Coalition News

In celebration of our 20th Anniversary, the Coalition launched the video series #VoicesofExperience highlighting some of the dedicated individuals behind the Coalition’s success. Be sure to watch Coalition Treasurer Cheryl Schreier and past Chair Phil Francis. More videos will be released throughout the summer!

Advocacy Actions

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

- As a member of the National Parks Second Century Action Coalition, we joined in comments to the House Committee on Appropriations expressing opposition to the Committee approved NPS FY2024 appropriation, which would cut $436 million for Fiscal Year 2024, an approximate 13 percent reduction.
- The Coalition submitted detailed comments to the Programmatic Environmental Assessment for the use of electronic bikes within units of the National Park System.
- The Coalition submitted comments on a proposed rule on rights-of-way, leasing, and operations for renewable energy on BLM public lands.
- Advocacy for increased protection of public lands and historical and cultural sites continued with a press release commending the designation of the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument. Additionally, the Coalition issued a press release thanking the BLM and U.S. Forest Service for holding a local, public hearing on Baaj Nwaavjo I’tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument.
- The Coalition remains committed to pursuing implementation of regional haze requirements. We joined with 46 organizations in a letter to the EPA urging prompt action on the Regional Haze Round 2 State Implementation Plans.
- The Coalition continues its work to protect public lands with responsible oil and gas leasing by joining comments on the Utah fourth quarter draft Environmental Assessment and draft Finding of No Significant Impact. The Coalition also signed on to scoping comments for the Wyoming 2024 first quarter competitive oil and gas lease sale.

On the Horizon

Here is a look at some of the work we’ll be pursuing in August:

- Tracking budget and appropriations for FY 2024
- Continuing the 20th Anniversary celebration with interviews from EC members, past and present
- Workforce Issues meeting with our colleagues at NPCA and ANPR
- Amplification for new and existing national monument campaigns

Member Count

The Coalition added 18 new members in July, for a total of 2,496. Membership is open to current and former NPS employees and volunteers. Know anyone interested in becoming a member? They can join here.

NPS News

As noted above, on July 19 the House Committee on Appropriations reported to the House the Fiscal Year 2024 appropriations bill for the Department of the Interior, which includes funding for the National Park Service. The Committee recommended cutting NPS’ budget by approximately $436 million. This would result in an approximate nine percent reduction for park operations, potentially resulting in a loss of 1,000 rangers and other staff, and about a 52 percent reduction in construction funding. You can support the NPS by contacting your Representative and letting him or her know you oppose these cuts due to the detrimental effects they would have on the National Park System.

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