
Coalition Briefs
February 2021

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THE COALITION TO PROTECT AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS

VOICES OF EXPERIENCE

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The 2020 Annual Report is now available!
This summary of the Coalition's issues,
actions, and accomplishments will also be
sent to members in hard copy. Thank you for
all your support - it was a busy year and we
promise to keep up the hard work in 2021.

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We have a new home for our business office.
Please address all correspondence to:
2 Massachusetts Ave NE
Unit 77436
Washington, DC 20013

Condemning Violence at the Capitol

We issued a short statement on the insurrection at the Capitol on January 6, 2021, saying, "a peaceful transition of power lies at the heart of our democracy. It is the foundation of our country. If we don't protect that American ideal, all of our other efforts to preserve and protect America's Best Idea, our national parks, will be in vain. We are horrified by this insurrection and wholeheartedly condemn the acts of violence occurring today in our nation's capital." The full statement can be read [here](#).

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Preparing for the Biden Administration



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Prior to President Biden taking office, the Coalition provided the incoming administration with a roadmap to address a number of NPS problem areas. The recommendations were focused on four primary areas involving NPS Leadership and Organization, Resource Stewardship, Visitor Experience, and Employee Support. In addition, virtual meetings were held with the Biden transition staff to discuss the recommendations and respond to questions. The Coalition's recommendations were appreciated due to the experience with



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**Membership
Update**

The Coalition's membership currently stands at 1,896 members.

appreciated due to the experience with national parks that Coalition members have. The full document is linked in the box below.

The Coalition also signed on to a letter sent to the incoming president, requesting that as his administration works to address the current public health crisis and develop an economic recovery plan, they take advantage of the opportunity to create a large number of green, long-term jobs performing vital conservation and restoration work.

Finally, Coalition Chair Phil Francis recently spoke with Outside Magazine on what a Biden presidency means for our national parks. "The Biden team needs to focus on two things," he said, "undo what was done over the past four years. Then accomplish the new agenda."

**This Land is Our Land: Restoring Our
National Parks**

Halt to New Oil and Gas Drilling

Over 330 Coalition members signed on to a letter sent in support of President Biden's campaign pledge to halt all new oil and gas drilling on public lands and waters. In addition, former NPS Directors and Coalition members Bob Stanton and Jon Jarvis penned an oped for *The Hill* in support of this action.

Following the release of the expected Executive Order, the Coalition issued a statement applauding the president's actions as an important first step

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president's actions as an important first step in protecting our national parks from the worsening impacts of climate change and guaranteeing that all Americans will have access to our treasured outdoor spaces for generations to come.

Working with Partners

The Coalition is an active participant in the National Parks Second Century Action Coalition, a national coalition dedicated to promoting the protection, restoration, and operation of the National Park System to benefit the health and well-being of current and future generations. We signed on to a [letter](#) sent to the Biden administration in support of numerous investments in our parks.

We also joined the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) as a co-signer in a series of recommendations related to the Great American Outdoors Act and deferred maintenance implementation, emphasizing that leadership at DOI and NPS must provide the necessary oversight to ensure improved transparency and project equity and that potential pitfalls in implementation are avoided. The full document is linked in the box below.

GAOA and Maintenance Recs

On Executive Orders

The Coalition sent [a letter](#) to the new Deputy Director of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, urging the Biden administration to repeal former President Trump's misguided and ill-conceived executive order, establishing a National Garden of American Heroes.

We also issued [a statement](#) in support of President Biden's recent executive order mandating masks in all federal buildings and on federal property. In a document shared with the Biden transition team prior to the Inauguration, we recommended that mask wearing become a non-negotiable, on-the-job requirement and that the public be required to wear masks on federal property on Day One of Biden's term.

Amicus Brief

The Coalition joined with our partners, including NPCA, on filing an amicus brief in opposition to the Rollback Rule. Given the mounting impacts of climate change and air pollution on our national parks, it is important to ensure the establishment of meaningful greenhouse gas standards under the Clean Air Act. We are pushing back against weakening existing greenhouse gas standards that will also lead to higher levels of other air pollutant emissions and ultimately bring harm to national parks.

Full Text of Brief

From Georgia to California

The Coalition signed on to a [letter](#) sent to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, requesting that the comment period be extended and a public meeting held regarding the proposed Coastal Consistency Determination for Spaceport Camden. The proposed private spaceport would launch rockets over Cumberland Island National Seashore and the largest federally-protected Wilderness Area on the Eastern seaboard.

We also signed on to a [letter](#) sent to the California Coastal Commissioners, asking them to fast-track concurrence with a Consistency Determination for the Proposed Point Reyes National Seashore General Management Plan Amendment. The 98 signers were a diverse group, yet all united in the request that the Coastal Commission Object to the Point Reyes plan at its January commission meeting.

FOIA Filings Continue

The Coalition filed yet another FOIA request, asking for the number of NPS employees currently infected with COVID-19 and the parks in which they work. You can take a look at the filing [here](#).

What We're Reading & Tracking This Month

2020 was effectively tied with 2016 for the hottest year on record, as global warming linked to greenhouse gas emissions showed

linked to greenhouse gas emissions showed no signs of letting up. Take [a look](#) at where the record heat was felt.

Big Bend National Park will complete work on a [new hiking trail](#) next year. The new trail will "offer a moderately challenging 3-mile loop through the Chihuahuan Desert," a change from the original plan to offer a ten mile, multi-use trail that would have been open to Mountain bikes as well.

The Park Institute of America (PIA) announced partnerships with Aramark and Wild Tribute, an apparel company founded to honor national parks and public lands. Wild Tribute's custom designed "4 the Parks" t-shirt will be [sold online](#) or in Aramark-managed retail outlets at national and state parks, with 4% of the proceeds donated to the efforts of PIA. Read more [here](#).

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Our mailing address is:

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