



## THE COALITION TO PROTECT AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS

VOICES OF EXPERIENCE

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### Coalition News

In partnership with Archaeology Southwest, the Coalition published a report on the threat of oil and gas development on the cultural landscapes, ancestral homelands, and sacred sites of Tribes within and adjacent to national park lands. The [complete report](#) and accompanying press release are available online.

### Advocacy Actions

Below is a summary of actions we took in August:

- Coalition Vice Chair Don Hellmann was joined by Janae Field, Executive Director of the Frontera Land Alliance, in a virtual webinar for Congressional staff to discuss the importance of conservation. A [recording](#) of the webinar is available online.
- The Coalition joined the Southern Environmental Law Center in [comments](#) supporting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's proposed revisions to regulations governing the reintroduction of experimental populations of threatened and endangered species. The Coalition also joined numerous organizations in a [letter](#) expressing support of Secretary Haaland's order phasing out the use of single use plastics, while making recommendations for additional steps to further that goal.
- Chair Mike Murray coauthored an [op-ed](#) with Theresa Pierno of the National Parks Conservation Association highlighting projects successfully funded by the *Great American Outdoors Act* (GAOA). They also highlighted the need for Congress to extend funding and commit to fixing more parks. Additionally, the Coalition published a new [blog post](#) commemorating the second anniversary of GAOA.
- We issued a [press release](#) celebrating passage of the *Inflation Reduction Act*, which supports NPS staffing to monitor and respond to the impacts of climate change, as well as makes meaningful and needed reforms to the oil and gas leasing process.
- Coalition members have been successful highlighting both troubling issues and achievements of the NPS in the media. Mark Butler's [opinion piece](#) in the *Los Angeles Times* discussed protecting parks from the increasing threat of wildfire. Linda Mazzu [celebrated](#) Bryce Canyon's dark sky recognition in honor of Global Sleep Under the Stars Day.

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

### Announcements

The Coalition is excited to share the news that our Executive Director, Amy Gilbert Fehir, and her husband Rick welcomed their first child on August 25, 2022. Therese "Reese" Margaret couldn't be happier to share her birthday with the National Park Service. While Amy is out on leave, Emily Thompson will serve as the Acting Executive Director. She can be reached by [email](#) at [Emily\\_Thompson@protectnps.org](mailto:Emily_Thompson@protectnps.org).

### On the Horizon

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

- Continued engagement on oil and gas development
- Regional Haze Plan follow-up
- Ongoing support for national monument designations, particularly several cultural and historic sites
- Support for 1908 Springfield Race Riot Site

### Member Count

The Coalition added six new members in August, for a total of 2,260. Know anyone interested in becoming a member? They can join [here](#).

### NPS News

On Thursday, August 25, the National Park Service celebrated its birthday with a celebratory initiative titled, "Bringing you 'Wow' for 106 Years!" They released a video montage of "Wow" moments which can be viewed [here](#). Social media, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, are full of Parks, Rangers, and visitors sharing their celebratory moments with #NPSBirthday.