

The National Park Service preserves America's natural and cultural treasures, attracting visitors from across the country and around the world. The national parks support more than 295,000 private-sector jobs and \$32 billion in economic activity annually. The 100th anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016 is an opportunity to leave a lasting legacy by preparing the National Park Service to serve domestic and international visitors for the next century.

Every dollar invested in the national parks yields nearly \$10 in economic activity. By restoring park operations and maintenance funding, launching the Centennial Challenge and reauthorizing recreational fee authority, we'll make strides in ensuring visitors a safe, enriching park experience.

## Restore Park Funding

The quality of the visitor experience depends on the capacity to keep parks open, trails maintained and visitor centers staffed. Budget cuts in recent years have shortened park hours, reduced the number of rangers and deferred park operations and maintenance. We need basic federal investment to protect park resources and the countless local economies that depend on them.

**REQUEST** Provide \$239 million for park operations and \$113 million for construction.

## Reinvest in Centennial Challenge

This bipartisan proposal incentivizes individuals, foundations and businesses to match federal funds to help restore and modernize our national parks. This approach, originated in the Bush Administration, has worked well in the past for specific park projects, generating \$50 million in private philanthropy. The Centennial Challenge would reauthorize this program for the upcoming 100th anniversary celebration.

**REQUEST** Authorize the Centennial Challenge to leverage federal dollars with private donations.

## Reauthorize Fee Authority

The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) authorizes the National Park Service to issue annual passes and charge entry fees. This revenue is essential to underwrite maintenance, education and law enforcement at individual parks. Unless FLREA is renewed, national parks will lose about \$180 million annually.

**REQUEST** Reauthorize FLREA allowing parks to assess and expend recreation fees.

## Reduce Transportation Backlog

The National Park System's roads, bridges, tunnels and transit services are in desperate need of repair. Transportation facilities located on or operating in national parks are federal facilities and depend on federal transportation funding. Because of chronic underfunding, transportation projects now comprise more than half of the nearly \$12 billion parks maintenance backlog.

**REQUEST** Increase funding to a level sufficient to address the transportation maintenance backlog.

More than 307 million people visit national parks each year. These federal parks will preserve our unparalleled natural and cultural resources—but only if we as a nation invest in their operation and maintenance for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of current and future generations.