



## Conservation Leaders Rally in Support of New Legislation to Make Historic Investment in Land and Water Conservation

“We are heartened to see this bill at such a pivotal time for our planet,” **said The Nature Conservancy’s Interim CEO Sally Jewell.** “Fully and permanently funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund and caring for America’s national parks are two sides of the same coin. LWCF protects public lands and makes them accessible, while restoring our parks makes sure those places are safe and enjoyable. Addressing these important issues together makes sense, has bipartisan support, and will go a long way toward ensuring that one of America’s greatest legacies—our public lands and waters—are kept healthy and thriving for all to enjoy. This would be an enormous conservation victory for our nation, finally fulfilling the promise of LWCF after 54 years and doing the right thing for future generations.”

“This is an historic deal reflecting the tremendous bipartisan support for our public lands and would mark the biggest conservation victory in over 100 years. This is the chance we have been waiting for to solidify our investments in the outdoor economy and put an end to the constant raiding of LWCF. We applaud our Congressional champions and the Administration for demonstrating that bipartisan cooperation can achieve great things, and for finding common ground in the fight to ensure that future generations will continue to have access to close-to-home recreation,” **said Tom Cors, Director of Government Relations for Lands at The Nature Conservancy and a spokesman for the LWCF Coalition.**

“Full and dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund would be an enormous boost for the millions of people who need access to parks and public lands, and I’m pleased to see the bipartisan leadership in Congress moving parks and conservation funding forward. Thank you, Senators Gardner and Manchin for your continued leadership and commitment to ensuring full and dedicated funding to LWCF,” **said Diane Regas, president and CEO of The Trust for Public Land.** “LWCF has long enjoyed bipartisan support, and it will help ensure that hikers, bikers, hunters and birders can experience the beauty of the outdoors close to where they live.”

“Sportsmen and women are thrilled to see bipartisan momentum building behind the Land and Water Conservation Fund,” **said Whit Fosburgh, president and CEO of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership.** “It has a proven track record of supporting hunting, fishing, and our booming outdoor economy. We urge the full Senate to invest in the future of LWCF and the conservation of our natural resources.”

“West Virginians are closely tied to our landscape and we understand the critical role played by LWCF in protecting our special places, our hunting and angling opportunities, fish and wildlife populations and shared lands and waters, especially as we grow and diversify the state’s outdoor recreation economy,” **said Angie Rosser, Executive Director, West Virginia Rivers Coalition.** “We are proud to see Sen. Manchin continue to lead the way forward on full, permanent, dedicated funding of LWCF and look forward to seeing this new bill passed into law.”

“In the Rocky Mountain West, public lands and trails are vital to our region’s economy and our quality of life,” **said Teresa Martinez, Executive Director of the Continental Divide Trail Coalition.** “That’s why the certainty provided by full, permanent funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund is so crucial. We’re pleased to see legislators who understand that leading the way once more in working to permanently fund LWCF, including Senator Gardner and his Western colleagues who are cosponsoring this bill like Senators Heinrich and Udall from New Mexico.”

“We are thrilled to be part of the forward momentum supporting full and dedicated funding for LWCF, and to see the bipartisan energy and excitement around this important issue” **said John Judge, President and CEO, Appalachian Mountain Club.** “Today’s announcement underscores the longstanding commitment from conservation champions on both sides of the aisle to ensuring that LWCF is fully and permanently funded, in order to finally realize its true promise as our nation’s premiere land protection program and driver of our multi-billion dollar outdoor recreation economy.”

“With this strongly bipartisan bill, Congress has an opportunity to permanently and fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a successful conservation program whose funds have been raided and diverted year after year,” **said Jamie Williams, President, The Wilderness Society.** It’s time for our leaders to stand up, break the logjam in Washington, and pass this bill. People across the country who love their parks and public lands will be watching.”

“We applaud this new legislation and its sponsors’ commitment to ensuring full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and for addressing long-standing deferred maintenance needs in our national parks,” **said Tom Cassidy, Vice President of Government Relations and Policy, National Trust for Historic Preservation.** “LWCF has enabled essential investments in iconic and diverse historic places in this country that help tell the full story of American heritage, including the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park in Atlanta, Canyons of the Ancients National Monument in Colorado, and Harpers Ferry National Historical Park in West Virginia.”

“The Partnership for the National Trails System applauds Sens. Gardner and Manchin and many others for their work to advance action in the US Senate to fully dedicate Land and Water Conservation Fund dollars each year. This will be an enormous boost to the protection of critical natural and cultural resources and close gaps along our 30 national scenic and historic trails. We stand ready to work on a bipartisan basis to get this over the finish line this year,” **said Barney Mann, President of the Partnership for the National Trails System.**

“The Land and Water Conservation Fund is a critical federal program that helps landscape architects plan, design, and build world-class community parks and recreation centers. These are places where people come together to learn, grow, and share community experiences they can’t anywhere else.” **said Wendy Miller, FASLA, President of the American Society of Landscape Architects.** “ASLA has long supported full and permanent funding for LWCF and seeing this bill move forward – along with a measure to fix the crumbling infrastructure in our national parks – is truly a great win, not only for landscape architects but for communities across the nation.

“We have a historic opportunity to enact into law a fully funded LWCF, which plays a vital role in protecting and managing federal, state and local lands while supporting local economies and recreational opportunities across the country,” **said Larry Selzer, President and CEO, The Conservation Fund.** “We applaud Senators Gardner, Daines, Manchin, Cantwell, Burr and all of the bipartisan leaders in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House for championing this essential program—and the companion effort to address the maintenance backlog on our public lands—for our natural treasures.”