



LWCFCoalition.com

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NEWS RELEASE

LWCF Coalition Applauds Final Passage of Inflation Reduction Act

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Coalition released the following statement from **Tom Cors, director of U.S. government relations for lands at The Nature Conservancy**, celebrating the final passage of the Inflation Reduction Act.

“We are thrilled the Inflation Reduction Act has passed through the U.S. House of Representatives and is headed to the president’s desk for his signature. The act includes \$700 million for the Forest Legacy Program (FLP), which will advance natural climate solutions that are both urgently needed and widely supported. The U.S. economy, the outdoor recreation industry and all Americans will benefit from this long-term commitment to invest in natural infrastructure, in addition to the huge and long-awaited results for climate action the legislation will make possible. The LWCF Coalition is grateful for the efforts of all the legislators, staffers and advocates who have been hard at work for months to craft and pass this bill. We look forward to the president’s signing and to seeing projects around the country benefit from these funds.”

Established by Congress in 1990 and administered through the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), FLP assists states and private forest owners in maintaining working forest lands through permanent conservation easement and fee acquisitions. It has enjoyed significant bipartisan support.

The program is a critical tool that invests in climate resilience and natural infrastructure by conserving forests that sequester carbon dioxide and protecting drinking water supplies that reduce the need for costly, artificial filtration and treatment systems. According to the USFS, 180 million people in over 68,000 communities rely on forested lands to capture and filter their drinking water and forested lands sequester 14 percent of annual U.S. carbon emissions.

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About the Land and Water Conservation Fund

LWCF is America's most important conservation program, responsible for protecting parks, wildlife refuges and recreation areas at the federal, state and local level. For over half a century, 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 more than \$778 billion annually to the U.S. economy, supporting 5.2 million jobs.

About the LWCF Coalition

The LWCF Coalition is the umbrella group of more than 1,000 state and local landowners, 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. For more information on LWCF and the places in each state that have been protected using LWCF funds, visit LWCFCoalition.org.