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The Coalition Report
Wednesday, February 23, 2022

Coalition Actions

We sent out a message to all Coalition members, asking them to sign on to a letter in support of the Antiquities Act and national monuments. If you haven't already, please consider [signing](#).

The Coalition signed on to a notice of intent sent to the Environmental Protection Agency to file suit under the Clean Air Act for failure to make statutory completeness determinations and findings of failure to submit regional haze state implementation plans for the Second Planning Period:

<https://protectnps.org/2022/02/07/organizations-send-notice-of-intent-to-sue-epa-over-failure-of-regional-haze-plans/>

We issued a statement in support of Senator Michael Bennet's (D-CO) leadership and efforts to pass legislation to make the Amache National Historic Site a unit of the National Park System. Senator Mike Lee (R-UT) blocked a request to allow the legislation to pass with unanimous consent. However, since then, the legislation passed the U.S. Senate unanimously (including Senator Lee's vote of support) and the bill currently resides with the U.S. House of Representatives. It is expected to pass and be signed into law by President Joe Biden.

<https://protectnps.org/2022/02/08/coalition-praises-bennets-push-to-pass-amache-legislation/>

The Coalition signed on to a letter from the Second Century Action Committee, thanking the Subcommittee on National Parks for hosting a hearing on the Great American

Outdoors Act and highlighting a few projects underway or awaiting final approval:

<https://protectnps.org/2022/02/08/40592/>

The Coalition also submitted a Statement for the Record prior to the GAOA hearing, commending the National Park Service for its well-organized and effective implementation of the National Parks and Public Lands Legacy Restoration Fund (LRF) program in FY 2021 and FY 2022, and offering a few additional points for consideration:

<https://protectnps.org/2022/02/09/coalition-submits-statement-for-gaoa-hearing/>

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.

- *More electric vehicles at parks* - Adopt a Charger, a nonprofit that provides free electrical vehicle charging at scenic, cultural, and civic destinations, has announced that the company Rivian will sponsor dozens of charging stations in Yosemite National Park and Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Yosemite Conservancy and Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy will also be supporting the efforts. Source: [National Parks Traveler](#)
- *Parks representing people of color should be supported better* - *National Parks Traveler* published [an op-ed](#) by Chrystal Morris-Murphy, the former Senior Vice President of Community Partnerships at the National Park Foundation, arguing that new national park sites should not be designated until they have appropriate philanthropic support from an official friends group to ensure the parks have appropriate support to reach their mission. Source: *National Parks Traveler*
- *"The challenging task of changing place names on public lands"* - *The Durango Herald* published [an article](#) outlining the process and challenges to changing derogatory and questionable names on public lands. Source: *The Durango Herald*
- *Canadian doctors prescribe national parks* - PaRx, a health initiative launched by the BC Parks Foundation in 2019, has partnered with Parks Canada to provide doctors in four provinces with 100 annual national park passes they can prescribe to patients. Source: [Alaska Public Media](#)
- *Southwest drought worst in 1,200 years* - A new study published in the journal *Nature Climate Change* utilized tree ring data from around the west to show that the last 22 years of megadrought are the worst drought in the region since the year 800. Source: [The Washington Post](#)

Around the Parks

Park reports are in alphabetical order.

- *Acadia National Park* - The park will now require reservations to drive up Cadillac

Mountain, May 25 to October 22, 2022. This is the second year the park has utilized this type of system. The reservations will be available on [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) starting on February 25. Source: [Acadia National Park](#)

- *Bryce Canyon National Park* - Red Canyon Transit, LLC, was awarded a five-year contract to run the park's shuttle buses. The entity has operated the buses since 2015. Source: [KSL.com](#)
- *Channel Islands National Park* - The park began construction on the Anacapa Island Wharf. The \$4 million project will take about three months and is being led by the Denver Service Center and implemented by JMG Constructors, LLC (Keyport, WA). The new dock will be two feet higher than the current one and will have the ability to rise another three feet to account for rising sea levels. Source: [Channel Islands National Park](#)
- *Gateway National Recreation Area* - The NPS and the City of New York have announced an Agreement in Principle for future settlement agreements to clean up a portion of the Superfund site at Great Kills Park and other sites in the park contaminated by historic fill. The agreement is also expected to support storm resiliency by making it possible for the South Shore of Staten Island Coastal Storm Risk Management Project by the Army Corps of Engineers to move forward. Source: [Gateway National Recreation Area](#)
- *George Washington Memorial Parkway* - The NPS, in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration and Virginia Department of Transportation, began a project to replace Bridge 12 and realign the Mount Vernon Trail to improve safety near Fort Hunt Park. There are currently detours for trail users. The project is expected to wrap up in late summer. Source: [George Washington Memorial Parkway](#)
- *Grand Canyon National Park* - The park has announced the creation of an associated tribes page on their website. The page intends to better honor the park's connection to 11 different tribes by publishing information on how the park is working with Indigenous communities, links to each of the tribes' respective websites, and further resources on tribal engagement and programming. Source: [Navajo-Hopi Observer](#)
- *Grand Teton National Park* - *Buckrail* ran [an article](#) profiling Robert Stanton, who was the first Black NPS superintendent and director. [Editor note: Colonel Charles Young was the military superintendent of Sequoia and General Grant National Parks before Stanton's work, but Young's work predated the National Park Service. Young is often considered the first Black park superintendent.] Source: *Buckrail*
- *Great Smoky Mountains National Park* - The park will begin repair work on 17 miles of Foothills Parkway West starting on March 14. The \$31 million project is being funded by the Great American Outdoors Act, support 400 jobs, and is expected to

contribute \$85.5 million to the economy. The project will occur in two phases: March to May 2022 and September 2022 to May 2023. Source: [National Parks Traveler](#)

- *Great Smoky Mountains National Park* - *Citizen Times* ran [an article](#) by Atalaya Dorfield, the research assistant for the African American Experience Project, which is utilizing ground penetrating radar at the park to learn more about the six known cemeteries for Black people and collecting oral histories about Black families in the park. *Sierra* also ran [an article](#) about the African American Experience Project that focuses on the park's intent to better tell the stories of Black people in the park. Source: *Citizen Times*, *Sierra*
- *Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park* - *Travel Weekly* ran [an interview](#) with Superintendent Rhonda Loh about the ongoing recovery at the park from the 2018 eruption of Kīlauea and some tips for visitors. Source: *Travel Weekly*
- *Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park* - The parks received \$29 million in funds to support recovery from Hurricane Ida under the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act. Projects include new roofs, mold remediation, wastewater repairs, and electrical system installation, as well as rebuilding three trails. Projects are expected to be completed in 2025. Source: [Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve](#)
- *Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home National Monument* - Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, White House Council on Environmental Quality Chair Brenda Mallory, and Congressional Representative Bennie Thompson (MS-D) met with local officials, community leaders, and park staff to discuss the Biden administration's ongoing efforts to steward historic sites and lands in service of equity and justice. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *Mount Rainier National Park* - The park is raising its fees for special use permits and commercial use authorizations, starting on March 1. Fees have not changed since 2012. Source: [Mount Rainier National Park](#)
- *Muir Woods National Monument* - GEO1, a surveying and lidar imaging business, received the MAPPS Excellence Award for Small Projects and Members Choice Award for their lidar and high-resolution imagery of the park. The data is available to the public via The Earth Archive, a nonprofit organization dedicated to digitally archiving endangered areas for preservation and scientific study, as well as the U.S. Geological Survey's 3d Elevation Program. Source: [The American Surveyor](#)
- *Natchez National Historical Park* - Several parcels of land that the City of Natchez is prepared to donate to the park have been delayed due to the presence of an eroding conduit and associated asbestos. AT&T, who owns the conduit, has agreed

to take on the estimated \$72,000 in mitigations. They hope to complete the work this spring and to finalize the donation to the park during the summer. Source: [The Natchez Democrat](#)

- *Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park* - The park has acquired 951 acres in southeast Bib County, which will more than double the park's acreage. The \$5.43 million purchase resulted from the John D. Dingell Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act, mostly funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and was negotiated by the Open Space Institute, which deeded the land to the NPS. The newly acquired lands will be closed to the public at first while the park develops a plan to preserve the integrity of many archaeological sites on the parcel, and public comment will be requested for future planning at the site. Source: [WMAZ, The Washington Post](#)
- *Saratoga National Historical Park* - On March 1, the park will begin a \$6 million project to improve accessibility and interpretation of the battlefield, including rehabilitating parking areas and pathways, and replacing aging wayside exhibits. The project is being funded by the Great American Outdoors Act and will take several years. Temporary closures of different trails and parking will be in place. Source: [Saratoga National Historical Park](#)
- *Selma-to-Montgomery National Historic Trail, Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument* - Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland and Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Shannon Estenoz met with local elected officials, activists, and community leaders at the Selma Interpretive Center and several sites of the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument to honor the battle for civil rights in the U.S., as well as to discuss the ongoing efforts of the NPS to build relationships with marginalized communities and expand its interpretation. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *St. Croix National Scenic Riverway* - The park has finalized the process to allow bicycles on the 0.25-mile Cable Connector Trail, starting March 21. Source: [St. Croix 360](#)
- *Valley Forge National Historical Park* - On February 16, the park dedicated its newly renovated visitor center with the opening of its new museum exhibition. The upgrade includes updated restrooms, efficient lighting, and improved spaces for park staff and partners. The new exhibition displays new artifacts and includes more interactive and accessible elements. Source: [Valley Forge National Historical Park](#)
- *Yellowstone National Park* - The park signed a Finding of No Significant Impact on its environmental assessment to install 187 miles of fiber optic cable in previously-disturbed areas of the park. A right-of-way permit is under consideration for the work to be completed by Diamond Communications LLC. The upgrade replaces a

highly problematic microwave radio system. It is not expected to expand telecommunications in the park; rather, it is to make the current ones more reliable.

Source: [Big Horn Radio Network](#)

- *Yosemite National Park* - The park is hiring a Relevancy, Diversity, and Inclusion Council Intern through the Student Conservation Association AmeriCorps program, which will support and collaborate with park leaders on the RDI strategic planning initiatives. Source: [Student Conservation Association](#), Sally Martinez (YOSE)
- *Yosemite National Park* - The park will require reservations for day-use entry between the hours of 6am and 4pm, 7 days a week, from May 20 through September 30. Those with overnight accommodations or wilderness permits within the park will be exempt. Source: [Yosemite National Park](#)
- *Yosemite National Park* - Interpretive park ranger Shelton Johnson, famously known for telling the stories of the buffalo soldiers in the parks and being an advocate for park inclusivity, has been awarded the 2022 American Park Experience Award by the National Park Trust. Source: [Fresno Bee](#)

Personnel Changes

- *Fire and Aviation Management* - John Banks was selected as an information technology (IT) specialist for the Division of Fire and Aviation's Branch of Information Technology & Resource Management, focused on customer support. He has 25 years of IT experience with the Idaho National Guard, BLM, and interagency Incident Management Teams. Source: [Fire and Aviation Management](#)
- *Minidoka National Historic Site* - Kurt Ikeda was selected as the Director of Interpretation and Education, Emily Teraoka was selected as the Lead Park Ranger, and Robyn Achilles was selected as the Executive Director of Friends of Minidoka. Source: [Minidoka National Historic Site](#)

Park People

Here we honor deceased park employees, as well as important news about Coalition Members. People are listed alphabetically by last name.

Deceased

- Craig Winfield Dorman passed away on January 9. He spent his entire professional career with the NPS, including as the 19th employee hired at Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and work at Channel Islands National Park, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site, and as superintendent at Lava Beds National Monument. He received a Citation for Superior Service from NPS Director Fran Mainella in 2001 and a Superior Service Award from Regional Director Jonathan Jarvis in 2004. Source: Ralph Mihan

- Maryanne Rita Gerbauckas, 73, passed away on February 3. She worked for the NPS for 42 years. She worked many resources and protection positions at Statue of Liberty National Monument, Acadia National Park, Fire Island National Seashore, Assateague Island National Seashore, Colonial National Historical Park, and William Howard Taft National Historic Site. In 1992, she was selected as the superintendent of Edison National Historic Site, and in 2007, she was selected as the associate regional director for resources, stewardship and science for the Northeast Region. Source: [Chadwick & McKinney Funeral Home, Inc.](#)
- Jeanne H. Kerwin, 88, passed away on February 7. She worked for the NPS in Cape Cod National Seashore for over 25 years and retired in 2004. Source: [Cape Cod Times](#)
- David Nelson, 101, passed away on January 27. He owned a public relations firm in San Francisco and was heavily influential in the creation of San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, eventually becoming the Executive Director of the Maritime Museum and serving on the board of trustees for San Francisco Maritime National Park Association until his death. Source: [Rush Hour Times](#)
- Kenneth A. Pew, 81, passed away on February 7. He was a volunteer at Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Source: [Star Beacon](#)
- Craig Stowers, 67, passed away on February 10. He was a ranger at Denali National Park from 1977 – 1982, part of the 1977 national intake ranger program. He later went on to become the Alaska Chief Justice. Prior to that, he served at Colonial National Historical Park, and he was said to always cherish his roots as a park ranger, proudly displaying his flat hat and other memorabilia in his chambers. Source: [KTOO](#), Tony Sisto

Retired

- Justine, Lōkahi, and Ricki, three mules who gave a combined 30 years to Haleakalā National Park, have retired from service. Source: [Maui Now](#)

In the News

- Chance Raso, a former ranger at New River Gorge National Park and Preserve, has joined the New River Gorge Regional Development Authority as a special projects coordinator, working on outdoor recreation and gateway community projects. Source: [The Register-Herald](#)

Open for Comment

Items will stay on this list until public comment has closed.

- *National Park Service* - Public comment is now open on proposed regulations that would modernize and streamline concessions contracting under the new Visitor Experience Improvements Authority given to the NPS by Congress. [Comments](#) are

open until March 28. Source: [NPS Office of Communications](#)

- *Buffalo National River* - Public comment is now open on an environmental assessment for the reconstruction of Cave Mountain Road, which is being funded by the State of Arkansas with road work being done by the Newton County Roads Department. [Comments](#) are open until March 9. Source: [Buffalo National River](#)
- *Death Valley National Park* - Public comment is now open on an environmental assessment of improvements at the Stovepipe Wells area, including upgrades and changes to utilities, roads, parking areas, campgrounds, airstrip, and buildings. [Comments](#) are open until February 28. Source: [National Parks Traveler](#)
- *Emancipation National Historical Trail* (proposed NPS site) - Public comment and outreach questions are now open on a feasibility study for the trail, which would follow the 51-mile route from Gavelston to Houston, commemorating Juneteenth, when the last of the slaves in the United States were emancipated. [Comments](#) are open until March 31. Source: [E&E News](#)
- *Everglades National Park* - Public comment is now open on an environmental assessment for the Shark Valley Site Plan, which would provide more parking, shade structures, and flood prevention strategies. [Comments](#) are open until March 11. Source: [Everglades National Park](#)
- *Great Smoky Mountains National Park* - Public comment is now open on a revised environmental assessment for a proposed mountain bike area in Wears Valley. The previous EA was put in front of the public in October 2020, but needed to be revised to protect fragile karst resources in the area. [Comments](#) are open until March 10. Source: [Smoky Mountain News](#)
- *Harpers Ferry National Historical Park* - Public comment is now open on a proposal to permanently close the Maryland Heights parking area to resolve safety issues for visitors, residents, and emergency service personnel. Comments can be made via public meeting, e-mail (hafe_superintendent@nps.gov), or mail until February 27. Source: [Washington County, MD](#), [Harpers Ferry National Historical Park](#)
- *Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park* - Public comment to the NPS and U.S. Geological Survey is now open on a disaster recovery plan to repair, replace, relocate or remove critical park infrastructure and USGS-operated facilities and equipment damaged during the 2018 eruption and summit collapse on Kīlauea volcano. [Comments](#) are open until March 11. Source: [Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park](#)
- *Joshua Tree National Park* - Public comment is now open on a draft Climbing Management Plan. Extensive background information and interactive maps are available in [a Story Map](#). [Comments](#) are now open until March 13 (extended from February 27). Source: [Joshua Tree National Park](#)

- *Joshua Tree National Park* - Public comment is now open on a plan to construct a new West Entrance Station about half a mile further into the park from the current location to resolve traffic and efficiency issues. Comments are open until March 11. Source: [Joshua Tree National Park](#)
- *Lassen Volcanic National Park* - Public comment is now open on a plan to replace and improve the water treatment system for Lost Creek Group Campground and Volcano Adventure Camp. [Comments](#) are open until March 5. Source: [Lassen Volcanic National Park](#)
- *Mount Rainier National Park* - Public comment is now open on a proposed rule change to move all fishing regulations to the Superintendent's Compendium and to eliminate restrictions on taking nonnative fish. [Comments](#) are open until March 14. Source: [Mount Rainier National Park](#)
- *National Mall and Memorial Parks* - Public comment is now open on an environmental assessment for the planned National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial. [Comments](#) are open until March 8. Source: [National Mall and Memorial Parks](#)
- *Ozark National Scenic Riverways* - Public comment is now open on proposed amendments to special regulations for motorized vehicles. [Comments](#) are open until March 7. Source: [Ozark Radio News](#)
- *Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks* - Public comment is now open on a plan to plant giant sequoia seedlings in areas that burned severely during the 2020 Castle Fire. [Comments](#) are open until March 25. Source: [Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks](#)
- *Southeast Regional Office* - Public comment is now open on an integrity and condition study of the Beaufort National Historic Landmark District. [Comments](#) are open until March 4. Source: [National Park Service Office of Communications](#)
- *Theodore Roosevelt National Park* - Public comment is now open on a proposal to rebuild 6 miles of the South Unit Loop Road, which has been closed since Spring 2019 due to instability. [Comments](#) are open until March 1. Source: [National Parks Traveler](#)
- *Virgin Islands National Park* - Public comment is now open on an initial set of concepts for the redevelopment of Caneel Bay. [Comments](#) are currently open and have been extended until March 4. Source: [The St. Croix Source](#)
- *Yellowstone National Park* - Public comment is now open on a plan to update NPS actions identified in the Interagency Bison Management Plan (2000). [Comments](#) are

open until February 28. Source: NPS Planning, Environment & Public Comment

Other Department of the Interior News

- *Federal judge restores some protections for gray wolves* - On February 10, a U.S. District Judge ruled that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had failed to show wolf populations could be sustained in the Midwest and portions of the West without protection under the Endangered Species Act. The ruling will not affect wolves in the northern Rocky Mountains because they remain under state jurisdiction due to a ruling by Congress from over 10 years ago. Source: [National Public Radio](#)
- *BLM to hire hundreds employees* - The Bureau of Land Management is looking to hire hundreds of employees in 2022 in order to backfill ~135 vacancies left after the 2020 headquarters move to Colorado (since rescinded), as well as hire 600 new staff members to address staff burnout, increasing workloads, and a lack of diversity across the workforce. Source: [E&E News](#)
- *DOI announces new DEIA council* - The Department of the Interior announced the creation of a new council focused on diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility to coordinate the development and implementation of specific policies, programs, and initiatives at the senior leadership level. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *DOI to build new USGS headquarters* - The Department of the Interior and Colorado leaders announced on February 18 that they will be building a new headquarters for the U.S. Geological Survey on the campus of the Colorado School of Mines through funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *Nominations for DOI and USDA advisory committee, Tribal advisory committee* - The Departments of the Interior and Agriculture are now accepting nominations for the newly-established Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Council. The DOI is also accepting nominations for Tribal member representatives to serve on the newly-established Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee. [Department of the Interior](#) (HWCC), [Department of the Interior](#) (STAC)
- *USFWS announces \$1.5 billion for wildlife conservation and recreation* - On February 11, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced a record \$1.5 billion in annual funding through the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program to support state and local recreational opportunities and wildlife conservation measures. The program has been around for 85 years through taxes on hunting, shooting and fishing equipment, and boat fuel. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)

Congressional Actions

Reports on legislation, upcoming hearings, and new public laws of relevance to the national parks, prepared by Don Hellmann, former assistant director, legislative and Congressional affairs for the National Park Service.

Senate Actions

February 9 – The *Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks* concluded a hearing to examine the implementation of the Great American Outdoors Act, after receiving testimony from Shannon A. Estenoz, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, and Christopher French, Deputy Chief, National Forest System, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

February 14 – The Senate passed H.R. 2497, to establish the Amache National Historic Site in the State of Colorado as a unit of the National Park System, after agreeing to the committee amendments and an amendment to provide that land may be acquired for inclusion in the Amache National Historic Site only by donation. The bill now returns to the House for consideration of the Senate amendments.

February 17 – The Senate passed H.R. 6617, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, by a vote of 65 yeas to 27 nays. The bill provides continuing FY 2022 appropriations to federal agencies through the earlier of March 11, 2022, or the enactment of the applicable appropriations act. The bill now goes to the president to be signed into law.

February 17 – The Senate agreed to S. Res. 525, recognizing March 1, 2022, as the 150th anniversary of the establishment of Yellowstone National Park, which spans the states of Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho.

February 17 – The Senate passed S. 697, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the Bicentennial of Harriet Tubman's birth. All surcharges received by Treasury from the sale of such coins must be paid equally to the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio and The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. in Auburn, New York for the purpose of accomplishing and advancing their missions.

House Actions

February 8 – The House passed H.R. 6617, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, by a vote of 272 yeas to 162 nays. The bill provides continuing FY 2022 appropriations to federal agencies through the earlier of March 11, 2022, or the enactment of the applicable appropriations act.

February 8 – The *Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee* held a hearing entitled "Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Environmental Policy Making: The Role of Environmental Organizations and Grantmaking Foundations." Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

February 15 – The *Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee* held a hearing on H.R. 2021, the

"Environmental Justice for All Act." Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

February 16 – The *Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee* held a markup on the following, among other bills:

- H.R. 3525, the "Commission To Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture Act";
- H.R. 4677, the "New York-New Jersey Watershed Protection Act";
- H.R. 6142, the "Buckeye National Scenic Trail Feasibility Study Act of 2021";
- H.R. 6199, the "Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act";
- H.R. 6201, the "National Liberty Memorial Preservation Act";
- H.R. 6337, the "Biking on Long-Distance Trails Act";
- H.R. 6434, the "Japanese American World War II History Network Act";

H.R. 6201, H.R. 6337, and H.R. 6434 were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 4677 and H.R. 6142 were ordered reported, as amended.

Incidents

Incidents are listed in alphabetical order by park.

Cape Hatteras National Seashore

House collapses

On February 9, a house collapsed on Ocean Drive, onto the beach and ocean between Rodanthe and Salvo. Debris has drifted as far away as 15 miles. The park is working with Dare County to coordinate the removal of the house and debris, and hosted a public cleanup on February 14. The owners of the house submitted a removal plan and hired a contractor to complete the cleanup. The beach is closed temporarily and visitors to the area have been asked to be cautious. Source: [Outer Banks Voice](#), [AP News](#), [CoastalReview.org](#)

Death Valley National Park

Visitor killed in car crash

On February 10, a car traveling westbound on CA-190 just east of Towne Pass traversed a right-hand curve and collided with a guidepost. It then crossed over the road and down an embankment, where it overturned. The driver, an 84-year-old, was brought to the hospital via ambulance, but did not survive. A 79-year-old passenger was also brought to the hospital and sustained minor injuries. Source: [Death Valley National Park](#)

Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Visitor washed out to sea while fishing

On February 7, a person fishing off a rock near Muir Beach with two others, was knocked into the ocean by a sneaker wave. One of the others in the party attempted to save him, but was unsuccessful. The two others were rescued by helicopter, as they became

stranded on the rocks by the high tide. They were uninjured. The U.S. Coast Guard, Marin County Sheriff's Department, NPS, and California Highway Patrol responded, but were unable to find the victim after 18 hours of searching. The deceased victim washed up on shore on February 11 near the spot he was last seen. Source: [NBC Bay Area](#)

Grand Teton National Park

Skier dies in fall

On February 13, a 27-year-old skier was witnessed falling in Apocalypse Couloir in Death Canyon. NPS rangers, Teton County Search and Rescue personnel, and a Teton County Search and Rescue helicopter responded to provide medical care. Resuscitation efforts were attempted, but were unsuccessful due to the victim's injuries. Four other skiers in the party were transported out of the canyon via helicopter. Source: [Buckrail](#)

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Small fire contained

On February 11, a downed power line ignited a wildfire along Foothills Parkway. Pigeon Forge Fire Department, Sevier County Emergency Service, Tennessee Division of Forestry, and volunteer fire departments from Wears Valley, Walland, and Seymour assisted the NPS in suppressing the fire, which was kept to 1.7 acres. Source: [Cherokee One Feather](#)

Indiana Dunes National Park

Visitor falls through ice shelf

On February 21, a group of five visitors stood on an ice shelf along the shoreline at West Beach when the shelf shifted. Four were able to retreat to the shore, but one visitor fell into the water. Large waves and unstable ice made it too difficult for the bystanders to rescue the victim in the water. A rescue effort was attempted by the NPS, Indiana conservation officers, fire crews from Portage, Porter, and Ogden Dunes, Lake County Sheriff's Department, and the U.S. Coast Guard. As of February 22, the victim had not been located and authorities have stated that the search is now considered a recovery. Source: *CBS Chicago*

Joshua Tree National Park

Human remains found

On February 8, hikers found human remains adjacent to the Panorama Loop Trail. The remains are old and are being investigated as a homicide by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. A local radio station reported that a wallet was found with the name of a 66-year-old who was reported missing in the park in 2010, but the park and sheriffs have not disclosed that information officially. The investigation is ongoing. Source: [Desert Sun](#)

Follow-ups on Previously Reported Incidents

- *Big Bend National Park* - The father and daughter reported last seen in the park on January 28 were observed in the Mexican state Coahuila, purchasing food in a remote community. Residents of the community reported them and they were detained by Mexican authorities and returned to the United States on February 15. The search for them started on February 5 and involved the following agencies: Texas Department of Public Safety, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, NPS, U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Fort Stockton Police Department, residents of Boquillas, Mexican officials, and Mexican State Police. An investigation into the incident is ongoing. Source: [Spectrum News 1](#)
- *Mount Rainier National Park* - The park reopened access to the Carbon River area. It has been closed since November 15, 2021 due to washouts on roads and trails in a heavy rainfall event. Hazards still exist and some areas are still closed. The public is advised to remain cautious in the area. The park is working on long-term stabilization of the road and trails. Source: [Mount Rainier National Park](#)
- *Sequoia National Park* - The NPS and Sequoia Parks Conservancy have announced that the Crystal Cave will remain closed for the entire 2022 season due to ongoing damage from the 2021 KNP Complex Fire. The road and trail to the cave suffered damage from fallen trees, rockslides, and damage to safety railings. Source: [KMPH](#)

Acknowledgments

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- Editor: Katie Wallace
- Tech and Production Support: Steve Pittleman, Emily Thompson
- Regular Correspondent: Don Hellmann
- Issue Contributors: Sandy Rabinowitch, Ralph Mihan, Bill Walters, Sally Martinez, Tony Sisto

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.

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