



THE COALITION TO PROTECT AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS

VOICES OF EXPERIENCE

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Membership Update

The Coalition's membership currently stands at 1,931 members.

Website Links

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Coalition Releases Updated Strategic Plan

The Coalition has updated its strategic plan, detailing our goals and actions that will help us to build public awareness and advocate for the preservation and protection of the parks, places, and programs of the National Park Service. The plan can be found on our [website](#).

New Editor for the Coalition Report

Thank you for your support as we have navigated the next steps for the Coalition Weekly Report. We appreciate your input and advice on the future of the Report and we ask for your continued patience as we move forward.

Today, we are happy to announce that the renamed Coalition Report will resume a regular, bi-weekly publication this month. And we have hired a new Editor to oversee the Report. Katie Wallace has been working for national park partner organizations for 13 years, including her work as the operations manager at The Fund for People in Parks. We are thrilled to have Katie join the Coalition team and encourage you to send her updates and information for inclusion in the Report. Please feel free to reach out to Katie at Report@protectnps.org.

Meetings with Congressional Offices

In late spring and early summer, Executive Council members and staff met with several Congressional offices to discuss issues related to the National Park System. Over the course of several weeks, we met with representatives from the offices of Senators Kelly (AZ), Sinema (AZ), Heinrich (NM), Manchin (WV), Cortez Masto (NV), Rosen (NV), Grassley (IA), King (ME), and Hickenlooper (CO). We also met with staff from the offices of Representatives Neguse (CO), Pingree (ME), and Grijalva (AZ). In each meeting, the Coalition discussed annual appropriations and the need for additional funding for parks, programs, and support offices; concerns over staffing shortages in parks and program offices; the potential for negative impacts on national parks when oil and gas drilling occurs on their doorstep; our support for the America the Beautiful initiative; and several other issue areas. We continue to keep in touch with these offices and look for opportunities to continue our advocacy on The Hill.

Job Opportunities With Our Partners

The Association of National Park Rangers (ANPR) is recruiting for a Business Manager. The announcement and application for the position can be found [here](#). Membership in ANPR is encouraged, but not required. If you are interested, please consider applying. If you know of anyone (inside or outside the NPS) who might be interested, please pass the word! The vacancy announcement will be open until July 15, 2021. If you have questions, contact Bill Wade at bwade@anpr.org.

Wilderness Volunteers (WV), a 24-year leader in preserving our nation's wildlands, is seeking a motivated person with deep outdoor interests to guide their unique organization into its next era as the Executive Director. WV provides affordable hands-on wilderness work opportunities for volunteers throughout the country, in partnership with land-management agencies. The Executive Director is responsible for the full range of non-profit management activities. Full job details and information on how to apply are available [here](#). More information about Wilderness Volunteers is available on their [website](#).

Drilling Near Dinosaur

The Coalition sent a [letter](#) to Secretary Haaland, the NPS, and BLM expressing serious concerns about proposed oil and gas drilling on public lands managed by the BLM and less than a mile from the boundary of Dinosaur National Monument. Of utmost concern is that the proposed drilling site is located little more than a mile away from Dinosaur National Monument's most precious paleontological resource, the world famous Carnegie Fossil Quarry.

On this same topic, Nick Eason, a Coalition member and former chief of resource management and visitor protection at DINO, wrote an op-ed that ran in the *Salt Lake Tribune*, calling the decision to drill near Dinosaur National Monument a mistake. "The significant potential of immediate and lasting impact to Dinosaur is too great for this project to move forward," he writes. The full op-ed is linked in the box below.

Member Op-ed

Other O and G News

Coalition Chair Phil Francis issued a [statement of support](#) for two oil and gas reform bills that were reintroduced by Senator Bennet. Francis said, "[Senator Bennet's bills](#) will bring badly needed reforms to our current oil and gas leasing system, prioritizing public input and ensuring that oil and gas companies clean up after themselves and treat our parks and lands with respect."

The President's Budget

The Biden administration released its [budget proposal](#) for fiscal year 2022. The proposal calls for significant investments in the National Park System, including an increase of nearly \$381 million (a 12% increase) to the National Park Service budget. Coalition Chair Phil Francis called it, "a boon for our national parks," saying, "after a decade of declining budgets and staff reductions, President Biden's budget is welcome news for the National Park Service, which has been woefully understaffed and underfunded for years." The full statement is linked in the box below.

In other "appropriations-related" news, the Coalition joined a [sign-on letter](#) drafted by the NPSA Second Century Action Commission and sent to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in support of the significant investments for national parks, in particular the Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP) and Federal Lands and Tribal Major Projects Program (FLTMP) in the Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America Act (INVEST in America Act). In addition, the letter requests an increase for the National Scenic Byways Program.

Budget Statement

Congressional Testimony

The Coalition submitted testimony to the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining in advance of their hearing on various national parks and public lands bills, including the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act (CORE Act). Full testimony linked in the box below.

Testimony on Parks and Public Lands Bills

MBTA Comments

We joined [comments](#) - submitted by the Southern Environmental Law Center on behalf of 24 organizations - written in response to the Fish and Wildlife Service's proposed revocation of the final rule published at 86 Fed. Reg. 1,134 (the "January 7 rule"), and the re-establishment of legally-required protections against incidental take under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act ("MBTA").

DOI Nominations

104 conservation, Western, recreation, and public lands advocacy groups sent a letter urging Senators to confirm Tracy Stone-Manning as the Director of the Bureau of Land Management. Citing her career accomplishments as the chief of staff for Montana Governor Steve Bullock, director of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, senior advisor to U.S. Senator Jon Tester, and the National Wildlife Federation's Associate Vice President for Public Lands, the letter backs Stone-Manning as a leader who has "demonstrated a firm commitment to making sure our lands and waters are managed for the benefit of all - and the future."

Letter of Support for Stone-Manning

Air Quality Advocacy

This month, the Coalition engaged on numerous issues related to concerns over air quality. We joined a [letter](#) sent to the Biden administration, urging them to move swiftly to set stronger primary and secondary National Ambient Air Quality Standards for dangerous particulate matter (PM) and ozone pollution.

We also signed on to letters sent to [Georgia](#) and [Kentucky](#), expressing concern that the states are failing to meet their obligations under the Clean Air Act.

Eagle Crest Updates

Over the past three years, the Florida-based NextEra Corporation has attempted to pass 5 separate bills to force the procurement of its project, a pumped storage project called Eagle Crest in California. Each Eagle Crest bailout attempt has failed to pass a chamber and in light of the most recent attempt, a coalition of organizations representing environmental, renewable energy, and other interests sent a [letter](#) in strong opposition to a troubling proposal that includes the ratepayer underwriting of the multi-billion-dollar pumped storage project through a behind-the-scenes, Budget Trailer bill. The Coalition, who has engaged in other issues relating to this project, signed on.

What We're Reading & Tracking This Month

We had a number of opeds by Coalition members appear online and in newspapers across the country this month.

Rebecca Harriett, a member of the Coalition's Executive Council and a former superintendent of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, submitted an op-ed to the *Charleston Gazette-Mail* in support of President Biden's America the Beautiful Plan. She writes, "as we roll into summer, President Joe Biden's ambitious America the Beautiful Plan - which sets a goal to not only protect 30% of U.S. lands and waters by 2030 but to increase access to outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans - could not have come at a better time." Coalition Executive Council member Sheridan Steele also submitted an op-ed to America the Beautiful to *Colorado Newswire*, and Coalition member Bill Wade's op-ed in support of the Plan ran in the *Tucson Sentinel*.

Coalition member and former superintendent Noel Poe wrote an [op-ed](#) for the *Salt Lake Tribune*, urging President Biden to use his authority to ensure that Grand Staircase-Escalante remains protected and that other iconic landscapes are set aside to ensure that habitats, access to the great outdoors, and our nation's history and heritage are protected today, and into the future.

Former Zion superintendent and current Coalition member Donald Falvey submitted an [op-ed](#) to the *Salt Lake Tribune*. In it, Falvey writes, "the time has come for each park superintendent to be allowed to manage the park utilizing the extensive planning and operational experience available from within the National Park Service and from its partners. Let's get a director confirmed by the U.S. Senate and return management of the parks to the National Park Service."

Finally, *Modern Love* brings us the story of a father who worries that the promises of a vibrant natural that are found in his favorite children's books will no longer exist. "I found myself wondering if reading these books to my daughter would in a way be a lie. Was it fair to tell her stories of healthy ecosystems and the steady seasons to which we've become accustomed?" It's a sweet and sad column - and definitely worth a read.