



LWCFCoalition.com

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NEWS RELEASE

LWCF Coalition Applauds Biden Administration's New Secretarial Order *Reverses Harmful Changes to LWCF*

WASHINGTON – Acting Secretary of the Interior Scott de la Vega today moved to reverse damaging actions of the previous Administration by issuing [Secretarial Order 3396](#) on the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The new order rescinds and revokes [Secretarial Order 3388](#) and repeals a number of harmful [last-minute changes](#) to the program. LWCF has a 56-year proven track record as America's most important and successful conservation and outdoor recreation program, benefiting communities in every state and county.

This announcement reverses restrictions on federal conservation projects, restores funding to improve outdoor access for underserved communities, revises the LWCF State Assistance Manual to remove restrictive policies, and brings LWCF programming back in line with the intent of Congress. Equitable access to the outdoors is vital to the health and wellbeing of communities. The coalition is pleased to see the Biden Administration has fully reinstated funding to the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) program – supporting parks and greenspaces in underserved areas that need it most.

“This is a swift and decisive step toward reversing the damaging policies of the previous Administration and unleashing the full potential of the Land and Water Conservation Fund in its first year of full funding,” said **Tom Cors, director of government relations for lands at The Nature Conservancy and a spokesperson for the LWCF Coalition.** “When Congress passed the Great American Outdoors Act last year and fully funded LWCF, its message was clear: the country must and shall invest more in conservation and access to America's outdoors for all. This fund supports critical conservation tools for communities and investment in natural infrastructure. We applaud the Biden Administration for its commitment to ensuring LWCF functions as intended – now bigger and better than ever, to address unmet needs across the country and achieve the President's goal of conserving 30% of America's lands and waters by 2030.”

This announcement comes just a day after a bipartisan group of 90 lawmakers, led by Reps. Jared Golden, D-Maine, and Brian Fitzpatrick, R-Pa., [wrote](#) to the Acting Secretary of the Interior requesting the repeal of the Secretarial Order and “further harmful changes and restrictions” to LWCF.

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 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.