Coalition Briefs
June 2022

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Coalition News

The Executive Council has held a successful meeting with a dozen House and Senate offices to discuss the importance of America’s National Parks to the National Park Service. We had productive conversations with staff from the offices of Senators Michael Bennet, Martin Heinrich, John Hoeven, Catherine Cortez Masto, Jeff Merkley, Jack Reed, Jon Tester, and Chris Van Hollen and Representatives Betty McCollum, Don Beyer, Socie Lee, and Charlie Rangel. The meetings focused on Fiscal Year 2023 appropriations, with a special 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 Five Island National Marine Sanctuary Road Vehicle Civic Engagement Newsletter, which included a recommendation for a comprehensive planning statement before progressing.
- We partnered with several organizations to contact all parcels in the upcoming June 2022 competitive oil and gas lease sale.
- The Coalition partnered to emphasize the Tararuga Reef National Plan, expressing concern the Plan is expensive and, rather, should be modified to ensure that conservation activities are prioritized. We also urged the National Park Service to conduct a comprehensive wilderness plan for Palm Bay by national law.
- Coalition Chair John Flaherty 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 NPR segment.
- 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 continued to engage in issues related to regional base and sub-base locations.
- Two members of the Executive Council published an article in The Fresno Bee in support of establishing a national monument connecting Yosemite to Kings Canyon.
- We partnered with several organizations to conduct a protest on the Federal Viewpoint Survey and the Oil and Gas Leasing System.
- We continue to work with the National Park Foundation on the updated deferred maintenance estimates.
- Additionally, immediate Past Chair Phil Francis participated in a discussion of the maintenance backlog on an NPR segment.
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On the Horizon

There is a look at some of the work we’ll be packaging 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 Flower 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 summer and spring trips to national parks. You can view the full list.

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". They will air on PBS. Check out our newSegments on the Federal Viewpoint Survey and the Oil and Gas Leasing System.

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