



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

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Advocacy in Action

February was an incredibly busy month as we pushed back against a number of threats to our parks and public lands. The Coalition and partner organizations - represented by Democracy Forward - [filed a lawsuit](#) challenging the Administration's censorship of history and science in our national parks. We also [pushed back](#) against the rollback of reservation systems at a number of national parks, and submitted comments on issues that would impact [national parks](#), [seashores](#), [preserves](#), and [battlefields](#). The threats will keep coming - and we will keep fighting to protect our parks.

Issues and Actions

- The Coalition [issued a memo](#) - one year after the Valentine's Day firings - on the state of the National Park System. From staffing cuts to the erasure of history and sound science, our parks remain on a perilous path.
- The next National Park Service Director must understand the mission of the NPS and place the protection of our National Park System - and support of NPS employees - first. We released [a statement](#) on the nomination of Mr. Scott Socha, encouraging the Senate to do its job and fully vet this nomination.
- The Coalition also issued a [statement](#) ahead of the hearing on the nomination of Mr. Steve Pearce to lead the Bureau of Land Management.
- We submitted [comments](#) on the proposed White House ballroom, expressing our concern over the proposed new structure. The size and design of the proposed addition must respect the size and look of the White House, the West Wing, and nearby structures.

These just a snapshot of our actions. Please take a look at our website for the [full summary](#) of our work in February.

Clean Air for Parks Briefing

The Clean Air Act's Regional Haze Rule (or the 'Clean Air for Parks' Rule) is intended to improve air quality and scenic views specifically in national parks and wilderness areas (156 federally-designated Class I areas), **the only regulation of its kind**. But sadly, to date, no Class I area has achieved the Clean Air Act goal of natural visibility; there is much work to do.

In anticipation of a rulemaking process by EPA in the coming months that will revise the Regional Haze Rule for future planning periods, NPCA is hosting an Introduction to Regional Haze Webinar to equip allies, partners and friends with knowledge and tools to engage.

Please join NPCA on **Tuesday, March 10th at 1pm EDT/10am PDT** to learn more about Regional Haze and how you can prepare for the rulemaking process. Registration is required and can be found [here](#).

Questions? Email Natalie Levine at nlevine@npca.org

From the George Wright Society

The George Wright Society has issued a [call for proposals](#) for the 2026 ParkForum, which will take place in October. They are looking for speakers to share insights, successes, problems, and experiences related to parks, other protected areas, and other types of place-based conservation.

They also continue to seek [RISE Declarations](#) (Recently Involuntarily Separated Employees) from former federal employees about "the most important aspects of their career in place-based conservation, along with lessons learned."

On the Horizon

- Participation in a Strategic Planning meeting with partner organizations on the state of our parks and continued engagement.
- There are a number of threats to parks and public lands across the country right now - at [Boundary Waters](#) (and Voyageurs National Park), [Big Bend National Park](#), and [Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument](#). We will continue to work to protect these iconic spaces and irreplaceable resources.
- Preparing our response to numerous proposed rules from OPM (such as [this one](#)) that have the potential to further harm the federal workforce.
- Continued defense of national monuments and public lands.
- Pushing back against the removal of history and science in our national parks through litigation and Congressional outreach.

Member Count

The Coalition added 69 new members in February, for a total of 4,963.

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

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