

Coalition Briefs  
April 2019

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# THE COALITION TO PROTECT AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS

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VOICES OF EXPERIENCE

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## Success Story: James River Powerlines

Persistence pays off and we have some good news to celebrate. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia reversed a lower court's decision and ruled that the Army Corps of Engineers acted improperly in allowing the Dominion Energy Co. to construct a massive powerline crossing the James River at Jamestown, Virginia, without preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. The Coalition's amicus brief was cited in the ruling as well, further demonstrating that persistence and advocacy really do work. Click [here](#) to read our success story and click the box below to read more from National Park Traveler.

NPT Article on James River  
Powerlines

Update

## A Bad Budget

Website Links

President Trump's proposed FY 2020 budget calls for a 14.9% cut to the National Park Service's budget, which would greatly undermine the ability of the NPS to ensure that our precious natural and cultural resources are protected and preserved. It also virtually eliminates the Land and Water Conservation Fund, one of America's best conservation programs that was permanently reauthorized by Congress with broad bipartisan backing. Click the box below to read Coalition Chair Phil Francis' statement on the budget.

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### CPANP Statement on Trump's Proposed Budget

### Bernhardt's Nomination is a Threat to our National Parks

The Coalition sent a letter to every Senator, opposing the nomination of David Bernhardt for Secretary of the Interior. Mr. Bernhardt has a conspicuous record of anti-conservation and anti-park decisions and has recently been named by the Center for American Progress as the "most conflicted" member of the president's cabinet in his role as acting Secretary of the Interior. We believe Mr. Bernhardt poses a serious threat to the good stewardship of parks and, indeed, our national heritage. Read our full letter below.

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### Bernhardt Nomination Letter

Advocacy Efforts

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## Membership Update

The Coalition's  
membership  
currently stands  
at **1,652**  
members.

## Website Links

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The nomination of David Bernhardt for Secretary of the Interior has provided an important opportunity to advocate on behalf of our public lands and national parks. Several Coalition members have written and submitted op eds expressing opposition to the nomination of Mr. Bernhardt. Click [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#) to read op eds from the *Times Record* in Maine, *The Colorado Sun*, and the *Gazette-Mail* in West Virginia. Click below to read an op ed placed in the *Arizona Daily Star*

## Op Ed from the Arizona Daily Star

### Oxon Cove Park Must Be Protected

The Coalition recently submitted a letter to Congress asking for language in the FY 2020 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act that would prohibit the Department of the Interior from using any funds to sell, exchange, lease, or transfer Oxon Cove Park in Prince William County, Maryland. While Oxon Cove Park may not be known throughout the country, it is an important local park resource in a minority community. Click the box below to read more.

### Letter on Oxon Cove Park

## We Need Proper NEPA Analysis for ACP

The Coalition sent a letter to Acting NPS Director Dan Smith regarding the environmental review of the proposed

Atlantic Coast Pipeline. This pipeline will cross the Blue Ridge Parkway, a National Park System unit, and a segment of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail that the Fourth Circuit recently held falls under NPS's jurisdiction. Click the box below to read our full letter, expressing our concerns.

## ACP Letter

### What We're Reading & Tracking This Month

The Department of Interior rule-making is making it more difficult for the public to nominate historic properties, particularly cultural landscapes, for the National Register of Historic Places. A series of proposed changes would slow down national register nominations at a landscape scale, particularly those that include a mix of federal and other land ownership, and for those owners of large tracts of land. Read more about these proposed changes and other issues in [this](#) current edition of *Living Landscape Observer*.

Human-caused climate change is disrupting ecosystems and people's lives, and these impacts have reached national parks in the United States and around the world. A recent analysis examined climate change trends across all 417 U.S. national park units and concludes that climate change has exposed the national parks to conditions hotter and drier than the country as a whole. [Read](#) the latest from *The Conversation*.

A fascinating new study reveals that there are a series of remarkable buildings and tunnels located under the prison yard of

Alcatraz Federal Penitentiary. Take a closer look in [this](#) recent article, detailing the archaeological findings.

Looking for a spring break getaway? Look no further than your national parks. TripSavvy has released their guide, the *Top Ten National Parks to Visit During Spring Break*. Did your favorites make the list? Read it [here](#).

Jennifer Ladino, an author, professor, and National Park Service Ranger, has published a book called *Memorial Matter: Emotion, Environment, and Public Memory*. Ladino says her book features seven different NPS sites in the American west and investigates how those natural and physical environments shape visitors as they learn about history. Read more about it [here](#).

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