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The Coalition Report
Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Coalition Actions

The Coalition submitted comments on the Ironman Race permit request at the Blue Ridge Parkway. We expressed concern that if the National Park Service issues the Special Use Permit as requested for an event during a typically busy weekend in June, numerous park visitors would be unable to visit the 21-mile section of the Parkway that would be closed by the event. In addition, the proposed event conflicts with applicable NPS regulations and management policies, and permitting this event would establish a harmful precedent for the Parkway as well as for other National Park System units:

<https://protectnps.org/2022/01/30/coalition-submits-comments-on-ironman-race-permit-request-at-blue-ridge-parkway/>

Former Coalition Chair Phil Francis spoke with *National Parks Traveler* about the Biden administration's goal to “conserve, connect, and restore” 30 percent of the nation’s land and water by 2030 - and how this impacts the NPS:

<https://protectnps.org/2022/02/03/npt-room-to-grow-for-parks-in-the-eastern-us-more-than-you-realize/>

Executive Committee member Russell Galipeau offered verbal comments in the American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas Listening Session. You can read those comments here:

<https://protectnps.org/2022/01/21/coalition-participates-in-american-conservation-and-stewardship-atlas-listening-session/>

The Coalition submitted comments to the Bureau of Land Management on their proposed

program to implement the provisions of Section 40601 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 regarding Orphaned Well Site Plugging, Remediation, and Restoration:

<https://protectnps.org/2022/01/24/coalition-submits-comments-to-blm-on-orphaned-wells/>

We signed on to a letter with the Second Century Action Coalition urging passage of final Fiscal Year 2022 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies and Transportation, Housing and Urban Development appropriations bills to address significant park understaffing and related operational and infrastructure shortfalls in parks throughout the country:

<https://protectnps.org/2022/01/25/coalition-joins-call-urging-passage-of-final-fy-22-appropriations-bills/>

The Coalition sent a letter to the Prince William Board of County Supervisors regarding our concern over proposed development near Manassas National Battlefield Park:

<https://protectnps.org/2022/01/25/coalition-expresses-strong-concern-over-potential-development-near-manassas-national-battlefield-park/>

The National Parks Conservation Association invites all Coalition members to join them in honoring former NPS Director Bob Stanton at their annual Salute the Parks gala on April 6, which will be held in Washington, D.C., with a virtual program for those who would like to attend remotely. Details on Bob's legacy and ticketing can be found here:

<https://protectnps.org/salute-to-the-parks-2022/>

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.

- *Celebrating Black history in the parks* - The NPS is [celebrating Black history each day of February](#) through the lens of our national parks. Source: National Park Service
- *NPS enhances NAGPRA protections* - The National Park Service has hired a full-time investigator to increase oversight and compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. The role will include investigating allegations of museums out of compliance, serving as legal witness, supporting law enforcement, and providing technical assistance on NAGPRA compliance. (Also see Personnel section below for information on the new hire, David Barland-Liles.) Source: [Mirage News](#)
- *3 upcoming grant deadlines for parks* - Three different grants for park programs are coming due soon. The [Kids to Parks Day School grants](#) by the National Park Trust have a deadline of February 11. [Service Corps grants](#) by the National Park Foundation are due February 11, as well. [echnical assistance applications](#) from the

Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program are due March 1. Source: National Park Trust, National Park Foundation, Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program

- *First-ever multi-country World Heritage List nomination for U.S.* - On February 4, the NPS announced that it would participate in the United States' first multi-country nomination: a collaboration between the Historic Moravian Bethlehem District in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, the German settlement of Herrnhut, and Gracehill in Northern Ireland as a single World Heritage listing. The Moravian District was an 18th century planned community created in conjunction with the larger Moravian congregation in Germany. Source: [National Park Service Office of Communications](#)
- *\$1.1 million in battlefield grants* - The NPS' American Battlefield Protection Program has awarded \$1.1 million in Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants to protect 70 acres at six American Revolutionary War and Civil War sites in four states. Source: [Augusta Free Press](#)
- *Proposal for real-time visitation info* - Senators Angus King (I-ME) and Steve Daines (R-MT) have proposed a bill called the Gateway Community and Recreation Enhancement Act, which would create a pilot program to provide real-time updates on crowd levels in parks so that visitors can better determine where and when to visit. Source: [Backpacker](#)
- *Park housing crisis worsening* - *E&E News* ran [an article](#) outlining the rising prices of housing in park gateway communities and the challenges the situation creates for recruiting staff. Source: *E&E News*
- *The "tricky politics" of national monuments* - *The Christian Science Monitor* published [an article](#) called, "They shrink. They grow. The tricky politics of national monuments," which outlines the history of the Antiquities Act and its current status. Source: *The Christian Science Monitor*
- *Challenges to visiting parks with disabilities* - *The New York Times* published [an article](#) outlining the increase of visitors with disabilities in parks and ongoing challenges and solutions to accessibility. Source: *The New York Times*
- *Which NPS units require reservations* - *National Parks Traveler* compiled [a list](#) of all of the NPS units (or specific parts of those units) that now require reservations. Source: *National Parks Traveler*
- *Deaths by selfie* - *Backpacker* ran [an article](#) about the increase in deaths by "selfie" on public lands and attempts by the National Park Service to prevent them. Source: *Backpacker*
- *National Park NFTs* - 4,825 non-fungible tokens based on U.S. national parks were

released on January 30. The owners will receive access to exclusive events and experiences. Some detractors have noted that the NFTs are being sold via Ethereum transactions, which are electricity-heavy blockchain exchanges with a large carbon footprint. The seller of the NFTs has pledged to donate a portion of the proceeds to the National Park Foundation. Source: [Backpacker](#)

[Around the Parks](#)

Park reports are in alphabetical order.

- *Big Cypress National Preserve* - The NPS, in collaboration with The Alliance for Florida's National Parks, rehabilitated the former homestead of Calvin Stone into a useable backcountry site while retaining its historic appearance. Source: Regions 1&2 NPS Partnerships Newsletter Feb 2022, [The Alliance for Florida's National Parks' Facebook page](#)
- *Big Thicket National Preserve* - The NPS is giving hunters permits to trap invasive feral hogs within the park. The program has been in place since 2019. This year, 50 permits for two traps each will be given away on a first-come, first-served basis. Source: [12 News](#)
- *Booker T. Washington National Monument* - The park partnered with teachers and students at Franklin County High School to provide "visual interrupters" that showcase silhouettes and quotes from Booker T. Washington's experiences as an enslaved child on the Burroughs Plantation. The project also included updates to curriculum-based education programs, increased availability of classroom resources, and the development of a new park education experience that complements a pilot African American History elective at the high school. The project was funded by Interior Region One and the Youth Partnership Program. Source: Regions 1 & 2 NPS Partnerships Newsletter Feb 2022, [Booker T. Washington National Monument Facebook page](#)
- *Canaveral National Seashore* - Young Sound Seekers, an environmental arts program for blind and partially sighted youth, is a five-year initiative funded by a grant from the NPS Natural Sounds and Night Skies Division and supported by the National Environmental Education Foundation, Atlantic Center for the Arts, Stetson University, and the Center for Visually Impaired. Students visit Canaveral National Seashore and other national parks each month, and will have the opportunity to participate in an Audio Lab summer camp this summer. Source: Regions 1 & 2 NPS Partnerships Newsletter Feb 2022, [Atlantic Center for the Arts](#)
- *Chaco Culture National Historical Park* - *Arizona State University News* published [an article](#) about ongoing research activities at the park and emerging theories about trade and connections to other parts of the region. Source: *ASU News*
- *Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area* - The NPS acquired a parcel of 20 acres to be added to the Bowmans Island Unit from the Trust for Public Land. A

second parcel just downstream is still being held by the Trust until the park can also purchase it. Source: [Huron Daily Tribune](#)

- *Grand Canyon National Park* - The park began the first phase of short-term repairs and upgrades to the Phantom Ranch Wastewater Treatment Plant. The first phase will go through March, with the second phase resuming in September and wrapping up at the end of the year. The contractor, GSE/Coventina Water, LLC, will be hauling equipment via helicopters. The NPS is working on design and compliance for a future replacement of the plant. Source: [Grand Canyon National Park](#)
- *Great Basin National Park* - On January 24, the park celebrated the 100th anniversary of the declaration of Lehman Caves as a national monument. It was administered by the U.S. Forest Service for 11 years before being transferred to the NPS, and in 1986, the larger Great Basin National Park was created and incorporated Lehman Caves into its boundaries. The park will be celebrating throughout the year, including a larger celebration on August 6, the 100 year anniversary of the dedication of the national monument. Source: [Great Basin National Park](#)
- *Great Smoky Mountains National Park* - *The Daily News* ran [a profile](#) on Alan Summerski, who has been the deputy superintendent since May 2021. Source: *The Daily News*
- *Isle Royale National Park* - The National Parks of Lake Superior Foundation recently released [a 40-minute film](#) about the predator/prey relationships between moose and wolves on the island, as well as a K-12 curriculum to go with the film. Source: [National Parks Traveler](#)
- *Joshua Tree National Park* - The park announced a change to the Superintendent's Compendium to institute a one-year temporary permit requirement for the installation, replacement, and removal of rock climbing fixed anchors, park-wide. This will allow the park to finalize its Climbing Management Plan (see public comments below). Source: [Joshua Tree National Park](#)
- *Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument* - *Commonwealth Journal* ran [a profile](#) on Dawn Davis, the site's first permanent superintendent, as well as some of her goals at the park. Source: *Commonwealth Journal*
- *Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park* - *Georgia Public Broadcasting* ran [a profile](#) on Tracie Revis, the director of outreach for the Ocmulgee National Park and Preserve Initiative, an effort to add 60,000 acres of wild river bottom to the park and to get the park reclassified as a national park. In particular, the article highlights Revis' Indigenous connections to the park and area. Source: Georgia Public Broadcasting

- *Richmond National Battlefield Park* - The park has acquired an 871-acre parcel of land from the Capital Region Land Conservancy, including much of the area at Malvern Hill. Source: [WRIC](#)
- *Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park* - The park released a new history study that examines the Shaw/54th Memorial on the Boston Common in 1897 to honor the first federally authorized Black regiment in the north during the Civil War. The history takes a look at Black involvement in the creation of the memorial, its reception by the community, and its ongoing impact. Source: [Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park](#)
- *Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area* - A long-term NPS study of mountain lions in the region was recently published in the *Journal of Wildlife Management*, showing that the individuals rarely venture into residential neighborhoods, preferring forested landscapes. Source: [KTLA](#)
- *Vicksburg National Military Park* - The park will be repairing 10 segments of road that were damaged by rain events, starting February 1 until July. The \$1.6 million project is being funded by Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads, the Federal Lands Transportation Program, and the NPS. Source: [Vicksburg National Military Park](#)
- *Yellowstone National Park* - Amid mounting criticism from the park, conservation non-profits, and politicians, Montana wildlife commissioners unanimously moved to shut down gray wolf hunting in a portion of the state around the park after a record number of animals were shot just outside the park's boundaries due to loosened hunting laws. 76 wolves have been killed in the region, and it has been capped at 82 individuals. 23 of those were from park packs. Source: [Joplin Globe](#)
- *Yellowstone National Park* - A new study by researchers from the University of Montana, NPS, and the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, published in *Ecological Monographs*, showed that the presence of bears led to lower wolf kill rates. Source: [Lake County Leader](#)

Personnel Changes

- *Everglades National Park* - Tom Iandimarino was selected as the new chief ranger. He has over 25 years experience with the National Park Service, most recently as the Gulf Coast District Ranger for Everglades. Source: [Everglades National Park](#)
- *Great Smoky Mountains National Park* - Randy Scoggins was selected as the new chief ranger overseeing the Visitor and Resource Protection Division. Randy has 20 years of NPS experience, most recently as chief ranger at Buffalo National River. Source: [Cherokee One Feather](#)

- *Great Smoky Mountains National Park* - Stephanie Kyriazis was selected as the new chief of resource education. She has experience working at several parks, most recently as the deputy chief of resource education at Great Smoky Mountains. Source: [Cherokee One Feather](#)
- *National NAGPRA Program* - David Barland-Liles was selected as the first-ever civil penalties investigator for the program, a position established to help support better enforcement of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (see national news section above). He has 33 years of NPS experience, including 25 years with NPS law enforcement. Source: [Mirage News](#)

Park People

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

Deceased

- Marjorie Helen Anderson Gates, 98, passed away in January. She and her husband "donated over 7,000 hours in service to the National Park Service" in retirement. Source: [Williamsburg Yorktown Daily](#)
- Maria G. Gonzales, 90, passed away on January 6. She spent her career working for the Veterans Administration and the National Park Service. Source: [Legacy/Santa Fe New Mexican](#)
- Windsor Mather Jacques, 85, passed away on January 24. He served as an NPS volunteer with the Fishing with a Ranger Program and at the Hatteras Lighthouse at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Source: [The Outer Banks Voice](#)
- James M. "Mike" Lambe passed away on January 11. He worked for the NPS for 33 years, including as Chief of the NPS Office of Legislation. Mike won several special achievement awards, including the Department of Interior Citation for Meritorious Service. Source: [Cape Gazette](#)

Retired

- Kim Murray, the horticulturalist at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, has retired after over 43 years of curating the grounds and gardens - 20 years while it was under private ownership by the Rockefellers, and the rest while the park has been under the purview of the NPS. Source: [Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park](#)

In the News

- Rob Wallace, the former assistant secretary for fish, wildlife and parks at the Department of the Interior, was chosen by the Teton County Board of County and Commissioners and Jackson Town Council to fill a Jackson Hole Airport Board

seat. Source: [Jackson Hole News and Guide](#)

Other

- Denny Fenn, who was at Texas A&M and later with the U.S. Geological Survey Biological Resources Division, had a second stroke in December, with a fall, concussion, and bone injury. His partner Melinda welcomes text messages, stories, and photos from those who know Denny at 480-249-6960. Source: Steve Cinnamon, Melinda

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](#)
- *Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park* - Public comment is now open on the development of a General Management Plan. [Comments](#) are open until February 15. Source: [The Valley Breeze](#)
- *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](#)
- *Crater Lake National Park* - Public comment is now open on a plan to close and rehabilitate the Cleetwood Cove Trail for two years. [Comments](#) are open until February 15. Source: [KTVZ](#)
- *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, and airstrip, and buildings. [Comments](#) are open until February 28. Source: [National Parks Traveler](#)
- *Denali National Park* - Public comment is now open on an Environmental Assessment to install a 400-foot steel bridge over the Pretty Rocks landslide at Polychrome Pass. [Comments](#) are open until February 13. Source: [Associated Press](#)
- *Dry Tortugas National Park* - Public comment is now open on a plan to repair the counterscarp (moat wall) at Fort Jefferson, which was damaged in Hurricane Irma. [Comments](#) are open until February 14. Source: [National Parks Traveler](#)
- *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](#)

- *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 open until February 27. Source: [Joshua Tree National Park](#)
- *Katmai National Park and Preserve* - Public comment is now open on changes to the Superintendent's Compendium to prohibit generator use in Brooks Camp Campground. [Comments](#) are open until February 19. Source: [Katmai National Park and Preserve](#)
- *Kenai Fjords National Park* - Public comment is now open on the development of a frontcountry management plan, particularly as it relates to the retreat of Exit Glacier. [Comments](#) are open until February 18. Source: [KTOO/KDLL](#)
- *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](#)
- *Petersburg National Battlefield* - Public comment is now open on a plan to preserve historic buildings at the Appomattox Plantation at the General Grant's Headquarters Unit. [Comments](#) are open until February 12. Source: [Petersburg National Battlefield](#)
- *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](#)

- *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
- *Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve* - Public comment is now open on a proposed change to the Superintendent's Compendium to allow select cutting of standing dead trees in the park for the heating of public use cabins and temporary shelters, September through April. [Comments](#) are open until February 18. Source: [Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve](#)

Other Department of the Interior News

- *New conservation taskforce to ease tensions with Western state governors* - The Departments of the Interior and Agriculture, in conjunction with the Western Governors' Association, announced a new "Task Force on Collaborative Conservation" on February 3. The taskforce is designed to drive collaboration around wide-ranging issues that cross borders, such as wildfire mitigation, invasive species control, and habitat restoration. Source: [E&E News](#)
- *Court rules against DOI on gas leases* - On February 3, a federal judge ruled against the Department of the Interior, saying it did not sufficiently take climate change into account under the National Environmental Policy Act when it put oil and gas leases up for auction on 80 million acres in the Gulf of Mexico. Earth Justice filed the lawsuit on behalf of Healthy Gulf, the Center for Biological Diversity, the Sierra Club, and Friends of the Earth. Source: [New American Journal](#)

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 2 – *The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs* ordered favorably reported, among other bills, S. 3423, to implement merit-based reforms to the civil service hiring system that replace degree-based hiring with skills- and competency-based hiring.

February 2 – *The Committee on Indian Affairs* concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act's promise after 30 years,

including Federal agency efforts and challenges repatriating cultural items, after receiving testimony from Joy Beasley, Associate Director, Cultural Resources, Partnerships and Science, National Park Service, Department of the Interior; Anna Maria Ortiz, Director, Natural Resources and Environment, Government Accountability Office; Carmen Lindsey, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Honolulu; Valerie Grussing, National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, Washington, D.C.; and Rosita Kaahani Worl, Sealaska Heritage Institute, Juneau, Alaska.

House Actions

February 3 – The *Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands* held a hearing on several bills, including the following:

- 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"; and
- H.R. 6451, the "Chiricahua National Park Act".

Testimony was heard from Representatives Ryan, Smith of Missouri, Watson Coleman, Neguse, Obernolte, Rodgers of Washington, and Kirkpatrick; Herbert C. Frost, Regional Director, Interior Regions 3, 4, and 5, National Park Service, Department of the Interior; Happy Welch, City Administrator, Ste. Genevieve, Missouri; Skip Brandt, Commissioner, Idaho County, Idaho; and public witnesses.

Incidents

Incidents are listed in alphabetical order by park.

Acadia National Park

Visitor pleads guilty to manslaughter

Early in the morning on August 31, 2019, a group of four people was driving on Park Loop Road when the driver lost control of the vehicle on a curve and hit a tree. The driver survived, while the three passengers died at the scene. The group had spent the previous hours at a tavern and night club and the driver had a blood alcohol content of 0.095%. Investigators said the car was driven at 75 mph in a 25-mph zone. The driver pled guilty to three counts of manslaughter and two counts of operating under the influence and now awaits sentencing. Source: [Bangor Daily News](#)

Amistad National Recreation Area

Invasive quagga mussels found for first time

NPS staff discovered four instances of quagga mussel larvae in the International Amistad Reservoir. It is the first time they have been discovered in the Rio Grande basin. No juvenile or adult mussels were located yet. Quagga mussels are very prolific and known to

damage boats and infrastructure and hurt native aquatic life. Source: [KSAT](#)

Big Bend National Park **Man sentenced to life for sexual abuse**

In 2015, while living in the park, a man repeatedly sexually assaulted a minor. He was arrested in March 2021, found guilty by a jury on three counts of sexual abuse, and was sentenced at the end of January 2022 to two life sentences. The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigations and National Park Service, with assistance from the Killeen Police Department and the Alpine Police Department. Source: [Midland Reporter-Telegram/MySanAntonio](#)

Big Bend National Park **Parent and child last seen in park**

A 49-year-old parent with 9-year-old child have been reported missing, and were last seen in the park on January 28. Their truck was found abandoned along the northern end of the Old Ore Road with many of their belongings inside. The NPS, U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and Texas Department of Public Safety are searching for the party via hiking, driving backcountry roads, and helicopter search. The Federal Bureau of Investigation is looking for any tips from the public about their disappearance. Source: [Fort Worth Star-Telegram](#)

Cape Hatteras National Seashore **2 more boats go aground**

On February 2, two fishing vessels, *Bite Me* and *Reel Lucky*, ran aground at Oregon Inlet. On February 4, crews from Sea Tow Oregon Inlet and Southside Services and Towing of Wanchese were able to pull them to vehicle ramp 4 adjacent to Marc Masnight Bridge to be loaded on trailers and hauled away. There have been so many groundings of vessels in the park since November that the NPS has created [a new webpage](#) that provides updates on groundings, as well as [a Flickr gallery](#) of images that have gone aground. Source: [OBX Today](#)

Grand Canyon National Park **Visitor killed in car accident**

On February 2, a vehicle on Highway 64 near the South Rim entrance station collided with a tree, resulting in the death of the 26-year-old driver. The Arizona Department of Public Safety, NPS, and Coconino County Medical Examiner are conducting an investigation. Source: [KNAU Arizona Public Radio](#)

Haleakalā National Park **Tree poaching**

On the night of February 3, one Milo tree was cut down and another tree had limbs chopped off at Lelekea Beach in the the Kīpahulu District. The park is seeking any information the public may have about this illegal poaching in the park.

Source: [Haleakalā National Park](#)

Acknowledgments

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- Editor: Katie Wallace
- Tech and Production Support: Steve Pittleman, Emily Thompson
- Regular Correspondent: Don Hellmann
- Issue Contributors: Bill Walters, Steve Cinnamon

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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