



Population Update

September 2017

NPG AT 45!

As we celebrate our 45th Anniversary this year, NPG proudly stands as the longest-serving nonprofit organization dedicated to reversing U.S. population growth. We've reached this important milestone thanks to the steadfast dedication and financial support of countless Americans who understand our critical mission. As we confront the future, NPG will continue to work even harder toward our goal to build a livable and sustainable future for all. Thanks to everyone who helped get us this far!

NPG's PROPHETIC AD

In the early days of the environmental movement, NPG launched a series of powerful award-winning ads that ran in national magazines. Those ads were instrumental in introducing Americans to the dangers of population growth and they helped NPG gain recognition as a powerful force in waging the war on overpopulation. One ad that we ran showed a simple pair of empty hiking boots lying on the ground in a mountainous area. The headline was simple: *Imagine 800 million boots in our National Parks.*

That decades-old forewarning recently translated into reality as Zion National Park in Utah noted that it was considering a first-ever admission cap. *Reuters* news service has noted that this effort is "a move supported by conservation advocates and veteran park employers to stem overcrowding at a time of record visitation." Have we finally reached a point where our national parks – treasured as areas to escape our congested cities and suburbs – have reached their carrying capacity? NPG is dedicated to seeing that does not happen.

PROGRESS ON IMMIGRATION REFORM

After years of seeing enforcement of our nation's immigration laws unravel and decline, it is definitely heartening to see positive changes to our nation's immigration policies. It is clear that the Trump administration is following through on its commitment to aggressively address immigration and enforce the rule of law. The latest statistics show that the new hardline policies introduced in recent months have already led to a sizeable decrease in the flow of illegals crossing our nation's southern border – as well as an increase in the number of voluntary departures and deportations of illegals.

Recent months have also found U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions taking forceful measures to push back against "sanctuary cities" where local law enforcement does not fully cooperate with the Department of Homeland Security in tracking and arresting lawbreakers. Sessions is demanding that these jurisdictions pay a stiff price in the loss of valuable federal dollars for their policies of non-cooperation.

Most important of all, public opinion polls continue to show a growing demand among the American public for action on other immigration issues – including setting limits for importing skilled workers, putting greater restrictions on family reunification policies, eliminating the outdated Diversity Visa Lottery, and greater tracking of those entering and leaving our country. We are finally at a point where there is increasing pressure on Congress to stop simply debating these issues and to deliver real results.

For decades, NPG has been a leader in the fight to rein-in and stop the politically-driven rush to permit more and more people to enter our country – either through lax immigration policies or wrong-headed decision making. In the months to come we will be more active than ever in pressuring our nation's leaders to make the right choices related to immigration. We must put our nation on a responsible and sustainable path and leave our children and grandchildren a decent, livable future.

NPG MEMBERSHIP CORNER

2017 NPG Member Questionnaire:

If you have yet to return your completed survey, please do so immediately. As a member-based organization your personal opinions hold great weight in setting our annual agenda. With 2018 only a few months off, it is important that we hear from you as we decide our future activities related to new NPG Forum Papers, national advertising, grassroots activism, expanding our all-important educational programs, and boosting our membership.

Special Gifts:

The final months of the year are typically a time when many individuals make decisions about large tax-deductible gifts or stock donations. If you fall into this category we ask that you give thoughtful consideration to making a gift to NPG before December 31st. If you are contemplating including NPG in your will, please contact us at 703-370-9510 and we will mail you a copy of the informative brochure *Leave a Lasting Legacy: Things to Consider as You Draft Your Will*.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE STATES: FLORIDA

Just recently, Florida surpassed New York as America's third most populous state. That fact triggered a cheer from the "growth at any cost" crowd that dominates the Sunshine State. The same "step-up" in population was viewed as ominous by concerned citizens who know the price their state will pay in the long term as it gets much more crowded. The Florida Chamber of Commerce put out a recent report that at the high estimate, Florida's population could reach 26 million people by 2030 – an increase of more than 5 million people in just 13 years. The Chamber also noted that half of this increase will occur in just 10 counties. In its September 2017 issue, *Florida Trend* magazine cites the fact that Florida's population is currently growing by 1,000 people per day. That's a recipe for disaster!

A research project prepared for 1000 Friends of Florida projected a state population of 35.8 million people in 2060. That growth would claim roughly 7 million acres of land for urban use, including 2.7 million acres of existing agricultural land and 2.7 million acres of native habitat. The southeastern part of the state, including the area along the coast from West Palm Beach to Miami, will absorb a large number of the new people with other urban centers also growing fast.

Local headlines already reflect the burden of growth as they center on demands to relieve ever-increasing traffic, and the vital need for new housing, schools and hospitals. If anything, these shocking new population projections make clear that Florida has definitely lost any vestiges of the "life in a sunny paradise" that once attracted Americans to settle there in past decades.

2017 TEACHER'S PACKETS GOING OUT SOON

In only a matter of weeks, NPG will be sending out our 2017 Teacher's Packets to help educate America's youngest generation about the perils of overpopulation. The packets will contain up-to-date Student Fact sheets, our colorful and informative Population Poster, and brand-new this year – our National Student Survey on Population Issues. We target our teacher-assisted educational efforts to reach students in the 6th thru 12th grades. Many teachers who have participated in recent years have given glowing feedback on how the information NPG provides for use in their classrooms works to spark insightful discussion and enlightening debate over the economic, social, and environmental impact of overpopulation. We are eager to review the new Student Surveys (which teachers will pass out to individual students, collect, and then return to NPG) in the coming months to ascertain the concerns of today's young people and use that information to better fine-tune and/or expand our all-important educational efforts.