



The Coalition To Protect America's National Parks

Voices of Experience



March 24, 2016

President Obama-

On behalf of the National Parks Conservation Association, The Coalition to Protect America's National Parks, and Park Rangers for Our Lands, we thank you for your recent joint commitment with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to reduce methane pollution from existing oil and gas facilities.

Climate change poses a direct threat to landscapes across the globe, including our national parks. Staunching the release of methane, a greenhouse gas more than 80 times as potent as carbon dioxide in the short term, will help slow the impacts of climate change on national parks. Sea level rise and increased storm surges are inundating low-lying coasts and damaging infrastructure in places like Cape Hatteras National Seashore and Everglades National Park. Glaciers and snowpack crucial to park ecosystems and visitation are already reduced at Glacier National Park and Kenai Fjords National Park. Costly wildfires threaten parks throughout the West, and park wildlife are put at risk by changing habitats.

The Administration's announcement that the EPA will develop regulations to cover existing sources of methane pollution from the oil and gas industry is great news for our climate, and for the future of our national parks. These expanded rules are an important complement to methane-reduction regulations currently being developed by the EPA for new and modified sources, as well as new BLM rules to end natural gas waste on federal lands.

We want to thank you for your continued commitment to our National Park System. We hope that the EPA can work quickly to put these rules in place before the end of your Administration. We need to act as quickly as we can to ensure the future of our parks.

Sincerely,

Mark Wenzler, Senior Vice President, Conservation Programs
National Parks Conservation Association

Maureen Finnerty, Chair
Coalition to Protect America's National Parks

Ellis Richard, Co-Founder
Park Rangers for Our Lands