



**LWCFCoalition.org**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** June 29, 2017

**CONTACT:** Justin Bartolomeo

(202) 789-4365

[jbartolomeo@hdmk.org](mailto:jbartolomeo@hdmk.org)

## **Senate Energy Bill Makes America's Most Important Conservation and Recreation Program Permanent**

### **Bipartisan Murkowski-Cantwell Bill Permanently Authorizes the Land and Water Conservation Fund; Similar Legislation Passed Senate with Supermajority in 2016**

**Washington, D.C.** – The LWCF Coalition today hailed the introduction of a bipartisan Senate energy bill that would make the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) permanent, ensuring that every future generation will continue to enjoy the enduring values and unmatched majesty of our national parks, forests, wilderness, coastlines, mountains, working lands, rivers, historic sites and recreation areas. Similar legislation overwhelmingly passed the Senate in 2016

“Permanent authorization of America’s most important conservation and recreation program would renew a simple promise made to the American people more than 50 years ago – that proceeds from public resource extraction will be dedicated to the protection of our greatest natural parks and outdoor places,” said Tom Cors, Director of Government Relations for Lands at the Nature Conservancy.

“The LWCF Coalition is extremely grateful to Senate Energy Committee Chair Lisa Murkowski and Ranking Member Maria Cantwell for their leadership, further adding to the strong bipartisan support our public lands have in the United States Congress,” added Cors. “Their legislation recognizes the importance of public lands, outdoor recreation and tourism to the health and vitality of both urban and rural communities across America.”

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

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, signed into law on September 3, 1964, established a dedicated means for the conservation and protection of America’s irreplaceable natural, historic, cultural and outdoor landmarks. LWCF is the only federal program dedicated to the continued conservation of our national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, wilderness, civil war battlefields, as well as creating and developing state and local parks. It is rightly characterized as America’s most important conservation program.

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 support 9.4 million jobs and contribute more than a trillion dollars annually to the U.S. economy.

#### **About the LWCF Coalition**

The LWCF Coalition is the umbrella group of more than 1,000 state and local land owners, 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.

The Coalition is united in its advocacy for the 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, as well as state and local parks. For more information on LWCF and the places in each state protected by LWCF funds, visit [www.lwcfcoalition.org](http://www.lwcfcoalition.org).