



AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL ACT



EXTENDING THE LEGACY RESTORATION FUND

WHAT COMES NEXT: AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

WHAT IS THE LEGACY RESTORATION FUND?

Established by the Great American Outdoors Act in 2020, the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund (LRF) is a historic investment in addressing deferred maintenance on public lands. The LRF was originally authorized at up to \$1.9 billion per year from 2021 to 2025, and is funded by revenues from energy projects on public lands.

As visitation to American public lands, including the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT), has increased dramatically over the past decades, funding for land management agencies has remained stagnant. Paired with an increasing number of sites to manage, this has left land management agencies struggling to maintain facilities such as campsites, trails, and visitor centers.

The original round of funding authorized for the LRF under GAOA is set to expire in 2025. While the impacts of the first round of funding have been huge, the funding has only made a small dent in the growing deferred maintenance needs on public lands nationwide:

\$2.4 billion allocated under the LRF as of
March 2024

➤ **More than \$23 billion** still needed to
address deferred maintenance on public
lands

A bipartisan group of senators, including Montana Senator Steve Daines, recently introduced the America the Beautiful Act. This bill would build on the historic investment in public lands made in the Great American Outdoors Act by extending the Legacy Restoration Fund for an additional eight years, through 2033, and increasing authorization to \$2 billion per year. By investing an additional \$16 billion towards deferred maintenance on our public lands, this bill will make outdoor recreation safer, more enjoyable, and more accessible!

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR THE CDT

The US Forest Service CDT Program has applied for \$4.8 million under the LRF to address deferred maintenance on the CDT in New Mexico, Colorado, and Wyoming. CDTC has committed to providing another \$2 million in matched funds over the course of that potential investment, totaling an investment of \$6.8 million. Pending passage of the Congressional budget, CDTC is excited to work with the Forest Service on projects that improve the CDT experience, like clearing downed trees or building new connector trails.

The America the Beautiful Act would ensure that projects like these continue to be possible, working towards the goal of eliminating deferred maintenance on public lands. The America the Beautiful Act is not only an investment in public lands like the CDT, it is also fundamentally an investment in the communities that care for, support, and enjoy the CDT and public lands.

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