

Support the Land and Water Conservation Fund! Current Legislation in the 115th Congress

This is a critical year to press for a permanent solution to LWCF. The three-year reauthorization of LWCF that was achieved in late 2015 expires in September 2018. On the heels of last year's success in the Senate Energy Bill, it is clear that LWCF has strong bipartisan support – and is one of the few issues that provides common ground across the aisle and in both houses of Congress.

Why Cosponsorship?

Current bills to permanently reauthorize (and in some cases, also fully fund) the Land and Water Conservation Fund may or may not move forward this year in Congress, but the continued addition of bipartisan cosponsors to these bills now and throughout the next several months is critical. Adding further cosponsors shows continued growth in support and momentum toward a long term solution for this incredibly successful program, America's most important commitment to conservation at the national, state and local level.

LWCF was rescued from expiration in 2015 by a huge outpouring of bipartisan support, but its renewal for three years was only a temporary solution-- one that is already ticking down again to expiration in September of next year. On top of that, half of LWCF's funding has continued to be diverted away from conservation to other purposes, and now faces an even more dire threat of severe funding cuts under the new Administration. Only legislation that permanently reauthorizes LWCF and provides full, dedicated funding will truly ensure the future of this universally popular program.

In the SENATE

S. 896: Introduced by Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC) and Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO), this bill would **permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**, as well as direct a very small amount of LWCF funding (1.5% or \$10M annually) to opening up additional access to public lands for sportsmen and other recreational users. Text and cosponsors can be found [here](#).

S. 569: Introduced by Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC), this bill not only would **permanently reauthorize LWCF**, but also provides for **full, dedicated and permanent funding**. This would stop LWCF's funding from being siphoned off each year in the appropriations process for other, unknown and unaccountable purposes. In the 50-year history of LWCF, over \$20 billion intended for LWCF has been lost to the General Treasury this way. Consistent, predictable funding at the level Congress deemed necessary in 1978 (not even indexed for inflation!) would finally fulfill LWCF's true promise to the American people. Text and cosponsors can be found [here](#).

In the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H.R. 502: Introduced by Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ) and Rep. Pat Meehan (R-PA), like S. 896 this bill would **permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**, as well as direct a very small amount of LWCF funding (1.5% or \$10M annually) to opening up additional access to public lands for sportsmen and other recreational users. The same bill introduced in the last Congress drew more than 200 bipartisan cosponsors, and our goal is to surpass that level of support in the current term. Text and cosponsors can be found [here](#).