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2** National Parks, NPCA
and the Coronavirus

Coalition Secures Results for the Delaware River Watershed

By Halle Van der Gaag

A decade ago, advocacy groups in the Delaware River watershed united around shared concerns for the future health of this river system that anchors a four-state region's quality of life. The Delaware River provides drinking water to more than 15 million people in Delaware, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania and supports billions of dollars in annual economic activity—from shipping to commercial fishing to recreation.

The Delaware River flows through the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and then downstream through Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and the Brandywine Valley, home of First State National Historical Park, before emptying into Delaware Bay. The Delaware River and its tributaries add great value to many national parks, providing wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities.

Because the watershed hosts 10 national park units, NPCA has been a leader in

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National Parks Have a Stake in Clean Energy

By Joy M. Oakes

Every day, the choices we make—in our homes, offices, towns and nations—as to how we power our modern lives and design and fuel transportation systems influence the degree to which our climate changes. These choices impact our national parks, many of which already are being harmed by more extreme weather.

On Maryland's Eastern Shore, for example, rising sea levels routinely flood roads and fields, threatening sites preserved at Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park. At Colonial National Historical Park in Virginia, archaeologists' research continues at Jamestown, but frequent storms and rising waters threaten what remains of this important history.

So, how is NPCA working to combat the worst impacts of climate change?

NPCA advocates to reduce carbon emissions—and improve air quality for people and parks—by defending our nation's air, climate and water laws and holding polluters and

agencies accountable. Over the past 20 years, our advocacy has resulted in more than 120 coal-fired power plants closing, cutting pollution, or not being built. We also support appropriately sited renewable energy projects, and policies promoting increased energy efficiency and better transportation planning.



Though we sometimes oppose poorly sited industrial-scale renewable energy developments that would disrupt the wildlife, night skies, soundscapes and scenery of national

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Top: NPCA works to protect parks like Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park as they face climate change threats like regular flooding from rising sea levels. ©drnadig | iStockphoto

Above: At Piscataway Park in Maryland, the Alice Ferguson Foundation's Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Environmental Center is a "living building" with "net zero" water and energy consumption, waste generation and carbon emissions. This facility provides an outstanding example of how our national parks and their partners are combatting climate change. ©Re:Vision Architecture

FIELD REPORT

SPRING - SUMMER 2020

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PARKS, HOPE AND RESILIENCE

Dear Friends,

As we were wrapping up this issue of the Field Report, we found ourselves in a developing global health crisis. The National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) advises all individuals to follow the guidance of public health experts at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the World Health Organization in protecting yourselves and your communities from the coronavirus.

In early March, we canceled all upcoming NPCA events until further notice. This includes group outings, information sessions and in person meetings.

On March 17th, the National Park Service announced that they are modifying operations to comply with CDC guidelines. Outdoor spaces will remain open where possible, but to comply with CDC guidelines some parks will partially or fully close. "These are unprecedented times, and ... park staff and visitors' health come first," states Theresa

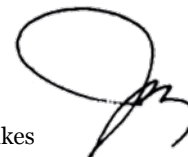
Pierno, NPCA's President and CEO. Please check with nps.gov before planning even a short trip to a national park during this rapidly evolving public health emergency.

Because threats to parks will persist, and some opportunities to advance park interests may emerge, even during this crisis, we will continue asking you to take action online to protect our national parks.

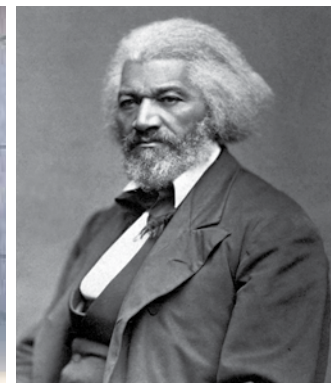
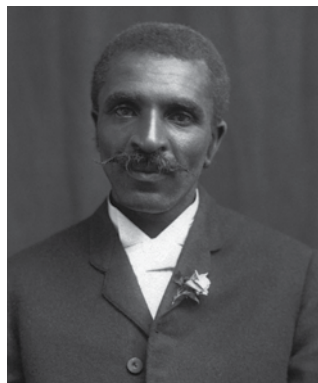
I hope, like me, you will continue to find inspiration in the challenging human stories as well as in the beauty and resilience of our national parks—even if it's a digital experience!

Each of us at NPCA appreciates your patience and support during this time. We send our heartfelt concern to all affected.

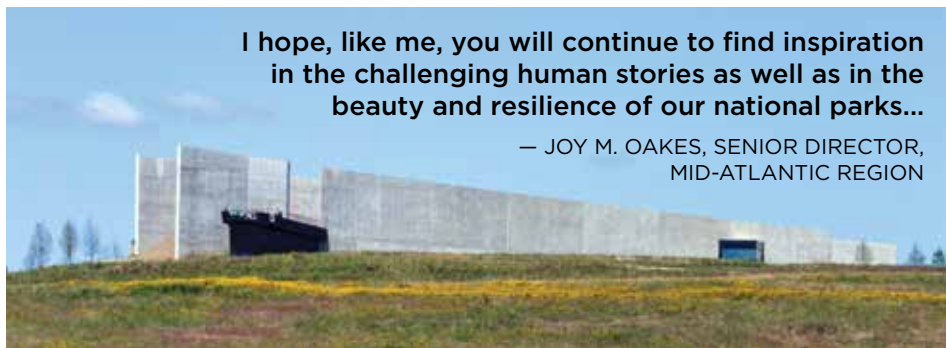
Sincerely,



Joy M. Oakes



Above Left: George Washington Carver ©Tuskegee University Archives/Museum | Wikimedia Commons
Middle: Eleanor Roosevelt ©zrfphoto | Dreamstime **Right:** Frederick Douglass ©National Archives Gift Collection
Below: Flight 93 National Memorial ©Acroterion | Wikimedia Commons



I hope, like me, you will continue to find inspiration
in the challenging human stories as well as in the
beauty and resilience of our national parks...

— JOY M. OAKES, SENIOR DIRECTOR,
MID-ATLANTIC REGION

HAVE A PHOTO OR COMMENT TO SHARE?

We welcome photos from members enjoying national parks, particularly those in the Mid-Atlantic region. We also appreciate feedback on our Field Report. Share your digital photos, comments and ideas with us via [email at midatlantic@npca.org](mailto:email@midatlantic@npca.org)

Justice for Jamestown: The Fight Continues

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

By Pamela Goddard

Our multi-year battle to preserve Jamestown's historic James River landscape has moved from the courts to the Corps. In 2019, the U.S. Court of Appeals found that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) illegally granted Dominion Energy a permit to build a 500kV transmission line across the James River, and ordered the Corps to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The line was electrified just before the Court's ruling. The illegally approved project will operate while the EIS process moves forward.



A properly conducted EIS must proceed as though the illegally approved transmission line had not been constructed. It must thoroughly analyze impacts of Dominion's preferred in-river transmission line, and of alternatives that can provide needed electricity without sacrificing our nation's heritage. A valid EIS must evaluate the project's purpose and need; analyze costs of reasonable

alternatives; provide meaningful opportunities to engage the public; and lead to an appropriate project. The Corps expects to conduct the EIS over the next year, providing opportunity for public comment. To help preserve this historic landscape, visit www.npca.org/advocacy/7-justice-for-jamestown.



Left and Right: NPCA continues to fight to preserve Jamestown and its historic James River landscape. (Left) ©Ismael Gama | NPCA (Right) ©Americanspirit | Dreamstime

U.S. Supreme Court Hears Atlantic Coast Pipeline Challenge

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

By Pamela Goddard

Dominion Energy's proposed 600-mile-long Atlantic Coast Pipeline would burrow under the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and the Blue Ridge Parkway to carry fracked gas from West Virginia to North Carolina. The Southern Environmental Law Center successfully challenged a permit granted by the U.S. Forest Service, arguing that the federal Mineral Leasing Act requires that Congress must approve pipeline crossings on federal lands that are part of a national park like the Appalachian Trail. The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed, and vacated Dominion's permit in 2018. Dominion Energy appealed this decision to the U.S. Supreme Court, which heard oral arguments in this matter in February 2020. NPCA and partners filed an *amicus curiae* brief to oppose this improperly sited and inadequately studied pipeline project.

"Dominion Energy's latest reckless proposal is a massive pipeline through much-beloved national park sites," said Theresa Pierno, NPCA president and CEO. "If allowed, the

Atlantic Coast Pipeline would set a dangerous precedent by enabling corporations to irresponsibly develop public lands that belong to all of us."



Above: NPCA and partners are the voice for the national parks in a case before the U.S. Supreme Court contesting the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline's impacts on the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and the Blue Ridge Parkway. ©kellyvandellen | iStockphoto

Welcome New Colleagues!

Kyle Groetzinger joined NPCA in June 2019 as communications manager across the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast regions. Before joining NPCA, Kyle worked at M+R as a media relations and communications consultant for progressive nonprofits fighting for conservation, sound climate policy, international reproductive rights and criminal justice reform. A native of North Carolina, Kyle graduated from Appalachian State University, nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Eric Barese joined NPCA in September 2019 as the director of development in the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast regions. "After spending more than 20 years engrossed in the missions of other nonprofits," says Eric, "I finally wised up, and combined my love of the outdoors and our national parks with my professional life." Eric looks forward to helping others accomplish their philanthropic objectives through and with NPCA.

Kyle Hart joined NPCA in February 2020 as the Mid-Atlantic field representative. Growing up in southern Virginia, Kyle spent every possible minute hunting, fishing, hiking, and camping in the rolling hills and forests around his home. He graduated from Hampden-Sydney College in 2016 with a

degree in Political Science and Biology and has worked for environmental nonprofits ever since.

Left: Kyle Groetzinger ©Kyle Groetzinger | NPCA
Top Right: Eric Barese ©Larissa Walker | NPCA
Bottom Right: Kyle Hart ©Joy Oakes | NPCA



National Parks Have a Stake in Clean Energy

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parks, we work on common-sense, big picture policies that allow renewable energy production in places that don't diminish park values.

In the Southwest, for example, NPCA has worked since 2008 to improve federal land management plans such as the Western Solar Plan, identifying public lands that

should be managed solely for conservation purposes and others that are suitable for renewable energy development.

At a more individual level, NPCA partners with SunPower to encourage NPCA members to use renewables by offering savings on residential solar installations.

Our national parks have many stories to tell. By working together at all levels and across

the aisle with our members and allies, we can help address the climate crisis and ensure our parks share their stories for generations to come.

Learn more about how the climate crisis impacts national parks: www.npca.org/climateimpacts. Learn more about SunPower: go.sunpower.com/partner/npca/

TAKE ACTION!

Learn more about the threats facing our parks and take action online at npca.org/advocacy

Left: Through a program with SunPower, NPCA provides opportunities and financial incentives for its members and supporters to go solar, thereby helping to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality, as part of NPCA's mission to protect and preserve our national parks. ©Gayla Whinery



NPCA was a leader in campaigns that protected the hallowed ground and outstanding plant and animal habitat at Gettysburg National Military Park (PA)—three different times—from proposed casinos and a racetrack that were slated to be built near the battlefield. We were leaders in advocating for legislation to add the historic Gettysburg Train Station and lands along Plum Run at the foot of Big Round Top to the park. (2006, 2011, 2014, 2017)

Below: Gettysburg National Military Park ©Rmcguirk | Dreamstime



NPCA'S IMPACT IN THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION 20 Years of Park Protection Highlights



We were leaders in the campaign to designate Fort Monroe National Monument (VA), thereby protecting the place that marks the first landing in 1619 of enslaved Africans in English North America, and the beginning of the “contraband” movement in May 1861. U.S. Gen. Benjamin Butler refused to return three enslaved men seeking refuge to their owners, declared them “contraband of war” and thereby inspired tens of thousands of enslaved people to find their way behind federal lines during the U.S. Civil War as the first steps toward freedom. (2011)

Below: Fort Monroe National Monument ©Wikimedia Commons



We defended Harpers Ferry National Historical Park (MD, VA, WV) by leading campaigns to thwart proposed incompatible commercial and residential developments, helping to enact legislation to expand the park’s boundary, and securing the funding needed, via the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and private dollars, to add key lands to the park. (2002, 2004, 2007, 2013)

Right: View from Maryland Heights, Harpers Ferry NHP ©Yibbish | Dreamstime



NPCA was a leader in a decades-long campaign to expand Petersburg National Battlefield’s (VA) boundary from 2,700 to 10,000 acres in order to preserve key stories from the longest siege in American military history—for example the engagement of U.S. Colored Troops—and to preserve wildlife habitat. We facilitated a \$1 million donation from a private foundation to a land trust to preserve “The Breakthrough,” the site of the final battle at Petersburg which led to Gen. Robert E. Lee’s surrender to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House a few days later. (2016, 2018)

Below: Through camera trapping at Petersburg National Battlefield, NPCA can track and protect wildlife, including the bobcat. ©David Burke | Dreamstime



We preserved Valley Forge National Historical Park’s (PA) historic character by leading campaigns to stop developments on private lands inside the park, and redirecting efforts to take designated parkland for a new veterans cemetery. We secured LWCF dollars needed to add those private lands to the park. We led advocacy for a bill directing the Veterans Administration to identify an appropriate site for the new cemetery. We led the campaign to require the PA Turnpike Commission to apply best management practices to control stormwater runoff following Turnpike expansion in Valley Creek’s watershed upstream of the park including Gen. George Washington’s Continental Army Headquarters. (2003, 2004, 2010, 2019)

Left: George Washington’s Headquarters, Valley Forge NHP ©Joy Oakes | NPCA



Since 2001, NPCA has reduced air pollution at Shenandoah National Park (VA) and throughout the region by stopping a number of proposed coal-burning power plants, advocating for pollution-control technology to be installed at other plants, and advancing clean air and climate policies at state and federal levels. (2001 - present).

Below: Little Stony Man Cliffs, Shenandoah National Park ©Appalachianviews | Dreamstime

NPCA'S IMPACT IN THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION 20 Years of Park Protection Highlights



NPCA helped protect iconic places and preserve important stories by establishing new national monuments: Belmont-Paul Women's Equality (DC), preserving the home of the National Women's Party which advocated for the right of women to vote (2016); Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad (MD), which preserves the landscape where Harriet Tubman was enslaved, and to which she returned after escaping enslavement to guide dozens of others to freedom (2013); and First State (DE, PA), which tells stories from early settlement of the Delaware Valley (2013, 2016).

Top: Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park Visitor Center ©Acroterion | Wikimedia Commons **Bottom:** Portrait of Harriet Tubman ©The Library of Congress

We protected New River Gorge National River (WV) from huge residential developments proposed on private lands inside and adjacent to the park's boundary, and stopped other developments proposed at the heart of the Gauley River National Recreation Area (WV). We helped secure LWCF dollars to enable the National Park Service to permanently preserve significant portions of these lands. (2008, 2010, 2014)

Right: New River Gorge Bridge, New River Gorge National River ©Appalachianviews | Dreamstime



In order to restore ecosystems connected to the Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River (PA, NY), Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (PA, NJ), and First State National Historical Park (DE, PA), NPCA is a leader in campaigns for the federal Delaware River Basin Restoration Program, which provides matching grants for habitat restoration, stormwater management, flood mitigation, and other voluntary projects in the watershed. (2016-present)

Above: Bald eagles abound along the Delaware River ©dalhetha | iStockphoto



THE GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOORS ACT

Bipartisan Leadership for America's Public Lands

John Garder and Joy M. Oakes

For years, NPCA and partners have lobbied the U.S. Congress to fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at its authorized level of \$900 million annually, and to address the national parks' \$12 billion repair backlog. In early March—after President Trump tweeted support—there was rapid progress.

Working with Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Angus King (I-ME) and Rob Portman (R-OH) who have been pushing to repair parks, Senators Cory Gardner (R-CO), Joe Manchin (D-WV), Steve Daines (R-MT) and Mark Warner (D-VA) combined separate bills addressing each issue into the “Great American Outdoors Act,” S. 3422. With a bipartisan Senate majority signed on as cosponsors, and floor action a priority for Senate leadership, success seemed tantalizingly close.

Then the coronavirus became a pandemic. Congress's focus appropriately shifted. As this Field Report goes to print, the schedule for moving S. 3422 to a vote is unknown.

Details

S. 3422 will provide up to \$9.5 billion over five years to address priority infrastructure repairs on lands managed by the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, the federal Bureau of Land Management and the federal Bureau of Indian Education Schools. It also dedicates \$900 million annually to LWCF, which ensures preservation of and access to irreplaceable lands, and supports recreational facilities in communities across the country.

We urge Congress to enact the Great American Outdoors Act.

The Mid-Atlantic Region's Congressional delegation includes strong supporters of LWCF and of fixing our parks. At press time, cosponsors of the “Great American Outdoors Act” include: DE: Chris Coons (D); MD: Ben Cardin (D) & Chris Van Hollen (D); PA: Bob Casey (D); VA: Mark Warner (D) & Tim Kaine (D), and; WV: Joe Manchin (D) & Shelley Moore Capito (R).

How You Can Help

Please thank our Senate leaders who are working hard to bring this bill across the finish line!

And, if you lead an organization or a business, please sign on to a letter to Congress urging action on the “Great American Outdoors Act.”

TAKE ACTION!

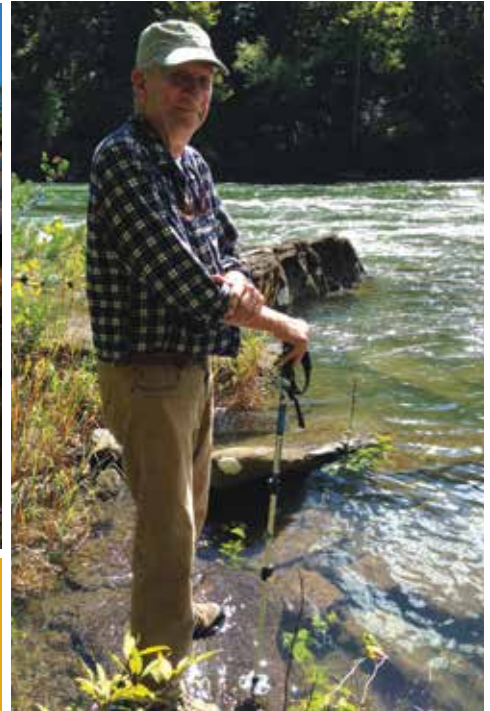
SIGN THE LETTER
Click Here.

SEE WHO SIGNED IT
Click Here.

Please let us know if we can be of assistance.



Above: Antietam National Battlefield ©Appalachianviews | Dreamstime **Right:** NPCA leader Ted Armbrecht celebrates protection of the heart of the Gauley River National Recreation Area (WV) using LWCF dollars. ©NPCA



Enactment of the Great American Outdoors Act will benefit parks and communities across the country by repairing major infrastructure on public lands, preserving plant and animal habitat, protecting historic sites, and supporting outdoor recreation. **Above:** Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area ©Aoldman | Dreamstime

Coalition Secures Results for the Delaware River Watershed

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the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed since its formation in 2012. The coalition spent years advocating to establish a new, non-regulatory program within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to advance watershed restoration at a basin-wide scale. At the end of 2014, Delaware Democrats Sen. Tom Carper and Rep. John Carney introduced robustly bipartisan legislation to do exactly that.

Two years later, thanks to the collective power of dozens of coalition partners' investments in educating, organizing and storytelling, Congress enacted the legislation,

known as the Delaware River Basin Conservation Program. Initially funded at \$5 million, Congress has provided increases each year since, with the coalition requesting \$10 million in fiscal year 2021.

This new program provides matching funding to agencies and organizations for on-the-ground projects that improve aquatic health by controlling urban and suburban stormwater runoff, restore degraded streams through plantings and other techniques, and support farmers' efforts to reduce their agricultural runoff.

NPCA looks forward to continuing to work with partners to identify and implement



projects that will help improve water quality, preserve park values and mitigate impacts of climate change throughout the river corridor.

Right: NPCA works to grow and equip a diverse constituency advocating for clean air and water, plant and animal habitat, recreational opportunities, and sufficient funding to benefit the national parks in the Delaware River watershed. Peters Valley School of Craft, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, ©NPCA **Below:** Delaware River at Delaware Water Gap NRA, NJ ©Jon Bilous | Dreamstime



UPCOMING EVENTS

Contact midatlantic@npca.org or check out www.npcap.org/events for updated info on any of these events.

50th Anniversary of Earth Day	APR 22	Join NPCA and EARTHWISE for a digital Earth Day to give diverse voices a platform and to demand bold action for people and planet. Over 24 hours, EARTHRISE will fill the digital landscape with global conversations, calls to action, performances, video teach-ins and more. www.earthday.org
Zane Grey Festival, Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River	JUL 11	Celebrate the natural and cultural heritage of the Upper Delaware region and learn more about local parks and NPCA's work in the Scenic Wild Delaware River Lackawaxen, PA Check www.nps.gov/upde for updates.

SHOW YOUR PARK LOVE

Your parks and your country need you right now during this challenging time, as we're all in this together. We hope we can count on you to recommit to NPCA and our parks and to continue sharing your passion and dedication! Here are some impactful ways you can show your love for our national parks, and celebrate the healing, community and resilience that parks offer—thank you!

Make a Gift

Your generous support is more critical than ever. To learn more about how you can support NPCA financially, visit npca.org/give.

Leave Your Park Legacy

Leaving a gift to NPCA in your will or trust is a personal way you can ensure national parks thrive for generations to come. To learn more about making national parks a part of your enduring legacy, visit MyParkLegacy.org.



Attend an Event

Join NPCA for events and service projects at national parks locally and across the country. See “Upcoming Events” or visit npca.org/events to learn more.

Stay Engaged from Home

Engage in national park activities and learning without leaving your home at parkit.npca.org/.



Travel with Us

Join us on one of our small-group educational land adventures or small-ship cruises and experience the very best of our national parks. Find details at npca.org/trips.

Learn

Check out the NPCA Park Advocate blog to read our latest national park stories at npca.org/articles/advocate.

Volunteer

Partnering with us as a volunteer is a hands-on and fun way to support your favorite national park. See npca.org/events for

volunteer opportunities or contact Melanie McDowell at mmcdowell@npca.org.

Become an Online Activist

Learn more about the threats facing our parks and take action online at npca.org/advocacy.

Above: Young osprey enjoy a meal and the beginning of the spring season. ©Anthony Aneese Totah Jr | Dreamstime **Left:** Students learn about clean water at Wilderness Inquiry's CanoeMobile, Wrightsville, PA ©Sharon Davis | NPCA **Below:** The Susquehanna River, Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail ©Jon Bilous | Dreamstime





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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Sunrise over the U.S. Capitol and the National Mall in Washington, D.C. ©Steveheap | Dreamstime

“... when the Coronavirus crisis passes Americans are going to need to spend time outdoors in the places we treasure to heal our bodies and souls.”

—JAY ERSKINE LEUTZE, AUTHOR

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