



The Coalition Report

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

***Editor note:** Federal workforce news is a highly dynamic landscape right now. Bear with us. We're doing the best we can to update news items as circumstances change. For more frequent updates, you may follow the Coalition on any of the social media listed below (last button is for Bluesky).*



Coalition Actions

The Coalition issued [a statement](#) against Secretarial Order 3418 that mandates that the Department of the Interior launch a review of all lands withdrawn from fossil fuel and mining development.

We also issued [a statement](#) against the firing of 1,000 probationary employees across the NPS (see more below in “National/Regional NPS Updates”).

Coalition Executive Director Amy Gilbert and Executive Council member Chris Powell attended a meet-and-greet with minority members of the House Natural Resources Committee at the Capitol on Thursday, February 6th. They had the opportunity to connect with partners, funders, and members of Congress who were in attendance.

The Coalition has been quoted in numerous media articles protesting the Trump Administration's actions that have had drastic results for the NPS. These include [National Parks Traveler](#), [WyoFile](#), [Anchorage Daily News](#), [WATE](#), and [The Independent](#), with more emerging each day.

The Coalition joined [comments](#) on the Bureau of Land Management New Mexico Office's 2025 Third Quarter Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale Draft Environmental Analysis and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact, recommending that 15 parcels be deferred.

******These items are just a snapshot of our actions as we work to defend our federal employees, our parks, and our public lands. In addition to this sampling of our public-facing work, the Coalition continues to work behind the scenes with Congressional office and committee staff, partners, and media to raise awareness about the impacts these devastating cuts and policies will have on our national parks. These are incredibly difficult times and we appreciate your support. ******

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.

- *Reduction in workforce, agency reorganization* - On February 11, President Donald Trump issued an executive order that “each agency hire no more than one employee for every four employees that depart,” except for those “related to public safety, immigration, enforcement, or law enforcement.” Furthermore, agency heads have been asked to “initiate large-scale reductions in force” and submit “agency reorganization plans” that consider whether “any of its subcomponents should be eliminated or consolidated.”
Source: [The White House](#)

- *1,000 probationary employees fired, 5,000 seasonals let back in* - On February 14, the NPS began firing about 1,000 employees who are still in their probationary period of employment, representing about 5% of the NPS workforce. Individuals received letters stating they were fired due to poor performance, regardless of their actual employment records. 5,000 NPS seasonal positions now have been exempted from an initial hiring freeze. Source: [Reuters](#) [Editor note: The two following bullet points outline public safety jobs that should have not been frozen, but were. It is yet unclear from news media whether all of these positions were un-rescinded or not.]

- *Firefighter hiring stalled, other wildland fire risks* -
 - On January 20, President Donald Trump issued an executive order freezing all federal hiring, with the exception of public safety positions (see [2/5/25 Coalition Report](#)). However, many hiring managers at federal agencies have been told to “hold all offers related to fire positions.” Source: [NBC News](#), [Government Executive](#)
 - *ProPublica* published [an article](#) that outlines other actions that will affect wildland firefighting, including funding for fuel-reduction projects by partner nonprofits, delays to prescribed burns that should have taken place this winter, low morale that may cause further workforce shrinkage, and the cancellation of leadership training programs. Source: *ProPublica*
 - On February 7, the Washington Department of Natural Resources made a statement that they have had over \$200 million in federal funding for wildfire prevention frozen, including a \$50 million reimbursement for firefighting in Summer 2024. President Donald Trump had frozen funding for many federal programs, an executive order that was blocked by a federal judge on January 31. On February 10, 22 states and the District of Columbia then filed a lawsuit because the freeze had still not been lifted, and later that day, a federal judge ordered that funding be restored

immediately. [Editor note: No news media could be found reporting that funding has been unfrozen, as of February 16.] Source: [CBS News](#), [Seattle Times](#)

- *LEO jobs rescinded, FLETC canceled* - A group of new NPS law enforcement rangers had their jobs rescinded/frozen, resulting in the cancellation of a round of training through the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. Source: [National Parks Traveler](#)
- *OPM calls back union telework provisions* - On February 3, the Office of Personnel Management instructed federal agencies to ignore provisions in collective bargaining agreements governing telework, arguing that it is a management right and non-negotiable in union bargaining. The American Federation of Government Employees issued a statement warning that they would “not acquiesce to the administration’s effort to skirt federal labor law.” Source: [Government Executive](#)
- *Senator letter to DOI about National Parks* - On February 7, 22 United States Senators signed [a letter](#) to Interior Secretary Doug Burgum urging the Trump Administration to reissue seasonal employment offers and rescind the deferred resignation and early retirement offers. Source: [SFGate](#)
- *National park chaos predicted under low staffing* - *National Parks Traveler* published [an article](#) outlining the ramifications that a pause on seasonal hiring will have on National Park Service units across the country, including on safety, maintenance, and other key operations. Former NPS Director Jon Jarvis is quoted extensively in the article. Source: *National Parks Traveler*
- *National monuments at risk from energy policy* - The National Parks Conservation Association made [a list](#) of national monuments particularly at risk due to the Trump Administration’s new energy policy (see more below in “Other Department of the Interior News”). It includes eight national monuments managed by the NPS: Aztec Ruins, Devils Tower, Dinosaur, Jewel Cave, Hovenweep, Natural Bridges, Scotts Bluff, and Sunset Crater. Source: [National Parks Conservation Association](#)
- *National park of American Heroes* - In 2020, President Donald Trump signed an executive order to create a “National Garden of American Heroes,” which would feature 250 sculptures, to be completed in time for the 250th anniversary of the nation’s founding in July 2026. The order was revoked by President Joe Biden the following year. On January 29, President Trump reinstated the executive order. On February 6, President Trump called it a “new national park” in a speech at the National Prayer Breakfast. Source: [USA Today](#), *The White House* ([executive order](#), [Prayer Breakfast speech](#))
- *Federal workforce union membership surges* - The American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) is setting new membership records in the wake of the executive orders focused on downsizing the federal workforce. The AFGE has several lawsuits ongoing against the orders. Source: [Federal News Network](#)

- *New NPF CEO* - New National Park Foundation President and CEO Jeff Reinbold issued a statement upon stepping into his new role. Source: [National Park Foundation](#)
- *ParkForum 2025* - From October 20-23, the George Wright Society will host the GWS ParkForum 2025 at the University of Montana, Missoula. The conference will include interdisciplinary workshops focused on solutions to the challenges facing parks, protected areas, cultural sites, and other place-based conservation. They will accept proposals for workshops through April 1. Source: [George Wright Society](#)
- *Rosenwald school history* - The *Hoptown Chronicle* published [an article](#) about the history of the Rosenwald Schools. The schools and their story have been recommended to become a National Park Service unit in a special resource study completed in June 2024. Source: *Hoptown Chronicle*
- *Growth of state parks in early days of national parks* - *SFGate* published [an article](#) about Silver Falls State Park in Oregon, outlining its path of consideration and denial for national park status in the 1920s. The article demonstrates the ways in which the national park movement also led to the establishment of state park systems across the country. Source: *SFGate*

Around the Parks

Reports are in alphabetical order by park/program name.

- *Big Thicket National Preserve, Padre Island National Seashore* - The Railroad Commission of Texas received the Chair's Environmental Partnership Award from the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission for its efforts working with the NPS to plug orphaned wells in Padre Island in 2021 and to remove 40-year-old underwater surface casings on four wells in Big Thicket in 2023. Source: [Railroad Commission of Texas](#)
- *Cane River Creole National Historical Park* - *Garden and Gun* published [an article](#) about the park, calling it a "quietly powerful story," and highlighting the park site and visitor center. Source: *Garden and Gun*
- *Canyonlands National Park* - On February 24, the Bureau of Land Management Richfield Field Office (UT) will begin removing about 100 wild burros from lands administered by the BLM, NPS, and the State of Utah. They will use the "helicopter drive-trapping method" and transport them to the Axtell Wild Burro Contract Off-Range Corral/Pasture in Axtell, Utah. Source: [Bureau of Land Management](#)
- *Gettysburg National Military Park* - The *Evening Sun* published an article about a conservation cleaning of the historic 1883 cyclorama painting by Paul Philippoteaux called "Battle of Gettysburg," located at the park's visitor center. It is one of the biggest paintings in the United States. Source: [Evening Sun](#)

- *Grand Teton National Park* - On February 6, the Wyoming Senate voted 16-15 to advance a resolution demanding the federal government hand over 30 million acres of public land by October 1 to the State of Wyoming, including Grand Teton National Park. The resolution will need to go through readings in the Wyoming Senate, House of Representatives, and Governor's Office in order to pass. Regardless of how the resolution is finalized by state legislators, U.S. Congress is not beholden to the resolution. Source: [Jackson Hole News and Guide](#)
- *Great Smoky Mountains National Park* - *Smoky Mountain News* published [an op-ed](#) by a long-time local resident thanking former superintendent Cassius Cash and highlighting the accomplishments of his tenure at Great Smoky Mountains. Cash recently began a new role as the CEO of the Yosemite Conservancy. Source: *Smoky Mountain News*
- *Joshua Tree National Park* - On February 10, the NPS hosted a Mass Casualty Incident training in the park. 30 volunteers played "patients" in the incident. Emergency agencies participating in the exercise included the San Bernardino County (CA) Sheriff's Department, California Highway Patrol, several fire departments from the state, Marine Corps, Riverside County officials, the Desert Care Network, Morongo Basin Ambulance, and Mercy Air. *Z107.7* published [an article](#) about the training, written by one of the volunteers. Source: *Z107.7*
- *Lowell National Historical Park* - The Center for Children's Books at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign recently collaborated with NPS staff to create a new website related to the book *Lyddie*, a 1991 novel highlighting the experience of young women working in textile mills in 19th-century Lowell, Massachusetts. The site is the latest in a series of "Books to Parks" sites, including one about *Island of the Blue Dolphins* for Channel Islands National Park and one about *The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963* for Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument. Source: [University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign News Bureau](#)
- *Minidoka National Historic Site* - On January 20, President Donald Trump issued an executive order that calls for a review of the federal government's leasing and permitting practices for wind projects, including a temporary moratorium on wind development at Lava Ridge, on Bureau of Land Management lands adjacent to Minidoka National Historic Site and in the historic footprint of the incarceration camp. The wind project had been approved in late 2024 by the Biden Administration. Source: [The White House](#)
- *Natchez Trace Parkway* - On February 10, the park began rehabilitation work on 3.5 miles of the Chisha Foka Multi-Use-Trail in Ridgeland, Mississippi. Sections of the trail and the Reservoir Overlook Parking area will be closed in phases. The project will take several months. Source: [Natchez Trace Parkway](#)
- *National Parks of New York Harbor* (12 NPS sites) - St. John's University published an article about alumnus Elizabeth LaRochelle, who is the youth programs coordinator for the National Parks of New York Harbor. Elizabeth and her team won the Presidential Award for National Service and Safety from Amtrak this year for the Amtrak Trails and Rails

Partnership. Source: [St. John's University News](#)

- *San Juan Island National Historical Park* - On March 18, the San Juan County (WA) Council will hold a public hearing to consider authorizing the sale of a portion of the Frazer Homestead Preserve to the National Park Service. Source: [San Juan Islander](#)
- *Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks* - In September 2024, the park, collaborating with the Denver Service Center and a construction contractor, restored a bridge over the San Joaquin River on the John Muir and Pacific Crest Trails. The bridge collapsed during record snowfall in Winter 2023. The project cost \$1.25 million, and was completed ahead of schedule and under budget. Source: [National Park Service Office of Communications](#)
- *Stonewall National Monument* - On February 13, the NPS changed all references from “LGBTQ+” to “LGB,” thereby eliminating the words “transgender” and “queer” from the website. This was in accordance with President Donald Trump’s executive order on January 20 outlining federal policy as only recognizing two sexes that are “not changeable.” Source: [ABC News](#), [The White House](#)
- *The White House and President’s Park* - President Donald Trump has asked designers to consider options remake the surface of the Rose Garden, considering limestone or hardwood floors to replace the current lawn. Source: [New York Times](#)
- *Yosemite National Park* - The implementation of a 2025 reservation system has been delayed due to the need for review by the new Presidential Administration. It is unclear when or if a reservation system for visits between April and October will be announced. Source: [Los Angeles Times](#)
- *Yosemite National Park* - On February 10, the NPS and Yosemite Hospitality announced that the Badger Pass Ski Area will not open for the 2024-25 season due to a lack of snow early enough in the season. Source: [National Parks Traveler](#), [Badger Pass Ski Area Facebook page](#)

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

- Evelyn Florence (Peterson) Attwood, 86, passed away on January 20. Evelyn worked as a cook for several summers at Glacier National Park. Source: [Cut Bank Pioneer Press](#)
- Dawn Louise Briese, 63, passed away on January 9. Dawn worked for a time in the archaeology program at Yosemite National Park. Source: [Mariposa Gazette](#)

- Lucia Camper, 81, passed away on February 2. Lucia worked for the National Park Service “at Fort Lee” for many years. Source: [The Smithfield Times](#) [Editor note: Fort Lee Historic Park is managed by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, not the National Park Service. It is unclear whether the obituary misnamed a different NPS fort site or misattributed Fort Lee to the NPS.]
- George Bruce Corrie, III, 78, passed away on February 1. George spent 38 years working for the NPS, including time at Ford’s Theatre, Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, and Mammoth Cave National Park. Source: [WCLU](#)
- Christina “Chris” Dearden, 48, passed away on February 1. Chris worked for several summers at the NPS, including at Great Basin National Park, Bryce Canyon National Park, and Cedar Breaks National Monument. Source: [Legacy/Southern Utah Mortuary - Cedar City](#)
- David Ivan Dickerson, 88, passed away on January 25. While in college, David worked summers “as a park ranger” in Crater Lake National Park. Source: [Legacy/Peninsula Clarion](#)
- James R. Gasser, 76, passed away on January 23. James worked for the NPS from 1985 to 2018, retiring as the NPS chief of protocol and logistics. Source: [Legacy/Washington Post](#)
- Kim Keating, 68, passed away on January 20. Kim was a wildlife ecologist for the NPS and U.S. Geological Survey at Glacier National Park. Source: Kathy Dimont
- Blake William Newland, 29, passed away on February 10. Blake worked for the NPS (site unknown). Source: [The Mountain Press](#)
- Bryan Christopher Suerdieck, 49, passed away on February 8. Bryan worked in Zion National Park for a year, then Yosemite National Park for “over a dozen years,” leaving the NPS around 2015. Source: [Legacy/Journal Gazette and Times-Courier](#)
- Bill Thorndike recently passed away. He served for a time on the board of the Crater Lake National Park Trust. Source: [KOB!](#)

Retired

- Blanca Alvarez Stransky retired on January 31. She worked for the NPS for 39 years, including time at Grand Canyon National Park, Pearl Harbor National Memorial, Denali National Park and Preserve, and most recently as superintendent at Pinnacles National Park. [BenitoLink](#) published an interview with her about her work at Pinnacles and her career.
Source: [BenitoLink](#)

In the News

- Michael Johnson was selected as the new chief of emergency medical services for the town of Whitefield, Maine. Michael worked for the NPS from 2004-2013 as a trail crew worker, including time in Alaska, Arizona, Michigan, and New Jersey. Source: [The Lincoln County News](#)
- On February 5, *High Country News* published [an article](#) titled, “The Indian Education of Charles Sams,” about former NPS Director Chuck Sams. The article chronicles his upbringing and his efforts as the NPS director. Source: *High Country News*

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.

- *National Park Service* - Public comment is [open through March 17](#) on a proposed rule to determine where and how micromobility devices, such as e-scooters, hoverboards, and Segways, may be operated in national park units. Source: [National Park Service Office of Communications](#)
- *Assateague Island National Seashore* - Public comment is [open through March 18](#) on a proposal to remove requirements about vehicle weight ground clearance, and dimensions for driving on designated beaches and oversand routes. Source: [OC Today-Dispatch](#)
- *Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park* - Public comment is [open through March 7](#) on a development concept plan for Great Falls in Montgomery County, Maryland. Source: [Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park](#)
- *Glacier National Park* - Public comment is [open through March 12](#) on a proposed fire management plan. Source: [Glacier National Park](#)

Other Department of the Interior News

- *DOI energy priorities* - On February 3, Department of the Interior Secretary Doug Burgum outlined six Secretary’s Orders related to “unleash American energy,” including identifying all “emergency and legal authorities” available to streamline the development of energy resources, reallocating Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act “to ensure consistency with President Trump’s energy dominance policies,” cut programs and regulations that make consumer electricity more expensive, undo Outer Continental Shelf bans to allow more oil and gas leases, cut regulations on energy production, and maximizing “the development and production of the natural resources located on both federal and state lands within Alaska.” Source: [Department of the Interior](#)

- *USFWS director nominated* - Former Wyoming Game and Fish director Brian Nesvik was nominated as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service director. Source: [Cowboy State Daily](#)
- *Baaj Nwaavjo lawsuit dismissed* - A lawsuit against the establishment of Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni - Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument was dismissed. The Arizona Legislature and other plaintiffs claimed that the monument was established illegally and harms the state and local communities. The federal judge found that the plaintiffs lacked standing to sue and the court lacked subject matter jurisdiction. The plaintiffs said an appeal is likely, and that they expect President Donald Trump to reverse the monument establishment. Source: [AZ Mirror](#)

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.

Senate Actions

February 11 - The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: held a business meeting and announced subcommittee assignments for the 119th Congress. The Subcommittee on National Parks shall include Senators Daines (Chair), Barrasso, Cassidy, Murkowski, King, Hirono, and Gallego.

Finalized membership for committees of interest to the NPS:

- Senate Authorizing Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
 - Majority Members (11) : Mike Lee (Chair - UT), John Barrasso (WY), James Risch (ID), Steve Daines (MT), Tom Cotton (AR), David McCormick (PA), James Justice (WV), Bill Cassidy (LA), Cindy Hyde-Smith (MS), Lisa Murkowski (AK), John Hoeven (ND)
 - Minority Members (9): Martin Henrich (Ranking Member - NM), Ron Wyden (OR), Maria Cantwell (WA), Mazie Hirono (HI), Angus King (ME), Catherine Cortez Masto (NV), John Hickenlooper (CO), Alex Padilla (CA), Ruben Gallego (AZ)
- Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks
 - See note from "February 11" above
- Senate Committee on Appropriations
 - Majority Members (15): Susan Collins (Chair - ME), Mitch McConnell (KY), Lisa Murkowski (AK), Lindsey Graham (SC), Jerry Moran (KS), John Hoeven (ND), John Boozman (AR), Shelley Moore Capito (WV), John Kennedy (LA), Cindy Hyde-Smith (MS), Bill Hagerty (TN), Katie Boyd Britt (AL), Markwayne Mullin (OK), Deb Fischer (NE), Mike Rounds (SD)
 - Minority Members (14): Patty Murray (Ranking Member - WA), Richard Durbin (IL),

Jack Reed (RI), Jeanne Shaheen (NH), Jeff Merkley (OR), Christopher Coons (DE), Brian Schatz (HI), Tammy Baldwin (WI), Christopher Murphy (CT), Chris Van Hollen (MD), Martin Heinrich (NM), Gary Peters (MI), Kirsten Gillibrand (NY), Jon Ossoff (GA)

- Senate Appropriations' Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
 - Senators Murkowski (Chair), McConnell, Moore Capito, Hoeven, Fischer, Mullin, Rounds, Merkley (Ranking Member), Van Hollen, Heinrich, Baldwin, Gillibrand, and Ossoff

House Actions

February 11 - The Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a hearing entitled "Restoring Multiple Use to Revitalize America's Public Lands and Rural Communities." Testimony was heard from Eric Clarke, County Attorney, Washington County, Utah; Dan Gibbs, Executive Director, Department of Natural Resources, Colorado; and public witnesses.

February 12 - The Committee on Natural Resources held a markup on a number of bills, including H.R. 249, a bill to re-designate certain facilities at Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park in honor of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. The bill was reported without amendment.

Finalized membership for committees of interest to the NPS:

- House Authorizing Committee on Natural Resources
 - Majority Members (25): Bruce Westerman (Chair - AR), Robert Wittman (VA), Tom McClintock (CA), Paul Gosar (AZ), Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen (AS), Doug LaMalfa (CA), Daniel Webster (FL), Russ Fulcher (ID), Pete Stauber (MN), Thomas Tiffany (WI), Lauren Boebert (CO), Cliff Bentz (OR), Jennifer Kiggans (VA), Wesley Hunt (TX), Mike Collins (GA), Harriet Hageman (WY), Mark Amodei (NV), Tim Walberg (MI), Mike Ezell (MS), Celeste Maloy (UT), Addison McDowell (NC), Jeff Crank (CO), Nicholas Begich III (AK), Jeff Hurd (CO), Mike Kennedy (UT)
 - Minority Members (20): Jared Huffman (Ranking Member - CA), Raúl Grijalva (AZ), Joe Neguse (CO), Teresa Leger Fernandez (NM), Melanie Stansbury (NM), Val Hoyle (OR), Seth Magaziner (RI), Jared Golden (ME), Dave Min (CA), Maxine Dexter (OR), Pablo José Hernández (PR), Emily Randall (WA), Yassamin Ansari (AZ), Sarah Elfreth (MD), Adam Gray (CA), Luz Rivas (CA), Nydia Velázquez (NY), Debbie Dingell (MI), Darren Soto (FL), Julia Brownley (CA)
- House Committee on Natural Resources' Federal Lands Subcommittee:
 - Representatives Tiffany (Chair), McClintock, Fulcher, Stauber, Bentz, Hunt, Amodei, Maloy, Kennedy (Vice Chair), Neguse (Ranking Member), Grijalva, Leger Fernandez, Stansbury, Golden, Dexter, Randall

- House Committee on Appropriations

- Majority Members (35): Tom Cole (Chair - OK), Harold Rogers (KY), Robert Aderholt (AL), Michael Simpson (ID), John Carter (TX), Ken Calvert (CA), Mario Diaz-Balart (FL), Steve Womack (AR), Charles Fleischmann (TN), David Joyce (OH), Andy Harris (MD), Mark Amodei (NV), David Valadao (CA), Dan Newhouse (WA), John Moolenaar (MI), John Rutherford (FL), Ben Cline (VA), Guy Reschenthaler (PA), Ashley Hinson (IA), Tony Gonzales (TX), Julia Letlow (LA), Michael Cloud (TX), Michael Guest (MS), Ryan Zinke (MT), Andrew Clyde (GA), Stephanie Bice (OK), Scott Franklin (FL), Jake Ellzey (TX), Juan Ciscomani (AZ), Chuck Edwards (NC), Mark Alford (MO), Nick LaLota (NY), Dale Strong (AL), Celest Maloy (UT), Riley Moore (WV)
- Minority Members (28): Rosa DeLauro (Ranking Member - CT), Steny Hoyer (MD), Marcy Kaptur (OH), James Clyburn (SC), Sanford Bishop, Jr. (GA), Betty McCollum (MN), Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL), Henry Cuellar (TX), Chellie Pingree (ME), Mike Quigley (IL), Grace Meng (NY), Mark Pocan (WI), Pete Aguilar (CA), Lois Frankel (FL), Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ), Norma Torres (CA), Ed Case (HI), Adriano Espaillat (NY), Josh Harder (CA), Lauren Underwood (IL), Susie Lee (NV), Joseph Morelle (NY), Mike Levin (CA), Madeleine Dean (PA), Veronica Escobar (TX), Frank Mrvan (IN), Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (WA), Glenn Ivey (MD)
- House Appropriations' Subcommittee on Interior Environment, and Related Agencies
 - Representatives Simpson (Chair), Amodei, Reschenthaler, Cloud, Zinke, Ellzey, Maloy (Vice Chair), Pingree (Ranking Member), McCollum, Harder, Clyburn

Incidents

Listed alphabetically by park.

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park

Winter Storm Harlow

On February 11, the park closed due to impacts from Winter Storm Harlow. The park has since reopened. Source: [Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park](#)

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park, Mammoth Cave National Park,

Stones River National Battlefield

Winter Storm Kingston

On February 18, Abraham Lincoln Birthplace announced it would be closed the following day due to Winter Storm Kingston. Additionally, Mammoth Cave and Stones River announced they would delay opening on the 19th due to the storm. Source: [Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park](#), [Mammoth Cave National Park](#), [Stones River National Battlefield](#)

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

Volcanic eruption

On February 11, Kīlauea volcano began erupting within Halema'uma'u crater at the summit,

shooting lava “over 300 feet” in the air. The eruption continued for 22 hours, finishing on February 12. The lava flow reached a half-mile across the crater. No communities were threatened by the eruption, though volcanic gas and “strands of volcanic glass known as Pele’s hair” can affect residents and visitors near the eruption. The U.S. Geological Survey stated that the characteristics of this eruption indicate there will be another episode, but they cannot predict when. This was the ninth eruption since December 23. Source: [USA Today](#)

Katmai National Park and Preserve

Lawsuit pits bear hunting vs. bear viewing

On February 14, the Alaska Supreme Court overturned the dismissal of a 2023 lawsuit against the Alaska Department of Fish and Game that challenges a predator-control program that has killed “nearly 200 bears” over two years in an effort to support the Mulchatna Caribou Herd. The lawsuit argues that the program violates visitors’ right to enjoy viewing bears in the region around Katmai. The case had been dismissed for lack of standing, and the Alaska Supreme Court determined the individual does have standing. It will now go back to Alaska Superior Court to determine the merits of the lawsuit. Source: [Alaska Beacon](#)

Lake Mead National Recreation Area

Missing person

On February 2, a 66-year-old individual went missing while on foot near Pearce Ferry Landing. As of February 16, no media reports reported them being found. Source:

Pinnacles National Park

Rock climber rescue

On February 4, a 21-year-old was climbing the “Tilted Terrace” route off the Balconies Cliffs Trail with two other individuals. The individual fell 35 feet due to a “misstep.” Initial evaluation indicated the individual did not experience life-threatening injuries. The individual was evacuated by “life flight” for treatment. Source: [KSBW YouTube channel](#)

Follow-ups on Previously Reported Incidents

- *Blue Ridge Parkway* - The *Citizen Times* published [an article](#) about the ongoing recovery from Tropical Storm Helene in September 2024. Over 100 miles of road are still closed, and it is estimated that the total repair bill is “likely to exceed \$1 billion.” Some damaged sections may reopen in late summer or early fall, while others may take two to three years to repair. Source: *Citizen Times*
- *Glacier National Park* - In early February, a federal judge ruled that a private home built on lower McDonald Creek may remain after a lawsuit about its location in proximity to the creek (see [3/22/23](#), [11/1/23](#), [11/29/23](#), and [2/21/24](#) *Coalition Reports*). The court concluded that the Flathead Conservation District lacks the jurisdiction to enforce the Montana Streambed Protection Act. It found that the National Park Service has exclusive

jurisdiction over all lands within the boundaries of the park, including private inholdings, and the house was permitted by the NPS. Source: [Daily Inter Lake](#)

Acknowledgments

This newsletter is supported through Coalition staff and invaluable volunteers:

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

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

report@protectnps.org.

* * * * *

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."

To receive a copy of this free publication, [join or support the Coalition](#). Any current, retired, or former-salaried (GS, Wage System, Seasonal, Temporary, or SES) National Park Service employee or volunteer who served under a signed volunteer agreement can join the Coalition. Coalition supporters who do not qualify under those criteria [may also join](#) and receive the newsletter.

--- ### ---