

2025 Federal Legislation

Recommendation for Support Position – May 7, 2025 Legislative Committee

S. 1228 (Risch R-ID) - Public Lands Corps Match Requirement Reduction

Key Advocacy Goal:
Green Jobs

- Would make conservation projects more financially feasible for youth and conservation corps. Could potentially enable more organizations to participate in conservation efforts by lowering the cost threshold for project implementation.
- Decreases the local match requirement for corps projects. Federal government's share 90% and corps' contribution 10%.
- Could also benefit Park District partners like the California Conservation Corps and Civicorps.

S. 1215 (Padilla D-CA) and H.R. 2520 (Ruiz D-CA) César Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historic Park

Aligns with the overarching principle of supporting inclusive interpretation and educational opportunities

- Preserve the nationally significant sites associated with César E. Chávez and the farmworker movement across California and Arizona as historic park areas under the National Park Service (NPS).
- Conduct a National Historic Trail Study for the “Farmworker Peregrinación National Historic Trail”. Supporting National Historic Trail designation is consistent with the Park District’s trail advocacy work.
- Previously supported by the Park District Board in 2023.

H.R. 471 (Westerman R-AR) Fix Our Forests Act

Key Advocacy Goal:
Wildfire Resilience

- Combat catastrophic wildfires, restore forest ecosystems, and make Federal forest management more efficient and responsive.
- Accelerate and improve forest management practices, streamline environmental reviews, and strengthen partnerships.
- Research, collaboration and simplification of grant application processes would have important benefits for the Park District.
- Introduced by Sen. Padilla in the Senate along with other western senators.

H.R. 2281 (Wilson D-FL) Strengthening Job Corps Act

Key Advocacy Goal: Green Jobs

- Reauthorize and strengthen the Job Corps program, a Federal workforce development initiative for young people.
- Improve the Job Corps program's effectiveness in helping youth develop skills and connect to employment.
- Eligibility will be expanded to individuals ages 16-24 and new criteria will be introduced to increase employment rates, earnings and credential attainment.
- Authorizes significant funding, starting at approximately \$1.8B in fiscal year 2026 and increasing annually, with \$107.8 million specifically allocated for job center construction and rehabilitation each year.

H.R. 1923 (Harder D-CA) Modernizing Wildfire Safety and Prevention Act of 2025

Key Advocacy Goal:
Wildfire Resilience

- Comprehensive legislative effort to improve wildfire management, prevention, and response based on recommendations from the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission.
- Four main areas: workforce development, wildland firefighter support, wildfire smoke and public health, and fire mitigation and technology.
- Significant funding across multiple Federal agencies and departments, ranging from \$1 million to \$150 million annually for fiscal years 2026-2035.
- Knowledge learned from the Joint Office of the Fire Environment Center and the Wildfire Digital Data Center could be beneficial to the Park District's vegetation management and wildfire response work. A faster payment process for various wildfire-related assistance programs would also be beneficial for the Park District.

H.R. 1393 (Stanton D-AZ) Wildfire Response Improvement Act

Key Advocacy Goal:
Wildfire Resilience

- Directs the FEMA Administrator to undertake several important actions to improve wildfire response and mitigation policies.
- Requires FEMA to recommend regulations within one year to make emergency stabilization and assessment efforts eligible for the Fire Management Assistance Program, regardless of the incident period of a declared fire. More comprehensive and nuanced evaluation methods.
- Comprehensive review of criteria for evaluating the cost-effectiveness of wildfire mitigation projects. Examine pre-calculated benefits for defensible space projects, nature-based infrastructure, vegetation management, public health impacts of wildfire smoke, and effects on water infrastructure.

H.R. 1110 (LaMalfa R-CA) Grazing for Wildfire Risk Reduction Act

Key Advocacy Goal:
Wildfire Resilience

- Require the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a comprehensive strategy for using livestock grazing as a method to reduce wildfire risks on Federal lands.
- Key components: completing environmental reviews to allow grazing on vacant allotments during droughts or natural disasters, implementing targeted grazing techniques, increasing the use of temporary grazing permits to reduce invasive grasses and fuel loads, utilizing grazing as a post-wildfire recovery and restoration method, and leveraging all applicable legal authorities.
- Provide more flexible grazing opportunities on Federal lands as a proactive approach to managing wildfire risks. Create a more adaptive and preventative wildfire management approach.
- Learning from this legislation could be applied to the Park District's grazing program. Ongoing deliberation of this legislation could also provide opportunities for the Park District to highlight at the national level its historic grazing practices.



2025 Federal Legislation

Recommendation for Support Position – May 7, 2025 Legislative Committee