



Trustees
FOR THE PARKS

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2017

STANDING UP FOR NATIONAL PARKS

THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND (FOR NOW)

PUTTING THE *LIFE* BACK IN PARK WILDLIFE

BACK WHERE HE BELONGS

AND MORE!



NOT ON OUR WATCH

That's something I have been hearing from NPCA Trustees for the Parks all spring and summer as federal budget negotiations have dragged on. You have made it perfectly clear that you aren't going to allow any politicians to slash funding for national parks without a fight.

So I think you will be pleased to read about our latest efforts, as well as details of the budget process that you aren't likely to find elsewhere. It's the sort of insider information you deserve as a leading member of our team of park protectors.

Plenty of people, politicians and private citizens alike, truly do want what is best for America's national parks. But they don't always act on their good intentions. Our Trustees for the Parks are different. They care and they take action. That makes a big difference when we're trying to secure the best possible funding for national parks.

Whether politicians will make urgently needed investments in national parks, or proceed with devastating cuts to the National Park Service budget, remains an open question. But there is no question that NPCA Trustees for the Parks need to continue playing a crucial role in this year's budget battles.

Thank you for making a difference,

Theresa Pierno
President and CEO



THE NEW LAY OF THE LAND

America's national parks are often referred to as "priceless" treasures, which is indeed accurate in a figurative sense. In terms of actual dollars and cents, however, it doesn't account for what national parks are worth to the U.S. economy or what it takes to maintain and operate them.

So when National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) staff are on Capitol Hill fighting for adequate parks funding, they stress hard numbers. Sentiment, after all, is not the best way to sway lawmakers focused primarily on a fiscal bottom line.

For example, it is indisputable that national parks supported more than \$35 billion in economic activity and 318,000 jobs last year alone. What is also abundantly clear — and absolutely indefensible — is that the administration proposed a Fiscal Year 2018 budget that includes a 13% cut to funding for the National Park Service. If enacted, that would be the largest cut to the agency since World War II and could throw sand in the economic engine that the parks are.

NPCA Trustees for the Parks have always stood up against attempts to shortchange national parks and, by extension, all of the American people. In this case, your leadership support and personal engagement fueled a nationwide mobilization of NPCA activists — pressing administration officials and members of Congress to put the brakes on a budget that still poses serious threats to national parks.

Power of the Purse

Based on decades of experience with Capitol Hill budget battles, and to maximize the impact of members' donations, NPCA is making a difference by strategically focusing on specific priorities.

What we are demanding from Congress is hardly unreasonable. It is simply what national parks need, and what a majority of Americans support. Top advocacy goals include:

- Reaching a budget deal to avoid deep, across-the-board sequester cuts mandated by the Budget Control Act. Failure to achieve a budget deal that included spending offsets four years ago triggered sequester cuts that resulted in park facilities closing and hundreds of ranger positions going unfilled.
- Avoiding the damaging impacts of further cuts to national parks staffing levels. The reduction of staff by 11 percent over the last six years has already led to less day-to-day maintenance operations, less scientific inventory and monitoring of park resources, reduced hours or outright closure of public facilities, and fewer visitor programs.
- Addressing the parks' more than \$11 billion deferred maintenance backlog. This massive backlog continues to undermine the preservation of

nationally significant resources and threatens the experience of visitors. Infrastructure needs that are going unmet include repairs to wastewater treatment plants in Yosemite National Park and rebuilding 30-year-old docks in Voyageurs National Park. Our “Restore America’s Parks” campaign has led to the introduction of bipartisan legislation in both the Senate and the House, the National Park Service Legacy Act, to dedicate funding to the park system’s infrastructure repairs backlog.

- Restoring appropriate funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which is targeted for draconian cuts in the administration’s budget. The LWCF, a trust fund established in 1965, provides a small portion of federal royalties from offshore drilling to allow the National Park Service and other federal land management agencies to purchase privately-owned parcels of land from willing sellers within the borders of parks and other protected areas. Without adequate funding, those lands could be sold off for incompatible development projects such as housing or commercial developments.
- Tracking the administration’s initiative to reduce the size of the federal workforce, freeze hiring

of certain park service positions, and reorganize the Department of the Interior, all of which could threaten the ability of parks to operate with the resources they need. We are working with partners and supporters in both parties on Capitol Hill to impress upon the administration the many pitfalls of these and other plans, such as outsourcing operation of park campgrounds and other services to the private sector.

Down to the Wire

Continuing what has become an unfortunate pattern in recent years, Congress will return from its August recess with plenty of work still to do on finalizing the federal budget. Whether that will be accomplished with a genuine budget agreement or a series of continuing resolutions — and whether there is ultimately a threat of another government shutdown that could harm parks, their visitors and local economies — is impossible to predict.

What is certain, however, is that NPCA will be vigorously and vocally advocating for funding levels national parks need to be fully protected and well maintained national treasures, and for parks to remain fully open. Trustees for the Parks are encouraged to stand up — and speak up — for the parks until their future is assured to be a priceless one.



© Michael Falco, Gateway National Recreation Area

RAISE YOUR VOICE

Many politicians and special interests are targeting the National Park Service for deep, disastrous funding cuts. Please do your part to counter their influence by writing, emailing and calling your Member of Congress (House Switchboard: (202) 224-3121) with your demand for greater investments in your national parks.

You can also make your voice heard by taking action on NPCA’s website. You can ask your lawmaker to support park maintenance legislation at www.npca.org/fixourparks and you can ask your Member of Congress to support increased national park funding at www.npca.org/increasefunding.

Thank you for all you do to help protect our national parks.

Correction: In the Spring 2017 TFP Newsletter, under the article *NPCA Regional Staff: On the Ground & In Action*, it was stated that NPCA’s regional and field offices are “staffed by volunteers.” Please note NPCA regional and field offices are staffed by seasoned professionals who work every day to protect and preserve our national parks.



Voyageurs National Park

STRENGTHEN NPCA AND SUPPORT THE NATIONAL PARKS

As the sole organization focused on protecting and strengthening the national parks, NPCA has depended on the commitment and strength of its loyal members for its achievements over the last 98 years.

As the parks enter their second century, your support will be vital in ensuring they are there for another 100 years.

Your tax deductible gifts of \$1,000, \$2,500, \$5,000, and \$10,000 will fuel our vital efforts to connect young people and other Americans to our national parks, and mobilize them to press our elected leaders to protect and strengthen our precious parks' heritage.

As a Trustee for the Parks you will receive:

- Special messaging to give you the latest news on our work
- Recognition in NPCA's annual report
- The engaging, in-depth, quarterly Trustees for the Parks newsletter
- A subscription to *National Parks*, our award-winning magazine.

WAYS TO GIVE:

- **Send your gift** using the envelope included in this issue.
- **Give online** at www.npca.org/TFPjoin.
- **Stock gifts** — Donate stock assets to help us preserve and protect the parks.
- **Monthly installments** — Break your gift into multiple payments by visiting www.npca.org/TFPmonthly.

For more information contact Erin Mezgar, Associate Director, Trustees for the Parks at 202.454.3370 or emezgar@npca.org.

CONSIDER A PLANNED GIFT

With numerous ways to make and fund a planned gift, you can increase your current income, diversify your holdings, reduce your taxes, and avoid probate costs. Please contact Vonda Harrison, toll-free at 877.468.5775 or vharrison@npca.org.

TRAVEL WITH US

Check off a few more national parks from your list! Join one of NPCA's small group tours in partnership with Off the Beaten Path. Most tours are limited to 16 participants, with two guides. Please contact Mary Murtala at 202.454.3347, mmurtala@npca.org, or visit www.npca.org/travel.

Cover: Black Bear Cub

All photos © iStockPhoto.com unless otherwise noted.



Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument

THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND (FOR NOW)

One year has passed since 87,500 acres of boreal forests, abundant wildlife and wild rivers in northern Maine were entrusted to the American people. The gorgeous landscape was officially designated as Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument on August 24, 2016 with the intention of protecting it in perpetuity.

How long it will remain as part of the National Park System, however, is now uncertain. That is due to President Trump issuing an Executive Order paving the way for eliminating or shrinking the size of 27 national monuments — including Katahdin Woods and Waters.

For now, this national monument is an exceptional addition to the park system. Its landscape has inspired conservationists from poet Henry David Thoreau to President Theodore Roosevelt. Generations of families in Maine have enjoyed hiking, horseback riding, skiing, snowmobiling and fishing here.

A Long-Awaited Gift

Roxanne Quimby, co-founder of Burt's Bees skincare company and land owner of areas of the Maine North Woods, began contemplating donating the land to the American people some 20 years ago.

It turned out that Quimby's selfless donation would be difficult to make. False claims that a national monument designation would prohibit hunting and snowmobiling slowed the process to a crawl. And just like other places that become national parks, Katahdin had its share of local opposition including timber interests. Also Congressional legislation specifically preventing the establishment of a national park in Penobscot County, Maine would have stopped the process completely had it passed last year.

But Quimby, her son, Lucas St. Clair, and everyone engaged in NPCA's work including you and other NPCA donors refused to take "no" for an answer.

Slowly, but ever so surely, NPCA's public education efforts, projections for the national monument's positive economic impact, and pro-designation advocacy in both Maine and Washington, DC began to turn the tide. Even so, it became clear that creating a new national park in Maine was not likely to happen through an act of Congress. So NPCA staff, volunteers and partner organizations in Maine began appealing to President Obama to use his authority under the Antiquities Act of 1906 to create Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.

In addition to creating hundreds of jobs in the Katahdin region and increasing tourism revenue for local businesses, the new national monument will:

- Provide unrivaled habitat for Canada lynx, ruffed grouse, brook trout, deer, moose, bears and loons.
- Interpret the rich history of the Native American Penobscot tribe and the birthplace of American conservation.
- Enhance opportunities for hiking, camping, fishing, biking, cross-country skiing, hunting and snowmobiling.

Taken together, these positive impacts make for a tremendous gift for the American people. Now it is up to "we the people" to keep Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument in the public trust.

Visit npca.org for updates on our efforts to keep all national monuments intact.

PUTTING THE *LIFE* BACK IN PARK WILDLIFE

The presence of healthy and diverse wildlife populations is a major draw in national parks across the country. For many visitors, national parks without wildlife wouldn't seem like special places at all.

NPCA agrees, which is why so much staff time and effort is devoted to ensuring wildlife has the park habitat needed to survive, working with local conservation partners to bring species back from the brink of extinction, and opposing attempts to roll back protections of threatened and endangered wildlife.

Our current efforts to preserve and protect wildlife include working on behalf of condors, salmon, and ...

Bears, Oh My!

Recent developments have brought good news for some grizzly bears, but bad news for others.

On the good news side, there is new hope for a confirmed return of grizzlies to the North Cascades Ecosystem. Wildlife biologists estimate that there are fewer than ten grizzly bears remaining in the North Cascades. There hasn't been a confirmed sighting in Washington's Cascades, however, since 1996. That could change if a long-awaited plan for restoring grizzlies from the National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is successfully implemented. NPCA supports an incremental restoration strategy that would add five to seven bears each year to establish a confirmed base population of 25.

Bad news came in the form of a rule from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service removing the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem grizzly bear from the Endangered Species List. NPCA raised numerous objections during the delisting process and will continue fighting the proposed final rule that impacts grizzly bears that make their homes in Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks.

Irreversible Damage To Salmon

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reversed its previous science-backed ruling that had halted plans for a massive gold and copper mine for Alaska's Bristol Bay. The Bristol Bay watershed supports the world's largest sockeye salmon fishery — a tremendously valuable resource that would be put at risk by a massive open pit mining operation with an industrial footprint larger in area than Manhattan.

Indeed, the EPA's earlier science-backed analysis acknowledged the mine would, "cause irreversible damage to one of the world's last intact salmon ecosystems." That is why NPCA will continue fighting to save salmon throughout the mine's permitting and approval process.

Although it appears to be an uphill battle to save Bristol Bay salmon at the moment, we take confidence from previous conservation successes won against long odds. Removal of two massive dams on the Elwha River in Washington state, for example, after decades of NPCA advocacy has led to the return of all five species of Pacific

salmon. Plus, visitors to Olympic National Park can once again enjoy a free-flowing waterway.

Return Flight Of The Condor

The largest flying bird in North America, the California condor population crashed to just 22 individuals in 1982 due to a variety of reasons, including habitat loss and lead poisoning from the birds eating carrion filled with hunters' lead pellets.

Today, thanks to captive breeding programs, more than 400 of these high-flyers are alive and well. Many have been reintroduced to original habitats in Arizona and Utah. The condor's range could soon expand due to NPCA's work with the Yurok Tribe of California, the National Park Service, power companies, and local conservation groups. The partners' plan calls for the release of 10 condors per year into Yurok ancestral territory within Redwood National Park for the next five years.

NPCA Director of California Desert and National Wildlife Programs David Lamfrom is excited about what the partnership could mean for the future of wildlife management. "We have an opportunity to re-wild one of the world's most iconic landscapes — the beautiful Redwood forests. This region has experienced decades without this remarkable species, and if, together, we can make this happen, it will provide profound benefits to Redwood National Park, wildlife enthusiasts, and the Yurok tribe."



“

NATIONAL PARKS
HAVE GIVEN SO MUCH
TO MY FAMILY, SO IT'S
ONLY RIGHT THAT I
GIVE BACK BY DOING
MY PART TO KEEP
THEM PROTECTED
AND SECURE FOR
MY CHILDREN
AND ALL FUTURE
GENERATIONS.”

— MATTHEW BOYER,
NPCA VICE PRESIDENT
OF DEVELOPMENT



Shenandoah National Park is one of Matthew's favorite parks to visit

BACK WHERE HE BELONGS

Matthew Boyer is NPCA's new Vice President of Development, but he is hardly new to NPCA or even to the Development Department. That is because one of his first jobs after college was as an assistant to senior staff responsible for keeping members engaged in and supportive of NPCA's work.

“It was a little more than basic data entry and a little donor outreach, but not much more,” Matthew recalls of those days.

“Although I do trace my love of national parks to that first stint ‘in the trenches’ at NPCA. I grew up in central Pennsylvania and my family didn't really visit national parks. So it really opened my eyes to the wonder of national parks when I got to know all the gorgeous, unique places NPCA was working to protect.”

That eye-opening experience led to years of unforgettable national park adventures as well as a career working for numerous conservation organizations in a variety of positions. “National parks have given so much to my family, so it's only right that I give back by doing my part to keep them protected and secure for my children and all future generations.”

What exactly have national parks given to Matthew?

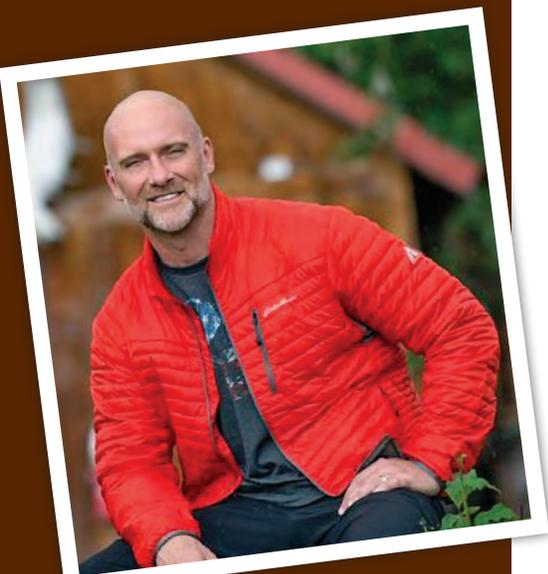
“Great memories. Lots of laughs. More than 200 parks visited. And stronger connections with my sons. When they hit their teenage

years, they clammed up like so many kids do. But when we're hiking, kayaking or just hanging out around a campfire, they open up and share what's going in their lives. That's a great gift you don't see mentioned in any parks brochures.”

Matthew even attributes a guiding life philosophy to one of his national parks experiences.

“I was at a lodge in Katmai National Park and Preserve in Alaska with a map of all the parks spread out in front of me. I told a travel companion that I was determined to visit every single park, except probably not Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve since it was one of the most remote and least visited of all the parks. A little while later the travel companion informed me that he had hired a bush pilot to go there the next day and that I was welcome to tag along. It was a harrowing flight through heavy weather and a crack in a volcano wall. We could only stay on the ground taking pictures for about 20 minutes because a storm was brewing. But just like that, I had checked off a bucket list item and learned to never say never about anything! Just 12 hours after saying the word ‘never’ there I stood.”

We are thrilled to have Matthew Boyer back in the NPCA family, and he is excited to once again be working with, “the most dedicated and generous park lovers — NPCA donors.”



© NPCA

RIDE AND HIKE TO PROTECT OUR NATIONAL PARKS

This marks the sixth year that NPCA staff and other national park enthusiasts, including a number of Trustees for the Parks and NPCA regional council members, have saddled up or laced up to raise money and awareness to protect parks against the impacts of climate change. These Climate Ride — and Climate Hike — events offer wonderful opportunities to experience amazing national parks among like-minded individuals while helping ensure those parks stay spectacular for years to come. The events are fully supported by Climate Ride so they will take care of your meals, transporting your luggage, and providing great routes each day so you can focus on enjoying the experience.

One of the upcoming featured events for NPCA's Pedal for the Parks Team will be the October 21-26 Climate Ride-Hike through Southern Utah's Bryce Canyon and Zion National Parks and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Riders and hikers will cover a lot of ground while bringing greater attention to why national parks are America's Best Idea and need to be protected for generations to come.

As in years past, at least one NPCA staff member will take part in each of the 2017 rides and hikes — from Glacier to Olympic to Shenandoah National Parks — to ride and hike alongside our supporters. Each evening Climate Ride puts together a group of speakers on issues ranging from climate

change to bike advocacy to national park protection.

In addition to official events hosted by Climate Ride each year, anyone can raise money by staging their own independent challenges across the country. It could be anything from a 5K walk/run to skiing to mountain climbing. In 2015, for example, one group rode their bikes from Florida to Alaska. They called it "From Keys to Freeze" and raised nearly \$12,000 for NPCA.

Spots in this year's NPCA Climate Rides and Hikes are nearly full, but a full slate is already being put together for 2018. Erin Mezgar, Associate Director of NPCA's Trustees for the Parks program, is already looking forward to the Climate Hike in Glacier National Park in August 2018. She invites you to consider joining her for the hike to see the impacts of climate change on our national parks up close. To learn more about 2017 and 2018 events go to www.climateride.org/npc.

All the hard work and training of over 150 supporters has produced an impressive amount of funds to protect our national parks. Over five years and 53,000 miles, NPCA's Pedal for the Parks and Footprints for the Parks Teams have raised more than \$160,000 for NPCA's work on climate change. They expect to pass the \$200,000 mark this year and will keep on riding and hiking to even higher fundraising heights.

Death Valley Climate Ride participants raising funds for NPCA show off their Pedal for the Parks jerseys.



THANK YOU!



Presenting Sponsor
Steven A. and Roberta B. Denning

Park Advocate Sponsors



Secunda Family Foundation
Story Clark and Bill Resor
Bill and Judy Walter

Thanks to the support of exceptionally generous sponsors and more than 200 enthusiastic attendees, NPCA's 36th Annual Salute to the Parks, held in April 2017, was a great success.

Gretchen Long, past Chair and Trustee Emerita of NPCA received the *Centennial Award* for outstanding contributions toward ensuring your national parks are ready for their second century of service.

Jack Steward and Colton Smith, hosts of ABC's Emmy® Award-winning Rock the Park program, were honored to accept the *Robin W. Winks Award* for enhancing public understanding of the National Park System.

Congratulations, and thanks, to everyone who gathered to salute national parks!



777 6th Street, NW | Suite 700
Washington, DC 20001-3723

P 202.223.6722 | F 202.872.0960 | npca.org/trustees

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NATIONAL PARKS
CONSERVATION
ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2017

YOU'RE INVITED!

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR TRUSTEES FOR THE PARKS

Tuesday November 14, 2017

Speaker Series in Washington, DC

featuring Director of Legislation and Policy,
Ani Kame'enui, and Senior Director, Government
Affairs, John Garder

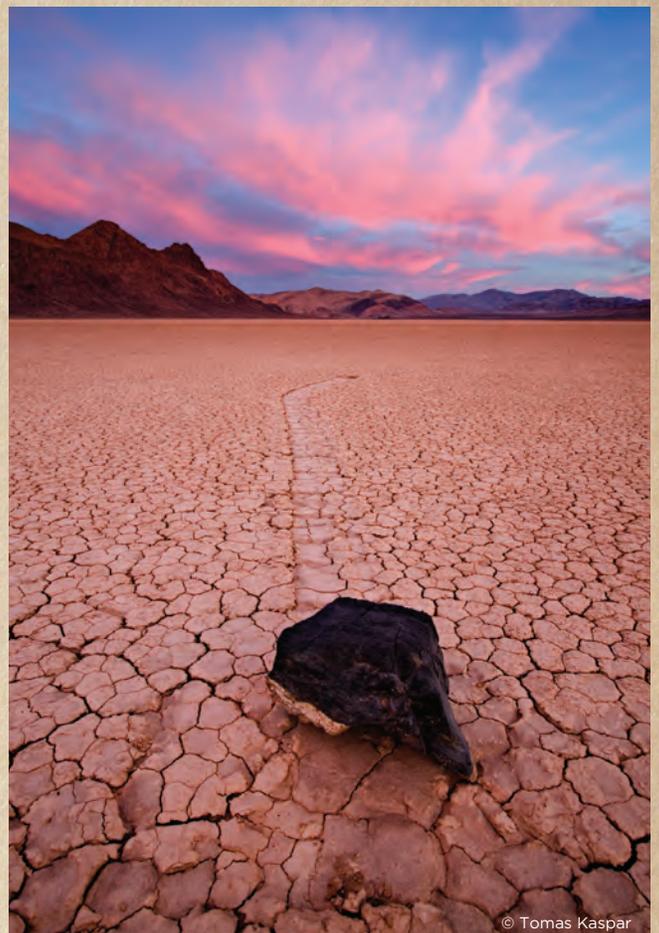
This event will broadcast live on our Facebook!

Saturday March 17 through Friday March 23, 2018

Trustees for the Parks California Desert Trip

joined by David Lamfrom and Desert program staff

*Please contact Erin Mezgar, Associate Director,
Trustees for the Parks, for more info at 202-454-3370
or emezgar@npca.org*



© Tomas Kaspar

Death Valley National Park