



LWCFCoalition.org

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Bipartisan Group of Senators Call for Permanent Authorization and Full Dedicated Funding of LWCF

Washington, DC – *Tom Cors, Director of Government Relations for Lands at The Nature Conservancy applauded a bipartisan group of Senators for supporting permanent authorization and full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund in a letter to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY):*

“The LWCF Coalition joins Senators Richard Burr (R-NC), Maria Cantwell (D-WA), and a dozen of their colleagues in calling for permanent authorization and dedicated full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to be part of must-pass legislation before the program expires on September 30th of this year.

“It is vital for Congress to honor the original conservation offset enshrined in this bedrock law, and finally uphold the unmet conservation commitment funded by offshore oil and gas revenues promised to LWCF over 50 years ago, by dedicating full funding for and permanently authorizing the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Meeting that commitment will ensure the \$887 billion recreation economy continues to thrive while protecting our National Parks and other public lands at no cost to taxpayers.

“Every day, LWCF is providing access to public lands for sportsmen; driving the outdoor recreation economy; delivering safe drinking water; strengthening our cultural heritage and saving taxpayers millions of dollars in maintenance, wildfire and operations costs. Failure to reauthorize and fully dedicate funding for LWCF or weakening this landmark conservation law would have devastating consequences and unravel decades of progress protecting America’s irreplaceable natural, historic and cultural resources.

“The outdoor recreation industry, governors, mayors, sportsmen, small business owners, conservation leaders, landowners, ranchers, farmers and tens of millions of Americans are united in the push for permanent reauthorization and dedicated full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund because it works.”

The LWCF Coalition thanks the Senators for their support and unwavering commitment to protecting America's most important conservation program:

Richard Burr (R-NC)	Maria Cantwell (D-WA)
Steve Daines (R-MT)	Michael Bennet (D-CO)
Lindsey Graham (R-SC)	Jon Tester (D-MT)
Susan M. Collins (R-ME)	Tom Udall (D-NM)
Cory Gardner (R-CO)	Joe Manchin III (D-WV)
Lamar Alexander (R-TN)	Angus S. King (I-ME)
Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)	Martin Heinrich (D-NM)

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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