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Coalition News

The Coalition celebrated President Biden's designation of and Avi Kwa Ame and Castner Range as national monuments. During the previous year, Coalition members supported the local organizations advocating for this designation through numerous actions, including informational webinars for members and supporters, opeds, and letters of support to the President. Please visit the websites for Avi Kwa Ame and Castner Range to learn more about these special places.

Advocacy Actions

Below are highlights from the many actions we took in March:

- The Coalition continued its work on NPS employee issues with a letter sent to NPS Director Sams. The letter expresses support for Director Sams' efforts to address workforce issues. Additionally, the letter pledges to advocate for adequate park funding, support for leadership training, addressing the employee housing crisis, and pursuing solutions to longstanding morale issues.
- The Coalition issued a press release in support of President Biden's Fiscal Year 2024 budget request for the National Park Service. Additionally, we submitted written testimony to the House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, and joined in supporting the budget priorities for the National Parks Second Century Action Coalition.
- The Coalition remains engaged with renewable energy development on federal lands. We submitted comments to the Bureau of Land Management, Idaho State Office, on its proposed Renewable Energy Strategy. Additionally, we joined a letter to the BLM providing scoping comments on the solar and wind energy programmatic environmental impact statement to protect Japanese-American historic sites, including Minidoka National Historic Site, from renewable energy siting.
- The Coalition joined more than 40 organizations in a letter to the House Natural Resources Committee opposing H.R. 1355, the Transparency, Accountability, Permitting, and Production of American Resources Act. The bill would make amendments to the National Environmental Policy Act and Mineral Leasing Act.
- The Coalition continued its engagement with the reforms to hunting and trapping regulations in Alaskan national preserves. We submitted comments on the proposed rule and the environmental assessment. Additionally, we signed the comment letter submitted by the Trustees for Alaska on the proposed rule.

These are just some of our advocacy actions this month. Please visit our website and blog to learn more and see all of the Coalition's work.

Announcements

In honor of the Coalition's 20th Anniversary, we are kicking off a new blog series focused on the history and stories of our organization. Click here to take a look at the first installment of *Who We Are: Stories of the Coalition*. Future posts will highlight memorable events, critical actions, and important figures from our history.

On the Horizon

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

- Scheduling meetings with Congressional staff to discuss the Coalition's appropriations and legislative priorities
- Executive Council quarterly meeting
- Support for NPS employees and a look at improving employee morale
- Celebrating the Coalition's 20th Anniversary celebration
- Identification of new national monument campaigns where our voice would be helpful

Member Count

The Coalition added 20 new members in February, for a total of 2,414. Membership is open to current and former NPS employees and volunteers. Know anyone interested in becoming a member? They can join here.

Conservation News

AmeriCorps volunteer Ryan Bieber chronicled his experience as a conservation worker in an article published by Insider. Having been camping only once in his life, he spent ten weeks engaged in trail building and forest conservation work in Oregon during Summer 2022 . . . and living in a tent. His experience left him more connected with nature, a convert to camping in national parks, and ready to start work for NPS in California this summer.