

NPCA celebrated several exciting victories this year. Here are some additional highlights:

## FRACKING HALTED IN GLACIER

For more than a decade, the Anschutz Exploration Corporation has been trying to conduct fracking operations on the Blackfoot Reservation, along the eastern boundary of Glacier National Park. The company had leased nearly 600,000 acres of Blackfoot land and drilled 14 exploratory wells. During the past two years, NPCA helped to establish new local organizers and in 2013 formed the Blackfoot Headwaters Alliance, a group of tribal members seeking to protect the headwaters of the Missouri River through “the responsible stewardship of the pristine waters and watersheds originating upon, flowing through, and residing beneath the Blackfoot Indian Nation of Montana.” NPCA and these tribal partners gathered key allies from among the state’s legislators, the Blackfoot Tribal Council, tribal elders, federal agencies, and the general public. Together, they fought proposed drilling by petitioning on behalf of clean water, clear skies, endangered species, and national park heritage and traditional tribal cultural sites. They captured regional, national, and international media attention, and in March 2013, Anschutz announced it would cease drilling and discontinue further exploration adjacent to Glacier.

## LOGGING PAUSED IN THE CROWN

The transboundary Crown of the Continent ecosystem includes Glacier National Park, Waterton Lakes National Park (in Alberta, Canada), and various other protected lands that cross jurisdictions, complicating landscape-level protections in this remarkable region. Indeed, Alberta’s provincial government had planned to initiate logging in the Castle Special Place—which, ever since it was carved out of Waterton Lakes National Park, has been under constant threat of industrialization. But by helping to deliver more than 70,000 protest comments to Canadian ministry officials, NPCA and its partners convinced Alberta’s government to call off its aggressive logging plans, pending a landscape-level environmental analysis.





## DRILLING DISCONTINUED IN GRAND TETON

The Plains Exploration and Development Corporation planned to develop 136 natural gas wells just south of Grand Teton National Park, in the headwaters of the Wild and Scenic Hoback River that serves as a critical wildlife migratory area for elk, deer, moose, and pronghorn. But NPCA rallied its members, who sent 50,000 comments to the U.S. Forest Service voicing concerns over an inadequate environmental analysis, and placed 24,000 signatures on a petition urging the company to retire the leases. NPCA lent its support to this important campaign, led by Citizens for the Wyoming Range, to help preserve Grand Teton's pristine air quality. As a result of the efforts of this coalition, the company sold its development rights to conservation groups, ensuring this landscape's protection from drilling in perpetuity.



## DAMMING DISMISSED AT VOYAGEURS

Voyageurs National Park didn't even have a seat at the negotiating table during discussions about a proposed hydroelectric dam on Canada's Namakan River, where development would affect lands, waters, and native fish within the U.S. park. So NPCA worked through the International Joint Commission to make sure Voyageurs representatives could weigh in during discussions. NPCA also helped fund an expert who reviewed the environmental analysis and submitted comments against the project. Working with its partners, NPCA conducted an outreach campaign to alert the Minnesota congressional delegation and Environmental Protection Agency, which also filed comments on the analysis. By spreading the word about the project's detrimental environmental impacts, NPCA applied the pressure needed to help convince the developer to pull the plug on the proposed dam.





## LANDFILL STOPPED AT JOSHUA TREE

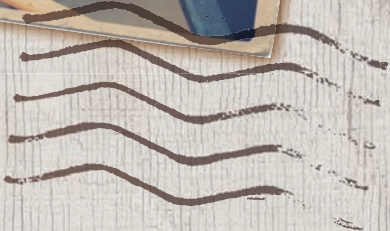
NPCA has actively opposed the Eagle Mountain landfill project since it was proposed in the 1990s. NPCA filed suit on this inappropriate proposal in 1999 and won its district court case in 2006, and the appeal case shortly thereafter. After an unsuccessful appeal to the Supreme Court, the 13-year legal struggle ended with an NPCA victory.

Despite this legal victory and additional Park Service data suggesting that 75 percent of Joshua Tree's desert tortoise habitat would be affected by this project, the proponent and Bureau of Land Management decided to try to move the project forward. NPCA escalated its organizing in communities, on Capitol Hill, and within the administration. We convinced then-Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar to fly over the site and to speak out against the project; secured a letter of concern from Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA); and communicated the risks to Los Angeles County and its Sanitation District. And although *The Desert Sun* (a major newspaper in the region) had long been a key supporter of the landfill, the newspaper eventually editorialized in favor of abandoning the project—and quoted NPCA in that editorial. This year, the Sanitation District finally gave up on the proposal, offering reasons that read like NPCA talking points: the need to invest in more recycling and diversion, and the desire to avoid environmental harm.

## WETLANDS REPAIRED IN THE EVERGLADES

On March 19, 2013, dignitaries cut the ribbons on a milestone project that significantly increases freshwater flow through Everglades and Biscayne National Parks. U.S. Route 41 (known locally as the Tamiami Trail) had acted like a dam, preventing the ecosystem's southward flow of fresh water and drying out parts of the Everglades. Now, a mile-long elevated bridge raises motorists a few feet above the River of Grass and restores fresh water to Florida Bay and throughout south Florida. NPCA was instrumental in bringing together the many entities responsible for the \$81 million project—including federal agencies, members of Congress, the State of Florida, and south Florida stakeholders.





## VIEWS RESTORED AT GETTYSBURG

The Gettysburg Cyclorama is an artistic and historical treasure. Completed in 1883, the circular painting re-creates Pickett's Charge, packing an emotional punch for most viewers. In 1962, the Cyclorama painting was installed in the Cyclorama building, designed by noted architect Richard Neutra. Unfortunately, the building was built on the Union Army's primary defense line, impeding the visitor's understanding of the battle. In addition, the flat-roofed Cyclorama building was ill suited for Pennsylvania's rain and snow, leading to constant and costly maintenance and damage to the historic Cyclorama painting it was built to display. In 2008, the Cyclorama painting restoration was completed and the painting reinstalled in the new visitor center (built off the main battlefield). NPCA has long advocated for the building's removal due to its location on the heart of the battlefield. After years of legal challenges, the outdated Cyclorama building at Gettysburg was demolished on March 11, 2013, a critical step toward rehabilitating the historic landscape in time for the battle's 150th anniversary in July 2013.



## LINKING CORRIDORS IN THE SMOKIES

For 15 years, NPCA has been working to protect 10,000 acres of land linking Great Smoky Mountains National Park with the adjacent Cherokee National Forest. NPCA brought together several governmental and nonprofit partners to participate in a multiyear dam-relicensing process, resulting in an agreement for the long-term preservation of the land. In May, the deal concluded successfully when Brookfield Renewable Energy donated the final 4,000 acres to The Nature Conservancy, which will convey the acreage over a two-year period to state and federal partners. These tracts of mountainous forest sit along the Little Tennessee River and contain 21 rare, threatened, and endangered species, including the peregrine falcon, bristle fern, chalk maple, and Junaluska salamander—all of which enjoy greater protections now, thanks to the agreement.

## WILDLIFE CORRIDORS FUNDED

About every six years, Congress is supposed to pass a federal transportation bill, which allocates revenues from the federal gas tax to fund transportation infrastructure within the United States, including 8,000 miles of paved and unpaved roads, 1,800 bridges, and 112 transit systems such as ferries and shuttles within the national parks. With this year's bill, NPCA helped ensure that the Park Service would receive \$240 million annually for transit throughout all parks, holding the agency's transportation funding steady while others saw significant cuts. NPCA also worked with Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT) to include language in the bill specific to wildlife-vehicle accidents: New guidelines allow states to use federal highway safety dollars for wildlife crossings, which will protect drivers and help a wide range of migratory animals, from Yellowstone's pronghorn to Glacier's grizzlies.

POST CARD



## EXPANDING ZION

The threat of development on 3,300 privately owned acres inside Zion National Park's boundaries is real and growing. In fall 2012, NPCA persuaded a donor and partner to buy one of these inholdings, a 30-acre parcel at the foot of Zion's iconic Tabernacle Dome, whose owners planned to build a new home on the site or sell the land on the open market. The land will be donated to the National Park Service for inclusion in the park's public lands, preserving the scenic and pristine beauty that draws nearly 3 million visitors to the park each year.



## RESTORING JAMAICA BAY

For years, NPCA worked to bring attention to the plight of Jamaica Bay, part of Gateway National Recreation Area. Sewage treatment plants had polluted its waters, intensive development blighted its views, and the nearby Kennedy International Airport prevented any hope of quiet serenity along this shoreline. So in July 2012, New York City and the Park Service formalized an agreement for the joint operation of more than 10,000 acres of parkland in and around Jamaica Bay, which stretches across south Brooklyn to Queens. The partnership improves management of the patchwork of city and federal parks lining Jamaica Bay and strengthens efforts to restore the area after years of degradation.