

Coalition Briefs
November 2017

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The Coalition To Protect America's National Parks

Voices of Experience

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Coalition's Strategic Plan Comment Period

The Coalition's Executive Council has started the process of revising our organizational strategic plan, which outlines our strategic objectives for the next three years (2018-2020). As part of this process, we welcome our membership to provide substantive, non-editorial comments, on the plan. Please go to the link below to review the text and send comments to amy_gilbert@protectnps.org.

We will be accepting comments through **Wednesday, November 15th**. All comments will be reviewed during our annual Executive Council meeting in early December and the plan will be finalized before the end of the year.

Review the Strategic Plan

Coalition Launches 2017 George B. Hartzog Award Nominations

Each year, the Coalition to Protect America's National Parks recognizes significant contributions by individuals or groups.

What We're Reading
This Month

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The George Hartzog Award is given to the individual or individuals who demonstrate outstanding support for the mission of the National Park System and/or the National Park Service. Nominations are solicited from the general membership of the Coalition or the National Park Service with the recipient(s) selected by the Executive Council. This award is presented annually or at other times deemed appropriate by the Council.

Criteria:

Recipients can be active NPS employees, NPS retirees or members of the general public who have demonstrated support for the mission of the National Park System or provided invaluable service or leadership to parks or the National Park Service or its programs.

Recipients are also eligible if they instill public understanding and appreciation for the National Park Service or engage in activities to communicate the unique value of Parks to the general public and society.

Nominations can be placed at the link below no later than **November 15, 2017**.

Make a Nomination

**Over 350 Coalition Members Sign On &
Express Disappointment in Zinke's
Monument Review**

This fall, over 350 former employees of the National Park Service joined the Coalition's sign-on letter expressing extreme

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Membership Update

The Coalition's
membership
currently stands
at **1,413**
members.

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disappointment with the results of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's recent review of national monuments. The recommendations from Zinke - which included downsizing several monuments - came at the conclusion of an unprecedented 4-month review of over two-dozen monuments designated since 1996, which was initiated by an April Executive Order from President Trump. Efforts by the Trump Administration to remove protections from national monuments or significantly downsize them would be unprecedented and are likely to be met with a quagmire of legal challenges. Click the button below to read the letter sent to Secretary Ryan Zinke.

Read the Letter

Coalition Statement on NPS Work Environment Survey

In response to the NPS Work Environment Survey, the Coalition has released a statement expressing our concern about the results and our cautious optimism on efforts to address the far reaching harassment issues in the service. The NPS's success will depend on comprehensive and effective steps to make cultural changes in the workplace. The first steps that have been taken are positive, but it must be a long-term and continuous strategy to make an impact. Click the link below to read the statement.

Read the Statement

Coalition Statement on Congressman

Bishop's Bill to Weaken the Antiquities Act

House Natural Resource Committee Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT) has introduced legislation that would dismantle key provisions of the Antiquities Act, which has been used by Republican and Democratic presidents alike to protect some of America's most iconic and beloved parks and public lands. Please click the link below to read our statement.

[Read the Statement](#)

Coalition Statement on Proposed Fee Increases

The administration's proposal for a massive fee increase in 17 national parks, including Yellowstone, Yosemite, Arches and Rocky Mountain, goes too far and may have major implications on park visitation and the economies of gateway communities. The fee increases are part of an effort to address the deferred maintenance backlog in the NPS, but the money raised will only cover a small percentage of the billions of dollars required. While creative solutions are required to solve this problem, the proposal as it stands does not adequately address it. Click "Read the Statement" for more information.

[Read the Statement](#)

What We're Reading This Month

The Coalition was quoted in a recent article in the *High Country News*. From the article, “Here’s the trend we see coming out of Zinke: Everything he’s done is skewed towards industry and development and allowing private companies to profit off of public resources.” Read the full article [here](#).

Read the Coalition’s joint op-ed with the Public Lands Foundation and Association of Fish and Wildlife Service Employees in the *Helena Independent Record* on Zinke’s statement on DOI employees’ loyalty [here](#).

The Coalition was quoted in a recent *New York Times* article voicing opposition to drilling rights near Dinosaur National Monument. Executive Council member, Mike Murray, described them as “indefensible,” and part of a new wave of “signs and signals” about the administration’s policy intentions. Read the article in its entirety [here](#).

Executive Council member, Dave Graber, spoke out in his local newspaper, the Bakersfield Californian, about the significant need to address the NPS maintenance backlog. Graber says, “Congress has a chance to turn the maintenance backlog around. If passed, the bipartisan National Park Legacy Act (S.751/H.R.2584) will ensure that there is dedicated funding for park maintenance in each year’s budget.” Read the full article at this [link](#).

Phil Francis, the Coalition's Vice-Chair, was interviewed by E&E News on the Antiquities Act and where things stand with monument protection. Read the article [here](#).

The Coalition has been interviewed and quoted by many news outlets regarding the proposed fee increases announced this month by the Administration. Here's a list of publications:

[NPR's the Two-Way](#)

[Arizona Republic](#)

[E&E](#)

[Salt Lake Tribune](#)

[The New Republic](#)

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