



INFLATION REDUCTION ACT

Preparing Oregon Parks for the Future

Photo: Wildfire Destruction Crater Lake National Park

National parks are experiencing more record-setting floods, fires, droughts and disease each year. Irreplaceable objects of cultural significance are at risk of disappearing, and the natural world, which draws millions of visitors who contribute significantly to local economies, is changing.

Work has begun to help parks prepare for the impacts from climate change they cannot avoid. The Inflation Reduction Act is one important source of funding that helps parks plan for hotter temperatures and extreme storms. Currently 100% of the park service's IRA funds have been planned, scheduled and announced across 78 projects. However, nearly twice as many projects were proposed than could be funded with the park service's IRA funding.

These investments support parks and secure the natural heritage of these treasured landscapes for future park visitors. They leverage collaborative approaches through partnerships with youth, conservation organizations and Indigenous communities and work to foster community engagement while ensuring these resources exist for future generations.

Develop Treatments for Cultural Resources Threatened by Wildland Fire at Pacific West Parks

OR NPS Sites: Crater Lake National Park, Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve

Project Type: Resilience-Cultural Resources at Risk

Investment: \$1.4M

Increasing frequencies of wildfires and threats to cultural resources put America's historic places, artifacts, and cultural resources at risk of being lost altogether. This project works to combat these threats by leveraging data and surveys to identify and prioritize sites most at risk and develop strategies to develop, integrate, and implement fire management plans by completing wildfire risk assessments. A key component of this project includes the creation of a cultural resource predictive model and targeted surveys that will enhance the resilience of these invaluable cultural sites. Crater Lake alone saw three wildfires across two years that resulted in significant smoke which forced the closure of dozens of trails within the park impacting visitation and access to the park while cultural resources were greatly threatened. By prioritizing the preservation of our cultural heritage through innovative, data-driven approaches, the NPS not only protects these historic resources but also reinforces the importance of community involvement and traditional ecological practices in addressing climate change impacts.

Restore Shortgrass Prairie, Sagebrush, & Mesquite Bosque Ecosystems in 6 IMR and PWR parks

OR NPS Sites: John Day Fossil Beds National Monument

Project Type: Restoration-Restore Priority Imperiled Systems

Investment: \$1.8M

Western U.S. ecosystems have faced severe declines due to agricultural land conversion, development pressures, frequent fires, and invasive species, leading to reduced habitat connectivity, diminished soil productivity, and compromised hydrologic functions. This project will develop and implement targeted restoration plans for six specific parks, integrating Traditional Ecological Knowledge with contemporary scientific insights in alignment with the National Seed Strategy. Key components include establishing a multi-park restoration working group, executing on-the-ground restoration activities, treating invasive plants, generating native seeds, and conducting extensive planting efforts, all while collaborating with youth programs and Tribal partners to promote knowledge-sharing. This initiative promises to enhance habitat connectivity and resilience, support pollinators and wildlife, and improve soil and hydrologic functions, ultimately contributing to the long-term health of these ecosystems. By fostering a new generation of environmental stewards and grounding restoration efforts in both scientific and traditional knowledge, the NPS aims to make significant strides in reversing ecological damage across western U.S. parks.



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