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Secretary Bernhardt's Statement on the Expected Passage of the Great American Outdoors Act

EMBARGOED UNTIL PASSAGE OF THE GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOORS ACT BY THE US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON – The U.S. House of Representatives is expected to vote on the Senate Amendment to H.R. 1957, the Great American Outdoors Act, this afternoon. Please see the following statement from U.S. Secretary of the Interior David L. Bernhardt in anticipation of its passage:

“In March, President Trump called on Congress to stop kicking the can down the road, fix the aging infrastructure at our national parks and permanently fund conservation projects through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. He accomplished what previous Presidents have failed to do for decades, despite their lip service commitment to funding public land improvements.”

Background

On March 3, President Trump [tweeted](#): “I am calling on Congress to send me a Bill that fully and permanently funds the LWCF and restores our National Parks. When I sign it into law, it will be HISTORIC for our beautiful public lands. ALL thanks to [@SenCoryGardner](#) and [@SteveDaines](#), two GREAT Conservative Leaders!”

The Trump Administration continued to work with Congress to secure the passage of this landmark conservation legislation; an accomplishment previous Presidents have attempted to do and been unsuccessful.

The legislation will use royalties from offshore oil and gas drilling to provide up to \$1.9 billion a year for five years to repair critical facilities and infrastructure in our national parks, forests,

wildlife refuges, recreation areas and American Indian schools. It will also permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund to the tune of \$900 million a year to invest in conservation and recreation opportunities across the country.

Last year, the National Park Service [welcomed 327 million visitors](#) who generated an economic impact of more than \$41 billion and supported more than 340,000 jobs. Increasing popularity of our public lands has resulted in our national parks needing upgrades and improvements for more than 5,500 miles of paved roads, 17,000 miles of trails and 24,000 buildings.

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About the U.S. Department of the Interior

The Department of the Interior conserves and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people, provides scientific and other information about natural resources and natural hazards to address societal challenges and create opportunities for the American people, and honors the Nation's trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities to help them prosper.

