

# Newsletter

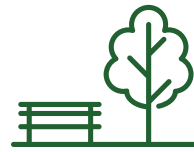
Week 21, 2023



This week's message is simple.  
From everyone at the Institute:

**HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY**

## FEATURED PARK



Photos and facts of  
your favorite parks,  
one issue at a time

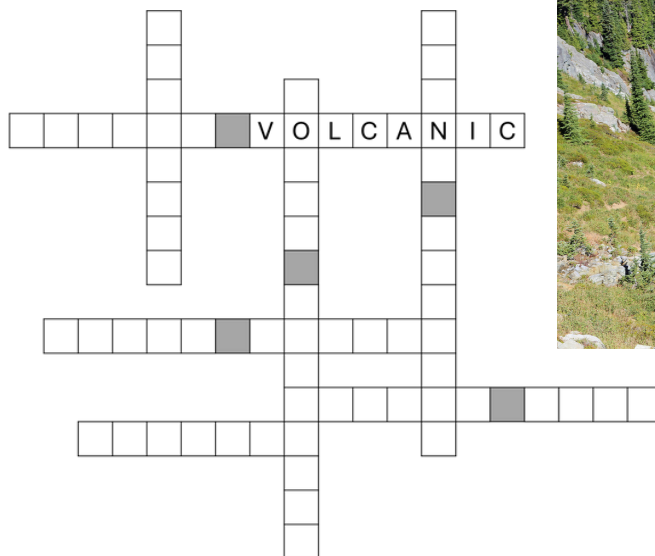
### Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail California, Oregon, and Washington



**FACT 1:** In addition to traversing numerous state parks, tribal lands, county parks, and national monuments on its path from Mexico to Canada, the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT) passes through:

## 25 National Forests

**FACT 2:** The PCT also crosses *seven National Parks!*  
But can you name them all?  
(helpful hint provided)



Nominate *your* favorite local, state, or national park [here](#) so our subscribers can learn about it.

# PARK PERKS



Visualizing key research to show why parks matter

A recent incident at Yellowstone National Park involving a bison calf has highlighted how, even today, human interaction impacts once thriving bison populations. So this week, we will review just how important national lands are to the conservation of the *National Mammal of the United States*. Wildlife biologists estimate that bison populations once ranged from 30-60 million animals across North America. By the 1800's, fewer than one thousand bison remained. Today, between 400,000 and 500,000 bison are currently raised as livestock in the US, but wild bison herd populations vary year-to-year and are only periodically inventoried.

In 2017, researchers published their bison population assessment for the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) *Red List of Threatened Species*. The assessment found roughly 31,000 bison being managed for conservation purposes across 68 herds in the US and Canada. 30 of the smallest herds are managed only for education, research, and public viewing purposes. Six of the largest free-range herds, totaling roughly 12,000 bison, are anchored by national public lands - those of either the US Department of Interior or Parks Canada. These national agencies also manage another 13 sizable range-restricted herds. This means that *National Parks, Refuges, and Sanctuaries* support **over 52%** of the continent's remaining wild bison.

## American Bison Distribution

Total managed for conservation: 31,000



Herds anchored by national public lands



Herds anchored by state, tribal, or private lands

\* Managed for education, research, and public viewing

## PLAYGROUND

Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail crossword answer key:

