

H.R. 4680, “National Park Service Centennial Act”

H.R. 4680, “National Park Service Centennial Act,” introduced by Rep. Rob Bishop (UT-01), is a bipartisan bill that will prepare the National Park Service (NPS) for its Centennial in 2016 and for a second century of promoting and protecting our National Parks.

Maximizes Private Donations to the National Park Centennial Challenge Fund:

Establishes a Centennial Challenge Fund, which requires a \$1:\$1 federal to private match, for signature projects to help prepare the National Parks for the next century of public enjoyment. Last year, NPS leveraged the \$15 million appropriated to the fund to raise \$33 million from more than 90 park partners. The bill builds on this success by providing the fund with revenue from a new senior annual parks pass and a price increase for the senior lifetime pass.

Establishes a National Park Foundation Endowment:

Establishes a Second Century Endowment at the National Park Foundation that will grow over time through gifts and bequests, as well as from revenue generated by new fees on lodging within units of the National Park System.

Makes Necessary Changes to the National Park Foundation Structure:

Makes the Secretary of the Interior and the NPS Director ex-officio members of the National Park Foundation Board to ensure leadership continuity and authorizes annual appropriations of \$25 million for non-administrative purposes. This structure mirrors the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the National Forest Foundation.

Expands the Volunteers in Parks Program:

Increases the Volunteers in the Parks authorization ceiling from \$7 million to \$10 million to accommodate the funding needed to support the growing program.

Eliminates Barriers for Public Lands Corps Participants to Gain Federal Employment:

Raises the age limit for participation in the Public Lands Corps from 25 to 30, and changes the non-competitive hiring status for former Public Land Corps members from 120 days after the member’s service is completed to a period of up to two years.

Promotes Tribal Participation on the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation:

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 Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a full time position.

