

Coalition Briefs
May 2017

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The Coalition To Protect America's National Parks

Voices of Experience

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Spread the News: The Weekly National Park System Report is Now Available to Coalition Members

The Coalition to Protect America's National Parks has added a new member service - a weekly newsletter on news and incidents occurring within the National Park System.

Many of you were regular readers of the National Park Service Morning Report, which was disseminated throughout the agency from 1986 until it was terminated in 2015. Bill Halainen, who was editor of that publication, is now producing a similar report called *The Weekly National Park System Report* exclusively for members of the Coalition.

Please share the good news about *The Weekly National Park System Report* and encourage friends and family who are current, retired, or former salaried (GS, Wage System, seasonal, temporary, or SES) employees of the National Park Service to join our membership and gain access to the report.

What We're Reading
This Month

Video of the Month:
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Coalition Statement on President's Recent Executive Order

The Coalition to Protect America's National Parks is strongly opposed to the recent Executive Order signed by President Trump ordering a review by the Department of the Interior of national monuments established by presidents since 1996 to determine if the boundaries need to be changed or other modifications made.

The Coalition urges the Secretary Zinke to fulfill his promises to the American people to protect those places we most value and resist the efforts of a few to make a profit from our public lands. We believe that our parks and public lands represent the very best of America, and advocate for their protection.

Click below to read our full statement.

[Read Our Statement](#)

Coalition Among Groups Urging
President and Congress to Avoid

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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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Membership Update

The Coalition welcomed **52 new members** this past month, bringing total membership to **1,271**.

Website Links

[Coalition News](#)

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Shutdown

While numerous valuable programs and people would be negatively impacted by a shutdown, we are particularly concerned about the impact on our national parks, national wildlife refuges, national fish hatcheries, resource conservation areas, national forests, and other special lands and waters where people visit and recreate.

Click below to see our letter of concern about the impact of a federal government shutdown to the President and Congress.

[Read Our Letter](#)

NPS "9B" Oil and Gas Regulations Protect Parks

A recent order issued by new Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke could result in a major rollback of the NPS "9B" oil and gas regulations and lead to significant increases in drilling for oil and gas in 42 parks.

Click below to read our letter of concern to Secretary Zinke.

[Read Our Letter](#)

Op-Ed: Interior Secretary Zinke, Protect Our National Parks

A recent Secretarial Order would rollback numerous environmental regulations, including the NPS "9B" oil and gas regulations, which protect park resources

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from adverse impacts caused by energy extraction activities on public lands near or within parks.

[Contact Us](#)

Click below to see our op-ed about the Secretarial Order originally published in *The Hill*.

[Read The Op-Ed](#)

What We're Reading This Month

-Don't miss Phil Francis discussing the \$11.9 billion backlog of park maintenance in a new episode of "After the Fact" from the Pew Charitable Trusts with host Dan LeDuc. Listen to the podcast [by clicking this link](#).

-On April 19th, Secretary Zinke announced that 2016's record visitation of **331 million visitors** at America's 417 National Park Service sites contributed **\$34.9 billion** to the U.S. economy in 2016 - a \$2.9 billion increase from 2015. *"This report is a testament to the tangible economic benefits our parks bring to communities across the nation. Visitation numbers continue to rise because people want to experience these majestic public lands,"* Zinke said. Read more [by clicking this link](#).

-World Heritage Day was celebrated this past month on April 18th. From acting National Park Service Director Michael T. Reynolds, *"Building on the centennial of the National Park Service in 2016 and the fiftieth anniversary of US/ICOMOS the year before, World Heritage Day 2017 is the perfect time to remind Americans and people worldwide of the tradition of U.S. leadership in stewarding the world's cultural heritage, especially the global heritage sites we protect and enjoy right here in the United States."* Read more [by clicking this link](#).

-In an article for *Travel Weekly*, Maureen Finnerty discussed the President's budget blueprint: *"Never before have cuts of this magnitude been made. These cuts are extreme and will result in the degradation of park resources owned by all Americans. These cuts will impact economies of local communities and businesses as parks will be forced to close facilities and shorten visitor seasons. For every dollar spent on*

park operations, more than \$10 is returned to local communities, which provides critical jobs for thousands of Americans." Read more [by clicking this link.](#)

-From the New York Times: "As our population grows and our rich natural and historical heritage faces increasing threats, we should be looking to protect more places that can inspire and inform present and future generations and offer them recreational opportunities. That is the incomparable legacy of the Antiquities Act, and its necessity is as vital today as it ever was. It would be shortsighted in the extreme for Congress to change a single word of what has been, by practically every measure, one of the most fruitful and farsighted laws it has ever put on the books." Read more [by clicking this link.](#)

-Our national monuments need our support! Learn more and take action by visiting Monuments to America's website [by clicking this link.](#)

-Check out this great video from Death Valley Explorer, a video podcast series that highlights the rich environmental and heritage landscapes of Death Valley National Park. Watch the video [by clicking this link.](#)

-*"Heritage tourism still needs conferences and joint resolutions, but on the ground and face to face the dialogue has already begun."* Read the full article, "Thinking About Heritage Tourism," by Brenda Barrett in the *Living Landscape Observer* [by clicking this link.](#)

-Teaching with Historic Places from the National Park Service uses properties listed in the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places to enliven history, social studies, geography, civics, and other subjects. Check it out [by clicking this link.](#)

-Want to visit all of America's 49,603 historic sites? It will only take you 50 years! Learn more [by clicking this link.](#)

-Love birds? Check out this list of the 25 best national parks for birding [by clicking this link.](#)

-*"Fidelity's Johnson Family Donates Nearly \$30 Million for National Parks."* Read more [by clicking this link.](#)

-*"House Staffer, Monsanto Vet Named to Top Interior Posts."* Read the full article [by clicking this link.](#)

-"Rocky Mountain National Park chief: 'It's becoming harder to accomplish our mission.'" Read the full article [by clicking this link.](#)

Video of the Month: Celebrating National Park Week



This past month from April 15 - 23, we celebrated National Park Week 2017. [Click here](#) to watch a special celebration video from the National Park Service.

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