



LWCFCoalition.com

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NEWS RELEASE

LWCF Coalition Statement

President Biden's FY 2024 Budget Announcement

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Coalition released the following statement from **Lesley Kane Szynal, Chair of the LWCF Coalition**, recognizing the President's commitment to the Land and Water Conservation Fund in his FY24 budget announcement:

“The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and its many benefits are critical to preserving America's most treasured landscapes and bolstering our local and national outdoor recreation economies. To maintain LWCF's time-tested reputation as a successful program that effectively does exactly what it sets out to do requires robust, ongoing investment. We are heartened by the President's LWCF FY24 budget, which provides direction for how LWCF dollars will be spent – fully consistent with the funding allocation required by the Dingell Act between federal efforts and a suite of state and local grants – and lists hundreds of locally driven, vetted conservation and recreation access projects across the country.

The LWCF Coalition appreciates the crucial investments this budget is proposing for LWCF, from Maine's Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge and Florida's Everglades Headwaters in the east, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Dakota's Tallgrass Prairie and the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge in across the Midwest, out west to the southern California Coastal National Monument's Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, Rio Grande del Norte National Monument, Valles Caldera National Preserve in New Mexico and Hawaii's crown jewels, Haleakala like Grand Teton and Zion National Parks. We thank President Biden for his continued commitment to address these and other priorities with dedicated LWCF funding provided under the Great American Outdoors Act.

We are also excited that the Biden Administration included an increase in discretionary LWCF funding, and even more pleased to see that the proposed increase dovetails with the Coalition's efforts and those of our congressional champions to allow tribes to receive funding through the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program (ORLP). The Outdoors for All Act, recently introduced by Senators Padilla (D-CA) and Collins (R-ME) and Representatives Barragán (D-Calif.-44) and Turner (R-Ohio-10), will precisely provide the avenue Tribes need to access these funds. We look forward to working to enact this important legislation and secure these funds.

Over and above the budget proposal, there is far more identified conservation need in communities across the country that remains unmet without additional discretionary funding – funding supported by [LWCF Coalition partners](#) and a [strong bipartisan group of legislators](#). To address these critical needs, an additional \$450 million in discretionary funding, to complement the other allocations outlined in today’s budget proposal, remains an LWCF Coalition priority for the future of America’s public lands and waters. The LWCF Coalition is committed to working with President Biden and LWCF supporters in Congress to make significant progress toward addressing these additional needs and our collective conservation, recreation and equitable access goals.”

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About the Land and Water Conservation Fund

LWCF is America’s most important conservation program, responsible for protecting parks, wildlife refuges and recreation areas at the federal, state and local level. For over half a century, 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 landowners, 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 LWCFCoalition.org.