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Coalition News

Members of the NPS Workforce workgroup, which consists of representatives from the Coalition, the National Parks Conservation Association, the Association of National Park Rangers, and the Park Institute of America, traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with National Park Service (NPS) Leadership to discuss issues related to NPS employees. In a productive series of meetings, we discussed topics ranging from employee morale to recruitment and retention. We will follow-up on these conversations as we continue to support and assist the work of the NPS.

Partner News

The Association of National Park Rangers is helping to raise funds to rehabilitate the Museum of the National Park Ranger at Yellowstone National Park. The museum houses a collection of equipment, recordings, uniforms, and other interpretive displays that demonstrate the evolution of rangers since its inception in the early 1900s. The goal is to raise \$200,000 by the end of 2025. To donate to the Ranger Museum Fund, click [here](#) and scroll to the NPS Ranger Museum Fund option.

In addition, if any NPS retirees would like to be considered for a volunteer position at the Museum of the National Park Ranger this summer, it will be open from June 30 - August 31, 2024. There are two work periods, and volunteers will need to provide their own RV for housing. Please [email](#) Mary Wilson for more information and to express interest by April 5.

Advocacy Actions

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

- The Coalition issued a [statement](#) on FY 2024 NPS appropriations and a [statement](#) on President Biden's FY 2025 proposed budget.
- Phil Francis, Chair of the Coalition, also wrote an [op-ed](#) for *The Hill*, detailing our concerns about NPS funding.
- We expressed concern about legislation that would impact the [Antiquities Act](#) and needed reforms to the federal onshore oil and gas [leasing program](#).
- The Coalition submitted [comments](#) on the Everglades National Park Wilderness Stewardship Plan and issued a [statement of support](#) for designating an Owyhee Canyonlands National Monument.
- We joined comments on numerous regional haze state implementation plans, such as [this one](#) in Illinois.

These are a selection of our advocacy actions this month. Please visit our [website](#) for a complete summary of our actions.

Announcements

The Coalition was joined by the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) for a webinar discussing the impact of pollution and climate change on national parks. If you were unable to join us live, you can view the webinar recording [online](#) and you can take a look at their report, [Polluted Parks](#), and an [interactive website](#). NPCA has also issued an [Action Alert](#) to the EPA requesting they hold states accountable for reducing air pollution emissions through strong regional haze plans.

On the Horizon

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

- Planning Hill visits and advocacy related to FY 2025 Interior appropriations and the protection of public lands.
- Continued meetings with NPS leadership related to issues impacting the NPS workforce and employee morale.
- Advocacy in support of numerous national monument campaigns such as Owyhee Canyonlands, and additional focus on California monument campaigns.
- Participation in the Regional Haze Allies Strategy Meeting in Denver, Colorado.
- Continued advocacy related to reforms to the onshore federal oil and gas leasing system.

Member Count

The Coalition added 40 new members in March, for a total of 2,632. Membership is open to current and former NPS employees and volunteers. Know anyone interested in becoming a member? They can join [here](#).

NPS News

Numerous National Park Service sites are preparing to welcome visitors on April 8 to view the total solar eclipse. Sites from Texas to Maine within the [path](#) are hosting special viewing events, and numerous parks are offering a special [Junior Ranger](#) program for the younger visitors. There will not be another solar eclipse in the continental United States for twenty years, so it is a great opportunity to grab your glasses and head to a park!