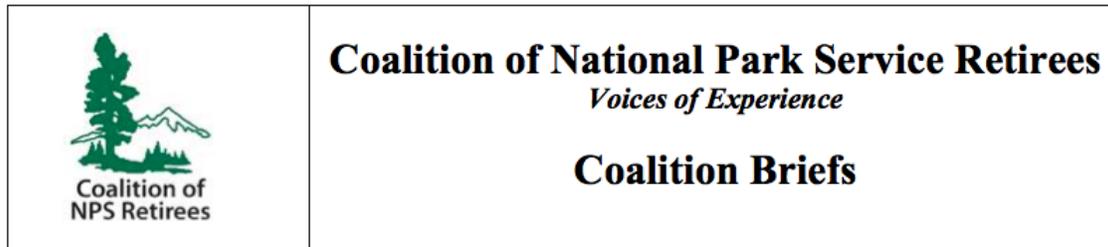


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The following is a list of the issues that are getting the most attention from our issues committee in recent days.

Proposed Borderlands Legislation

In 2012 CNPSR actively opposed a bill that would have given U.S. Customs and Border Patrol full authority on all public lands within 100 miles of the U.S. borders. That legislation threatened NPS authority to manage some 56 park areas. It did not pass out of Congress. Similar legislation has again been introduced in the Senate and House, mostly specific to Arizona. CNPSR joined over 100 groups as signatories on a letter opposing the bill.

Congressional threats to Antiquities Act

During the last Congress, legislation was introduced that proposed to badly harm a President's executive authority to create national monuments. Republicans in the House and Senate have promised similar legislation this year that promotes the notion that the Antiquities Act is outdated. CNPSR has prepared a generic op-ed and partnered with others for the purpose of widespread advocacy in opposition to this renewed threat.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

This law directs that fees from offshore drilling are to be spent on land acquisition and matching grants for conservation purposes expires this year. Congress is considering options to continue or make permanent this authority even as some key legislators suggest that this money should all go to meet operational needs of protected lands. CNPSR is maintaining liaison with

many other groups already engaged on this issue and is prepared to initiate whatever actions are appropriate to ensure extension of this Law.

Native American plant collecting

NPS has proposed new regulations that would make it legal for Native Americans to take plants from park areas for religious and other personal uses. Discussion has focused on the basic question of legality, the scope of what may be taken, methods of harvest, potential commercial abuse, and concerns about further regulations that might broaden this authority to the take of park fauna.

Soda Mountain

NPCA asked that we support their efforts to persuade the BLM from permitting construction of a solar energy project at Soda Mountain, immediately adjacent to the boundary of Mohave National Preserve. CNPSR joined over 100 signatories of like-minded groups on a letter expressing opposition to this project that was sent to the Secretary. We also worked with NPCA to complete an op-ed opposing the project; it was recently sent to local and regional newspapers.

Big Cypress National Preserve Litigation

In 2011 NPS was sued, in two separate cases, regarding the BICY Addition GMP/Wilderness Study/ORV Management Plan. The district court recently ruled in favor of NPS in both cases and both cases are being appealed. After investigating the issue and consulting with our advisers and attorneys, we have tentatively decided to file an amicus brief before the mid-June deadline.

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