



THE COALITION TO PROTECT AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS

— VOICES OF EXPERIENCE —

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Coalition Speaks out Against OHV Use

The Coalition joined our partners in expressing our concern over use of Off Highway Vehicles (OHVs) in Utah national parks by sending a letter to Rob Wallace, the Assistant Secretary of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. You can find the full text of the letter [here](#). And CPANP member Allyson Mathis penned a [letter to the editor](#) to the *Moab Times-Independent* about the potential for damage to resources and impairment to the visitor experience that would be caused by allowing OHVs in parks.

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What We're
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The good news? The NPS reversed course and announced it is withdrawing the previous order that national park units in Utah open their roads to OHVs. You can read more about this positive turn of events by clicking the link in the box below.

National Parks Traveler Article

Campground Privatization Proposal

A DOI advisory committee recently recommended that the Department privatize more NPS campgrounds. Other recommendations include allowing services such as wi-fi and food trucks. Coalition Chair Phil Francis spoke with *National Parks Traveler* about the troubling ramifications of this recommendation. CPANP also issued a statement, noting that "the suggested initiatives will increase noise pollution and crowding at locations where visitors often go to get away from the trappings of everyday life." The full statement is linked below.

CPANP Statement on Campgrounds
Recs

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Membership Update

The Coalition's membership currently stands at 1,784

Thank you to all our CPANP members who signed-on to a letter in support of H.R. 3225, Restoring Community Input and Public Protections in Oil and Gas Leasing Act. 270 members from 47 states and Washington, D.C. signed this letter, which was delivered to over 250 Congressional offices. You can read our statement on H.R. 3225 [here](#) and find the full, final version of the letter below.

HR 3225 Letter

Target Shooting at Bears Ears

CPANP joined with partners and submitted comments on the proposed target shooting closures of certain lands at Bears Ears National Monument. We support the BLM's decision to prohibit target shooting at campgrounds, developed recreation sites, petroglyph sites, and structural cultural sites within the planning area, though we believe the Monument must be entirely closed to target shooting to adequately protect monument objects, ensure public safety, and comply with applicable laws. Read the full comments below.

Bears Ears Comments

members.

Fy 2020 Appropriations Updates

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The Coalition issued a [statement](#) on the Senate's FY2020 Appropriations bill for Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies. While not perfect, it demonstrates support for our National Park System and National Park Service employees with the rejection of all proposed cuts to programs and parks, and proposed program elimination and a requested increase to the NPS operational budget request. We also submitted a [letter](#), in partnership with the Second Century Action Committee, to Congressional Leadership with several specific appropriations request. However, CPANP strongly opposes the use of unobligated funds to accomplish the ill-advised DOI reorganization. Read our letter below.

[**Letter on Unobligated Funds**](#)

Ambler Road Comments

Thanks to the assistance of a dedicated group of CPANP members from Alaska, we submitted comprehensive comments on the Draft Environmental and Economic Analysis (EEA) for the Ambler Road project to the NPS. We also submitted similar comments to the Bureau of Land Management regarding their Ambler Road Draft Environmental

Impact Statement (DEIS). Ambler Road would, as proposed, bisect a pristine portion of Gates of the Arctic national Preserve. Click [here](#) for comments on the DEIS and read the full comments on the EEA below.

Ambler Road Comments

Membership Challenge Updates

Thank you to all our members who participated in the Coalition's membership challenge. And congratulations to our three winners: Cathleen Cook, JD Swed, and Bill Wilkinson! Our winners were selected in a random drawing and each received a \$50 gift card.

This Land is Our Land

In honor of Halloween, we have a blog post inspired by a classic, haunted tale. Read more on the blog, linked [here](#).

What We're Reading & Tracking This Month

Our members were busy advocating for our national parks and public lands this month! Executive Council member Sarah Bransom submitted an op-ed to *The Hill*, urging Congress to support our national parks and NPS employees by "advocating for these irreplaceable natural and cultural resources and ...defending the experts who are working to protect them." And Executive Council member Maria Burks submitted an op-ed to the *New York Daily News*, advocating for full-funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Read that op-ed by clicking below.

Noise due to human activity has a detrimental impact to our national parks, according to a recent article from *The Denver Post*. "The problem with a large amount of noise is the disruption of peace for people visiting the parks, along with animals who live in them... a team of scientists from Colorado State University and the Park Service have spent the past decade studying the results of anthropogenic noise on national parks." Read the full article here.

National Parks Conservation Association has also tackled the controversy surrounding the proposed Ambler Road and provided excellent background and context on the "200-mile industrial mining access road would disrupt the Western Arctic Caribou migration, cross over two thousand rivers and streams, interfere with subsistence lifestyles of rural Alaskans, and cross through

Gates of the Arctic National Preserve." Click [here](#) to read more and watch a video.

We hope you had an excellent Halloween! In honor of the recent holiday, take a look at [these](#) nine "spooky" NPS sites.

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