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Coalition News

Happy 20th Anniversary, Coalition!

The Coalition is celebrating twenty years of supporting the National Park Service and System. The success of this organization is due to the continued support of each of you. The collective numbers, knowledge, expertise, and passion you provide the organization positions us to remain the trusted "Voices of Experience." Be sure to visit the **blog** and our social media channels (linked in the side panel of this Brief) to follow the continued celebration of our 20th anniversary!

Advocacy Actions

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

- The Coalition continued its advocacy for increased protections of public lands by partnering with two former superintendents of Grand Canyon National Park to send the president a <u>letter</u> in support of Tribal efforts to establish the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni National Monument. We also issued a <u>press release</u> thanking Interior Secretary Deb Haaland for her visit to and support of establishing the national monument.
- Coalition Chair Mike Murray joined a National Parks Traveler podcast to discuss the implications of budget cuts on the National Park Service.
- The Coalition engaged in multiple advocacy efforts to protect existing environmental laws. We submitted written testimony to the House Natural Resources Committee outlining concerns with H.R. 2989, the Save Our Sequoias Act. We joined a <u>letter</u> to the House Natural Resources Committee expressing concern with legislation pending markup due to their weakening of the Endangered Species Act. We signed a <u>letter</u> to Congress opposing H.R. 1380, the Protect America's Rock Climbing Act.
- The Coalition submitted a <u>letter</u> to the Department of Interior, signed by numerous former federal and Alaskan state officials, expressing support for NPS staff and the proposed hunting and trapping rule for Alaskan national preserves.
- · The Coalition continued its work on oil and gas leasing by joining a protest of Wyoming's 2023 second quarter lease sale.
- The Coalition remains engaged on its advocacy for responsible air tour management plans for national parks. Chair Mike Murray spoke with National Park Traveler about the proposed bans and reductions at Badlands National Park, Mount Rushmore National Memorial, and Haleakalā and Hawai'i National Parks. He also <u>discussed</u> Mount Rushmore air tours with the local KOTA news.

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

Many thanks to Walt Dabney for an informative and engaging presentation on the history of our public lands. If you missed the **webinar**, the recording is posted online for you to view and share.

On the Horizon

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

- Submitting comments on the BLM's proposed Public Lands Rule
- Continuing the 20th Anniversary celebration with interviews from EC members, past and present
- Celebrating the anniversary of the **Antiquities Act**
- Continued engagement on Air Tour Management Plans • Tracking budget and appropriations
- process for FY 2024
- Amplification for new national monument campaigns, including the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument.

Member Count

The Coalition added 23 new members in May, for a total of 2,447. Membership is open to current and former NPS employees and volunteers. Know anyone interested in becoming a member? They can join **here**.

NPS News

Summer is almost upon us, with warm weather and increased opportunities for travel. As more and more Americans and visitors add our treasured national parks to their itineraries, some of the most popular parks are implementing visitor management systems to control crowds and protect resources. Travel + Leisure has published a

<u>helpful list</u> of of parks requiring reservations for entrance or access to popular sites.

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