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The Coalition Report

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Editor note: Per Randy Payne, Coalition members might be interested to learn that an archive of the old NPS Morning Reports, along with all past issues of the Coalition Reports (previously the Coalition Weekly Reports) are all online at npshistory.com/morningreport. In addition, incidents may be viewed by individual park unit for ease of reference.

Coalition Actions

Coalition member Brenda Barrett participated in a webinar hosted by the U.S. Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites about Cahokia Mounds. The panel discussed Cahokia's Outstanding Universal Value and site management, which pending legislation may change in order to enhance preservation, visitation and interpretation at Cahokia Mounds:

<https://protectnps.org/2022/06/06/coalition-participates-in-panel-on-protecting-cahokia-mounds/>

The Coalition joined 92 other organizations urging President Biden to designate Castner Range as a national monument through the powers granted under the Antiquities Act of 1906:

<https://protectnps.org/2022/06/07/coalition-signs-on-to-letter-urging-national-monument-designation-for-castner-range/>

The Coalition issued a statement in honor of the 116th Anniversary of the Antiquities Act, encouraging the administration to use the Act to designate special places such as the Castner Range, Avi Kwa Ame, Douglas-Fir, Range of Light, 1908 Springfield Race Riot Site, Cahokia Mounds, and other public lands across the United States, as America's

newest national monuments:

<https://protectnps.org/2022/06/08/coalition-recognizes-antiquities-act-anniversary/>

Coalition Chair Mike Murray submitted testimony to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on FY2023 appropriations for the National Park Service:

<https://protectnps.org/2022/06/08/coalition-submits-testimony-on-fy23-nps-appropriations/>

Coalition member Bruce Noble's op-ed urging Congress to pass the CORE Act ran in the *Daily Sentinel*:

<https://protectnps.org/2022/06/09/member-op-ed-when-will-it-be-over-for-the-core-act/>

We also met with staff from Senator Jacky Rosen's (D-NV) office to wrap up our virtual Hill meetings.

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.

- *Great Outdoors Month* - The White House put out [a proclamation](#) in honor of Great Outdoors Month, including a nod to the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program. Source: The White House
- *9 new national recreation trails* - On June 3, in celebration of Great Outdoors Month and National Trails Day (June 4), Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland announced the designation of nine new national recreation trails. The trails add nearly 600 miles to the National Trails System across seven states. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *Listening sessions about DOI law enforcement* - On June 2, the Department of the Interior announced they will hold 12 listening sessions and invite public comment to guide the newly formed DOI Law Enforcement Task Force in its attempts to strengthen public trust, ensure appropriate policy and oversight, and ensure support resources for officer health and safety. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *Federal drought resilience group releases 1-year report* - The Drought Resilience Interagency Work Group, established one year ago by the Biden Administration, has released a [1-Year Summary Report](#) that describes the group's accomplishments, including the creation of an Upper Colorado Basin Adaptive Management Work Group that includes representatives from the NPS. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *White House building out electric vehicle network* - On June 9, The White House put out a fact sheet outlining its electric vehicle network strategy. It includes the

National Park Service establishing an interdisciplinary EV Working Group to develop a strategy for electrifying government fleets, shuttle buses, and public use infrastructure. The NPS is also working with State Departments of Transportation to fill charging station gaps in corridors and routes to national parks. Source: [The White House](#)

- *DOI to phase out single-use plastics* - On June 8, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland issued Secretary's Order 3407, which will phase out single-use plastic products on Interior public lands by 2032. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *DOI launches new Indigenous youth corps* - On June 10, the Department of the Interior officially launched the new Indian Youth Service Corps, a new partnership-based program that will recruit and provide opportunities for Indigenous youth to support conservation projects and receive vocational skills training and career development. The program is modeled on the Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps, which has been doing similar work successfully for 10 years. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *NPF supports corps efforts for deferred maintenance* - The National Park Foundation and The Corps Network have announced the launch of the NPS Youth Corps Partnership, which will assist national park sites in engaging Conservation Corps in supporting NPS Maintenance Action Teams staff. Source: [Sierra Sun Times](#)
- *NPS celebrates Pride Month and Juneteenth* - Many park sites are holding celebrations or posting content related to LGBTQ+ history and heritage, and many will hold celebrations for Juneteenth. Source: Many
- *New short film about WWII incarceration* - On May 31, the NPS released a new [2-minute film](#) called "Who Are We?" introducing stories from seven national park sites associated with Japanese American incarceration during World War II. Source: *Green and Grey Report*, National Park Service Facebook page
- *More funding needed for wildfire staff* - Kelly Martin, co-founder of Grassroots Wildland Firefighters and former chief of fire and aviation at Yosemite National Park, wrote [an op-ed](#) in *Inside Sources* that argues for more reform around the federal firefighting workforce and its resources to increase employee retention and create safer working conditions. Source: *Inside Sources*
- *Inside the Parks Project apparel line* - The *Marin Independent Journal* published [an article](#) about Keith Eshelman's co-founding of the Parks Project, an apparel line themed after national parks that also raises funds and connects volunteers with restoration projects across the NPS. Source: *Marin Independent Journal*

[Around the Parks](#)

Park reports are in alphabetical order.

- *Anacostia Park* - The NPS is installing mile markers along the Riverwalk Trail to allow for visitors to better describe their location during emergency situations. The move comes several months after reports of a wild turkey that was "terrorizing" walkers, cyclists, and runners. Installation is taking place from June 7-23, with temporary closures in segments. Source: [WUSA9](#)
- *Blue Ridge Parkway* - A \$29 million project to replace the Laurel Fork Bridge (milepost 248.8) began on June 6. Work is expected to take two years to complete, with a target completion date of November 2024. A full closure and detour is in place for all vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists. Funding for the project has come from the Great American Outdoors Act. Source: [Blue Ridge Parkway](#)
- *Buffalo National River* - In honor of the park's 50th anniversary, the Arkansas State Capitol is featuring an exhibit about the park in its first and fourth-floor galleries. The exhibit opened on June 13th and will be open through August 29th. Source: [MySaline.com](#)
- *Cape Hatteras National Seashore* - The park has signed a 10-year lease with Koru Village, Inc. to provide continued maintenance, retail sales, food and beverage, and special events on the Avon Fishing Pier. The new lease begins on June 1. Source: [Outer Banks Voice](#)
- *Cape Hatteras National Seashore* - The park is replacing the boardwalk and viewing platform adjacent to the Pony Pens on Ocracoke Island to improve accessibility. Heritage Contracting (Chesapeake, VA) is implementing the construction. Work started in May and expected to be complete soon. Source: [Island Free Press](#)
- *Cuyahoga Valley National Park* - The park won *Northeast Ohio Parent's* 2022 Parent Choice Award for the "best park or place to explore in nature" category. Source: [Northeast Ohio Parent](#)
- *Everglades National Park* - *National Parks Traveler* ran [an article](#) about the threat of non-native tegu lizards in the park and the attempts to trap them. Source: *National Parks Traveler*
- *Grand Canyon National Park* - The park has brought back its Cultural Demonstrator Series for the first time since the the COVID-19 pandemic began. The series brings artisans from the 11 traditionally associated Tribes of the park to share their history and crafts with park visitors. The Series will run from early June until early September, and is made possible with grants from the Grand Canyon Conservancy. Source: [Grand Canyon National Park](#)
- *Grand Teton National Park* - The park is engaging in the replacement of the Phelps

Lake outlet bridge. It has been closed since August 2021. This week, construction materials have been hauled and staged via helicopter, and nearby trails were temporarily closed. The project is expected to continue throughout Fall 2022. Jackson Hole Preserve Inc is helping support the bridge replacement. Source: [Grand Teton National Park](#)

- *Harpers Ferry National Historical Park* - Peregrine falcon chicks have successfully fledged and are currently learning to fly at the park. It is the second consecutive year that chicks have successfully fledged in the area after an almost-70-year hiatus. Source: [Harpers Ferry National Historical Park](#)
- *Hovenweep National Monument, Natural Bridges National Monument* - The NPS is reinstating entrance fees at the two parks this month to provide funding for infrastructure and maintenance needs. Natural Bridges last collected fees in January 2020, while Hovenweep has not collected fees since 2014. Source: [Natural Bridges National Monument](#)
- *Ice Age Flood National Geologic Trail* - On June 9, the Tualatin Library became one of the first official visitor centers for the Trail. It will be a temporary visitor center until a more permanent home can be found. The library premiered the newly produced film, "Tualatin, Crossroads of the Ice Age Floods" on June 9 and June 11. Source: [Tualatin Life](#)
- *Katmai National Park and Preserve* - On June 7, the park hosted a public unveiling ceremony for a new monument commemorating the life of Pelagia Malgenak at the King Salmon Visitor Center. Pelagia was a woman of Sugpiat heritage who worked hard to pass on Sugpiat culture and history to younger generations and made frequent trips to revisit the area where she grew up, in the Brooks Camp area. The monument was produced by local Alaska Native artist Darlene Lind and precedes an upcoming interpretive display of Alaska Native culture. Source: [Katmai National Park and Preserve](#)
- *Katmai National Park and Preserve* - The park will pilot a permit program for the Brooks River Corridor this summer during salmon spawning season (July 1-October 31). The permitted area will include the river and the 50 yards of shoreline on both sides of the river, but it will not include trails, boardwalks, or wildlife viewing platforms. Permits will be free, with a \$6 booking fee, available on [recreation.gov](#). Source: [Katmai National Park and Preserve](#)
- *Lake Mead National Recreation Area* - The NPS has issued a Request For Proposals for a lease of Cottonwood Cove Resort and Marina on Lake Mohave, including boat moorage, boat rentals, marina services, fuel sales, lodging, food and beverage, retail, a trailer village, and RV camping. Interested parties must notify the NPS of an intent to submit a proposal by August 9 and proposals are due September 20. Source: [Lake Mead National Recreation Area](#)

- *Natchez Trace Parkway* - On June 6, the NPS began construction of a temporary safety barrier on Double Arch Bridge to deter further suicides on the bridge. The NPS is working with the Federal Highway Administration on a permanent safety barrier. Source: [Natchez Trace Parkway](#)
- *Olympic National Park* - The park has started its Quillayute River Restoration "Reach 3" Project. The project, managed by the Quileute Tribe, will restore aquatic habitat and stabilize banks between river miles 1.7 and 2.9. The majority of the project is taking place on Tribal trust land, but a portion will take place within the park near Mora Campground. There will be temporary closures in the area in late June. The entire project will be completed this fall. Source: [Olympic National Park](#)
- *Pearl Harbor National Memorial* - Starting in January 2023, visitors will pay \$7 to park at the memorial. Admission to the park and USS Arizona will remain free. Source: [Hawaii News Now](#)
- *Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area* - On June 6, the Peter Strauss Ranch reopened to the public for the first time since the 2018 Woolsey Fire. The NPS completed multiple soil lifts to remove hazardous materials from the site, and then the area served as a staging area for the County of Los Angeles to reconstruct the Mulholland Highway bridge over Triunfo Canyon Creek. Source: [Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area](#)
- *Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site* - The park announced that it will rehabilitate the George Washington Carver Museum, starting this summer and wrapping up in Spring 2024. The museum will be closed during this time, and a temporary visitor center will be located at the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site in the Skyway Club. The \$2.8 million rehab project will improve architectural and structural elements of the exterior and interior, and upgrades to mechanical, electrical, security, and fire suppression and alarm systems. Source: [Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site](#)
- *Wind Cave National Park* - On June 15, the park will move to cashless fee collection only. Source: [Wind Cave National Park](#)
- *Yellowstone National Park* - On June 3, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reviewed several petitions for possible protection of Yellowstone-area bison under the Endangered Species Act. The petitions were originally filed by Western Watersheds Project and Buffalo Field Campaign in 2014, and have made their way through a series of reviews, appeals, and lawsuits, the most recent of which required the USFWS to re-review the petitions. In doing so, they found "credible and substantial information that range curtailment may be a potential threat to the Yellowstone bison." There will now be a 12-month assessment of whether to list the area's bison under the Act. Source: [E&E News](#)

- *Yellowstone National Park* - The park has changed the name of Mount Doane to First Peoples Mountain after a 15-0 vote affirming the change by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. The name change was recommended by the Rocky Mountain Tribal Council, affirmed by a vote of the Wyoming Board of Geographic names, and received support from the National Park Service. Source: [Yellowstone National Park](#)
- *Yellowstone National Park* - The *Bozeman Daily Chronicle* ran [an article](#) outlining Yellowstone's efforts to resolve park housing issues, including information about the newly proposed Gateway Community and Recreation Enhancement Act. Source: *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*

Personnel Changes

- *Brown v. Board of Education National Historical Park* - James "Jim" Williams was selected as the new superintendent. Jim has many years of NPS experience, most recently as the program leader and museum curator for the NPS South Florida Collections Management Center. He will start his new role later this summer. Source: [Brown v. Board of Education National Historical Park](#)
- *Fossil Butte National Monument, Golden Spike National Historical Park, Timpanogos Cave* - Brandon Flint was selected as the superintendent of the three parks. He has over 20 years of NPS experience, most recently as the superintendent at Golden Spike National Historical Park. This newly restructured position will supervise site managers at the three parks. Source: [Golden Spike National Historical Park](#)
- *Grand Portage National Monument* - Heather Boyd was selected as the new superintendent. Heather has 14 years of NPS experience, most recently as the administrative officer at Isle Royale National Park and Keweenaw National Historical Park. She is the first person of Anishanaabe heritage to be the superintendent at the park. She will begin her new role later this summer. Source: [Grand Portage National Monument](#)
- *Olympic National Park* - Sula Jacobs was selected as the new superintendent. Sula has more than 17 years of NPS experience, most recently as the superintendent of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. She will begin her new role in late July. Source: [Olympic National Park](#)
- *Wildland Fire Program* - Stephanie Auten was selected as a budget analyst for the Wildland Fire Planning and Budget team. Stephanie has over 10 years of experience at the Grand Canyon supporting their fire and aviation management program. Source: [National Park Service Wildland Fire Program](#)

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

- Carl Levin, 87, passed away on July 29, 2021. He was a U.S. Senator from Michigan who wrote the bill that established Sleeping Bear Dunes National Park. Governor Gretchen Whitmer ordered flags be lowered to half-staff in honor of Senator Levin's passing, in concert with his memorial service on June 12. Source: [Michigan.gov](#)
- Howard Clarence Marco, 93, passed away on May 17. In his retirement, he was an active volunteer at Rocky Mountain National Park. Source: [Estes Park News](#)
- Gary Sabbag, 70, passed away recently. He was the General Manager of Food, Lodging, and the Marina for Canteen Services for over 15 years in Homestead, Florida at Everglades National Park, and also managed concessions in Bryce and Zion National Parks. Source: [Foster's Daily Democrat](#)

Retired

- After a 30-year career at Virgin Islands National Park, Laurel Brannick will soon be retiring. *The Virgin Islands Daily News* published [an article](#) about her career as an education specialist, including decades of programs with local schoolchildren, an EPA Environmental Quality Award, leading bird walks, and getting the Leinster Bay waterfront added to the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program. Source: *The Virgin Islands Daily News*

In the News

- Eddie Alfaro, who worked at Pinnacles National Park for a time, is running for the District 3 Supervisor seat in San Benito County. Source: [KSBW](#)
- Rosanne S. McHenry has written a book called *Tall Tales: From Family Camping to Life as a Ranger*, a collection of short stories. She worked for the NPS at Golden Gate, Death Valley, and Mount Rainier, as well as a variety of California state parks. Source: [Gold Country Media](#)
- The University of Rhode Island Coastal Institute announced its 2022 Distinguished Fellow Awards, including Charles Roman, a retired NPS coastal scientist and research coordinator of over 30 years. He is an adjunct professor with the URI Graduate School of Oceanography and the Collect of Environment and Life Sciences. Source: [University of Rhode Island News](#)
- Auburn University ran [a profile](#) on alumnus Marc Tunstall, who is soon to become the station manager of the McMurdo Station in Antarctica for the National Science Foundation. Marc previously worked for the Department of the Interior's Office of Aviation Services Alaska Regional Office, supporting the aviation needs of the NSF,

Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service. Source: *Auburn University: The Newsroom*

Open for Comment

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

- *Cape Hatteras National Seashore* - Public comment is open on lighthouse repair and landscape improvements. [Comments](#) are open until June 22. Source: [Island Free Press](#)
- *Cape Hatteras National Seashore* - Public comment is open on the construction of a multi-use path along Lighthouse Road. [Comments](#) are open until June 22. Source: [Island Free Press](#)
- *Grand Teton National Park* - Public comment is open on an environmental assessment for the protection and management of winter habitat for bighorn sheep. [Comments](#) have been extended to remain open through June 20. Source: [Wyoming Public Radio](#), [Grand Teton National Park](#)
- *Lassen Volcanic National Park* - Public comment is open on a project to improve the water treatment system for Lost Creek Group Campground and Volcano Adventure Camp. [Comments](#) are open until June 19. Source: [Lassen Volcanic National Park](#)
- *Natchez Trace Parkway* - Public comment is open on a suicide deterrent strategy for the Double Arch Bridge over Highway 96. [Comments](#) are open until June 17. Source: *WMOT*
- *Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve* - Public comment is open on a Special Use Permit application for non-exclusive use of Slaven's Public Use Cabin for subsistence purposes from October 1-February 1 in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. Comments can be submitted by mail to the park until July 25. Source: [Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve](#)
- *Zion National Park* - Public comment is open on a redesign of the Zion Canyon South Entrance to improve visitor circulation and wayfinding, modernize facilities and infrastructure, improve visitor safety, protect resources, and address accessibility issues. [Comments](#) are open until June 17. Source: [St. George News](#)
- *Continental Divide National Scenic Trail* (managed by Bureau of Land Management) - Public comment is now open on a proposed acquisition of a 56-mile right-of-way across New Mexico state land. The NPS is working with the BLM, U.S. Forest Service, and Continental Divide Trail Coalition on the relocation of the trail away from county roads and highways to improve safety and enhance solitude for trail users. [Comments](#) are open until July 5. Source: [Desert Exposure](#)

Other Department of the Interior News

- *\$279 million in LWCF grants* - The Department of the Interior announced the distribution of \$279.7 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for recreation and conservation projects in all 50 states, U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *USFWS proposes assisted migration for endangered species* - On June 6, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced its proposal to revise section 10(j) regulations under the Endangered Species Act to allow the introduction of listed species to habitats outside their historical ranges. Any assisted migration would be subject to a rulemaking process, including publishing the rule in the Federal Register and providing for public comment. Public comment on this proposed revision is open until August 8. Source: [Department of the Interior](#)
- *New policies to incentivize clean energy* - On May 31, the Department of the Interior announced policy and organizational updates to advance clean energy production on public lands, including reducing rents and fees for wind and solar projects and establishing Renewable Energy Coordination Offices in Bureau of Land Management offices across the west. 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

June 7 – The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining concluded a hearing to examine the following bills, among others:

- S. 387, to protect, for current and future generations, the watershed, ecosystem, and cultural heritage of the Grand Canyon region in the State of Arizona, and to provide for a study relating to the uranium stockpile in the United States. The bill would withdraw 1.01 million acres of federal lands near Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona from the public land, mining, mineral leasing, and geothermal leasing laws.
- S. 3129, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the Gila River system in the state of New Mexico as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain federal land in the state of New Mexico. Section 3 of the bill would transfer 440 acres of land from the Gila National Forest to the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, which is administered by the NPS.

Testimony was heard from Nada Wolff Culver, Deputy Director, Policy and Programs, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior; Christopher French, Deputy Chief, National Forest System, Department of Agriculture, Forest Service; Jake Garfield, Utah Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office, Millcreek; Sean McKenna, Desert Research

Institute, Reno, Nevada; and Jerimiah Rieman, Wyoming County Commissioners Association, Cheyenne.

House Actions

June 8 – The House passed H.R. 7776, to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, and to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, by a vote of 384 yeas to 37 nays. This is the biennial bill for water projects throughout the country that could impact various national park units due to their location within or along the waterways affected by a specific project.

June 8 – The Committee on Natural Resources began a markup on the following bills, among others:

- H.R. 6337, the "Biking on Long-Distance Trails Act." The bill would require the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture to identify not fewer than 10 long-distance bike trails; identify not fewer than 10 areas in which there is an opportunity to develop or complete long-distance bike trails; and to coordinate with stakeholders on the feasibility of, and identifying any resources necessary for, completing the development of such trails.
- H.R. 7002, the "Gateway Solidarity Act." The bill would authorize the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri, to be illuminated by blue and yellow lights in support of Ukraine.
- H.R. 7075, the "Ukrainian Independence Park Act of 2022." The bill would designate two National Park Service properties within Washington, D.C. including the portion of such property that contains the Taras Shevchenko Memorial, as the Ukrainian Independence Park.

Incidents

Incidents are listed in alphabetical order by park.

Big Bend National Park

Flash flood erodes trail and hot spring

Recent rainstorms caused flash flooding eroded parts of the Hot Springs Trail and filled much of the pool with mud and sediment. The trail is closed until further notice, though the nearby historic area remains open. Source: [Texas Highways](#)

Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area

Missing person found deceased in park

On June 8, a local 58-year-old was reported missing. The following morning, NPS staff found the individual's motorcycle at a backcountry campsite in the park, and then the individual was found deceased inside a tent. The victim's body was recovered with assistance from Scott County EMS, Scott County Sheriffs Office, Scott County Rescue Squad, and Fentress County Sheriffs Office. An investigation is underway. Source: [Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area](#)

Death Valley National Park

Visitor found deceased

On May 15, a 69-year-old sent a text message to family, mentioning plans to head to Death Valley National Park, and then was not heard from again. On May 26, the Long Beach Police Department issued a public information bulletin for the missing person. On May 31, the individual's vehicle was found on Lake Hill Road in Panamint Valley. After two days of air and ground searches by personnel from the NPS, Bureau of Land Management, California Highway Patrol, and U.S. Navy, the individual's body was found on June 1 about a quarter-mile from their vehicle. Inyo County Coroner's office assisted with the body recovery. Foul play is not suspected. Source: [KTNV](#)

Denali National Park

Mountaineer passes away

On June 3, a 48-year-old climber collapsed at 19,700 feet on the plateau known as "the Football Field" during a guided 12-person summit climb. Guides who were with the individual immediately started CPR, but the individual never regained a pulse and was pronounced dead on the scene. The cause of death is unknown, "but consistent with sudden cardiac arrest." The guides assisted in the body recovery, which was completed using a helicopter and short haul basket. It is the third death on the mountain in a month. Source: [Denali National Park](#), [USA Today](#)

Fort Monroe National Monument

Nighttime closures after shooting

On June 11, the park instituted a closure of North Beach at 6pm-5am on Saturdays and Sundays. The park cited ongoing safety concerns for visitors, including a shooting that injured an individual in the parking area adjacent to the beach on June 5. Source: [Fort Monroe National Monument](#)

Glacier National Park

Visitor passes away on mountain ascent

On June 7, a 19-year-old got separated from the other member of their party while hiking and climbing Mt. Brown. They became separated and the friend reported the victim as missing to the NPS. NPS staff performed a ground search and Two Bear Air performed an aerial search. That evening, Two Bear Air was able to locate individual, who was deceased, and they recovered the victim's body. Rangers suspect the victim fell while climbing and no foul play is suspected. The death is under investigation. Source: [Glacier National Park](#)

Grand Canyon National Park

Hiker passes away

On June 2, a 41-year-old hiker was reported in distress on the Bright Angel Trail above Three-Mile Resthouse. Soon afterward, the hiker became unresponsive and bystanders initiated CPR. NPS personnel responded and assisted with resuscitation, but the efforts were unsuccessful. The hiker had hiked to the Colorado River earlier in the day. An investigation is being conducted by the NPS and Coconino County Medical Examiner. Though the official cause of death has not been released, the NPS has reminded hikers to drink plenty of fluids, rest in the shade in the heat of the day, and dress appropriately for the conditions. Source: [Grand Canyon National Park](#)

Grand Canyon National Park River fatality

On June 11, a 47-year-old participant on a commercial river trip was cooling off in the river at Pipe Creek Beach, when the current carried the individual downriver. The guides were able to reach the individual by boat, pulled them from the river, and began CPR. NPS personnel responded and assisted with resuscitation efforts, but the efforts were unsuccessful and the individual was pronounced deceased at the scene. The NPS and Coconino County Medical Examiner are conducting an investigation. Source: [Grand Canyon National Park](#)

Grand Teton National Park Visitor charged for providing false information

On June 21, 2021, a 40-year-old provided false information to NPS investigators about a missing person. The suspect gave an elaborate description about a fake interaction that led the search astray and wasted an estimated 532 hours of search time and roughly \$17,600. Witnesses reported the suspect fabricated the sighting to ensure search efforts continued. Under a Deferred Prosecution Agreement, the individual has received a ban from Grand Teton National Park for five years and was ordered to pay \$17,600 restitution to the Department of the Treasury. June 8 marked one year of the missing person's disappearance and search efforts will continue this summer. Source: [Grand Teton National Park](#)

Katmai National Park and Preserve Lightning strikes cause wildfires

On May 29, a lightning strike 40 miles southeast of King Salmon ignited the Contact Creek Fire. The fire is not being staffed, but is being monitored by the NPS and Alaska Division of Forestry personnel. Crews wrapped a Remote Automated Weather System in protective structure wrap to protect it. As of June 13, the fire has burned 8,914 acres. On June 6, the Idavain Fire was first reported, located two miles south of Idavain Lake. As of June 8, it was 10 acres. The Source: [Alaska Fire Information](#), [Inciweb](#), [Katmai National Park and Preserve](#)

Malpais National Monument

Wildfire closes part of park

On June 9, the Cerro Bandera Fire started on private land just west of the park boundary near CR 42 and NM 53. The NPS closed the CR42 section of the park (Chain of Craters), and access to NPS 300 and Big Tubes is currently closed. As of June 12, the fire is 939 acres, 85% contained, with 132 assigned personnel. Source: [El Malpais National Monument, Inciweb](#)

Montezuma Castle National Monument

Area closed due to hazardous bees

On June 3, the park closed the Well Overlook and the beginning portion of the Overlook Trail until further notice due to hazardous bee activity. The back end of the trail remains open for access to the secondary Well overlook. Source: [Montezuma Castle National Monument](#)

National Mall and Memorial Parks

Bird flu kills ducks

The first cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza in Washington, DC has been confirmed after more than a dozen ducklings died at the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool on the Mall. Though the virus is not easily transmitted to humans, visitors may unwittingly transfer the virus between groups of birds, particularly via their shoes. The NPS is asking visitors to report sick or dead birds. Source: [The Washington Post](#)

Obed Wild and Scenic River

Vandalism to vault toilet

A brand new vault toilet at Barnett Bridge was vandalized, including the use of large rocks to damage the exterior of the door, as well as damage to the interior and the removal of the toilet. The NPS is asking the public for any information they may have about the incident. Source: [Obed Wild and Scenic River](#)

Pearl Harbor National Memorial

Security incident closes park temporarily

On June 9, a military working dog smelled something suspicious during a routine inspection of a civilian contractor's vehicle. The park was closed for two hours while explosive ordnance disposal technicians investigated. They found nothing of concern.

Richmond National Battlefield Park

Person shot and killed

In the early morning on June 8, a 36-year-old was shot on Picnic Road near Battlefield

Park Road at Fort Harrison. The victim was taken to a hospital with life-threatening injuries and was later pronounced dead. Officers found and a 21-year-old at the scene, who has been charged with second-degree murder and use of a firearm while committing a felony. Source: [WRIC](#)

Washington Monument

Disorderly conduct at march

On June 11, a 21-year-old was arrested on the grounds of the monument for interfering with the March for our Lives, a permitted event. The individual was charged with Disorderly Conduct-Creating Fear and Disorderly Conduct-Disrupting a Gathering. The individual did not carry weapons and was deemed to not pose a larger threat to the public, and was released with a citation to appear in court. Source: [U.S. Park Police](#)

Yellowstone National Park

Visitor gored by bison

On May 30, a 25-year-old approached within 10 feet of a bison near a boardwalk at Black Sand Basin, just north of Old Faithful. The visitor sustained a puncture wound and other injuries and was immediately transported via ambulance to Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center. Though some media agencies reported that the visitor had passed away from injuries sustained in the incident, this was incorrect and has since been revised. Source: [Yellowstone National Park](#), [East Idaho News](#)

Yellowstone National Park

Entire park closes due to rainfall

On June 13, the park closed all entrances due to heavy flooding, rockslides, mudslides, and "extremely hazardous conditions." Multiple sections of road in the park have washed out or been covered by mud and rocks, and the integrity of bridges and wastewater treatment need to be assessed. The Yellowstone River is running "beyond record levels." Additional rainfall is also forecasted. On June 13 and 14, about 40 people were evacuated from the park by helicopter. The park will remain closed until further notice. Roads into gateway communities have also been heavily damaged. Superintendent Cam Sholly has said that the road between Gardiner and Cooke City will likely remain closed for the remainder of the season. Source: [Yellowstone National Park](#), [CNN](#)

Yosemite National Park

30 incidents of graffiti

On May 20, the NPS received multiple calls about graffiti on the Yosemite Falls Trail. Upon investigation, rangers found about 30 areas of graffiti sprayed along the trail, ranging from one-foot by one-foot to eight-feet by eight-feet. The park is looking for any information the public may have related to the incident. Source: [CNN](#)

Zion National Park

Popular trail closes

On June 5, the park closed the popular (and permitted) Angels Landing Trail due to damage on a rock anchor that supports the chain section. While the trail was closed, additional staff assessed the rest of the trail, cleaned graffiti, and removed trash. The trail reopened on June 8. Source: [The Salt Lake Tribune](#)

Follow-ups on Previously Reported Incidents

- *George Washington Memorial Parkway* - On June 10, the Department of Justice announced it would not reopen the federal investigation of the 2017 shooting death of Bijan Ghaisar by two U.S. Park Police officers. This ends the criminal prosecution of the two officers. However, a lawsuit filed by the Ghaisar family will now move forward. The two officers remain on paid leave. Source: [The Washington Post](#)
- *Valles Caldera National Preserve* - Valles Caldera reopened the Valley Grande District on June 3. The park has been closed since late April due to the Cerro Pelado Fire and extreme fire danger in the region. The park's backcountry remains closed due to Stage III fire restrictions. As of June 14, the fire was 45,605 acres, 100% contained, with 98 personnel assigned. Source: [Valles Caldera National Preserve](#), [Inciweb](#)
- *Voyageurs National Park* - Due to record flooding on Rainy Lake, the campsite, backcountry trails, and boat landing closures have been extended through July 1. The Kettle Falls portage has also been closed. Source: [Duluth News Tribune](#)

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- Regular Correspondent: Don Hellmann
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If you see something that might be of interest to Coalition members, send it to report@protectnps.org.

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