

Coalition Briefs
February 2018

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The Coalition To Protect America's National Parks

Voices of Experience

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Release of Coalition's Annual Newsletter

The Coalition's annual printed newsletter will be in your mailboxes this month. If you'd like to get a jump on reading through our updates for the year, please follow the link below to see the newsletter on our website. We've doubled the content this year, showcasing just how busy 2017 was!

Check Out our Newsletter

Recent Court Ruling Raises Questions about Delisting of Yellowstone Grizzly Bears

A recent U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decision overturned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2011 delisting of the Western Great Lakes gray wolf population due to major flaws in the final rule's impact analysis. The recent delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear has strikingly similar flaws. Click the link below to see our letter to USFWS about the recent court ruling.

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Coalition Press Release on National Park Service Advisory Board Resignations

Following the resignation of nine members of the NPSAB, the Coalition released a statement voicing our support for the group. Follow the link below to read the statement in full. Additional coverage of the resignation can be found in the What We're Reading section at the end of this brief.

[See our Statement](#)

Interior Proposes to Weaken Offshore Oil and Gas Safety Requirements

Barely 15 months after the Interior Department updated and improved its offshore oil and gas production safety regulations in the aftermath of the Deepwater Horizon disaster, the Trump Administration proposes to weaken the new requirements because they are a “burden” on the oil and gas industry. Follow the link to see the Coalition’s comments on the proposed rule revision.

[Review the Coalition's Comments](#)

Coalition Comments on Ambler Road Project at Gates of the Arctic NP

The park’s 1980 enabling legislation authorized the future construction of a road

Membership Update

The Coalition's membership currently stands at **1,447** members.

through Gates of the Arctic National Park to access the Ambler Mining District west of the park. In response to a recent request for a right-of-way permit to build the road, NPS is preparing an environmental and economic impact analysis. Review our comments to NPS at the link below.

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What We're Reading & Tracking This Month

Two former NPS Superintendents, Steve Martin & Rob Arnberger, wrote an op-ed on proposed uranium mining near the Grand Canyon. Read the work of these two Coalition members [here](#).

The Coalition to Protect America's National Parks strongly believes that Secretary Zinke's proposed reorganization of the Department of Interior lacks transparency and threatens our national parks. Click [here](#) to read an article in Salon, which features a quote from the Coalition's Chair, Phil Francis, explaining that the proposed changes will weaken oversight of our parks.

Nearly all the members of the National Park Service Advisory Board resigned, citing frustration that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke had

refused to meet with them or convene a single meeting last year. The resignation of nine out of 12 NPSAB members leaves the federal government without a functioning body to designate national historic or natural landmarks. See additional details on the resignation [here](#).

The Department of the Interior proposes to open the vast majority of America's coastal waters for oil and gas drilling, raising concerns among conservation groups such as the Coalition about potential impacts to dozens of coastal parks. Interior's proposal is the topic of an article in Backpacker that included an interview with the Coalition's executive council member Mike Murray. Click [here](#) to read the article.

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