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House Spending Panel Approves Full Funding for Key Conservation Program

Coalition Lauds Subcommittee Action in Advance of Historic Vote on Permanent Funding

WASHINGTON – The U.S. House Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee this week advanced [a spending bill](#) that includes dedicated full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), America’s most important conservation and recreation program. The full committee will consider the legislation tomorrow.

The subcommittee’s proposed fiscal year 2021 appropriations bill would, for the first time in decades, direct the full \$900 million in annual LWCF deposits to their intended uses, for the benefit of our nation’s public lands, communities and local economies. The bill comes as the House prepares to vote later this month on the Great American Outdoors Act, which would fully and permanently fund LWCF. [The Senate passed the act last month.](#)

Tom Cors, director of government relations for lands at The Nature Conservancy and a spokesperson for the LWCF Coalition, offered the following statement:

“Fully funding LWCF will ensure our public lands are protected for years to come and will help jumpstart the outdoor recreation economy, getting the country back to work and back outside. On the heels of the Senate’s historic vote to permanently and fully fund LWCF through the Great American Outdoors Act, the subcommittee’s vote reaffirms its commitment to LWCF and the communities and irreplaceable resources that depend upon it. We commend Subcommittee Chair Betty McCollum and her colleagues for their conservation leadership and urge the full committee to pass this important investment in conservation.”

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 more than \$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 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.com