

# NATIONAL PARK VISITORS ARE NOT IMPRESSED WITH TRUMP'S REVISIONISM



"Honest History Matters!" Protesters lining up

Donald Trump's EO entitled "Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History" was issued on March 27th, taking aim at the Smithsonian Institution and the National Park Service for daring to try to tell the whole story of American History, and not just the parts that validate the White America version that Trump believes.

Section 1. Purpose and Policy. Over the past decade, Americans have witnessed a concerted and widespread effort to rewrite our Nation's history, replacing objective facts with a distorted narrative driven by ideology rather than truth. This revisionist movement seeks to undermine the remarkable achievements of the United States by casting its founding principles and historical milestones in a negative light. Under this historical revision, our Nation's unparalleled legacy of advancing liberty, individual rights, and human happiness is reconstructed as inherently racist,

sexist, oppressive, or otherwise irredeemably flawed.

Kind of hard to read those words the day after the Juneteenth holiday, in the midst of Pride month, and after Trump's budget slashing the funding of tribal colleges and universities by 90% went up to Congress, but I guess Trump's gotta Trump.

Fast forward a couple of months, and we can see how the Department of the Interior is looking to implement Trump's EO. From NPR, June 9, 2025:

The Department of the Interior is requiring the National Park Service (NPS) to post signage at all sites across the country by June 13, asking visitors to offer feedback on any information that they feel portrays American history and landscapes in a negative light.

The June 9 memo sent to regional directors by National Park Service comptroller Jessica Bowron and leaked to NPR states the instructions come in response to President Trump's March "Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History" executive order and Interior Secretary Doug Burgum's follow-up order last month requesting its implementation. Trump's original order included a clause ordering Burgum to remove content from sites that "inappropriately disparages Americans past or living and instead focuses on the greatness of the achievements and progress of the American people."

I can just see Burgum rubbing his hands together with glee. "MAGA's gonna love this. It's DIY DOGE-ing the liberals while they visit the parks!" Similarly, I can hear Stephen Miller's reply of "Excellent" in his best Mr. Burns voice.

Well fellas, you asked, and National Park visitors answered. Spoiler alert: Burgum and Miller will not be happy. From Government Executive yesterday:

In the responses submitted by visitors to National Park Service sites, however, which were obtained by *Government Executive*, no single submission pointed to any such examples [of inappropriate signage and language]. Instead, in the nearly 200 submissions NPS received in the first days since the solicitations were posted, visitors implored the administration not to erase U.S. history and praised agency staff for improving their experiences.

[snip]

So far, NPS is not getting the help it was hoping for from those scanning the QR codes now posted around park sites soliciting assistance in identifying language in violation of Trump and Burgum's orders. Instead, visitors accused the Trump administration of seeking to erase the nation's history.

What? Impossible! What did those pesky park visitors say? GovExec goes on:

"There shouldn't be signs about history that whitewash and erase the centuries of discrimination against the people who have cared for this land for generations," a visitor to Indian Dunes National Park said.

A visitor to Independence Hall in Philadelphia called the new signs "censorship dressed up as customer service."

"What upset me the most about the museum—more than anything in the actual exhibits—were the signs telling people to report anything they thought was

negative about Americans,” the visitor said. “That isn’t just frustrating, it’s outrageous. It felt like an open invitation to police and attack historians for simply doing their jobs: telling the truth.”

Several visitors to the Stonewall National Monument in New York lamented changes there the park’s website that removed mention of transgender individuals in the Stonewall Uprising.

“Put them back,” the visitor said.  
“Honor them. There would be no Stonewall without trans people.”

More truth-telling at the link.

Some protesters wave signs as they march in the streets. Others scan QR codes and write comments.

These aren’t comments on lefty websites. These are official public comments to government requests for input from the public – input some poor soul has to read and summarize for Burgum and Miller. Can you picture the cold sweat breaking out on that civil servant’s brow, realizing he or she might be facing their own firing as the bearer of bad news? Sure you can.

Meanwhile, lots of folks are planning their next visit to a national park. By all means, go check them out, and **don’t forget to click that QR code**. Especially if you visit the Stonewall National Monument.

Last weekend, it was millions of loud voices shouting “No Kings!” This weekend, let it be millions of quiet thumbs and fingers tapping their phones.

Let the Good Trouble Making go on!