



NPCA Position on Legislation before the Subcommittee on Federal Lands

March 25, 2026

Dear Representative,

Since 1919, the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) has been the leading voice of the American people in protecting and enhancing our National Park System. On behalf of our 1.9 million members and supporters nationwide, we write to share our thoughts on select legislation ahead of a hearing in the Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands scheduled for March 26, 2026.

H.R. 7618 - American Battlefield Protection Program Amendments Act: NPCA **supports** this legislation which would reauthorize the American Battlefield Protection Program's (ABPP) grants program, expand financial support to study battlefields associated with the French and Indian War (1754-1763) and the Mexican-American War (1846-1848), and to ensure that the process of battlefield preservation includes consultation with local, state, and Tribal partners. This legislation will strengthen the ability of the ABPP to protect, study, and rehabilitate battlefields across the United States.

H.R. 7979 - Public Lands Access Restoration Act: NPCA **opposes** this legislation, which would require the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to allow motorized use on roads and trails that may have otherwise been deemed closed by the agencies. Under current management practices, there are roads and trails which have been designated for motorized use but have been closed to vehicle access due to visitor safety or resource protection issues. Instead, this legislation would pressure the agencies to expand the motorized use system, which could include reopening routes that had previously been found inappropriate. This is especially important for national parks that border BLM and USFS lands where visitors may not be aware that regulations vary between land management agencies. We are concerned that the Park Service, especially with current significantly reduced staffing levels, will be unable to prevent illegal, natural resource-damaging motorized use on routes that cross multiple land management agency jurisdiction. Given the staffing and funding cuts BLM & USFS have seen, it will be impossible for those agencies to undergo the necessary planning to meet this bill's requirement. This bill would take away the ability of USFS/BLM to effectively manage their road & trail systems, motorized access and protection of ecosystems and sensitive cultural sites.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Christina Hazard
Legislative Director

NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

777 6th Street NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20001 | 800.628.7275 | npca.org