

**American Fly Fishing Trade Association • Backcountry Hunters and Anglers • Bull Moose Sportsmen's Alliance • Isaak Walton League of America • National Wildlife Federation • Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership • Trout Unlimited**

Secretary Sally Jewell  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20010

Dear Secretary Jewell,

As organizations representing hunters and anglers from across the country, we are writing to thank you for your comments made June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013 before the U.S. Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee about the importance of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to wildlife habitat and recreation. Sportsmen and women recognize the importance of balancing energy development with conservation of our prized public lands; LWCF is a critical tool for getting this done.

As you stated, it is "designed to make investments in conservation and recreation for the American people to balance the development of oil and gas resources. Protecting this balance through mandatory LWCF funding would reduce landscape fragmentation, making it more efficient to protect wildlife habitat, respond to wildfires and other natural disasters, and increase recreational access on the lands and waters that belong to every American." America's hunters and anglers agree. Our experiences in the outdoors have shown us the highest quality fish and game habitat is very often on public land, and LWCF is an essential tool to both acquiring and providing access to some of the best places to fish and hunt in the country.

For too many years, Congress has diverted LWCF monies -- impacting habitat conservation and access to hunting and fishing opportunities on public lands nationwide. Thank you for championing full and dedicated funding of LWCF, and likewise the notion that conservation is as equally important as development of our public lands. We look forward to working with you and Congress to invest in our outdoor heritage, for the good of the next generation of sportsmen and women.

Thank you,

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