

**Coalition Briefs - September 2015**[View this email in your browser](#)

## The Coalition To Protect America's National Parks

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

### **Amy Gilbert as Executive Director**

The Coalition announced that Amy Gilbert has been hired as the Executive Director. Prior to joining the Coalition, Gilbert served as the Senior Officer of Communications Partnerships for the United Nations Foundation where she built and managed strategic communications relationships on behalf of the organization, including partnerships with major brands, marketing partners and individual supporters. Gilbert worked as a seasonal National Park Service ranger for seven years. She was an interpretive ranger at Arlington House, the Robert E. Lee Memorial. In addition, she worked at the Interior Department on projects related to the 2016 NPS Centennial, as well as served on the board of the Association of National Park Rangers. As the Executive Director, Gilbert will provide for the day-to-day operation of the Coalition's activities.

### **Big Cypress National Preserve (BICY) Litigation**

On August 10, the Coalition filed a 37 page Amicus brief with the U.S. District Court (11<sup>th</sup> circuit) related to the lawsuit involving the 2011 Big Cypress National Preserve Addition General Management Plan, Wilderness Study, and ORV Management Plan. The brief focuses on legal concerns regarding the Court's ruling that the NPS Organic Act's conservation mandate "was tweaked by the subsequent Preserve Act and the Addition Act, both of which required multiple use management." The ruling is inconsistent with well-established Organic Act case law that when there is a conflict between conserving resources and values and providing for enjoyment of them, conservation is to be predominant.

### **Cape Hatteras Off Road Vehicle Comments**

The National Defense Authorization Act for 2015 required the NPS to consider certain changes in the 2012 Final Rule for off-road vehicle (ORV) management at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. ORV supporters were successful in pushing through a "Cape Hatteras amendment" The amendment requires the Secretary of Interior to review and modify the size and duration of buffers that protect wildlife nesting areas on seashore beaches. The bill also requires that NPS consider other changes in the final ORV rule that would increase ORV access at the Seashore. The Coalition submitted comments on this issue.

### **Other Items of Interest**

Long time Coalition member and Advisory Board Coalition member Deny Galvin wrote an Op-Ed titled, "The National Park System: Why it should continue to grow." It was published in August by National Parks Traveler.

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