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Coalition News

Thank you to all our members who signed our [letter](#) sent to Secretary Haaland in support of our recent report, [Action Needed to Protect National Parks from Oil and Gas Development](#). This report highlights the negative impacts of oil and gas development near four national parks and urges the Biden administration and Congress to take action to curb the adverse effects of energy extraction on our national parks, public lands, and communities.

Advocacy Actions

Below are highlights from actions we took in February:

- The Coalition joined with its partners in submitting detailed [comments](#) to the Bureau of Land Management on its proposed June 2023 oil and gas lease sale for Montana and the Dakotas. While the comments support BLM's work in issuing Instruction Memoranda to begin reforms of the oil and gas lease program, the comments identify continued deficiencies that should be addressed.
- The Coalition also joined extensive [comments](#) sent to the BLM in response to its proposed Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement to Evaluate Utility-Scale Solar Energy and Resource Management Plan.
- The Coalition sent detailed [comments](#) to the NPS on its National Long Range Transportation Plan. The Coalition supports the NPS' efforts to develop a strategy and responded to the eight questions posed by the NPS.
- The Coalition continued its engagement with the Wilderness Battlefield Coalition in a [letter](#) to the Orange County, Virginia, Planning Commission. We expressed concerns about the Wilderness Crossing plan under consideration. The letter describes how the plan is inconsistent with the Preferred Wilderness Gateway Plan developed by stakeholders over a two year planning period.

These are just some of our advocacy actions this month. Please visit our [website](#) to learn more and take a look at additional efforts.

Announcements

The [Parks Channel](#) is seeking volunteers who would be interested in participating in a new web video series called "Ranger Time." Questions will be submitted by users, prescreened, and asked by a presenter. The videos will be recorded remotely on Zoom, then posted once a week to the Parks Channel website, YouTube, and other social media platforms. Click [here](#) for more information. To volunteer, please contact info@theparkschannel.com.

On the Horizon

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

- Developing the Coalition's appropriations priorities ahead of the anticipated release of the president's budget
- Support for NPS employees and a look at improving employee morale
- Finalizing comments on the framing, development, and eventual use of the first [National Nature Assessment](#)
- Amplification of new and continuing national monument campaigns across the country

Member Count

The Coalition added 21 new members in February, for a total of 2,393. Membership is open to current and former NPS employees and volunteers. Know anyone interested in becoming a member? They can join [here](#).

Conservation News

Following the [announcement](#) that former President Jimmy Carter has entered hospice care, our nation prepares itself to say goodbye to a man whose life epitomizes public service. As the world remembers his devotion to humanitarian causes, Berkeley Law professor Dan Farber has prepared a tribute to President Carter's forgotten [environmental legacy](#).