

BY THE NUMBERS

**\$230 million** Amount that recreationists already spend each year while visiting the California desert region <sup>1</sup>

**6.7 million** Total recreation visitor days reported by local national parks and wilderness area over a one year period <sup>2</sup>



**EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES**

The California Desert Protection Act would bring important economic benefits to local counties, by expanding opportunities for tourism and recreation. The California Desert is one of the top outdoor recreation locations in the continental United States and the national parks alone bring nearly three million visitors <sup>3</sup> and nearly seven million visitor-days each year.

Travel and tourism are a significant part of the local economies in Imperial, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, and this legislation would strengthen that foundation. Additionally, the communities that surround the California desert already benefit significantly from the fact that retirees and professionals choose to live there because of the scenic and recreation amenities. Conserving the desert's treasures and creating more access to world-class outdoor experiences will only make the region more attractive to people who have the flexibility to live and work where they choose.

**PROTECTING THE DESERT'S TOURISM & RECREATION ECONOMY**

The bill would ensure that the region could continue to offer visitors a wide range of outdoor and tourism experiences, including hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, wildlife watching, rock climbing, horseback riding, mountain biking, wildflower viewing and rock and gem collecting. It would also protect historic trails and important cultural sites, including a key stretch of Route 66, allowing Americans to step back in time and experience the region's Native American and pioneering history first hand. There will also be designated areas where off-road vehicle recreation will be allowed.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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<sup>1</sup> <http://bit.ly/YF1UI> ; <sup>2</sup> National Park Service 2001 and Bureau of Land Management 2000; <sup>3</sup> <http://bit.ly/3G3CgV>