

# CONSERVATION, RECREATION, AND SPORTSMEN GROUPS PRAISE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

## Quotes on the importance of the Land and Water Conservation Fund

April 10, 2013 – Release of the FY 2014 President Budget

### Appalachian Mountain Club

"As the nation's oldest conservation and recreation organization, the Appalachian Mountain Club applauds the President's proposed budget for restoring robust and dedicated funding for LWCF established by Congress 40 years ago," said **Susan Arnold, AMC's Vice President for Conservation**. "The proposal will support the recreation economy of our nation, and our region, by protecting the New England National Scenic Trail, the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, parks, and open space that support public access, outdoor enjoyment, and ecological integrity in the Northeast."

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"Continued investment in the Land and Water Conservation Fund is vital to making our cities economically competitive and environmentally sustainable," said **Catherine Nagel, Executive Director of City Parks Alliance**, a nationwide membership organization solely dedicated to urban parks. "The President has set the bar toward full funding and we now turn to Congress to ensure that this critical source of conservation funding continues at its intended levels."

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### Civil War Trust

"President Obama has our thanks for encouraging a significant investment in our public lands through the Land and Water Conservation Fund," said **O. James Lighthizer, President, Civil War Trust**. "This program is the primary source of federal matching grants for saving America's remaining Civil War battlefields, a particularly timely endeavor as we mark the 150th anniversary of that conflict. But preservation is not just symbolic; it provides a tangible economic boost to surrounding communities. As illustrated in our recent economic impact study, *Blue, Gray & Green*, preserved battlefields provide jobs for residents and generate significant revenue for municipalities through heritage tourism."

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### The Conservation Fund

"America's natural treasures – the local parks and greenways where our children play, the private farms and forests we nurture, and the federal and state public lands where we recreate – are precious resources that support our national economy and improve our overall quality of life. And all of these areas are supported by funding through the Land and Water Conservation Fund," said **Larry Selzer, president and CEO of The Conservation Fund**. "I applaud the continued commitment of President Obama to elevate the importance of conserving the outdoors for all Americans to enjoy, and I urge the U.S. Congress to follow suit by halting the raiding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund."

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### **Ducks Unlimited**

“The President’s proposal restores honesty to America’s budgeting by putting a portion of offshore oil and gas revenues where they were meant to be spent: outdoor recreation opportunities and protecting working lands, wildlife habitat and parks for future generations,” said Dale Hall, Ducks Unlimited CEO. “More specifically, the proposed budget would include continued funding for the Dakota Grasslands Conservation Area through conservation easements. America’s prairies are critical to sustaining waterfowl populations.”

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### **Environment America**

“Americans are [committed](#) to keeping extraordinary places like Yosemite, the Great Smoky Mountains, and the Everglades protected forever,” said Aaron Weil, Preservation Advocate for Environment America. “President Obama’s budget takes steps toward honoring that commitment to the best of our natural heritage in his budget proposal today by recommending full funding for our national parks and the Land and Water Conservation Fund in 2015. Without adequate resources to protect the places we love, Americans could see more and more of our natural wonders lost to neglect or degraded by pollution and development.”

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### **Partnership for the National Trails System**

“The President's strong commitment to making vigorous use of the Land & Water Conservation Fund to acquire critical land to protect natural and cultural resources and provide high quality outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans is critical to completing the 30 National Scenic and Historic Trails of the National Trails System,” **said Gary Werner, Executive Director of the Partnership for the National Trails System.** “These trails that connect Americans to our natural landscapes and important moments in our history are works in progress with many gaps in the trails and significant sites to be preserved to make them available for public education and enjoyment. The Land & Water Conservation Fund is the principal tool for preserving these key elements of our heritage as Americans. The fund must be vigorously used before irreplaceable natural and cultural resources along the trails are lost.”

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### **Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership**

“Lack of access is the No. 1 reason that hunters and anglers stop pursuing our passions,” **said Whit Fosburgh, president and CEO of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership.** “The Land and Water Conservation Fund has helped conserve some of America’s most important fish and wildlife habitat and popular sporting destinations and plays a crucial role in maintaining access for hunting, fishing and shooting. Furthermore, the fund is a valuable tool for ranching families and communities in maintaining the economic viability of America’s working landscapes. We’re pleased with the president’s plan to prioritize the wise investment of LWCF funds.”

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### **The Nature Conservancy**

“The president has gone out of his way to put emphasis on land conservation in his budget proposal. For the first time, the budget includes dedicated funding for the Land and Water

Conservation Fund. This is a wise investment in America's future, and comes after the Senate introduced S.338 this session—a bipartisan bill to fully fund and reauthorize LWCF. These steps forward make us hopeful about the growing recognition of the tremendous value of LWCF and the conservation of America's natural resources to our natural and historic heritage, outdoor recreation, tourism and our economy," said Bob Bendick, Director of U.S. Government Relations at The Nature Conservancy.

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### **The Trust for Public Land**

"By helping protect our national parks, seashores, trails and forests, as well as ensuring protection of working forests and ranches, the LWCF program also supports jobs in local communities. This is an excellent investment that will help provide close to home places for Americans to get outdoors and we hope Congress supports it," said **Will Rogers, President of The Trust for Public Land**. "Since 1965, LWCF has been helping to protect a variety of our favorite places across the nation, and none of the money comes from federal taxes."

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### **Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition, WA State**

"We are very grateful to President Obama for his leadership continued commitment to LWCF," said **Joanna Grist, Executive Director of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition**. "LWCF is vitally important to Washington's quality of life by providing every resident the parks, trails, and opportunities to recreate and enjoy the outdoors."

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### **The Wilderness Society**

"The President's budget underscores the positive benefits that programs like the Land and Water Conservation Fund do for our economy and our environment. Outdoor recreation is an industry that adds more than \$640 billion to our economy annually, which is underwritten by investments in programs LWCF," said Alan Rowsome, director of conservation funding for The Wilderness Society.

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