



## THE COALITION TO PROTECT AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS

— VOICES OF EXPERIENCE —

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### Support the Coalition By Shopping On Amazon Smile

[Amazon Smile](#) is exactly like Amazon and has all the same products, but when you shop on Amazon Smile, Amazon donates to the Coalition.

[Shop on Amazon Smile](#)

### Membership Update

The Coalition's membership currently stands at 1,903 members.

### Website Links

- [Coalition News](#)
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### Encouraging Diversity

Black History Month provides us with an opportunity to honor and celebrate the accomplishments of African Americans. It is also a time to reflect on the work we must do to address the historic, substantial challenges facing people of color in our country today. To remain relevant to our diverse nation, all of our stories should be reflected in our national parks. Read our full statement, linked in the box below, on our commitment to help continue to diversify the National Park System.

[Statement on Black History Month](#)

### Supporting the Amache Site

One way to diversify our National Park System is to ensure that new sites in the National Park System tell the broader and more diverse story of our history. We recently submitted a letter of support for the Special Resource Study of the former Amache War Relocation Authority site located near the town of Granada in Prowers County, Colorado. Read the full letter by clicking the box below.

[Letter of Support](#)

### COVID-19 Impacts

We submitted yet another [FOIA request](#) asking for the number of COVID-19 cases to date among NPS employees and the parks in which they work. To date, none of the requests from the past year have been answered.

The Coalition also issued a statement on NPS employees and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, urging the NPS to prioritize the health and safety of frontline NPS employees through PPE, training, and vaccinations. The statement aligns with the priorities we sent to the Biden Transition Team for their first 100 days in office.

[COVID-19 Statement](#)

### Positive News for LWCF Funds

The Coalition issued a statement of support after President Biden's Department of the Interior repealed former Secretary of the Interior Bernhardt's Secretarial Orders on the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) which imposed unnecessary, top-down requirements that delayed the National Park Service's ability to address its over \$5 billion backlog of land acquisition needs.

[Statement on LWCF](#)

### Restoration Plan

Former NPS Director and Coalition member Jon Jarvis and partners released a [tactical plan](#) that produced a prioritized list of the top 100 immediate and important actions that can be achieved by executive order, administrative action, regulation or policy to reverse the environmental harms done by the Trump administration. You can also read this [oped](#) in *The Guardian* that accompanied the rollout.

### James River Powerlines DEIS

The Coalition submitted [extensive comments](#) on the Army Corps of Engineers' Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Transmission Line Project across the James River. In addition, we reached out Virginia's [State Historic Preservation Office](#), the [NPS](#), and the [Advisory Council on Historic Preservation](#) regarding our concerns.

### The Protection Ranger Profession

The Coalition in partnership with the Association of National Park Rangers (ANPR), has been a vocal advocate for the protection of the Protection Ranger profession. In January, NPS issued a memo to the field, stating that after careful review, no NPS 0025 positions would be converted to the 1801 series. Read more about this decision, and the Coalition's actions, in the box below.

[Success Story](#)

### Park Talk with NPCA

Coalition Executive Council Member Sheridan Steele was featured on an [episode](#) of NPCA's Park Talk, discussing his new book, *From Bear Dens to the Oval Office, stories from his 38 years with the NPS*. A portion of the proceeds from book sales will be donated to the Coalition.

### Change of Address Reminder

Just a quick reminder that we have a new address for our business office. Please send all correspondence to:  
Coalition to Protect America's National Parks  
2 Massachusetts Ave NE  
Unit 77436  
Washington, DC 20013

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

A [recent investigation](#) by *National Geographic* found that, "the Trump Administration's push to open public lands for energy exploration puts Carlsbad Caverns, scores of other caves in New Mexico, and aquifers that supply drinking water to tens of thousands of homeowners at risk of contamination." The Coalition recently celebrated President Biden's halt to new oil and gas drilling on public lands and waters, as a positive step forward in protecting our parks and public lands.

The National Park Service kicked off Black History Month with [a list](#) of ten ways to commemorate the month in our national parks. But there are scores of other sites where you can learn more about the stories and accomplishments of Black Americans - and perhaps they'll be part of the National Park System someday too. Take, for example, the town of New Philadelphia, founded by Free Frank McWorter, the first Black person to legally plan a community in America. Read more about this fascinating and untold story in [this piece](#) in the *Chicago Tribune*.

The Memorial Field for Black Lives received [an award](#) for "Excellence in Historic Site Interpretation and Public Engagement." The exhibit is at the John Brown Farm State Historic Site in North Elba, NY, the home and final resting place of the 19th century abolitionist who gave his life to end slavery.