

# Take Action Oil and Gas Leasing

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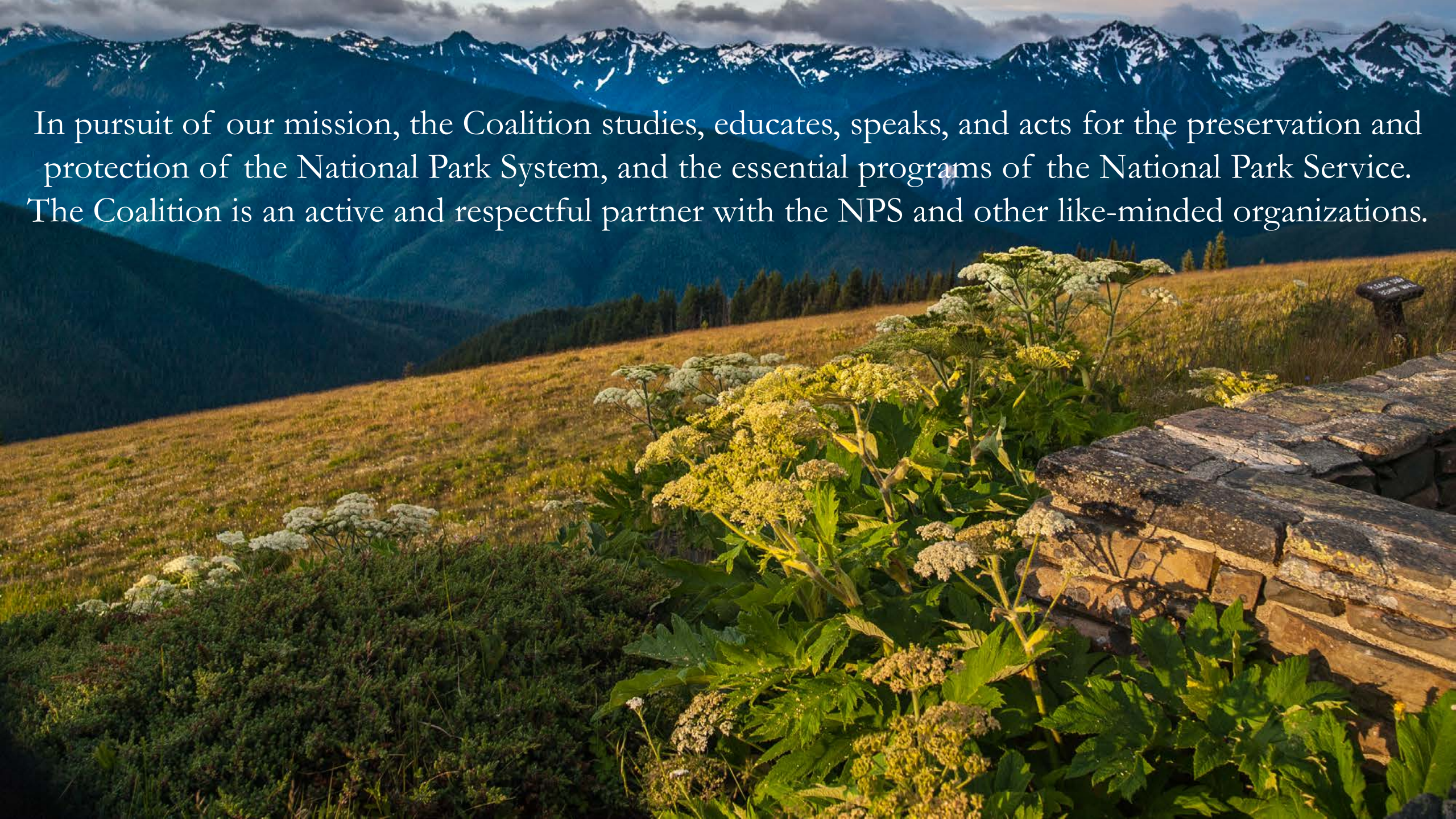


# Our Mission

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The Coalition to Protect America's National Parks is a vocal advocate for the protection of America's most precious natural and cultural resources.





In pursuit of our mission, the Coalition studies, educates, speaks, and acts for the preservation and protection of the National Park System, and the essential programs of the National Park Service. The Coalition is an active and respectful partner with the NPS and other like-minded organizations.



# Our Unique Contribution

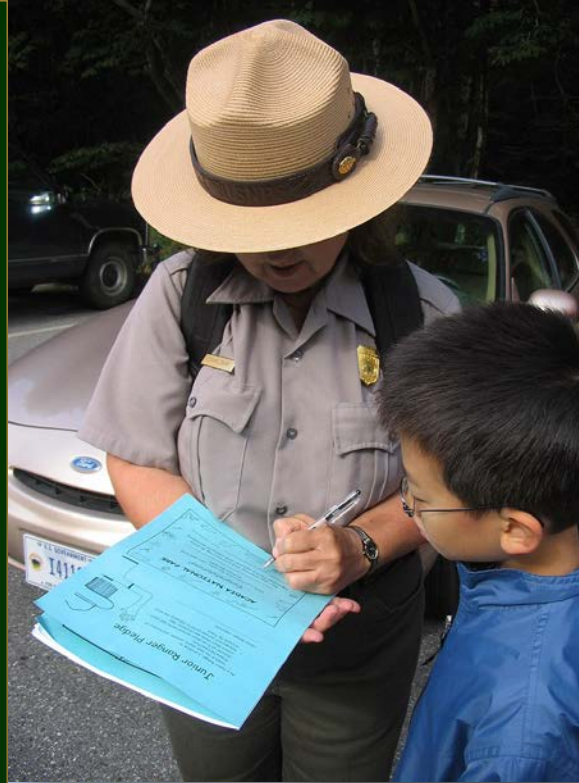
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We understand the internal administrative requirements and operational needs of the NPS and DOI, as well as the ramifications that changes in law, policy, and regulations have on NPS preservation and use strategies and actions, unit operations, visitor use and access, and nearby communities.



# Voices of Experience Today

- Our membership is made up of current and former NPS employees and volunteers, representing all levels and job disciplines of the agency.
- We currently have over 1,800 members, representing over 40,000 years of collective experience.







# Advocacy

- Our advocacy efforts include writing op-eds and letters to the editor, submitting public comments, sending letters to Congress, meeting with Congressional offices, responding to media inquiries, working with partners, and much more...
- In 2019, the Coalition initiated **over 100 actions** in eight different issue areas.
- In 2020, we have had **160 actions** so far with months left in the year

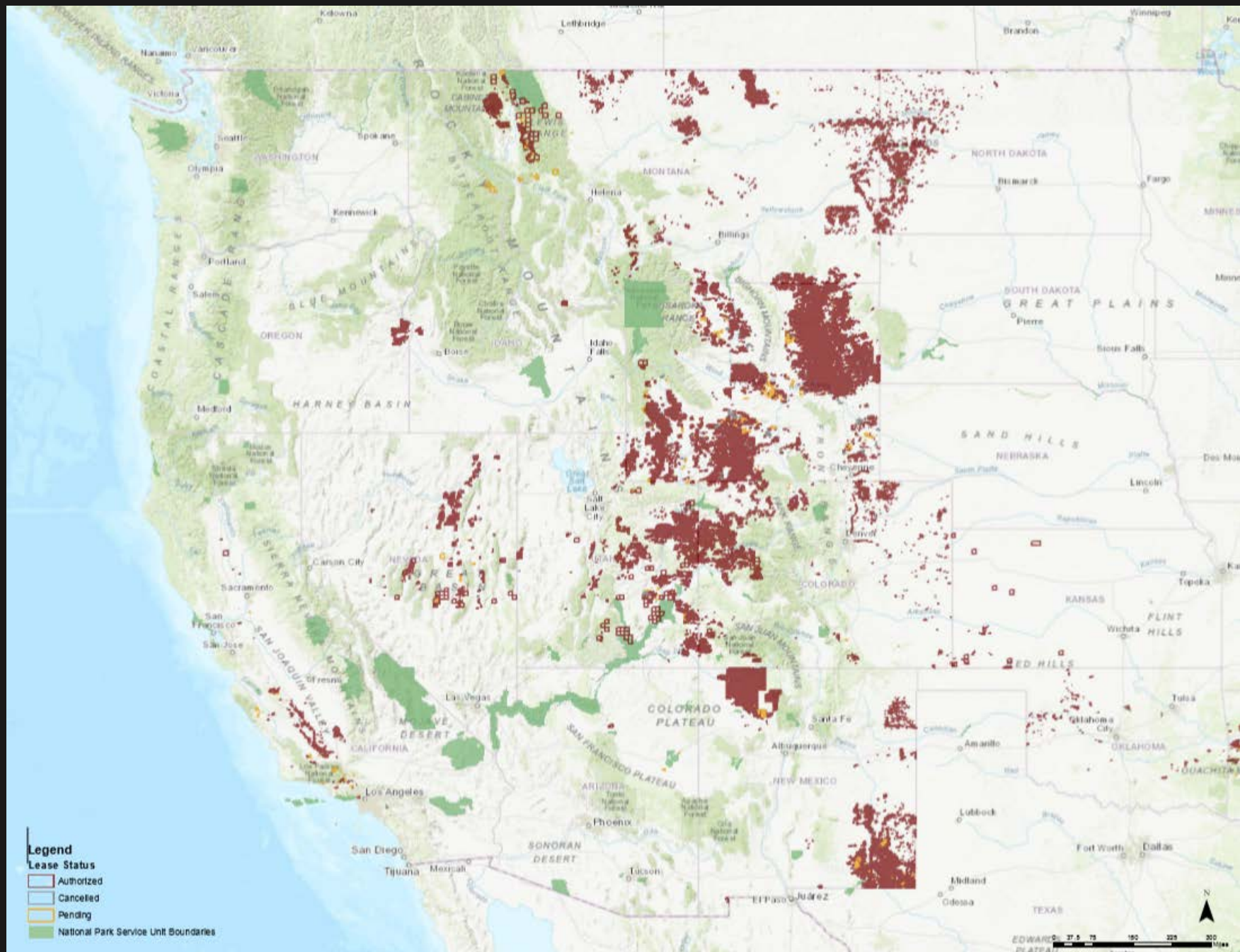




Our National Parks  
connect us, educate us,  
inspire us

They are home to America's  
most cherished wildlife,  
landscapes, and stories





100 YEARS



# Across national parks in the US this threatens to...

- Industrialize park landscapes
- Pollute air and water
- Hurt businesses and communities
- Degrade cultural resources
- Fragment wildlife habitat



# Oil and Gas Leasing 101

01

BLM holds quarterly lease sales based off anonymous nominations

02

Auction is held with a minimum bid of \$2 per acre

03

Lease lasts for at least 10 years

04

If developed, operator pays a federal royalty of 12.5%







The administration has offered more than **24.5 million acres of public land** for lease.

That's more land than the entire state of Indiana!



# Regulatory Rollbacks

- Ended Master Leasing Plans (MLPs)
- Limited public participation
- Mandated quarterly statewide lease sales
- Slashed environmental review
- Muzzled National Park Service



# Leasing continues despite the pandemic.

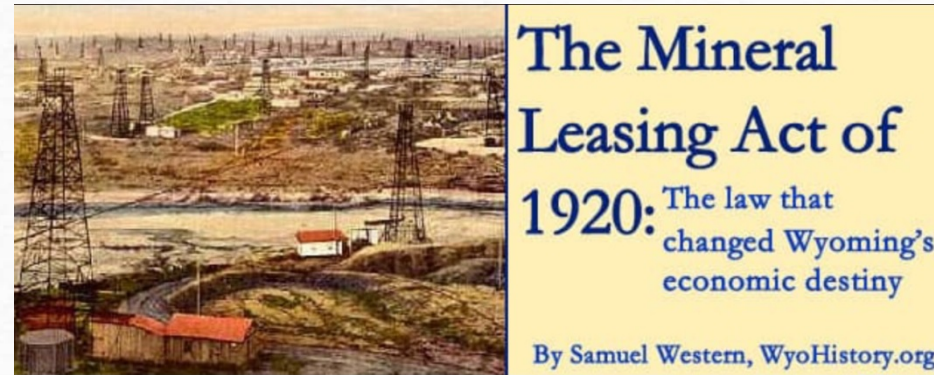
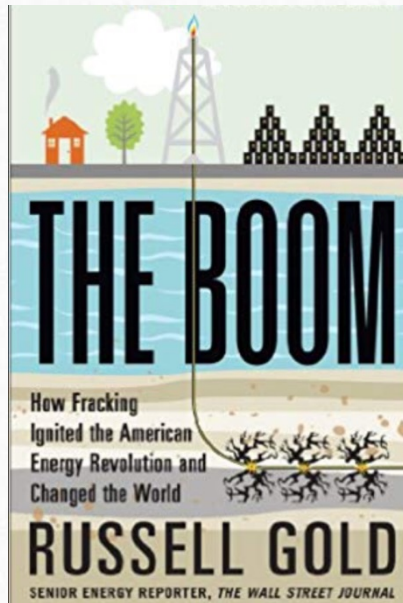


100 YEARS



# BLM Manages O&G Development on Public Lands

- The Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (MLA) and the Federal Lands Policy & Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) provide the statutory basis for BLM's leasing authority.



The Mineral Leasing Act of 1920: The law that changed Wyoming's ...

- Since the mid-1990's, advances in extraction technology (fracking, etc.) have made “low production potential” sources of O&G (e.g., oil shale and tar sands deposits) more profitable to exploit on public lands. Much of the BLM leasing that occurs near national parks is considered to have “low production potential”.



# Under the MLA and FLPMA, BLM has always had an industry-first leasing system.

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- BLM state offices typically hold O&G lease sales 4x/yr. Individuals and corporations can nominate public lands for leasing by submitting “an expression of interest.”
- BLM charges no fee to submit an expression of interest; submitters are not required to provide a name or address.
- BLM-wide 75% of parcels nominations are made anonymously. Since 2017, 96% of nominations in Nevada have been made anonymously.



How BLM goes about implementing its O&G leasing mandate is heavily influenced by politics.



**2010 BLM Instruction Memorandum on “Oil and Gas Leasing Reform” (IM No. 2010-117) provided for:**

- Master leasing Plans (MLPs); collaborative approach; considered impacts beyond BLM lands (e.g., Moab MLP)
- BLM State Offices rotated lease sales quarterly by field office to allow time for each office to conduct adequate parcel reviews;
- Allowed 30 days for public comment on lease sale documents; and 30-day protest period after lease sale award;
- Routinely deferred on leasing parcels with outdated RMPs;



**The above IM was rescinded in 2018 and replaced by IM No. 2018-034, which provides for:**

- Eliminated MLPs; lease sales no longer rotated by field office; State offices must now offer any/all parcels that have been nominated each quarter; reduced timeframe for parcel review to no more than 6 mos.;
- Public comment on EAs is now “optional” (typically 0-15 days); Protest period reduced to 10 days;
- BLM will no longer routinely defer on leasing parcels in locations with outdated RMPs.



## The “Pace” of BLM O&G leasing has quickened.

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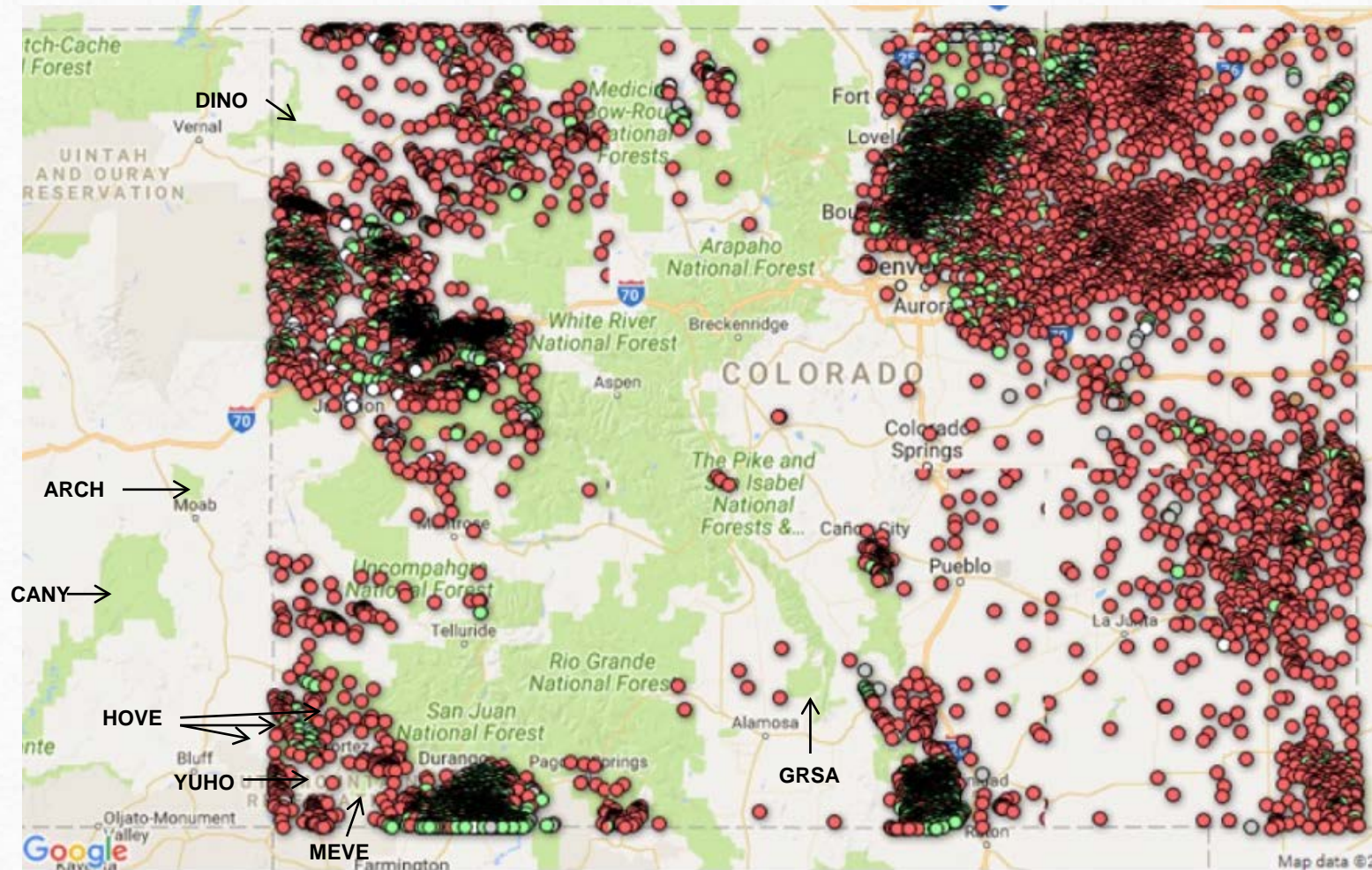
In FY 2018 alone, BLM state offices offered:

- 28 competitive oil and gas lease sales, involving 3,073 parcels totaling 12,836,231 acres for lease.
- Of these, 1,336 parcels were actually leased totaling 1,351,287 acres, with total lease receipts of over \$1.1 billion.





# Colorado

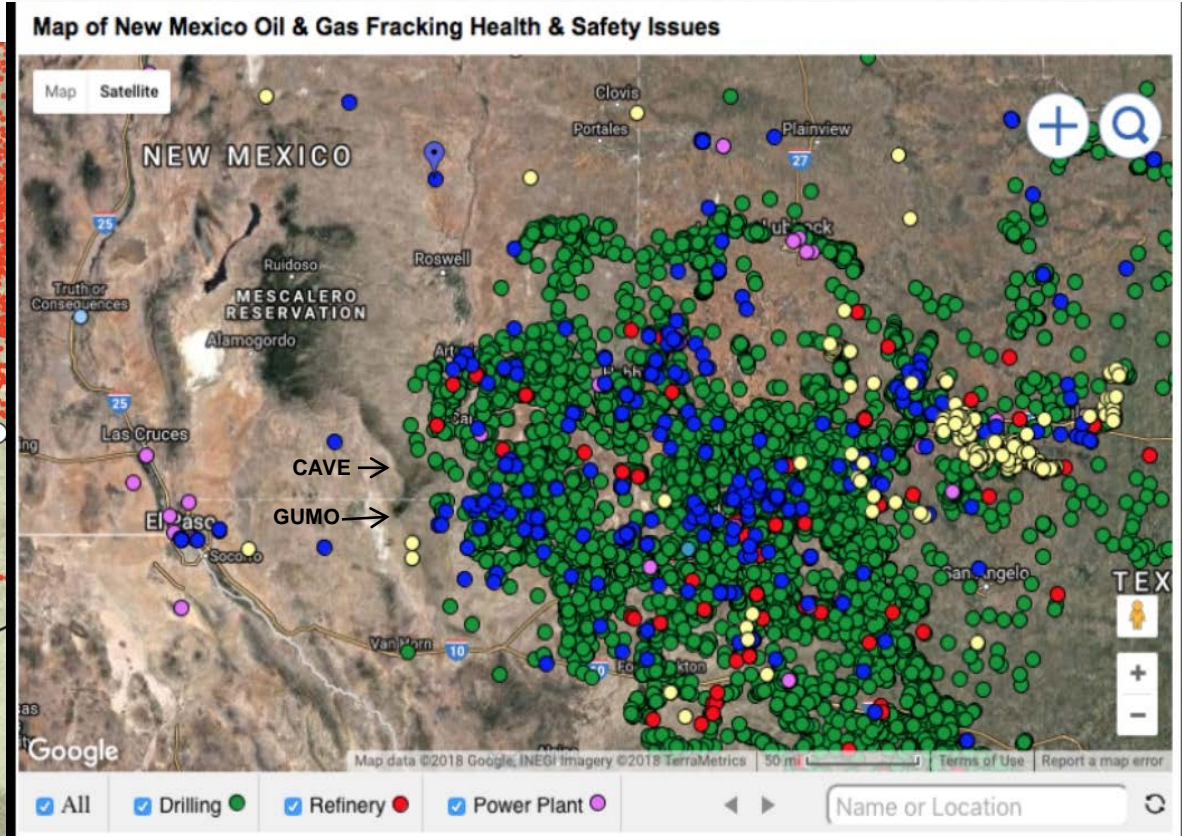
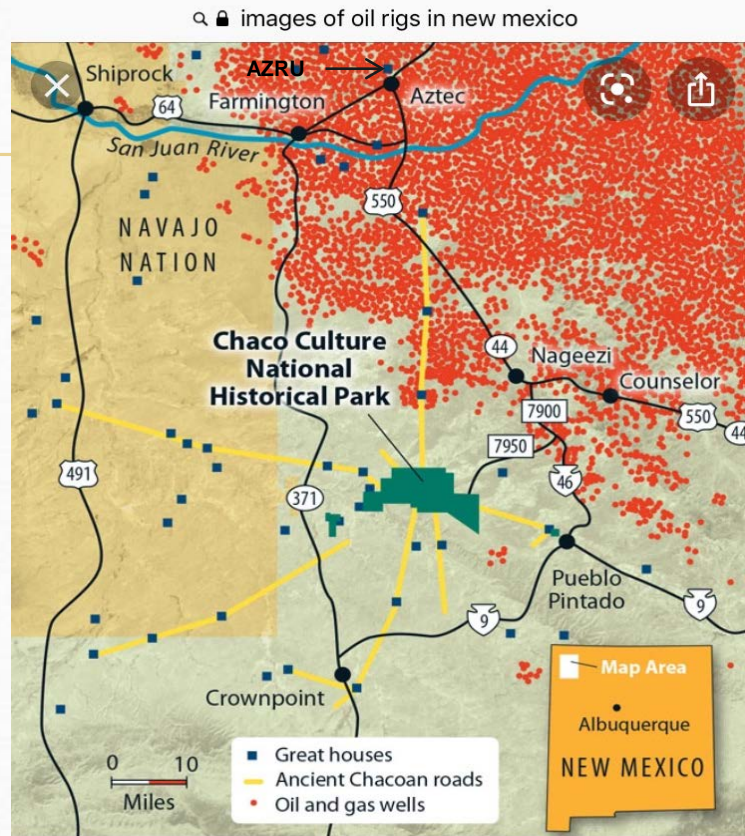


<u># leases</u>	<u># producing leases</u>	<u># acres leased</u>	<u># producing acres</u>
3,703	2,204	2,692,029	1,502,100



# New Mexico

## Some of the States & Parks Affected by BLM Oil & Gas Leasing (FY2018 Data by State)



**# leases**  
**7,808**

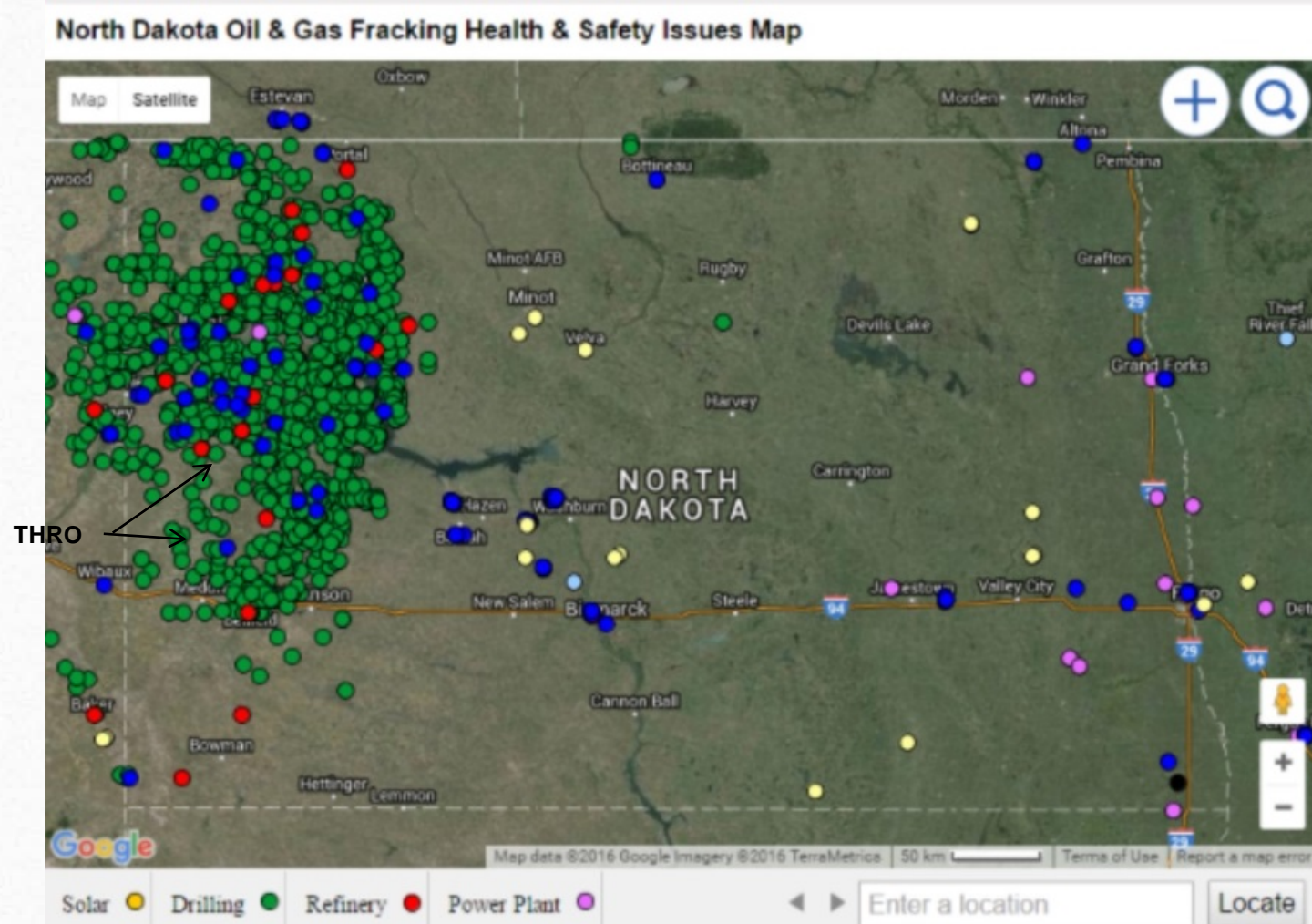
**# producing leases**  
**6,687**

**# acres leased**  
**4,291,920**

**# producing acres**  
**3,788,712**



# North Dakota





<u># leases</u>	<u># producing leases</u>	<u># acres leased</u>	<u># producing acres</u>
1,741	1,349	829,048	602,884

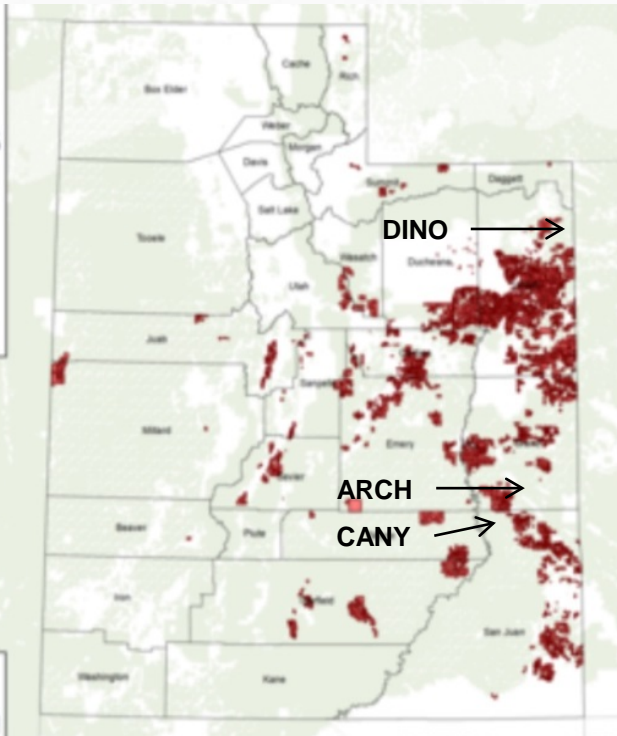


# Utah


## Oil and Gas Leases on Federal Lands in the State of Utah

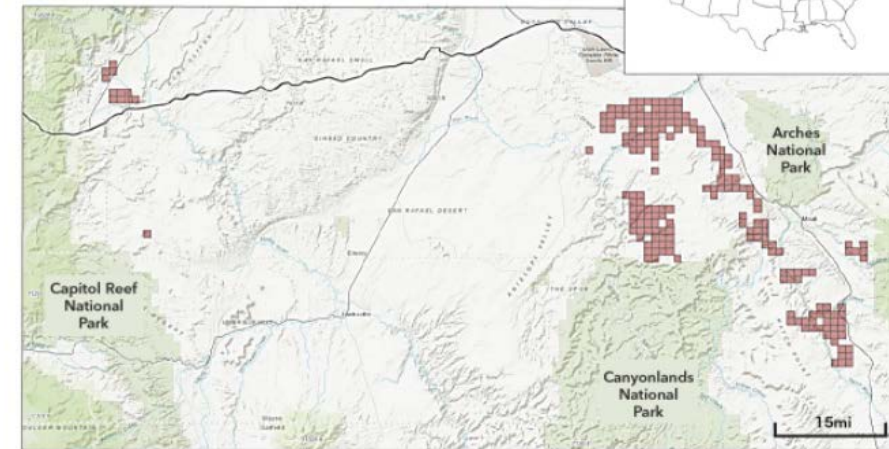
2,319 leases  
2,246,233 acres leased

 Oil and Gas Leases  
 Federal Public Land



## Proposed Oil Leasing Near National Parks in Utah

 Sections of land containing one or more pending nominations for oil and gas leases in 2020



Source: Bloomberg analysis of Bureau of Land Management oil/gas lease nomination records and Public Land Survey System geospatial data; base map layer from Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, TomTom, Intermap, IPC, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Stamen Design, OpenStreetMap

Bloomberg Law

<u># leases</u>	<u># producing leases</u>	<u># acres leased</u>	<u># producing acres</u>
2,752	1,498	2,292,448	1,111,012



# Coalition Advocacy Efforts

## 1. **Comments on individual BLM lease sale environmental assessments (EAs). Typical lease sale EA shortcomings include:**








- Often tiered off outdated BLM Resource Management Plans/EISs (RMPs) that predated the common use of fracking
- Often fail to consider environmental, visitor experience, and socio-economic impacts to adjacent parks
- Parcels near parks often are proposed for leasing despite BLM finding that they have “low production potential”
- Environmental impacts to adjacent parks typically include: water quality concerns; wildlife disturbance; scenic and viewshed impacts, including impacts to dark skies.

## 2. **Filing formal administrative protests on BLM lease sale decisions.** (usually as a joint effort with NPCA or other groups)



# Coalition Advocacy Efforts (continued)

## 3. Comments on, in support of or opposition to, related regulations and legislation, including:

-  - EPA rollbacks of various air quality standards (ACE rule; SAFE rule, etc.) which are intended to keep demand for fossil fuels high
-  - Revision of CEQ NEPA implementing regulations. Final rule issued July 15, 2020. It institutionalizes:
  -  Abbreviated NEPA reviews;
  -  Imposes time and page limits for completing EAs and EISs;
  -  Makes public comment on EAs is optional (subject to agency discretion)
-  - Supported the FY 2020 Interior Appropriations bill that included a provision to prevent BLM from leasing oil, gas, and minerals within a 10-mile radius of CHCU (i.e., a “buffer zone”)
-  - Support recent bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act (“Leasing Market Efficiency Act”) to ensure market competition in onshore oil and gas leasing (eliminates non-competitive leasing).





Take Action

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# We Need Solutions

- To protect national parks from oil and gas development, the solution is simple: **avoid leases that will harm parks.**
- We need Congress to advance policy reforms to avoid creating more harm to public lands.



# Policy Solutions

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## End Noncompetitive Lease Sales

- S. 4223, the Leasing Market Efficiency Act

## End Speculative Leasing

- S. 3202, the End Speculative Oil and Gas Leasing Act

## Update Fiscal Policy

- S. 3330, the Fair Returns for Public Lands Act

## Increase Transparency and Public Involvement

- H.R. 3225, the Restoring Community Input and Public Protections in Oil and Gas Leasing Act



# We Need Your Help

We depend on our members and supporters to help us advocate on behalf of our national parks. Policymakers want to hear from constituents.

We need advocates like you to help advance policy solutions that will have a direct impact on national parks and public lands across the country.





# Become an Advocate

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1

Watch for Action Alerts that will give you a heads-up on advocacy opportunities.

2

Follow our social media channels for informal calls-to-action.

3

Take the initiative to contact your representative and support policy solutions.

4

Raise Your Voice - YOU are the voice of experience.





# Find your Members of Congress

## House of Representatives

<https://www.house.gov/representatives>

## Senate

<https://www.senate.gov/senators/contact>





# Q&A Portion

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# How to Find Us

## Online

- [www.ProtectNPS.org](http://www.ProtectNPS.org)

## On Social

- Facebook - ProtectNPS
- Twitter - @ProtectNPS
- Instagram – ProtectNPS
- LinkedIn – Coalition to Protect America's National Parks



*Our voice has never been stronger, and our engagement  
has never been more necessary.*