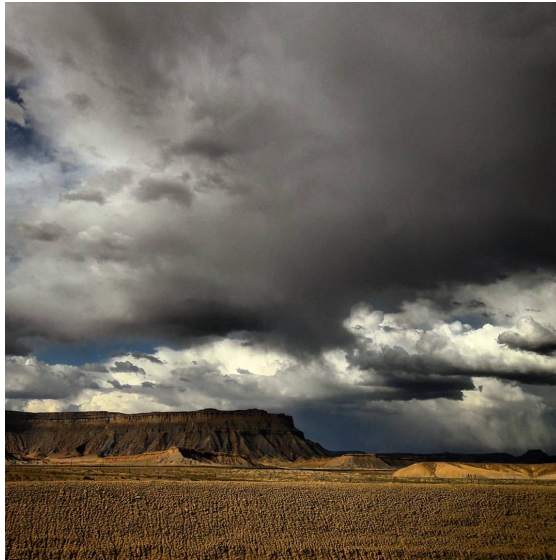




The Mountain Pact

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Funding Falls Short

On Tuesday, December 17, the House of Representatives [passed](#) a Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 spending package that will fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at \$495 million. The Senate [followed suit](#) on Thursday and the budget is expected to be signed by President Trump by midnight tonight to avoid a government shutdown. The LWCF received its highest level of appropriated funds in 17 years. This increase in funding over previous years is a rejection of President Trump's proposal to fund the program at less than zero dollars.



However, the \$495 million is still significantly below the full \$900 million legally allotted to the LWCF, continuing the over 50-year trend of diverting important funds away from conservation purposes. We are disappointed that Congress once again is allowing millions of dollars to be diverted for non-conservation uses. The LWCF has funded projects in every state and nearly every county in the United States and is important for public land access, acquisition, and maintenance. The continued under-investment in America's public lands system is harmful to western communities and shortchanges all Americans.

Although the LWCF has not received full funding in the FY 2020 budget agreement, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Permanent Funding Act ([S.1081](#) and [H.R.3195](#)) were discussed thoroughly. It is important now more than ever that we maintain the momentum behind full funding for LWCF in early 2020. We need to continue to work with our champions on the Hill so that we can see the LWCF receive full permanent funding!

Interested in taking action? Keep the pressure on your senators and representatives so that we can make history in 2020 with full and permanent funding for LWCF.

Look for more details on what was included and left out of the approved budget in the January Conservation Update.

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