Statement on The Senate’s Vote to Reauthorize The Land and Water Conservation Fund

Contact: Anna Peterson, 612-735-2402, anna@themountainpact.org

Durango, Colorado (February 12, 2019) – Statement from The Mountain Pact Executive Director, Anna Peterson:

“We are breathing a sigh of relief after today’s bipartisan Senate vote to finally reauthorize LWCF after four months in limbo. Now we need the House to follow suit. Reauthorization is only part of the solution; we really need full funding as soon as possible. Without LWCF funding, our local governments are left in the lurch wondering how to plan our outdoor recreation opportunities which directly impact the health, economic success, and cultural vitality of all mountain communities.”

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More about the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF):

For 52 years, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has supported America’s public lands, waterways, multi-billion dollar outdoor recreation industry, community parks, trails, and ball fields. LWCF passed through the Senate as part of a public lands package on Tuesday, February 12. It is now up to the House of Representatives to act and pass it as well.

LWCF has had an unknown future since it expired on September 30, 2018. There has since been a loss of more than $300 million for conservation and recreation projects across the country. This is on top of the $22 billion that has been lost over the life of the program as LWCF funds have been diverted to other, unknown purposes.

More about The Mountain Pact

The Mountain Pact is an organization that works with over fifty mountain communities in all eleven states across the American West to empower them to build resilience in the face of economic and environmental stresses through a shared voice on federal policy related to climate, public lands, and outdoor recreation.