



LWCFCoalition.org

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LWCF Coalition Statement on Senate Interior Appropriations Bill

Washington, DC – *The following statement can be attributed to Tom Cors, Director of Government Relations for Lands at The Nature Conservancy and a spokesman for the Land and Water Conservation Fund Coalition:*

“We applaud the Senate Appropriations Committee for holding funding steady for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) in the FY19 Interior Appropriations bill. We are grateful to the Committee for recognizing the importance of America’s most important conservation and recreation program, and we greatly appreciate the leadership of Chairman Shelby, Ranking Member Leahy, Subcommittee Chairman Murkowski and Subcommittee Ranking Member Udall.

Providing more access to public lands for hiking, hunting, fishing, biking and camping is a source of widespread bipartisan agreement. Without spending a dime of our tax dollars, LWCF boosts water quality, supports agriculture and forestry on private lands and provides habitat for fish and wildlife. It also provides public access to public lands, allowing everyone to enjoy hiking, camping, hunting, fishing and every outdoor activity imaginable in the parks and places that belong to all of us. LWCF is an integral part of the \$887 billion outdoor recreation economy, which supports 7.6 million American jobs.

More work remains to be done. Congress faces an imminent deadline to save LWCF, and without further legislative action the program will expire at the end of September. The LWCF Coalition will continue to work with this cornerstone program’s many Congressional champions to make LWCF permanent before it expires, and to secure full funding America’s premier conservation program.”

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About the Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is America’s most important conservation and recreation program, responsible for protecting parks, trails, wildlife refuges and recreation areas at the federal, state and local level. For more than 50 years, it has provided critical funding for land and water conservation projects, access to recreation including hunting and fishing, 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 \$887 billion annually to the U.S. economy, supporting 7.6 million jobs.

About the LWCF Coalition

The LWCF Coalition is comprised of more than 1,000 state and regional conservation and recreation organizations of all sizes, land owners, small businesses, ranchers, sportsmen, veterans, the outdoor recreation industry and conservationists working together to protect America's public lands and safeguard our shared outdoor heritage for future generations.

The Coalition is united in its advocacy for the permanent reauthorization and full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which will ensure the continued conservation of our national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, wilderness, civil war battlefields, working lands and state and local parks. For more information on LWCF and the places in each state that LWCF funds have protected, visit www.lwcfcoalition.org.