

The Restore Our Parks Act (S. 3172)

Senators Portman (R-OH), Warner (D-VA), Alexander (R-TN) and King (I-ME) introduced the Restore Our Parks Act (S. 3172), legislation that would address the \$11.6 billion maintenance backlog of the National Park Service by providing reliable and dedicated annual federal funding. The bipartisan bill brings together the best components of the previously introduced National Park Service Legacy Act and the National Park Restoration Act.

The Restore Our Parks Act would:

- Establish a federal fund in the U.S. Treasury—named the “National Park Service Legacy Restoration Fund”—to draw down the national park maintenance backlog.
- Direct 50% of federal mineral revenues—such as royalties from on-shore and off-shore oil, gas, coal, and other mineral operations, as well as renewables—that are not already allocated by law to other programs, into the Fund.
- The Fund would be established for five years, from FY2019-FY2023, with annual revenue capped at \$1.3 billion.
- Provide parity between non-transportation and transportation-related repair projects:
 - 65% of the Fund would go toward the repair of non-transportation resources (historic structures, visitor facilities, trails, water utility systems, and assets that impact disability access, health and safety, access and recreation)
 - 35% would be used to restore transportation-related assets (roads, bridges, and tunnels).
- Allows money to remain in the Fund until expended; allows for funds to be invested in a public debt security with any interest accrued to be returned to the Fund.
- Prohibits funds from being used for land acquisition or from replacing discretionary funding for NPS facility operations and maintenance needs.
- Provides Appropriation Committees an opportunity to review the NPS’ deferred maintenance list.
- Encourages donations to be directed toward deferred maintenance projects.

CURRENT STATUS

S. 3172 was introduced on June 28, 2018 and was referred to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, followed by a hearing on Wednesday, July 11.