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NEWS RELEASE

LWCF Coalition Applauds Inclusion of Equitable Outdoor Access in America's Outdoor Rec. Act

WASHINGTON, DC – May 17 – The Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Coalition today commended the Senate markup of America's Outdoor Recreation Act (AORA) and the inclusion of the Outdoors for All Act in the package in the following statement:

"The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Coalition applauds Senators Manchin and Barrasso for their leadership promoting outdoor recreation access through the America's Outdoor Recreation Act and particularly for including the Outdoors for All Act in the package. We also thank Senators Padilla (D-CA) and Collins (R-ME) for reintroducing the Outdoors for All Act earlier this year so it could be included in AORA, as the bill would codify the LWCF-funded Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Program that provides grant funding opportunities to disadvantaged communities with little access to publicly available outdoor recreation, and ensure the prioritization of equitable outdoor access for all Americans by lowering the qualifying threshold population for communities to apply. Our Coalition is excited for the inclusion of language in this bill that would make more communities eligible and allow Native American Tribes, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiian communities to apply directly for this critical funding. Equitable access to close-to-home outdoor space hasn't always been available but it should be, and this bill moves us significantly closer to that goal," **said Lesley Kane Szynal, Chair of the LWCF Coalition.**

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 58 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 \$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 www.lwcfcoalition.com

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