



The Coalition Report

Wednesday, March 19, 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).



Support the Coalition

Our limited-edition Protect Our Parks hats close sales on March 29. A portion of each sale directly support's the Coalition's advocacy, legal, and communications efforts to protect our national parks and the employees who care for them. Hats will ship in mid-April.

Buy your hat today!

Coalition Actions

The Coalition, in its joint lawsuit against the Office of Personnel Management for the illegal firing of probationary-status employees, [won a preliminary injunction](#) broadening a temporary restraining order and mandating the immediate reinstatement of terminated employees (see more in "National/Regional NPS Updates" below).

We joined seven other groups in [a letter](#) to Interior Secretary Doug Burgum asking for a more thorough analysis before terminating several dozen agency leases that serve the public in numerous capacities (see more in "National/Regional NPS Updates" below).

The Coalition, represented by former Big Bend National Park superintendent Bob Krumenaker, [testified](#) in front of the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee Subcommittee on Federal Lands regarding the proposed FLASH Act (Federal Lands Amplified Security for the Homeland),

arguing against Title 1, which has short-sighted one-size-fits-all mandates that would construct unnecessary roads, sap NPS budgets, create jurisdiction ambiguities, and conflict with the Wilderness Act.

We signed onto [a letter](#) with 85 organizations urging the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations to preserve environmental funding in the annual appropriations bills for Fiscal Year 2025.

We published [a press release](#) thanking Congress for its Continuing Resolution of funding, and criticizing its broad cuts to the National Park Service and the federal workforce.

The Coalition joined several dozen other conservation organizations in [a letter](#) to the Energy and Natural Resources Committee opposing efforts to expand mining activities on public lands.

We participated in a virtual U.S. Senate Public Lands [Round Table](#) with public lands employees that were illegally fired.

The Coalition published [a press release](#) highlighting the juxtaposition of an all-time visitation record for the NPS in 2024 against the Trump Administration's ongoing assault on the NPS workforce.

We joined the Preservation League of New York State and many other organizations in [speaking out](#) against the erasure of the words "transgender" and "queer" from the Stonewall National Monument website, as well as other national sites.

Coalition Executive Council members (and former NPS superintendents) Linda Mazzu and Sue Fritzke, as well as Coalition member (and former NPS superintendent) Walt Dabney were interviewed in [this article](#) by *The Salt Lake Tribune* about the potential effects of President Donald Trump's reductions in the federal workforce on Utah's national parks. Source: *The Salt Lake Tribune*

Coalition Executive Council member Elaine Leslie wrote [an op-ed](#) published in *The Durango Telegraph* arguing against the illegal firing of probationary status federal workers and what the result might be on public lands.

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.

- *NPS visits hit all-time high in 2024* - In 2024, the National Park Service reported a record 331.9 million recreational visits. Additionally, 28 parks recorded annual visitation records. The report also noted that visitation patterns are also starting to change: "55% of parks experienced an above average number of visits in February-June and October-December." Source: [National Park Service Visitor Use Data](#)

- *NPS instructed to downplay numbers* - An internal NPS memo instructed the agency to do no external communications rollout for 2024 visitation data. Individual parks were instructed that they can share numbers if asked or, if it is standard practice, to publish on their individual websites, but are to publish no press releases or social media posts. Source: [SFGate](#)
- *NPS leases canceled* - The Trump Administration has begun canceling federal leases of private facilities, including 34 leases of the NPS. These include the unit of Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park located in Seattle, WA; headquarters for Sunset Crater National Monument, Walnut Canyon National Monument, and Wupatki National Monument in Flagstaff, AZ; the Southern Colorado Plateau Inventory and Monitoring Network office in Flagstaff, AZ; the administrative headquarters for Montezuma Castle National Monument and Tuzigoot National Monument in Camp Verde, AZ; the office for law enforcement at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park in San Antonio, TX, the headquarters for Lake Meredith National Recreation Area in Fritch, TX; and headquarters for the Southeastern Utah Parks in Moab, UT. The National Parks Conservation Association has compiled a complete list [here](#). Source: [Seattle Times](#), [KNAU](#), [MySA](#), [Chron](#), [Moab Sun News](#), National Parks Conservation Association, Russell Galipeau
 - *Trump family history threatened by lease cancellation* - The visitor center for Klondike Gold Rush NHP that may potentially be shuttered features President Donald Trump's grandfather and his entrepreneurial journey amidst the gold rush. Source: [The New York Times](#)
- *Purchase cards reduced to \$1* - On February 26, the Trump Administration froze credit cards across the Department of the Interior for 30 days. Spending limits on each card were reduced to \$1, and there is only one active card per region of the National Park Service, handled by a single individual. Typically, NPS purchase cards allowed employees to make transactions up to \$10,000, often for utilities and basic maintenance functions, as well as for field work and travel. Source: [SFGate](#)
- *Fired probationary employees reinstated* -
 - March 5 - The Merit Systems Protection Board issued an order to the U.S. Department of Agriculture to reinstate "close to 6,000 employees" that were fired since February 13, finding reasonable grounds to believe the agency acted illegally in terminating their employment. The order is a stay of 45 days while an investigation continues. This follows on the decisions issued the week earlier by the Office of Special Council that reinstated six probationary workers from six different agencies (see [3/5/25 Coalition Report](#)). These employees were placed on administrative leave. Source: [National Public Radio](#)
 - March 6 - 20 Attorneys General representing 20 States filed a lawsuit against the federal government, alleging the Trump Administration violated laws and regulations for laying off federal workers. Source: [Reuters](#)
 - March 13 (1) - A federal judge in San Francisco ordered the reinstatement of

employees at the Departments of Veterans Affairs, Agriculture, Defense, Energy, Interior, and Treasury. The judge also prohibited the Office of Personnel Management from issuing any guidance about whether employees can be terminated. The OPM failed to make Acting Director Charles Ezell available for cross-examination and withdrew his sworn declaration, which the judge called a “sham.” The White House announced they would fight the decision and the Justice Department has filed a notice of appeal. Source: [ABC News](#) [Editor note: This was a lawsuit in which the Coalition to Protect America’s National Parks was a co-plaintiff. See “Coalition Actions” above.]

- March 13 (2) - A federal judge in Maryland ordered probationary status employees at 18 federal agencies be reinstated by March 17, either to their jobs or placed on administrative leave. This ruling is only a temporary restraining order, set to expire March 27 unless the court chooses to extend it. Employees at the General Services Administration received memos that stated that their “trial period termination notice” was rescinded and they would be placed on administrative leave during the reinstatement period. The agencies are the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Labor, Transportation, Treasury, and Veterans Affairs, as well as the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, General Services Administration, Small Business Administration, and U.S. Agency for International Development. Source: [Government Executive](#)
- March 17 - A federal court of appeals denied the appeal of an order requiring six government agencies (see March 13 [1] above) to reinstate employees on probationary status. Source: [Daily Montanan](#)
- *Editor note: As of March 17, the status of NPS employees and whether or not backpay would be available were yet unclear.*
- *White House probationary employees exempted* - On March 17, *The Intercept* published [an article](#) with evidence that NPS workers that care for the White House and President’s Park were exempted from the mass firings of probationary status employees, “specifically on the grounds that they worked for the White House.” Source: *The Intercept*
- *Public lands to be converted to housing* - On March 17, the Departments of the Interior and Housing and Urban Development created the Joint Task Force on Federal Land for Housing, an effort to transfer “underutilized” federal lands and transfer them to states and localities to build housing. Source: [Government Executive](#)
- *Permanent pay increase for firefighters* - On March 15, the Department of the Interior announced permanent pay increases for federal and Tribal wildland firefighters. The pay increases were part of the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, signed into law on March 14. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)

- *ANPR launches emergency fund for rangers* - On February 25, the Association of National Park Rangers approved the modification of an existing disaster fund to a new Ranger Emergency Relief Fund, stating that “any ANPR member in good standing is eligible to apply for and receive aid to help in the recovery following a natural disaster, or from other emergency (such as being displaced from employment) that results from no fault or responsibility of the member, that has directly impacted their life. This fund is an ANPR member benefit, and the amount of aid will be based on the needs of the individual and the funds available. Those wanting to apply for funds should contact ANPR Executive Director Bill Wade at bwade@anpr.org.” Source: Association of National Park Rangers Newsletter
- *Chuck Sams on “past, present, and future” of NPS* - The *Flathead Beacon* published [an interview](#) with, and profile of, recently-departed director of the National Park Service Chuck Sams, articulating his journey to the office, his efforts while serving, and his thoughts on the current state and future of the NPS. Source: *Flathead Beacon*
- *Retribution against law firms* - On February 25, President Donald Trump signed an order suspending security clearances for lawyers representing Special Counsel Jack Smith and limiting federal business with their law firm, Covington and Burling. Jack Smith led two (now-dismissed) criminal cases against President Trump for his efforts to overturn the 2020 election and for mishandling classified documents. On March 6, President Trump issued an executive order suspending security clearances for employees of the law firm Perkins Coie and targeting its business with federal contractors. The order also directed an investigation into other “large, influential, or industry leading law firms” for “unlawful DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion) practices.” Both agencies have current lawsuits pending against the Trump Administration, including one the Coalition to Protect America’s National Parks is involved in, related to the firing of probationary-status federal employees. On March 12, a federal judge issued a temporary restraining order against the ban. Source: *Reuters* ([2/25/25](#), [3/6/25](#), [3/8/25](#)), [AZ Central](#)

Around the Parks

Reports are in alphabetical order by park/program name.

- *American Battlefield Protection Program* (an NPS-administered program) - On March 18, the NPS awarded \$2.3 million in Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants for five grants to protect 171 acres of historic battlefields in three states. Source: [National Park Service Office of Communications](#)
- *Everglades National Park* - On March 17, the park began a six-month project to replace the Pa-Hay-Okee Overlook boardwalk trail and tower. The road will remain open, but the area will be closed for the duration of the project. The project is being funded through recreation fees, and the contractor is “the same company that previously replaced the decking and structures on both the Anhinga and Bobcat Boardwalk Trails.” Source:

[Everglades National Park](#)

- *Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Historical Park* - On March 5, the park began a project to replace docks at both forts and provide enhancements at the Liberty Square dock in downtown Charleston (SC). The Fort Moultrie dock is the first phase and will be closed for about one year. Work on the Fort Sumter dock will begin “later this year.” The picnic area and the Bench by the Road Memorial will also be closed during construction, though the General Moultrie Grave site and an alternate picnic area will be accessible. Portions of the parking lot and lawn will also be closed for staging. Source: [Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Historical Park](#)
- *Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park* - On March 24, the park will begin a project to repave the Chatham parking lot and repair road surfaces throughout the battlefields. The parking lot project is expected to last from March 24 through April 7. The road rehabilitation will take place from April 21 through mid-May. Closures may be in place during the project. Source: [Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park](#)
- *Gateway National Recreation Area* - On February 27, an executive order by President Donald Trump ordered the dissolution of the Fort Hancock 21st Century Federal Advisory Committee, the group focused on restoration of the historic military post for adaptive reuse. Source: [Shore News Network](#)
- *Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Grand Canyon National Park, Lake Mead National Recreation Area* - On February 13, representatives from Arizona, California, and Nevada wrote [a letter](#) to Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum urging repairs to damaged infrastructure at Glen Canyon Dam. The damage could limit how much water goes downstream to the Lower Colorado River Basin states and Mexico if water levels drop. The letter argues that the current situation has the potential to violate the Colorado River Compact. Source: [Los Angeles Times](#) [Editor note: The Bureau of Reclamation, not the National Park Service, is responsible for the Glen Canyon Dam, but any effects to flow rates will affect the three park units listed above.]
- *Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site* - The park was moved to be under administration of the superintendency at Glacier National Park. Source: [Daily Montanan](#)
- *Haleakalā National Park* - *Honolulu Civil Beat* published [an article](#) about how firings of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NPS employees may affect the agencies’ ability to protect endangered birds in Hawai’i. Haleakalā National Park and one of its recently fired biologists are mentioned in the article. Source: *Honolulu Civil Beat*
- *Joshua Tree National Park* - On February 25, the Twentynine Palms (CA) City Council transferred the lease of the NPS visitor center from the NPS to the Joshua Tree National Park Association. The City-owned building has been leased to the NPS at no cost since 2022 when it opened, and it has helped revitalize the town’s downtown area. Source: [SFGate](#)

- *Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail* - The NPS recently published [an annual report](#) capturing the 2024 accomplishments and efforts on the Lewis and Clark NHT. Source: [National Park Service Office of Communications](#)
- *Mammoth Cave National Park* - On March 10, the park announced that a new-to-science species of shark was discovered in Mammoth Cave in the Ste. Genevieve Formation rock layer. The species is called *Clavusodens mcginnisi* (“McGinnis’ nail tooth”) and nicknamed a “chipmunk shark” for their small size and chisel-like front teeth and crushing back teeth that look like old iron nails. “Mcginnisi” is in honor of retired NPS superintendent David McGinnis. Source: [Mammoth Cave National Park](#)
- *Natchez Trace Parkway* - On March 4, The NPS began a project to repair asphalt on the ramps from Natchez Trace Parkway to Highway 55. Work will be done at nighttime, with some closures in place and delays. Source: [Natchez Trace Parkway](#)
- *Point Reyes National Seashore* - On March 11, the Marin County (CA) Board of Supervisors voted to pass a shelter crisis declaration, a three-year ordinance that would allow temporary dwellings on private and unincorporated land to support ranch workers that will lose their jobs and homes due the recently-executed settlement in which 11 ranches inside the park will be vacated in one year’s time. Source: [Northern California Public Media](#)
- *Redwood National and State Parks, Steamtown National Historic Site* - In honor of AmeriCorps Week (March 9-15, 2025), the NPS published [an interview](#) with two Community Volunteer Ambassadors, Arlette Milstead and Emily Haryasz, who work at Redwood and Steamtown, respectively. Source: National Park Service Office of Communications
- *San Antonio Missions National Historical Park* - On March 17, the World Heritage Management Group of San Antonio Missions World Heritage Site published its [2024 annual report](#). The Management Group consists of the NPS, Archdiocese of San Antonio, San Antonio River Authority, City of San Antonio, Bexar County (TX), and The Alamo, with support from Mission Heritage Partners, Visit San Antonio, The San Antonio Conservation Society, Las Misiones, and El Camino de San Antonio Missions. Source: [San Antonio Missions National Historical Park](#)
- *Stonewall National Monument* - The National Parks Conservation Association published a statement condemning the erasure of many words and subpages of LGBTQ+ history from the park’s website. They documented the park pages that were deleted in the post. Source: [National Parks Conservation Association](#)

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

- Mack Carl Easley, Sr., 75, passed away on March 2. Mack volunteered at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial for the NPS for a time during his retirement. Source: [TXK Today](#)
- G. Douglas “Doug” Follett, 98, passed away on March 2. Doug worked seasonally “as a naturalist” at Glacier National Park for 58 years, retiring in 2019 at the age of 93. Source: [Hungry Horse News](#)
- Raúl M. Grijalva, 77, passed away on March 13. Raúl was elected in Arizona to twelve terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, and spent time as the head of the Natural Resources Committee. Representative Grijalva played a key role in writing the National Landscape Conservation System Act and the Federal Lands Restoration Act, and he was a champion for the creation of Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni National Monument. Source: [Associated Press](#)
- Lorraine Hanson, 98, passed away on February 24. Lorraine worked for a summer at the Old Faithful Inn in Yellowstone National Park during college. Source: [Greeley Tribune](#)
- Donald “Don” William Larson, 101, passed away on March 8. Don worked for the NPS at Yellowstone National Park from 1953 to 1958. Source: [Dignity Memorial](#)
- Francis Andrew “Andy” Ketterson Jr., 88, passed away on March 8. Andy worked for the NPS for “decades,” including time at Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, Booker T Washington National Monument, Golden Spike National Historical Park, Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Site, Blue Ridge Parkway, and retiring as the chief of cultural resources management for the Midwest Region. Source: [Neptune Society](#)
- Ollie Olsen passed away recently. Ollie worked for the NPS in several parks and as IT support in the Southwest Region and Intermountain Region. Source: Dawn Foy
- Marie Rust, 86, passed away on February 13. Marie worked for the NPS for many years, retiring as the “Northeast Regional Director.” Source: [Afterall](#)
- Donald “Don” Louis Schellbach, 91, passed away on March 7. Don spent most of his childhood at Grand Canyon National Park as the son of an NPS ranger. He later spent several summers working “at the various hotels along the Grand Canyon rim.” Source: [Dignity Memorial](#)
- Larry Bruce Sharer, 86, passed away on March 7. Larry worked for the NPS in Philadelphia for three years. Source: [Penn Live/Patriot-News](#)
- Helen Stockwell Vatcher, 95, passed away on February 28. Helen worked for several summers at Sequoia National Park. Source: [North Coast Journal of Politics, People, and](#)

[Art](#)

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 [will open from March 26 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](#)
- *Flight 93 National Memorial, Friendship Hill National Historic Site, and Fort Necessity National Battlefield* - Public comment is [open through March 28](#) on a white-tailed deer management plan for the three parks. Source: [Flight 93 National Memorial](#)
- *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](#)
- *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 Mall and Memorial Parks* - Public comment is [open through March 19](#) on a concept plan for Tidal Basin. Source: [National Mall and Memorial Parks](#)
- *Rock Creek Park* - Public comment will be [open from April 2 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

- *Public lands returned to Tribe* - On March 17, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced the transfer of 680 acres of land in Benson County, North Dakota, to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, held in trust for the Spirit Lake Nation. The land had been transferred from the BIA to the USFWS in 1959 to grow hay for bison at nearby White Horse Hill National Game Preserve. The return of the land to the Tribe was a “many decades’ long effort.” Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *Copper Creek Mine open for comment* - The Bureau of Land Management opened public comment through April 14 for the exploratory phase of a proposed 28-square-mile mine at Copper Creek near Mammoth, Arizona. Source: [AZPM](#)

- *Spring Creek mine extension* - On March 13, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement announced the approval of a mining plan modification for the Spring Creek coal mine in Big Horn County, Montana, that will “extend the mine’s operational life by 16 years.” Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *BOEM archaeology provision rescinded* - On March 13, President Donald Trump signed a joint resolution disapproving of a Bureau of Ocean Energy Management rule that requires all new oil and gas leaseholders on the Outer Continental Shelf to submit archaeological reports in unsurveyed areas. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *Lawsuit over lynx and grizzly habitat* - On March 11, several conservation groups made arguments in federal court in a lawsuit against the Custer-Gallatin National Forest outside Yellowstone National Park. The lawsuit is focused on the South Plateau Landscape Area Treatment Project, a 15-year logging project over 16,000 acres. The U.S. Forest Service approved the project in 2022 with their analysis indicating that neither Canada lynx nor grizzly bear populations would be jeopardized. The lawsuit claims that the plan violated several laws and procedures, including failing to comply with forest plan standards and failing to specify road construction locations and therefore thwarting the ability to determine effects on species. The judge stated findings and recommendations would be issued “quickly.” Source: [Missoula Current](#)
- *Wildlife refuge renamed for slain child* - On March 10, Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum signed a Secretary’s Order renaming the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge in Texas to the Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge. Jocelyn Nungaray was a 12-year-old that was killed by undocumented migrants in North Houston, Texas, in June 2024. 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 (H.R. 1968, P.L. number not yet officially assigned as of 3/18/25), was signed by the President on March 15, 2025.

Senate Actions

March 14 - The Senate passed H.R.1968, the “Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025” by a yea-and nay of 62 yeas to 38 nays, three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the bill.

House Actions

March 11 - The House passed H.R. 1968, the “Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025,” making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, by a yea-and-nay vote of 217 yeas to 213 nays.

Summary of NPS Appropriations from Continuing Resolution (H.R. 1968)

The Continuing Resolution funds the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies at the same level as the Appropriations Act, 2024 with the following revisions for the National Park Service:

- Operation of the National Park System - \$ 2,894,424,000 (+ \$6 million of FY24)
- National Recreation and Preservation - \$ 89,593,000 (- \$1,650,000 of FY24)
- Historic Preservation Fund - \$ 168,900,000 (- \$19,766,000 of FY24)
- Construction-- Funds remaining from FY24 appropriation (no new money)
- Centennial Challenge -- Funds remaining from FY24 appropriation (no new money)
- Administrative Provisions -- As provided in FY24 appropriation except paragraphs 4 and 5 from that section of the NPS appropriation do not pertain to FY25 appropriation.

Incidents

Listed alphabetically by park.

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

Officer-involved shooting

On March 4, an officer-involved shooting took place at Nāmakanipaio Campground. Hawai'i Police Department “was also on scene.” No further details were released. The incident is under investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigations. Source: [Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park](#)

Follow-ups on Previously Reported Incidents

- *Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park* - On March 18, the park reported the discovery of human remains in “a remote and highly technical area to access.” They are believed to belong to the 31-year-old that went missing on February 13 (see [3/5/25 Coalition Report](#)). The individual's death “was believed to be unwitnessed and is under investigation.” Agencies involved in the search and investigation included the NPS, Montrose (CO) Police Department, Montrose County Sheriffs Office, Denver Police Department, Montrose County Posse Search and Rescue Volunteers, Friends of Black Canyon Search and Rescue Volunteers, and Slavin Private Investigations. Source: [Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park](#)
- *Glacier National Park* - On March 5, the Friends of Montana Streams and Rivers, an intervenor in the lawsuit regarding a new home built next to McDonald Creek on an inholding in the park (see [3/22/23](#), [11/1/23](#), [11/29/23](#), [2/21/24](#), and [2/19/25 Coalition Reports](#)), filed notice that it is appealing the recent decision by a federal court that the

Flathead Conservation District does not have jurisdiction over the matter. Briefs are due in May and June. Source: [National Parks Traveler](#)

- *Olympic National Park* - Officials from Jefferson County (WA) have stated that they have not yet been able to obtain funding through the Federal Highway Administration's Emergency Relief program to repair the Upper Hoh Road washout that took place in December 2024. The emergency repairs are estimated to cost \$1.28 million, while permanent repairs will take 5-10 years and further funding. It is possible that the Hoh Rain Forest will remain closed through Summer 2025. Source: [KING5](#)
- *Ozark National Scenic Riverways* - The park is still working to repair a number of campgrounds and access points since record flooding in November 2024. Akers and Round Spring Campgrounds were expected to reopen group sites by Memorial Day, and Pulltite is expected to partially reopen at the same time. Backcountry campgrounds are expected to open "in time for the summer season," except for Dee Murray Backcountry Campground, which will open for day-use only. Source: [Ozark National Scenic Riverways](#)
- *National Park Service* - On March 4, the plaintiffs in a lawsuit against the National Park Service for its policy of going cashless at most NPS units (see [1/24/24](#) and [3/5/25 Coalition Reports](#)) filed an amended complaint, expanding on the "constitutional and statutory issues" of the issue. Source: [National Parks Traveler](#)

Acknowledgments

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- Editor: Katie Wallace
- Tech and Production Support: Steve Pittleman, Debbie Reed, Emily Thompson
- Regular Correspondent: Chris Soller
- Issue Contributors: Teresa Ford, Sue Consolo-Murphy, Dawn Foy, Randy Turner, Bill Walters

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

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."

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.