

THE SITUATION



Our nation's diversity has been and will always be our greatest strength. Our system of parks and **public lands should reflect the diversity of our nation's history, people, and cultures**. Unfortunately, that system has not always been reflective of our country's demographics and ethnic diversity.

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

The future of our public lands will depend upon public support from all Americans. Unfortunately, less than one-quarter of the more than 450 National Park Service units have a primary focus on women, communities of color, or other traditionally underrepresented groups (Center for American Progress).

WHY SHOULD AMERICANS CARE?

To help ensure our national parks are around for generations to come, **we have to make sure all Americans feel a connection to our parks and understand the value of protecting our public lands.** We have to continue to engage with diverse communities or else we risk losing the historical, cultural, natural, economic and recreation resources that our public lands provide to communities across the nation.

THE FACTS

~84% of communities of color **live in areas where the proportion of remaining natural area is lower than the state average** (Center for American Progress)

33% of presidential designations **addressed cultural diversity**; this is compared to only 22%—70 out of 321—of all congressional designations (Center for American Progress)

WHAT'S CONGRESS DOING?

Congressional opponents of conservation and historic preservation have attempted to create roadblocks to increasing inclusivity at our public lands. For example, efforts by current congressional leaders to prevent President Obama from creating new national monuments undermine our goal of increasing diversity and inclusivity on our public lands.



Democrats are committed to finding ways to engage all segments of our population so that they become active users, managers, and supporters of public lands. Democrats have also supported President Obama's designation of monuments that celebrate our country's rich diverse culture and history.



House Republicans have ignored repeated calls to hold hearings and examine the important topic of diversification across our public lands. They are also trying to block President Obama's use of the Antiquities Act to add diverse perspectives to our protected public places.

HOW DO WE MOVE FORWARD?

Federal land management agencies should engage with underrepresented communities in decisions about conservation and the expansion of outdoor recreation opportunities.