

The Restore Our Parks Act 2018 (S.3172)

Senators Portman (R-OH), Warner (D-VA), Alexander (R-TN) and King (I-ME) introduced the Restore Our Parks Act, S.3172, legislation that would address the multi-billion maintenance backlog plaguing the National Park Service. The bipartisan bill brings together the best components of the previously introduced National Park Service Legacy Act and the National Park Restoration Act.

The Restore Our Parks Act would:

- Establish a federal fund in the U.S. Treasury—named the “National Park Service Legacy Restoration Fund”—to draw down the national park maintenance backlog.
- Direct 50% of federal mineral revenues—such as royalties from on-shore and off-shore oil, gas, coal, and other mineral operations, as well as renewables—that are not already allocated by law to other programs, into the Fund.
- The Fund would be established for five years, from FY2019-FY2023, with annual revenue capped at \$1.3 billion.
- Provide for the following uses:
65% of the Fund would go toward the repair of non-transportation resources (historic structures, visitor facilities, trails, water utility systems, and assets that impact disability access, health and safety, access and recreation). 35% would be used to restore transportation-related assets (roads, bridges, and tunnels).
- Prohibit allocated funds from being used for land acquisition or from replacing discretionary funding for NPS facility operations and maintenance needs.
- Allow the Secretary of Treasury to invest the funds in a public debt security; any income from the investment would be returned to the Fund.
- Provides Appropriators opportunity to review NPS’ deferred maintenance list.
- Encourage public-private donations that go toward deferred maintenance projects.

CURRENT STATUS

S. 3172 was introduced on June 28, 2018 and was referred to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.