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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 28, 2022

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**NEWS RELEASE**

**President's Budget Advances Critical Funding  
for Land and Water Conservation Fund**

***Further Investment Needed for Climate Resilience and Equitable Access to Nature***

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Coalition welcomed the Biden administration's fiscal year 2023 (FY23) budget proposal for its continuing commitment to the fund. The budget proposal released today provides direction for how LWCF dollars will be spent – fully consistent with the funding split required by the Dingell Act between federal efforts and state and local grants – and lists hundreds of locally driven, vetted conservation and recreation access projects across the country.

"The Biden administration continues to demonstrate its commitment to protecting our public lands, making critical investments in the outdoor recreation economy and increasing access to nature for all," said **Tom Cors, director of U.S. government relations for lands at The Nature Conservancy and a spokesperson for the LWCF Coalition.** "The administration clearly understands that LWCF will be a critical tool for meeting the president's ambitious conservation and recreation goals and providing more equitable access to the outdoors.

"The budget proposal also makes clear that far more needs to be done, and that additional investment will be needed to avoid losing irreplaceable natural and cultural resources. Demand for LWCF far outstrips the funding available in this budget proposal, as it did last year. To address the climate and nature crisis that we face and deliver on the administration's 'America the Beautiful' initiative, we look forward to working with Congress to include \$450 million in discretionary funding, to complement the mandatory allocations provided by the Great American Outdoors Act outlined in today's budget proposal.

"The LWCF Coalition appreciates the crucial investments President Biden is proposing for LWCF, from Maine's Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge and Florida's Everglades Headwaters in the east, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Dakota's Tallgrass Prairie and the Ice Age National Scenic Trail across the Midwest, out west to southern California's Santa Monica

Mountains National Recreation Area, Rio Grande del Norte National Monument in New Mexico and Hawaii's jewel, Haleakala National Park. At the same time, the budget also underscores there is a deep well of unmet needs throughout the country and so much more work to be done. We share the administration's vision for robust conservation action and for equitable access, and we stand ready to help realize those vital goals.

"We also appreciate the priority the administration continues to place on addressing the climate crisis. Recognizing the critical role forest conservation must play in that effort, and the need to invest in climate and access equity for our nation's underserved communities, we look forward to working with congressional leaders to answer that urgent call by including the Forest Legacy Program, urban parks funding, and other key conservation initiatives in any climate legislation considered this year."

### **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 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 [www.lwcfcoalition.org](http://www.lwcfcoalition.org).