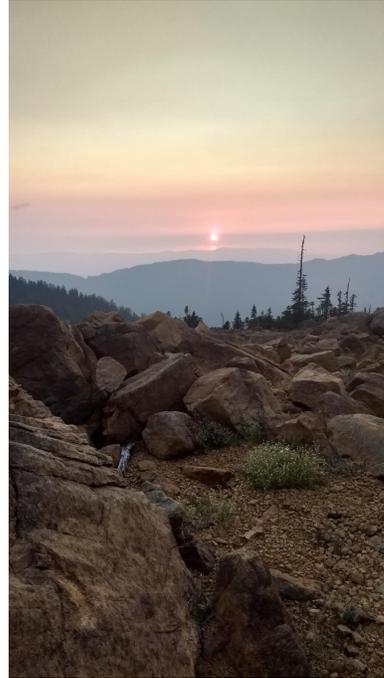




The Mountain Pact

Senate to Consider Bipartisan Bill for Full Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Funding

In April, a bipartisan bill to allocate full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was introduced in Congress called the Land and Water Conservation Fund Permanent Funding Act, [S. 1081](#). The bill was introduced by Senators Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Cory Gardner (R-CO), and has seventeen co-sponsors from both sides of the aisle including: Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), Richard Burr (R-NC), Michael Bennet (D-CO), Susan Collins (R-Maine), Angus King (I-Maine), Jon Tester (D-Mont.), Steve Daines (R-MT), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Tom Udall (D-NM), Martin Heinrich (D-NM), Lindsay Graham (R-SC) and Lamar Alexander (R-TN).



This bill is the commonsense follow up to the [Dingell Act](#) which passed in March and permanently reauthorized the LWCF after expiring in September of 2018. The Dingell Act passed the Senate with a 92-8 vote and the House with a 363-62 vote, highlighting the massive bipartisan support there is for the LWCF. The bill did not, however, provide funding for LWCF and we must urge Congress to pass full funding for LWCF otherwise the promise of the program will continue to be unfulfilled. S. 1081 requires that all funds deposited into the LWCF are used for conservation-related purposes. This means that for Fiscal Year 2020 and all others following, the LWCF would be funded to its full extent, with no opportunity for the funds to be funneled towards non-conservation purposes as it has been in the past.

In 1964 when the LWCF was originally enacted, Congress allotted \$900 million for the Fund each year. However, since 1964, LWCF has only been funded at its full extent twice, with approximately [\\$22 billion](#) used for non-conservation purposes throughout the life of LWCF. The passage of S. 1081 would ensure that no more funds intended for the conservation, preservation, and enhancement of America's public lands and waters are spent on unrelated projects.

The LWCF has provided funds for federal, state, and local public lands and waters projects in every state and nearly every county in the United States. From conservation and restoration projects at some of America's National Parks to local trail expansion and ballpark construction, the LWCF has provided financial support for public spaces for all Americans for over 50 years.

We would like to thank Congress for permanently authorizing the LWCF. This conservation program directly impacts all mountain communities and must be fully funded.

