



LWCFCoalition.com

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CONTACT: Justin Bartolomeo

(202) 400-0480

justin@jmbpublicrelations.com

NEWS RELEASE

President's Budget Showcases Importance of Dedicated Funding for Land and Water Conservation Fund

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The LWCF Coalition today praised President Biden's first budget proposal, released today, for its commitment to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The fiscal year 2022 (FY22) budget proposal provides direction for how LWCF dollars will be spent -- fully consistent with the funding split required by the Dingell Act between federal efforts and state and local grants -- and lists hundreds of locally-driven, fully-vetted, community-supported conservation and recreation access projects across the country.

"The Biden-Harris Administration continues to demonstrate its commitment to protecting our public lands, making critical investments in the outdoor recreation economy, and increasing access to nature for all," said **Tom Cors, director of government relations for lands at The Nature Conservancy and a spokesperson for the LWCF Coalition.** The administration clearly understands that LWCF will be a critical tool for meeting the president's ambitious conservation and recreation goals and providing greater equity to underserved communities."

"The budget proposal also makes clear that far more needs to be done, and that additional resources will be needed to address a host of now-or-never conservation and recreation opportunities before they are lost forever," said Cors. "In that context, we are disappointed that the full dedicated annual LWCF funding Congress already agreed to provide in FY22 and beyond will be subject to reductions under previous budget legislation, much like a number of other programs. This loophole would cut over \$50 million from local projects all around the country. Addressing outdoor needs across America will require more investment, not less, and so we look forward to working with Congress to resolve funding shortfalls."

"The LWCF Coalition appreciates the historic investments President Biden is proposing for LWCF. At the same time, the budget also underscores that there is a deep well of unmet needs throughout the country, and so much more work to be done. We share the administration's

vision for robust conservation action and for equitable access, and we stand ready to help realize those vital goals.”

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 \$778 billion annually to the U.S. economy, supporting 5.2 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. For more information on LWCF and the places in each state that have been protected using LWCF funds, visit www.lwcfcoalition.org.