



Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act Restore Our Parks Act H.R. 1225

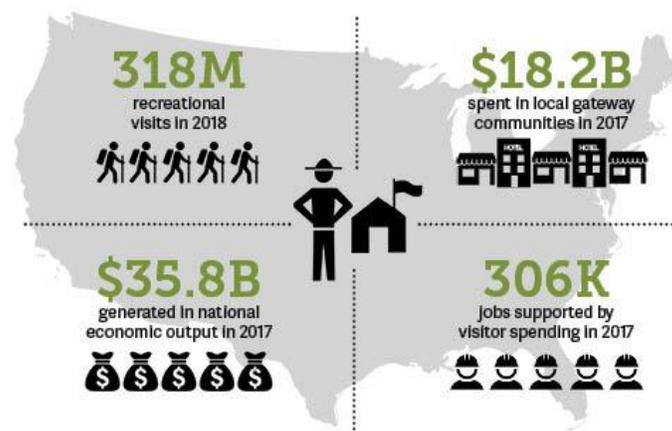
ISSUE OVERVIEW

The National Park Service (NPS) manages more than 400 national park units—iconic landscapes, historic and cultural sites, trails, military battlegrounds, monuments, and memorials—throughout the country.

As a result of aging facilities, strain on resources caused by increased visitation at many park units, and inconsistent annual funding, NPS has been unable to keep pace with park repairs. Based on 2018 data, the agency estimates it would cost nearly \$12 billion to address its maintenance backlog.

The Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act, bipartisan legislation introduced by Reps. Bishop (R-UT), Kilmer (D-WA), would direct dedicated annual federal funding to address national parks, Bureau of Land Management, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Indian Education deferred maintenance needs. The bill would help to preserve our nation’s history, recreation opportunities, and local communities that depend on park visitors to flourish.

Park Economics



Sources: NPS Visitor Use Statistics, Annual Summary Report 2017 and 2018 NPS visitation numbers.
2017 National Park Visitor Spending Effects: Economic Contributions to Local Communities, States, and the Nation.
Natural Resource Report NPS/NRSS/EQD/NRR-2018/1616

SPECIFIC LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

H.R. 1225 would:

- Establish a federal fund in the U.S. Treasury—named the “National Park Service and Public Lands Legacy Restoration Fund”—to address deferred maintenance within national park units, public lands, and Bureau of Indian Education schools.
- Direct 50% of unobligated mineral receipts (receipts from on-shore, off-shore, and renewable energy operations on federal lands and waters) to the Fund, up to \$1.3 billion per year for five years, for a possible total of \$6.5 billion.
- Distribute funds as follows:
 - 80% to the National Park Service (NPS)
 - 10% to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
 - 5% to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
 - 5% to the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), within the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to address school construction and maintenance.
- Allow for funds to be invested with any interest accrued to be returned to Fund.
- Allow monies to remain in Fund until expended.
- Prohibit allocated funds from being used for land acquisition or to replace discretionary funding for NPS facility operations and maintenance needs.
- Provide the Appropriations Committees an opportunity to review NPS’ deferred maintenance list.
- Encourage donations to be directed toward deferred maintenance efforts.

CURRENT STATUS

H.R. 1225 was introduced on February 14, 2019 and was referred to the House Natural Resources and House Education and Labor Committees. A similar Senate bill, S. 500 was introduced on February 14, 2019 and was referred to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

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