



THE COALITION TO PROTECT AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS

— VOICES OF EXPERIENCE —

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Membership Challenge

We are challenging each of our current members to recruit new members to join us in the fight to protect our national parks. Coalition members who recruit new members will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 Amazon gift card. Each new recruit equals one entry - so the more members you recruit, the better your chances of winning. We'll select three gift card winners.

Make sure the new member lists your name in the comments section of the sign-up form.

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Support the
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We must have your name in order to give you credit for the new recruit.

The Membership Challenge will run until **October 15, 2019** and winners will be notified by email no later than October 20, 2019.

Join Us Link

DOI Reorg Is a Huge Concern

The Coalition has repeatedly expressed concern over the plan to relocate BLM leadership and staff from Washington, D.C. to Grand Junction, Colorado. The bureaus within the Department of the Interior do not exist in a vacuum and moving the head of BLM and senior staff to various locations within the western United States will only result in greater and unresolved conflict between the missions of the agencies. We sent a letter, expressing our concerns. Click [here](#) to read it. And click the box below to read Executive Council member Brenda Barrett's take on the impacts of the larger DOI reorg in the recent issue of *Living Landscape Observer*.

Landscape Management: More than just Words

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Membership
Update

CPANP Comments on Concerning Memo

Coalition Chair Phil Francis recently spoke with *The Washington Post* about an NPS memo which has raised concerns about superintendents being "muzzled," particularly as it relates to energy development on lands adjacent to parks. "It makes me wonder what the motive really is," said Francis. You can read the article from the Post [here](#). Click below to read a write-up from *National Parks Traveler*.

NPT Article on NPS Memo

FY20 Appropriations Letter

CPANP and our partners from the National Parks Second Century Action Coalition sent a letter to Senate appropriators in advance of FY20 Interior appropriations. The Coalition urged them to do their best to improve funding for national parks. The letter also pointed out that "investing in our national parks... also ensures that our parks can continue to support a robust tourism economy. Last year, national park units received over 318 million visits, supported 329,000 jobs, and generated over \$20 billion in direct spending in gateway communities." Read the full letter below.

The Coalition's membership currently stands at 1,768 members.

Website Links

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FY20 Appropriations Letter

Grand Staircase-Escalante Protest

The Coalition and NPCA submitted a joint protest letter to BLM regarding the final monument management plan for the downsized Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. The Coalition has supported the proper management and conservation of the Original Monument's resources since our establishment in 2003 and we have repeatedly expressed concerns over the changes the current administration has enacted. BLM's "rush to develop management plans based on the reduced boundaries of GSENM is premature, inappropriate, and likely a waste of time and resources." Click below to read more.

GSENM Letter

Concerns at ISRO

CPANP submitted comments to Isle Royale National Park on their Nonwilderness Cultural Resource Management Plan and Environmental Assessment. We commend the NPS staff and others involved in preparing the CRMP and believe that within the constraints of its identified scope, the

document presents a thorough and thoughtful treatment of the issues and possible alternatives. However, we wrote to express our concern about the decision to omit consideration of the cultural resources contained within the portions of the park designated as wilderness, particularly as this applies to 132,018 acres, or nearly 99 percent of the park's land area. Click the box below to read our full comments.

ISRO Comments

Hill Day Visits

A team of Coalition members, including several members of our Executive Council, recently traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with numerous Congressional offices and advocate for our national parks. We met with members from both sides of the aisle and emphasized the need for adequate appropriations for the NPS, in addition to full and mandatory funding for LWCF. You can read more about it in a recent blog post, [linked below](#).

This Land is Our Land: Hill Day

This Land is Our Land

In addition to documenting our recent Hill Day visits, we highlighted another fantastic Friends Group in our This Land is Our Land blog. This month, we featured the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation, a philanthropic partner to the park that has invested more than \$14 million in projects and programs to enhance the visitor experience, address safety issues, and reach out to educate and inspire visitors to engage more deeply with their park. You can read more about the Foundation [here](#).

What We're Reading & Tracking This Month

In more disturbing news about the state of our planet, a recent study published in the journal, *Science*, found that "Since 1970, the continental U.S. and Canada have lost more than 1 in 4 birds. The total bird population in the two countries has fallen by almost 3 billion." According to [this](#) article, these findings track with other research showing a steep drop in the numbers of insects and amphibians, and point to a broader ecological decline.

National parks in Utah have been directed to "align their regulations with Utah law, which allows off-road vehicles to travel state and county roads as long as they are equipped with standard safety equipment and are registered and insured." This means that ATVs and UTVs may be allowed on both main

access roads and back roads in parks like Arches and Canyonlands. Read more [here](#).

Construction of a section of President Trump's border wall has started at Organ Pipe Cactus NM, which is not only a national park and wilderness area but a "Unesco-recognized international biosphere reserve."

"What is being proposed is bulldozing one of the most biologically diverse regions of the entire United States," said Amanda Munro of the Southwest Environmental Center.

"Walling off these precious places would be a colossal mistake and a national tragedy."

Read more in [this article](#) from *The Guardian*.

As always, we'll try to end on a lighter note. Here's a handy guide to some apps that will help improve your NPS visit. In [this article](#) from *Afar*, you'll learn about apps that are "comprehensive park guides, engaging audio tours, detailed trail reviews, backcountry maps, and point-and-identify apps for flora, fauna, and other natural features." And don't worry if you're heading out of cell range - many of them work offline as well.

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