

Let's Clear the Air

DEFENDING CLEAN AIR AND A STABLE CLIMATE IN AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS

Experiencing untarnished nature with clean air is something visitors from around the world expect and seek in our great parks, from Acadia to Joshua Tree and Great Smoky Mountains to Glacier. Yet these places and the clean air laws that protect them are under attack.

Air pollution from coal-fired power plants, oil and gas development, vehicles, and other sources continue to dirty the air and drive climate change. NPCA's steadfast defense of bedrock environmental laws like the Clean Air Act is essential to protect national parks.

Visibility

The spectacular views many of our national parks are known for are negatively affected by haze-causing air pollution.

The Clean Air Act program called the Regional Haze Rule is intended to protect parks like Yosemite, Grand Canyon, and Great Smoky Mountains from air pollution. The current administration is undermining implementation and enforcement that is critical to achieving the goals of the program.

On average, visitors are missing out on 50 miles of views in our national parks.



100 YEARS



Jon Cain

Health

One of the many reasons visitors go to the national parks is to experience the clean, fresh air of nature. However, because of air pollution from coal-fired power plants and other polluters, 85% of the parks have air quality that's not healthy to breathe at times.

Fundamental clean air policies that protect people and parks from unhealthy ozone, smog and other toxic air pollution are at risk like never before. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is systematically weakening and compromising critical climate and clean air rules on a routine basis under this administration.

Climate Change

Climate change represents one of the greatest threats to our national parks, causing adverse effects on wildlife, ecosystems, historic structures, and visitors. Glaciers in Glacier National Park are not expected to exist beyond 2030 and Joshua Trees and Saguaro cacti are struggling to survive in their namesake parks as temperatures rise and rain patterns become extreme and unpredictable.

"Visitors to national parks should be met with the cleanest air in the country. But air pollution doesn't stop at their borders and climate change affects each one. Tough pollution standards must be kept in place to deliver clean air to our treasured places and the people who visit them."

—Theresa Pierno,
NPCA President and CEO

NPCA actions to protect our air and climate

In response to the sweeping assaults on clean air and climate protections, NPCA is advancing a three-part plan to defend the rights of parks and people to clean air and a healthy climate.

Defend clean air laws

Clean air laws make our air safe to breathe, our skies clear and our climate sustainable, but only if they remain strong and are enforced. Already, the administration has taken steps to rollback rules limiting methane and other pollutants from the oil and gas industry and is working to remove rules to limit carbon pollution from coal-fired power plants.

Meanwhile, the EPA is advancing regulations that undermine science-based air standards needed to reduce risks to public health from air pollution. NPCA is fighting these efforts in the rule making process and in the courts. We will continue to defend these and other clean air and climate laws and challenge attempts to weaken them.



Keep polluters in check

As NPCA has done for decades, we continue to enforce the Clean Air Act's central protection program for national park air, the Regional Haze Rule. We oppose backsliding on emission reductions including the administration's efforts to strip pollution control requirements from coal-fired power plants in Utah and Texas. We aggressively work to make park skies clearer by helping drive a transition from coal-fired power plants to clean and renewable energy.

Build advocates

National parks unite America's broad, diverse and bi-partisan communities around shared natural treasures, histories and cultures. NPCA cultivates, educates and engages diverse constituencies and partnerships in support of shared values like clean air and climate protections for people's health and for parks.

Why NPCA?

Together with our 1.3 million members and supporters, National Parks Conservation Association speaks for America's iconic national parks. Since our founding in 1919, NPCA has been an independent, nonpartisan voice working to strengthen and protect our nation's natural, historical, and cultural heritage. Your support is needed to help defend, advocate and protect these incredible places for present and future generations. Join the movement at npca.org/join.

CONTACT

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Average Visibility in Miles

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park



Data Source: IMPROVE © Jeffrey Pang



100YEARS