



TRUSTEES FOR THE PARKS

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2018



DENALI NATIONAL PARK & PRESERVE

Once Isn't Enough

Every American should visit the wild and wondrous national parks of Alaska at least once. But anyone who has sailed alongside translucent blue glaciers or hiked in the shadow of towering snow-topped peaks will tell you it shouldn't be only a *once-in-a-lifetime* experience.

Whether it's your first time going North to Alaska or a return trip, travelling with NPCA is a wonderful way to go.

Upcoming trips include **Glacier Bay & The Inside Passage**, an unforgettable journey through Glacier Bay National Park's fjords. You will want to keep an eye out for bald eagles, humpback whales, moose and other remarkable wildlife.

If you would like to learn about Alaska's native cultures along with its stunning natural wonders, consider **Alaska Yacht — Bears, Bergs & Bushwhacking**. This

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NEWS AND THANKS FROM THE LAST FRONTIER

Your Impact in Alaska

With apologies to all Texans, everything is *really* big in Alaska. That includes the amount of parkland — 54 million acres, comprising 60% of the entire National Park System — as well as large, iconic wildlife including caribou, wolves and bears. It also means protecting national parks and wildlife is a very big job for National Parks Conservation Association and our Alaska-based staff.

With our dedicated members and supporters, we work to protect the largest and wildest landscapes left in the United States, which attract visitors from all over the world. Unfortunately, these places also attract resource extraction industries and are prime targets for irresponsible development that could forever mar some of the most awe-inspiring national parks in the world.

Jim Adams, NPCA's Alaska Regional Office

Director, notes, "National parks up here in Alaska may be out of sight for most people, they are never out of mind for Trustees for the Parks. That means a lot to us because it's that crucial support that helps us fight back so many threats to our national parks, including wildlife."

A Road to Ruin

In an attempt to spur open pit copper mining near the northwest town of Ambler, Alaskan officials are pushing the construction of a 220-mile industrial access road that would disrupt this interconnected ecosystem. If the Ambler Mining Road is built, the region will experience heavy truck traffic that shatters the quiet of nature, fills the air with exhaust, damages wetlands and bisects prime caribou habitat.

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“WE’RE IN THIS FOR THE
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DENALI NATIONAL PARK & PRESERVE

President’s Perspective



The people whose stories are told in our national parks are so important, from Harriet Tubman who risked her own freedom to lead people to theirs, to Cesar Chavez who became the voice of the farm workers movement.

And so are the people who speak up for them, including all of you.

You play a critical role in protecting our national parks, by being a Trustee for the Parks and by using your voice to speak up for the places we all hold so dear. As we’ve seen, we can take nothing for granted.

As we join together to carry on this important work, we must also inspire more people, including more diverse and younger people, so they can protect parks alongside us now, and long after us.

This commitment was the thinking behind the creation of NPCA’s Next Generation Advisory Council (see page 6). This impressive group of 16 young adults has helped us to think through everything from our activities in the field to the

language we use in our advocacy campaigns. Together, we are working to introduce the next generation to our national parks so they can fall in love with them, just as we all have.

We invite you to join us in this important work. Take a young person to a national park. Share an action alert with them so they can know the power of using their voice on behalf of these incredible places

Together we can carry on this important legacy entrusted to us, and know we are inspiring the next generation to do the same. I know we can count on you.

With gratitude,



Theresa Pierno
President & CEO



A study of a nearby mining road shows caribou are reluctant to cross roads, often reversing direction and delaying migration for weeks or more. Large, healthy caribou herds enchant arctic wilderness visitors and are essential to rural subsistence hunters who have relied on predictable migration patterns to feed their families for countless generations.

NPCA staff are busy informing Alaskans and Americans nationwide about the risks that will come with an extensive new mining road, and mobilizing them to speak out against the plan. “We’ve been fighting this road since 2013 and it’s likely to drag on for several more years,” Adams says. “But we’re in this for the long haul because



there’s just too much at stake — for caribou and people alike.”

Pebble Mine Back from the Grave

“In it for the long haul” also applies to NPCA efforts to prevent what would be the largest open pit gold and copper mine in North America. The proposed Pebble Mine would be built in the heart of Bristol Bay’s world-famous salmon runs just 15 miles from Lake Clark National Park and Preserve.

The mine, which would sprawl over an area larger than Manhattan, is projected to produce 10 billion tons of mining waste

and contaminated water. The toxic sludge would be stored behind a huge earthen dam in a seismically and volcanically active region.

In short, it would be the worst place to locate one of the most potentially hazardous mining operations. That is why the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concluded in 2014 that the Pebble Mine would, “cause irreversible damage to one of the world’s last salmon ecosystems.” Unfortunately, a shift in the political climate and change of leadership at the EPA has restarted the permitting process and fueled foreign corporations’ interest in getting the mine back on track. Whether it takes intensified public opposition or litigation, or perhaps both, NPCA will keep



working until Pebble Mine is defeated and this area is protected once and for all.

UnBearable

Another example of why vigilance and persistence are essential to protecting Alaska wildlife can be found in Alaska’s national preserves from Denali to Katmai, where wolves and bears are again threatened by extreme sport hunting tactics.

The advocacy efforts of NPCA, and so many of you, were instrumental in the

National Park Service adopting Alaska-wide regulations prohibiting egregious “predator control” practices, including:

- Use of donuts, grease-soaked bread or other bait to lure bears into hunters’ gun sights
- Using artificial light to enter dens to kill black bears, including mothers and cubs, while they are hibernating
- Killing wolves or coyotes, including pups, when they are denning

Now those sensible, widely-supported prohibitions are on the way to being dismantled due to a review of the regulations ordered by the Department of the Interior. NPCA is working to head



off this disaster in the Alaska state legislature, in Congress, in courts and in the court of public opinion. The outcome is impossible to predict, but this much is clear: with all of you by our side, we won’t give up the fight.

 THE STORY CONTINUES ONLINE:
npca.org/regions/alaska

 TAKE ACTION AT
npca.org/unbearable

ALASKA BY THE NUMBERS

- ⇒ **663,000 square miles** — twice as large as Texas, five times larger than California
- ⇒ **54 million** acres of national parks and preserves
- ⇒ **2.8 million** visitors to national parks and preserves
- ⇒ **\$1.3 billion** in national park visitor spending in Alaska in 2016
- ⇒ **200,000** caribou roaming in and around Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve



PARK ADVOCATES ~~WANTED~~ **NEEDED**



10 WAYS TO BE A Park Advocate

1

Sign up at npca.org/advocate

SIGN UP

JOIN US.

Sign up to receive NPCA email and take meaningful action online.

2

SPREAD THE WORD.

Share NPCA advocacy petitions with your networks and encourage others to speak up for parks.

3

VOLUNTEER.

Serve with us during one of our park volunteer events or plan your own to help protect and restore our parks.

4

DONATE.

Become a member, give a recurring gift or make a one-time donation to support park protection efforts.

5

LEAD BY EXAMPLE.

Reduce, reuse, and recycle — it matters for parks.

7

WRITE.

Share your concern for parks in a letter to the editor or an op-ed.

6

ORGANIZE.

Mobilize your community by hosting an event or a rally, or set up an information table.

8

SPEAK UP.

Call your member of Congress or schedule an in-person meeting.

9

LOBBY WITH US.

Join us for one of our Capitol Hill lobby days in Washington, D.C. Please connect with your nearest regional office to learn more.

10

VOTE.

Make sure you're registered to vote in the next election.

Learn More & Become a Park Advocate! npca.org/advocate

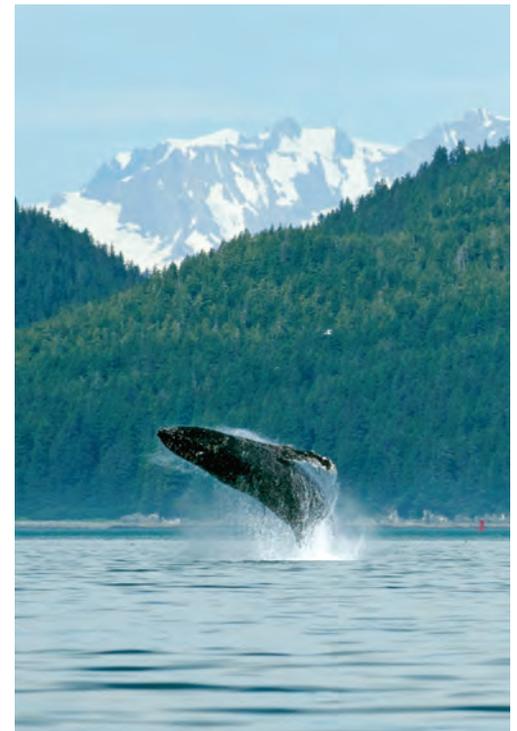
Once Isn't Enough continued from page 1

small ship trip features four stops at wilderness areas and national monuments as well as a private tour of a Kake native village.

Another popular trip is **Alaska's Winter Magic**, which is a fitting title for a six-day adventure that includes viewing the northern lights, taking a dip in outdoor hot springs and snowshoeing through magically quiet temperate forests.

NPCA's Travel Program offers a variety of trips to national parks in Alaska and across the country, including tours exclusive to Trustees for the Parks.

To review a list of upcoming journeys and complete itineraries, visit npca.org/trips. For more information about special small group trips in the works for Trustees, contact Erin Mezger at 202.454.3370 or emezgar@npca.org.



Honoring a Forgotten Philanthropist with the First National Park of Its Kind

Julius Rosenwald's name and exceptional generosity were both well known in the early 20th century. His business acumen as CEO of Sears, Roebuck and Company was admired, and his impact on the U.S. civil rights movement was evident long after his death in 1932. One of Rosenwald's signature contributions to American history, however, is at risk of being lost to history.

NPCA is honoring this largely forgotten philanthropist's legacy by helping to establish the first national park spotlighting the life and work of a Jewish American. The Rosenwald Schools bearing his name improved the lives of hundreds of thousands of Americans – the sort of accomplishment few can claim and one worthy of lasting recognition.

More than 5,300 barrier-breaking Rosenwald Schools were constructed in 15 states across the segregated South in the 1910s and 1920s to serve rural African-American children being denied educational opportunities by the era's legally enforced racial discrimination.

Julius Rosenwald collaborated with Booker T. Washington to create the schools where either no such schools existed or those that did were shoddy structures open for only a few months of the year. What brought a Jewish immigrant's son and an ex-slave together in this ambitious endeavor was a commitment to equal opportunity for all and an understanding of the importance of education to realizing that ideal.

Rosenwald also wrote of the connection he felt to African Americans:

“The horrors that are due to race prejudice come home to the Jew more forcefully than to others ... on account of the centuries of persecution that they have suffered and still suffer.”

NPCA Director of Cultural Resources, Alan Spears, refers to that sense of connectedness when raising awareness and generating enthusiasm for establishing a national park honoring Julius Rosenwald. “This inspiring part of the American story includes people of vastly different backgrounds working together for the good of the whole country. And it wasn't only Rosenwald and Booker T. Washington – folks in the rural communities pitched in alongside each other too.”

Indeed, Julius Rosenwald donated a third of all school construction costs with an agreement that community members – black and white – would raise a third while local governments covered the final third. “This was one of the earliest private-public philanthropic ventures,” Spears says, “and it's the same concept behind 21st century funding options NPCA helped develop like the Centennial Challenge Fund for today's national parks.”

Rosenwald Schools were well constructed according to architectural plans that included large windows to let in natural light since there was no electricity in most of the communities, as well as ventilation and sanitation systems modern for the time.



Despite their durability, time has taken a toll on these school buildings. It is estimated that only 10 percent of the original structures remain standing, and many of those are in disrepair. “Our friends at the National Trust for Historic Preservation have taken the lead on authenticating and saving the school structures,” Spears explains, “while NPCA is generating the political will and public support it takes to establish new national parks.”

“Many leaders of the civil rights movement, including Congressman John Lewis, and countless foot soldiers in the struggle received their educations at Rosenwald Schools – more than 660,000 African Americans in all. It's a story that deserves to be saved and told for generations to come.”



RETREAT ROSENWALD SCHOOL, SOUTH CAROLINA (L); MERRITT ROSENWALD SCHOOL IN MIDWAY, ALABAMA (R). BOTH ARE LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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. 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.
- **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/tfpmthly.

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 select travel partners Off the Beaten Path for land-based journeys and UnCruise Adventures for boat-based journeys. Many tours are limited to 16 participants, with two guides. Please contact Jared Dial at 202.454.3305, travel@npca.org, or visit www.npca.org/travel.

Photos ©iStockphoto.com unless otherwise noted.



PUTTING THE FUTURE IN GOOD HANDS

NPCA's mission — to protect and enhance national parks for present and future generations — requires us to always look ahead. Although a forward focus can be found in every aspect of our work, it is particularly evident on NPCA's Next Generation Advisory Council.

These 16 diverse and dynamic young Americans, ages 18-34, are dedicated to finding exciting new ways to connect younger Americans to their national parks. "As we approach our second century of protecting national parks," says NPCA Director of Outreach and Engagement, Larissa Walker, "it's crucial for us to encourage upcoming generations of park advocates to get involved now."

The Next Generation Advisory Council's new term kicked off in April with members gathering at NPCA's national headquarters in Washington, DC. They brought fresh perspectives, an undeniable passion for the parks, and plenty of innovative ideas for mobilizing a base of advocates committed to protecting national parks well into the future.

The Council's current term, running through 2020, will focus on three priority areas:

- 1) Supporting NPCA's policy strategies on key issues ranging from park funding to climate change.

- 2) Communicating national parks' untold stories so a wider diversity of Americans will see their experiences reflected and celebrated in the parks.
- 3) Strengthening NPCA for the future so our next 100 years will be as active and productive as the first.

One Council idea that has already been implemented is an annual recognition of "10 Under 40" national park champions who make a difference in their communities. From a youth programs coordinator in Alaska to a PhD candidate helping veterans explore national parks in Florida, these young leaders are facilitating people-to-parks connections that will endure for decades.

What is next for America's national parks depends on who will next step up to protect those special places. NPCA's Next Generation Advisory Council provides hope that our parks' future will be in very good hands.

Learn more about NPCA's Next Generation Advisory Council members at www.npca.org/nextgen

NEXT GENERATION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDED NPCA'S SALUTE TO THE PARKS GALA, APRIL 2018 (ABOVE), EXPLORED JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK (LEFT) AND BROUGHT FRIENDS TO VOLUNTEER AT GREENBELT PARK FOR NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY. PHOTOS BY NPCA



TRUSTEES TRIP REPORT: DESERT DISCOVERIES

For one unforgettable week in March, a group of seven NPCA Trustees for the Parks (TFP) members explored national parks and monuments in the California desert with two expert companions and a thirst for adventure. David Lamfrom, Director of NPCA's California Desert and National Wildlife Programs, and NPCA California Desert Program Manager, Chris Clarke, led this special trip to give Trustees firsthand experiences with the spectacular landscapes, wildlife, and other desert wonders we work so hard to preserve.

It took decades of determined activism to secure protections for Castle Mountains, Mojave Trails, and Sand to Snow National Monuments, which make up one of the largest and most beautiful desert lands in the entire world.

Some of the amazing places our small group experienced and learned about included:

- Joshua Tree National Park, where Chris Clarke shared insights on wildlife ranging from bighorn sheep to fringe-toed lizards and more than 250 bird species that thrive in the desert despite extreme heat and scant rainfall.
- Sand to Snow, Castle Mountains, and Mojave Trails National Monuments — three of the newest national monuments that are protected, for now, thanks to your support.



- The world's largest Joshua tree forest, located in a part of Castle Mountains National Monument most people never get to visit.
- Death Valley National Park, with stunning blooming wildflowers after a rain storm.

The group also visited David Lamfrom's favorite — and secret — spot to find desert tortoises, and were thrilled to see a hawk circling above in search of a rabbit dinner.

In addition to these stunning sights and memorable experiences, the group also learned about the threats to these parks.

Mojave Trails National Monument could be slashed in size by 500,000 acres to benefit the harmful Cadiz Inc. water mining project. The water project would pump 16 billion gallons of groundwater annually from already strained aquifers — putting plants, wildlife, and the entire fragile ecosystem at risk.

A water district meeting about the project took place during the trip, with David providing up-to-the-minute news and, ultimately, the welcome news that the Cadiz project had been rejected by district officials. Amid the celebrations, David reminded everyone, “We all have a role to play in protecting these remarkable national parks and monuments. We worked long and hard to save them. Now we need to make sure they're around for other Americans to discover not just next year, but next century too.”

We are grateful for Trustees for the Parks' leadership in protecting wondrous California desert parks. And we are pleased to be able to offer small group trips exclusively to Trustees so they can experience the results of their stewardship firsthand.

NEXT TRUSTEES TRIP: Puebloan Mystery Tour, Saturday October 13 - Sunday October 21. Only a few spots left! Contact Erin Mezger at 202.454.3370 or emezgar@npca.org for details.

YOUNG WOMEN: A FORCE OF NATURE

It isn't a misspelling. One of NPCA's latest efforts to introduce young people to their national parks is called "EmpowHER for National Parks." The program focuses on female high school students who may not have the means or skills to experience the great outdoors.

A generous grant from REI's Force of Nature Fund launched the pilot phase of EmpowHER in San Antonio last year with a three-day excursion to Big Bend National Park. The program has since expanded to Los Angeles and we are planning to expand it nationwide as quickly as funding will allow.

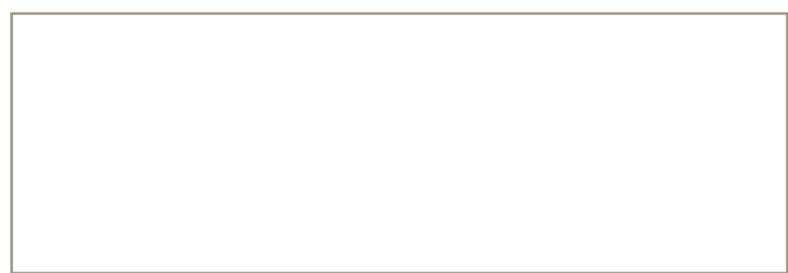


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THE STORY CONTINUES ONLINE:
<https://parkb.it/empowher>



STEP BACK IN TIME, WAY BACK

Puebloan Mystery Tour *Saturday October 13-Sunday October 21*

This adventure, offered exclusively to NPCA Trustees for the Parks, will thrill and amaze you as you explore ancient civilizations' mysteries preserved within national parks of the Four Corners region of Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah.

Your nine days of discovery will include hiking among ancient ruins, enjoying delicious campfire meals, and marveling at countless glittering stars against some of the world's darkest skies... all in the company of expert guides, including our own New Mexico Director, Ernie Atencio.

Only a few spots remain. Contact Erin Mezgar at 202.454.3370 or emezgar@npca.org for details.

