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## More Praise For Selection Of Charles F. Sams III For NPS Director

By ***Kurt Repanshek*** - August 19th, 2021

More praise has been voiced for the selection of Charles F. Sams III, a Native American with deep experience in the natural resource and conservation management fields, as the next director of the National Park Service.

**Sams' nomination was announced Wednesday** by the Biden administration, with Interior Secretary Deb Haaland calling him "an incredible asset as we work to conserve and protect our national parks to make them more accessible for everyone."

Haaland is the first Native American to serve as Interior secretary, and Sams, an enrolled member, Cayuse and Walla Walla, of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, would become the first to head the Park Service if confirmed by the Senate.

"Mr. Sams has an extensive record working in natural resource and conservation management," said Phil Francis, chair of the Coalition to Protect America's National Parks. "We look forward to learning more about his priorities for the National Park System and working with him to ensure that the National Park Service has the support and funding to fulfill its mission to preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations."

At the **Mountain Pact**, a coalition of local elected officials in more than 80 Western mountain communities from Aspen, Colorado, to Hood River, Oregon, with outdoor recreation-based economies, Executive Director Anna Peterson hailed the administration's choice.

"We haven't had a parks chief since 2017, and it's disgraceful that in the over 105 year Park Service history, it is yet to be led by a Native American," said Peterson. "We call on the U.S. Senate to quickly confirm Chuck Sams III for this leadership position."