



**LWCFCoalition.com**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** October 29, 2021

**CONTACT:** Justin Bartolomeo

(202) 400-0480

[justin@jmbpublicrelations.com](mailto:justin@jmbpublicrelations.com)

## **NEWS RELEASE**

# **LWCF Coalition Applauds Investment In Forest Protection** ***Build Back Better Bill Includes \$1.25 Billion for Forest Legacy Program***

WASHINGTON – The LWCF Coalition applauded President Biden, the House and Senate Agriculture Committees, and Congressional leadership for including \$1.25 billion for the Forest Legacy Program (FLP) in the Build Back Better reconciliation legislation released this week. The following statement can be attributed to Lesley Kane Szyal, Chair of the LWCF Coalition:

“This critical investment in natural infrastructure is good for the U.S. economy and jobs and will yield huge results for climate action. The Forest Legacy Program has led to the protection of over 2.885 million acres of sustainable working forest lands, bringing together federal, state, and private partners to achieve the common goals of protecting and maintaining forest jobs, recreational access, wildlife habitat, and clean water as well as drinking water supplies while acting as a critical carbon sink.

Conserving working forest lands contributes significantly to local and state economies, especially in rural areas. The National Alliance of Forest Owners [reports](#) that U.S. forests support approximately 2.5 million jobs, \$109 billion in payroll, and \$288 billion in sales.

“This wise investment in natural climate solutions is a win-win for communities by bolstering rural economies with jobs in the woods and at local mills, protecting drinking water supplies, and increasing access to the outdoors. In addition, funding forest conservation represents further progress toward meeting the moment of crisis we now find ourselves in, where opportunities to keep forests as forests, connect landscapes, and make communities more healthy and more resilient cannot be left on the table. We applaud the Administration and Congress for their work on this important issue, and we look forward to working with them to ensure this critical investment is passed into law.”

### **About the Land and Water Conservation Fund**

LWCF is America’s most important conservation program, responsible for protecting parks, wildlife refuges and recreation areas at the federal, state, and local level. For over half a century, it has provided critical funding for land and water conservation projects, recreational construction and activities and the continued historic preservation of our nation’s iconic landmarks from coast-to-coast. LWCF does not use any taxpayer dollars – it is funded using a small portion of revenues from offshore oil and gas royalty

payments. Outdoor recreation, conservation and historic preservation activities contribute more than \$778 billion annually to the U.S. economy, supporting 5.2 million jobs.

**About the LWCF Coalition**

The LWCF Coalition is the umbrella group of more than 1,000 state and local landowners, small businesses, ranchers, sportsmen, veterans, outdoor recreationists, and conservation organizations working to protect America's public lands and safeguard our shared outdoor heritage for future generations. For more information on LWCF and the places in each state that have been protected using LWCF funds, visit [www.lwcfcoalition.org](http://www.lwcfcoalition.org).