

Biography

Kristen Brengel has dedicated her career to the preservation and protection of America's national parks and public lands. She has played a role in significant conservation issues for more than two decades.

Her journey began with a focus on local governance, serving as Policy Director for the Office of Mayor in Cherry Hill Township, New Jersey. In this role, she honed their skills in community organizing, public relations, and speechwriting, laying the groundwork for a career in advocacy.

This foundation in policy and communications led her to The Wilderness Society, where she served as both a Campaign Manager and Policy Advisor. She directed legislative and grassroots campaigns to protect iconic places like Yellowstone National Park, Cape Hatteras and Big Cypress; and organized coalitions to support crucial public land management policies. Her work included analyzing public lands records and developing policy recommendations for agencies.

She then joined the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), where she progressed from Senior Director of Legislation and Policy to Senior Vice President of the Government Affairs Department. For over 15 years, she has driven and supported NPCA's strategic priorities and park protection programs. She manages a diverse team of policy experts working on natural and cultural resources, water, recreation, appropriations, wildlife, energy, infrastructure, and historic preservation.

She has co-created successful bipartisan campaigns in the conservation community. She co-led the national campaign to pass the Great American Outdoors Act, a landmark law that provides billions in funding for national park infrastructure and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. She was also instrumental in lobbying for the passage of the National Park Service Centennial Act, a law expanding public-private funding partnerships, establishing and funding a national parks endowment, and providing additional opportunities for young people and volunteers to serve in parks. She advises on the establishment of national monuments and expanding the park system including those that illuminate the experiences of women, indigenous peoples, and civil rights advocates.

In 2006, she received the 1872 Award from The Coalition to Protect America's National Parks for outstanding service and support.