



Steve Moyer
Vice President of Government Affairs

June 8, 2020

RE: Support for S. 3422, the Great American Outdoors Act

Dear Senator:

On behalf of our 300,000 members and supporters across the country, Trout Unlimited (TU) writes in strong support of S. 3422, the Great American Outdoors Act.

S. 3422 is sponsored by Senator Cory Gardner and has the backing of fifty-eight bipartisan cosponsors from across the nation. The bill supports investments in our hunting and fishing traditions by providing full, dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and robust funding to address the maintenance backlog for all public land management agencies.

TU has long advocated for LWCF, our country's premier program to fund public access, fish and wildlife conservation and outdoor recreation. In addition to LWCF, we strongly support the bill's provision to include \$9.5 billion in funding over five years to tackle the deferred maintenance backlog for all public land management agencies.

TU often partners with the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Park Service, and Fish and Wildlife Service on collaborative restoration projects. For instance, in recent years we have leveraged nearly \$43 million in funding to complete restoration projects on Forest Service lands alone. Much of this work has included projects that address maintenance backlogs while improving and restoring trout habitat. Additional funding provided by S. 3422 will be leveraged with state and private sources to maximize the return on investment for these dollars.

Lastly, we oppose amendments that would fundamentally alter the compromise that was struck as part of S. 47, the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act. S. 47 included reforms to LWCF that ensured Senate passage with ninety-two votes in support of the bill. The question now before Congress is not whether the program needs further changes – it doesn't. The question is whether Congress will provide this wildly popular program with full, dedicated funding moving forward.

We hope that you will join us in supporting the Great American Outdoors Act and help ensure a bright future for our outdoor traditions.

Sincerely,

Steve Moyer
Vice President, Government Affairs
Trout Unlimited