



The Mountain Pact

Over 100 Western Local Elected Officials Send Letter to Congress Requesting Investment in Parks, Recreation & Public Lands in an Upcoming Stimulus Package

Today more than **100 western local elected officials from all 11 western states** sent a [letter](#) to Congressional offices urging them to include full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) in upcoming legislation designed to provide economic stimulus to restart the economy in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.



The [letter](#) points out that the outdoor recreation industry is a critical driver of our local economies and that investing in full funding for the LWCF will help with a strong long-term recovery for gateway communities and states that rely on visitors to public lands. [The Mountain Pact](#), with assistance from Western Leaders Network, organized the letter.

LWCF provides critical financial support for our public lands at no cost to taxpayers because it is funded with royalties from existing federal oil and gas leases. The Fund provides grants for infrastructure developments and conservation measures that protect and enhance national treasures such as our national parks, national forests, monuments, wildlife refuges, and over 40,000 state and local park projects across the country.



Federal lands contribute more than \$50 billion annually to the American economy and support hundreds of thousands of jobs in local communities across the country. Studies have shown that [every dollar spent on LWCF returns \\$4 in economic value from natural resource goods and services alone - over and above the economic](#)

[benefit of the outdoor recreation economy and tourism.](#)



Capital spending by local park and recreation agencies on local parks and trails projects generate [an additional \\$64 billion in economic activity and supports nearly 378,000 jobs annually](#). Local parks generate \$154 billion in annual economic activity and support 1.1 million jobs.

View media coverage of the today's letter in [Colorado Politics](#) and [Cowboy State Daily](#). We'll include more coverage in our May [Conservation Update](#).

Find PDF versions of this alert and past Conservation Updates on our website [here](#).

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