

LWCF PERMANENT FUNDING – Action Needed!



Per our discussion at SCRCC last night, here is info regarding the LWCF Permanent Funding Act. Now it has been combined with the bill to fund the maintenance backlog on federal lands. It's on a fast track in Congress. The President wants it done. I am working with conservative movement leaders on amendments to pull out as much bad junk as possible. – Jennifer Fielder

[S. 3422](#) - **Great American Outdoors Act**, was introduced 3/09/2020 by Senator Cory Gardner (R-Colo.) with 54 original co-sponsors, including 14 Republicans.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3422/>

Sponsor: **Sen. Gardner, Cory [R-CO]** (Introduced 03/09/2020)

Latest Action: Senate - 03/09/2020 Introduced in the Senate. Read the first time. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under Read the First Time. (All Actions)

Titles: **S.3422 — 116th Congress (2019-2020)** [All Information](#) (Except Text)

Great American Outdoors Act

A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish, fund, and provide for the use of amounts in a National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund to address the maintenance backlog of the National Park Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Indian Education, and to provide permanent, dedicated funding for the [Land and Water Conservation Fund](#), and for other purposes.

Co-Sponsors

(Those in Western States highlighted)

Sen. Manchin, Joe, III [D-WV]

Sen. Portman, Rob [R-OH]

Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT]

Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]

Sen. Warner, Mark R. [D-VA]

Sen. Alexander, Lamar [R-TN]

Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]

Sen. Burr, Richard [R-NC]

Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]

Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]

Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM]

Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]

Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]

Sen. Blunt, Roy [R-MO]

Sen. Harris, Kamala D. [D-CA]

Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV]

Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]

Sen. Tillis, Thom [R-NC]

Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]

Sen. McSally, Martha [R-AZ]

Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]

Sen. Graham, Lindsey [R-SC]

Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]

Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]

Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]

Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]

Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]

Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV]

Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]

Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]

Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]

Sen. Sinema, Kyrsten [D-AZ]

Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV]

Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]

Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]

Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]

Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]

Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]

Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]

Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]

Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]

Sen. Jones, Doug [D-AL]

Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]

Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]

Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]

Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]

Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]

Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]

Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]

Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]

Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]

Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]

Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]

Sen. McConnell, Mitch [R-KY]



PLEASE NOTE: Here in our Western States where we will be most impacted, one Republican Senator in sponsor of the bill - Cory Gardner [R-CO] - and two Republican Senators are co-sponsors: Senator Steve Daines [R-MT] and Sen. McSally, Martha [R-AZ].

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Comment by Lark Chadwick | March 13, 2020

Here is another “Fun Fact” showing how out of control the LWCF federal land grabs are already.

I am still fuming over the USFS' abuse of LWCF monies: 54 USC 200306(a)(2)(B)(iii): Limitation.—Except for areas specifically authorized by Act of Congress, not more than 15 percent of the acreage added to the National Forest System pursuant to this section shall be west of the 100th meridian.

In a GAO report, they studied all of the USFS LWCF acquisitions excluding congressionally designated areas between 2014-2018, and determined that 76% of the lands acquired were west of the 100th meridian, or a statutory exceedance of 61%, for a total of 93,498 acres. The years broken down in percentages: 2014= 92%, 2015= 64%; 2016= 60%; 2017= 46%; and 2018= 77%. USFS officials told the GAO that Congress has continued to approve their proposed list of land acquisition projects each year during the appropriations process, so they assumed that they were in compliance.

Sen. Murkowski, who asked for the report, basically said, *Well, don't do that again.*

I think an amendment is in order to attempt to rectify these prior "thefts" and to note that Congress must be only be sent a list of projects that does not violate the above USC.

I have emailed the USFS DC LWCF lead contact as to how their website might soon reflect this qualifier when accepting projects. No response yet.

Contact Sen Daines Office [Sen. Daines, Steve \[R-MT\]*](#) and Sen Tester [Sen. Tester, Jon \[D-MT\]*](#) and tell them to OPPOSE Permanent Reauthorization of LWCF and its irresponsible, out-of-control federal land grabs! Montana knows how to care for the lands and resources in our State far better than WA DC does, yet they keep giving more and more of our beloved Montana away to Washington DC!