



**LWCFCoalition.org**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 1, 2017**  
**CONTACT: Justin Bartolomeo**  
**(202) 789-4365**  
[jbartolomeo@hdmk.org](mailto:jbartolomeo@hdmk.org)

## **Conservation Leaders React to Consolidated Appropriations Act**

WASHINGTON, DC – Conservation leaders from the LWCF Coalition today reacted to the bipartisan budget deal reached to fund the government for the remainder of FY 2017. The Consolidated Appropriations Act funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at \$400 million — the same funding level proposed in the Senate, and \$72 million above the House recommendation for LWCF, but \$50 million less than Congress appropriated last year. The funding agreement means that many important on-the-ground conservation and recreation projects will continue, but that others will remain at risk or will be lost. Most importantly, the agreement represents a bipartisan rejection of the Trump Administration’s proposal to slash funding for America’s most important conservation program.

“The conservation of our nation’s National Parks and outdoor heritage has always been an area of bipartisan agreement, and the omnibus spending bill honors that tradition,” said Tom Cors, Director of Government Relations for Lands at The Nature Conservancy. “We commend Congress for continuing to recognize the vital importance of America’s most important conservation program, from protecting our National Parks from development to state and local conservation and recreational access projects in communities from coast-to-coast.”

The LWCF Coalition will continue to work with LWCF’s many bipartisan backers in Congress to maintain the commitment to the program and increase funding in FY 2018 and beyond. LWCF is overwhelmingly popular with the American people and has maintained broad bipartisan support over its half century history of successful, locally-driven conservation. Last year, a supermajority of 85 Senators voted to permanently secure LWCF for every future generation by making the law permanent.

“Our nationwide movement of conservationists, sportsmen, landowners, businesses and outdoor recreation enthusiasts will continue our campaign to educate lawmakers and the American people on the virtues of continuing to reinvest royalties from offshore energy development into lasting natural infrastructure of our land, the outdoor recreation economy, access to hunting and angling opportunities, water resources, and the history and culture of our great nation,” said Cors.

###

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