



**LWCFCoalition.org**

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## **LWCF Coalition Congratulates Congressman Zinke on his Confirmation as Secretary of the Interior**

*The following is a statement from Tom Cors, the Director of Government Relations for Lands at The Nature Conservancy and a co-chair of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Coalition:*

“The LWCF Coalition thanks the Senate for confirming Congressman Ryan Zinke as our nation’s 52<sup>nd</sup> Secretary of the Interior, and we offer our congratulations. Congressman Zinke is an avid outdoorsman, a lifelong user of our public lands, and a strong supporter of America’s most important conservation and recreation program, the Land and Water Conservation Fund. He understands the vital role our public lands and waters play in contributing to our outdoor economy and shaping our American identity.

“Congressman Zinke has distinguished himself with his strong commitment to keeping public lands public, his forceful advocacy for LWCF funding, and his passionate activism on behalf of Montana sportsmen and women. His reputation as a champion for critical conservation and outdoor recreation issues is well-deserved and his leadership will be essential as key conservation issues, including reauthorization and robust funding for LWCF, are considered.

“The LWCF Coalition looks forward to working with the incoming secretary to strengthen and protect the parks, places and public lands that are the birthright of every American.”

### **About the Land and Water Conservation Fund**

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, originally signed into law on September 3, 1964, established a dedicated means for the conservation and protection of America’s irreplaceable natural, historic, cultural and outdoor landmarks. LWCF is the only federal program dedicated to the continued conservation of our national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, wilderness and Civil War battlefields, and to the creation and development of state and local parks. It is rightly characterized as America’s most important conservation program.

LWCF does not use 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 support 9.4 million jobs and contribute more than a trillion dollars annually to the U.S. economy.

### **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 and Civil War battlefields, as well as state and local parks. For more information on LWCF and the places in each state protected by LWCF funds, visit [www.lwcfcoalition.org](http://www.lwcfcoalition.org).