



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

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**Thank You for Your Incredible
Support**

We extend our sincere gratitude to our members and supporters for your generous contributions during our annual giving campaign. Your support and passion is vital as we continue the fight to protect our parks. Although the Annual Giving Campaign has ended, you can always visit our [donation page](#) and make a contribution at any time.

2025 Award Winners

The Coalition is pleased to announce our 2025 Award Winners:

The recipient of the 2025 George B. Hartzog, Jr. Award is Mike Reynolds. Throughout his career, Mike demonstrated unwavering dedication to protecting national parks and supporting the National Park Service workforce. Although retired, he continues to be a trusted voice and advocate for national parks and the NPS employees who care for them.

John Garder is the recipient of the 2025 Bill Wade 1872 Award. John has been a strong advocate for the National Park Service throughout his tenure with the National Parks Conservation Association, dedicating countless hours to strengthening federal support for our national parks. His research, insight, and partnership have been invaluable to the Coalition's advocacy efforts.

Congratulations to our winners and you can read more about their work [here](#).

Our Team

We are deeply grateful to our Executive Council (EC) for their continued hard work and dedication. We would like to extend special thanks to Phil Francis, whose term as Chair concluded at the end of 2025. Phil devoted many years to leading the Coalition, and we are sincerely thankful for his leadership, accomplishments, and ongoing support.

We are also pleased to welcome our new Chair, Cheryl Schreier, and Vice Chair, Jeff Mow, along with several new Executive Council members. You can learn more about our 2026 team [here](#).

Advocacy Issues and Actions

- The Coalition partnered with PEER in a [letter](#) sent to Congressional leadership, expressing our concern and strong opposition to the Trump Administration's reported plan to impose [artificial limits on performance ratings](#) for National Park Service (NPS) employees.
- We issued a [statement](#) and reached out to Congressional offices in response to Senator Mike Lee's (R-UT) proposed an amendment that would remove language stating that national park units are federal lands staffed and maintained by federal employees, as well as language maintaining that federal lands remain federal lands. Senator Lee later struck the amendment from the bill.
- The Coalition also joined our partners in [a letter](#) sent to Congressional leaders, urging them to support our national parks and national park staff as they conference the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Interior, Environment and Related Agencies appropriations bill.
- We joined [numerous efforts](#) opposing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's and National Marine Fisheries Service's November 2025 proposed rollbacks to Endangered Species Act (ESA) regulations.

December was a busy month and these are just a snapshot of our actions. Please take a look at our website for the [full summary](#) of our work in December.

Tell Your Story

Thanks to a grant from the Mellon Foundation, the Organization of American Historians is now conducting an oral history project open to everyone who worked for the federal government or was a federal contractor. You can learn more and sign up [here](#).

Note: there is a [safety-protocol page](#) for those interested in keeping their oral history closed to the public until a time they deem it to be available for release.

On the Horizon

- Meeting with Congressional offices to discuss funding, staffing, and protections for our parks and public lands.
- Executive Council and staff January business meeting to kick off the year.
- Finalizing the 2025 Annual Report.
- Tracking nominations and hearings.
- Ongoing advocacy and education surrounding the impacts of federal workforce cuts on the National Park System.

From Our Friends

In 2026, Great Basin National Park celebrates its 40th anniversary. To honor this legacy and expand access to park stories, Great Basin National Park Foundation is launching a monthly Virtual Speaker Series, with this updated [schedule](#) through November 2026. The first event - Superintendent Stories - will be on January 27, 2026. You can learn more and register [here](#).

Member Count

The Coalition added 51 new members in December, for a total of 4,876.

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

Know anyone interested in becoming a member or supporter? They can join [here](#).