



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESIDENT TRUMP SET TO SIGN GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOORS ACT INTO LAW

Signing anticipated at 7:30 a.m., Tuesday, August 4, 2020

Seattle, WA, August 3, 2020: After years of disciplined work by members of both parties, President Trump is scheduled to sign the Great American Outdoors Act on Tuesday, August 4. Once signed, some of our national parks across the country will receive an infusion of funding to help offset the more than \$12 billion in deferred maintenance that has accumulated over the years. \$6.65 billion – or \$1.3 billion a year for five years – will begin having an impact. In addition, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which supports parks and lands on a statewide level, will be permanently funded in perpetuity.

Dan Evans, founding member of Washington's National Park Fund and former Governor and Senator, stated recently "Here in Washington State, we treasure our public lands. We also treasure our local parks, playgrounds, and trails. Thanks to those who voted in favor of the Great American Outdoors Act, both our national and local treasures are about to see a boost. A large portion of the deferred maintenance in our National Parks will now be funded. Communities statewide will have more and improved outdoor space for a variety of recreational use. Hats off to all who voted in favor and especially Congressman Derek Kilmer and Senator Maria Cantwell, both of whom helped to lead the charge!"

Funding to national parks will focus on infrastructure: Roads, bridges, drinking water, sewage treatment. The parks that are selected to receive funding will experience much needed improvements. While recipient parks have yet to be shared publicly, decisions will be made and announced over the upcoming months.

Washington's National Park Fund, the official philanthropic partner serving Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks exclusively, has played an important role in the efforts to bring this day forward. According to Marcia Argust, project director of The Pew Charitable Trusts' Restore America's Parks campaign, "Enactment of the Great American Outdoors Act is a big win for communities across the country. Our national parks are economic

engines for local towns and cities that depend on the \$21 billion that visitors spend each year, supporting small businesses and jobs. We commend Washington’s National Park Fund for its long-standing commitment to making this landmark legislation a reality, ensuring that national park sites will be properly maintained, accessible, and preserved for decades to come.”

While funding from the Great American Outdoors Act will help to fund infrastructure and deferred maintenance projects, Washington's National Park Fund will continue its ongoing support and focus on strengthening Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks programs and projects. Based out of Seattle, the Fund has donated more than \$7 million over the past several years to these three national parks.

Laurie Ward, CEO of Washington’s National Park Fund, stated recently “We have said all along that infrastructure and deferred maintenance is the responsibility of our federal government. We, on the other hand, infuse funding for park priority projects presented to us by park leadership. We fund science and research, volunteerism and stewardship, improving visitors’ experiences, and bringing more youth and families into the parks. We especially enjoy bringing youth and families who might not have the opportunity to experience the national parks even when the parks are right in their own backyards!”

Additional resources, links, and answers to frequently asked questions about the Great American Outdoors Act can be found on Washington's National Park Fund’s website: www.wnpf.org. For further details, contact Laurie Ward, CEO, at laurie@wnpf.org.

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For more information, check out Washington's National Park Fund website: www.wnpf.org or email fund@wnpf.org.

About Washington’s National Park Fund: Washington's National Park Fund (WNPF) is the official philanthropic partner serving Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks exclusively. These parks span more than 1.6 million acres of the Evergreen state. Annually, WNPF allocates monies to more than 75 otherwise unfunded projects with the goal of deepening the public’s love for, understanding of, and experiences in Washington’s National Parks. Get involved at www.wnpf.org