



## THE COALITION TO PROTECT AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS

— VOICES OF EXPERIENCE —

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### Coalition News

The Executive Council has had a successful month meeting with a dozen House and Senate offices to discuss issues of importance to the National Park Service. We had productive conversations with staff from the offices of Senators Michael Bennet, Martin Heinrich, John Hickenlooper, Catherine Cortez Masto, Jeff Merkley, Jack Reed, Jon Tester, and Chris Van Hollen and Representatives Betty McCollum, Derek Kilmer, Susie Lee, and Chellie Pingree. The meetings focused on Fiscal Year 2023 appropriations, with an emphasis on enhancing and building NPS operational capacity, the need for reforms to the federal oil and gas leasing program, concerns over park housing, and support for continuing conservation and preservation initiatives.

### Advocacy Actions

Below is a summary of actions we took in May:

- The Coalition submitted [comments](#) on the Fire Island National Seashore Off Road Vehicle Civic Engagement Newsletter, which included a recommendation for a comprehensive problem statement before progressing.
- We partnered with several organizations to [protest](#) all parcels in the upcoming June 2022 competitive oil and gas lease sales.
- The Coalition partnered on [comments](#) in response the Tomales Point Area Plan, expressing concern the Plan is segmented and, rather, should be developed in conjunction with a comprehensive wilderness plan for Point Reyes National Seashore.
- Coalition Chair Mike Murray was quoted in [National Parks Traveler](#) magazine on the updated deferred maintenance estimates for the Park Service. Additionally, immediate Past Chair Phil Francis participated in a discussion of the maintenance backlog on an NPT [podcast](#).
- The Coalition expressed its [support](#) for the National Park Foundation Reauthorization Act to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and House Committee on Natural Resources.
- We continue to engage on issues related to regional haze and submitted comments on the [Alaska](#) plan.
- Two members of the Executive Council published an [op-ed](#) in *The Fresno Bee* in support of establishing a national monument connecting Yosemite to Kings Canyon.
- Check out our new [blog posts](#) on the Federal Viewpoint Survey and the Oil and Gas Leasing System.

Visit our [website](#) to learn more and take a look at our other advocacy efforts.

### On the Horizon

Here is a look at some of the work we'll be pursuing in May:

- Evaluating impacts of federal oil and gas leasing near national parks
- Continued engagement on FY2023 appropriations
- Celebrating the anniversary of the *Antiquities Act*
- Support for national monuments
- Spring Giving campaign

### Member Count

The Coalition again increased its membership in May bringing the total to 2,234. Know anyone interested in becoming a member? They can join [here](#).

### NPS Notables

As the summer travel season begins, the *New York Times* [published](#) a list of 15 recommended apparel and supply items visitors to national parks should pack on their visit.

On Memorial Day, the [History Channel](#) will premiere a two part special on President Teddy Roosevelt, based on historian Doris Kearns Goodwin's bestseller, *Leadership: In Turbulent Times*.

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