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The Coalition To Protect America's National Parks

Voices of Experience - Advocating The Protection of America's National Park System

In October, we kicked off the Coalition's annual giving drive. Please consider making a year-end gift towards the organization's work. We're proud of what we've been able to do this year and are eager to build on a strong foundation for the Service's Centennial. To donate, please visit our website's donate page @ <http://protectnps.org/?p=13>

Former Asst Dir Tom Ross and Deputy Interior Secretary Mike Connor participated in a media event at Antietam Battlefield urging reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The LWCF expired on 9/30 and has not been reauthorized. The Coalition followed up with a news release. The LWCF is an essential and highly successful program dating back to 1965. It “reinvests” a small portion of the revenues derived from off shore oil drilling back into the acquisition of national park sites and other critical national needs for conservation and recreation. In addition, through matching grants it enables state and local governments to acquire and develop close to home recreational opportunities that serve millions of Americans day in and day out.

We updated the Issues Summary on the Coalition's website. The update is available at: <http://protectnps.org/?p=2723>

The Coalition and Park Rangers for Our Lands filed an amicus curiae brief with the State Supreme Court of Utah in a lawsuit involving R.S. 2477, an 1866 mining law that included language allowing roads to be built on Federal lands for the purpose of the public crossing the country. An overview of the brief is available at: <http://protectnps.org/?p=2759>

The Coalition and several other organizations sent a joint letter to Congress opposing H.R. 974/Yellowstone and Grand Teton Paddling Act. The letter urged Congress to keep Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks' rivers and streams protected and oppose Rep. Lummis' proposed amendment to H.R. 974. The bill, as written, would lift existing restrictions

on hand-propelled vessels in most of Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. The letter is available at: <http://protectnps.org/?p=2764>

On October 23, the NPS issued a final rule amending its regulations for sport hunting and trapping in national preserves in Alaska. In November 2014, the Coalition submitted comments that were strongly supportive of the NPS proposed rule as written: <http://protectnps.org/?p=1978> The rule prohibits certain harvest activities in national preserves that would otherwise be allowed under State law, including the taking of any black bear, including cubs and sows with cubs, with artificial light at den sites; taking brown bears and black bears over bait; taking wolves and coyotes during the denning season; using dogs to hunt black bears; and harvest of swimming caribou or taking caribou from a motorboat while under power.

At the request of Travel+Leisure Magazine, Exec Council Member David Barna drafted an article titled "[The Best National Parks for Retirees](#)".

At the request of the NPS International Affairs Office, David Barna gave a presentation on US National Parks at the 1st International Conference on Family Holidays, in Barcelona, Spain.

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