

Coalition Briefs
February 2017

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The Coalition To Protect America's National Parks

Voices of Experience

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The Coalition to Protect America's National Parks Announces Our #ProtectNationalParks Social Media Campaign

In 2016, we celebrated the NPS Centennial and encouraged everyone to #FindYourPark. Now, we must step up and advocate to #ProtectNationalParks through communication, information sharing, and advocacy.

On January 27, the [Coalition to Protect America's National Parks](#) launched our #ProtectNationalParks social media campaign to promote conversation and advocacy

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around national park and NPS-related issues. We are uniquely poised to lead this campaign because we provide a credible, safe, nonpartisan avenue for information and fact sharing about national park, NPS, and environmental issues.

We hope you consider joining us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#). If you have any questions about setting up or using these social media sites, [please email us](#). On these platforms, we are posting facts and information, as well as encouraging others to add their voices to the movement.

Now is the time for us to join together and advocate for “America’s Best Idea.” Please join us on social media and help us #ProtectNationalParks!



As we continue our critical advocacy work, we hope that you will consider making a donation to the Coalition.

The Coalition is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization and monetary

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Thank you for your continued support!

Support the 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.

Throughout the year, and especially this Valentine's Day when you may be buying gifts for your loved ones, use Amazon Smile to support the Coalition while buying your gifts!

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CPANP Urges Senate and House Leaders to Fund NPS Maintenance Backlog

As the 115th Congress begins session, the Coalition to Protect America's National Parks has requested that both the House and Senate fund the National Park Service's \$11.9B Maintenance Backlog. The Coalition strongly believes that failure to provide this important funding will continue to seriously jeopardize our nation's most important natural and cultural resources, and diminish the experience visitors have at our national park units. We ask CPANP members to also contact their Senators and Representatives, and request they support funding for our National Parks.

Please click the button below to read our full letter urging Congress to fund the maintenance backlog.



Read Our Full Letter

Member Action of the Month

Note: In each monthly brief, we publish a "Member Action of the Month." We hope all members will participate!

Please visit our [Facebook page](#) and/or [Twitter Page](#) and share one of the Coalition's social media posts on your profile.

If you have questions about setting up or sharing social media, [please email us!](#)

Help Us Grow Our Membership

Wilderness Watch v. Creachbaum Court Decision

On December 14, 2016, the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington found in the National Park Service's favor in the case of Wilderness Watch Inc. vs. Sarah Creachbaum, the Superintendent of Olympic National Park, and the National Park Service. This case challenged Olympic National Park's maintenance of historic structures in the wilderness, and the Court upheld the National Park Service's decision to maintain all five structures.

Click below to read the full Court opinion.

Read the Full Court Opinion

Message from Former National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis

Below is a message from former Director Jon Jarvis, posted on Facebook on January 29, on the duty of the National Park Service to continue sharing the facts. You can see the Coalition's Facebook post on this topic by [clicking this link](#) and the Coalition's Twitter post by [clicking this link](#).

**Do you know
someone retiring
from the
National Park
Service?
Is someone you
mentored still
working?**

We need your help to recruit new members! Any current, former, or retired employee of the National Park Service can join the Coalition to Protect America's National Parks.

**Please spread
the word about
the benefits of
being a member
of the Coalition!**

Membership Update

The Coalition's membership currently stands at **1,199** members.

"I have been watching the Trump administration trying unsuccessfully to suppress the National Park Service with a mix of pride and amusement. The NPS is the steward of America's most important places and the narrator of our most powerful stories, told authentically, accurately, and built upon scientific and scholarly research. The Park Ranger is a trusted interpreter of our complex natural and cultural history and a voice that cannot not be suppressed. Edicts from on-high have directed the NPS to not talk about "national policy", but permission is granted to use social media for visitor center hours and safety. The ridiculousness of such a directive was immediately resisted and I am not the least bit surprised. So at Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site in Atlanta should we not talk about his actions to secure the rights to vote for African Americans in the south, or is that too "national policy"? At Stonewall National Monument in New York City, shall we only talk about the hours you can visit the Inn or is it "national policy" to interpret the events there in 1969 that gave rise to the LGBT movement? Shall we only talk about the historic architecture of the Washington, DC home of Alice Paul and Alva Belmont or is it too "national policy" to suggest their decades of effort to secure the rights of women can be linked directly to the women's marches in hundreds of cities last weekend? And as we scientifically monitor the rapid decline of glaciers in Glacier National Park, a clear and troubling indicator of a warming planet, shall we

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refrain from telling this story to the public because the administration views climate change as “national policy”? These are not “policy” issues, they are facts about our nation, it is how we learn and strive to achieve the ideals of our founding documents. To talk about these facts is core to the mission of the NPS. During the Centennial of the National Park Service, we hosted over 300 million visitors (now that is huge) to the National Parks and most came away inspired, patriotic and ready to speak on behalf of the values we hold most dear. The new Administration would be wise to figure out how to support the National Park Service, its extraordinary employees and their millions of fans.”

What We're Reading This Month

-"Informing people is what park rangers do."

Don't miss "Park Rangers to the Rescue," by Timothy Egan published in *The New York Times* on January 27. You can read the full op-ed [by visiting this link](#).

-"[I]f confirmed, I look forward to representing the interests of our great nation and giving a voice to all Americans, to include our great Indian Nations, on how we manage and sustain our public lands and treasures they contain." Read more from Secretary of Interior nominee Rep. Ryan Zinke in his op-ed featured in the *Billings Gazette* on January 17 titled, "Leading Interior is great honor, responsibility." You can read the full op-ed [by visiting this link](#).

-"The purpose of this memorandum is to ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to experience and enjoy our public lands and waters, that all segments of the population have the chance to engage in

decisions about how our lands and waters are managed, and that our Federal workforce -- not just the sites it manages -- is drawn from the rich range of the diversity in our Nation." The [Next 100 Coalition](#) asked President Obama to ensure the second century of conservation in America will reflect the full diversity of our nation's citizens; respects all historical, cultural and spiritual stories and unique contributions; and actively engages all people. He responded on January 12 in the form of Presidential Memorandum, which you can read [by visiting this link](#).

Video of the Month: New Video from the National Park Service of Yosemite Valley During a Flood



On January 24, the National Park Service asked, "What's it like to be in Yosemite Valley during a flood?" Find out by watching this short video posted by the NPS of sights and sounds from a recent January flood event.

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

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