



### The Bipartisan Great American Outdoors Act

Senator Daines introduced the bipartisan “Great American Outdoors Act” (GAOA) which makes a critical investment in our public lands and recreation economy at a time when it’s needed most. Senator Daines, known as the “Conservative Conservationist,” introduced the bill after meeting with President Trump and getting commitment for it to be signed into law. The bipartisan bill is one of the most historic conservation wins in recent history.

#### Addresses the Maintenance Backlog Plaguing our National Parks and Public Lands:

Senator Daines believes our national parks and public lands are what set us apart from the rest of the world. The GAOA makes a substantial down payment on our national parks and public land’s \$20 billion maintenance backlog. This investment will:

- **Create Jobs:** Investing in restoring National Park sites could generate nearly 110,000 additional infrastructure related jobs at a time when our economy is hurting.
- **Support Gateway and Rural Communities:** Nearby communities depend on public lands infrastructure for their own transportation and connectivity.
- **Enhance Visitor Experience:** Over 325 million Americans visit our parks each year. Dilapidated infrastructure has compromised visitor’s experience and safety. This will provide funding to restore our treasured parks to sustain increased visitation experienced in the last few years.

#### Provides Full, Mandatory Funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF):

The GAOA builds on the momentum of last year’s permanent authorization of LWCF also championed by Senator Daines and will provide full, mandatory funding of LWCF at \$900 million. Securing full, mandatory funding for LWCF will:

- **Invest in Montana’s Outdoor Economy, Create Jobs:** Outdoor recreation contributes \$7.1 billion to MT’s economy and supports 71,000 jobs. 81% of Montanans participate in outdoor recreation each year. Every \$1 million invested in LWCF will create between 16-30 jobs.
- **Enhance Public Access:** LWCF projects maximize public access. Over 70% of fishing access in Montana was achieved through LWCF projects.
- **Cost the Taxpayers nothing & Promote Energy Development:** LWCF is primarily funded by oil and gas revenue making conservation inextricably linked to a strong energy sector. This also means that LWCF is already paid for.
- **Provide Certainty to Land Managers, Sportsmen and Conservation Groups:** LWCF has been historically underfunded, creating uncertainty for land owners, non-profits, and federal land managers.
- **Address Checkerboard Landownership Patterns:** Approximately 1.6 million acres of public lands in in Montana are currently inaccessible to the public. LWCF projects help to consolidate public land enhancing access and overall management.
- **Support Locally-Driven, Ground-Up Solutions:** LWCF projects are ground-up, collaborative projects that always have local support.