



**LWCFCoalition.com**

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## **Trump Budget Slashes Funding for Conservation and Outdoor Recreation *Coalition Calls for Full, Dedicated Funding for LWCF***

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Trump Administration today proposed to eliminate nearly all funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) in its Fiscal Year 2021 budget. The President’s proposal to wipe out funding for LWCF, repeated from his prior year budget requests flies in the face of extremely popular bipartisan legislation in the House and Senate that would provide full dedicated funding for the program.

*Jonathan Asher, Director of Government Relations at The Wilderness Society and a spokesman for the LWCF Coalition, commented on the President’s budget:*

“This proposal is outrageous and absurd, especially as Democrats and Republicans alike on Capitol Hill are working hard to fund LWCF fully and permanently, and as conservation and recreation demand across America continues to skyrocket. Eliminating funding for LWCF would have a devastating impact on not only our national forests, parks, and other national treasures, but would also harm the economy and communities across the nation. Hunting, fishing, outdoor recreation, conservation and historic preservation activities support 7.6 million jobs and contribute \$887 billion annually to the U.S. economy.

“For more than 50 years, LWCF has provided billions of dollars in funds for federal public lands, state and local projects, urban parks, working forests, historic battlefields and so much more, and is paid for without using a dime of taxpayer dollars. Yet each year, money is diverted from LWCF for non-conservation purposes, leaving communities with fewer resources to make investments in outdoor recreation and conservation.

“The LWCF Coalition urges Congress to disregard this dangerous budget proposal, as they have in the past. We will continue to work with bipartisan leaders to secure full, dedicated funding for LWCF, and to protect critical investments in our land, support the immense outdoor recreation economy, provide access to hunting and angling opportunities, safeguard our water resources, and secure the history and culture of our great nation.”

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### **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 \$887 billion annually to the U.S. economy, supporting 7.6 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)