



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, March 11, 2020

In case you missed it, earlier today, the Mountain Pact hosted a call with local elected officials from Colorado to discuss the impact of a fully-funded, permanent Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) on their communities.

The call included comments and remarks from Mayor Sarah Smith Hymes, Town of Avon, CO; Mayor P.T. Wood, Town of Salida, CO; Kathy Chandler-Henry, Chair, Eagle County Commissioners; and Anna Peterson, Executive Director of the Mountain Pact.

LISTEN TO THE CALL HERE: <http://bit.ly/ColoradoElectedsOnLWCF>

Anna Peterson, Executive Director of The Mountain Pact who is based in Durango, CO said:

"This is a tremendous moment for LWCF and something The Mountain Pact, Democrats including Senator Bennet, and many other organizations have been working on and pushing for for many years. We've been close to full LWCF funding before and we know that the victory will really be when this bill is passed by congress and signed by the president."

Mayor Sarah Smith Hymes, Town of Avon, CO, said:

"As the Mayor of a mountain community, I have seen how LWCF dollars have flowed back into Avon and improved our public parks and trails. LWCF funds have been incredibly beneficial to our community. We are encouraged that after years of lagging behind, and diverting funding from our programs, Congress is finally moving legislation forward that will fully and permanently fund the LWCF."

Mayor P.T. Wood, Town of Salida, CO, said:

"Chafee County is about 80% public lands so it's critical we have funds to maintain those lands. We need the legislation to pass to make that happen. Senator Bennet has been working on full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund for over a decade. We're so glad that Senator Gardner is listening to the overwhelming public pressure and standing up for funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund."

Kathy Chandler-Henry, Chair, Eagle County Commissioners, CO, said:

"Eagle County is home to more than 15 LWCF-funded projects, and since 1967, the program has invested more than \$1.7 million in our county. Those are projects like the Eagle River Park which is new in the Town of Eagle and the Rio Grande Trail which connects the City of Glenwood Springs to the City of Aspen – you're likely to see Lance Armstrong out riding along that trail. These projects make our community stronger - they boost both our culture and our economy."

"Over five decades, the fund has invested approximately \$278.6 million in the state of Colorado, protecting some of the state's most special places and help to ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities. These places include Rocky Mountain National Park and where we are located - the White River National Forest - the most visited national forest in the nation."

"Putting this funding behind conservation programs such as LWCF and management agencies will ensure that our public lands can be enjoyed by all; future generations and the health of America's public lands in mountain communities are depending on it."

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has remained drastically underfunded for decades, but despite proposing drastic cuts to the LWCF in his administration's FY2021 budget, President Trump has reversed course and said he would be eager to sign legislation that fully and permanently funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Earlier this week, a bipartisan group of Senators [introduced legislation](#) that includes permanent funding for LWCF at the full \$900m level. On the call, the Colorado local elected officials thanked Senator Bennet for his long-standing support of the LWCF, appreciated Senator Gardner for joining the effort, and urged Congress to swiftly pass the legislation - the Great American Outdoors Act - into law.

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