



Staff Report

For City Council Meeting - 03/06/2019

Subject - Resolution in support for the national park system.

Synopsis: Message from Lindsay Huddleston:

My name is Lindsay Huddleston and I am working here in Oregon with the Restore America's Parks Campaign to ensure that our national parks and monuments have the resources they need to stay open, safe and accessible for the millions of people that visit them here in Oregon and across the country every year.

As you know, Oregon's national parks and monuments--from Crater Lake, to Oregon Caves, to John Day Fossil Beds, to Lewis and Clark--are a significant draw for visitors. These natural and historic treasures generate significant economic activity for businesses and communities in close proximity to these sites, and throughout the state.

According to the National Park Service (NPS), Crater Lake is responsible for over \$65 million in visitor spending in gateway communities; that spending, in turn, supports over 1,000 local jobs.

Resources are required to keep these parks open and safe for visitors, but they are struggling to keep up with maintenance needs due to aging infrastructure, increased wear and tear from increased visitation, and inconsistent federal funding. NPS is facing an infrastructure maintenance crisis with over \$11 billion in deferred maintenance costs. **Oregon NPS assets alone are dealing with a \$105 million deferred maintenance backlog.**

For the longevity of the parks and the communities they benefit, this is an issue that must be addressed. Congress should prioritize the creation of a reliable, predictable stream of resources to address deferred maintenance needs in America's National ParkSystem.

As you will see in the attached list, cities and counties from around the country who recognize the important economic role national parks play in local economies have passed resolutions in support of addressing the deferred maintenance problem in our national parks. Here in Oregon so far, Astoria, Cave Junction, Grants Pass, Klamath Falls, Medford, Warrenton, Clatsop County, Josephine County and Klamath County have passed resolutions in support. **I hope Gearhart City Council will consider doing the same.**

I have attached a resolution draft to this email that I hope can serve as a jumping off point for a possible resolution from your body. Feel free to make any changes you see necessary.

Please let me know if you have any questions. We are hoping a resolution might be possible in the coming weeks and are happy to do what it takes to help make that happen.

Thank you so much for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

All the best,

Lindsay Huddleston
lhuddleston@hilltoppublicsolutions.com
256-874-4838

Council Options: The Council has the following options regarding this issue.

- 1) Motion to make the resolution.
- 2) Take other action desired by the Council.
- 3) Do nothing.

Recommended Motion: None

Legal Analysis: Council has the ability to make such a proclamation.

Financial Analysis: None

Respectfully submitted,



Chad



RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

WHEREAS, America's National Park System is a living testament to our citizens' valor, our nation's hardships, our victories, and our traditions as Americans, and has been called "America's Best Idea," and

WHEREAS, the National Park System preserves the diversity, culture, and heritage of all Americans, and serves as a living classroom for future generations; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the National Park Service celebrated its centennial and currently manages more than 400 nationally significant sites and an invaluable collection of more than 75,000 natural and cultural assets that span 84 million acres across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and several U.S. territories and insular areas; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service's mission is to "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations;" and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the National Park System had more than 307 million visits; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, National Park Service estimates indicate that park visitors spent more than \$16.9 billion at the sites and in the states and local communities adjacent to national parks; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service has the obligation to preserve our nation's history; promote access to national parks for all citizens; stimulate revenue to sustain itself and nearby communities; educate the public about America's natural, cultural and historical resources, and provide safe facilities and environs to enjoy these resources; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the National Park Service estimated a deferred maintenance backlog of nearly \$12 billion, which includes repairs to aging historical structures, trails, sewers, drainage, thousands of miles of roads, bridges, tunnels, and other vital infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of Congress to maintain America's national parks to ensure our natural places and our history is preserved and documented for future generations, and for the adjacent communities that rely on the direct and indirect economic benefits generated by visits to national park sites.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the CITY OF Gearhart strongly encourages Congress to create a reliable, predictable stream of resources to address deferred maintenance needs in America's National Park System.

ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL THIS 6TH DAY OF MARCH 2019.

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR THIS 6TH DAY OF MARCH 2019.

_____ Mayor

ATTEST:

_____ City Administrator

Restoring America's National Parks

OREGON

Oregon enjoys the economic, recreational, and cultural benefits of the National Park System, which includes six park units in the state.

National park sites in Oregon are part of a system that encompasses 84 million acres across the country. Established by Congress in 1916, the National Park Service (NPS) manages and maintains more than 400 nationally significant sites in all 50 states and several territories. National parks are a mosaic of wild landscapes, historic and cultural sites, scenic byways, trails, military parks, and monuments that celebrate and commemorate remarkable people and America's heritage.

Unfortunately, 100 years after its creation, NPS is struggling to maintain many of its facilities. The agency currently faces a deferred maintenance backlog that is estimated to be \$11.3 billion based on FY2016 data.

Why is there Deferred Maintenance?

- Aging infrastructure: many park facilities and systems are 50-70 years old and need updating
- Record visitation—approximately 331 million visitors in 2016—causes wear and tear on resources
- Unreliable funding for deferred maintenance.

What is Deferred Maintenance?

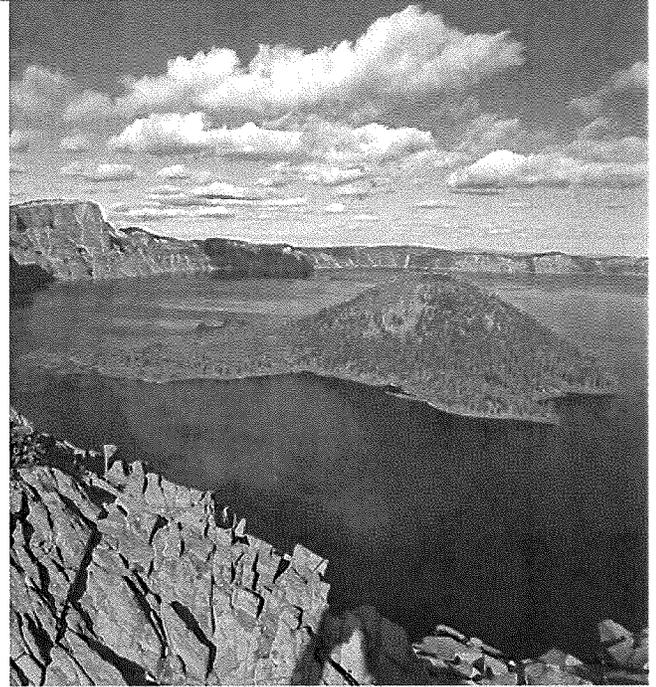
Deferred maintenance is work that is not completed at required intervals to ensure acceptable facility conditions. If work is delayed for more than a year it is typically considered deferred. Examples of repairs include:

- Crumbling roads and bridges
- Unsound buildings, including historic structures
- Outdated wastewater and electrical systems
- Neglected military sites
- Deteriorating monuments and memorials

National Parks in Oregon

In 2016, over 1 million visitors enjoyed national parks in Oregon. From Oregon Caves to Fort Vancouver, Oregon saw \$97.5 million spent in gateway communities. That spending supported 1,640 jobs and added a cumulative benefit of \$138.4 million to the state economy – money that helps businesses, schools, and families.

Despite the importance of national parks to Oregon's economy, they need more than \$105 million in infrastructure repairs. To keep national parks in Oregon strong and vibrant, and to capture the benefits they provide to the state, restoration must be a priority.



NPS Deferred Maintenance in Oregon - FY2016

Crater Lake National Park	\$ 85,318,818
Fort Vancouver National Historic Site	\$ 528,524
John Day Fossil Beds National Monument	\$ 1,565,383
Lewis and Clark Historical Park	\$ 2,515,096
Nez Perce National Historical Park	\$ 144,281
Oregon Caves National Monument	\$ 15,435,755
Total.....	\$ 105,507,876

Questions? Contact Us.

Colin Cochran
ccochran@hilltoppublicsolutions.com

Jake Weigler
jweigler@hilltoppublicsolutions.com

Rebecca Knuffke
rknuffke@pewtrusts.org

Geoffrey Brown
gbrown@pewtrusts.org

Why Address Deferred Maintenance?

- **Preservation:** We need to ensure care of our nation's historic and cultural resources.
- **Access:** Without working roads and trails, visitors can't enjoy all our park resources.
- **Revenue:** Local communities are dependent on park-generated tourism dollars.
- **Kids:** Maintaining our national parks is a responsibility Congress owes to future generations.
- **Safety:** Aging infrastructure and building code issues need to be addressed so visitors are provided a safe experience.
- **Cost Savings:** Repairing and updating park facilities can provide significant cost savings to tax payers.

Proven Economic Boosters

- Parks are a top travel destination in the U.S.
- There were an estimated 331 million visits to the national parks in 2016.
- In 2016, park visitors spent an estimated \$18.4 billion in nearby communities and a collective \$34.9 billion boost to the national economy. That spending supported 318,000 jobs (2016 data).



Photo (above): NPS needs \$2.5 million to address deferred maintenance needs on trails at John Day Fossil Beds National Monument. (NPS Photo).

From sites that are culturally important to Native American tribes or that honor those who served in our military, to parks that commemorate painful aspects of the Civil War, Japanese internment, or the Civil Rights movement, our National Park System documents our nation's diverse and evolving history.

Congress has a responsibility to ensure the NPS has the resources needed to maintain park infrastructure, so future generations can enjoy and learn from our national treasures.

Solutions

To address deferred maintenance at NPS sites across the country, Congress should:

- Ensure that infrastructure initiatives include provisions to address park maintenance.
- Provide dedicated annual federal funding for national park repairs.
- Enact innovative policy reforms to ensure that deferred maintenance does not escalate.
- Provide more highway funding for NPS maintenance needs.
- Create more opportunities for public-private collaboration and donations to help restore park infrastructure.

You Can Help

Ask your federal representatives to support dedicated federal funding and an infrastructure proposal that addresses the deferred maintenance needs within the National Park System.

Contact your senators, Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, at senate.gov. To contact your congressman, visit house.gov and enter your zip code.



The Pew Charitable Trusts is driven by the power of knowledge to solve today's most challenging problems. Pew applies a rigorous, analytical approach to improve public policy, inform the public, and invigorate civic life.

Restore Our Parks Act (S.3172) and Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act (H.R. 6510)
Endorser List

The following groups support S. 3172 and H.R. 6510, which establishes a fund in the U.S. Treasury to direct dedicated monies each year to draw down the National Park Service deferred maintenance backlog and helps to protect our park treasures and create jobs.

The Pew Charitable Trusts
National Parks Conservation Association
National Trust for Historic Preservation
U.S. Travel Association
National Association of Counties
American Council of Engineering Companies
American Society of Civil Engineers
American Planning Association
Outdoor Industry Association
The Conservation Alliance
The Mission Continues
Public Lands Alliance
Vista Outdoor
Coalition to Protect America's National Parks
Southeast Tourism Society
The Corps Network
RV Industry Association
Land Improvement Contractors of America
Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute
American Forests
American Hiking Society
International Inbound Travel Association
National Park Hospitality Association
Asian American Hotel Owners Association
Student Conservation Association
United States Tour Operators Association
Western States Tourism Policy Council
National Association of Women in Construction
American Segmental Bridge Institute
Outdoor Research
American Foundry Society
REI
American Mountain Guides Association
The Chickasaw Nation
Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians
National Asphalt Pavement Association
The Associated General Contractors of America

State/Local

New Mexico Business Coalition
Friends of Acadia
Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Atomic Heritage Foundation
Friends of Fort McHenry
Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park
The Shenandoah National Park Trust
Timucuan Parks Foundation
Voyageurs National Park Association
Washington's National Park Fund
Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts
Orange County Taxpayers Association
Montana Contractors' Association
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Conservation Northwest
Dade Historic Trust
Maine State Chamber of Commerce
Maine Tourism Association
Maine Innkeepers Association
Maine Restaurant Association
Michigan Bed and Breakfast Association
Alger County Chamber of Commerce
Greater Munising Bay Partnership for Commerce Development
Munising Downtown Development Authority
Raton Chamber of Commerce
Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park
Dayton Development Coalition
Ohio Cast Metals Association
Associated Builders and Contractors - Northern Ohio Chapter
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 48
United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 555
Visit Bend
Central Oregon LandWatch
Columbia Pacific Building Trades
Texas Society of Architects
Associated Heating-Plumbing-Cooling Contractors of Texas
Washington's National Park Fund
Washington Wild
Ice Age Trail Alliance
Wisconsin Counties Association
Friends of the Mississippi River

Recreation Northwest
Washington Trust for Historic Preservation
American Society of Landscape Architects - Florida
Pacific NW Regional Council of Carpenters
Orange County Business Council
North Orange Council Chamber of Commerce
Washington Trails Association
California Asphalt Pavement Association