

Coalition Briefs
September 2018

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The Coalition To Protect America's National Parks

Voices of Experience

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Coalition Joins Over 50 Groups in Support of Existing Well Control Rule

In 2016, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) issued the Blowout Preventer and Well Control Rule to address safety concerns about the offshore oil and gas industry that were identified after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Recently, BSEE has proposed revisions that would fundamentally weaken the rule. Click the link below to see our joint comment letter opposing the revisions.

[Read the Joint Comments](#)

ACTION ALERT: LWCF Re-Authorization

Please reach out to your two senators and your representative to urge them to act before the Land and Water Conservation Fund expires on September 30th, 2018. Once the authorization is lost, we have no way of knowing, especially under the current administration, when it might be reconsidered - if ever.



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We are asking you to speak as an individual, rather than as a member of the Coalition. Talk about your experience working for the NPS and the good you've seen LWCF do or the good things you know it does across the country. The Coalition has sent and will continue to send correspondence representing our group, but when elected officials hear from individual voters, it carries tremendous weight! Follow the link below for more details, including talking points to use in your outreach. The LWCF Coalition also has state-by-state details on the program's impact, check out their resources [here](#).

Learn the Talking Points

Coalition Opposition to DOI Reorganization

The Coalition has sent a letter to Secretary Zinke & Susan Combs voicing our opposition to the proposed reorganization of the Department of the Interior. Follow the link below to read our letter.

Read our Letter to Sec. Zinke

Ninth Circuit Court Ruled In Favor of NPS

The Ninth Circuit ruled in favor of NPS that it is not contrary to the Wilderness Act to repair historic structures in wilderness areas. The Court ruled that the Wilderness Act itself is ambiguous on the subject and that as a result, the Court should defer to NPS. The court also agreed with NPS that the onsite rehabilitation work was necessary to serve historic preservation goals and that

Membership Update

The Coalition's membership currently stands at **1,587** members.

“maintaining these structures in their original locations was essential to preserving their historical value” the Court cited to the Coalition’s amicus brief and granted our motion to consider it.

[See the 9th Circuit Ruling](#)

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Federal Court Puts Hold on Wyoming and Idaho Grizzly Bear Hunts

In good news for Yellowstone grizzly bears, a U.S District Court has issued a temporary restraining order to stop grizzly bear hunts in Wyoming and Idaho that were set to begin on September 1, 2018. See the Courthouse News Service report at link below.

[Courthouse New Service Report](#)

What We're Reading & Tracking This Month

Read Coalition member Walt Dabney’s op-ed in the Salt Lake Tribune on oil & gas leases threatening the National Park Service [here](#).

Coalition Executive Council member, Mark Butler, penned an op-ed opposing proposed energy development around Joshua Tree National Park in the [Desert Sun](#).

More than 100 scientists have written to oppose Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's push to liberalize hunting regulations on National Park Service lands in Alaska so as to reduce wolves and bears while boosting elk and caribou populations for hunting. The proposed regulation would align Alaska national preserves with state rules that were

implemented to suppress carnivore numbers in order to increase game populations. The practices that the Park Service banned in 2015, and which are now set to be legalized again, are:

- * Taking any black bear, including cubs and sows with cubs, with artificial light at den sites
- * Harvesting brown bears over bait
- * Taking wolves and coyotes (including pups) during the denning season (between May 1 and August 9)
- * Taking swimming caribou
- * Taking caribou from motorboats under power
- * Taking black bears over bait
- * Using dogs to hunt black bears

Read more about the hunting regulations and the opposition actions being taken in [National Parks Traveler](#).

Last year, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke promised that “This is not about energy. There is no oil and gas assets. There is no mine within Bears Ears.” Now, BLM wants to open up hundreds of thousands of acres in Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears national monuments for companies to drill and mine, demonstrating why protections were originally put in place. Learn more about the administration's plans in [Outside](#).

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