

**NPCA Messaging Guide**  
**Protect Every Park**  
**July 2025**

**Topline Messages**

- A national park site is a promise to the American people to preserve nature and history there for generations to come. Removing these one-of-a-kind natural and historic places from National Park Service protection would break that promise to the American people and threaten the park system we all know and love.
- America's world-class National Park System is a shining example for countries all around the world, and a point of pride for Americans of all political stripes.
- There are more than 430 national parks across the country, from urban parks in New York or Chicago to rural ones in Idaho and Wyoming. Parks come in all shapes and sizes and are beloved by the American communities they represent. In many cases, Americans have worked tirelessly to get a national park designated to protect priceless natural and cultural resources in their backyards.
- Congress needs to take a stand here for the parks in their congressional districts, in their backyards, the ones that their constituents know and love. Protect every park, large and small alike.
- If you care about the national parks in your backyard, we need you to stand up for our national parks today and every day. Contact your members of Congress and tell them to take a stand, too. From the Grand Canyon to smaller national park sites across the country, we need to protect every park.

**Current threats to protecting every park**

- Recent proposals from the Trump administration and Congress threaten to dismantle, close, transfer, or even sell off some of these parks. This is unacceptable.
  - A leaked strategic planning document from the Department of the Interior stated the administration's interest in transferring some national park sites to state control.
  - President Trump's 2025 skinny budget proposed a massive cut to the National Park Service budget, to the tune of one billion dollars. This is roughly a quarter of the entire agency budget—it would be devastating and result in closing hundreds of park units around the country from battlefields, monuments, recreation areas to historic sites, lakeshores and seashores. The President's budget proposed transferring national park sites to individual states' control.
  - Interior Secretary Doug Burgum defended this proposal in congressional testimony, claiming the administration is interested in transferring national park sites to states, specifically highlighting parks like battlefields or historic sites, claiming some are “barely visited,” and just “cost centers.” This is not true.
- The administration cannot unilaterally transfer national park sites — that is illegal. Congress designated nearly all of these sites over the span of more than a hundred years. The administration cannot give them away.

### **Value of national park sites and the National Park System**

- Across the country, people flock to our national parks, monuments, seashores, battlefields and historic sites to learn priceless, nationally significant stories from the American Revolution, the Civil War, the Civil Rights Movement to the Wright Brothers first flight. They tell stories of American presidents, suffragists, inventors, civil rights leaders, and underground railroad conductors. These are not Texas stories or California stories; they are American stories that many of us we learned about in school growing up.
- Some national park sites may be small in size, but mighty in history they protect. From Paul Revere's ride to Harriet Tubman's journeys to freedom, some of the most fascinating, important stories from our country's history are preserved as park units.
- National seashores and recreation areas protect America's great outdoors and provide millions of visitors with tremendous opportunities to hike, fish, kayak, and more. Cape Hatteras National Seashore is no less important than Yosemite National Park, and vice versa.
- The National Park Service conducts research prepares materials and interpretive displays, and trains rangers to tell these stories—they have a world-class standard and provide visitors with once-in-a-lifetime experiences. The American people deserve to see their history and natural wonders – public lands that belong to all of us -- protected to the highest standard possible.
- This administration fails to understand that our national park sites are established for their national significance to the country's natural and cultural heritage and not their market potential. Besides, our parks are not a drain on government

resources. For every dollar invested in a national park, \$15 goes back into the local community.

- Attempting to unravel and dismantle our national parks could exact a devastating economic toll on local economies that rely on tourist dollars. It would be a grievous insult to communities in red states and blue states alike who advocated that their congressional representatives designate new national parks to tell their stories.
- Our parks protect a complex, sometimes difficult history – a history of war, loss, triumph, and joy alike. Parks bring people together through these stories. Our history defines who we are as Americans, and we are stronger for it, regardless of our background or what political party we vote for. Attempting to dismantle these parks and remove them from federal jurisdiction would make us weaker. It could keep Americans from learning about our history.
- The National Park Service includes our country's greatest storytellers. Rangers at the National Park Service protect our history at battlefields, historic homes, and museums. More than two thirds of our national park sites are dedicated to protecting and telling American history.