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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 19, 2019

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NEWS RELEASE

Senate Committee Passes Permanent Funding for LWCF Reaffirms bipartisan commitment to America's most important conservation and recreation program

WASHINGTON – The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee today voted to advance legislation to provide full, dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The bill (S. 1081), the Land and Water Conservation Fund Permanent Funding Act, was introduced by Sens. Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Cory Gardner (R-Colo.). A bipartisan House companion bill (H.R. 3195) was approved by the House Natural Resources Committee in June.

The following statement can be attributed to Tom Cors, director of government relations for lands at The Nature Conservancy and a spokesman for the Land and Water Conservation Fund Coalition:

“Today the Senate Committee again made clear the broad, bipartisan support for LWCF and its importance to conservation and outdoor recreation efforts across the country. The LWCF Coalition applauds the members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee for approving legislation to fully and permanently fund LWCF. For too long, LWCF funds have been siphoned off for non-conservation government spending. This bill, S. 1081, is a simple fix to restore honest budgeting to America’s most important conservation and recreation program.

“Earlier this year, Congress voted overwhelmingly to permanently protect LWCF’s unique structure and funding source, which was a critically important step to protecting this program’s future. Now, we must ensure the funding goes where it is intended. The LWCF Coalition urges Congress to pass legislation this year to ensure LWCF gets permanent, full, and dedicated funding.”

About the Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is America’s most important conservation program, responsible for protecting parks, trails, wildlife refuges and recreation areas at the federal, state and local level. For more than 50 years, it has provided critical funding for land and water conservation projects, access to recreation including hunting and fishing, 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 comprised of more than 1,000 state and regional conservation and recreation organizations of all sizes, land owners, small businesses, ranchers, sportsmen, veterans, the outdoor recreation industry and conservationists working together to protect America's public lands and safeguard our shared outdoor heritage for future generations.

The Coalition is united in its advocacy for full, dedicated 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, working lands and state and local parks. For more information on LWCF and the places in each state that LWCF funds have protected, visit www.lwcfcoalition.org.