



LWCFCoalition.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 23, 2022

CONTACT:

Cody Wertz, 303-518-2112, cody@freestone-strategies.com

Alexandra Eliot, (720) 891-8921, alexandra@freestone-strategies.com

NEWS RELEASE

LWCF Coalition Applauds FY23 Omnibus, Looks Forward to Continuing Work to Meet Challenges

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Coalition released the following statement by **Tom Cors, senior director for legislative affairs at The Nature Conservancy** and a spokesman for the coalition, regarding the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, otherwise known as the Omnibus bill:

“Passage of the FY23 Omnibus appropriations bill will empower conservation and recreation projects across the United States, from backyards to the backcountry. While the list of shovel-ready LWCF 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. It will help address the deep well of unmet needs that exist from urban areas to rural working lands to beloved national parks, forests and wildlife refuges.

“We deeply appreciate the efforts of the House and Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittees and bipartisan LWCF champions who have fought to end the practice of rescissions and include helpful language in the FY23 bill regarding allocation of funds and improvements in the process to complete critical conservation projects.

“We look forward to continuing our work with bipartisan leaders in both the [House](#) and [Senate](#) who have worked to support and enhance LWCF funding to address the climate crisis, pressing public health and recreation needs of communities, as well as the huge opportunity to bolster the outdoor recreation economy and persistent inequality of access to parks and outdoor recreation. There is still much to be done to meet these vital needs and keep pace with resource risks and losses in communities across America. We are grateful to the many champions of LWCF on Capitol Hill who worked to secure the conservation victories in this bill. We hope their ongoing efforts will lead to increased funding and an even deeper commitment in the years ahead.”

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 \$862 billion annually to the U.S. economy, supporting 4.5 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.