



**LWCFCoalition.org**

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## **Saving America's Most Important Conservation Program**

**Washington, DC** – *Tom Cors, Director of Government Relations for Lands at The Nature Conservancy and a spokesman for the LWCF Coalition commented on today's markup of legislation to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at the House Natural Resources Committee.*

“With just 17 days left until expiration, the LWCF Coalition applauds Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva for working out a compromise that has, at long last, advanced permanent reauthorization of LWCF through the House Natural Resources Committee. This breakthrough recognizes the overwhelming bipartisan support in Congress for America’s most important conservation and recreation program. It is a critical step forward for LWCF and the countless communities who rely on it to provide public access to the outdoors, bolster their economies, safeguard key historic sites, and conserve irreplaceable natural and recreation landscapes.

“We also commend Representatives Grijalva and Costello for introducing legislation to provide the dedicated full funding LWCF needs to protect these places. The bill, a companion to the Burr-Cantwell bill that has attracted 48 bipartisan cosponsors in the Senate, guarantees federal offshore energy revenues are reinvested in essential conservation and recreation through LWCF. As the Committee moves to advance legislation allocating these energy revenues for other purposes, it is vital that Congress provides that same guarantee of funding to LWCF. The pre-existing commitment to LWCF must be honored along with these new commitments, and we will not rest until LWCF receives permanent reauthorization as well as full and dedicated funding.

“While this is an important milestone, there is more work to be done. As the clock ticks down on LWCF’s current authorization, we look forward to working with the program’s many House and Senate champions to reauthorize and fully fund LWCF, ensuring that the revenue gained from the depletion of one natural resource is finally dedicated for the permanent protection of our shared outdoor heritage.”

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

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is America’s most important conservation program, responsible for protecting parks, wildlife refuges and recreation areas at the federal, state and local level. For 50 years, 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 \$887 billion annually to the U.S. economy, supporting 7.6 million jobs.

**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 that have been protected using LWCF funds, visit [www.lwcfcoalition.org](http://www.lwcfcoalition.org)