



## America's Iconic Landscapes

National parks are key to protecting and connecting our most revered places

### NPCA LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN

- From southern Florida to northern Alaska, NPCA has worked for decades to protect America's most iconic natural wonders like Denali, Yosemite, Isle Royale, Yellowstone, Great Smoky Mountains, Acadia, and Everglades national parks.
- National parks support a stunningly diverse abundance of fish and wildlife. But to remain healthy, wildlife need access to forests, streams, and other lands that lie outside protected park boundaries, and these areas are increasingly under stress from urbanization, resource development, climate change and other threats.
- Launched in 2010, NPCA's **Landscape Conservation Campaign** harnesses the iconic power of national parks, their broad public and political support, and their capacity to engage and educate, to protect and improve the health of the land and waterscapes within which national parks reside.
- Through **projects in landscapes throughout the country** NPCA is forging solutions that use national parks for broader conservation, whether as 'anchor tenants' of larger ecosystems, connective pathways linking wildlife habitat, economic drivers of local communities, or catalysts for resource protection.



National Parks Conservation Association®  
Protecting Our National Parks for Future Generations®

# Protecting and Connecting Our Nation's Treasured Park Landscapes



### NPCA'S FIVE CORE CAMPAIGN STRENGTHS

- **Provide key leadership** – seasoned team of advocates with decades of experience in policy campaigns, litigation, media, and management.
- **Community presence** – organizing in gateway communities through NPCA's 24 regional and field offices, from the Florida Keys to rural Alaska.
- **Active collaboration with stakeholders** – deep relationships with diverse partners, with a focus on those outside the conservation community.
- **Science-based work** – internal research center and staff expertise ensure the integrity, accuracy, and reliability of our work.
- **Park-based agenda** – disciplined focus on supporting, protecting and leveraging the 394 park units for landscape-level conservation outcomes.



# Parks are often 'anchor tenants' of their landscapes

## BRISTOL BAY

- The Bristol Bay watershed of southwest Alaska supports the largest and most diverse wild salmon ecosystem on the planet. Bristol Bay salmon accounts for 50% of the global sockeye harvest each year. Katmai and Lake Clark National Parks and Preserves protect the iconic Katmai brown bears, wild landscapes and traditional cultures in the 23 million acre Bristol Bay ecosystem.
- NPCA, Bristol Bay tribes and allies are partnering to protect the watershed from a proposed industrial gold and copper mining district, including the controversial Pebble Mine, right next to our national parks. If built, Pebble's open-pit mine would be the largest in North America, jeopardizing the clean waters of our last great wild salmon fishery and every living creature it supports. In February 2010, the Environmental Protection Agency responded to our pleas for help, initiating a rapid ecosystem assessment that will bolster future protective action under the Clean Water Act.
- NPCA and NPS partnered on an economic study in 2010 which reported that visitors to Katmai National Park spend nearly \$50 million each year which adds 647 jobs annually to the Bristol Bay economy – more than triple previous estimates.

## NORTH CASCADES

- North Cascades National Park is at the heart of one of the largest unaltered landscapes in the continental U.S., approximately 3 million acres. It has the largest collection of glaciers in the lower 48 states and is home to rare and endangered species such as the grizzly bear and gray wolf.
- NPCA helps lead a North Cascades task force, with representation from the park,

adjacent national forests, and others, to create a strategy for improving and repairing roads and trails, enhancing visitor experiences and maintaining healthy wildlife.

- Working with allies, NPCA is devising strategies to foster the ecosystem connection between North Cascades and the Crown of the Continent along the Canadian border.

## SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS

- The 150,000 acre Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area is a biologically diverse gem. It is one of the largest protected areas of Mediterranean-type ecosystems in the world and has more than 1,000 plant species and 500 mammal, bird, reptile and amphibian species.
- NPCA is advocating for funding to add Ramirez Canyon to the recreation area, a 110-acre parcel that has oak woodlands and wildlife such as deer, coyote, and mountain lion.
- NPCA supports expanding Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area by 500,000 acres to protect wildlife corridors and examine the feasibility of public transportation to help residents access open space.

## CALIFORNIA DESERT

- The California desert national parks are places of remarkable biodiversity, stunning scenery, and outstanding recreation. They encompass almost 6 million acres and contain Mojave, Sonoran, and Great Basin Desert ecosystems.
- NPCA is working to add 74,000 acres to California desert national parks, which will protect and connect biologically diverse landscapes. NPCA is advocating for the addition of rare and essential desert streams to the Wild and Scenic River system.
- NPCA is protecting landscapes like the proposed Sand-to-Snow and Mojave Trails national monuments which preserve critical wildlife corridors between the desert scrub and snowcapped San Bernardino Mountains, as well as between Joshua Tree National Park and the Mojave National Preserve.

## CROWN OF THE CONTINENT

- The Crown of the Continent, which includes Glacier National Park, contains the largest contiguous protected landscape in the lower 48 states. It includes highly diverse ecosystem types, such as boreal and rain forests, alpine tundra, prairie, and savanna. Native mammals include wolves, grizzlies, wolverines, lynx, and moose. Because of its size, diverse climates, and abundant wildlife, the Crown presents a premier opportunity to achieve landscape-level conservation that mitigates the impacts of climate change.

- NPCA has been the leader of active on-the-ground conservation efforts in the northern Crown for a decade, building a Canadian-American coalition and engaging non-traditional voices at the community level.
- NPCA's victories include persuading British Columbia to forego mining activity in the Flathead River Valley, working with the U.S. and Canadian governments to prevent energy development in the ecosystem, and advancing legislation that would permanently protect the North Fork of the Flathead River from development.

## GREATER YELLOWSTONE

- Greater Yellowstone is home to grizzly bears, wolves, elk, pronghorn antelope, and other icons of the West. Its 20 million acres stretch across three states and include Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, six national forests, BLM lands and the Wind River Indian Reservation. Connecting habitat across these many boundaries provides the best hope for Yellowstone's wildlife to thrive in the face of climate change.
- NPCA is restoring a seasonal migration route for Yellowstone's northern pronghorn herd by working with landowners and volunteers to remove and modify fences, greatly improving pronghorn migration and access to critical winter habitat.
- NPCA is working with land managers and allies to provide bison with snow-free winter habitat outside Yellowstone, reversing decades-long policies that have prevented bison from leaving the park.

## COLORADO RIVER

- Ten national parks lie along the Colorado River and its tributaries, including Rocky Mountain, Grand Canyon, and Canyonlands national parks. Dams and water diversions have fundamentally changed ecological and environmental processes by destroying habitats, creating unnatural flow, trapping sediments, and altering natural water temperatures.
- In 2011 NPCA produced a seminal assessment of this river system, its parks, and the impacts of hydropower. We are working with regional and national organizations to implement a reform agenda to protect the regions' natural and cultural resources.
- NPCA is also working to protect the remarkable landscape surrounding Canyonlands National Park by challenging oil and gas leases, tar-sands development, and destructive use of off-road vehicles that threaten the park's viewsheds, air- and water quality.

## BIG BEND

- Big Bend National Park features broad expanses of Chihuahuan Desert shrubland and grassland interspersed with high-elevation woodland in the Chisos Mountains. Black bear, mountain lion, and javelina, along with bats, turtles, frogs, toads, and 450 species of birds, either reside in or rely on park resources.
- NPCA is advocating for cooperation between the U.S. and Mexico to preserve the Big Bend-Rio Bravo border region. We seek to forge consensus among park officials, scientists, local communities, and others to protect the unique natural values of the region.
- NPCA is helping to protect air- and water quality at Big Bend, in part by advocating for the clean up of coal-fired power plants that pollute the park.

## GREAT LAKES

- The Great Lakes basin is a unique and complex ecosystem containing forests, marshes, wetlands, dunes, more than 3,500 species of plants and animals, and one-fifth of the world's freshwater supply.
- NPCA co-chairs a coalition of 115 member organizations — Healing Our Waters — advocating for federal funding and Great Lakes restoration. Our efforts have secured new funding for EPA, the NPS, and regional nonprofits to restore the land and waters of the region
- NPCA advocates for the eight national parks in the Great Lakes Region. At Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore we work with students and researchers to restore the Great Marsh, to eradicate invasive species and improve Lake Michigan water quality.

## SOUTHERN APPALACHIANS

- The Southern Appalachian region, which contains Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Blue Ridge Parkway, the Obed Wild and Scenic River, and other parks, is one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems on the planet, and home to some of the largest remaining forestland in the eastern U.S.
- NPCA is working to prevent mountaintop coal mining from devastating the mountains upstream from Big South Fork National Recreation Area. Through legal and policy actions we seek to permanently protect more than 500 miles of ridgelines upstream from the park.
- NPCA is protecting the Ocmulgee National Monument, a biologically and culturally significant corridor, from fragmentation by roads and other incompatible development.

## GREATER EVERGLADES

- Everglades National Park protects more subtropical land and water than any other part of the United States. The area hosts some of the most rare and endangered species in the U.S., notably the West Indian manatee and the American crocodile, and is one of the most significant habitats for migrating bird and sea-turtle species.
- NPCA is helping advance Everglades restoration, the largest ecosystem restoration in the history of the National Park Service. We are advocating for expeditious project implementation, against development that is incompatible with restoration objectives, and for restoring natural water flow by elevating key portions of the Tamiami Trail, a road that cuts through the heart of the Everglades.
- NPCA is working to protect coral reefs that provide critical habitats for fish, particularly in Biscayne and Dry Tortugas national parks; these parks are threatened by the stress of boat groundings, overfishing, coral disease, and marine debris. We also work with anglers and scientists to protect Florida Bay, in part through a free boater-education course designed to help reduce damage done to critical seagrass habitat.
- NPCA is supporting local efforts to create a new national park, adjacent to Baxter State Park. The new park would help preserve the region's wildlife, strengthen its economy, and provide unsurpassed recreational opportunities.
- A Maine Woods national park would help connect the Northeast's boreal woods, which stretch from the Adirondacks northeast through the Green and White Mountains, through the North Woods, to Nova Scotia and the St. Lawrence seaway.

## GATEWAY-NEW YORK HARBOR

- Gateway National Recreation Area in the New York-New Jersey Harbor is at the juncture of key coastal avian migration routes, where major river systems meet the Atlantic Ocean. Development has left little room for wildlife, so every open space is a critical habitat for native and migratory species.
- NPCA is seeking to transform Gateway's Floyd Bennett Field into an iconic urban national park that would bring the region's millions of school children, residents and visitors in touch with nature.
- NPCA is co-leading a coalition of park friends, community, and environmental justice groups to build support for the restoration of the NY/NJ Harbor, which includes and surrounds Gateway NRA.

## CHESAPEAKE BAY

- Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in North America, with 12,000+ miles of shoreline and a 64,000-square-mile watershed. It supports more than 3,600 species of plants and animals. The more than 16 million people living in the region create pressures that threaten the health of the Bay.
- With many Bay headwaters originating in national parks like Shenandoah, NPCA is a founding member of the "Choose Clean Water Campaign," a coalition advocating to protect and restore water-quality at dozens of national parks in the region and in the Chesapeake Bay.
- NPCA is working to leverage the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail to achieve conservation along the shoreline. We are leading a coalition to protect the natural, historic, and cultural values of Fort Monroe and the Old Point Comfort peninsula at the mouth of the James River.

**NPCA is on the ground in a dozen landscapes, preserving our natural heritage**

