



Land and Water Conservation Fund Permanent Funding Act

Representative Van Drew, Natural Resources Chair Grijalva, and nine bipartisan cosponsors are introducing legislation to permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at its full authorization level of \$900 million without need for further appropriation.

THE LEGISLATION

Even with the historic passage of the [Public Lands Package](#) that included permanent reauthorization of LWCF, Congress' work to protect this vital program isn't finished. The next step is to provide mandatory, full-funding for and give LWCF the resources and recognition it deserves.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Permanent Funding Act will ensure that LWCF receives the dedicated funding needed to protect the lands that communities love and depend upon.

THE PROBLEM

Every year, \$900 million in royalties from oil and gas drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf enter the Fund. Then, Congress determines how much of that revenue to appropriate towards the creating new parks, new conservation areas, and providing state matching grants for recreation developments. Unfortunately, the program has been chronically underfunded – with Congress appropriating only \$18.4 billion of the about \$40 billion that has been credited to LWCF. Furthermore, despite the fact that revenues from offshore development have increased since 1965—as has the cost of conservation—funding allocated to LWCF programs has declined in recent years.

By expanding recreational opportunities, Congress receives a significant return on its investment as outdoor recreation generates \$886 billion in annual consumer spending, supports 7.6 million American jobs, and spurs \$59.2 billion in state and local tax revenue. The LWCF program also creates significant long-term savings for federal agencies and taxpayers because they safeguard lands that provide valuable natural resources – such as clean air and water – support private working lands and reduce wildfire risk.

BACKGROUND ON THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

For over 50 years, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has carried out a simple, bipartisan idea: use revenues from the depletion of one resource, offshore oil and gas, to conserve another, our land and water, in order to provide recreational opportunities for all Americans. LWCF has touched every state and nearly every county, protecting landscapes from the Grand Canyon to the Salem River Wildlife Management Area.

This simple concept has turned LWCF into one of the most broadly supported and effective conservation programs—highlighted by the passage of permanent authorization of the fund earlier this Congress in the bipartisan, bicameral lands package.