

Coalition Briefs
May 2018

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The Coalition To Protect America's National Parks

Voices of Experience

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Success Story: Interior Department Drops Outrageous Entrance Fee Proposal

After receiving blistering public opposition to an Interior Department proposal for drastic entrance fee increases at 17 popular national parks, the National Park Service announced a more reasonable plan for modest entrance fee increases at all 117 fee-charging parks. Click [here](#) for our original Success Story and the link below for our update with additional information.

[Learn More about Updated Fees](#)

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The Coalition thanked the Chairs and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Interior Appropriations Committees following the passage of the 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act. We were pleased that Republicans and Democrats worked together to provide much-needed increased funding for the National Park Service. See our letter to members of Congress at the link below.

See our Letter to Congress

**Testimony Before the Senate Committee
on Energy and Natural Resources**

Coalition Executive Council member, Richard Ring, testified before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources during a hearing to examine deferred maintenance and operational needs of the National Park Service.

Read the Coalition's Testimony

**Coalition Opposes Oil and Gas Leasing Near
Great Sand Dunes**

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The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing a massive oil and gas lease sale across eastern Colorado, including 11 parcels totaling over 18,000 acres adjacent to Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve. Earlier, the Coalition requested that a 15-day public comment period on an oil and gas lease sale near Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve be extended to a more reasonable 30 days, which can be read [here](#). BLM denied the request, stating it was following “current administration guidance” to streamline the NEPA process. Read to the Coalition’s comment letter to BLM at the link below.

Read our Comments

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Wyoming Should Halt Plans for Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Hunt

While lawsuits challenge the removal of Yellowstone grizzly bears from protection under the Endangered Species Act, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) has proposed a recreational hunt near Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks that could kill as many as 24 of the iconic species during the fall 2018 hunting season. Click the link below to see the Coalition’s

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Membership Update

The Coalition's
membership
currently stands
at **1,536**
members.

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comments to WGFD opposing the hunt and see the letter signed by 165 Coalition members to Wyoming Governor Mead [here](#). The Coalition also signed a joint op-ed with NPCA President, Theresa Pierno, which ran in the [Bozeman Chronicle](#).

Read the Comments re: Grizzly Bears

NPS Proposes Irresponsible Increase in OHV Use at Glen Canyon NRA

The National Park Service has issued a proposed rule that, among other things, would open over 200 miles of park roads at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area to non-street legal off-highway vehicle (OHV) use. Over the month, the Coalition has taken multiple actions to urge the NPS to reconsider portions of the proposals, including over 200 members signing a [letter](#) to Regional Director Sue Masica.

Read our Comments on GLCA OHV

Coalition and NPCA Comment on BLM Management Plan for Downsized Bears

Ears NM

Five months after President Trump slashed the size of Bears Ears National Monument by 85%, the Bureau of Land Management has started preparing a management plan for what is left of the monument. Click below to see scoping comments submitted to BLM by the Coalition and NPCA.

Read the Comments re: Bears Ears

Scoping Comments on BLM Plan for Grand Staircase-Escalante NM

Five months after President Trump reduced the size of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument by half and broke the monument into four smaller units, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has started preparing a management plan for what remains of the national monument.

Click [here](#) to see scoping comments submitted to BLM by the Coalition and NPCA.

Proposed Repeal of Clean Power Plan Rule is Bad for Parks

The Coalition has partnered with the National Parks Conservation Association and the Appalachian Mountain Club to prepare comments which strongly oppose the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed repeal of the Clean Power Plan (CPP) rule. Our comments can be found [here](#).

Coalition Statement on Cadiz Water Project

For several years the Coalition and its partners have been opposed to the Cadiz Water Project, because of the potential significant adverse impacts the project would have on groundwater resources and desert springs of nearby Mojave National Preserve. Following a newly released peer-reviewed study, the Coalition has released a [statement](#) restating our opposition to the Cadiz Water Project.

What We're Reading & Tracking This Month

Coalition Chair, Phil Francis, is featured in an article from *Skift* discussing the proposals to address the NPS's funding needs. Read what Phil has to say about the funding options [here](#).

Read the op-ed from Coalition member, Tom Ross, urging Zinke to stand up for the reauthorization of LWCF featured in *The Hill* [here](#).

A recent blog post about how climate change is impacting parks features long-time Glacier employee and current Coalition member Jack Potter. Click [here](#) to see the blog post.

Everglades National Park and the 10 other units of the National Park System in Florida are in grave jeopardy due to the ongoing impacts of climate change. See Executive Council member Dick Ring's letter to the editor in the Broward County-based [Sun-Sentinel](#).

Hear from Phil Francis, Chair of the Coalition, in the [Washington Post](#), on the unprecedented scrambling of top NPS career executives.

Our National Park Service sites need billions in repairs and America's veterans are speaking up for them. Get more details on what they're doing in this [podcast](#).

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