



THE COALITION TO PROTECT AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS

VOICES OF EXPERIENCE

In This Brief

- [America the Beautiful](#)
- [Support for NPS Programs](#)
- [CWR Updates](#)
- [Job Opportunities](#)
- [Congressional Actions](#)
- [A Busy Summer](#)
- [Coalition Oped](#)
- [EPA Letter](#)
- [Regional Haze](#)
- [What We're Reading and Tracking](#)
- [Support the Coalition with Amazon Smile](#)
- [Membership Update](#)
- [Website Links](#)

[Donate Today](#)



[Website](#)



[Facebook](#)



[Twitter](#)



[Instagram](#)

[Forward This Email](#)

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 1,913 members.

Website Links

- [Coalition News](#)
- [Donate](#)
- [Membership](#)
- [Update Your Membership Information](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

America the Beautiful

The Coalition issued a statement following the release of President Biden's [America the Beautiful Plan](#), which lays out a ten-year goal of conserving and safeguarding 30% of U.S. lands and waters by 2030, increasing access to our parks and public lands, and ensuring that conservation efforts are guided by sound science. Coalition Chair Phil Francis said, "we strongly support President Biden's ambitious and critically-needed conservation plan. This enthusiastic and intentional vision will help protect our national parks, ameliorate the impacts of climate change on our irreplaceable resources, and ensure that all Americans have access to our country's incredible parks and lands." The full statement is linked in the box below.

[Full Statement on America the Beautiful](#)

Support for NPS Programs

On the heels of the America the Beautiful rollout, the administration shared the other steps they are taking to support outdoor recreation and access to the outdoors. The National Park Service will [distribute \\$150 million](#) to local communities through the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) grant program. This program helps urban and/or economically underserved communities create new outdoor recreation spaces and reinvigorate existing parks. The Coalition applauded this action, which will help communities with the greatest needs create parks closer to home and facilitate access to the outdoors.

The Weekly Report Update

Thank you all completing our Coalition Weekly Report (CWR) survey. We are planning to move forward with the report on a biweekly basis. While we hope that those of you who have been assisting with the report as volunteers will continue to submit content, we are also looking to hire an editor to help write and compile the report.

If you are interested in a contract position to produce a biweekly report on behalf of the Coalition to Protect America's National Parks that highlights news from the Coalition and our National Park Service and System, please send a brief email with your resume or qualifications to Emily Thompson at Emily_Thompson@protectnps.org.

Job Opportunities

The Center for Workforce Inclusion partners with the NPS to identify and hire skilled workers, age 55 or older, for temporary, paid NPS projects. Projects augment the capacity of the NPS and range from planning and project support to serving as on-the-ground technical advisors. A national nonprofit organization, the Center is an NPS-approved Experienced Services Program provider. Individuals hired through this program do not replace NPS Federal employees. Visit their [website](#) to learn more and apply for a project.

Congressional Actions

Here is the rundown of Congressional actions of interest to the NPS that occurred in May. This section will appear in the Weekly Report once it's up and running!

Congressional Actions

Summer Season is Coming

Coalition Chair Phil Francis provided a short quote to a [story](#) about ticket systems for national park entry this summer. Tickets are going quickly and Phil expressed his support for the system, saying that it's "a good thing to manage visitation for parks across the Mountain West, especially during the pandemic."

Coalition Oped: Our Parks Need Funding

Coalition Executive Director Amy Gilbert Fehir submitted an oped to *The Hill* about her trip to Utah's national parks. Supporting our national parks and public lands means that we must make sure that our "national parks receive the funding they need to hire the staff that can ensure our incredible and irreplaceable resources are protected for generations to come." Click the link in the box below to read the full article.

Oped in The Hill

Outreach to EPA

The Coalition joined NPCA and several other organizations in a sign-on letter sent to the EPA to express our concerns about the direction many states are heading in their regional haze planning process. By most indications, states across the country are poised to advance haze plans that lack the scale of pollution reducing measures that our national parks and wilderness areas require, and vulnerable populations are due. We identified several issues and requested that the EPA provide states with specific instruction to clarify requirements and expectations for second round regional haze plans. The full letter is linked in the box below.

EPA Letter

Regional Haze Letters by State

We also joined sign-on letters sent to several states expressing our concerns about air quality and the impacts to parks and local communities. We requested that the [Ohio EPA](#) and the [Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy](#) grant a 30-day extension on the public comment deadline and virtual public hearing date for their respective Regional Haze State Implementation Plans.

What We're Reading & Tracking This Month

A [recent piece](#) from the *New York Times* takes a look at the impact of climate change on our national parks. "For more than a century, the core mission of the National Park Service has been preserving the natural heritage of the United States. But now, as the planet warms, transforming ecosystems, the agency is conceding that its traditional goal of absolute conservation is no longer viable in many cases."

The Center for Western Priorities released a [storymap](#) on the proposed national monuments that can help conserve 30% of America's lands and waters as laid out in President Biden's America the Beautiful plan. Many of America's unique and awe-inspiring landscapes are not yet conserved, leaving them vulnerable and inaccessible to the public. The storymap looks at five examples of landscapes with grassroots support for conservation and legislative proposals currently sitting idle in Congress that are prime opportunities for the Biden administration to protect as national monuments.

Dinosaur National Monument is facing a [renewed risk](#) from oil and gas drilling within a half mile of the park. The proposal involves the construction and installation of new well pads, roads, pipelines and the drilling of two wells; a plan that will industrialize the western edge of the monument. Dinosaur National Monument is world-renowned for its remarkable density and diversity of prehistoric sites and artifacts and paleontological resources. The Coalition is working with our partners to push back against this plan.