

**Coalition Briefs for August 2015**

[View this email in your browser](#)



**The Coalition  
To  
Protect America's National Parks**

*Voices of Experience - Advocating The Protection of America's National Park System*

**Issues**

**Big Cypress National Preserve (BICY) Litigation** – The Coalition is working with legal counsel to prepare an amicus brief to be filed with the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals in a lawsuit involving the BICY Addition General Management Plan, Wilderness Study, and ORV Management Plan. The brief will focus on legal concerns regarding the U.S. District Court's ruling that the NPS Organic Act's conservation mandate "was tweaked by the subsequent Preserve Act and the Addition Act, both of which required multiple use management." The ruling is inconsistent with well-established Organic Act case law that when there is a conflict between conserving resources and values and providing for enjoyment of them, conservation is to be predominant.

**Proposed Regulation on Native American Collection:**

NPS issued a proposed rule that would authorize the gathering of certain plants and plant parts by Native Americans for religious or ceremonial purposes, a significant change from longstanding NPS regulations prohibiting such use. While the Coalition supports the concept of allowing Native American tribes associated with lands now contained in park areas to collect plants and plant parts for traditional uses, we submitted comments opposing the proposed rule for the following reasons: 1) The proposed rule is inconsistent with the NPS Organic Act and Redwoods Amendment. We believe that a legislative remedy is the only legal means to provide the desired authority for the

proposed program; 2) The proposed rule fails to adequately address other statutory and policy requirements; and 3) The proposed rule fails to provide guidance necessary to effectively administer a system-wide program. The complete comments can be found at:

<http://protectnps.org>

## Other Items of Interest

Coalition member Tom Ross authored an Op-Ed on the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Titled “The most beautiful places on earth: Our public parks and open space” it was published in the *Washington Examiner* on July 6. In it Ross asserts: “With the LWCF expiring in less than 100 days, Congress must act to ensure that future generations have access to healthy outdoor recreation resources.”

Coalition chair Maureen Finnerty (with input from other Coalition members) published an Op-Ed titled “This Is No Time To Give Up On America’s National Treasures.” It appeared in the *Denver Post* on July 24. Finnerty argues that “It is troubling that, as a nation, we lack the political will to foot the bill to protect and restore our shared heritage.”

The Coalition received substantial positive feedback from both opinion pieces. They are available on our web site at: <http://protectnps.org>

*Copyright © 2015 Coalition To Protect America's National Parks, All rights reserved.*

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

