



THE COALITION TO PROTECT  
AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS  
VOICES OF EXPERIENCE

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Coalition News

As we ring in 2024, the Coalition welcomes new members to the Executive Council - Sue Fritzke, Patrick Gregerson, Tim Hudson, Elaine Leslie, Jeff Mow, Chris Powell, and Monique VanLandingham. Their experience and professional backgrounds will be an immense asset to the work of the Coalition. Additionally, we are pleased to have Phil Francis return as the Executive Council Chair.

We also express our sincere gratitude to those individuals who will be stepping down from the Council. Thanks to Michael Allen, Sarah Allen, and Richard Ring for their service and contributions over the years. Finally, a special thanks to Mike Murray, who is stepping down after dedicating ten years of work to the Coalition.

Advocacy Actions

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

- Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2024 remain unfinished and a priority. The Coalition joined in submitting a **letter** to the Senate expressing general support for their proposed funding for NPS and a second **letter** expressing concerns with numerous riders which would impede reforms to BLM's oil and gas leasing program.
- The Coalition continues its engagement on numerous park level management issues. We provided comments detailing significant concerns with the Ambler Road supplemental environmental impact statement for **Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve**. Along with NPCA, the Coalition provided comments on visitor use, access, and experience at **Arches National Park** and the long range day use visitor access strategy and environmental assessment for **Rocky Mountain National Park**.
- The Coalition provided **comments** in support of Director's Order 36, Housing Management, and submitted a **letter** to Congress in support of H.R. 5995, the Federal Retirement Fairness Act.
- The Coalition continues to support additional protections for public lands through use of the Antiquities Act. We issued a **press release** in support of local efforts for the designation of a Mimbres Peaks National Monument and **thanked** DOI for its public meeting on the expansion of Berryessa National Monument.

These are a selection of our advocacy actions this month. Please visit our **website** for a complete summary of our actions and press coverage.

Announcements

The Coalition is pleased to announce the winners of its **2023 awards!**

The recipient of this year's George Hartzog Award is Dr. Patrick Gonzalez. Patrick has long been a strong supporter of the NPS and a champion for tackling climate change and defending scientific integrity. We are proud to recognize his work with this award.

The Coalition is pleased to honor Mike Murray with this year's 1872 Award in recognition and appreciation for the years he has devoted to helping protect our national parks.

On the Horizon

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

- Wrap up of our 2023 Annual Report
- The 2024 Annual Meeting of the Executive Council
- Continued advocacy surrounding FY 2024 appropriations and averting a possible government shutdown
- Continued engagement on issues related to the NPS workforce and employee morale
- Advocacy in support of national monument campaigns
- Preparation of numerous comments related to issues across the National Park System

Member Count

The Coalition added 18 new members in December, for a total of 2,566. Membership is open to current and former NPS employees and volunteers. Know anyone interested in becoming a member? They can join **here**.

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