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Coalition News

With a government shutdown looming, the Coalition worked hard during September to communicate the negative impacts a government shutdown has on our parks and public lands. We hosted a [virtual discussion](#) about the impacts of a government shutdown and the outlook for FY 2024 appropriations, and we issued a [press release](#) condemning the impending shutdown and urging Congress to pass a continuing resolution.

Our work is far from complete. Congress now has approximately 45 days to complete their appropriations work or we will once again face the prospect of a shutdown. We are deeply concerned about FY 2024 funding levels and we will continue to advocate for our national parks and public lands.

Advocacy Actions

Below are highlights from the Coalition's actions in September:

- The Coalition submitted detailed [comments](#) to BLM on its proposed Fluid Mineral Leases and Leasing Process rule. The comments include support for the intent of the rule and make numerous recommendations for improving the proposal. Additionally, the Coalition joined more than 20 organizations in submitting extensive [comments](#) on the proposed rule.
- The Coalition continues to pursue increased protections for public lands. We issued statements of support, urging the administration to designate the [Chuckwalla National Monument](#), adjacent to Joshua Tree National Park, and calling for the expansion of [Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument](#) to include Molok Luyuk.
- The Coalition submitted [comments](#) in support of the proposed visitor management plan for Yosemite National Park. We also submitted [comments](#) on visitor use management at Glacier National Park following our [op-ed](#) about visitor management and the need for additional appropriations to help Glacier and other national parks address overcrowding and understaffing.
- Coalition Chair Mike Murray authored an [op-ed](#) about the continuing threat of climate change and why we must take action now.

September was a busy month, and these are just some of our advocacy actions. Please visit our [website](#) for all of our actions and press coverage. Don't forget to check out the [blog](#) for a new post on overcrowding and the need for additional operational funding at parks.

Announcements

PEER continues to work on the issue of single use plastics in national parks as envisioned in Secretarial Order 3407. They are looking to eliminate plastics in parks faster than the 2032 deadline. If you have experience with this issue and would be able to discuss the challenges you may have encountered, please email Einar Olsen at es.olsen8@gmail.com.

On the Horizon

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

- Follow up from the potential government shutdown
- Advocacy surrounding FY 2024 appropriations
- Continued engagement on issues related to the NPS workforce
- Quarterly Executive Council Meeting and wrapping up recruitment for the 2024 Executive Council
- Preparation of numerous comments related to issues across the National Park System

Member Count

The Coalition added 20 new members in September, for a total of 2,527. Membership is open to current and former NPS employees and volunteers. Know anyone interested in becoming a member? They can join [here](#).

NPS Reading

On October 18, Cornell University Press will release a new book by Judy Hart, [A National Park for Women's Rights](#). As the founder and first superintendent of the Women's Rights National Historic Park in Seneca Falls, N.Y., Ms. Hart chronicles the battles fought to establish the first "idea" park on the site of the first women's rights convention in 1848.

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