Colorado Outdoor Partnership
LWCF Reauthorization Talking Points

The Colorado Outdoor Partnership, a group of 30 organizations representing outdoor recreation and conservation interests, expresses strong support for reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) with full dedicated funding.

The LWCF expires September 30th unless Congress takes action. Losing LWCF would be an enormous setback for outdoor recreation in Colorado. LWCF investments contribute to our state’s vibrant outdoor recreation economy, which generates $28 billion in consumer spending every year and sustains hundreds of thousands of jobs across the state.

Through funding for green spaces, trails and parks, LWCF has helped revitalize urban areas across the state and provide places for kids and families to be outdoors. The fund has paid for trails that link mountain communities and improve access to national forests and parks. Countless LWCF projects benefit Colorado’s rural communities, including iconic places such as the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Canyon of the Ancients National Monument, which draw visitors from around the world.

Colorado has received nearly $270 million from the LWCF over the past five decades. The fund is essential to Colorado Parks and Wildlife’s State Trails Program, which administers approximately $3.5 - $4 million each year in non-motorized trail grant funding from Great Outdoors Colorado, the Recreational Trails Program, and the LWCF.

According to 2013 and 2018 studies conducted by Colorado Parks and Wildlife, trails, nature and wildlife viewing areas, playgrounds and picnic areas are top outdoor recreation priorities for Coloradans. The LWCF not only directly funds these projects, but also generates significant amounts of local and state matching investments.

Coloradans and all Americans who love the outdoors value LWCF. According to a national poll, an overwhelming majority - 82% - of voters support funding LWCF through fees from offshore oil and gas drilling.
This past year, the LWCF brought the Colorado Outdoor Partnership together with a broad range of other outdoor recreation related sectors, including health, diversity in the outdoors, transportation and tourism to develop a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). A requirement and essential component of the LWCF, this plan lays out Colorado’s outdoor recreation priorities for the next five years. In order to implement this plan, Colorado is relying on continued funding of the LWCF.

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*The Colorado Outdoor Partnership represents the intersection of conservation and outdoor recreation interests related to land, water and wildlife and is working collaboratively to ensure that Colorado remains a beautiful and healthy place to live, work and play for generations to come. Learn more about the Colorado Outdoor Partnership at [https://copartnership.org/](https://copartnership.org/)*