

Coalition Briefs
April 2017

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The Coalition To Protect America's National Parks

Voices of Experience

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American Wilderness Should Remain Bicycle-Free

Over 50 years after the passage of the Wilderness Act, new legislation proposes to open Congressionally designated wilderness areas to bicycles and other non-motorized wheeled devices.

Click below to see our letter to the House Committee on Natural Resources opposing the legislation.

[Read The Coalition's Letter](#)

Deny Galvin: Testimony Before the House Committee on Natural Resources, Federal Lands Subcommittee

On March 16, 2017, Denis P. Galvin, former Deputy Director of the National Park Service, represented the Coalition to Protect America's National Parks in testifying to the House Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands at the Oversight Hearing on Identifying Innovative Infrastructure Ideas for the National Park

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[Service and Forest Service.](#)

Click the video below to watch his full testimony or click the button below to read his full testimony.



[Statement of Denis P. Galvin](#)

Before the House Committee on Natural Resources, Federal Lands Subcommittee

[Read The Testimony](#)

Op-Ed: Acadia is a National Treasure. Harvesting Clams, Worms Will Only Hurt the Park.

Supporting new legislation that facilitates extraction of resources from a national park is a very bad idea and terrible precedent. This is especially so coming out of Acadia – a park and community that are looked to across the U.S. for their history of positive leadership in park protection. We urge others to actively support keeping Acadia’s intertidal zone under the careful stewardship of Acadia National Park.

Click below to read the full op-ed by

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Throughout the year, when you may be buying gifts for your loved ones or shopping for yourself, use [Amazon Smile](#) to support the Coalition!

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Help Us Grow Our Membership

Do you know someone retiring from the National Park Service? Is someone you mentored still working?

Coalition members Michael Soukup and Mary Foley.

Read The Op-Ed

Utah Parks Deserve Clean Air Too

The Coalition has joined numerous other groups in opposing current Congressional Review Act resolutions that would repeal the Utah Regional Haze Rule, an Obama-era EPA regulation aimed at improving the air quality in some of our nation's most iconic national parks.

Click below to see the text of our letter.

Read Our Letter

Coalition Statement on President's Budget

The Coalition to Protect America's National Parks is alarmed at the extent the National Park Service's budget will be reduced should the President's budget be adopted. While we have not seen how the Interior Department's overall 11.7% cut will be allocated between agencies within Interior, should a cut of that magnitude be levied against the NPS and its parks, there will be widespread reductions in programs, operating hours, seasonal and permanent staff, and visitor services.

Click below to read our full statement on the President's Budget.

Read Our Statement

We need your help to recruit new members! Any current, former, or retired employee of the National Park Service can join the Coalition.

Spread the word about the benefits of being a member of the Coalition!

Membership Update

The Coalition's membership currently stands at **1,219** members.

Website Links

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Phil Francis: Testimony for Committee on Natural Resources

We urge the Congress to make the investment necessary to appropriately fund the parks - to make them great again. We believe that the National Park Service is worth the investment. It is an investment in America's future that protects our special places and provides tens of thousands of jobs for those who live nearby. The 300 million people who visit our parks each year will be grateful.

Click below to read Phil Francis' full testimony for the Committee on Natural Resources on behalf of the Coalition to Protect America's National Parks.

[Read The Testimony](#)

Coalition Opposes Opening Acadia's Intertidal Areas to Commercial Harvest

In an unprecedented reversal of longstanding protection of marine organisms at Acadia National Park, members of Maine's congressional delegation have introduced legislation that would open the park's intertidal areas to commercial harvest and aquaculture.

Click below to read our letter to the House Committee on Natural Resources opposing the legislation.

[Read Our Letter](#)



New Book Alert

Don't miss "So Long for Now: A Sailor's Letters from the USS Franklin" by Jerry L. Rogers, member of the Coalition and NPS retiree, where he served as the Associate Director for Cultural Resources and Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places. "So Long for Now" reconstructs the lost world of a sailor's daily life in World War II, piecing together letters from Elden's family in Vega, Texas, and from his girlfriend, the untold stories behind Elden's own letters, and the context of the war itself.

Order "So Long for Now"

What We're Reading This Month

- "The Coalition to Protect America's National Parks. . . noted that the budget does not say how Interior's overall budget cut would be allocated among the agencies. But if the NPS budget is cut by 12 percent, 'there will be widespread reductions in programs, operating hours, seasonal and permanent staff, and visitor services,' said Maureen Finnerty, chairwoman of the coalition. 'Never before have cuts of this magnitude been made. These cuts are extreme and will result in the degradation of park resources owned by all Americans.'" Read the full article titled "Trump budget calls for 12% cut" [by clicking this link.](#)

*- "You cut 10 percent, you're going to have to cut positions, leave positions vacant, probably eliminate your seasonal workforce," said Phil Francis in an article by Kurt Repanshek in the *National Parks Traveler* titled, "President's Budget Proposal Would Be 'Devastating' To National Parks." Read the full article [by clicking this link.](#)*

*- From the front page of the *Washington Post*, "Over Boxes from the Last Century, an Eight-Year Discussion about Race, Life and Womanhood," an article featuring Coalition member Heather Huyck. Read more [by](#)*

[clicking this link.](#)

-U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced this month record visitation to America's National Parks: **331 million** recreation visits in 2016, a third consecutive all-time attendance record for the National Park Service. Read more [by clicking this link.](#)

-One piece of advice for the future from former National Park Service director Jon Jarvis? "*Come together.*" Watch more of Jarvis' advice [by clicking this link.](#)

-In celebration of Women's History Month this past March, check out these two articles. First, read about women who broke the glass ceiling at the Department of the Interior [by clicking this link.](#) Also, don't miss this article from NPCA titled, "These National Parks Wouldn't Exist Without Women," which you can read [by clicking this link.](#)

-*"The NPS History Electronic Library is a portal to thousands of electronic publications and videos, covering the history of the National Park Service and the cultural and natural history of the national parks, monuments, and historic sites of the U.S. National Park System."* To read these electronic documents, please visit npshistory.com.

-*"The Changing Face of Camping: Record Numbers of Minorities Hit the Trails."* Read the full article [by clicking this link.](#)

-*"The Impact of the Trump Budget on Preservation."* Read the full article [by clicking this link.](#)

-*"With Cuts Looming, Park Service Closes Ben Franklin Print Shop, Jefferson's Declaration House."* Read the full article [by clicking this link.](#)

Video of the Month: Climate Change and the Migrant Crisis



This can't-miss clip is from the National Geographic documentary television series Years of Living Dangerously season two, episode three titled "The Uprooted." In this episode, "Tom Friedman investigates the increasing population of climate refugees."

[Click here](#) to watch the clip of this episode.

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