



LWCFCoalition.org

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LWCF Coalition Lambastes Department of Interior Secretarial Order

WASHINGTON – The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Coalition today roundly criticized Department of Interior Secretary David Bernhardt’s Secretarial Order 3388 on implementation of the full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) included in the newly enacted Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA). Drew McConville, Senior Managing Director of Government Relations at The Wilderness Society and a spokesperson for the LWCF Coalition, made the following statement:

“The Trump Administration’s Interior Department already has shown careless disregard for its responsibilities to Congress and the American people when it comes to LWCF and the places it protects, and this Secretarial Order adds insult to injury. It would place untenable new restrictions on already-authorized conservation and rewrite the rulebook for how LWCF works in communities across the country. Included in the Secretary’s misguided proposal are unworkable ideas — from needless limits on western land conservation to unnecessary procedural hurdles for urgently needed recreation and access projects in national parks and other federal lands — previously rejected by Congress.

“In fact, Congress did an outstanding job in tailoring these programs for the future when it acted with overwhelming bipartisan unity on LWCF, permanently reauthorizing the program and providing the guaranteed full funding it deserves. The Secretarial Order flies in the face of all that good work, and we forcefully oppose it. Fortunately, Congress has already moved on — rejecting the flawed spending plan sent by the Administration earlier this week — and is working to finalize allocations and projects through the FY21 appropriations process. We urge them to disregard the Secretarial Order as well.”

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.