



LWCFCoalition.org

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**House Appropriations Subcommittee
Rejects Harmful Trump Conservation Proposals
But FY19 Interior Bill Still Cuts LWCF**

Washington, DC – *The following statement may be attributed to Tom Cors, Director of Government Relations for Lands at The Nature Conservancy and a spokesman for the LWCF Coalition.*

“The House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee’s funding bill released today rejected the Trump Administration’s harmful and dangerous proposal to decimate America’s most important conservation and recreation program, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The Subcommittee bill wisely recognizes the vital importance of LWCF, which the Administration proposed effectively to wipe out. At the same time, we are concerned that the House bill reverses progress from the bipartisan agreement reached last year. Just last month, Congress rejected the President’s FY18 proposal to starve LWCF funding and on a bipartisan basis increased the program by \$25 million, to \$425 million. With 207 members of Congress specifically requesting a continuation of that strong funding in FY19, the \$360 million recommended in the House bill, representing a 15 percent cut, does not reflect the overwhelming support for this program.”

“The conservation of our nation’s shared outdoor heritage has always been an area of bipartisan agreement, as America’s public lands are a defining aspect of our values and national character. LWCF is overwhelmingly supported by the American people, and funding needs to be increased, not reduced, to address imminent threats to many critical and beloved areas. We urge members of Congress to stand up for the program as this bill moves through Congress.

“Rolling back critical investments in America’s parks, lands and historic sites further jeopardizes irreplaceable natural and historic landmarks and landscapes while eroding outdoor recreational opportunities and increased access. Hunting, fishing, camping, hiking and other outdoor recreation activities contribute more than a trillion dollars annually to the U.S. economy, supporting 9.4 million jobs.

“The LWCF Coalition will continue to work with the Appropriations Committee and conservation champions in the House, and with their Senate counterparts, to increase funding for America’s most important conservation program to prevent real and lasting damage to our nation’s communities and the iconic parks and outdoor places cherished by all Americans.”

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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 50 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 a trillion dollars annually to the U.S. economy, supporting 9.4 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 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, 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