

# PARK FUNDING



Crater Lake National Park, Oregon.  
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## Are Our Parks Ready for Another Century?

The Centennial is an opportunity for Congress to leave a lasting legacy by ensuring the National Park System is adequately prepared to serve billions of visitors in the next century and beyond.

Coupled with increased annual funding for national park operations, maintenance and transportation funding, passage of a National Park Service Centennial Act would help relieve some of the funding shortfalls while enhancing visitors' park experiences.

## H.R. 4680 National Park Service Centennial Act

### Centennial of the National Park Service Provides Opportunity to Enhance Our National Parks and Their Visitor Programs

This year the National Park System celebrates a century of preserving exceptional examples of America's natural and scenic beauty, as well as places of historic and cultural importance. National parks are loved by Americans and people throughout the world and are economic generators for the local communities that surround them. However, in recent years budget cuts and insufficient funds have led to dilapidated facilities, unmaintained trails, fewer educational opportunities and reduced ranger and other staff positions.

The Centennial is an opportunity for Congress to ensure our national parks are better prepared to serve visitors for another century. **H.R. 4680, National Park Service Centennial Act**, would enhance our national parks and their visitor programs.

**The National Parks Second Century Action Coalition urges final passage of a bipartisan National Park Service Centennial Act.** Coupled with increased annual funding for national park operations, maintenance and transportation funding, passage of a bipartisan National Park Service Centennial Act would help relieve some of the funding shortfalls while enhancing visitors' park experiences. The coalition will continue to work with Congress to more directly address the nearly \$12 billion deferred maintenance backlog.

#### Key Provisions the National Park Service Centennial Act

##### National Park Centennial Challenge Fund

H.R. 4680 formally establishes a National Park Centennial Challenge Fund to finance signature construction, maintenance and education projects and programs by matching private contributions with federal dollars. Over the last two years, Congress has provided \$25 million for the Centennial Challenge through annual appropriations which successfully doubled that investment with private matches from foundations, universities, local governments, businesses, Friends groups, etc.

By authorizing a long-term Centennial Challenge Program with dedicated federal funding, the private sector can meaningfully invest in important Centennial initiatives and address maintenance and education needs in our national parks. The federal investment is generated from an increase in the lifetime senior pass and a new senior annual parks pass. Recent

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examples of projects can be found here: <http://www.nps.gov/subjects/centennial/nps-centennial-challenge-projects.htm>

## **Second Century Endowment for the National Park Service**

H.R. 4680 establishes an endowment for the National Park Service at the National Park Foundation. The endowment would consist of gifts, devises, bequests and revenue generated from new fees on lodging within units of the National Park System. A percent of the funds can be expended as necessary for projects and activities approved by the Secretary of the Interior that further the mission and purposes of the National Park Service.

## **National Park Service Interpretation and Education Authority**

H.R. 4680 provides clear authority and direction for National Park Service interpretation and education programs by consolidating a number of disparate authorities. The bill also directs the Secretary of the Interior to expand the availability and utilization of the highest quality interpretation and education programs and improve use of partner and volunteers.

## **Amends Public Land Corps**

H.R. 4680 raises the age limit for participation in the Public Lands Corps from 25 to 30. It also modifies the non-competitive hiring status to a former Public Land Corps member from the current 120 days after the member's service is completed to a period of up to two years.

## **Amends Volunteers In Parks Program**

H.R. 4680 lifts the authorization ceiling for the Volunteers in the Parks Program to \$10 million.

## **Amends the National Park Foundation**

H.R. 4680 modifies the roles of the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the National Park Service to ex officio members of the National Park Foundation board. It also authorize appropriations of \$25 million until 2023 for the National Park Foundation, and prohibits the use of these funds for administrative expenses of the Foundation.

## **Amends the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation**

H.R. 4680 adds the General Chairman of the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers as a new member of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and makes the position of the Chairman of the Council a full time position.

## **Changes to Concession Management Advisory Board**

Extends the National Park Service Concession Management Advisory Board until 2019.

**For more information: visit [npca.org/secondcenturyaction](http://npca.org/secondcenturyaction)  
Emily Douce, [edouce@npca.org](mailto:edouce@npca.org) or 202-419-3700**

*"I am looking forward to coming up with new tools and new sources of revenue that can be used by the Park Service going into the next 100 years."*

**Representative Rob Bishop (R-UT),  
Chair of Natural Resources Committee**

*"Essential to celebrating the centennial is also America's investment in its parks, a legacy that is 100 years and many of us, although we won't be around, would like to see that celebrated another 100 years from now with the proper direction and the proper investment of the part of Congress."*

**Representative Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ),  
Ranking Member of Natural Resources  
Committee**



Old Faithful Geyser, Yellowstone National Park  
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