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**The Coalition Report**  
**Wednesday, July 13, 2022**

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*How are we doing? This week marks one year of my tenure as editor of the Coalition Report. If you've got any feedback on how to make the Report better, please send it my way: [report@protectnps.org](mailto:report@protectnps.org).*

*-Katie Wallace*

**Coalition Actions**

The Park Institute of America is looking for its next Director. [PIA](#) was established in 2016 with the mission to champion parks and protected areas by increasing understanding through education, enhancing the exchange of ideas, and building momentum through partnerships. PIA is the result of a collaboration between the Coalition to Protect America's National Parks and Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment. Job Announcement [here](#).

The Coalition joined the National Parks Conservation Association and Sierra Club in submitting public comments on Oklahoma's Draft Regional Haze State Implementation Plan for the Second Planning Period. The comments detail significant concerns about the plan, including poor data, inadequate recognition of transboundary emissions, arbitrary exclusion of some sources of pollution, and insufficient pollution controls:

<https://protectnps.org/2022/07/01/coalition-joins-comments-regarding-the-oklahomas-draft-regional-haze-state-implementation-plan/>

Coalition members may be interested to know we have a blog. It provides some perspective on goings on in the parks apart from our advocacy actions. [Check it out!](#)

## 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.*

- *\$13 million for post-doc research and stories* - The NPS Mellon Humanities Fellowship just announced a \$13 million grant extension to fund 30 fellowships for post-doctoral students to research and design an educational project to tell more expansive American stories related to national park sites. Source: [Adventure Journal](#)
- *Summer 2022 edition of Park Science* - The NPS has issued its [Summer 2022 edition](#) of *Park Science*, its magazine focused on research across the parks. This edition includes features on the effect of visitation on cave ecosystems at Timpanogos Cave, heirloom peach trees at Canyon de Chelly, and efforts to restore riparian ecosystems below Glen Canyon Dam, among many others. Source: *Green and Grey Report* (6/27/22), [National Park Service Park Science](#)
- *Theme Study on Labor History* - In June, the National Park Service's National Historic Landmarks program released "[Labor History in the United States](#)," a theme study that highlights the many stories of Americans at work. 52 National Historic Landmarks have been designated to honor various aspects of labor history. This study includes recommendations for adding history updates into existing documentation for those sites and also includes a study list of 20 possible new NHLs related to labor history. Source: *Green and Grey Report* (6/27/22), [National Park Service National Historic Landmarks Program](#)
- *\$9.7 million to HBCUs* - The NPS announced they will be giving out \$9.7 million in grants to 21 Historically Black Colleges and Universities to identify and restore historic structures on campuses. Source: [WIS News](#)
- *Tourism industry asks for reservation system reforms* - On July 11, nearly 400 travel industry organizations sent a letter to Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland and NPS Director Chuck Sams to ask for reforms to visitor reservation systems in national parks, particularly the difficulty of international visitors making plans with booking windows of three months or less. Overseas travelers make up 35% of all national park visitors. Source: [U.S. Travel Association](#)
- *Climate change effects on the parks* - CNN ran [an article](#) about the effects of climate change in national parks, with segments focused on Yosemite, Glacier, Sequoia, Grand Canyon, Joshua Tree, and the Everglades. Source: *CNN*
- *What do national parks do with dead animals?* - *Bay Nature* published [an article](#) discussing what the U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service do when large animals are killed, such as by vehicular accident or euthanasia. Source: *Bay Nature*

## Around the Parks

*Park reports are in alphabetical order.*

- *Big Bend National Park* - Researchers from The Morton Arboretum and United States Botanic Garden found a lone *Quercus tardifolia* oak tree in the park. The species was believed to have gone extinct, as of 2011. The tree is scarred by fire and has severe fungal infection, and it is unclear whether the tree can be saved and/or propagated. Source: [Big Bend National Park](#)
- *Big Bend National Park* - On July 7, the park donated a surplus wildland fire engine to the Marathon Fire Department. The local fire department provides mutual aid assistance to the park in emergency response and firefighting. The engine is in good working condition and will continue to support the park and local communities for many years to come. Source: [Big Bend National Park](#)
- *Denali National Park* - *The Colorado Sun* ran [an article](#) about the increase in popularity of ski mountaineering and the park's 2020 rule change to allow groups to guide ski mountaineering trips on the mountain. Source: *The Colorado Sun*
- *Fort Washington Park* - The National Park Trust announced the acquisition and transfer of the last privately owned property in the park to the NPS. The land consists of 4 acres adjacent to the mouth of Swan Creek where it joins the Potomac River, and was the only non-federal land in the park since 1914. The Ray Tilch family donated it to the NPS. Source: Green and Grey Report (7/5/22), [National Park Trust](#)
- *Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site* - Donald E. Borquist, a longtime resident of Hyde Park and 31-year NPS employee, recently bequeathed a generous financial donation to the National Park Foundation to be used at the two Hyde Park sites. The bequest will allow the parks to restore historic features and improve the visitor experience at both sites. Source: [Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site](#)
- *Gettysburg National Military Park* - The NPS' American Battlefield Protection Program awarded \$926,674 to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to protect an additional 4.64 acres at Gettysburg. Source: Green and Grey Report (7/5/22), [National Park Service Office of Communications](#)
- *Glacier National Park* - *Glacier Journal* ran [an article](#) about the solar panel array installed at headquarters in West Glacier in 2021, how the panels free up funds for other projects, challenges to installing on historic buildings, and plans for their next installation. Source: *Glacier Journal*
- *Glen Canyon National Recreation Area* - *The Washington Post* published [an article](#) documenting the confirmation of smallmouth bass in the Colorado River below

Glen Canyon Dam. The fish are expected to be detrimental to rare native humpback chub populations, which biologists have been trying to protect for over a decade. It is suspected that the dropping reservoir levels of Lake Powell has allowed the bass, which typically prefer the warmer surface waters, to enter through the dam's penstocks. Source: *The Washington Post*

- *Great Smoky Mountains National Park* - The park reopened Big Creek Trail after an eight-week trail rehabilitation project. The project improved drainage, constructed a bridge, and rehabilitated the trail tread to increase safety. Work was done by a park trail crew. Source: [Great Smoky Mountains National Park](#)
- *Great Smoky Mountains National Park* - The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians is having discussions to prepare an application to the U.S. Board of Geographic Names to restore the name "Kuwahi" to the feature known as Clingmans Dome. The mountain holds particular significance to the Cherokee people, and both the geographer who named the mountain and the person it is named after advocated for racist policies. Source: [WBIR](#)
- *Harmony Hall* - The NPS has finalized a Development Concept Plan for the site. A virtual public meeting will be held to discuss the plan on July 21. Source: [National Park Service Planning, Environment & Public Comment](#)
- *Lake Mead National Recreation Area* - *The Washington Post* ran [an article](#) about the record low lake levels, the various items that have turned up, the people who have spent time treasure hunting and documenting the phenomenon, and the vehicle-trapping mud. *CNN* also ran [an article](#) about a newly-emerging World War II-era Higgins landing craft. Meanwhile, the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* ran [a photo montage](#) of the lake through each decade of its existence. Source: *The Washington Post, CNN, Las Vegas Review-Journal*
- *Lake Meredith National Recreation Area* - The park will temporarily close Cedar Canyon for drainage clearing, road grading, and adjustments to parking and the boat ramp due to fluctuating water levels. It is expected to be closed from July 11 until August 5. Source: [KFDA](#)
- *Lava Beds National Monument* - The park has started a \$13 million 18-mile road repaving project. The project is the first repaving in several decades and will also include many of the park's parking areas. Delays and temporary closures may be possible throughout the project, which will last through September 2023. Source: [Herald and News](#)
- *Mammoth Cave National Park* - A master's degree student at the University of Idaho has been excavating a sinkhole at the cave's entrance that has been used for various purposes over several hundred years. The excavation has thus far revealed prehistoric charcoal remains and ceramics from the late 1800s, among other finds.

Source: [Bowling Green Daily News](#)

- *Mount Rushmore National Memorial* - South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem has applied for permission to hold a fireworks show at the park for Independence Day 2023, despite the NPS denying the permit the last two years. The last fireworks show there was in 2020 when then-President Donald Trump attended and gave a speech. Governor Noem filed a lawsuit to try to supersede the NPS' previous permit decisions, which has thus far been denied in federal court, and is currently under appeal. Source: [AP News](#)
- *National Mall and Memorial Parks* - The NPS has awarded a \$5.7 million contract to design a fix for the seawall around Tidal Basin and West Potomac Park, which has sunk three to four feet over the last 75 years. Sea levels have risen a foot in that time, creating flooding and erosion of the seawall. Construction is expected to begin late next year or in early 2024. The funding came from the Great American Outdoors Act. Source: [WJLA](#), [National Mall and Memorial Parks](#)
- *Ozark National Scenic Riverways* - Two new picnic pavilions and the newly-restored historic entrance station are now open in the Big Spring district. Both pavilions were destroyed in a flood in 2017. Both pavilions are equipped with picnic tables, lights, electricity, water, a fire pit, and two grills, one of which is ADA-accessible. They were constructed in the Civilian Conservation Corps building style (one was built by the CCC in 1935) and in such a manner as to better withstand future floods. Source: [Ozark National Scenic Riverways](#)
- *Rocky Mountain National Park* - NPS Director Chuck Sams visited the park on June 30 to highlight investments from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Plan and the Great American Outdoors Act, particularly efforts to increase fire resiliency and upgrade park infrastructure. Source: [Estes Park Trail Gazette](#)
- *Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area* - VOA News and the Associated Press ran [an article](#) comparing the populations of large wild cats in two major urban areas: Los Angeles (mountain lions) and Mumbai, India (leopards), including a discussion of the ongoing efforts by the NPS and the Wildlife Conservation Society to monitor and protect them. Source: VOA News/Associated Press
- *Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area* - The park has launched a new pilot program called "Girls Outside" that will take 35 students from Los Angeles Unified School District camping for their first time. The program is focused on young women and will also include mentorship from local women leaders in conservation. Participation, transportation, and food costs are all covered through a grant from the National Park Foundation and in-kind support from the LAUSD Beyond the Bell Expanded Learning and Enrichment Programs Branch. Source: [Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area](#)

- *Sequoia National Park* - Ubisoft, a video game manufacturer, has partnered with the United Nations Environment Programme to add a mode to their game, "Riders Republic," that will ask players to identify and manage fires to protect sequoia trees at the park. This is part of the "Playing for the Planet Alliance," a group of gaming studios working to spread awareness and take action against climate change. The game will display real-life data about past burns and future burn projections. Source: [The Gamer](#)
- *Sleeping Bear Dunes National Park* - *Interlochen Public Radio (WIAA)* ran [an article](#) about the scores of dead alewife washing up on Lake Michigan beaches. The fish is an invasive from the Atlantic Ocean. It is suspected that quagga mussels are eating the zooplankton they also feed on, the winter was "tough" and may have weakened them, and they may not be able to withstand rapid temperature changes in the lake environment, as compared to the relative temperature stability of the Atlantic. Source: *Interlochen Public Radio*
- *U.S. Park Police* - The U.S. Park Police Fraternal Order of Police union has sent an official letter to the department's acting chief, the Washington D.C. mayor, and the city's Congressional delegate saying that the Department of the Interior and NPS have been reckless and negligent in their lack of staffing and support for the force. In particular, it outlined the severe weather on July 2 and 3 that left staff at risk and provided an inadequate response for public safety. Source: [WTOP](#)
- *Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve* - The park has released a prospectus soliciting proposals for two seven-year contracts to provide hunting guide services in the park, starting on January 1, 2023. The application period will close on November 4, 2022. Source: [Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve](#)
- *Wright Brothers National Memorial* - The park was awarded the 2022 Achievement in Audio Description Award in the Visual Art/ Museums/ Visitor Centers/ Organization category by the American Council of the Blind. The accessible exhibits were installed in 2018, and include audio description, Braille brochures, tactile models, and manipulative interactive exhibits. Source: [Wright Brothers National Memorial](#)

## **Personnel Changes**

- Mike Reynolds was selected as the deputy director for Congressional and external relations. He has 36 years of NPS experience, most recently as the regional director of the Intermountain Region (Interior Regions 6, 7, and 8). He will start his new role on July 31. Source: [National Park Service Office of Communications](#)

## **Park People**

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

## **Deceased**

- Robert M. Utley, 92, recently passed away.. He worked for the NPS for 28 years, including 16 as the NPS' chief historian. He also played a major role in the development of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Source: [National Parks Traveler](#)

## **Retired**

- Lyman Hafen is retiring from the Zion Forever Project, where he has worked for more than 35 years, 25 of those as executive director. Source: Green and Grey Report (7/5/22), [Zion National Park Forever Project](#)
- Gary Stellpflug, the trails foreman at Acadia National Park, is retiring after a 35-year career with the NPS. The Friends of Acadia awarded Stellpflug with their highest honor, the Marianne Edwards Distinguished Service Award. Source: [WFXV](#)

## **Open for Comment**

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

- *Antietam National Battlefield* - Public comment is now open on a Landscape Management Plan, which would amend part of the park's General Management Plan from 1992. [Comments](#) are open until August 8. Source: [Antietam National Battlefield](#)
- *Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, Curecanti National Recreation Area* - Public comment is now open on a Wilderness and Backcountry Management Plan and Environmental Assessment for the two parks. [Comments](#) are open until July 21. Source: [Curecanti National Recreation Area](#)
- *Cuyahoga Valley National Park* - Public comment is now open on a Community Access Plan to enhance the visitor experience. [Comments](#) are open until September 16. Source: [Cuyahoga Valley National Park](#)
- *George Washington Memorial Parkway* - The NPS has issued a Request for Expression of Interest for creative ideas for re-envisioning the use of facilities adjacent to the Washington Sailing Marina on Daingerfield Island. The facility is 13,662 square feet and includes seating and a snack bar. Concept ideas may be [submitted](#) until September 19. Source: [George Washington Memorial Parkway](#)
- *Great Smoky Mountains National Park* - Public comment is now open on the Balsam Mountain Campground and Heintooga Picnic Area Water and Wastewater Environmental Assessment. [Comments](#) are open until July 26. Source: [Great Smoky Mountains National Park](#)
- *Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park* - The NPS and U.S. Geological Survey have opened up public comment on a proposal to repair, replace, relocate, or remove

infrastructure damaged in the 2018 eruption and summit collapse on Kīlauea volcano. [Comments](#) are open until July 31. Source: [Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park](#)

- *Indiana Dunes National Park* - Public comment is now open on an environmental assessment to allow plant gathering for traditional purposes by the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Native Americans. [Comments](#) are open until July 28. Source: [ABC57](#)
- *Rock Creek Park* - Public comment is now open on a proposal to close a part of Beach Drive from Memorial Day to Labor Day, in addition to the normal closures on holidays and weekends. [Comments](#) are open until August 11. Source: [WJLA](#)
- *Rocky Mountain National Park* - Public comment is now open a plan to build a staff housing complex, replace a water well, and build new utilities in the 2020 East Troublesome Fire burn scar. 18 historic buildings were destroyed in the fire, many of which provided housing for seasonal employees. [Comments](#) are open until July 31. Source: [CBS News](#)
- *Rocky Mountain National Park* - Public comment is now open on a proposed \$15 expanded amenity fee to provide voluntary fast pass gate transponders for those with valid annual or lifetime passes. [Comments](#) are open until July 31. Source: [Estes Park Trail Gazette](#)
- *Valles Caldera National Preserve* - The park is starting a wilderness eligibility assessment of lands. The public is invited to give public comment to inform the assessment via email or mail. Source: [Valles Caldera National Preserve](#)
- *Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools (special resource study)* - Public comment is now open on a special resource study on sites associated with American businessman and philanthropist Julius Rosenwald. The study will examine national significance, suitability, feasibility, and need for direct NPS management of 14 sites associated with Rosenwald. [Comments](#) are open until July 31. Source: [National Park Service Office of Communications](#)

### **Other Department of the Interior News**

- *Wildland Fire Commission members selected* - On July 7, the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, and Homeland Security through the Federal Emergency Management Agency announced the selection of 36 members for the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission. More than 500 applications were received in the nomination process. These 36 (18 primary and 18 alternates) non-federal members will work with 11 federal members, and the committee will be co-chaired by leadership from the DOI, USDA, and FEMA. The commission will prepare a report with policy recommendations toward wildfire risk reduction and resilience. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)



- *\$36.1 million for water supplies* - On July 5, the Department of the Interior announced \$36.1 million in investments to safeguard local water supplies through 27 projects in 12 states and Puerto Rico. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *Return of lands to Indigenous group* - On June 29, the Department of the Interior celebrated a settlement agreement that will return more than 1,000 acres of ancestral land to the Onondaga Nation. The agreement is a result of a March 2018 Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration program settlement between the Natural Resource Trustees and Honeywell International, Inc. due to hazardous waste discharged into Onondaga Lake from 1881-1986. Honeywell is required to also implement 18 restoration projects and pay \$5 million for other projects around the watershed. The new agreement includes a conservation easement with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation that prohibits commercial development and will protect fish and wildlife habitat. 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.*

#### **House Actions**

**June 29** – The Committee on Appropriations held a markup on the Fiscal Year 2023 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, H.R. 8262, among other bills. The FY 2023 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill was ordered reported, as amended. The bill appropriates the following funding levels for FY 2023:

Operation of the National Park System – The bill recommends \$3.089 billion, which is \$322.8 million more than FY 2022 and consistent with the president’s budget request. This amount includes fixed costs and new and critical responsibilities as the president requested. Of note is \$5.3 million provided for the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers program, \$18.8 million for the National Trails System, \$5.38 million for the African American Civil Rights Network, and \$2.5 million for the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. The bill also recommends \$25 million for the Every Kid Outdoors Program, and provides \$5 million to the National Park Foundation to be used for matching grants for projects to benefit the National Park System.

National Recreation and Preservation – The bill recommends \$88.2 million, which is \$4.3 million more than FY 2022 and \$13.6 million more than the president’s budget request. Within this amount, the bill provides \$13 million for the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, \$3 million for the Chesapeake Gateways and Trails program, \$3.4 million for Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Grants, \$4.65 million for Japanese American Confinement Sites Grants, \$2.75 million for American Indian and Native Hawaiian Art and Culture Grants, and \$29.2 million for the National Heritage Area Partnership Program.

Historic Preservation Fund – The bill recommends \$170.8 million, which is \$2 million less than the amount provided in FY 2022 and \$19 million more than the president’s budget request. Within this amount is \$22 million for the African American Civil Rights Grants, \$4.75 million for the History of Equal Rights Grants, and \$1.25 million for grants to underserved communities.

Construction – The bill recommends \$279 million, which is \$53.3 million above the amount provided in FY 2022 and is consistent with the president’s budget request.

Centennial Challenge – The bill provides \$15 million for the Centennial Challenge matching grant program, which is the same as the amount provided in FY 2022 and is consistent with the president’s budget request.

The bill also includes a list of projects that will receive the \$1.3 billion in annual mandatory appropriations for deferred maintenance projects funded by the Legacy Restoration Fund of the Great American Outdoors Act. In addition, the bill appropriates \$456.7 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to the NPS to be allocated as follows:

- \$66.8 million for federal land acquisition in parks;
- \$190.9 million for state conservation assistance grants;
- \$125 million for Outdoor Recreation Legacy grants;
- \$10.4 million for state conservation grants administration;
- \$20 million for American Battlefield Protection Program grants;
- \$14.5 million for acquisition administration;
- \$14.5 million for recreational access;
- \$3.9 million for emergencies, hardships, relocations and deficiencies;
- \$7 million for inholdings, donations, and exchanges.

Along with these funding levels, the bill includes the following authorizations:

- Sec. 116 – Authorizes the so-called Long Bridge project, which is a conveyance of approximately 4 acres of NPS land for a railroad bridge crossing the Potomac River between Washington, D.C. and Virginia. The project includes both a pedestrian and bicycle bridge.
- Sec. 118 – Authorizes Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area to continue to charge fees for certain truck traffic in the park.
- Sec. 119 – Increases grant ceiling amounts for seven national heritage areas or extends the time period for their authorization to be eligible for grant funds.
- Sec. 120 – Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to evaluate resources associated with the 1965 Voting Rights March from Selma to Montgomery to be added to the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail or to be added as a unit of the National Park System.
- Sec. 128 – Removes the land acquisition funding ceiling for the Lowell National Historical Park.
- Sec. 131 – Extends the Visitor Experience Improvement concessions authority of the National Park Service for an additional two years.
- Sec. 132 – Requires the National Park Service to conduct an environmental impact statement prior to approving an operations permit at Big Cypress National

- Preserve.
- Sec. 435 – Designates the Ice Age National Scenic Trail as a unit of the National Park System.

## **Incidents**

*Incidents are listed in alphabetical order by park.*

### **Denali National Park and Preserve**

#### **Injured climber rescued**

On June 12, a member of a climbing party used a satellite communication device to call for help for another individual in the party, who was injured about a half-mile from High Camp. A ranger stabilized the patient. Due to weather created by the East Fork Fire, the NPS requested assistance from the Alaska Air National Guard. The National Guard helicopter was able to guide an NPS helicopter through the weather patterns. An on-scene ranger team was able to utilize a litter and ropes to lower the patient to a landing site, and the NPS helicopter was able to retrieve the patient. The patient was flown to Talkeetna airport, then transferred to a civilian medevac helicopter, which brought the patient to Providence Alaska Medical Center in Anchorage. Source: [Air National Guard](#)

### **Denali National Park and Preserve**

#### **Wildfires**

On July 3, the Yentna Fire was discovered burning south of the terminus of the Yentna Glacier on the east side of the East Fork Yentna River. As of July 6, it was about seven acres. The cause was still undetermined, but suspected to be lightning. It is burning in a "Limited Fire Management Option" area of the park, so it will be monitored unless it is deemed that personnel are needed. Source: [Denali National Park and Preserve](#)

On July 7, the Starr Fire was discovered burning on the east side of the Muddy River, about 40 miles northwest of Kantishna. As of July 12, it was estimated at 87 acres. It was caused by lightning. Two Fire Boss aircraft and a rotor wing were used to drop buckets, and eight smoke jumpers are on site to suppress the fire and protect allotments in the area. Source: [Denali National Park and Preserve](#), [Alaska Wildland Fire Information](#)

### **Fort Vancouver National Historic Site**

#### **Plane crash**

On June 28, a single-engine plane crashed on the southeast corner of the runway at Pearson Field Airport. Just before the crash, the pilot made brief emergency contact with flight controllers. The plane was only in the air for 13 minutes before it crashed. The pilot was the only occupant and died upon impact. Source: [The Columbian](#)

### **Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park**

#### **Storms damage park**

On June 22, thunderstorms dumped nearly an inch and a half of rain in just minutes, accompanied by gusts of up to 85 miles per hour. There were widespread power outages and many trees and limbs came down, including tress planted by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. The park was closed temporarily while crews cleared roads, parking lots, and walkways. All sites and roads are now open, though downed trees and limbs still exist along roadways and trails. The park is continue to work on making repairs and cleaning up debris. Source: [Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park](#)

### **Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve**

#### **Sunken vessel**

On July 1, the M/V Cats N Dogs, a 66-foot private vessel, sank in Muir Inlet. The passengers were rescued by a nearby vessel and the Coast Guard successfully evacuated them. The park closed Muir Inlet to vessel traffic for several days of attempted salvage operations, but they were unable to locate the vessel. There have been no visible fuel or oil remains, and the NPS will continue to monitor the area. The Coast Guard is continuing an investigation of the incident with support from the NPS. Source: Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve ([7/8](#), [7/11](#))

### **Grand Canyon National Park**

#### **Electrical failure in pumphouse**

The park has initiated water conservation measures on the North Rim due to an electrical failure in the Roaring Springs pumphouse. The park and contractors are investigating the extent and location of the damage and there is no estimated timeline for repair. Drinking water remains available on the North Rim and North Kaibab, but conservation measures are in effect. Source: [Grand Canyon National Park](#)

### **Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park**

#### **Wildfire closes road**

On July 11, a wildfire started on a powerline road on the southeast flank of Mauna Loa. The cause is unknown and under investigation. The park closed the Mauna Loa Road from the gate at the Kīpukapuauulu parking lot. As of July 12, the fire was estimated at 46 acres with several dozen personnel assigned. 1,760 feet of ungulate-proof fence was damaged, but no homes or other structures were considered to be threatened as of July 12. Source: [Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park](#)

### **Lake Mead National Recreation Area**

#### **1 fatality in jet ski incident**

On June 30, two people were jet skiing in the Boulder Islands, when they fell off. One individual was rescued, while the other, a 22-year-old, disappeared after going into the

water. Neither was wearing a personal flotation device. On July 6, a body was recovered in the same area via the use of a remotely operated vehicle. It was later identified as the missing individual. Source: Lake Mead National Recreation Area ([7/1](#), [7/6](#)), [KTVZ](#), [CBS News](#)

### **Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore**

#### **Dog rescued**

On July 8, a dog jumped over the railing at Miners Castle, falling 25-30 feet to a cliff ledge below the lower overlook. NPS staff and a volunteer from the Superior High Angle Rescue Professionals rescued the dog by utilizing high angle rope rescue techniques. Source: [Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore](#)

### **Point Reyes National Seashore**

#### **Unresponsive surfer**

On July 5, an adult was reported unresponsive after being found face down in the surf at South Beach. The individual had been surfing with friends, who pulled the individual from the water and began CPR. Rangers responded and took over patient care. A pulse was then detected and the patient was breathing. The patient was transported via a Marin County helicopter to Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital. Other response units included Marin County Sheriff's Department, Inverness Fire Department, California State Parks, and Marin County Fire Department. Source: [Point Reyes National Seashore](#)

### **Rocky Mountain National Park**

#### **Rockslide**

On June 28, a large rockslide occurred on the south side of Hallett Peak into Upper Chaos Canyon, a popular hiking and climbing area. No one was injured. The area was closed temporarily due to the possibility of more rockfall from forecasted rain. Several popular climbing routes, including those on the "Colossal Boulder," were likely damaged or buried in debris. Source: [The Denver Post](#), [Climbing](#)

### **Rocky Mountain National Park**

#### **2 separate falls on snow couloir**

On July 10, two separate falls took place on a snow couloir in the Ptarmigan Fingers area above Odessa Lake. A 61-year-old took a significant tumbling fall and bystanders were able to use a satellite communication device to contact park staff. Northern Colorado Med Evac air ambulance assisted the park's search and rescue team in locating the patient. Due to the location and severity of injuries, a Colorado National Guard helicopter from Buckley Air Force Base was requested and utilized to extricate the patient via a winch operated cable hoist. The patient was flown to Upper Beaver Meadows, transferred to Northern Colorado Med Evac air ambulance, and flown to Medical Center of the Rockies.

It was also determined during the incident that a 59-year-old patient also sustained serious injuries from a fall in the same area. The park's search and rescue team and backpackers from the general public supported the care of the patient overnight and that patient was transported by a Northern Colorado Med Evac air ambulance the following morning. It is estimated that over 45 people were involved in the two incidents. Other supporting agencies included the Rocky Mountain Rescue Group and Larimer County Search and Rescue. Source: [Rocky Mountain National Park](#)

## **Shenandoah National Park**

### ***Washington Post* article about 2021 incident**

On June 30, *The Washington Post* published an in-depth [article](#) about an April 2021 incident in which a mentally unstable 18-year-old high school student disappeared and then was later found deceased near the Hannah Run Trail. There is some possibility that the individual was hallucinating due to acne medication. Source: *The Washington Post*

## **U.S. Park Police**

### **Failed radio recordings**

The Department of the Interior's Office of Inspector General found that the U.S. Park Police failed to record radio communications from its administrative and special event channels for about two years, including the Black Lives Matter protests adjacent to the White House in June 2020. The officials stated that they did not find evidence suggesting the failure was intentional, but the lack of recordings has made prosecutions related to events difficult. Source: [E&E News](#)

## **Virgin Islands National Park**

### **Lawsuit over resort ownership**

Caneel Bay Resort operators EHI Acquisitions LLC and CBI Acquisitions have filed a lawsuit against the Department of the Interior to settle ownership over the resort. The NPS currently owns the land, while the two plaintiffs have a "retained use agreement" to own and operate the improvements upon the land until September 2023. They have announced plans to take ownership of the land, rebuild the resort, and transfer ownership to a trust for the benefit of the local community. After hurricanes in 2017 devastated the resort, the two entities offered to transfer title to the the buildings and other improvements to the U.S. government for a sum of \$70 million, which was declined. As a result, the plaintiffs claim that the title to the land to the premises should revert to them. Source: [The St. Thomas Source](#)

## **White Sands National Park**

### **Hiker found deceased**

A 27 year-old was found deceased off-trail in the park by a search and rescue team. Foul play is not suspected. The cause of death was not announced, but park officials did warn

about the dangers of hiking in extreme temperatures. Source: [WTMJ](#), [White Sands National Park](#)

### **Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve Wildfire**

On July 4, the Alaska Division of Forestry and Fire Protection received a call of a possible fire west of Copper Lake between Mount Sanford and Capital Mountain. A helicopter responded and observed the fire burning in black spruce in a "Limited Protection area," which dictates that managers monitor the fire and otherwise let it burn. It was determined to be lightning-caused. As of July 6, it was three acres in size. Source: [Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve](#)

### **Yellowstone National Park**

#### **Two people gored by bison in separate incidents**

On June 27, a 34-year-old was gored by a charging bison while walking along a boardwalk near Old Faithful geyser. The bison ran toward the person's group, which included three adults and a child. It then stopped at the boardwalk, shook its head, and pawed the ground before jumping over the boardwalk and charging at the people. One of the adults grabbed the child, who was in front of the bison, and the bison struck the adult with its head, lifting both of them into the air. The two jumped up and sprinted away and the bison turned around and began walking in the other direction. The struck person's arm was injured in the incident and they were transported to Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center for treatment. Source: [Los Angeles Times](#)

On June 29, two people inadvertently approached a bison while returning to their vehicle at a Yellowstone Lake trailhead. The bison then charged them. A 71-year-old was taken by ambulance to the West Park Hospital for treatment, and injuries from the incident were not life-threatening. It was the second bison attack in three days and the third in a month inside the park. Source: [The Register-Herald](#)

### **Yellowstone National Park**

#### **Media personality turns self in for entering closed area**

An individual who is "well-known in public-speaking circles," as well as on social media, for telling personal stories about surviving an accidental electrocution, posted an 8-second video walking off-trail near thermal features. The video was meant to be humorous, making light of their electrocution scars. The individual received a lot of backlash via social media and subsequently removed the video. They stated they called the authorities in the park to be held accountable and apologized for the incident. It is unclear if the park will pursue fines or other punishment for the incident. Source: [Cowboy State Daily](#)

### **Yosemite National Park**

## **Wildfire near Mariposa Grove**

On July 7, a wildfire started next to the Washburn Trail near the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias. The grove was immediately evacuated. On July 8, the South Entrance and the Wawona area were evacuated and closed. As of July 12, the Washburn Fire was 3,221 acres and 22% contained, with 545 personnel assigned. Firefighters have wrapped some of the oldest sequoias with fire-resistant foil and as of July 12, no mature giant sequoias have been severely damaged. During a public meeting with local residents, Superintendent Cicely Muldoon said that the fire was human-caused and is still under investigation. Source: [NPR](#), [Inciweb](#), [KRON4](#)

## **Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve**

### **Smokejumpers respond to wildfire**

On July 4, a lightning strike-caused fire was discovered across the Yukon River from Chester Bluff, above the east bank of the Charley and Yukon River confluence. Four Alaska Fire Service smokejumpers parachuted in to protect historic structures on July 5, and the following day, a nine-person wildland fire module arrived to assist. As of July 12, the Biederman Fire was 1,088 acres and 100% contained. Source: [Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve](#), [Alaska Wildland Fire Information](#)

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

- *Acadia National Park* - In August 2019, a 31-year-old was responsible for the death of three passengers while driving under the influence on Park Loop Road after a night of drinking in Bar Harbor (previously reported in the February 9, 2022 Coalition Report when the individual pled guilty). On July 8, the driver was sentenced to 41 months in prison for three manslaughter charges, two charges of operating under the influence, and one unsafe operation of a motor vehicle charge. Source: [WABI](#)
- *Big Bend National Park* - On February 5, 2022, NPS staff found an abandoned vehicle belonging to a 48-year-old in a very remote part of the park about 20 miles from the Mexican border. Birth certificates for the individual and a 9-year-old child were found in the vehicle and evidence suggested the two were together in the area. Further investigation showed that the adult withdrew the child from school on January 4 and did not re-enroll them in a new school. The car was recorded on camera entering the park on January 28. A search for the individuals ensued (reported in Coalition Report, 2/9/22, 2/23/22). On February 14, the two were found in Mexico by Mexican authorities. The child reported that they ran out of food and had not eaten for 4 days, and the weather during that time included subfreezing temperatures and heavy rains. A federal jury convicted the adult of one count of endangerment of a child. Source: [Big Bend National Park](#), [The United States Attorney's Office: Western District of Texas](#)



- *Fort Monroe National Monument* - The curfew at North Beach has been lifted. The curfew had been instituted in June for safety concerns, including a shooting. Source: [WAVY](#)
- *Grand Teton National Park* - A judge has determined that Joseph Petito and Nichole Schmidt, the parents of Gabby Petito, may proceed with a lawsuit against Christopher and Robert Laundrie, the parents of Brian Laundrie. Petito's disappearance and murder in the Grand Teton area and the subsequent fugitive hunt for Laundrie were highly publicized nationwide. Laundrie was found dead by self-inflicted gunshot, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation found nearby evidence that incriminated Laundrie with Petito's death. The lawsuit claims that the Laundries concealed from authorities that their son had confessed the murder and that they intentionally inflicted emotional distress. Source: [Buckrail](#)
- *Guadalupe Mountains National Park* - The park reopened most trails and campgrounds for day use. Wilderness camping permits and the Dog Canyon area remain closed due to continued high fire danger. Source: [Guadalupe Mountains National Park](#)
- *Steamtown National Historic Site* - On July 5, a 47-year-old and their company, Wasatch Railroad Contractors, were sentenced to 30 months of prison, three years of supervised release, and \$10,000 in fines for five counts of wire fraud and one count of knowing endangerment. As reported in the May 4, 2022 Coalition Report, the company had been contracted to restore one of the park's historic railcars, which they failed to do, in addition to falsifying invoices and knowingly exposing employees to asbestos without proper precautions. Source: [The United States Attorney's Office: District of Wyoming](#)
- *Voyageurs National Park* - The June flood closure of the Rainy Lake Visitor Center boat launch and 19 of the Rainy Lake campsites has been lifted. Other Rainy Lake campsites remain closed due to flood conditions. The portage between Rainy and Namakan Lakes has also reopened. Source: [Voyageurs National Park](#)
- *Yellowstone National Park* - The park's north loop reopened on July 2. The Alternating License Plate System was also stopped on July 2 and all normal entrance procedures have been enacted. The North Entrance Road and Northeast Entrance Road remain closed to vehicular traffic while repairs are made. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland visited the park on July 8, and during a news conference with Superintendent Cam Sholly, they announced that it may take 3-5 years to completely finish permanent repairs in the park. Source: [WyoTodayMedia](#), [KPMI](#)

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If you see something that might be of interest to Coalition members, send it to [report@protectnps.org](mailto:report@protectnps.org).

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

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