



LWCFCoalition.com

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NEWS RELEASE

LWCF Coalition Applauds House Passage of Build Back Better *Critical Funding Included for Forest Legacy Program and Urban Parks*

WASHINGTON – The LWCF Coalition applauded the House of Representatives for passing the Build Back Better Act, which includes a \$1.25 billion investment in the Forest Legacy Program (FLP) and \$100 million for acquisition or development of urban parks. The following statement can be attributed to Lesley Kane Szyal, Chair of the LWCF Coalition:

“This critical investment in natural infrastructure is good for the U.S. economy, outdoor recreation, equitable access, and will yield huge results for climate action.

“Funding for the Forest Legacy Program will provide for natural climate solutions that protect forests, sequester carbon, connect landscapes, and make our communities healthier and more resilient. Conserving working forest lands contributes significantly to local and state economies, especially in rural areas. The National Alliance of Forest Owners [reports](#) that U.S. forests support approximately 2.5 million jobs, \$109 billion in payroll, and \$288 billion in sales. The Forest Legacy Program is responsible for protecting 2.885 million acres of sustainable working forest lands, bringing together federal, state, and private partners to achieve the common goals of protecting and maintaining forest jobs, recreational access, wildlife habitat, and clean water.

“Additional funding for urban parks reflects an abiding commitment to park equity and outdoor recreation for all. This investment would provide communities with resources to create and enhance parks, connect people with nature, promote public health, and provide mitigation and respite from heat and flooding – especially in neighborhoods and cityscapes where access to outdoor open spaces and recreation facilities is lacking.

“We applaud the Administration, Speaker Pelosi and her leadership team, Agriculture Chairman David Scott and Natural Resources Chairman Raúl Grijalva, and their colleagues for their work on these important issues, and we look forward to working with them to ensure these key investments are passed into law.”

About the Land and Water Conservation Fund

LWCF is America's most important conservation program, responsible for protecting parks, wildlife refuges and recreation areas at the federal, state, and local level. For over half a century, 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.