

THE GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOORS ACT

June 2020

The Great American Outdoors Act (H.R. 1957) provides permanent, full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and establishes the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund. These two programs, with broad bipartisan support, will invest in our national parks and public lands and support American conservation long into the future.

H.R. 1957, introduced as the Taxpayer First Act of 2019, passed the House of Representatives on April 9, 2019. The Senate amended the bill to replace the original text with the Great American Outdoors Act. As amended, H.R. 1957 passed the Senate by a vote of 73 to 25 on June 17, 2020. The bill is identical to H.R. 7092, the House companion introduced by Representative Joe Cunningham (D-S.C.).

PERMANENT, FULL FUNDING OF THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

For more than 50 years, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has used money from offshore oil and gas drilling royalties to conserve our public lands and waters across the country. While LWCF is popular, Congress has never funded it at the legally permitted level. The [historic bipartisan lands package](#) that became law in early 2019 permanently authorized LWCF to receive \$900 million annually. Now it's time to ensure that full amount is used every year to fund projects on the ground, in communities that need conservation and environmental protection.

LWCF Supports Communities Across the Country: LWCF dollars have already helped nearly every Congressional district. Through LWCF State Side, state, local and tribal governments receive matching grants to create and expand state and local parks, further local recreation planning, and provide close-to-home recreational opportunities for underserved and low-income communities. Full, permanent funding will ensure that the LWCF can continue to support enhanced park and recreational access for local communities throughout the country.

LWCF Already Has an Identified Revenue Stream: With the passage of the bipartisan lands package at the beginning of 2019, Congress has already guaranteed that \$900 million will be collected for LWCF each year. Supporting the Great America Outdoors Act simply ensures that this money is used in the way Congress has already approved.

LWCF Supports the Recreation Economy: LWCF is the backbone of the [\\$887 billion outdoor recreation economy](#), one of the [fastest growing economic sectors](#) and a [key driver of jobs](#) across the United States.

LWCF is a Key Climate Solution: LWCF provides an important tool to address climate change by conserving currently unprotected natural resources across the country. Studies have shown that protecting intact, natural landscapes is key to enhancing community and species resilience in the face of climate change.

LWCF is America's Most Successful Conservation Program: Since 1965, LWCF has supported major conservation wins across the United States. Fully funding LWCF is critical to protecting intact landscapes, fragile ecosystems, important wildlife habitat, and the ecosystem services we depend upon.

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THE NATIONAL PARKS AND PUBLIC LAND LEGACY RESTORATION FUND

The Great American Outdoors Act establishes the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund (Fund), providing federal land management agencies with critical resources to address the \$22 billion deferred maintenance backlog on our public lands.

The Fund Supports Public Lands and Tribal Communities: The Fund would be divided among five federal land management agencies, with the National Park Service receiving 70 percent of the funds, the U.S. Forest Service receiving 15 percent, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Indian Education each receiving 5 percent of the funds.

The Fund Has an Identified Revenue Stream: The Fund would receive 50 percent of unallocated revenues generated from energy development on federal lands and waters from fiscal year 2021 through fiscal year 2025, totaling up to \$9.5 billion over the five-year period.

The Fund Protects our Parks and Lands: Climate change, increased visitation, and years of inadequate funding for our public land management agencies have produced crumbling visitor facilities and transportation assets. The Fund enables federal land managers to take aggressive steps to address deferred maintenance, improve visitor services, and maintain our public lands for future generations.

NATIONAL PARKS AND PUBLIC LAND LEGACY RESTORATION FUND: AGENCY ALLOCATIONS

AGENCY	DEFERRED MAINTENANCE BACKLOG	ANNUAL REVENUES FROM THE NATIONAL PARKS AND PUBLIC LAND LEGACY RESTORATION FUND
National Park Service	\$11.9 billion	\$1.3 billion (70% of funds)
U.S. Forest Service	\$5.2 billion	\$285 million (15% of funds)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$1.3 billion	\$95 million (5% of funds)
Bureau of Land Management	\$960 million	\$95 million (5% of funds)
Bureau of Indian Education	\$673.9 million	\$95 million (5% of funds)