262 Former and Current NPS Employees Sign Letter Requesting Funding of $11.3 Billion Maintenance Backlog

The Coalition recently sent Congress a letter signed by 262 former and current employees of the National Park Service. These Coalition members and National Park Service professionals came together to request funding for the National Park Service’s $11.3 billion maintenance backlog.

Thank you to our members who signed this letter and united in order to make their voices of experience heard in advocating for maintenance backlog funding!

Please click below to read our full letter to Congress.

Op-Ed: The Importance of Maine’s New National Monument

Interior Secretary Zinke’s recent visit to Maine to see Katahdin Woods and Waters
Coalition Formally Protests Eagle Crest Gen-Tie Project to Protect Joshua Tree

Coalition Testimony Before the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

260 Former and Current NPS Employees Sign Letter in Opposition of Trump’s Recent Executive Order

Success Story: BLM Defers on Oil and Gas Leasing Near Zion NP

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What We’re Reading This Month

Video of the Month: The True

National Monument is a good exercise of his role as chief steward of our nation’s national parks and monuments. But contemplating reduction or elimination of our public land is not.

Click below to see the op-ed by Coalition executive council member Sheridan Steele in the Bangor Daily News.

Read the Op-Ed

Coalition Statement in Response to Zinke’s Action on Bears Ears National Monument

The Coalition is deeply disappointed to see Secretary Zinke’s proposal for President Trump to reduce the size of Bears Ears National Monument. Such an action would undermine the ability of the land managing agencies to assure the proper care and management of the important natural and cultural resources protected by this National Monument.

Click below to see the Coalition’s full statement.

Read Our Statement

Coalition Comments on Trump Executive Order for Reorganizing Executive Branch

The White House has solicited public comments on how to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability of agencies
within the executive branch of the Federal government. We believe key reforms are needed to ensure the long-term success of the NPS.

Click below to see the Coalition’s comments.

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**Coalition Formally Protests Eagle Crest Gen-Tie Project to Protect Joshua Tree**

On June 3, 2017, the Coalition joined the National Parks Conservation Association and The Defenders of Wildlife to submit to the Bureau of Land Management a formal protest regarding the Eagle Crest Energy Gen-Tie and Water Supply Pipeline Project.

Click below to read the full letter.

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**Testimony Before the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources**

On June 7, 2017, Maria Burks represented the Coalition to Protect America’s National Parks in testifying to the United States Senate Subcommittee on National Parks, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources during a hearing to examine opportunities for “Moving into a Second Century of Service: Working to Improve the National Park Service Workplace Environment.”
260 Former and Current NPS Employees Sign Letter in Opposition of Trump’s Recent Executive Order

Earlier this month, the Coalition sent Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke a letter signed by 260 former and current employees of the National Park Service. These Park Service professionals came together to advocate for the importance of protecting parks and public lands, and to emphasize the role that the Antiquities Act has played in building that legacy. Thank you to our members who signed this letter!

Click below to read the full letter to Secretary Zinke.

Success Story: BLM Defers on Oil and Gas Leasing Near Zion NP

Citing the many public concerns expressed about proposed oil and gas leasing on three parcels near Zion National Park, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced it would indefinitely defer on issuing leases for those three parcels.

Click below to read and watch her full testimony.

http://mailchi.mp/c18a0ce4535/july-brief?e=04dfe2d504
What We're Reading This Month

- Must read research! "The Economic Importance of National Monuments to Communities" is a new report by Headwaters Economics released this past month. From the report, "The updated 2017 results—like the earlier studies in 2011 and 2014—found that the local economies surrounding all 17 of the national monuments studied expanded following the creation of the new national monuments." Read the full report by clicking this link.

- Did you celebrate World Sea Turtle Day on June 16th? Celebrate today by watching this short video of a baby sea turtle release at Padre Island National Seashore by clicking this link.

- Executive council member Maria Burks was quoted in an article this past month in The Missoulian: "Burks said the kind of face-to-face training that works best with workplace reform is going to be difficult as travel budgets are cut. Trump has suggested a $400 million cut to the National Parks budget, though Congress will ultimately determine federal government funding. Burks said budget cuts made in the 1990s still hurt NPS. A lack of human resource workers in the field has made it difficult for harassed NPS employees to report workplace problems." Read the full article by clicking this link.

- Check out these tips from the Department of the Interior for viewing the 2017 total solar eclipse on public lands by clicking this link.

- Don't miss the Coalition mentioned in a recent article titled "Utah Lands Transfer Advocate: Don't Expect Bears Ears Repeal" from Environment & Energy's Greenwire. Read the article by clicking this link.

Video of the Month: The True Heart of Winter
As the only national park with a working kennel of sled dogs, Denali National Park and Preserve is incredibly proud of its canine rangers and has unveiled a new video that spotlights the vital role these dogs have in park operations.

The "The True Heart of Winter" was created as an update to the 1999 "Winter Patrol" movie featuring Denali’s sled dogs. There are many aspects of the sled dogs' work in Denali that have not changed since 1922, when the first Superintendent purchased seven sled dogs. In honor of Denali’s 100th birthday this year, we realized it was a great time to update the story of the sled dogs and highlight their important function within the park.

Click here to read more and to watch the video.