



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

In This Brief

- [Coalition News](#)
- [Advocacy Actions](#)
- [Announcements](#)
- [On the Horizon](#)
- [Member Count](#)
- [NPS News](#)

[Donate Today](#)



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- [Coalition News](#)
- [Donate](#)
- [Membership](#)
- [Update Your Membership Information](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

Coalition News

Please join us on Tuesday, March 12, at 2 p.m. ET, for a webinar with our friends from the National Parks Conservation Association who will be discussing their updated report, Polluted Parks. The report will detail air quality and climate data for all nearly all parks in the National Park System. More details will follow, and [registration](#) is open.

Advocacy Actions

Below are highlights from the Coalition's work in February:

- The Coalition continues to [advocate](#) for a Fiscal Year 2024 funding bill that supports our national parks.
- The Coalition continues its work to protect parks from the impacts of oil and gas development. We have offered [support](#) to a new report identifying the harmful impacts of orphaned and abandoned oil and gas wells in the Southwest. We provided BLM [scoping comments](#) on the proposed 2024 third quarter oil and gas lease sale in Wyoming and [commented](#) on the second quarter draft environmental assessment and draft finding of no significant impact.
- The Coalition engaged on numerous park-related issues. We provided [comments](#) on visitor use management at Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Historic Park. We submitted a [letter](#) to Director Sams urging the child care center at Yosemite National Park be kept open. We offered [support](#) for a pending bill to establish the Chesapeake National Recreation Area. We sent a [letter](#) to Maryland delegates and provided [testimony](#) to the Maryland Senate supporting legislation banning lead ammunition.
- The Coalition remains an active participant in issues impacting air quality and concerns over [regional haze](#).

These are a selection of our advocacy actions this month. Please visit our [website](#) for a complete summary of our actions and press coverage and a new [blog](#) post.

Announcements

Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) is interested in speaking with NPS retirees and employees off the record to hear their insights on the challenges of eliminating single use plastics from concessions and other operations in the national parks. Interested individuals should contact [Colleen Teubner](#) or [Einar Olsen](#).

On the Horizon

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

- Continued advocacy surrounding FY 2024 Interior appropriations and beginning work for FY 2025
- Planning and outreach related to the NPS workforce and employee morale
- Advocacy in support of numerous national monument campaigns and a push to protect more public land
- Ongoing action to protect mature and old-growth forests and improve air quality in our national parks

Member Count

The Coalition added 12 new members in February, for a total of 2,590. Membership is open to current and former NPS employees and volunteers. Know anyone interested in becoming a member? They can join [here](#).

NPS News

Last week, NPS released its 2023 visitation [numbers](#). Overall, NPS saw a four percent increase from the previous year, with 20 park units breaking their annual visitation numbers. Most interesting, visitation data shows visits increasing in spring and fall, which traditionally is off-season. Visitation data is available online at the NPS Visitor Use Data [website](#).