

# The Coalition

## TO PROTECT AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS

Spring 2018 • Volume 3 Issue 1

### Coalition Rising

To say 2017 was a difficult year for our public lands would be an understatement. The attacks were unprecedented, the pressures were constantly mounting and new issues seemed to appear daily. All of the work that we've done in recent years to build the capacity and platform of the Coalition led us here. Our voice has never been stronger and our engagement has never been more necessary. This year, our leadership team and staff stepped up to take on more issues than ever before. We called on our members to engage in new ways—contacting their members of Congress, signing on to letters to the administration and writing op-eds for their local newspapers. The Coalition has grown much louder and that is directly tied to our members participating in ways they never have before.

The work is just beginning. We are in the middle of ongoing battles on a long list of issues—protection of our national monuments, oil and gas leasing in and near our public lands, attacks on the DOI workforce, shrinking budgets, and a growing maintenance backlog. Just to name a few! We know that we are limited in what we can do on these issues. That's why we made it a priority to build up our partnerships and work with allies to make an impact. This year we connected to groups

representing current and former employees of the Bureau of Land Management, Fish & Wildlife Service, Forest Service and Environmental Protection Agency. By coordinating with these groups, we've been able to join forces and take joint action to push back on attacks on DOI employee "loyalty," proposed budget cuts and impending government shutdowns. We've also partnered with other non-profits, like NPCA and Pew Charitable Trusts, to make a larger impact. These partnerships will be key to our success moving forward.

The Coalition represents tens of thousands of years of experience—and that number is continuing to grow as our membership ranks swell. We are willing and able to engage with the new administration, but we're not willing to "make deals" at the expense of *America's Best Idea*. There can be no deal that takes away the protection of our public lands for the benefit of corporations and individuals who want to strip the resources. We can, however, think strategically about how we find solutions to the problems facing the parks. We can build new relationships, find jointly beneficial strategies and make an impact that is to the benefit of our employees, visitors, communities and resources. We will keep pushing to be a part of conversations, using our megaphone to share our expertise and engaging in new ways. We must think big and continue to rise up.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
AMY GILBERT

Photograph by Will Skelton

Cactus in bloom, Bears Ears National Monument.



## McDonnell Pens History of Coalition *Spring 2018 completion goal*

Former NPS historian Dr. Janet McDonnell is currently preparing a brief history of the origins of the Coalition of National Park Service Retirees, now known as The Coalition to Protect America's National Parks. This history will document the main issues and concerns leading up to the creation of the Coalition in 2003 and will highlight the contributions of the individuals who played key roles in establishing and guiding that organization.

In the coming months, McDonnell will interview some of the individuals who played important roles in the early formation of the Coalition to capture their unique perspectives, as well as conduct research in relevant records. The ultimate goal of this project is to have a short history completed in Spring 2018 to provide context as the Coalition celebrates its fifteenth anniversary.



Coalition members and staff gathered in December 2017  
for their annual meeting in Washington, DC.

## Record Year for Membership, Donations, and Issues

During 2018 the Coalition will undoubtedly face more issues than at any other time in our history. The future of the NPS as we have known it is at risk. In 2016, the Coalition took action on 32 issues. During 2017, that number grew to 59. The Administration had proposed reducing the NPS budget by nearly 13%. The Department of Interior initiated a process to circumvent NEPA by creating an advisory group to create a categorical exclusion for their hunting and fishing initiative on public lands. The Department is developing a plan to reorganize the NPS without apparently any input from the public or the NPS itself. We have heard that the

plan calls for moving offices away from their current locations to 13 different cities. Should this occur, there will be great impacts to many NPS employees and the cost could be extraordinary.

This year the Coalition must find ways to increase our capacity to act. That's true on the legal front, on the policy front, and in the way we respond to precedent-setting issues. We

continue to seek new funds through donations and grants so that we can protect and conserve our parks and programs for future generations. We are reaching out to more of our members to assist us on a variety of issues such as air quality and fees. Thankfully, our Coalition has many talented members who have been eager to assist.

I want to thank Maureen Finnerty and Kate Stevenson

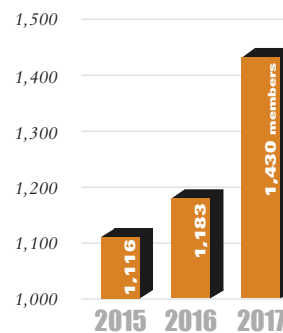
who have just rolled off the Executive Council. Maureen served for 12 years on the Council. Kate served six years working on a number of fronts to protect cultural resources and programs. Much was accomplished during their tenure and thankfully both have agreed to be involved as we move forward. I

want to thank members of

the Executive Council for their contributions of time and money. They have been generous in both. I want to thank our Executive Director, Amy Gilbert, for dedication to getting the job done. And I want thank you for your support. 2017 was a record year for member donations and for membership growth. Together we will make the difference.

—Coalition Chairman Phil Francis

### Coalition Membership







The Moki Dugway, located just northwest of the Valley of the Gods, was gouged out by a mining company in 1958 to transport uranium ore to Mexican Hat.

*Photograph by Will Skelton*

## 2017 Issues Committee Activities and Accomplishments

Following the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service (NPS) in 2016, a year in which many parks as well as the National Park System as a whole experienced record-breaking visitation, one would expect that the intrinsic value of our national parks would be widely recognized and well supported, particularly among members of Congress. Sadly, such is not the case. Since the change in Administration in January 2017, there has been a steady stream of executive orders, Congressional actions, and other policy decisions to rescind or reduce many existing regulations and policies that protect parks and the environment. These partisan political actions, along with an anemic budget proposal from the Administration, fundamentally threaten to impair the ability of the NPS to successfully fulfill its century old mission.

In such a challenging political climate, the Coalition has risen to the occasion in advocating for adequate funding for the NPS and for the conscientious protection of park resources and values as mandated under the NPS Organic Act of 1916.

In 2017 alone, the Coalition has initiated nearly 60 issue “actions,” including letters, press statements and other communications in support of the NPS mission. This is a record-shattering workload for the Coalition. As a result of our greater visibility, we are increasingly in demand by national and regional news media and in Congress for our well-reasoned voices of experience. The increased workload has not been without cost, both financial and otherwise, especially the contribution of time and energy by our many volunteer members who have done the heavy lifting on these issues.

Our efforts in 2017 have focused mainly on the Administration’s efforts to significantly cut NPS funding and to dramatically compromise or eliminate a wide variety of essential park and public lands protection regulations and policies. Our work is summarized below:

### ***Funding for the National Park System***

As everyone knows, NPS funding has not kept pace

with the increase in demand for visitor services; and appropriations for park operations have remained effectively “flat” for several years. This has had the practical effect of forcing parks to trim operations in order to stay within budget. Meanwhile, the infamous NPS deferred maintenance backlog continues to grow. Under the new Administration, parks are increasingly faced with the difficult prospect of having to cut back even more on visitor services in order to deal with continuing budget shortfalls.

We began the year by submitting “Investing in our National Park Service: A proposal for the Trump Transition Team.” In it we encouraged the new Administration to invest in improvements in park infrastructure in order to reduce the \$12 billion maintenance backlog and to increase operational funding to provide adequate staffing for parks. Our submission was followed shortly thereafter with a letter to House and Senate leaders urging them to provide NPS with the funds needed to address the backlog.

As the year progressed, we sent additional letters to Congressional leaders and issued multiple statements of concern about the need for adequate appropriations for NPS operations. In March, Coalition member and former NPS Deputy Director Deny Galvin presented testimony to the House Subcommittee on Federal Lands, Committee on Natural Resources, at the Oversight Hearing on “Identifying Innovative Infrastructure Ideas for the National Park Service and Forest Service.” In April, we joined dozens of other conservation groups in sending joint letters to the President and Congress encouraging them to avoid a government shutdown due to a looming budget impasse.

When the President’s budget proposal became public

in the spring, we issued a statement of concern regarding its proposed cuts to the NPS budget and joined dozens of other conservation groups in writing the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to oppose the Administration’s FY18 budget blueprint for the Interior, Environmental and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. In June, 262 Coalition members signed a letter to Congressional leaders requesting adequate funds to address the NPS maintenance backlog.

In June, we submitted extensive comments related to NPS organizational and funding issues during the public comment period for the Executive Order on a “Comprehensive Plan for Reorganizing the Executive Branch.” In July, we wrote Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to express our concerns about his stated desire to contract out more visitor services, such as campground management, in parks. This was followed by an article on “Why Outsourcing NPS Staff Would Be a Disaster” in *Men’s Journal Magazine*, based on an extensive interview with Coalition Vice-chair Phil Francis.

In September, we joined numerous other organizations in writing to members of Congress expressing our strong opposition to H.R. 3354, the Fiscal Year 2018 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, and protesting funding cuts to conservation agencies and programs, its environmentally damaging policy riders, and its failure to prevent sequestration. In October, Coalition executive council member Dave Graber submitted a letter to the editor of *The Bakersfield Californian* in support of the bipartisan National Park Legacy Act (S.751/H.R.2584), which would ensure that there is dedicated funding for park maintenance in each year’s budget appropriation.

In October, as a token gesture for addressing the

---

*...we wrote Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke  
to express our concerns about his stated desire  
to contract out more visitor services,  
such as campground management, in parks.*

---





**Under the proposal, entrance fees at the 17 largest national parks would be raised to \$70 per vehicle.**

*Photograph by Sheridan Steele*

NPS deferred maintenance backlog, the Administration proposed doubling the entrance fees (from \$35 to \$70 for a single visit) during the peak season at 17 of the largest and most popular national parks. While the fee hike could generate up to \$68 million annually, the Administration's 2018 budget proposal would cut NPS funding by \$400 million. Shortly after the proposed fee increases were announced, the Coalition issued a press release stating that the increases go too far and could have adverse impacts on park visitors, particularly families, and on the economies of gateway communities. We expanded on these concerns in formal comments submitted in response to the fee proposal to the NPS in mid-November.

In November, the Department of the Interior announced that it was creating an Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee to provide recommendations to Secretary Zinke on policies and programs to (among other things): expand and improve visitor infrastructure developed through public-private partnerships; implement sustainable operations embracing fair, efficient, and convenient fee collection and strategic use of the collected fees; improve interpretation using technology; and create better tools and/or opportunities for Americans to discover their lands and waters. Despite the Committee's focus on "public-

private" initiatives, Interior's proposal for Committee membership consists almost entirely of private sector "industries" that profit from visitor spending. In response, the Coalition submitted comments regarding the proposed membership composition and nominated Coalition member and former NPS Deputy Director Deny Galvin to the Committee.

For the latter part of 2017, we've heard alarming rumors of Secretary Zinke's plans to radically reorganize the management structure for the Department of the Interior and all of its bureaus; yet little information about the Secretary's plan has been available to the public or the NPS. Even Congress has been left in the dark about Zinke's reorganization plan and in early December, Coalition member and advisor Deny Galvin testified before the House Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, Committee on Natural Resources, on "Transforming the Department of the Interior for the 21st Century." While Galvin was unable to comment on Zinke's plan since the details had not been made public, Deny was able to provide incredibly useful insights into the benefits and failures of past departmental reorganization efforts.

Despite these extensive advocacy efforts, as of mid-December 2017 the level of NPS funding for FY 2018 remains uncertain, the NPS Director position



**Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument in Maine could be reduced in size or rescinded.**

*Photograph by Bill Duffy*

remains vacant without a nominee, and the potential restructuring of the Department remains a mystery. As the Administration struggles to articulate and move forward a comprehensive legislative and budget strategy, the Coalition will continue to advocate for appropriate support of the NPS and its mission.

### ***Protection of Our National Monuments***

President Trump's Executive Order 13792, issued on April 26, 2017, directed the Secretary of the Interior to review 27 recently established national monuments designated or expanded by previous Administrations under the Antiquities Act of 1906. Shortly thereafter, Interior opened up a public comment period seeking input as to whether any of the monuments should be rescinded or reduced in size. Only one of the monuments under review, Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument in Maine, is managed by the NPS. All of the others are managed, in whole or in part, by other federal agencies.

Such a sweeping review of the legitimacy of so

many national monuments for the apparent purpose of eliminating or reducing in size existing designations is historically unprecedented and legally questionable. Weakening the President's authority to designate national monuments under the Antiquities Act does, in fact, have potentially significant and very harmful implications to both the integrity of the National Park System and to the conservation of our nation's public lands. As a result, the Coalition has been an active voice in the national monument debate.

Even prior to the issuance of the executive order, it was clear that several national monuments in Utah would be the target of the Administration's efforts to rescind or reduce existing monuments. In February, Utah Governor Gary Herbert signed two concurrent resolutions passed by the state legislature asking the President to rescind the designation of Bears Ears National Monument and to significantly reduce the size of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. The Coalition responded with a letter of objection to Governor Herbert and an op-ed titled "Don't Mess





**The Administration has decided to reduce the size of Bears Ears National Monument in Utah by 85%.**

*U.S. Bureau of Land Management*

with Bears Ears” in the DC-based Morning Consult.

After President Trump signed the executive order in late April, the Coalition immediately issued a statement opposing any significant changes to the 27 existing monuments. In early May, we joined 450 other organizations in writing President Trump, Interior Secretary Zinke, and Commerce Secretary Ross to express our unified opposition to any efforts by the Trump administration to remove or decrease protections for any national monuments. In late May, we submitted extensive formal comments to Secretary Zinke in support of preserving Bears Ears National Monument as designated. In June, 260 Coalition members sent a joint letter to Secretary Zinke explaining the importance of the Antiquities Act in the development and expansion of the National Park System, and advocating that the 27 monuments under review remain intact. In mid-June, Secretary Zinke issued a “preliminary report” on Bears Ears National Monument that proposed a significant reduction in the size of and management protections for the

monuments. The Coalition immediately issued a statement opposing the Secretary’s “preliminary” recommendation to significantly reduce the size of Bears Ears NM. Also in June, Coalition executive council member Sheridan Steele published an op-ed in the *Bangor Daily News* on “The Importance of Maine’s New National Monument.” Then in early July, we submitted formal comments on the Secretary’s review of all 27 national monuments and advocated for the monuments to continue to be managed as described in their respective proclamations.

In September, after details of Secretary Zinke’s recommendations were leaked to the press, the Coalition issued a statement criticizing his proposed reductions in size and protection of a number of national monuments. In October, House Natural Resource Committee Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT) introduced legislation that would dismantle key provisions of the Antiquities Act, which has been used by Republican and Democratic presidents alike to protect some of America’s most iconic and beloved parks and public



lands. In response, the Coalition issued a statement opposing the legislation. A few days later, over 350 Coalition members signed a letter to Interior Secretary Zinke expressing extreme disappointment with the results of his review of national monuments, which were dismissive of the majority of public comments submitted. In late November, executive council member Dick Ring published an op-ed in the *Broward County (FL) Sun Sentinel* encouraging the Florida Congressional delegation to stand against Chairman Bishop's bill that would seriously weaken the Antiquities Act.

In early December, President Trump announced his decision to follow Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's recommendations to drastically reduce the size of two national monuments in Utah. The Administration will reduce the size of Bears Ears NM by 85 percent and Grand Staircase-Escalante NM by 50 percent, thereby significantly reducing protections for both areas. The day after the announcement, Secretary Zinke finally released his "monument review" report on which the President's decisions were based. Needless to say, the Coalition, along with other advocacy groups, reacted strongly to the decision and the report, and will continue to oppose efforts by the Trump Administration to downsize and remove protections from our treasured national monuments. The President's announcement has already been met by multiple lawsuits and the legal battle will continue well into 2018.

### ***Cultural resources***

For the past few years, the Coalition has joined other park advocacy groups in opposing Dominion (Virginia) Power's proposal to construct a new high voltage transmission line, with 17 massive towers, across

the James River near historic Jamestown. This action would impact the visual resources of America's first permanent English settlement. That opposition gave the Army Corps of Engineers, the federal agency in charge of permitting the project, pause to reflect on the impacts and consider other alternatives. However, the new Administration quickly gave Dominion Power the green light to proceed with the project. Various conservation groups sued to challenge that decision. In August, the Coalition filed an amicus curiae brief and

associated motion in support of the plaintiffs.

Many of the historic structures in the U.S. are privately owned and maintained. An important and effective incentive to encourage property owners to redevelop underutilized historic structures has been the historic tax credit. Since its inception in 1976, the credit has leveraged more than \$84 billion in private investment, created more than 2.4 million jobs, and preserved more than 42,000 historic buildings. In November, the Coalition wrote the House Ways and Means Committee advocating for the continuation of the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program in the new tax bill. Congress

and the President ultimately kept the historic tax credit program, though in a weakened form. Under the new federal tax law, historic preservation credits must be spread over five years (rather than the previous one).

### ***Energy development in and near parks***

In recent years, in large part due to changes in drilling technology such as hydraulic fracturing ("fracking"), there has been growing pressure to develop energy



**Top:** Cutthroat Unit at Hovenweep National Monument. **Bottom:** A spiral petroglyph at Chaco Culture National Historical Park.

*NPS photographs*





**“Old Bedlam,” the first building constructed at Fort Laramie National Historic site in 1849.**

*NPS photograph*

reserves, especially oil and gas, on federal lands. These energy development activities, if not carefully managed, can adversely impact visual resources (air quality, scenic vistas, and dark night skies), natural soundscapes, water quality, and wildlife habitat within parks. Addressing threats to park resources and visitor experience opportunities that could be caused by proposed energy development on federal lands adjacent to parks has become a major focus for the Coalition’s Issues Committee.

The likelihood of adverse impacts caused by oil and gas development has dramatically increased under the new Administration due, in part, to two recent executive orders (EO) issued by President Trump: EO 13777 on “Enforcing the Regulatory Reform Agenda”; and EO 13783 on “Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth.” The clear intent of these orders is to reduce regulatory and compliance requirements, primarily environmental protections, in order to encourage increased energy development on federal lands and increased profitability.

In 2017 the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposed issuing oil and gas leases adjacent or in close proximity to a number of national parks, including Zion National Park, Dinosaur National Monument, Capitol Reef National Park, Chaco Culture National Historical Park, Hovenweep National Monument, Fort Laramie National Historic Site, and Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Additionally, BLM has decided not to prepare several “master leasing plans” (MLPs) in Utah, an effective collaborative planning process developed by the BLM in 2010 and long supported by the Coalition. MLP’s help identify resource concerns early in the planning process, before

leasing occurs, and thereby protect park resources and visitor experience opportunities through avoidance or mitigation, while still allowing appropriate energy development to occur.

In February, the Issues Committee submitted comments to the BLM in Utah opposing their proposed sale of oil and gas leases on parcels along the west boundary of Zion National Park. A few days later we submitted comments to BLM and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in northwestern New Mexico regarding a joint management plan that will guide future oil and gas leasing in the vicinity of Chaco Culture National Historic Park, Aztec Ruins National Monument, and other important cultural sites.

On March 28, President Trump issued the EO to rollback numerous environmental protection policies and regulations related to oil, gas, and mineral extraction on public lands. The next day Interior Secretary Zinke issued a Secretarial Order (SO) that mirrored many of the “requirements” of the EO. The SO targeted for review and possible repeal a number of Interior agency regulations, including the NPS “9B” oil and gas regulations that apply to non-federal oil and gas development occurring within certain parks where “split estates” occur (i.e., where NPS did not acquire the subsurface mineral rights at the time of the park’s establishment). Though not widely known, 12 parks have oil and gas operations and another 30 parks have the potential for future development. A 2016 revision of the NPS oil and gas rule closed major loopholes in an outdated 1979 regulation that had exempted from NPS oversight 60% of the oil and gas operations occurring in these parks. In April,

the Coalition ran an op-ed in *The Hill* defending the revised “9B” regulations and wrote Secretary Zinke asking him to retain the revised rule in order to protect park resources.

A bit of good news occurred in June when the BLM in Utah announced that, based on the strong public comments it had received, it would “defer” on leasing parcels for oil and gas development along the Zion National Park boundary. However, the threat of drilling near other parks continues.

In July, we submitted formal written comments in response to Interior’s public comment period on possible repeal or revision of the NPS “9B” oil and gas regulations. Coalition member Fred Fagergren ran an op-ed in the *Salt Lake Tribune* advocating that protection of park resources should be considered before oil and gas leasing. In

August, over 350 Coalition members signed a letter to Interior Secretary Zinke voicing our concern for the alarming number of oil and gas proposals that are advancing next to national parks, as well as broader efforts by the Department to reduce protections for national parks in order to encourage oil and gas drilling. In September, three members of the Coalition (Cordell Roy, Tom Vaughan, and Mike Murray) participated in a nation-wide telephonic press conference (“telepresser”) to call attention to our concerns about the increase in oil and gas development adjacent to national parks and the reduction in the levels of planning and resources protections required for such operations.

In late September, the Coalition and the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) jointly filed a formal protest with the BLM’s Vernal (Utah) Field Office regarding their decision to lease oil and gas parcels adjacent to Dinosaur National Monument. In October, executive council member Mike Murray participated in an interview published in *The New York Times* titled

“Drilling Near Dinosaur National Monument Draws Criticism.” In November, the Coalition submitted joint comments with NPCA to BLM regarding proposed oil and gas leasing along the boundary of the North Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

In addition to the many oil and gas-related actions described above, the Coalition also acted on other kinds of energy development projects that threaten to adversely impact parks. In June, the Coalition joined NPCA and The Defenders of Wildlife to submit a formal protest to the BLM regarding the Eagle Crest Energy Gen-Tie and Water Supply Pipeline Project. This so-called “alternative energy project” would involve construction of a large-scale pumped storage hydroelectric project adjacent to Joshua Tree National Park. Of primary concern to the Coalition are the adverse

impacts that facility construction and operation—the latter of which relies heavily upon scarce desert groundwater resources—could cause to the desert park’s water resources, wildlife, cultural resources and vegetation.

### ***Support for NPS employees***

In the recommendations we provided to the Trump transition team at the start of the year, we encouraged the new Administration to hire and develop an

NPS workforce reflective of the strength and diversity of America; ensure supervisors and managers receive necessary fundamental training and development; provide employees with overall mission and purpose training; review the NPS organizational structure, particularly the past consolidation of specialty functions at the Central Office level, which has proven counterproductive to parks; ensure zero tolerance when dealing with misconduct and poor performance of employees at any level within the organization; and ensure the senior leadership of the NPS is setting the example of effective leadership in protecting park resources and



**The Coalition objected to Secretary Zinke’s statement that 30% of Interior employees were not “loyal to the flag.”**

*Photograph by Sheridan Steele*



complying with applicable laws and requirements. In June, executive council member Maria Burks represented the Coalition in testifying to the United States Senate Subcommittee on National Parks, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, during a hearing to examine opportunities for “Moving into a Second Century of Service: Working to Improve the National Park Service Workplace Environment.” The testimony was well received on both sides of the aisle.

In September, we issued a statement expressing strong objections to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s outrageous claim, made to a group of oil and gas industry representatives, that 30% of Interior’s employees were not “loyal to the flag.” Our statement defended the integrity and dedication to mission of Department employees and was quoted in a number of national news media outlets. This was followed in early October with a letter to the editor of the *Helena* (MT) *Independent Record*, again defending the integrity and dedication of Interior employees in Montana and insisting that the Secretary owed those employees an apology.

Sexual harassment of park employees in the workplace has been in the news in recent years, which is why we addressed this issue directly in our recommendations to the Trump transition team. While Coalition members have had a variety of personal experiences and perspectives regarding the workplace environment within the NPS, few can question the strong and continued commitment to agency mission of the vast majority of NPS employees. Sadly, in October, an NPS employee survey was released documenting that nearly 40% of NPS employees indicated they had suffered some type of harassment during their careers. In a public statement about the survey results, we expressed our grave concern about this ongoing and pervasive problem within the NPS. We will continue to advocate for necessary changes to fully address this problem for the sake of all NPS employees, who deserve a safe and fair workplace that is free of harassment.

### ***Changing the rules for wilderness***

In March, legislation was introduced in the House that would amend the Wilderness Act of 1964 to allow bicycles in designated wilderness. Federal land management agencies have long excluded the use of bikes based on the Act’s prohibition of “other forms of mechanical transport.” The Coalition wrote the House Committee on Natural Resources expressing our opposition to the bill.

In closing, 2017 has been an incredibly busy and challenging year for the Issues Committee. We could not have been as productive as we have been without the outstanding support and participation of many members of the Coalition, who are acknowledged in a separate section of the newsletter.

## **Award Winners Announced**

**1872 Award** Outgoing Chair of the Coalition, **Maureen Finnerty**, was selected as the winner of the 1872 Award. Maureen has served on the Executive Council for the past 12 years, six of which she served as Chair. Maureen has led a wide variety of advocacies for parks and the National Park System. Her efforts to protect park values have included input to the courts of law, the court of public opinion, Congress, and other land management agencies.

Above all, Maureen has simply worked hard to assure that the Coalition grows stronger and reaches its’ full potential as an advocate for the National Park Service, parks, and park values. Phone calls are always returned promptly; e-mails are always answered quickly; and good judgment is invariably applied. In essence, Maureen is the glue that connected the Executive Council and inspired our contributions throughout her service as Chair.



**Hartzog Award** The George Hartzog Award is given to the individual or individuals who demonstrate outstanding support for the mission of the National Park System and/or the National Park Service. The

Executive Council has selected **Kurt Repanshek** as the winner of this award. Kurt is founder and CEO of the National Parks Traveler that has 1.6 million readers annually. Kurt has been a strong supporter of and advocate for the National Park System and has raised important issues and concerns about the management of the parks. His efforts have raised awareness of challenges facing our parks and have been an important component of the ongoing dialogue about preserving parks for future generations.





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

5625 North Wilmot Road  
Tucson, AZ 85750-1216

---

## Thank You!

*As always, the Coalition is extremely grateful for the generosity and service of our members. Your continued support helps us amplify and expand our work. Donations to the Coalition are accepted year-round online at [www.protectnps.org/donate](http://www.protectnps.org/donate) or through the mail at our business office: **5625 North Wilmot Road, Tucson, AZ 85750-1216**.*

*We extend a special THANK YOU to the following Coalition members who helped with the organization's vital work:*

Jane Anderson, Rob Arnberger, Brenda Barrett, Ann Belkov, Laurel Boyers, Maria Burks, Mark Butler, Fred Fagergren, Mike Finley, Maureen Finnerty, Mary Foley, Phil Francis, Deny Galvin, Amy Gilbert, David Graber, Tim Harvey, Don Hellmann, Bill Halainen, Jon Jarvis, Ron Mackie, Mark Mastko, Dick Martin, Mary Martin, Steve Martin, Janet McDonnell, Doug Morris, Mike Murray, John Reynolds, Dick Ring, Molly Ross, Cordell Roy, Chris Shaver, Dave Shaver, Carol Shull, Rick Smith, Sean Smith, Mike Soukup, Bob Stanton, Sheridan Steele, Kate Stevenson, Pat Tiller, and Tom Vaughan.

*Newsletter produced in cooperation with:*



*Edited by Steve Kemp*

*Designed by Lisa Horstman*