



LWCFCoalition.com

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NEWS RELEASE

LWCF Coalition Opposes Trump Administration's Last-Minute Changes To LWCF

WASHINGTON – The LWCF Coalition today vigorously opposed [last-minute changes](#) by the Trump Administration to the Land and Water Conservation Fund's (LWCF) State Assistance Program – including major program changes inconsistent with the law, and an insulting move to rob funding designated by Congress to help underserved communities – and urged that they be immediately reversed. The Coalition also called on Congress to quickly confirm Rep. Deb Haaland as the new Secretary of the Interior, so she can chart a new positive course for America's most important conservation and recreation program.

The following statement can be attributed to Drew McConville, Senior Managing Director of Government Relations at The Wilderness Society and a spokesperson for the LWCF Coalition:

"On their way out the door, DOI Secretary David Bernhardt and the Trump Administration are again trying to rewrite the rules for LWCF and erode the very processes Congress passed into law to ensure the program's success. This last-ditch effort misuses LWCF funds, patently violates LWCF's underlying statutes as well as the FY 2021 appropriations law, and undermines conservation and recreation projects across the country. Particularly objectionable is the blatant attempt to simply erase the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership program and siphon away funding that Congress specifically directed to provide equitable and just park access to underserved communities who need it most. What's more, these ill-conceived changes were rushed through with no transparency or public input. The LWCF Coalition asks the Biden-Harris Administration to reject and reverse these damaging, illegal changes without delay and urges quick Senate confirmation of Interior Secretary nominee Rep. Deb Haaland, who as a champion of LWCF can uphold the vital conservation vision of the Great American Outdoors Act."

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 55 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 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 full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which will ensure the continued conservation of our national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, wilderness, civil war battlefields, as well as state and local parks. For more information on LWCF and the places in each state that have been protected using LWCF funds, visit www.lwcfcoalition.org.