Success Story: Mojave National Preserve Protected by San Bernardino County Decision to Deny Permits for Soda Mountain Solar Project

On August 23, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors denied issuance of key discretionary permits for the Soda Mountain Solar project under the California Environmental Quality Act. Soda Mountain Solar is proposed to occur less than a mile from Mojave National Preserve, where it would cause major unmitigated impacts to the preserve and the surrounding desert region. The County’s decision marks a major
setback for the industrial scale solar proposal and a major victory for the broad range of individuals and organizations that have adamantly opposed this project, considered to be one of the most controversial renewable energy projects in the country.

The Coalition stood united with the National Park Service, several conservation organizations, thousands of San Bernardino County residents, and local San Bernardino County communities in requesting that the San Bernardino County deny the project, and value the scenic beauty, ecological diversity, and recreational and economic importance of Mojave National Preserve.

Click below to read more about this recent success.

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compliance may be limited to an Environmental Assessment - Findings of No Significant Impact for a decision that will inevitably have very significant consequences to park resources, and quite likely national implications. Addressing and resolving an issue of this significance clearly requires an EIS, and must be informed by the most comprehensive science available.

Click below to read the Coalition’s letter to the incoming superintendent.

Regulation on Native American Plant Collection

The new rule provides greater leverage and bargaining power to those who want to take park resources. The Coalition offered substantial comment on the proposed amendments that were published in the Federal Register on April 20, 2015.

Click below to see Coalition’s letter to Director John Jarvis urging the strongest possible guidance and support from national NPS leadership to assure that park managers limit the scope of plant removal, implement rigorous and appropriate application of NEPA guidelines.

Welcome to our new members!

This past month, the Coalition welcomed 4 new members, bringing total membership to 1,164.

Membership Update

NPS Centennial Biography Series, September 2016

John Christiano
Read his story here.

Read Our Letter to Director Jarvis
Membership Survey

To help us improve our membership services, we hope you take ten minutes to fill out the Coalition to Protect America’s National Parks’ membership survey.

The survey will be closing on September 8, 2016.

After you complete the survey, you will be eligible to win a $25 gift card from Amazon for your participation. To enter, you must provide your contact information where asked on page 10 of the survey. This information will be separated from your other responses (which are anonymous).

Thank you for your time in filling out this survey and for your membership.

Take the Membership Survey

Park Institute of America:
New Article & Video

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“[National Parks] are places that inspire us, places where we get refreshed by being in nature. . . I think we need to make a better case that our parks need more resources, more love, more attention; we need more of them. And I think this centenary year is a way of celebrating all the things national parks do for us.” -Stuart Pimm, Doris Duke Professor of Conservation Ecology at Duke University & lead science advisor for the Park Institute of America.

Don’t miss this article, titled “Protecting the Legacy of Our National Parks,” and the article’s accompanying video, about the Park Institute of America published August 23, 2016 in Duke Today.

Read the full article and watch the video here or by clicking below.

Read the Full Article & Watch the Video
"NPS parks and programs strive to tell our diverse stories, allowing us to learn from the past and help write our country's next great chapters. In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, let us thank all those who, through their dedication to the mission of the NPS, help our country build on the legacy left by all those who came before us."

Read President Barack Obama's Presidential Proclamation in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service.
Read the full Proclamation here.

"If anything could mitigate the current divisions roiling our country, I believe our National Park system would be that thing. The power of our national parks to inform, inspire, heal and build community can hardly be overstated—if you are among those privileged to know them."

Don't miss this important article, "Vital Questions Must Be Answered on the Eve of Park Service Centennial," by Audrey Peterman in The Huffington Post.
Read the article here.

"When The Nature Conservancy asked Seattle-based photographer Nick Hall to visit five parks for a photo essay celebrating the National Park Service centennial, he jumped at the chance. Hall traversed the country from California to Maine to showcase a range of America’s most treasured landscapes, including Sequoia, Bryce Canyon, Rocky Mountain, Biscayne and Acadia national parks."
Check out the full post, "Outtakes: Five Unique National Parks," and see Nick Hall's stunning photos by visiting the link below.
Read the article here.

"Yeah, We're Beautiful," a Video from the National Park Service
Click here to watch, "Yeah, We're Beautiful," a moving video celebrating relevancy, diversity, and inclusion in the National Park Service.

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