



August 31, 2025

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary

We write to express our strong opposition to **Secretarial Order 3431: Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History**, and to call for its full and immediate rescission. This order undermines the Department of the Interior's responsibility to steward not only the landscapes we all share but also the layered histories embedded within them. As part of that responsibility, the Department entrusts the National Park Service, one of the nation's leading storytellers and its other agencies, to interpret and present those histories with honesty, depth, and care. Through exhibits, signage, ranger talks, and digital resources, our national parks and historic sites preserve our collective memory. They help us understand who we are and who we have been. In recent years, new monuments and sites have reflected a broader, more honest accounting of our past, reflecting a growing recognition that America is strong enough to confront its past and tell the truth about it.

Sites like Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site, Camp Nelson National Monument, and Manzanar National Historic Site embody that mission. They do not shy away from hard truths. They meet them head-on. Tuskegee honors the first Black military aviators who trained under segregation to serve a country that denied them full rights. Camp Nelson preserves the story of African Americans who fought for their freedom and served in the Union Army. Manzanar confronts the illegal incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. These sites do not divide us. They educate us. They remind us that telling the full story of America is a public service and a patriotic duty.

At Muir Woods National Monument in California, the 2021 "History Under Construction" exhibit, which acknowledged Coast Miwok stewardship and the role of women in protecting the site, has been slated for removal under your order. This appears to be the first documented case of interpretive content being taken down, setting a troubling precedent for other sites. Although the exhibit focused on Indigenous history and stewardship, no consultation took place with appropriate parties. This exclusion raises serious concerns about compliance with the National

Historic Preservation Act and the federal government's trust responsibility to Tribal Nations, which requires engaging Tribal governments as sovereign partners, especially in decisions involving public lands, interpretation, and cultural heritage.

Your approach reverses decades of work by park staff, Tribal Nations, educators, historians, and community partners who have helped ensure our public lands reflect the richness and complexity of American history. It silences stories that deserve to be seen and heard and disconnects people from the very places meant to bring us together.

We call on the Department of the Interior to:

- Fully rescind Secretarial Order 3431 and halt all implementation.
- Ensure that site-based interpreters, historians, Tribal Nations, community partners, and staff, working in partnership, have the authority to shape and protect accurate and complete storytelling on public lands.

Shared public lands are America's common ground. The stories they tell must reflect all of us. Every visitor should have the opportunity to see themselves, their ancestors, and their communities represented with dignity and accuracy. That is how we build understanding. That is how we build trust.

This letter is supported by more than 100 organizations nationwide; environmental organizations, outdoor recreation groups, history and preservation advocates, & cultural institutions. Together, we represent the breadth of people and places committed to protecting history, culture, and access to the outdoors.

We urge you to protect what connects us.

Sincerely,

Coalition for Outdoor Renaming and Education
On behalf of the undersigned organizations

350.org
350 Bay Area Action
350 Eugene
Active San Gabriel Valley
Advancing Indigenous People in STEM
Adventure Risk Challenge
Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance

All That Philly Jazz
Amado Khaya Initiative (AKI)
American Association of Geographers
Amigos De Los Rios
Arizona Trail Association
Arvadans For Progressive Action
Asian Pacific Islander Forward Movement
Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education
Association for the Study of African American Life and History
Atlantic Black Box
Audubon Canyon Ranch
Az(Land)
Bay Area Wilderness Training
Black Kids Adventures
Black Veterans Project
Californians for Western Wilderness
California Outdoor Recreation Partnership
California Preservation Foundation
Center for a Sustainable Coast
Climate Communications Coalition
Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education
Conservation Colorado
Conservation Lands Foundation
Calwild
Capital University Law School Environmental and Energy Law Society
Children & Nature Network
Color My Outdoors
Craig Strang Consulting
DamDol Enterprises
EarthKeepers 360
Earthjustice
Environmental Education Council of Ohio
EPIC (Environmental Protection Information Center)
Explore Kentucky
Fellowship of Scientists and Engineers
Friends of Acadia
Focus: Black Oklahoma
Forest Keeper
Friends of Bell Smith Springs
Friends of Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

Friends of Cherokee Park
Friends of Big Ivy
Friends of the Inyo
Grand Canyon Trust
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Green Latinos
Healthy Contra Costa
HG Conservation Solutions
Hunters of Color
International Council on Monuments and Sites - USA
I Heart Pisgah
Interfaith Coalition for Black Lives
Japanese American Citizens League
Justice Outside
Just Trails
Kentucky Association for Environmental Education
Kentucky Conservation Committee
Lakota People's Law Project
Latino Outdoors
Madrean Archipelago Wildlife Center
Mansfield Backcountry Alliance
Manzanar Committee
Maryville Huddle of Women's March Coalition of East TN
Mayfield Enrichment Center Inc
Melanin Base Camp
Minority Veterans of America
Mountain Surf Creative
National Council on Public History
Nature for All
NatureLegacies
National Parks Conservation Association
National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers
Native Organizers Alliance Action Fund
Next 100 Coalition
New Hampshire Environmental Educators
New Mexico Environmental Law Center
New Mexico Wilderness Alliance
Nimiipuu Protecting the Environment
North Dakota Human Rights Coalition
Nuestra Tierra Conservation Project

Oregon Unitarian Universalist Voices for Justice
Outdoors Empowered Network
Outdoor Foundation
Outward Bound Adventures
Owen-Putnam Friends of the Forest
Preservation Action
Pueblo Action Alliance
Resource Renewal Institute
Restore Oregon
Rio Grande International Study Center
RiverStewards Collaborative
Root 'n Renew
Rural Organizing
Sierra Club
Seirus
Share the River
Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals
Southeast Tourism Society
Stowe Trails Partnership
Teton NewMedia, Inc
Three Oaks Outdoor Science School
The Ocean Project
The Fund for People in Parks
The Ocean Project
The Wilderness Society
Together for Brothers (T4B)
Tuleyome
Unitarian Universalist Eugene Earth Action
Washington Conservation Action
Wild Cumberland
Wildlife for All
Wild Montana
Wilderness Workshop
Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education
Wyoming Alliance for Environmental Education
Wyoming Wilderness Association
Youth Artists Hawaii

For follow-up on this letter, please contact Gerry Seavo James, Deputy Director, Sierra Club
Outdoors for All Campaign and Coalition for Outdoor Renaming Policy Chair

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