

House Natural Resources Committee
Field Hearing 09.05.2025
Sen. Daines Statement for the Record

Mr. Chairman, thank you for allowing me to speak on legacy of the Great American Outdoors Act and my bipartisan America the Beautiful Act and thank you for convening this hearing to celebrate our National Parks ahead of America's 250th birthday.

The Great American Outdoors Act was one of the greatest conservation victories in the last 50 years. Republicans and Democrats came together to pass a historic bill that invests in our parks, public lands, and outdoor recreation economies and permanently funds the Land and Water Conservation program.

Passage of the Great American Outdoors Act in 2020 was a huge win for Montana and for America and has helped address the maintenance backlog within the national park system. It continues to be a longstanding legacy of President Trump.

The Great American Outdoors Act has successfully leveraged revenues generated on our public lands and waters from oil and gas development and reinvested them back into restoring those same public lands. Now, five years later since President Trump signed this historic bill, the National Parks and Public Lands Legacy Restoration Fund needs to be reauthorized in order to continue improving and maintaining our national parks. My bill seeks to do just that.

The America the Beautiful Act, led by me and Senator King, is a bipartisan bill that reauthorizes and improves the Legacy Restoration Fund through 2033. It includes more accountability to Congress with new report language, reduces the maintenance backlog by removing unneeded constructed assets, and increases public engagement by prioritizing projects with a 15% match and leveraging public donations to the fund.

Now is the time to strengthen and reauthorize the Legacy Restoration Fund. Now is the time to get a bipartisan bill to President Trump's desk.

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I want to thank Chairman Westerman and the Natural Resources Committee for being here today to examine how we can improve our beloved national parks. I look forward to working with my colleagues in both the House and Senate to protect our outdoor way of life for generations to come.