

Coalition Briefs
February 2019

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**THE COALITION TO PROTECT
AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS**
 ————— VOICES OF EXPERIENCE —————

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What a Year!

2018 was an incredible year for the Coalition, thanks in large part to our active and generous members. Thank you so much for all of your support and engagement. Click below to read a full update on the actions and events of 2018 in our annual newsletter. Members should expect to see this in their mailbox this month!

Newsletter

Shutdown Impacts Survey

A few weeks ago, we asked our members to get into the parks and survey the impacts of the recent partial government shutdown. Thanks so much to those of you who volunteered to check-in on the parks.

This Land is Our Land

115th Congress

What We're Reading and Tracking

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Membership Update

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This survey data will inform upcoming Congressional testimony, and is being used in collaboration with our elected officials and partners to follow up on the impacts of the shutdown. We are still consolidating all of the information, but click below for our recent press release on some of the documented impacts thus far. We will release the full survey summary next week, on our website and via social media.

Shutdown PR

Advocacy Training Webinar

The Coalition hosted two webinars focused on advocacy training. Both sessions were well-attended and well-received! If you missed the webinar, you can find all of the information from the session, in addition to our advocacy toolkit, on the website.

Webinar Information

Coalition Weighed in on Government Shutdown

As the partial government shutdown dragged on, the Coalition continued to call for an end to the shutdown, and a complete closure of our parks until the government reopened and the parks were fully staffed.

We joined with our partners to issue [this](#) statement, urging President Trump to close units of the National Wildlife Refuge System, the National Parks, and other public lands, until sufficient funding was available to ensure there was no irreparable harm to our

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Membership Update

The Coalition's membership currently stands at **1,662** members.

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nation's conservation heritage. The Coalition also sent a letter to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, urging him to reopen the government. Click below to read the full text.

Letter To Senator McConnell

Coalition Testifies Before Congress

Coalition Executive Council Member Richard Ring testified before the Democratic Steering & Policy Committee in the House of Representatives on the impact of the federal government shutdown on the National Park System and the National Park Service. Read his full statement below.

Statement of Richard Ring

In the Media

The Coalition was a very visible presence throughout the shutdown. Coalition Chair Phil Francis was quoted in [this article](#) about closing national parks in the *Citizen Times* and [this piece](#) about the impacts of the shutdown on national parks. He also appeared in a TV interview at Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Click below to view.

Interview with Phil Francis

The Real Shutdown Charade

Executive Council Member Mark Butler published an Op-ed in *The Washington Post* on the impacts of the shutdown at Joshua Tree and the current administration's culpability in the destruction to our national parks. Click below to read.

Op-ed

Coalition Urges Passage of HR 266

As members of the National Parks Second Century Action Coalition, the Coalition joined the call for Congressional representatives to support H.R. 266, the FY19 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

HR 266 Letter

DOI and Postpoing Lease Sales

In partnership with numerous environmental and land management organizations, CPANP urged Acting Secretary Bernhardt to postpone the March oil and gas lease sales and cease all permitting activities during the partial government shutdown. Read the full text of the letter below.

Letter on Postponement of Leases

Proposed FOIA Changes

The Coalition joined 146 other groups, including The Southern Environmental Law

Center, The Wilderness Society, National Wildlife Federation, and the Sierra Club in submitting comments on proposed changes to FOIA that, if adopted, would severely undermine government transparency, violate FOIA, and limit important public rights guaranteed by statute. Click below to read the full comments.

FOIA Comments

In Defense of the Carnivores

Our most recent blog post comes from Coalition member Sandy Rabinowich, whose work on hunting regulations in Alaska is a topic in which the Coalition is actively involved. Click below to read Sandy's blog post and access a few links to more in-depth articles.

This Land is Our Land

115th Congress Wrap-Up

For your reading pleasure...here's a summary of all the national park and related laws enacted in the 115th Congress (2017 -2019).

List of Laws

What We're Reading & Tracking This Month

Sierra Magazine published an article that discusses ongoing NPS research related to understanding the impacts of global warming on forests in the Northeastern U.S. Read the article [here](#).

With former oil and gas lobbyist David Bernhardt at the helm, Interior Department is ramping up efforts to permit new drilling. Keep up with the latest using [this tracker](#) which highlights new drilling permit approvals and applications processed by the Bureau of Land Management during the government shutdown.

Free Solo, the documentary chronicling Alex Honnold's attempt to free solo El Capitan in Yosemite NP, has been nominated for Best Documentary Feature at the 91st Academy Awards. If you haven't seen it yet, now's a the time! Read about it [here](#) and tune in on February 24 to see if Free Solo climbs to the top!

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Our mailing address is:

201 I Street, NE #805
Washington, DC 20002

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