



**LWCFCoalition.com**

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## **Great American Outdoors Act Marks Historic Victory for Conservation**

### ***LWCF Coalition Fulfills Decades Long Fight for Close to Home Recreation in Every Community in U.S.***

WASHINGTON – The LWCF Coalition declared a resounding victory today for public lands, conservation, and outdoor recreation in the United States. The signing of the Great American Outdoors Act by President Donald J. Trump, a once-in-a-generation win for public lands and communities, is the culmination of a decade long campaign by the LWCF Coalition to secure full and dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). **Lesley Kane, Co-Chair of the LWCF Coalition, released the following statement:**

“Today marks a new era for conservation that will benefit every single American. The extraordinary impact of this program is felt all across the country, from the multi-billion-dollar outdoor recreation economy and the millions of jobs it supports to the trails, rivers, and public land access it provides for sportsmen and women and outdoor enthusiasts, and from urban parks to our majestic national parks and forests.

“We are grateful for the leadership of the many bipartisan champions in Congress over the years who have at last delivered on the 50-year-old promise of LWCF. Our thanks go to the lead sponsors of this vital legislation, past and present – Senators Cory Gardner (R-CO), Joe Manchin (D-WV), Richard Burr (R-NC), and Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Congressmen Joe Cunningham (D-SC) and Mike Simpson (R-ID), Chairman Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ) and Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) – and to the many other bipartisan LWCF champions in both chambers who have played absolutely critical roles all along the way. In addition, the tireless work of nonprofits, businesses, local elected officials, recreationists and other stakeholders fueled the bipartisan, grassroots campaign for decades that led to this ultimate success. We now look forward to working with national and local leaders to ensure the program is implemented properly and that LWCF continues to live up to its mission.

“With President Trump’s signature, the original vision of LWCF will at last be realized, and countless missing puzzle pieces within our national parks, forests and wildlife refuges will be secured and not lost through private sale. Local communities will now have more resources to meet their recreation needs and the confidence to make long-term investments to protect their water supplies, adapt to a changing climate, and strike a needed balance between development and protection. Historical sites will be preserved to educate future generations. And sportsmen and women will no longer be frustrated by obstacles to public hunting and fishing access.

“Despite uneven funding, LWCF has conserved iconic landscapes in every state; protected our national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, wilderness, monuments and battlefields; and supported community investments in parks and outdoor recreation opportunities. Now, LWCF will be a promise fully kept, as a permanent commitment to conservation, recreation and community needs that for too long have fallen through the cracks. And, it will do all this while driving job creation and economic recovery efforts our country needs right now. The LWCF Coalition celebrates this major conservation achievement and thanks the many LWCF heroes who secured this huge win for all Americans.”

### **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 55 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 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.com](http://www.lwcfcoalition.com).