





What intrigues me the most about covering national parks and protected areas daily is you never know what the day will bring.

At the *National Parks Traveler*, we take the time necessary to develop story packages that delve into a single topic and its impact on the National Park System. You saw that this past year with our year-long series on invasive species in the parks, our work on how **the drought in the Southwest** has been impacting units of the park system there, and how the health, or lack of health, of the Colorado River **impacts parks along its corridor.** 

But **daily news stories** and **regular feature coverage** are just as, if not more, important when it comes to keeping you apprised of how the parks are faring and how the National Park Service is managing them.

Whether the topic is **overfishing the marine waters** surrounding Biscayne, Dry Tortugas, and Everglades national parks, the plight of **underfunded parks**, whether the Park Service can quickly respond to the **demand for electric vehicle chargers**, or the **ongoing saga of oil exploration** at Big Cypress National Preserve, at the **Traveler** we constantly develop stories that matter when it comes to maintaining the world's best park system.

We also offer **op-eds** and **editorials to spur discussion** around how the parks are being managed, because only through constructive dialogue can differing points of view be fairly considered and debated. Some of those pieces can be provocative, because at times we need to be reminded that the parks will struggle without adequate stewardship and support.

During FY21-22 we generated more than 1,200 articles and podcasts. No other news organization provides such in-depth and thought--provoking coverage of what's occurring across the National Park System on a day-in, day-out basis.

If you **read our coverage**, look forward to **our weekly newsletter**, or **listen to our podcasts**, I hope you'll **support our work with a donation** that will enable us to not just continue this coverage, but expand it.

Kurt Repanshek

The *National Parks Traveler's* editorial content during the 2021-22 fiscal year generated more than 3.4 million views from readers across the globe, from the United States to Tonga. Our weekly podcasts enjoyed remarkable growth, generating nearly 193,000 downloads from listeners in more than 100 countries.

While the bulk of our editorial coverage stems from day-to-day events across the National Park System, the past year saw the rise of issues that deserved extended coverage. For example, how invasive species, drought, and climate change impacted the park system all spawned multi-part series.

Feature-coverage of individual parks and issues ranged from stories that examined how the National Park System might be expanded along the Eastern Seaboard and imbalances in how individual park units are funded, to the challenges Yellowstone National Park faces after 150 years, struggles to find adequate employee housing for park staff, and an ecological crisis among coral reefs in the park system.

But our writers also took time to explore travel destinations such as Santa Fe National Historic Trail, Valley Forge National Historical Park, Cumberland Island National Seashore, Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, and Everglades National Park, just to name a few.

Writers and editors also produced two eBooks: one detailing the impacts of climate change on the park system, and another unique and popular guide to help RV enthusiasts navigate the park system's campgrounds.



# THREATENED AND ENDANGERED PARKS

In National Parks Traveler's 3rd Annual Threatened and Endangered Parks report we examined how warming Pacific waters are impacting whales that summer at Glacier Bay National Park and a worrisome mixture of climate change and urban sprawl that is weighing on Saguaro National Park. We also looked at how rising sea levels are impacting Fire Island National Seashore in New York, and how the Chesapeake Bay and the places within the watershed that are managed by the National Park Service are at risk from the effects of climate change, including sea-level rise, and the damage wrought by increasingly severe storms.

# BATTLING INVASIVE SPECIES

A National Parks Traveler Special Project

Mosquitoes that carry viruses deadly to native birds at **Haleakalā National Park**. Reptiles that can grow to four or five feet in length and devour eggs of birds, alligators, crocodiles and turtles at **Everglades National Park**. Plants and trees that can transform landscapes by not just overrunning native vegetation, but also by being more prone to wildfire.

For the past year, Rita Beamish, Kim O'Connell, Lori Sonken, and Patrick Cone worked with *National Parks Traveler* Editor Kurt Repanshek on a series of stories highlighting the threats non-native species pose to the National Park System. They threaten native flora and fauna, impact structures, and cost the National Park Service millions of dollars to battle. In some areas the Park Service is making good progress, in others the challenge is daunting. This project was made possible through the support of Cardno, now Stantec, a global environmental consulting and engineering firm.



# CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change Uncertainties Are A Riddle For The National Park Service's Future Plans

Extreme Weather Events Foreshadow How Predicting And Mitigating Future Climate Disasters Is A Tall Order

Gregor Schuurman started his career studying insects. Then, "The demon climate change comes along," he says, and everything changed. "Very quickly, over the space of a few years, my life became more and more about thinking about climate change. Now, my focus is entirely on climate change," he added.

### Read the story

Changing Climate, Changing Parks

A new eBook, *Changing Climate, Changing Parks*, from the *National Parks Traveler* presents park-by-park examples of how climate change impacts are altering the park system. An anthology built around *Traveler* articles, this eBook tracks impacts to places such as Big Bend National Park, Crater Lake National Park, Everglades National Park, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Mojave National Preserve, Virgin Islands National Park, and Yellowstone National Park.



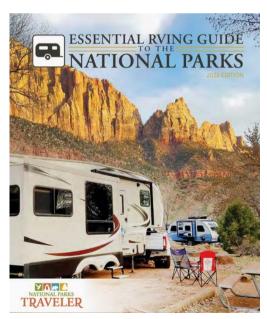
# **ESSENTIAL RVing**

The Essential RVing Guide To The National Parks

Exploring the National Park System by RV is one of the quintessential approaches to visiting national parks, monuments, national recreation areas, and other park system units that combined represent what Wallace Stegner defined as the best idea America ever had.

Out on the road throughout the parks, it's easy to see how he came to believe that. From majestic peaks and raging rivers to deep forests, sinuous canyonlands, and sweeping prairies, the park system preserves many of the best vistas, culture, and history the United States has to offer.

To help RVers explore these lands and destinations, the *National Parks Traveler* editors and writers have sifted through the National Park System and come away with the definitive RVing guide to the parks. This *Essential RVing Guide to the National Parks*. presents RV enthusiasts with a rich collection of articles exploring the park system by RV, camper, or trailer that is supported by a directory packed with RVing specific details on more than 250 campgrounds in more than 70 parks.

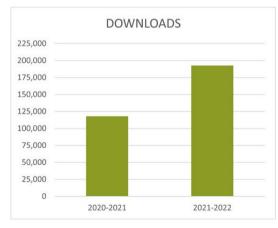


# NATIONAL PARKS TRAVELER PODCAST

Through the past fiscal year the *National Parks Traveler* generated 52 weekly podcasts, along with a growing number of Audio Postcards from the Parks, that attracted widespread listenership.

For the year, the *Traveler's* podcasts were downloaded 192,708 times from listeners in 111 countries. That total represented an increase of 74,559 downloads from Fiscal 2020-2021.

Since the *Traveler* launched its podcast series in February 2019, there have been more than 420,000 downloads, ranking the series in the top 2 percent of the world's 2.9 million active podcasts, according to Listen Notes.



Α	63%	increase!
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Illinois	9,274			
Ohio	7,974			
Pennsylvania	6,352			
Virginia	6,168			
Washington	6,140			
North Carolina	5,856			
Michigan	5,586			





Glen Canyon NRA | Kurt Repanshe

# VEGETATIVE INVADERS IN THE NATIONAL PARKS

GLEN CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA -- Ducking and weaving around branches and avoiding patches of prickly pear cactus, all under a glaring sun in midday heat climbing towards 100° Fahrenheit, the crew scanned the thick vegetation along the Escalante River deep within Glen Canyon National Recreation Area for the showy, silvery leaves of a tree that shouldn't be here.

Though long considered a lovely ornamental able to break the wind, provide shelter from the sun, and slow erosion, Russian olive more recently has been branded a noxious weed on public lands, one that will overrun native willows and cottonwoods that normally crowd riverbanks, and even mute the natural, and needed, floodwaters that monsoonal rainstorms can spur.

### **Read the story**

# CAN CATTLE AND ELK CO-EXIST AT POINT REYES?

POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE --While the San Andreas Fault holds a destructive history up and down California, seismic activity is not what's erupting these days around the riparian habitats, undulating grasslands, and bluffs that rise over the Pacific beaches of Point Reyes National Seashore.



Great Smoky Mountains National Park | Michael Montgomery, USDA Forest Servic

# FOREST KEEPERS

The National Park System is an essential laboratory—and also a battleground—in the management of invasive pests.

GATLINBURG, Tennessee -- It's a misty morning in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Fog laces through the trees on either side of the park road as I head towards my destination, the Twin Creeks Science and Education Center, a National Park Service facility on the park's Tennessee side. All around me is a forest so lush and dense it feels like something out of a fairy tale—a mix of hemlocks, pines, maples, oaks, and countless other species. Inside Twin Creeks, however, a different story is being told, a story of scientists at work: Maps and charts depict vegetation types and different data sets on the park's forest health, and bookshelves are heavy with scientific reports and conference proceedings.

As the park's supervisory forester, Kristine Johnson knows the park's trees pretty well—and not just species, but sometimes individual trees. She was hiking in the park this past summer when she came across a notable Carolina hemlock tree that had fallen. A fellow ranger had already cut the tree to clear the trail and, in doing so, had counted the rings back to 400 years.

"It's not unusual to see hemlocks that are 400, 500 years old," Johnson tells me, adding that eastern hemlocks routinely reach well over 100 feet in height. "The 'redwoods of the East,' they are called."

Unfortunately, these oldest, largest hemlocks are highly vulnerable to a sap-sucking invasive pest called the hemlock woolly adelgid, which was first introduced to the eastern United States on infested horticultural material in the mid-1950s and has now caused extensive tree mortality and decline throughout the eastern species' historic range.



# INNOVATIVE BATTLES AGAINST PARK INVADERS

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS -- With its sharp, hooked bill, the kiwikiu is a master at cracking open branches or berries in pursuit of a plump insect meal. Ironically, this olive green and yellow bird, already on the national endangered species list, risks being pushed into extinction by an insect not originally native to the Hawaiian islands.

The Hawaiian islands once counted more than 50 species of endemic forest birds, but today there are fewer than 17 species, according to the National Park Service, some with fewer than 500 individuals left.

A developing bid to save the species from extinction is just one example of how National Park Service staff is turning to technologies and innovative strategies for combating invasive species that threaten to upend ecosystems, and their native inhabitants, in the National Park System.

## Read the story

# EXPLORING FORBIDDEN SEAS & BARBAROUS COASTS

NEW BEDFORD, Massachusetts -- New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park appears as a small but important memorial to energy industry workers of the past. Whaling ships sailing into and out of port were once as common a sight as today's fuel tanker trucks hauling gas and diesel on interstate highways across the country.

Everglades National Park | Kim O'Conne

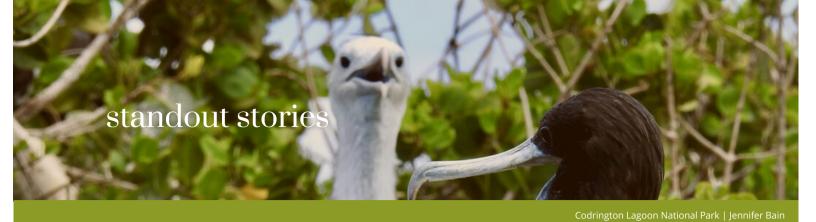
# EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK: GROUND ZERO IN THE BATTLE AGAINST INVASIVE SPECIES

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK -- Poised, statue-like, in the sawgrass, the ivory-white heron might have been resting, or perhaps waiting for its next meal to come within view beneath its spindly legs. Across the way, an anhinga was resting on a tree branch, wings outstretched to catch the morning breeze to dry off. From my overlook on the boardwalk, an alligator drifted silently below through Taylor Slough.

It's impossible in just a handful of days to truly appreciate, and fully comprehend, Everglades National Park, a subtropical wilderness that has endured while much of Florida has been conquered by efforts to drain the swamp. Most of the park -- 1.3 million of the 1.5 million total acreage -- is out of reach to those who stay on the park road that runs from the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center to Flamingo.

Still, driving that road brings into view not only the expansive sweeps of sawgrass prairie and occasional cypress domes, but more of those snowy white birds -- egrets -- great blue herons, red-shouldered hawks, and other birds that savor the marshes, cypress domes, and hardwood hammocks in the park. Birds such as the iconic roseate spoonbills, white ibis, wood storks and many dozens of others.

While much work and billions of dollars have been spent to restore the natural flow of the "river of grass" from Lake Okeechobee to Florida Bay, a rejuvenation that should pay huge benefits to the park's flora and fauna, on-the-ground battles continue against invasive predators that have been robbing the park of its small mammals and nonnative vegetation that has overwhelmed portions of the mesmerizing sawgrass prairie.



# BARBUDA'S SANCTUARY FOR FRIGATEBIRDS

BARBUDA --The mangroves are teeming with pterodactyl-like frigatebirds **nesting awkwardly in the foliage**, sunning themselves, languidly feeding their downy white chicks, trying not to trip over each other, and staring at us with looks that range from absolute indifference to fleeting curiosity.

### Read the story

# TRACING SIR JOHN FRANKLIN'S STEPS

Beechey Island beckons to all those fascinated by the story of Sir John Franklin and his ill-fated crew whose 1845 journey to find the Northwest Passage ended in tragedy and mystery.

To get to this remote part of Nunavut in the Canadian Arctic, you almost certainly need to join an expedition cruise that explores the Northwest Passage. This is where Franklin's expedition overwintered in 1845-1846 despite relatively little protection and near where he became icebound off King William Island the next year.

"It's not necessarily a very mysterious site," allows Russell Potter, an English professor at Rhode Island College and author of Finding Franklin: The Untold Story of a 165-Year Search. "But it is the most visible physical remains of the Franklin Expedition."

# SOME OTHER SIGNIFICANT STORIES

Click any headline to read the story.

Battles With Plastics Pollution Washing Ashore At National Seashores

Coral Reef Overfishing Impacting Biscayne, Dry Tortugas, And Everglades National Parks

Funding Lags for Historic, Cultural Parks Compared to Large, Popular Parks

Yellowstone At 150: Challenges Go More Than Crowd-Deep

Room To Grow? For Parks In The Eastern U.S., More Than You Realize

Funding Imbalance And The National Parks

In Search Of Reasonable Housing For National Park Service Employees

Coral Disease Represents Ecological Crisis On Par With 1988 Yellowstone Fires

Giant Sequoias Are No Stranger To Fire

Traveler Special Report: Drought Carries Crippling Economic Impacts



# OUR COMMITMENT TO READERS

A commitment the *Traveler* made to its readers in the past year was to highlight overlooked gems of the National Park System. You know, those park system units not called Yellowstone or Acadia, that are located in flyover country, overlooked in metropolitan areas, and those that just don't get much media attention.

Among those we highlighted with coverage were:

The Santa Fe National Historic Trail Cumberland Gap National Historical Park Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site Tuskeegee Airmen National Historic Site Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site lean Lafitte National Historic Site Hopewell Culture National Historic Site First State Historical Park Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site Bandelier National Monument **Gulf Islands National Seashore** Cumberland Island National Seashore Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument Nicodemus National Historic Site Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument Salem Maritime National Historic Site Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument Minidoka National Historic Site **Boston National Historical Park** New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park

# 99% RECOMMEND THE TRAVELER

A survey of readers in May 2022 showed that a strong majority (85%) came to the *Traveler* for its news content. Along that line, nearly 60 percent wanted to see more news items on the home page, while 35.6 percent voiced interest in more features.

In terms of news, the respondents expressed a desire for more coverage from Midwestern and Southern units of the National Park System, more science articles from the parks, and more travel-related content.

"More in-depth features on politics, park protection/conservation, education in parks. Love the deep dives," noted one respondent.

Readership was well spread throughout the country, with 22 percent from the West, 23 percent from the Southeast, 18 percent from the Midwest, 16 percent from the Southwest, and 15.6 percent from the Northeast.

And 99 percent of the respondents said they would recommend the site to a friend.



Mount Rainier National Park | Rebecca Latso

STATEMENT
OF ACTIVITY

July 2021 - June 2022

\*Preliminary figures

		Total
Revenue		
Direct Public Support		0.00
Individ, Business Contributions		117,820.56
Total Direct Public Support	\$	117,820.56
Other Types of Income		0.00
Miscellaneous Revenue		17,498.74
Total Other Types of Income	\$	17,498.74
Total Revenue	\$	135,319.30
Gross Profit	\$	135,319.30
Expenditures		,
Business Expenses		0.00
Business Registration Fees		270.00
Other Business Expenses		106.38
Total Business Expenses	\$	376.38
Contract Services		0.00
Accounting Fees		4,415.55
Outside Contract Services		69,983.72
Total Contract Services	\$	74,399.27
Operations		0.00
Postage, Mailing Service		1,603.12
Printing and Copying		606.03
Supplies		236.90
Total Operations	\$	2,446.05
Other Types of Expenses		0.00
Insurance - Liability, D and O		4,760.00
Total Other Types of Expenses	\$	4,760.00
Payroll Expenses		45,972.68
Travel and Meetings		920.58
Travel		2,285.75
Travel Meals		554.41
Total Travel and Meetings	\$	3,760.74
Total Expenditures		131,715.12
Net Operating Revenue	\$	3,604.18
Net Revenue		3,604.18

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