



The Reviews on President Trump’s Budget Are In: Terrible for Parks, Conservation and Outdoor Recreation

“The President’s reckless proposal to wipe out the funding that protects our national parks and public lands is completely out of step with America’s values and ignores the broad bipartisan support in Congress for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The conservation of our national parks and outdoor heritage has always been an area of bipartisan agreement and overwhelming public support. That’s because our public lands are a defining aspect of our national character – providing access for people to hunt, fish, hike, camp, experience the incomparable American landscape, and participate in our robust outdoor recreation economy, which supports 7.6 million jobs and contributes \$887 billion annually to the U.S. economy. Conservationists, outdoor enthusiasts and leaders in Congress must speak out and oppose this attack on America’s greatest places.”

Will Rogers, President of the Trust for Public Land.

“This budget would do real, irreversible damage to the national parks and public lands that are beloved by the American people. Moreover, these cuts would not save taxpayers any money. LWCF is not funded by taxpayer dollars but from fees collected from offshore oil and gas drillers. The budget would siphon off nearly all of those dedicated conservation dollars for unrelated spending, breaking a 50-year-old promise to the American people that the royalties generated from offshore oil and gas drilling are reinvested into protecting our national parks, providing hunting and fishing access, trails and open spaces. We hope and expect that Congress will reject this outrageous and damaging recommendation.”

Jamie Williams, President of the Wilderness Society

“The president’s budget falls far short of meeting the nation’s need for conservation efforts that ensure the health of lands and waters that benefit everyone. The dramatic proposed cut to the Land and Water Conservation Fund would halt most of the on-the-ground work that communities in every state across the nation depend upon for everything from local ballfields to national parks. These outdoor spaces are often critical to local economies and family livelihoods. The long, successful history of LWCF has more than demonstrated that its investments pay off. We hope Congress will reject this proposed cut and continue to invest in nature through LWCF and many other conservation programs.”
“Americans rely on our nation’s leaders to support the healthy lands, waters and air we all need to survive and thrive. Yet, the president’s FY 2018 budget axes many programs that conserve natural

resources, address climate change and invest in science. This includes eliminating or dramatically reducing funding for programs such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund, EPA programs that help ensure clean water and air, several programs that help the international community address environmental challenges—and many others.

“We hope Congress will not follow this budget, and are encouraged by signs that they understand clean air, clean water, resilient communities and a healthy economy must be priorities. Thanks to years of bipartisan congressional support for conservation and science funding, we believe our representatives can and will continue to invest in nature through conservation and science programs. “Investing in nature simply makes sense for our security, our economy and our communities and families. If we don’t make these investments now, we’ll leave future generations on the hook for costly efforts to clean the water and air, repair damaged communities after floods and fire disasters, and more. We look forward to working with Congress to ensure strong funding to protect land, water and air for people and nature.”

Mark Tercek, President and CEO of The Nature Conservancy

“President Trump’s budget proposal would decimate America’s public lands, eliminating critical resources for conservation and limiting access to outdoor recreation opportunities for hunters and anglers. Loss of access to quality places to hunt and fish is the most pressing issues facing American sportsmen today, and slashing funding for LWCF will make a bad situation worse.”

Whit Fosburgh, President and CEO of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

"President Trump's budget would slash funding for America's most important conservation and recreation program, cutting the Land and Water Conservation Fund by nearly 85 percent. Businesses like mine in the outdoor recreation industry, which as a whole generates more than \$887 billion for the U.S. economy annually, depend on our public lands and waters for vital recreation infrastructure. The budget proposal is ruinous and would have devastating consequences for the parks and public lands that are the lifeblood of the nation.

Here in Vermont, our beautiful rolling green mountains are the pride of the state, and the cuts to LWCF would stall the vital conservation work underway at Rolston Rest in the Green Mountain National Forest and at the Hunger Mountain Headwaters. This funding is critical for the protection of the peaks, forests, trails, and waterways in Vermont and across the nation. Leaders in the outdoor recreation economy, and outdoor enthusiasts from coast to coast, must stand up and speak out against this dangerous attack on our national parks and public lands."

Ted Manning, CEO of Ibex

“The Land and Water Conservation Fund is the most popular, bipartisan conservation program in the federal budget. The program is already paid for from offshore oil and gas fees. It has over 50 years of success enhancing visitor experiences at iconic landscapes like the Grand Canyon, to the small urban park providing needed outdoor opportunities for at-risk youth. To nearly eviscerate America’s premier recreational access program is to hurt local communities, sportsmen, and outdoor enthusiasts across

the country who recreate in our nation's natural heritage every day."

Alan Rowsome, Senior Director of Government Relations for Lands at The Wilderness Society

"The administration's budget starves our public lands of critical funding. The cuts they would levy on our natural resource agencies, resource professionals and key programs are unprecedented and far-reaching in scope: Not only would they profoundly diminish our lands and waters, fish and wildlife habitat, and outdoor opportunities; they also would hobble America's potent outdoors economy – currently \$887 billion strong, sustainable and growing."

"On his first day at Interior, Secretary Zinke signed a secretarial order calling for the expansion of public access and hunting and fishing opportunities on U.S. public lands – an action we applauded. Today, only weeks later, we are confused by the drastic cut to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which has done more to facilitate public access opportunities to hunt, fish and otherwise enjoy the great outdoors than any other federal program in history. The proposed budget flies in the face of what sportsmen and women need and want most: access."

Land Tawney, Executive Director of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

Conservation programs make our air and water cleaner. They improve fish and wildlife habitat and make hunting and fishing better...Never before have we seen so much uncertainty when it comes to the health of our rivers and by extension, the health of our country. We are calling on Congress to be a voice of reason and stand up to protect our clean air and water by rejecting these short-sighted cuts. No one should have to worry about whether the water they drink or the air they breathe is polluted because the agency tasked with its protection has been whittled down to nothing."

Chris Wood, President and CEO of Trout Unlimited

"This proposal completely ignores a bipartisan majority of Americans who strongly support protecting water, air and our outdoor spaces. For more than a century, Republicans and Democrats in Washington have worked together to protect America's natural heritage. We know they can do so again, but we need leaders in Congress to stand up to this Administration and speak up for the millions of Americans who love birds and our great outdoors."

The White House included opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas leasing as a source of revenue...Opening up this iconic landscape to more drilling wouldn't move the needle on our nation's energy needs but would cause irreversible damage to birds and the one of the wildest places we have left on earth. Both Republicans and Democrats in Congress have historically supported the Arctic Refuge as a keystone of American natural heritage and we look to them to do so once more."

David Yarnold, President and CEO of the National Audobon Society

"The Trump administration has tucked it into its budget guidance to once again deliver a gift to the oil lobby rather than protecting this pristine landscape for the American people and future generations," said Lydia Weiss, the group's director of government relations for lands. Any receipts from oil drilling in

the refuge are highly speculative and wouldn't come online for years. This is not a serious attempt to balance a budget; this is an attempt to drill for oil [in] one of the last pristine, untouched landscapes in America."

Lydia Weiss, Director of Government Relations, The Wilderness Society

"This budget is a shameless attack on America's parks and public lands. From gutting one of America's most important parks programs to increasing spending on drilling and mining, it sure looks like this budget was written by oil, gas and coal companies."

Jennifer Rokala, Executive Director of the Center for Western Priorities

"This budget proposes unprecedented reductions. One has to go back to World War II, when the parks were largely shut down, to find comparable reductions. The reductions to park operations, while less than the overall reduction, will still cause great problems. That will result in drastically reduced service and facility closures in 2018."

Denis P. Galvin, former Director of the National Park Service

"The National Park Service will lose an additional 1,242 positions, on top of positions lost in previous years. These cuts will impact the economies of local communities and will cause reductions in park programs and closure of facilities. There will also be impacts to park resources... These cuts certainly won't make America great again."

Phil Francis, Executive Council, The Coalition to Protect American Parks

"This proposal would siphon away important funding from public lands access and recreation programs that fuel our outdoor economy and way of life in Montana. We look forward to working with Montana's delegation to ensure our public lands and outdoor access receive the investments they deserve."

Marne Hayes, Executive Director for Montana's Outdoors

"This budget is the reality of the Republican vision for the country, and Republicans in Congress need to admit it. It treats our environment as a speed bump on the way to greater oil profits and it eliminates any hope of sane climate protections."

Raul Grijalva, U.S. Representative from Arizona (D-AZ-6), ranking member on the House Natural Resources Committee

"I have some significant concerns about the budget... it reduces funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund – America's most successful conservation program – by 85 percent."

Pat Meehan, U.S. Representative from Pennsylvania (R-PA-7)