



National Park Service: Government Shutdown & Continued Funding Cuts



The Government Shutdown and Continued Reduced Funding Levels Threaten Park Resources, Visitors and Park-Dependent Businesses

The government shutdown has made a bad situation even worse for our national parks and the people who rely on them, after three straight years of cuts including the damaging sequester. With the government shutdown, all 401 national park units have closed, overnight guests vacated, visitors turned away at entrance gates, and over 21,000 National Park Service (NPS) employees furloughed. The closure of our nation's parks impact local businesses and communities as well. Every day the parks are closed, our analysis indicates that NPS loses 750,000 visitors per day who normally spend more than \$30 million per day in local economies during the month of October.

While the government shutdown must end, the threat of the budget impasse to our national parks will almost certainly continue. If a short-term budget deal is secured that continue sequester levels, national parks will continue to be impacted. Parks have already been making do with less, with a park service budget last year that was already 15% below a decade ago in today's dollars and an annual operations shortfall that is more than a half billion dollars. Prior to the shutdown, recent cuts to national parks closed visitor centers, picnic areas, and campgrounds at some parks throughout the country. Additionally, superintendents were unable to fill vacant positions so that needed work was not getting done to prevent deterioration of facilities, protect resources, and serve national parks' nearly 300 million annual visitors.

We ask Congress and the President to unify around a complete solution for our national parks and the American people, reopen our government and cancel the sequester.

Americans want our national parks open and they want them adequately funded. Polling shows that 9 in 10 Americans – Republican, Democrat and Independent – agree that park funding should not be further cut.

For the impacts of the shutdown on the National Park Service and surrounding communities, visit NPCA's website npca.org/shutdown

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Impacts of Shutdown on National Park Service: All 401 national park sites are closed. Education programs and special events canceled, permits issued for special activities repealed, park hotels and campgrounds vacated and entrances secured. NPS roads have been closed except those that are necessary thruways. 86% of NPS staff have been furloughed (21,379 of 24,645), [according to DOI 2013 Contingency Plan](#). Only skeleton crews remain as the most essential to protect life and property, including law enforcement and disaster assistance and some emergency medical care.

A Few Examples of Impacts of the Sequester and Shutdown throughout the Country:

Acadia National Park (Maine)

The closure of Acadia comes on top of reduced operations due to the recent sequester with the loss of 12 seasonal positions, reduced seasons for 31 other staff members, and the inability to fill 18 originally permanent but now vacant positions. Additionally, Bar Harbor businesses experienced as much as a 30% loss in April and May during the recent sequester cuts. The shutdown has reduced staff to only a few and canceled a variety of events including two weddings, and the potential for continuing cuts worries local businesses who were impacted by the sequester.

Glacier National Park (Montana)

The recent shutdown closed all access points to the Park impacting as many as 1,750 visitors per day that come to see the fall foliage and golden autumn larch. This on top of the recent sequester cuts that caused the park's visitor centers to open 2 weeks late, and campgrounds 3 weeks late, affecting visitor numbers and park revenue.

Cuyahoga Valley National Park (Ohio)

The government shutdown has closed roads, visitor stations, parking lots, bathrooms and the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad. Only one law enforcement, one maintenance, and one water quality employee remain at the park. The Fall Running Series was postponed and an upcoming autumn hike will likely be canceled. As many as 6,000 visitors per day will likely be impacted.

Everglades National Park (Florida)

Recent sequester cuts caused the park to not fill 17 vacant permanent positions including deputy superintendent, chief law enforcement ranger, wildlife biologist, and water scientist that provide a variety of services and programs including patrols, threatened and endangered species monitoring, public interaction with wildlife. Over 2,200 visitors who spend on average \$275,000 per day are expected to be impacted by the shutdown.

For additional cuts throughout the country, see our website at npca.org/shutdown.

We have to do more than keep parks open. We need to adequately fund the places that protect our American heritage and draw tourists from throughout the world. National parks already suffer from an annual operations shortfall of more than half a billion dollars and a maintenance backlog that is now almost \$12 billion—they cannot afford more cuts. Making continuous cuts to national parks budgets (which are less than one fifteenth of one percent of the budget) will not make a difference and will hurt our parks.

National parks support more than \$30 billion in economic activity each year and more than a quarter million jobs. National Parks are a third of the top 25 domestic travel locations.

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