

Quote Sheet

Release of *Conserving America's Landscapes*

A report issued by the Land and Water Conservation Fund Coalition

3 March 2009

AMERICAN WHITEWATER

"Our nation's rivers provide an outstanding diversity of recreational opportunities and the Land and Water Conservation Fund has brought thousands of river access points across the country into public ownership. As development pressures along waterways increase however, the need grows and it is time to renew our commitment to a program that has the ability to greatly enhance the ability of all Americans to enjoy public lands and waters."

- Thomas O'Keefe, Pacific Northwest Director, American Whitewater

Press contact: Tom O'Keefe, okeefe@americanwhitewater.org, 425-417-9012

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB

"In difficult economic times, the need for close-to-home recreational opportunities and preservation of the jobs provided by working forests is even greater. In addition, we shouldn't forget the importance of protecting the many special outdoor places around the nation to make sure they are not lost forever. Funding for LWCF and Forest Legacy is critical to our organization's efforts to protect the mountains, rivers, and trails of the Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic U.S., and connect people with the outdoors,"

- Andy Falender, Executive Director of the Appalachian Mountain Club.

Press Contact: Rob Burbank, RBurbank@outdoors.org, 603-466-2721

APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY

"The Land and Water Conservation Fund has been the primary source of critical funding for the past 30 years to support land acquisition along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail—America's premier long-distance footpath. Nearly 200,000 acres in 14 states have been acquired, providing a permanent right-of-way accommodating more than three million annual visitors as well as a protective greenway bordering the trail that encompasses some of the finest natural, cultural, and scenic resources of the eastern United States."

- Dave Startzell, Executive Director, Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

Press contact: Brian King, bking@appalachiantrail.org 304-535-6331

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS FOUNDATION

"Full funding of Land and Water Conservation Fund is essential at this critical time for the economy, as well as the vitality of parks and recreation facilities. In California State Parks alone, 2,620 people could be put to work on 23,000 projects over the next five years if adequate funding were made available," said Elizabeth Goldstein, President of California State Parks Foundation.

- Elizabeth Goldstein, President, California State Parks Foundation

Press contact: Jerry Emory, jerry@calparks.org, 415-262-4414

CIVIL WAR PRESERVATION TRUST

"The Land and Water Conservation Fund is the primary source of federal matching grants for saving America's remaining Civil War battlefields. Without this critical program, thousands of acres of hallowed ground would have been lost to development. LWCF grants have enabled the private sector to preserve more than 15,000 acres of battlefield land in the past decade."

- Jim Campi, Policy & Communications Director, Civil War Preservation Trust

Press contact: Jim Campi, jcampi@civilwar.org, 202-367-1861 x205

THE CONSERVATION FUND

"The Land and Water Conservation Fund has been one of the best tools we have for protecting our natural resources and world-class recreational opportunities for present and future generations," said Larry Selzer, president and CEO of The Conservation Fund. "As we look toward the conservation opportunities

and challenges that lie ahead, it is imperative that this critical funding source be restored to its historic levels to ensure that all citizens and visitors are able to enjoy the natural beauty that this great nation of ours has to offer.”

- Larry Selzer, President and CEO, The Conservation Fund.

Press contact: Vanessa Vaughan, vvaughan@conservationfund.org, 703-525-6300

DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE

“The Land and Water Conservation Fund is one of our most important tools for habitat protection that is climate-smart, protects imperiled species, and buffers or connects larger parcels of intact wildlife habitat,” commented Noah Kahn, federal lands associate for Defenders of Wildlife. “By protecting land strategically, the Land and Water Conservation Fund will not only help solve the conservation problems of our time, it can also be used to help reduce the threats that many species will face in years to come.”

- Noah Kahn, Federal Lands Associate, Defenders of Wildlife

Press contact: Jessica Brand, jbrand@defenders.org, 202-772-0239

EASTERN FOREST PARTNERSHIP

"LWCF and Forest Legacy have protected a ribbon of special places throughout the Eastern United States. From the great Northern Forests to the Highlands, to the Southern Appalachian Mountains, now more than ever we need a program that will preserve the natural tapestry that are our Eastern Forests."

- Pat Byington, Chair, Eastern Forest Partnership

Press contact: Pat Byington, pkbyington@aol.com, 205-999-4390

GREATER YELLOWSTONE COALITION

"Yellowstone National Park is perhaps the most iconic landscape in the West. The lands in and around the world's first national park support healthy populations of grizzly bears, wolves, elk, trumpeter swans and bighorn sheep. The Land and Water Conservation Fund has provided money to protect some of the most important wildlife habitat outside Yellowstone. Greater Yellowstone Coalition urges Congress to fully fund this vitally important program."

- Scott Christensen, Private Lands Stewardship Director, Greater Yellowstone Coalition

Press contact: Scott Christensen, schristensen@greateryellowstone.org, 406-586-1593

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE PARK DIRECTORS

“Represented by over 6,600 locations, preserving over 13.8 million acres, and enjoyed by over 730 million visitors annually, America’s system of state parks are vital to our nation’s health and well being. They preserve some of the nation’s most valued places; they are leaders in environmental education, health and are “wellness centers” for our citizens. And they are major contributors to states and nation’s tourism economies. For generations, citizens and visitors alike have relied on state parks to find emotional and intellectual connections to their heritage. Simply put, they are all about the “forever business.”

Proper funding and support of LWCF for state and local governments is critical to fulfilling their missions. LWCF funding is essential to maintain a state and federal recreation partnership in providing quality close to home recreation opportunities. And it is vital in ensuring that those lands already protected by section 6(f)(3) remain a part of the recreation estate that makes up the backbone of local and state parks in the nation.”

- Greg Butts, President, National Association of State Park Directors

Press contact: Greg Butts, greg.butts@arkansas.gov, 501-682-7743

NATIONAL PARK TRUST

“The National Park Trust will continue to bring private partners to the table in our efforts to protect American parklands; however, the private sector will never be able to adequately ensure the protection of our nation's parks. We need the federal government's assistance and strongly support full funding over the long-term for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.”

- F. William Brownell, Chair, Board of Trustees, National Park Trust

Press contact: Kit McGinnis, kit@parktrust.org, 304-728-3506

NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

"Congress and the new Administration have an opportunity to restore essential funding to this program, and protect America's national parks," said National Parks Conservation Association Senior Vice President for Policy Ron Tipton. "National park visitors don't want to see commercial and residential development inside their national parks, but this is a real threat to national parks across the country. The National Park Service has not had the needed funding for the past several years to buy land within park boundaries from willing sellers. This puts wildlife, natural and cultural treasures, the experiences of visitors, and the very future of our national parks at risk."

- Ron Tipton, Senior Vice President, National Parks Conservation Association
Press contact: Andrea Keller, akeller@npca.org, 202-454-3915

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ASSOCIATION

"LWCF is an indispensable tool for ensuring the long-term ecological integrity of our national wildlife refuges. Now is the time to bring the fund to its full strength and to put those dollars to work conserving the lands and waters that support healthy wildlife and healthy people across the American landscape."

- Evan Hirsche, President, National Wildlife Refuge Association
Press contact: Evan Hirsche, ehirsche@refugeassociation.org, 202-333-9075

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

"The nation needs a secure, reliable source for land protection funding. As states and federal agencies work to conserve large landscapes, dependable funding is an essential tool to ensure our heritage of natural wonders and working landscapes."

- Robert Bendick, Director, U.S. Government Relations, The Nature Conservancy
Press contact: Aaron Drew adrew@tnc.org 720-974-7083

NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

"New York State is pleased to join this unique partnership among the environmental community, the government sector and the recreational industry to publish this LWCF report," said Carol Ash, Commissioner of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. "It is incumbent upon all those who understand the economic, social and public health benefits of parks and open space to come together in support of reinvigorating federal leadership in park and open space funding. New York State looks forward to working with the Obama administration to revitalize parks across the country in a way that creates jobs, improves public health and improves the quality of life in our communities."

- Carol Ash, Commissioner, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Press contact: Eileen Larrabee, eileen.larrabee@oprhp.state.ny.us, 518-474-9758

NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL ASSOCIATION

"The North Country National Scenic Trail was envisioned by its founders and authorized by Congress as the premier continuous footpath linking the best of the north country's rugged landscapes and people. Stretching 4600 miles from North Dakota to New York's Vermont border, the trail is being built by volunteers in partnership with federal, state and local entities. But its only half done. The really difficult part lies ahead, and requires easements or acquisitions with private landowners in the increasingly more populous areas to connect with the larger tracts of state and federal land where the trail is already built. LWCF may be the last and best hope for completion of the North Country Trail before development pressures swallow all opportunity to finish it."

- Bruce Matthews, Executive Director, North Country Trail Association
Press contact: Bruce Matthews, brmatthews@northcountrytrail.org 616-897-5987

NORTHERN FOREST ALLIANCE

"The Forest Legacy and Land and Water Conservation Fund Programs are vital tools to ensure public access and use of the Northern Forest region's most important timber, recreational, green energy, wildlife, and other forest resources. Thanks to these programs, we all have the opportunity to visit and enjoy our region's treasures like the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Forest, the White Mountain National Forest, the Green Mountain National Forest, the Silvio Conte Refuge, Acadia National Park, the Lake

Umbagog Refuge, the High Peaks Reserve of New York's Adirondack State Park, and a multitude of state and local forests and parks across Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York. The wonderful forested character of our region is ensured for future generations thanks to investments made through the Forest Legacy Program and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Special thanks is due our Congressional delegation for their strong support of these critical programs."

- Bruce Clendenning, Policy Director, Northern Forest Alliance

Press contact: Bruce Clendenning, bclendenning@nfainfo.org, 603-832-3559

OUTDOOR INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

"We believe that people are healthier and communities are stronger when there is nearby access to recreation opportunities. The state-side Land Water Conservation Fund has been invaluable in supporting such projects, but unfortunately the available dollars have declined dramatically over recent years," said Michael Collins, Vice President Public Affairs for Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI). "By returning funding to originally promised levels we can enhance the quality of life in communities across the country, improve the well-being of our citizens, put people to work on building parks and trails and support thousands jobs tied to the recreation industry."

-Michael Collins, Vice President Public Affairs, Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI)

Press contact: Todd Keller, keller@outdoorindustry.org, 202-248-5093

THE PACIFIC FOREST TRUST

"We depend on adequate funding of the Forest Legacy Program to help protect working forests as well as the landowners and communities who depend on them. The LWCF is just as crucial to our efforts to add private lands we've purchased from willing sellers to two of our nation's most treasured landscapes: Yosemite National Park and Oregon's Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument," says John Bernstein, PFT Vice President for Conservation.

He added that the Pacific Forest Trust currently is holding 6,600 acres in those regions until LWCF funds are available to pay for their transfer to public ownership.

"State and local funding to conserve these properties is drying up in this economic climate. Without Forest Legacy and LWCF funding, it will be extremely difficult - if not impossible - for conservation groups like ours to safeguard these vital lands for all their public benefits, including revenue from tourism and the timber industry, sustainably harvested wood, water, wildlife habitat and a well-balanced climate."

- John Bernstein, Vice President for Conservation, The Pacific Forest Trust

Press contact: Christine Harrison, The Pacific Forest Trust, charrison@pacificforest.org 415-561-0700 x17

SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN FOREST COALITION

"Congress has an opportunity to reverse the deep funding cuts of the last seven years and address the loss of our nation's forests, open spaces and natural heritage by investing in the LWCF and the Forest Legacy Program. The missing ingredient in conservation efforts is often the funds needed to purchase lands or development rights in threatened areas. While the need for land conservation increases, support levels for the Land and Water Conservation Fund – a program that has helped create parks for people to enjoy in counties throughout America and has provided protection for more than five million acres across the country -- has fallen victim to Congressional budget battles. LWCF has been the critical source of funding available to federal and state-level agencies for protecting our most treasured lands and public demand for restoring adequate funding to this program must become a priority.

We must fully fund these programs *now* before the accelerating and inevitable onslaught of development overwhelms what becomes more and more valuable -- green space on the map to recreate and escape, for wildlife and their habitat, for our natural heritage. This we do to provide for generations yet to come."

- Mark Shelley, Director Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition

Press contact: Mark Shelley, mark@safc.org, 828.252.9223

SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

"In the Southern Appalachians rapid population growth and land-use patterns are creating fragmentation of our forested land at an alarming rate -- even and especially within Forest Service proclamation boundaries. Without urgent action we stand to lose our hunting and fishing heritage and our ability to secure sufficient drinking water and outdoor recreation areas for future generations."

- Jay Erskine Leutze – Trustee, Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy
Press contact: Jay Leutze, jayerskine@hotmail.com, 919-943-2664

TENNESSEE PARKS AND GREENWAYS FOUNDATION

"Two thousand acres in Tennessee's dramatically beautiful Scott's Gulf, a 1,000 foot gorge cut by the fast cold water of the Caney Fork River in our beautiful Cumberland Mountains, were protected last year with support from the Forest Legacy Program. This Fund leveraged state and private dollars to set aside one of the most scenic and important places on Earth. Come See!"

- Kathleen Williams, President & Executive Director, Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation
Press contact: Kathleen Williams, tenngreen@earthlink.net, 615-386-3171

TROUT UNLIMITED

Fully funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund is not only an investment in public lands and recreation, but represents a commitment to preserving critical natural resources throughout America. This dedicated fund is imperative to protecting watersheds that provide clean water and healthy trout and salmon habitat.

-Nat Gillespie, Eastern Land Protection Project Director, Trout Unlimited
Press contact: Erin Mooney, emooney@tu.org, 703-284-9408

THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

"Over the past few years, even with the heroic efforts of some key players in Congress, funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has been in a downward spiral. As a result, our nation has lost more and more of the scenic beauty, recreational opportunities, fish and wildlife habitat, and cultural heritage that feed our national spirit. We are delighted that the President's new budget proposal turns the LWCF around and points it back in the right direction. Now we must work together to accomplish this, and this report marks the first step."

- Alan Front, Senior Vice President, The Trust for Public Land
Press contact: Tim Ahern, tim.ahern@tpl.org, 415-495-4014

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION FOR PARKS

"Virginia has received about \$77 million since the inception of the LWCF program. When combined with the minimum 50% local match, a total well in excess of \$154 million has been invested in Virginia local and state parks. Each of our 35 state parks and local parks in every Congressional District have benefitted from these funds. Safe places to experience nature, swim, hike, bike, boat, play soccer and engage in a variety of recreational programs helps our citizens in their efforts to achieve a healthy lifestyle."

- Johnny Finch, President, Virginia Association for Parks
Press contact: Joe Elton, joe.elton@dcr.virginia.gov 804-786-4377

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONSERVANCY

"For land conservation work, there are no more important funding sources than the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Forest Legacy Program. Land trusts all across America are using these funds to conserve our very most important natural areas, protect the character of our regions, and make our communities better and more attractive places to live and invest. Organizations like the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy have thousands of members who count on us to protect the most significant forests and other natural areas -- and these funding sources are crucial to the future of this work."

- Tom Saunders, president and CEO of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

Press Contact: Stephanie Kraynick, skraynick@paconserve.org, 412.586.2358

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

“As global warming continues to imperil plant and animal species, the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Forest Legacy Program will be critical to mitigate for and adapt to the affects of climatic changes. Acquiring critical inholdings also allow the land management agencies to manage their lands more effectively and help return balance to our communities by providing recreational and conservation opportunities that lead to higher property values and economic vitality.”

- David Moulton, Director, Climate Policy & Conservation Funding, The Wilderness Society

Press Contact: Chris Lancette, chris_lancette@twc.org, 202-429-2692