nixon Administration.” Source: [Estes Park News](#)
- Larry Henderson, 86, passed away on February 21. Larry spent his career working for the NPS, including time at Petrified Forest National Park, Grand Canyon National Park, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Mount Rainier National Park, Carlsbad Caverns National Park, and as superintendent at Wupatki National Monument and Sunset Crater National Monument, as well as at Guadalupe Mountains National Park. He retired from the NPS in 1999. Source: [Denton Wood Funeral Home](#)
- Robert “Craig” Johnson Jr., 86, passed away on January 19. Craig worked for the NPS from 1967 to 1998, including time at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Yellowstone National Park, Channel Islands National Park, Grand Canyon National Park, Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, and Redwood National and State Parks. Source: Andy Ringgold
- J. Bennett Johnston Jr., 92, passed away on March 25. J. Bennett was a U.S. Senator from Louisiana for four terms. He helped create several NPS units in the state, including Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, Cane River Creole National Historical Park, and New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park. Source: [Dignity Memorial](#)



- Pamela “Pam” Florence Oldow, 92, passed away on March 11. Pam co-founded and -owned Kenai Fjords Tours, the largest boat concessioner in Kenai Fjords National Park, from 1981 until the company was sold in 1993. Source: [Anchorage Daily News](#)
- Daniel “Danny” “Dan” Matthew Walker, 70, passed away on March 3. Danny worked as a “horseback tour guide” for a concessioner in Big Bend National Park for a time. Source: [The Alpine Avalanche](#)
- Jacquelin “Jackie” Wilde Webber, 93, passed away on December 7, 2024. Jackie worked for a time at Yellowstone National Park. Source: [Legacy](#)

### **Open for Comment**

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

- *Civil War Defenses of Washington* - Public comment [open from through May 9](#) on a management plan update, which will serve as an amendment to the 2004 Fort Circle Parks General Management Plan. Source: [Civil War Defenses of Washington](#)
- *George Washington Memorial Parkway* - Public comment is [open through April 16](#) on a project to rehabilitate and replace the Clara Barton Parkway cantilever structure and retaining walls, as well as to demolish an associated unused bridge. Source: [George Washington Memorial Parkway](#)
- *Great Dismal Swamp NHA Feasibility Study* - Public comment is [open through May 19](#) on a feasibility study for designating a Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area in North Carolina and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Source: [National Park Service Region 1](#)
- *Mount Rainier National Park* - The NPS and Washington State Department of Transportation have opened [public comment through April 11](#) on a proposed project to build two log structures in the White River floodplain to reduce flooding and erosion to a segment of State Route 410 in the park. Source: [Mount Rainier National Park](#)
- *National Capital Parks - East* - Public comment will be [open through April 25](#) on a plan to extend the Suitland Parkway Trail and implement several intersection improvements for pedestrian safety and connectivity. Source: [National Capital Parks - East](#)
- *Rock Creek Park* - Public comment will be [open through May 2](#) on a multimodal safety and operational improvements plan for Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway. Source: [Rock Creek Park](#)

### **Other Department of the Interior and U.S. Forest Service News**

- *Efforts to expand Alaska energy development* - On March 20, the Department of the Interior outlined its efforts to expand energy development in Alaska, per Executive Order 14153 and Secretary's Order 3422. The goals include reopening "up to 82%" of the National Petroleum Reserve for oil and gas leasing development, reinstating a program that opens the "entire" 1.56-million-acre Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil and gas leases, and revoking withdrawals along the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Corridor and Dalton Highway north of the Yukon River to convey them to the State of Alaska with the intent of executing the Ambler Road and Alaska Liquified Natural Gas Pipeline project. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *Shenandoah energy project* - On February 21, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement completed a shoreside inspection of the Shenandoah semisubmersible floating production system, an offshore energy production facility located in the Gulf of Mexico that is expected to begin production later this year. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *\$353.6 million in continental shelf leases* - On March 27, the Department of the Interior announced the disbursement of \$353.6 million in energy revenue to Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas from leasing in the Outer Continental Shelf of the Gulf. An undisclosed amount was also directed to the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *\$39 million in oil and gas sales* - On March 27, the Department of the Interior announced \$39 million in oil and gas lease sales from the first quarter. 34 leases totaling 25,038 acres of land in Montana, North Dakota, New Mexico, Wyoming, and Nevada made up the sale. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)

### **Congressional Actions**

*Reports on legislation, upcoming 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**

The Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025, signed by the President on March 15, 2025, was assigned the number P.L. 119-4. (See [3/19/25 Coalition Report](#) for full run-down of the act's effect on the NPS.)

### **Senate and House of Representative Actions**

Nothing to report this period.

### **Incidents**

*Listed alphabetically by park.*

**Many Parks****Continued protesting**

The weekend of March 22, “at least 93 national parks” experienced new protesting against staffing cuts, hiring delays, and funding freezes at the NPS. The demonstrations were organized by Resistance Rangers, a coalition of over 1,000 off-duty NPS employees. Source: [SFGate](#)

**Arches National Park****Human remains identified 42 years later**

A body recovered at the Three Gossips rock landmark in 1983 was recently identified through DNA evidence. The individual was 17-year-old Robby Lynn Peay, who had run away from a youth treatment center in Salt Lake City, Utah, in October 1982. His body was found in February 1983 with a gunshot wound to the head. Decomposition had made his body unidentifiable at the time. His truck was found several months later at Lake Powell, nearly 300 miles away. In 2008, Robby was added to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System. In 2018, a forensic dentist reviewing cold cases found that Robby’s dental x-ray data had been entered incorrectly. By correcting the issue, he had a high-percentage match with the remains from Arches, but there was no DNA sample match. Robby had been adopted at birth, which meant that Provo Police Department needed to unseal court adoption records to locate a blood relative. In 2022, detectives found an uncle on Robby’s mother’s side that agreed to a DNA sample. The case file has now been transferred to Grand County (UT) Sheriff’s Office for investigation as a homicide. Source: [SFGate](#)

**Blue Ridge Parkway****Vehicle fatality of off-duty NPS staff and spouse**

On March 23, a car traveling northbound on the parkway near milepost 11 in Nelson County, Virginia, struck a tree limb, left the roadway, then struck a large tree and caught on fire. Both the driver and the passenger, 62- and 60-years-old, respectively, passed away in the crash. The driver was an off-duty NPS employee at Blue Ridge Parkway (see “Park People” above), and the passenger was the individual’s spouse. The parkway was closed for a short time while crews extinguished the fire. Responding agencies included the NPS, Augusta County Sheriff’s Department, Wintergreen Fire Rescue and EMS, Nelson County, George Washington National Forest, and Jefferson National Forest. Source: [Blue Ridge Parkway](#)

**Golden Gate National Recreation Area****Vandalism**

Some time between March 15 and March 19, an individual or a group broke into the historic Nike Missile Site magazine in the Marin Headlands and committed “extensive vandalism,” including “spray painting hate speech throughout the building and spilling gallons of hazardous chemicals.” It is possible the individuals sustained chemical burns and needed medical attention for the burns. The park is looking for any information the public may have related to the site or the incident. Source: [Golden Gate National Recreation Area](#)

## **Golden Gate National Recreation Area**

### **Angler fatality**

On March 25, an individual was fishing from rocks on shore at Rodeo Beach when a wave swept them into the ocean. A surfer spotted the individual in the water, pulled them out, and attempted to resuscitate them. Personnel from Southern Marin (CA) Fire also responded. Resuscitation efforts were unsuccessful and the individual was pronounced deceased at the scene. Initial reports had indicated two individuals were swept into the water. The U.S. Coast Guard and Kentfield Fire Department conducted a search of the water for 45-50 minutes before video footage by a bystander confirmed that it was only one individual that had been swept in. Source:

[KTVU](#)

## **Lake Mead National Recreation Area**

### **Boater rescue**

On March 27, a U.S. Border Patrol helicopter was flying over the Nelson's Landing area when they observed an overturned boat in the river. They landed the helicopter nearby and were able to speak to the boat operator, who stated the boat wrecked the day before, and they needed medical attention. Due to the steep terrain, the helicopter was unable to access the patient. Personnel from U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the NPS dispatched to the site via boat and treated the individual for a head injury. The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's Search and Rescue unit dispatched a helicopter to the scene. The NPS transported the individual to the shoreline, and the LVMPD helicopter brought them to Boulder City Airport. Care was transferred to Boulder City Fire Department, and the individual was taken to a local hospital.

Source: [News3LV](#)

## **Manassas National Battlefield Park**

### **Chronic Wasting Disease**

During the park's white-tailed deer reduction operations and disease samplings, one deer tested positive for Chronic Wasting Disease. The animal was taken from the Prince William County (VA) area of the park. The NPS encourages visitors to report any sick or dead wildlife to the park. CWD is not known to infect humans, but it is recommended that CWD-infected animals not be eaten. Source: [Manassas National Battlefield Park](#)

## **Saguaro National Park**

### **Hiker rescue**

On March 20, the NPS was called to respond to two "elderly" hikers suffering from "severe dehydration" in the Tucson Mountains. Personnel from the NPS and Pima County (AZ) Search and Rescue responded, then requested support from a U.S. Customs and Border Protection helicopter. The helicopter was able to perform hoist operations to extract the two individuals and transport them to an area near "the trailhead" (unidentified in media reports). Personnel from Pima County and the NPS provided further medical care for the individuals. Source: [U.S.](#)

## Customs and Border Protection

### **World War II Memorial**

#### **Illegal vehicle activity**

Over the weekend of March 29-30, several dirt bikes and ATVs were observed being driven around the memorial. The incident was caught on film and was later brought to the attention of the U.S. Park Police. They stated that they did not receive any calls for service related to the incident, but are “currently reviewing security footage to identify potential suspects.” Source:

[WJLA](#)

### **The White House and President’s Park**

#### **Toddler trespasser**

On March 26, a toddler slipped through the White House north fence. Officers from the U.S. Secret Service observed the incident and quickly reunited the child with their parents. Source:

[KMPH](#)

### **Yosemite National Park**

#### **“Suspicious” injuries lead to death**

On March 20, a 34-year-old concession employee was found with “severe injuries” in concessioner housing in Yosemite Valley. Law enforcement and rescue personnel responded. The individual was transported to a hospital in Fresno, CA. They passed away from their injuries the following day. The individual’s injuries are considered “suspicious.” The incident is under investigation by the NPS Investigative Services Branch, Fresno County Sheriff and Coroner’s Office, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Source: [Democrat and Chronicle](#)

## **Follow-ups on Previously Reported Incidents**

- *Blue Ridge Parkway* - The NPS gave an update on the ongoing recovery from Hurricane Helene, which hit in September 2024. 312 miles of the 469-mile parkway have reopened. Emergency roadway repairs have begun in eight slide locations. Many sections of the parkway remain closed. Source: [Blue Ridge Parkway](#)
- *Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks* - Crystal Cave will open to visitors again this year after a four-year closure due to the 2021 KNP Complex wildfires and road damage sustained during Winter 2023 (see [3/6/24 Coalition Report](#)). Tickets go on sale March 31, and tours will run May 23 through September 7. Source: [ABC30](#)

## **Acknowledgments**

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- Editor: Katie Wallace

- Tech and Production Support: Steve Pittleman, Debbie Reed, Emily Thompson
- Regular Correspondent: Chris Soller
- Issue Contributors: Costa Dillon, Bob Krumenaker, John Quinley, Andy Ringgold

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

[report@protectnps.org](mailto:report@protectnps.org).

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

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