



THE COALITION TO PROTECT AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS

— VOICES OF EXPERIENCE —

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Membership Update

The Coalition's membership currently stands at 1,839 members.

Website Links

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New Coalition Video

Big news! We have wrapped up a new introductory video for the Coalition. This short film is our first step into utilizing more video assets. Who are we? What do we do? Give it a look and hope you enjoy!

[Coalition Video](#)

Become an Advocate

As national parks begin to reopen, without much support or leadership on a national level, we are advocating strongly against this disorganized and piecemeal approach that mirrors how our parks shut down during the onset of the pandemic. We drafted a [statement](#) about park reopenings and included our [ten principles](#) (or requirements) that should be implemented before parks open up to the public. Help us become advocates and use this toolkit to reach out to your Congressional representatives or share some of our guidance on your social media. Check out our toolkit below.

[Advocacy Toolkit](#)

Coalition Member Park History Updates

We need your help! While our Executive Council has done an outstanding job of fielding questions and media requests, we would like to deepen our bench by building a network of members we can call on to help with information - you are the Voices of Experience. Currently, our member database only captures your last park. However, we would greatly appreciate it if you could email membership@protectnps.org with the name of parks you worked at throughout your career. This information will help us to better understand our membership and areas of expertise.

Alaska Hunting Regs

The Coalition [expressed outrage](#) at the NPS decision to announce the final rule that amends its regulations to adopt the state of Alaska's approved hunting practices, which target predator species, and include killing black bear sows with cubs at den sites; killing wolves and coyotes, including pups, during denning season; and harvesting brown bears over bait. The final rule should be published soon. Click below to read an oped by Coalition Executive Council member Mike Murray on the despicable hunting practices.

[AK Hunting Oped in The Hill](#)

Funding our National Parks

Even in the midst of a pandemic, we're keeping an eye on the future of our parks and public lands. The Coalition joined our partners in two [sign-on letters](#) sent to Congressional leadership regarding FY 2021 appropriations. We joined over 200 organizations in a [sign-on letter](#) sent to Congressional leadership requesting funding for programs and projects to benefit wildlife and restore public lands in a future Covid-19 related stimulus bill. We also sent signed on to a [letter](#) to congressional leadership in support of the Great American Outdoors Act and signed by over 850+ national/regional/local groups. Click the link below to read our recent statement in support of movement by the Senate to take up the Great American Outdoors Act in June.

[GAO Act Support Statement](#)

Eagle Crest

The Coalition signed on to a [letter](#) sent to CA Assemblymember Eggman, expressing our opposition to an amendment to legislation directing the procurement by the California Independent System Operator of expensive long-duration bulk storage, such as the proposed Eagle Crest pumped energy storage project in the Eagle Mountains, surrounded by Joshua Tree National Park. We also signed on to a [letter](#) about CA Assembly Bill 2255, that addresses companion legislation (CA AB 2736) which would also enable the Eagle Crest project.

Concern over EPA Guidance

The Coalition joined our partners in expressing concern about the new guidance EPA sent to states in August entitled "Guidance on Regional Haze State Implementation Plans for the Second Implementation Period." In the letter, we urge the EPA to rescind or modify the guidance so that it comports with the Clean Air Act and the Regional Haze Rule, and aids states in making progress towards achieving the national goal of natural visibility conditions at all Class I areas. Read it in full, [linked below](#).

[Letter to EPA](#)

Podcasts

Our members and Executive Council have participated in a couple of podcast interviews recently. Chair Phil Francis and Coalition member Joan Anzelmo were guests on a [podcast from Center for Western Priorities](#). They participated in an excellent conversation about Interior Secretary David Bernhardt's rush to reopen national parks despite warnings from career NPS staff about risks to employees and the public. In addition, Phil was also a recent guest on the [Great Battlefield Podcast](#) to talk about his 40 year career working for our National Parks and how The Coalition is working to protect our parks now.

Long Acting Positions

The Coalition [commented](#) on a recent lawsuit claiming that David Vela and William Perry Pendley have been kept in their positions unconstitutionally and that Interior Secretary Bernhardt also broke federal law by using Vela and Pendley, deputy directors, to work as agency heads. Chair Phil Francis said, "being confirmed by the Senate adds a level of security that allows for more decision making at the director level where it properly belongs. A confirmed director can think more long-term to help establish a way forward for the agency and clarify for the agency as a whole what the priorities are."

Member OpEds

We've had a number of Coalition members submit opeds this month, with topics ranging from reopening parks to oil and gas lease sales. Coalition Executive Council member Sheridan Steele penned an [oped](#) for *The Colorado Sun*, calling on the Interior Department to pause oil and gas lease sales during the pandemic, while members Cheryl Payne and Rick Smith submitted an [oped](#) pushing to pause oil and gas lease sales scheduled to happen near Carlsbad Caverns. Or, take a look at Coalition member Joan Anzelmo's [oped](#) about the airport board's failure on the heli-tour question ran in the *Jackson Hole News and Guide*. And you can read Coalition member (and former Grand Canyon Superintendent) Rob Arnberger's excellent oped about the dangers of reopening GRCA right now at the link below.

[Arizona Republic OpEd](#)

What We're Reading & Tracking This Month

Seek More Wilderness provides outdoor goods that give back to the outdoors. And they're giving back to the Coalition as well. 50% of their profits are donated to those who are defending the wild, including the Coalition. Check them out [here](#).

We've published two new installments in our Focus on Friends series. [One](#) features the work of Grand Staircase Escalante Partners and [the other](#) highlights the work of Great Basin National Park Foundation. We know you'll want to learn more!

We know some of you will be familiar with the story of the Elwha Dam. There's a new [short feature](#) that highlights the latest inspiring story to come out of the Elwha -- "a living laboratory," -- as the river flushes built-up sediment out into the Strait of Juan de Fuca and its fish runs return and colonize ever further upstream.

After three years in office, the Trump administration has dismantled most of the major climate and environmental policies the president promised to undo. Check out [this article](#) that features the full list.