

Coalition Briefs
December 2017

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The Coalition To Protect America's National Parks

Voices of Experience

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Coalition Launches Online Store to Raise Funds

Just in time for the holiday season, the Coalition has launched an online storefront with a range of branded products to boost the Coalition's brand and work protecting national parks and the NPS Mission.

The storefront for the CPANP-branded merchandise is available at www.HelpSaveNationalParks.org.

Featured items on the storefront branded with the "Our Blood Runs Green" message include t-shirts, sweatshirts, baseball caps, beach bags, messenger bags, kid's clothing, water bottles and other drinkware, and a variety of lower-cost "stocking stuffer" items, including notepads, golf balls, stickers and mouse pads.

If something on the storefront doesn't catch your eye, you're welcome to make a donation directly to the Coalition on our [website](#).

Check out the Online Store

**Coalition Nominates Deny Galvin for
Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee**

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Coalition By
Shopping On
Amazon Smile**

[Amazon Smile](#) is exactly like Amazon and has all the same products, but when you shop on Amazon Smile, Amazon donates to the Coalition.

The Department of the Interior is soliciting nominations for the newly created “Made in America” Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee. The Committee will provide advice to the Secretary on the public-private partnerships across all public lands, with the goal of expanding access to and improving infrastructure on public lands and waterways. Read our nomination of Deny Galvin at the link below.

[See Our Nomination](#)

Comments on Proposed Targeted Fee Increases at 17 National Parks

The NPS proposal to double peak season entrance fees at 17 of the most popular national parks is fundamentally flawed and, if implemented, will do more harm than good. In our comments, we outline our three major concerns:

- 1) NPS has failed to follow its legal public input obligations as required by section 804 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, (16 U.S. Code § 6803);
- 2) The amount of revenue estimated to be raised by the proposed fee increases and the benefit towards addressing the NPS deferred maintenance backlog is greatly overstated; and
- 3) The proposed fee increases will exclude visitors who cannot afford to visit the targeted parks and could have significant adverse impacts to gateway communities surrounding those parks.

We offer detailed comments regarding our three major concerns at the link below.

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Read our Comments

Membership Update

The Coalition's
membership
currently stands
at **1,418**
members.

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Coalition Urges Preservation of the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentive Program

In a letter to the members of the House Ways & Means Committee, the Coalition requested that the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program be retained in a reformed tax code when Congress considers H.R. 1, the Tax Cut and Jobs Act. The introduced bill fails to include this vital federal tax incentive - a proven tool that creates local jobs, preserves historic buildings and returns more to the Treasury than it costs. Click the link below to read our letter.

Read the Letter

Coalition Comments on Proposed Oil & Gas Leasing Near Theodore Roosevelt NP

The Coalition and the National Parks Conservation Association have submitted a joint comment letter to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) expressing concerns about proposed oil and gas leasing along the boundary of the North Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Click the link below to read our letter to the BLM.

Read our Comments

What We're Reading & Tracking This Month

Executive Council member, Dick Ring, wrote an op-ed for the Sun-Sentinel expressing his concern with the growing number of federal efforts to undermine the protection of new and existing national monuments. He calls on members of the Florida delegation to stand up to these attacks. Read his op-ed [here](#).

Phil Francis, the Coalition's Vice Chair, was quoted in the *Morning Consult* regarding the proposed fee hikes. In the article, Phil said opposition from voters is not surprising given the unprecedented amount of the fee increase. "If the poll takers knew that the huge fee increase would only pay less than 1% of the cost of deferred maintenance and that the Congress is considering a budget reduction once again for the NPS, then I think more people would have opposed the increase." Read the full article [here](#).

It is expected that President Trump will travel to Utah next week to announce he will shrink at least two national monuments, Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante. The Coalition will be tracking this closely and plan to continue our speaking out against any changes to our national monuments. Read more about the announcement [here](#).

Sometimes the most important connection you can make is with yourself. National parks can give people the quiet and solitude they need to heal and find peace. Read the [article](#) in the *New York Times* from poet, Meghan O' Rourke, on her search for peace in the silence of Olympic National Park.

The Coalition is closely tracking proposed changes to uranium mining policy near Grand Canyon. The 20-year uranium mining ban—installed during the Obama administration in 2012—covers over one million acres of land near the Grand Canyon owned by the Forest Service. The proposal was released with a list of policy proposals that the Forest Service said are preventing the production of domestic energy. Read more in [Newsweek](#).

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