



# NATIONAL MONUMENTS ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK

PARADISE LOST - NATURAL DISASTERS  
DAMAGE NATIONAL PARKS

MAKING HOLIDAY MEMORIES IN YOUR PARKS

FIGHTING FOR HISTORIC JAMESTOWN

AND MORE!





National monuments protect some of our most treasured public lands and waters. So I was disappointed to see the leaked memo from Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke, recommending that President Trump shrink the size of 10 national monuments and weaken protections against oil and gas drilling. It wasn't particularly surprising news — I have been seriously concerned about the future of spectacular places like Bears Ears (UT) and Katahdin Woods and Waters (ME) ever since President Trump ordered a review of national monuments back in April. Unfortunately, we now find ourselves in a position to defend their very existence.

I want to assure you and all NPCA *Trustees for the Parks* that we are working nonstop to prevent this disastrous proposal from being acted upon and setting a precedent that could allow any national park to be taken away from the American people. Actions we have already taken and our strategies going forward are described in this newsletter. Given the fluid nature of this issue, and unpredictability of the Trump administration, I encourage you to visit [npca.org](http://npca.org) for the latest news.

On a more positive note, I recommend the story on page six regarding national parks holiday traditions you might want to take part in this season or make plans for next year. And, on behalf of everyone here at NPCA, I thank you for being one of our most dedicated Trustees for the Parks.

Best wishes for the holidays and new year,

Theresa Pierno  
President and CEO



Rio Grande del Norte National Monument

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## NATIONAL MONUMENTS ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK

Some of our most beautiful and beloved public lands and waters could soon be stripped of crucial protections and forever despoiled by exploitative special interests. Or, those places could remain intact and preserved for the enjoyment of the public — just as intended when they were first designated as national monuments.

The uncertainty results from a complete lack of transparency in the process by which administration officials are deciding whether to shrink the boundaries or allow the plundering of national monuments from northern Maine to the northern tip of the Hawaiian archipelago. But this much is certain: The actions the administration takes now could forever change our ability to protect some of our country's greatest landscapes and cultural heritage in the future.

### Behind Closed Doors And With Closed Ears

On April 26, President Trump issued an Executive Order directing Interior Secretary, Ryan Zinke, to conduct a review of all national monuments created since January 1, 1996. By the next month the Department of Interior released a list of twenty-seven national monuments designated under the Antiquities Act that were under scrutiny.

Secretary Zinke periodically made remarks suggesting specific national monuments might be left untouched for their scenic and other values while others warranted closer examination. Meanwhile, NPCA and our conservation partners mobilized more than 2.8 million Americans to demand that all national monuments be preserved and protected.

On September 17 Secretary Zinke's recommendations to President Trump were leaked and reported by *The Washington Post*. Those recommendations (seen in the sidebar) completely ignored the more than 2.8 million American voices who called for the administration to preserve and protect all of our national monuments.

### Unprecedented Thievery

If these changes are implemented, it would represent the most wide-ranging reduction of public lands ever.

As noted by NPCA President Theresa Pierno, "An attack on any one of these public lands is an attack on all of them. Indeed, it is an attack on our values, history, and culture — an attack that must be vigorously defended against and ultimately defeated." Accordingly, NPCA has been in all-hands-on-deck mobilization mode since the initial Executive Order in April.

With our *Trustees for the Parks* providing both passion and financial support, we have launched public education campaigns to ensure the American people understand this fight is not only about national monuments, but the very concept of public lands — national parks included. NPCA staff and volunteer activists across the country have stayed in constant contact with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle in Congress to convey the depth of their constituents' support for protecting national monuments. And we continue to focus grassroots pressure on the White House to not alter any monument designations.

### Court As A Last Resort

We remain concerned the administration will overstep its legal authority by changing national monument designations. And if they do NPCA will be ready to go to court to block them.

That is why NPCA set up our National Park Legal Defense Fund. This fund will help provide us with the resources we need if the legal system becomes the last line of defense for our national parks.

Tell your members of Congress to stand up to Secretary Zinke's recommendations and defend the places that belong to all of us. Take action at [www.npca.org/antiquities](http://www.npca.org/antiquities).



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

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## WHAT'S AT STAKE

Secretary Zinke suggests changes to ten national monuments in the leaked memo to President Trump. They are:

### **Bears Ears National Monument (Utah)**

Reduce size and loosen regulations to allow "traditional use" of the land, which could be interpreted to include drilling and mining.

### **Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (Oregon and California)**

Revise boundaries to reduce size and open protected land to logging operations.

### **Gold Butte National Monument (Nevada)**

Reduce size and alter management policies to allow "traditional use," which could be interpreted to include drilling, mining, and increased cattle grazing.

### **Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (Utah)**

Reduce size and alter management policies to allow mining, among other "traditional uses."

### **Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument (Maine)**

Alter management policies to allow industrial logging.

### **Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument (Atlantic Ocean)**

Change the monument's proclamation to allow commercial fishing.

### **Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument (New Mexico)**

Change the monument's proclamation to allow cattle grazing.

### **Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument (Pacific Ocean)**

Revise boundaries to reduce size and allow commercial fishing.

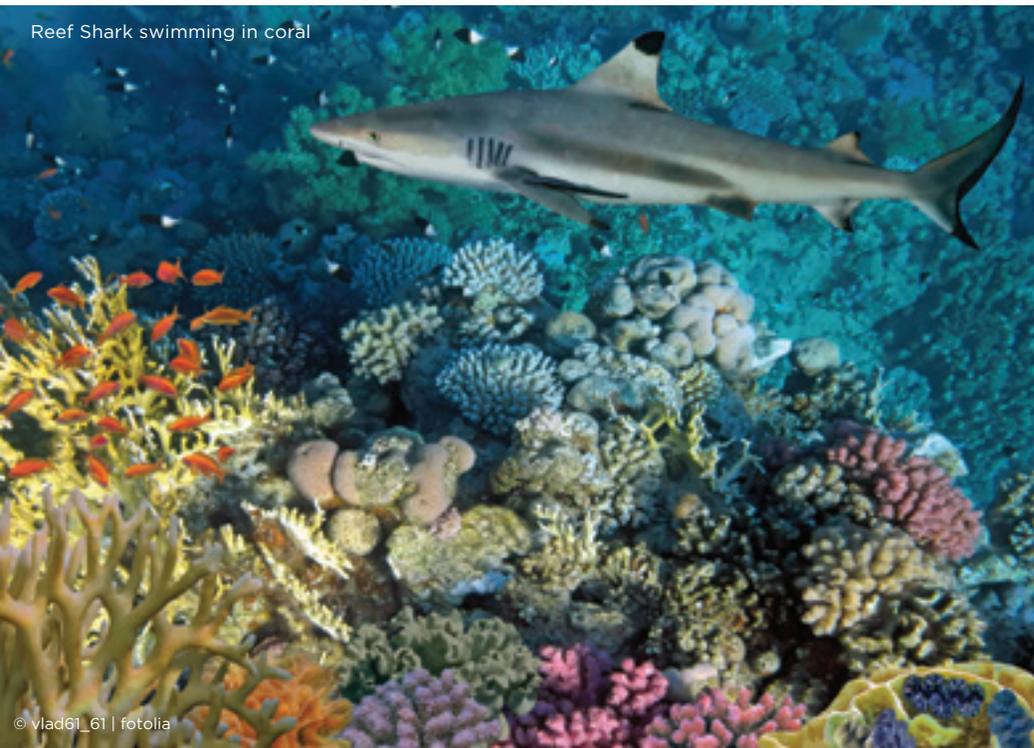
### **Rio Grande del Norte National Monument (New Mexico)**

Change the monument's proclamation to allow cattle grazing.

### **Rose Atoll Marine National Monument (Pacific Ocean)**

Revise boundaries to reduce size and allow commercial fishing.

Reef Shark swimming in coral



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# STRENGTHEN NPCA AND SUPPORT THE NATIONAL PARKS

As a Trustee for the Parks, you are part of a special group of national park advocates that have stepped forward to make sure our parks are protected in our communities, by our courts and on Capitol Hill. With an annual gift of \$1,000 or more you can continue your membership in this dedicated community of park protectors.

As a valued Trustee for the Parks you will be invited to:

- Join NPCA program staff at events across the country, including our popular Speaker Series and specially planned park tours
- Participate in briefing calls with NPCA strategists on park-related policy and legislative issues

You will also receive:

- A subscription to *National Parks*, NPCA's award-winning magazine
- This quarterly Trustees for the Parks newsletter created especially for you
- Discounted ticket offers for select NPCA events
- Important and timely news about how we are putting your contribution to work for our parks
- Recognition in NPCA's annual report

## WAYS TO GIVE:

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

For more information contact Erin Mezgar, Associate Director, Trustees for the Parks at 202.454.3370 or [emezgar@npca.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:mmurtala@npca.org), or visit [www.npca.org/travel](http://www.npca.org/travel).



Fish and finger coral

# A MONUMENTAL THREAT TO WILDLIFE

From lynx in Katahdin Woods and Waters (ME), gray wolves and spotted owls in Cascade-Siskiyou (OR & CA) and tortoises and bighorn sheep in Gold Butte (NV) our national monuments boast thriving wildlife populations. But, the arbitrary and secretive review process that could strip numerous national monuments of protections puts many wildlife species at a disadvantage.

Species living below the surface in Rose Atoll (Pacific Ocean), Pacific Remote Islands (Pacific Ocean), and Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monuments (Atlantic Ocean — off the coast of New England) might face the greatest threats. These protected ocean areas are some of the last remaining safe havens for threatened, endangered, and depleted wildlife including sea turtles, reef sharks, North Atlantic right whales, giant clams, pearl oysters, and dozens of coral species. These marine monuments

are refuges for thriving populations of fish, including many species that are in serious decline elsewhere. The immediate threat of commercial fishing compromises what is truly special about these marine national monuments.

Massive driftnets and longlines that drag thousands of hooks for miles behind commercial fishing vessels are lethal not only to their intended targets, such as tuna, but any marine species that gets in their way. That is why fragile deep-sea ecosystems within marine national monuments have been put off limits to commercial fishing. It is important to note that recreational and charter fishing is allowed in many of the monuments' waters because such activity does not bring the risk of decimating fish populations, drowning sea turtles, or damaging coral reefs.

These special places were designated for protection only after consultation with all stakeholders, industries included, and using the best available science. In defense of these spectacular places and for the sake of future generations of people as well as wildlife, NPCA is steadfastly committed to protecting national monuments, both on land and in our oceans, against current threats and those that are likely to emerge in years to come.



Corals at Rose Atoll Marine National Monument in the South Pacific Ocean near American Samoa

Jean Kenyon

# PARADISE LOST — NATURAL DISASTERS DAMAGE NATIONAL PARKS

Monster hurricanes and raging wildfires have devastated national parks in their paths over the past few months. Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria left trails of destruction across the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and southern United States, while fires in western states endangered iconic national parks and their visitors.

NPCA's greatest concern during these natural disasters was and continues to be for the people impacted – residents of coastal villages and mountain towns, as well as our own staff and National Park Service employees. In keeping with our mission, NPCA is urging Congress to move quickly on disaster recovery funding – to support the recovery of our national parks and wildlife refuges.

A partial list of the more than 50 park sites in 11 states and territories that have been impacted includes:

## **Virgin Islands National Park (VI)**

A direct hit from Hurricane Irma smashed historic structures, visitor centers, docks, trails, and staff housing. The park is likely to remain closed for an entire year.

## **Everglades National Park (FL)**

Hurricane Irma destroyed the Gulf Coast Visitor Center, sank vessels within

the park, and damaged wastewater and water treatment plants. Park staff managed to reopen the Flamingo Visitor Center a month after the storm, but they advise visitors to expect limited facilities for the foreseeable future.

## **Dry Tortugas National Park (FL)**

A 40-foot section of the historic Fort Jefferson moat wall collapsed in the wake of Hurricane Irma's drenching rains. Initial estimates of repair costs exceed \$10 million.

## **Biscayne National Park (FL)**

Pre-Irma preparations and prompt post-storm restoration efforts allowed the park to remain partially open. Dive teams are still assessing damage to natural and cultural resources, including coral and shipwrecks.

## **Glacier National Park (MT)**

Wind-swept fires in late August and early September consumed the park's historic Sperry Chalet. In addition, Lake McDonald Lodge was forced to close a month early during the lucrative tourist season due to dangerous amounts of wildfire smoke.

NPCA and our conservation partners are deeply concerned about the threat to National Park Service funding if the agency must absorb the enormous cost

of repairing extensive hurricane and wildfire damage. The estimated cost of hundreds of millions of dollars would exceed the entire annual budget for park maintenance and repairs.

The National Park Service has already been challenged by insufficient funding for maintenance and operations at a time when visitation continues to increase. That is why NPCA calls on Congress and the administration to account for the costs of repairing and rebuilding affected national parks when passing emergency spending legislation. These parks must get up and running quickly so that the people who depend upon them for their livelihoods can return to work and pay for the repairs they need to make on their personal properties.

You can help by urging your member of Congress to move quickly to provide substantial funding for our national parks in a supplemental hurricane relief package. Take action at [www.npca.org/stormfunding](http://www.npca.org/stormfunding).

You can also read more about this issue in the article "Responding in Times of Disaster" on our blog at [www.npca.org/hurricanerresponse](http://www.npca.org/hurricanerresponse).

*The views expressed on this page are those of the National Parks Conservation Association and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Park Service.*



Virgin Islands National Park — NPS

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THIS SEASON'S HURRICANES HAVE AGAIN DEMONSTRATED THE VULNERABILITIES OF ABOVE-GROUND POWER LINES. MOREOVER, THERE ARE BETTER OPTIONS FOR MEETING THE REGION'S ENERGY NEEDS — SUCH AS RUNNING TRANSMISSION LINES UNDER THE RIVER OR INVESTING IN INCREASED EFFICIENCY MEASURES TO REDUCE DEMAND.”

— JOY OAKES



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## FIGHTING FOR HISTORIC JAMESTOWN

Nearly two dozen NPCA *Trustees for the Parks* members recently got an up-close look at what's at stake in our ongoing efforts to prevent a massive power transmission line from being built across the James River at historic Jamestown in southeastern Virginia. A special boat tour led by our Mid-Atlantic Director, Joy Oakes, introduced participants to several national park sites and James River vistas that would be marred by the metal towers standing as tall as 295 feet high. NPCA members Edward Chappell, a retired historian, and Jamie Brunkow, the Lower James Riverkeeper, added their expertise and insights on the tour.

This 50-mile stretch of the James River looks very much like it did when Captain John Smith first sailed up it. More than 400 years later, the river and national parks along it are in danger of being degraded by one of the nation's largest energy suppliers, despite other reasonable alternatives to meet the region's electricity needs. Dominion Energy has been lobbying to build this massive new transmission line for more than five years, with NPCA contesting the corporate giant's harmful plan at every turn.

In July, NPCA filed suit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to compel the Army Corps of Engineers to retract its permit approval for the project, and instead conduct a thorough Environmental Impact Statement as required by law to assess, among other things, risks posed to nearby national parks, the James River's water quality, and marine wildlife including the endangered Atlantic sturgeon. To date, the Corps has completed only a cursory environmental assessment which it did not make available for public review and comment before the permit decision.

In October, the Court denied our request for a preliminary injunction to halt construction of the massive power line while the Court

considers the merits of the case. While we are disappointed with the Court's denial of the preliminary injunction motion, we are encouraged by the Court's statement that NPCA "made a powerful argument on the merits." We await a final decision on the merits following further briefing.

As NPCA's *Trustees for the Parks* on the boat tour marveled at bald eagles soaring overhead and lush landscapes that today evoke the time of Chief Powhatan and Captain Smith, Oakes commented on Dominion Power's outdated thinking. "It's a mid-20th century approach to delivering electricity," she said. "This season's hurricanes have again demonstrated the vulnerabilities of above-ground power lines. Moreover, there are better options for meeting the region's energy needs — such as running transmission lines under the river or investing in increased efficiency measures to reduce demand. But Dominion apparently is willing to sacrifice Jamestown's historic character in pursuit of its corporate goals, despite alternatives. That's why our lawsuit is necessary."

Another person aboard the boat, Dorothy Canter, a member of NPCA's Mid-Atlantic Leadership Council and an environmental risk assessment professional, has been working to protect historic Jamestown on several fronts. "I bought Dominion stock to get a voice at shareholder meetings, I've contacted the president and members of the board, and I've organized letter-writing campaigns to put pressure on the Army Corps of Engineers as well as politicians to do the right thing. If the company or the Corps thinks we're going to quit, they better think again. Like the song in Hamilton, I'm not throwing away my shot."

With that sort of fighting spirit, we have high hopes that Dominion Energy won't be allowed to degrade the "Old Dominion!"



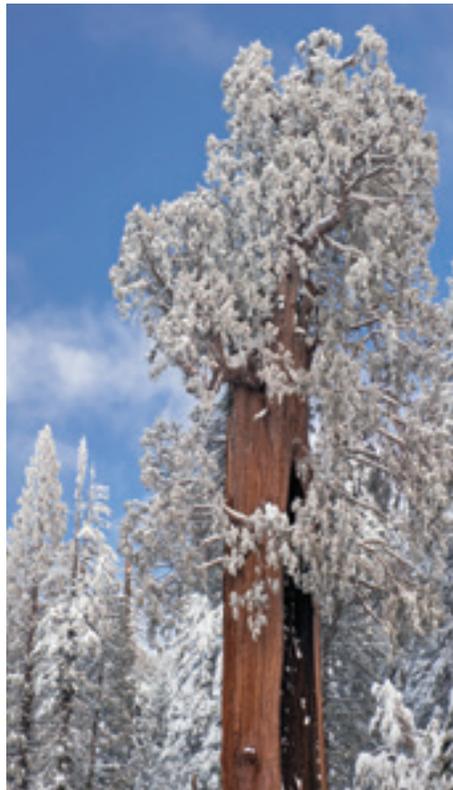
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# MAKING WINTER MEMORIES IN YOUR PARKS

“A beautiful sight, we’re happy tonight, walking in a national park wonderland.” That’s not exactly how the classic holiday song goes, but perhaps it should because national parks are wonderful places to visit during the winter. From sledding and snowshoeing in Mount Rainier National Park, to Victorian Christmas celebrations at Millbrook Village in Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and bird counting for kids at Point Reyes National Seashore, a wide range of memory-making opportunities await you.

The most popular parks tend to be less crowded — although no less spectacular — during the winter months. That makes for near silence as you watch Yellowstone geysers spout against a snowy backdrop or enjoy breathtaking Grand Canyon landscapes. You will have more company — the more, the merrier — on Kings Canyon National Park’s “Trek to the Tree” hike culminating with a wreath-laying ceremony at the General Grant Tree, a 267-foot tall sequoia designated as the nation’s Christmas tree in 1926 by President Calvin Coolidge. If your idea of holiday fun involves sun and surf rather than bundling up, explore the forests and lava fields of Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park or go whale-watching at Channel Islands National Park.

National parks across the country offer



General Grant Tree, Kings Canyon National Park

a variety of holiday- and winter-themed activities for people of all ages and interests. Check out [npca.org/trustees](http://npca.org/trustees) for schedules and special travel opportunities created especially for NPCA Trustees for the Parks.

# HAPPY 1<sup>ST</sup> BIRTHDAY!

Nine new national monuments were established last year. Although some of them are now at risk due to the Trump/Zinke review, first birthdays are always worthy of celebration.

- Castle Mountains National Monument (California), February 12, 2016
- Mojave Trails National Monument (California), February 12, 2016
- Sand to Snow National Monument (California), February 12, 2016
- Belmont-Paul Women’s Equality National Monument (District of Columbia), April 12, 2016
- Stonewall National Monument (New York), June 24, 2016
- Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument (Maine), August 24, 2016
- Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument (Atlantic Ocean) September 15, 2016
- Bears Ears National Monument (Utah), December 28, 2016
- Gold Butte National Monument (Nevada), December 28, 2016

Skier in Mount Rainier National Park



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## NEWSLETTER FALL 2017

# GET IN THE KNOW AND ON THE GO

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR TRUSTEES FOR THE PARKS

**Saturday March 17 through  
Friday March 23, 2018**

### *California Desert Tour*

Join David Lamfrom, Director of NPCA's California Desert and National Wildlife programs, on a fascinating journey of discovery.

**Saturday October 13 through  
Sunday October 21, 2018**

### *Puebloan Mystery Tour*

Venture into the Four Corners region of Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah for a trip through history tinged with mystery.

*For more information on these events and others offered exclusively to Trustees for the Parks, contact Erin Mezgar at 202.454.3370 or [emezgar@npca.org](mailto:emezgar@npca.org)*



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Mojave National Preserve