

Coalition Briefs
March 2019

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

In This Brief

Concerns over Bernhardt Nomination

Bernhardt
Nomination

The Coalition has expressed concern over the nomination of David Bernhardt for Secretary of the Interior. He was a lobbyist for oil and gas interests before assuming his position as Deputy Secretary of Interior under Ryan Zinke. As Zinke's deputy, Bernhardt worked against environmental protection laws and demonstrated a clear bias toward the extractive industries, many of whom happened to be his former clients. Bernhardt is not the Secretary of the Interior that we need. Read the full statement below.

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Testified before Congress in February. Coalition Chair Phil Francis, who was quoted in [this](#) recent article from *The Hill*, testified about the use of fee money during the government shutdown and losses sustained by the parks. The full testimony can be found [here](#). Richard Ring testified about the needs of the National Park System as we look towards the FY 2020 budget cycle. Click the link below to read his full testimony.

Congressional Testimony

Shutdown Impact Summary

We've released the full summary of our shutdown impact survey, undertaken by members of the Coalition. This information was not only of interest to numerous media outlets (click [here](#) to read about some of the media coverage) but informed Congressional testimony about the shutdown's impact on parks and NPS employees. Thanks again to our members who got into the parks and conducted these surveys!

Shutdown Impact Survey Results

LWCF Advocacy

There has been a lot of action and advocacy surrounding the Land and Water Conservation Fund. With permanent reauthorization on the table, the Coalition has been a loud and passionate voice in defense of this critical public lands fund. This excellent op-ed (found [here](#)) by former NPS Director Jon Jarvis provides excellent

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Membership Update

The Coalition's membership currently stands at **1,697** members.

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background on LWCF and its significance. Click below to read the Coalition's statement of support for LWCF.

Statement on LWCF

And Then The Good News for Public Lands

The Coalition, partners, and supporters of parks and public lands had reason to celebrate this month. Our advocacy efforts paid off, as the Natural Resources Management Act passed both the House and Senate. S. 47 permanently reauthorizes LWCF and protects over 2 million acres of national parks and public lands. The legislation now heads to the President's desk for signature. Click [here](#) to read our statement on the Senate passage and click below to read our statement on House passage.

House Passage of Public Lands Act

This Land is Our Land

If you haven't seen them yet, we have two new blog posts up this month. One post looks at the critical and unseen impacts of the government shutdown. The other gives a easily digestible rundown of our thoughts on the FY 2020 budget. Click below to check out the blog.

To the Blog

What We're Reading & Tracking This Month

Free Solo, the documentary chronicling Alex Honnold's attempt to free solo El Capitan has won an Academy Award for Best Documentary! Haven't seen it? You can catch it free on the National Geographic Channel on Monday, March 3. Details [here](#).

Climbing scientists look at ice core samples from Alaska, which helps determine the window for climbing season but also contributes to the vast amount of research demonstrating the reality of global warming. The full story [here](#) from Alaska Public Radio.

103-year-old Rose Torphy becomes the oldest-ever Junior Ranger at Grand Canyon National Park (which, by the way, is three years younger than Rose). Full story [here](#).

Here's a fun little story and piece of trivia from our partners at NPCA. Do you know which state was the last to get its own national park site? Answers [here](#). Enjoy!

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