

Coalition Briefs
August 2017

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The Coalition To Protect America's National Parks

Voices of Experience

The National Park Service at 100

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As the National Park Service enters its second century, it faces many of the same challenges as other federal agencies. The two primary challenges facing the National Park Service as it moves forward are ensuring sufficient funding for the national park system from Congress and other revenue sources and keeping the national parks relevant to succeeding generations of Americans.

Click the link below to read the full law review article published in the June 2017 edition of the *Akron Law Review* by Coalition Executive Council member Donald J. Hellmann.

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Read the Article

Op-Ed: National Parks Should Be Considered Before Oil and Gas Leasing

Public lands surrounding many southwestern national parks are under pressure to be leased for oil and gas development. Most recently the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has proposed leasing lands adjacent to Dinosaur National Monument, in direct view of the park entrance road and main visitor center, raising concerns about impacts to the park. Click below to see the op-ed written by Coalition member Fred Fagergren.

Read the Op-Ed

The Interview: Why Outsourcing National Park Staff Would Be a Disaster

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has said he wants to outsource more visitor services, such as campgrounds operations, in national parks in order to save money. The Coalition believes such an approach is unlikely to reduce costs or improve service. Click below to see the Phil Francis interview on this topic in Men’s Journal magazine.

Read the Interview

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Coalition Opposes Oil and Gas Leasing Near Dinosaur National Monument



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The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to issue leases in December 2017 for oil and gas development on parcels near Dinosaur National Monument within view of the park's most popular Visitor Center. Click below to see our comment letter to BLM.

[Read Our Comments](#)

Coalition Opposes House FY18 Appropriations Bill

The Coalition opposes the House FY18 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill that includes funding cuts and policy riders that would impact our national parks and their ecosystems. Over the years the budget for our national parks has continued to decline resulting in significant reductions in the parks' ability to maintain its aging infrastructure, protect and preserve our country's cultural and natural resources, and to provide visitors with the kind of experience the National Park Service is known for. Click below to read our letter to the House Committee on Appropriations.

[Read the Letter](#)

Updated NPS "9B" Oil and Gas Regulations Are Necessary to Protect Parks

The NPS "9B" oil and gas regulations were revised in 2016 to eliminate outdated exemptions that left the NPS with few effective tools to manage 60% of the oil and gas wells occurring in parks today. Now,

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Membership Update

The Coalition's membership currently stands at **1,373** members.

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under the guise of “regulatory reform,” the Interior Department is conducting a review to determine if the 2016 rule should be changed or repealed. Click below to see the Coalition’s comments in support of the updated NPS “9B” regulations.

Read Our Comments

Coalition Comments on Zinke’s Statement About Contracting Out Services in Parks

The Coalition is concerned regarding Secretary Zinke’s stated desire to contract out some services in various parks. We are especially concerned about the reported focus on potential outsourcing of campground management. Click below to see our letter to Secretary Zinke.

Read the Letter

Coalition Comments on Secretary Zinke’s Review of 27 National Monuments

After a serving only a few months as Interior Secretary, Ryan Zinke is conducting a problematic review that will determine the fate of 27 national monuments. Whatever Mr. Zinke decides will inevitably define his legacy as the chief steward of America’s public lands. Click below to see our comment letter to the Secretary.

Read Our Comments

What We're Reading This Month

-**New Book Alert!** Coalition member Charles R. "Butch" Farabee's new book titled "Big Walls, Swift Waters: Epic Stories from Yosemite Search and Rescue" is now available. Purchase your copy [by clicking this link](#).

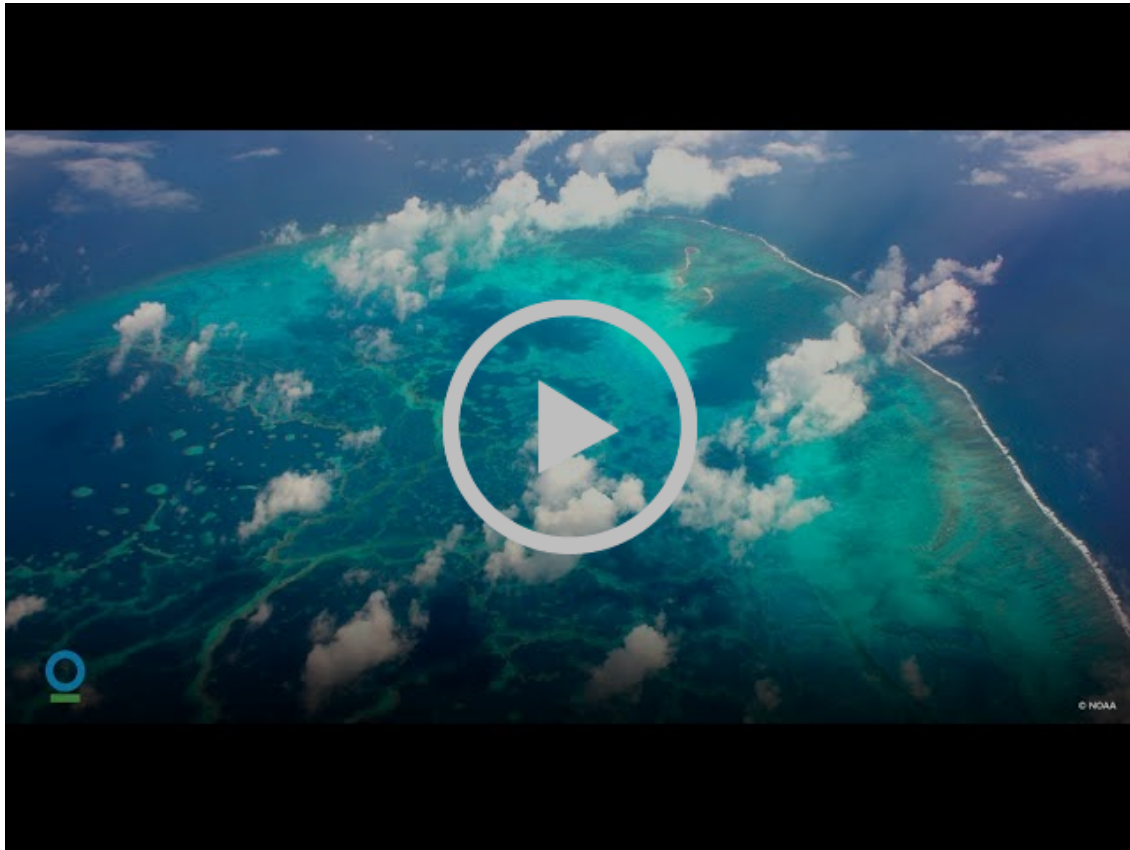
-**Reminder:** The price of the America the Beautiful -- National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Senior Pass will increase from \$10 to \$80 on August 28, 2017. Learn more about the changes [by clicking this link](#).

-"The national parks and monuments show the beauty of America, and they tell our story. To revoke or diminish a monument is to tear a page from the book of our nation. We urge the secretary of the Interior to fully recognize the innate value of each and every national park and monument that has been designated under the Antiquities Act, and ask the president to recognize the enormous public benefit that these treasures provide our great nation today, and for all future generations of Americans to protect and enjoy." Read the full op-ed from the *Washington Times* in support of national parks and monuments [by clicking this link](#).

-Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg recently visited Glacier National Park, saying *"Thanks to all the rangers for all you do and for showing me around such an amazing place. We need to make sure parks like Glacier -- and the planet overall -- are around for future generations to enjoy."* Read Zuckerberg's full post with pictures [by clicking this link](#).

-In Yellowstone National Park lives a bobcat that brings in \$308,000 a year. Learn more [by clicking this link](#).

Video of the Month: Protecting Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument



Watch this video to learn more about Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument -- the largest national monument in America (twice the size of Texas!) and the world's second largest protected area -- and efforts to protect it.

[Click here](#) to watch the video.

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