

Coalition Briefs
March 2017

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The Coalition To Protect America's National Parks

Voices of Experience

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Op-Ed: Don't Mess With Bear Ears

Anticipating the Trump administration might share their anti-park sentiments, the Utah state legislature recently voted to urge President Trump to rescind the newly designated Bears Ears National Monument. On Feb. 3, Utah's Gov. Gary Herbert signed the resolution, which if carried out would be both unprecedented and unpresidential.

The Coalition to Protect America's National Parks unequivocally objects to any form of dismantling of Bears Ears by this or any administration. On so many levels, it's just plain wrong for America.

Please click below to read the full op-ed published in the [Morning Consult](#) on Feb. 23 by Executive Council member Mark Butler.

[Read The Full Op-Ed](#)

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State's Proposals Would Adversely Impact Two National Monuments in Utah

Utah Governor Gary Herbert has signed two concurrent resolutions passed by the State legislature. One asks the President of the United States to rescind the newly designated Bears Ears National Monument and the second asks Congress to significantly reduce the size of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

Please click the button below to see our letter of objection to Governor Herbert.

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Coalition

Read The Letter



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Caution Urged for Oil and Gas Plan Near Chaco Culture NHP

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) are jointly preparing a management plan that will guide future oil and gas leasing on over 4 million acres of land in northwestern New Mexico, including areas in the vicinity of Chaco Culture National Historic Park, Aztec Ruins National Monument, and other important cultural sites.

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Throughout the year, when you may be buying gifts for your loved ones or shopping for yourself, use Amazon Smile to support the Coalition!

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Help Us Grow Our Membership

Do you know someone retiring from the National Park Service?

Please click the button below to see the Coalition's scoping comments to BLM and BIA.

Read The Coalition's Comments

Coalition Opposes BLM Oil & Gas Leasing Near Zion National Park

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to issue leases in June 2017 for oil and gas development on parcels less than two miles from the west boundary of Zion National Park.

Please click the button below to see our comment letter to BLM.

Read The Letter

Don Hellmann Joins the Executive Council

Don Hellmann has joined the Executive Council of the Coalition to Protect America's National Parks.

Don is the former Assistant Director for Legislative and Congressional Affairs for the National Park Service. He ended his 40-year career working with Congress at the beginning of 2017, which included the last 22 years with the National Park Service. Don joined the National Park Service in 1994 and was responsible for the development, coordination and implementation of its legislative affairs program.

Prior to his position with the National Park Service, Don was Vice President for Conservation at The Wilderness Society,

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 **1,207** members.

Website Links

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where he directed the conservation advocacy program before Congress and coordinated the litigation agenda of the organization. Before assuming this position, Don served as Legislative Counsel for the society. Don joined The Wilderness Society's staff in 1988.

Don also worked on Capitol Hill in several positions in both the House and Senate from 1977 to 1985. He has a J.D. from the University of Baltimore and is a member of the District of Columbia Bar.

Member Action of the Month

Please [submit a comment today](#) voicing your support for grizzly bear restoration.

The National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have released a draft Environmental Impact Statement detailing four options regarding grizzly recovery in the North Cascades. A 60-day public comment period accepting input on those proposals is open through March 14, 2017.

Three of the proposed alternatives lay out plans to augment the struggling North Cascades grizzly bear population under varying timelines, but one is a 'no-action' alternative. The science is clear: no action means grizzly bears will go locally extinct in the North Cascades. We cannot let this happen. Together, we need to show that thousands of individuals, communities, organizations and businesses support the return of a functioning grizzly bear population in the North Cascades through active restoration efforts.

[Submit a comment](#) in favor of Alternative C: Incremental Restoration today and urge the public agencies to move forward with grizzly bear restoration in the North Cascades!

[Contact Us](#)[Submit a Comment](#)

Bob Barbee Memorial Information

The Bob Barbee family is holding a celebration of Bob's life on May 20, 2017 at 2:00pm, at the Old Faithful Recreation Hall, Old Faithful area, in Yellowstone National Park. All are welcome to attend.

Please see the event details and travel and lodging options on [the new website](#) regarding this event. The website has a section for friends to add memories and photos.

More Information About the Memorial

What We're Reading This Month

"America's stories connect the old with the new; not to protect them is to destroy a valuable link to our past." Don't miss this op-ed by Mayor Marsha Bayless, Mayor of Xenia, OH, about the Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument and supporting the Antiquities Act. You can read the op-ed [by clicking this link](#).

-From Headwaters Economics: *"A new study shows that rural counties in the West with more federal lands performed better on average than their peers with less federal lands in four key economic measures."* Read the full study [by clicking this link](#).

"I hope our leaders in Washington will make addressing the critical deferred maintenance backlog in America's national parks a top priority for federal infrastructure spending." Read this letter by Destry Jarvis, a Fort Monroe Authority board member and former consultant to the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Parks Conservation Association, [by clicking this link](#).

"As the park service commences its second century, it's time for Congress to renew its commitment to our national parks. In addition to the restorative, rejuvenating effect the parks have on veterans and all visitors, maintaining the parks just makes good economic sense." Read this article, "Want to fix infrastructure? Start with National Parks," by Doug Pfeffer, a former First Sergeant in the U.S. Army and a city impact

manager for The Mission Continues, [by clicking this link](#).

-All voters agree: public land preservation is vital. Check out this poll showing that respondents in western states want land protected, access for recreation, and oppose increased fossil fuel development in the *Reno Gazette-Journal* [by clicking this link](#).

-*"From grassroots efforts to new hires and programs at the National Park Service, a growing coalition hopes to get more people outdoors."* Check out this article and video published in *National Geographic* titled "Changing the Face of National Parks." You can read the article [by clicking this link](#).

-Don't miss Coalition chair Maureen Finnerty quoted in "National Parks Can Hire for Summer, Despite Trump Freeze" published by *CNN Travel*. You can read the article [by clicking this link](#).

Video of the Month: National Parks Deteriorating— It's Time to Show Some Love



From [The Pew Charitable Trusts](#), "For hundreds of years, Valentine's Day has been a time to show people you care about how much you love them. This year, let's extend that sentiment to our national parks by encouraging Congress to provide funding to restore those treasured natural, cultural, and historic sites and address their overdue repairs."

[Click here](#) to watch the full video titled "National Parks Deteriorating—
It's Time to Show Some Love."

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