



THE COALITION TO PROTECT AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS

VOICES OF EXPERIENCE

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October Brief

Good morning Coalition members. We have exciting news - our membership has officially surpassed 2000. Thank you for all your support and we appreciate your efforts to spread the word about the Coalition. This is a huge milestone and we look forward to continuing the work to Protect Our Parks!

Advocacy Actions

Here are a few of the actions we took in September:

- Concerned about [overcrowding](#) in national parks? We are too. Our Coalition [members](#) and [Executive Council](#) penned a few opeds on this topic.
- Nearly 300 members of the Coalition signed on to a [letter](#) sent to Congress, imploring them to include significant reforms to the onshore oil and gas leasing program in their committees' recommendations under reconciliation
- Members of the Coalition Executive Council met with Shannon Estenoz, the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, to express our support for some initiatives - such as President Biden's America the Beautiful Plan - and to voice our concerns about other topics including overcrowding in parks, oil and gas leasing near national parks, and how GAOA funds are distributed throughout the National Park System.
- We filed [comments](#) on several Air Tour Management plans at parks across the country.
- The Coalition expressed [support](#) for the local vision of the proposed Alabama Black Belt National Heritage Area.

Visit our [website](#) to learn more or take a look at our other advocacy efforts.

NPS News

Search and recovery efforts continue in Yellowstone National Park for former Navy SEAL and retired National Park Service Ranger Kim Crumbo. Crumbo, and his brother Mark O'Neill, who was also retired from the NPS, were reported overdue from a four-night backcountry trip. O'Neill's body was found Monday along the east shore of Shoshone Lake, the second-largest lake in Yellowstone. An autopsy confirmed the cause of death was exposure. Source: [NPS](#)

Announcements

The [Rosenwald Park Campaign](#) was created to promote the establishment of a multi-site national park celebrating the life and legacy of Julius Rosenwald. The Campaign was founded in 2016 with the support of the National Parks Conservation Association and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The Coalition was the third group to express its support for the park.

To date, 66 organizations have officially endorsed the creation of the Julius Rosenwald & Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park. While they represent a broad spectrum of groups, the Campaign continues to seek out additional organizations to support their efforts. Please consider reaching out to your own network and ask the non-profit organizations with which you are associated to consider signing on in support of creating a Julius Rosenwald & Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park. Email dorothycenter@rosenwaldpark.org for assistance with a support request, or with your recommendations of additional organizations to contact.

On the Horizon

Here is a look at a few of the issues we'll be keeping an eye on during the month of October:

- NPS Director confirmation hearings
- Budget reconciliation
- NPS operations (including visitor management)
- Ongoing oil and gas leasing concerns
- Additional Air Tour Management Plans
- GAOA Updates

Member Count

The Coalition added 42 new members in September, bringing the total to 2,026. Know anyone interested in becoming a member? They can join [here](#).

Reading Rec

In case you ever doubted that national parks are the keepers of history... the oldest human footprints in North America have been found in a national park! Fossilized footprints discovered in White Sands National Park in New Mexico indicate that early humans were walking across North America around 23,000 years ago. Read more [here](#).