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## **Government Shutdown**

This government shutdown will make a bad situation at national parks and public lands – already pushed to the brink by budget cuts and staff reductions - far worse. Shutdown plans will leave parks open with very minimal staffing, and will exacerbate existing issues from neglected maintenance to limited safety services. This is dangerous and reckless for our parks, public lands, and the visitors who love them. **Read the letter** over forty former superintendents sent to Secretary Burgum, urging him to prioritize visitor and resource protection and close our national parks.

# **Annual Giving**

This has been an unprecedented and difficult year for our parks and public lands. Thanks to your support, we have been able to advocate and educate extensively in defense of our National Park System. But there is so much left to be done. While we always appreciate donations, please keep an eye out next month for the kick off to our annual giving campaign.

#### **Award Nominations**

The George Hartzog Award recognizes individuals or groups who have shown outstanding support for the National Park System or the National Park Service. Nominations are now being accepted for 2025. For more information and submission criteria please click **here**.

## **Advocacy Issues and Actions**

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

- The Coalition **issued a statement** on the removal of historical information at national parks, calling it "dangerous and unprecedented." Our staff and members spoke out against plans to <u>"sanitize history"</u> and <u>scrub</u> history from historical sites.
- We <u>issued a statement</u> in opposition to a Secretarial Order that imposes unnecessary, top-down requirements that will impede the National Park Service from addressing its backlog of land acquisition needs. It revives policies that Congress has rejected previously, limiting the ability of the federal government to acquire new parcels through LWCF funds.
- A court has ruled that a <u>lawsuit</u> challenging a large commercial development project near Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park can proceed. This decision allows the legal fight to continue against the Wilderness Crossing project, which threatens the integrity of the historic Wilderness Battlefield. The Coalition filed a joint amicus brief in the lawsuit.
- We joined NPCA in submitting comments expressing our strong opposition to any proposal that rescinds or weakens the U.S. Forest Service's Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule). We also joined **comments** strongly opposing the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed Reconsideration of the 2009 Endangerment Finding and Greenhouse Gas Vehicle Standards

These are just a small selection of our advocacy actions in the past few weeks. Please visit our **website** for a complete summary of our actions.

# **Member Count**

The Coalition added 54 new members in September, for a total of 4,693.

Membership is open to current, former NPS employees, and volunteers.

Know anyone interested in becoming a member or supporter? They can join here.

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