



**LWCFCoalition.com**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** June 12, 2019

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## **Bipartisan Legislation Ensures Funding for America’s Most Important Conservation and Recreation Program**

### **Full and dedicated funding necessary to end raiding of LWCF account**

WASHINGTON – A bipartisan group of lawmakers in the House of Representatives announced today legislation to dedicate full and continuing funding for America’s most important conservation and recreation program, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Recent passage of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act (Dingell Act) permanently reauthorized LWCF after a lengthy effort in Congress. On the heels of this major victory, today’s bill introduction continues a bipartisan commitment to LWCF to ensure that the program receives full and dedicated funding each year.

Rep. Jeff Van Drew (D-N.J.), Chair Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.), and Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.), Jared Huffman (D-Calif.) and Lee Zeldin (R-N.Y.) as well as conservation and recreation leaders will lead a press conference at 9:30 a.m. Eastern time at the House Triangle outside the U.S. Capitol to announce the introduction of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Permanent Funding Act. The livestream can be viewed [here](#).

The bill (H.R.3195), the Land and Water Conservation Fund Permanent Funding Act, is a House companion to S. 1081 and was introduced by Reps. Van Drew, Fitzpatrick, Huffman and Zeldin joined by Chair Grijalva along with the following original cosponsors: Reps. Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.), Alan Lowenthal (D-Calif.), John Katko (R-N.Y.), T.J. Cox (D-Calif.), Gregorio Sablan (D-Northern Mariana Islands), and Debra Haaland (D-N.M.)

“Protecting our public lands for future generations is essential, but it’s by no means guaranteed, especially as long as these funds are redirected away from their intended uses,” said Jonathan Asher, Government Relations Director at The Wilderness Society and a spokesman for the LWCF Coalition. “Without strong, consistent funding, our public lands will be under the constant threat of development.”

The legislation builds off the successful permanent reauthorization of LWCF in the Dingell Act by ensuring that funds already being deposited into the LWCF account in the U.S. Treasury for LWCF – \$900 million annually – are invested only in the conservation of our country’s natural, cultural and historic treasures.

LWCF rarely gets funded at its authorized amount, and often its funds are diverted for other purposes. Since the program was created in 1964, LWCF has received its authorized funding level just twice. Over the program's 50-year history, about \$22 billion intended for LWCF has been siphoned off from the fund for non-conservation purposes.

"Congress overwhelmingly voted to permanently authorize LWCF," added Asher. "Diverting its funds to other government spending undermines the original intent of the program and the broad bipartisan support it has in both houses of Congress and with the American people. It also perpetuates the erratic annual LWCF funding levels and chronic shortfalls that create uncertainty for landowners, stakeholders, and community partners, and often sacrifices key conservation lands and vital public access. Our fight will not be over until LWCF gets permanent, full, and dedicated funding."

### **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 full, dedicated 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.com](http://www.lwcfcoalition.com).