



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

Order No. 3426

Subject: Ensuring National Parks Are Open and Accessible

Sec. 1. **Purpose.** This Order is intended to ensure that all national parks and national historic sites, which are managed by the Department of the Interior (Department), remain open and accessible for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people and to ensure that the National Park Service (NPS) will provide the best customer service experience for all visitors.

Sec. 2. **Background.** The NPS mission is to preserve the natural and cultural resources of America's national parks for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of current and future generations. NPS works with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

NPS welcomed more than 331 million visitors last year, through the work and dedication of more than 20,000 employees and nearly 300,000 volunteers. NPS manages 433 individual park units and 63 national parks, covering more than 85 million acres in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories.

The Department and NPS are committed to ensuring that all Americans have the opportunity to visit and enjoy our Nation's most treasured places.

Sec. 3. **Authorities.** Among the authorities for this Order are the National Park Service Organic Act of 1916, as amended, 54 U.S.C. 100101, *et seq.*, which states that "the Secretary, acting through the Director of the National Park Service, shall promote and regulate the use of the National Park System by means and measures that conform to the fundamental purpose of the System units, which purpose is to conserve the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife in the System units and to provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

Under the authority of section 2 of the Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1950, "the Secretary of the Interior may from time to time make such provisions as he shall deem appropriate authorizing the performance by any other officer, or by any agency or employee, of the Department of the Interior of any function of the Secretary, including any function transferred to the Secretary by the provisions of this reorganization plan."

Sec. 4. **Policy.** The NPS Director will ensure that all park units remain open and accessible to the American public during the specified hours of operation posted on the respective park units' public webpages at <https://www.nps.gov/findapark/>.

To ensure visitor access and satisfaction, any closures or reductions to operating hours, seasons, or any visitor services (including trails and campgrounds), in whole or in part, must be reviewed by the NPS Director and the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks prior to any reduction action by the individual park units.

The Department shall take action to ensure that NPS is properly staffed to support the operating hours and needs of each park unit.

Sec. 5. Implementation.

- a. Effective immediately, the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, in consultation with the NPS Director, will review the hours of operation for each park unit, including the proposed closure or limitation of visitor services (including trails and campgrounds) and will ensure alignment with this Order.
- b. A report of the operating hours, seasons, closures or reductions of visitor services (including trails and campgrounds), and staffing of each park unit should be provided to the Assistant Secretary – Policy, Management and Budget and the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks within 10 days of issuance of this Order.
- c. The Assistant Secretary – Policy, Management and Budget and the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks will provide a report on the operational status of each park unit to the Secretary of the Interior within 15 days of issuance of this Order, and every quarter thereafter.
- d. Upon receipt, the Department will review and assess the reports.

Sec. 6. Expiration Date. This Order is effective immediately and will remain in effect until its provisions are implemented or until it is amended, superseded, or revoked, whichever comes first. The termination of this Order will not nullify implementation of the requirements and responsibilities effected herein.



Secretary of the Interior

Date: **APR 03 2025**