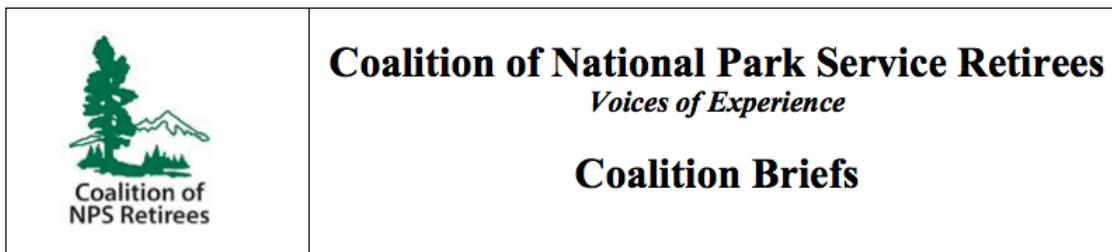


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Issues

Upper Stehekin Valley Road Legislation

The National Defense Authorization Act for 2015 included a rider that authorizes, but does not require, the Secretary to adjust the wilderness boundary at North Cascades National Park in order to allow the Upper Stehekin Valley Road to be rebuilt. The little used unpaved road was washed out by a major flood in 2003 and in 2006 NPS decided not to rebuild the road but instead converted it to a trail for hikers and horses. The Coalition has written Secretary Jewell expressing our support for the NPS's prior decision not to rebuild the road. For more information, see: <http://npsretirees.org/upper-stehekin-valley-road-north-cascades-national-park/>

Proposed Border Security Legislation

H.R. 399, the "Secure Our Borders First Act of 2015" was introduced in the House in January and companion legislation has since been introduced in the Senate. The bill would exempt the U.S. Department of Homeland Security from compliance with all significant environmental protection laws, such as during the construction of fences and roads; and give Homeland Security agencies authority over virtually all activities within 100 miles of Mexico and Canadian borders, which could impact more than 50 NPS areas. The Coalition joined numerous organizations in sending a letter to legislators that strongly opposes the legislation as written. For more information, see: <http://npsretirees.org/please-oppose-h-r-399-the-secure-our-borders-first-act-of-2015/>

Other Items of Interest

Second Century Action Coalition

The CNPSR participates as a member of the Second Century Action Coalition that is a national coalition dedicated to "promoting the protection, restoration, and operation of the National Park System." Four major initiatives that we have worked on are the Centennial, Budget, Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA), and Transportation Funding. In addition, CNPSR worked with the NPS to ensure that Service interests were addressed as part of this process. FLREA has been extended for one year by the Congress to give us time to work out various issues. In addition, CNPSR has signed on to a number of letters to the Congress and Administration regarding the Budget and Transportation Funding. We will be participating in advocating for enhanced funding levels for the NPS budget as the budget cycle progresses.

History Project

In honor of the Centennial of the NPS the Coalition is collecting biographies of employees who have made significant contributions to the NPS. Some names will be familiar, some will not. All of these employees have made the NPS better through their work. The biographies, edited by former NPS Bureau Historian Dr. Janet McDonnell will be published on the web site as they become available.

Press Contacts

CNPSR communications staff conducted interviews with E&E News on park visitation; National Parks Traveler on the proposed NPS budget; and, USA Today on concessions contracts. In addition, we reviewed a draft National Geographic Guide to the National Parks.

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