



**LWCFCoalition.com**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

**Happy Anniversary to LWCF!  
Biden Administration Officials, Outdoor Recreation  
Roundtable, and LWCF Coalition Celebrate Anniversary  
of Great American Outdoors Act**

**Washington, D.C.** – The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Coalition today joined Biden Administration officials and the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (ORR) to mark the first anniversary of the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) and to discuss implementation and progress one year into the program. Speakers included:

- Shannon Estenoz - Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior
- Jeff Vail - Director of Great American Outdoors Team, USDA Forest Service
- Jessica Turner - Executive Director, Outdoor Recreation Roundtable
- Maite Arce - President and CEO, Hispanic Access Foundation
- Kristine Stratton - President and CEO, National Park and Recreation Association
- Kate Van Waes- Executive Director, American Hiking Society

“The Great American Outdoors Act marked one of the great outdoor conservation and recreation achievements in history, but that doesn’t mean our work is over,” said Tom Cors, director of government relations for lands at The Nature Conservancy and a spokesman for the LWCF Coalition. “We are committed to ensuring the program is implemented properly and that LWCF is able to live up to all of its promises. We were grateful to join this committed group of conservation and recreation leaders, and look forward to building on our success in the years ahead.”

“Passage of GAOA by an overwhelming bipartisan margin spoke loud and clear that the outdoors brings Americans together and is more valued than ever. It is abundantly clear, with stories in the press throughout the pandemic and now as travel opens up, that our public lands

are in high demand and often overcrowded. From the National Parks to our local, city, and state parks, Americans are desperate to find more places to get outside, recreate, and reconnect with nature. LWCF is the single most important federal program to expand these opportunities, created specifically to address a growing population's needs for close-to-home parks and trails as well as the protection of iconic natural and cultural treasures."

### **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).