



## Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act Restore Our Parks Act H.R. 6510

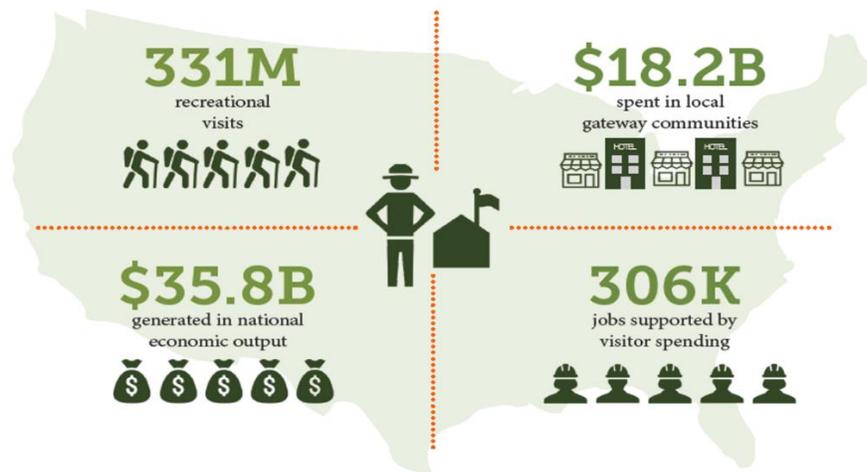
### ISSUE OVERVIEW

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 2017 data, the agency estimates it would cost \$11.6 billion to address its maintenance backlog.

The Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act, bipartisan legislation introduced by Reps. Bishop (R-UT), Grijalva (D-AZ), Simpson (R-ID), and Kilmer (D-WA) and nearly 50 additional original cosponsors, 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;  
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. 6510 would:**

- Establish a federal fund in the U.S. Treasury—named the “National Park Service and Public Lands Legacy Restoration Fund”—to draw down the national parks, public lands and Indian schools maintenance backlogs.
- Direct revenues from the on-shore, off-shore and renewable energy operations that are not already allocated by law to other programs.
- Direct 50% of these available, unobligated receipts per year to the Fund—up to \$1.3 billion a year with the following breakdown:
  - 80% to national parks maintenance backlog
    - 65% used for non-transportation projects—historic structures, visitor facilities, trails, water utility systems, and assets that impact disability access, health and safety and recreation.
    - 35% used for transportation projects--road, bridges, tunnels, for example.
  - Ten percent to United States Fish and Wildlife Service’s National Wildlife Refuges maintenance backlog.
  - Five percent to the Bureau of Land Management’s public access and recreation maintenance backlog.
  - Five percent to the Bureau of Indian Affairs’ Bureau of Indian Education’s school construction and maintenance backlog.
- 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. 6510 was introduced on July 25, 2018 and was referred to the House Natural Resources and House Transportation and Infrastructure Committees. A similar Senate companion, S. 3172 was introduced on June 28, 2018 and was referred to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

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