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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 28, 2022

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NEWS RELEASE

LWCF Coalition Applauds FY23 Senate Interior Appropriations Proposal, More Needed to Meet “Now or Never” Challenges

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Coalition released the following statement by **Tom Cors, director of government relations for lands at The Nature Conservancy** and a spokesman for the coalition, regarding the Fiscal Year 2023 U.S. Senate Interior and Environment Appropriations bill:

“The proposed Senate Interior bill will help address the deep well of unmet conservation and recreation needs throughout the country. While the list of shovel ready LWCF conservation and recreation projects far exceeds the funding available under the Great American Outdoors Act, this bill balances the distribution of funds among LWCF programs and guarantees at least \$900 million will be allocated to worthwhile projects across the country. It also contains helpful language that clarifies how funds should be allocated and streamlines the implementation process.

Recognizing the extent of these now-or-never challenges – which collectively reflect the urgency of the climate crisis, pressing public health and recreation needs of communities, the huge opportunity to bolster the outdoor recreation economy, and persistent inequality of access to parks and outdoor recreation – [bipartisan champions in both the House and Senate have asked that this year’s funding bill include an additional \\$450 million in discretionary funding for LWCF.](#) The LWCF coalition appreciates the committee’s continued support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and looks forward to working with Congress to refine the bill and maximize the conservation impact of LWCF in FY23.”

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.