



January 31, 2025

Jessica Bowron
Comptroller
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

RE: National Park Service Seasonal Employees

Dear Comptroller Bowron:

The mission of Public Lands Alliance (PLA) is to connect, strengthen, and represent the nonprofit partners of America's public lands. Our members include philanthropic partners, cooperating associations, conservation corps, outdoor schools, and trails groups that partner with the National Park Service (NPS). Our members support the NPS mission through the programs they offer, the staff and volunteers they manage on NPS units, the funds they provide to the NPS directly, and the impact they make on park visitors.

On behalf of our members, we wish to inquire about the recent 1,400 job offers to seasonal employees that have been rescinded. PLA is concerned that eliminating these seasonal positions will negatively impact our members' partnerships, especially those members who rely upon visitor centers and other NPS facilities. Less front-line seasonal rangers and custodians often lead to less operational hours for visitor centers.

The loss will undoubtedly shrink the net revenues of cooperating associations due to diminishing retail sales and Checkout Counter Donation Program gifts. Such losses will decrease critical aid to the NPS that support park educational, scientific, historical and interpretive programs.

PLA has heard directly from several member organizations who operate at parks impacted by last week's rescissions and are worried about the potential negative outcomes. For one member, shortened visitor center hours would cost them an average of \$3,200 a day from April through October and more than \$600,000 for the season. Their budgeted aid-to-NPS this year alone is roughly \$1.7 million.

PLA members and I would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss how the seasonal workforce impacts the health and vitality of NPS partnerships with nonprofit organizations. We are also interested in learning more about how the NPS is assessing the downstream impacts of reducing the seasonal workforce, and especially how the impacts to nonprofit partners are calculated. Please contact Shawn Swearingen, PLA's Director of Government Relations [shawn@publiclandsalliance.org], to schedule a meeting.

For more than 100 years, PLA members have worked side-by-side with the NPS to deliver on a promise our country made to its citizens and the world: "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." On behalf of our membership, PLA are grateful to you and the National Park Service for your commitment to using partnerships to ensure the NPS mission is fulfilled. Our members and I look forward to working with you to continue this proud tradition.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Puskar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dan Puskar
President and CEO
Public Lands Alliance