

Great American Outdoors Act  
Open House for Tribes & THPOs

April 2021



# Speakers

- **Dorothy FireCloud**, Native American Affairs Liaison, Assistant to the Director
- **Bethany Barron**, Park Planning, Facilities, and Lands GAOA Program Manager
- **Joel Lynch**, Chief of State and Local Assistance Programs Division
- **Joy Beasley**, Associate Director, Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Science

## *On the call~*

- Mike Caldwell, Acting Associate Director, Park Planning, Facilities and Lands
- Reggie Chapple, Acting Assistant Director, Partnerships & Civic Engagement
- Kirsten Kulis, NPS Liaison to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- Jennifer Talken-Spaulding, Bureau Cultural Anthropologist

# Agenda

- Welcome / introductions
- Great American Outdoors Act
  - Land and Water Conservation Fund
  - Legacy Restoration Fund
- Strategic Facility Planning
- Tribal Engagement
- What's Next
- Your Questions



*Roof replacement at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial*

# Great American Outdoors Act



*Going to the Sun Road at Glacier National Park*



# Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA)

- Signed into law on August 4, 2020
- Legacy Restoration Fund (LRF)
  - Deferred maintenance and related deficiencies
  - Up to \$1.9 billion annually for five years
  - NPS share is 70%
- Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
  - Federal land acquisition and State conservation grants
  - \$900 million annually, permanently
  - NPS share will vary



*Dam repair at the C&O Canal National Historical Park*



# Land and Water Conservation Fund

# Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

GAOA provides permanent full funding up to \$900 million/year.



LWCF is the sole source of funding in the NPS for:

- **Federal** land acquisition within the authorized boundaries of NPS units to protect resources and provide for visitor use and enjoyment
- Matching **grants to States and through State to local governments** for acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities
- Matching grants to State and local governments for acquisition of eligible battlefield lands and for interpretation and restoration under the **American Battlefield Protection Program**



# Land and Water Conservation Fund – Federal Acquisition

NPS has identified 1.6 million acres of privately-owned land, estimated at \$2B, within its unit boundaries for protection through acquisition. Prior to GAOA, on average < 5% of this need was appropriated each fiscal year.

## The **Land Acquisition Ranking System (LARS)**:

- Used to identify and analyze service-wide acquisition priorities for funding since 2001
- Is refined on an annual basis and currently used for the President’s Budget process
- Provides the structure for review and ranking at regional and national levels to determine a national priority list
- Includes criteria: threat to the resource, preservation of the resource, visitor use facility accommodation, commitment to acquire, involvement of partners and non-profit groups, continuation of ongoing effort, recreational opportunities, hardship of the owner, existence of legislative authority, ability to obligate funds, regional priority of the request, Congressional and local support, impact to operation and maintenance of the unit, economic escalation factors, and the type of unit making the request

GAOA LWCF project descriptions: <https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/fy21-lwcf-projects-nps-usfws.pdf>



# LWCF – Federal Acquisition Backlog



Total Estimated Acres: 1.6 M | Total Estimated Value: \$2,083 M

Park Type & Park Unit Tracts	Tracts	Backlog Acres	Estimated Value
Ecological & Historic Preserve	49	13,890	\$23,000 K
Memorial Parkway / Parkway	578	10,323	\$29,500 K
National Battlefield / National Battlefield Park	523	7,010	\$65,350 K
National Historic Site / National Historic Park / National Historic Trail / National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve / National Historical Park and Preserve / National Historical Reserve	1,217	33,891	\$241,035 K
National Memorial / National Monument / National Monument & Preserve	181	17,389	\$38,710 K
National Military Park	198	11,850	\$52,219 K
National Park & Preserve / National Preserve / National Reserve	1,001	1,237,565	\$473,889 K
National Park / Park	5,493	181,962	\$685,336 K
National Recreation Area	802	23,087	\$259,315 K
National Recreational River / National River / National River & Recreation Area / National Scenic River / National Scenic Riverway / National Scenic Riverways / Scenic & Recreational River / Wild & Scenic River / Wild River	1,357	35,284	\$66,750 K
National Scenic Trail	82	7,513	\$20,676 K
National Seashore / National Lakeshore	481	16,266	\$127,576 K
<b>Backlog Total</b>	<b>11,962</b>	<b>1,596,030</b>	<b>\$2,083,357 K</b>



# LWCF – State Conservation Grants

- Provides 50:50 cost-sharing grants to the States (and through them to local governments) for State selected acquisition, development and planning (state only) of needed public outdoor recreation
- States must prepare and keep current a 5-year Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) to identify recreation needs and priorities
- Grant process starts with State LWCF Program Offices found <http://www.nps.gov/lwcf/>

## Formula grants

- Funding derived from LWCF allocation and mandatory revenues from Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) of 2006
- Funds are apportioned to States based on formula and are available for up to three fiscal years
- States run internal competitions to select projects; NPS reviews them to ensure appropriateness and approves

## Competitive grants

- Funding derived from separate LWCF allocation
- Funds are apportioned following nationwide competitive process
- Focus on past years has been on underserved urban areas



# LWCF – American Battlefield Protection Program

- Provides 50:50 cost-sharing grants to States, Tribes, local governments and nonprofit organizations for preservation of eligible battlefield lands through acquisition, interpretation and restoration projects
- Eligible Civil War, American Revolutionary War, and War of 1812 sites identified in two Congressionally authorized reports

Funding derived from LWCF appropriation for three competitive grant opportunities:

- **Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants:** awarded on a rolling basis to State and local governments for acquisition of fee-simple or permanent, protective (easement) interest in eligible lands
- **Battlefield Interpretation Grants** (*newly authorized*): awarded annually to States, Tribes, local governments and nonprofit organizations for interpretation and modernization projects for eligible sites
- **Battlefield Restoration Grants** (*newly authorized*): awarded annually to States, Tribes, local governments and nonprofit organizations for restoration of eligible sites to “day-of-battle” conditions

# Legacy Restoration Fund



*Rehabilitation of the Terreplein Plaza, Statue of Liberty National Monument*

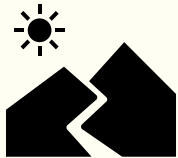
# Legacy Restoration Fund Summary



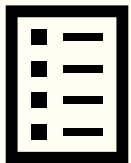
LRF to provide NPS with up to \$6.5B over 5 years (70% of total LRF funding); funds to be used for priority deferred maintenance projects



Assets defined as real property, physical structure or grouping, landscape, trail, tangible property with a specific service or function tracked and managed as distinct, identifiable entity



Transportation Projects (including roads, bridges, tunnels, and paved parking areas) can not exceed more than **35%** of the fund



## Other Requirements and Allowances

- Expenditures must incorporate measures to improve accessibility
- Public Donations: Secretary can accept cash or in-kind donations that advance efforts
- GAO Study after 5 years



# NPS LRF Investment Strategy



NPS's strategy seeks to achieve the most **significant impact**.

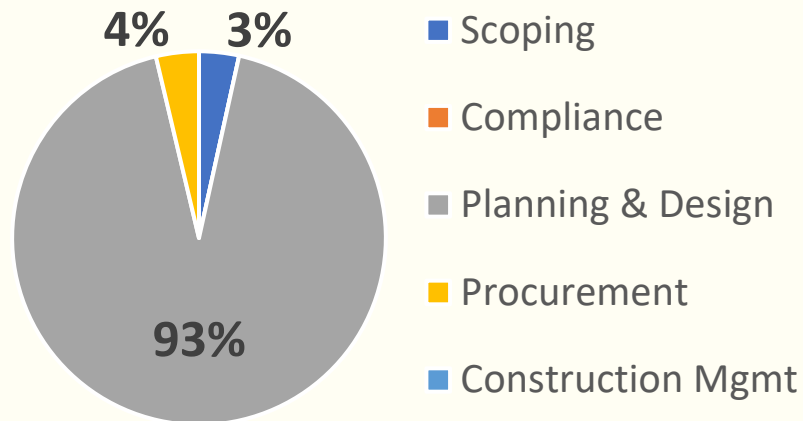
- Parks with large asset portfolios have the largest maintenance and repair backlog needs (e.g., 80% of the Servicewide deferred maintenance backlog is attributed to 56 park units).
- Funding of this magnitude allows NPS to invest in projects that generally exceed the capabilities of existing fund sources.
- Managing fewer larger projects (e.g., projects greater than \$10M) optimizes the efficiency of execution and limits overhead costs.
- NPS committed to making sustainable investments through LRF in order to avoid cycles of rehabilitation, deterioration, and disrepair.
  - Projects that offer NPS an opportunity to reduce long range life-cycle costs receive priority.
  - Leveraging strategies include, but are not limited to, leasing, partnerships, transfer of ownership, and disposition.



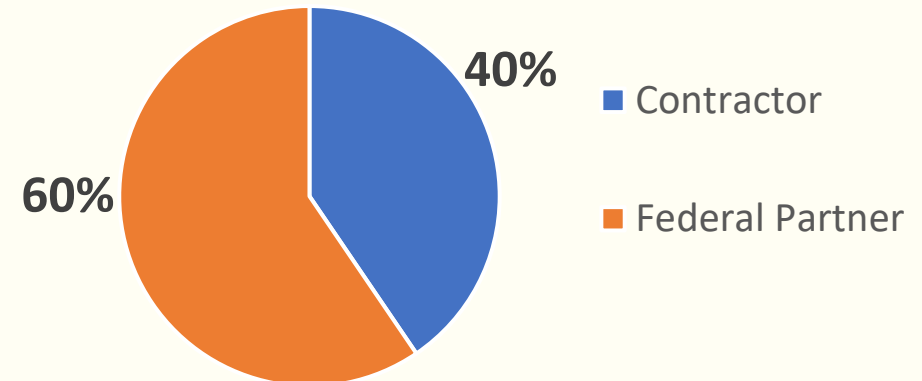
# NPS LRF FY21 Project Summary submitted to Congress in November 2020

Project Type	Count of Projects	Total Project Costs (\$000)	% of Total	Deferred Maintenance Reduction (\$000)
Non-Transportation	37	\$491,925	42%	\$312,994
Transportation	14	\$675,775	58%	\$466,219
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>\$1,166,700</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$779,213</b>

Total Project Cost by Current Project Phase

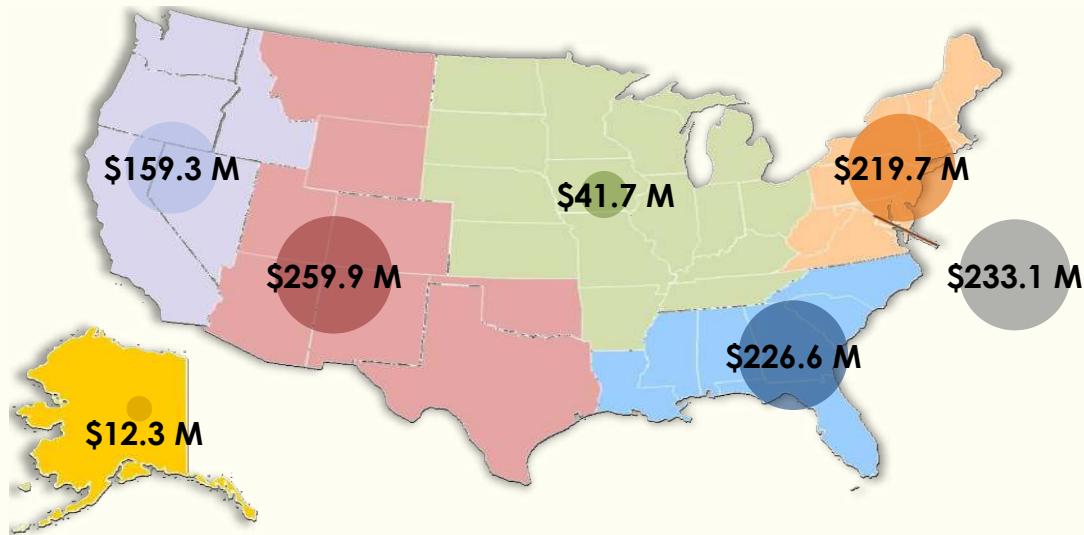


Total Project Cost by Delivery Strategy



# Snapshot of NPS GAOA/LRF FY21 Projects

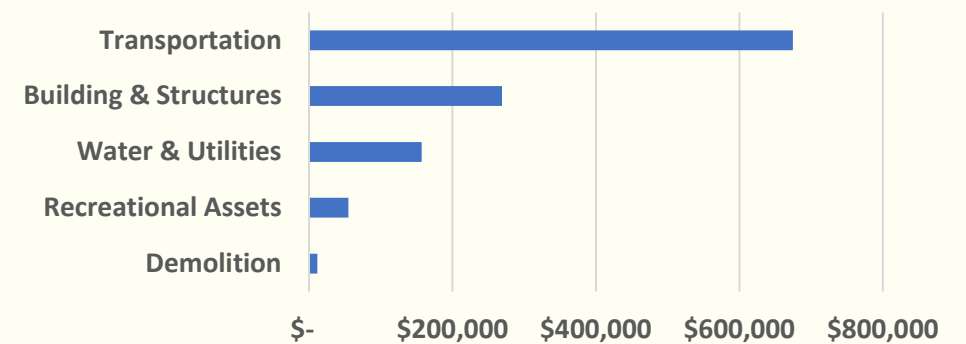
FY21 GAOA LRF Funding by Legacy NPS Region



Total FY21 GAOA LRF Parks and Projects by Region

Legacy NPS Region	Count of Parks	Count of Projects
AKR	1	1
IMR	5	11*
MWR	2	2
NCR	3	5
NER	9	11
PWR	6	13
SER	5	7
HPTC (MAT)	Multiple	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>51</b>

Total FY21 Project Costs by DOI Primary Category



FY21 LRF Project Data Sheets:

<https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/project-data-sheets-for-the-national-park-service.pdf>

# FY22- FY25 LRF Project List Development

- Project Selection Criteria
  - Addresses Deferred Maintenance
  - Larger Projects that Exceed Other Fund Source Capabilities
  - Use of leveraging opportunities that employ sustainable life-cycle asset management strategies
  - Readiness and capacity to execute
- Building Back Better – All projects incorporate appropriate upgrades for accessibility, code compliance, resiliency and sustainability
  - DOI and NPS policies require consideration of accessibility, climate change, natural hazards and sustainability during project development.
    - *Addressing Climate Change and Natural Hazard Handbook* includes a checklist to be used at the earliest stages of facility planning to determine the most likely natural hazards a project may confront.
    - *NPS Project Sustainability Checklist* includes how requirements are met for sustainability features, including energy performance, water efficiency, and indoor air quality.
    - *Rehabilitation, replacement, and new construction in the NPS routinely includes upgrading facilities to comply with the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards.*

# LRF Maintenance Action Team (MAT)

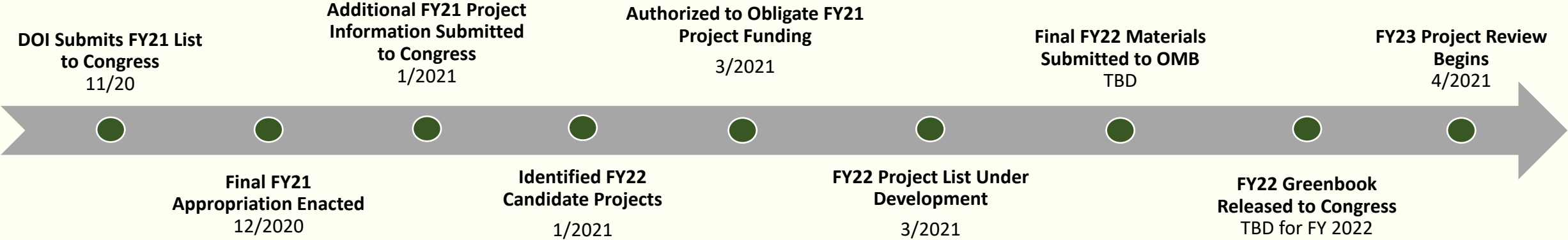
*The NPS's Historic Preservation Training Center (HPTC) and Historic Architecture, & Engineering Center (HACE) will stand up 10 Preservation MATs to achieve cost efficiencies and strengthen capacities within the HPTC and NPS workforce.*

- MATs will be established for specific regional areas and will execute projects that address historic preservation needs as well as cyclic maintenance needs.
- **MATs will focus on small and medium-sized park units**, which are often not well positioned to have a full staff of maintenance or trades workers with the specialized disciplines necessary to scope, develop, and complete these projects in-house.
- For FY21, eligible projects will **focus on reducing the backlog** of one or more cultural resources in a park unit.
- FY 2021 delivery will be coordinated by HPTC and HACE and will **impact over 40 parks in at least 5 NPS regions.**





# GAOA LRF: Key Milestones (November 2020 - Forward)





## VIRTUAL INDUSTRY FAIR NPS PROJECTS



New Business Opportunities  
for Upcoming  
Great American Outdoors Act  
Projects

### WHY ATTEND?

- Understand where and how you can bid on projects
- Participate in real time question and answer sessions
- Meet NPS project teams
- Gain information on upcoming projects

Register at Colorado Procurement  
Technical Assistance Center  
for one or both days.

[www.nps.gov/dsc](http://www.nps.gov/dsc)

More details available at the  
DSC contracting webpage



Tuesday May 11 & Wednesday May 12, 2021  
9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. MT

# Virtual Business Fair for NPS Projects

Tuesday, May 11 &  
Wednesday, May 12  
9a – 2:30p MT

[Click here for more  
information.](#)

# FAQs and Your Questions



Rehabilitation of the Historic Main Parade Ground Barracks Building at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

# Resource Links

- [Great American Outdoors Act \(GAOA\) | U.S. Department of the Interior \(doi.gov\)](#) and FY 2021 LRF Projects
- [State LWCF Office Contact List - https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/contact-list.htm](#)
- [FY 2021 Federal LWCF Projects](#)
- To request a recording of this presentation, or a .pdf copy of the slide deck, please email:
  - [info@NATHPO.org](mailto:info@NATHPO.org) OR
  - [ONAA\\_program@nps.gov](mailto:ONAA_program@nps.gov)

# Resource Links – *requested during session* (4/23/21)

- [Planning grants](#) through [American Battlefield Protection Program](#) are available to Tribes.
- Virtual Business Fair for NPS GAOA projects May 11 & 12. [Click here for more information.](#)
- Competitive contracting opportunities for GAOA available on [SAM.gov](#)
- *See other hotlinks on slides throughout the presentation file.*