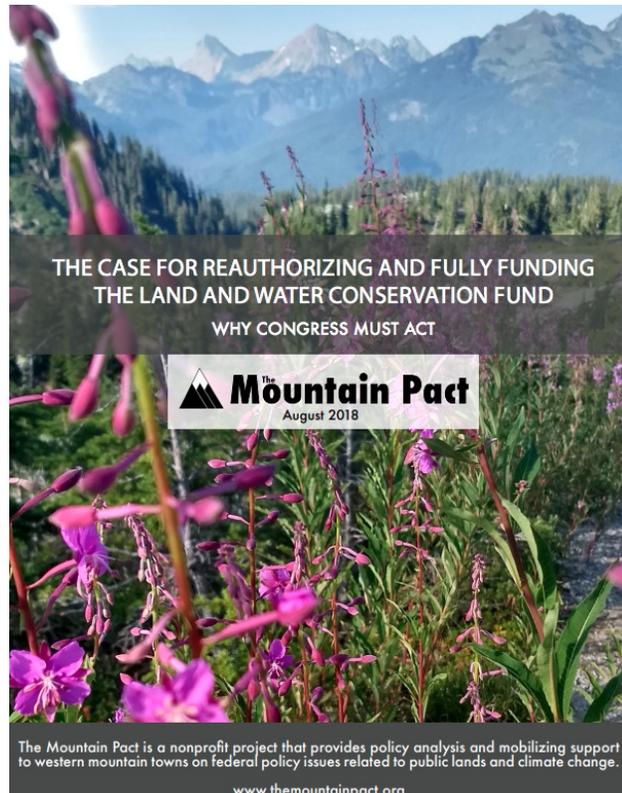




# The Mountain Pact

## SAVE LWCF: Why Congress Must Act

The bipartisan Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is one of America's most successful conservation programs. However, in just over a month it is set to expire unless Congress acts to reauthorize it. This program has been vital to protecting and enhancing public lands in every state and nearly every county in the United States. In the 11 Western states over the past 50 years, the LWCF has provided \$17.6 billion in grants that have gone towards protecting, creating, and enhancing 368 federal sites including national wildlife refuges, national forests, national parks, and countless state and local projects such as rivers and lakes, community parks, trails, and ball fields. The LWCF's contribution to conservation and our communities is too great to let it expire. Therefore, we are urging Congress to act now to fully fund and permanently reauthorize the LWCF.



Today, The Mountain Pact released a report that describes the Land and Water Conservation Fund and details its contribution to each of the 11 western states. To accompany the release of this report, we along with 64 elected officials from 10 states across the West, are sending a letter to Congressional leadership to urge them to fully fund and permanently reauthorize the LWCF.

Each community that we work with relies on outdoor recreation and tourism for a large portion of their economic success. Central to these are the public



lands that surround our communities, many of which have been improved or expanded by the LWCF. LWCF funding has enhanced and expanded projects such as the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail in California, Oregon, and Washington, as well as protected diverse and important ecosystems such as Great Sand Dunes National Park in Colorado and Petrified Forest National

Park in Arizona. Great Sand Dunes NP is home to a unique ecosystem of grasslands, sand dunes, alpine lakes, wetlands, and several forest types which would have been lost to private development without LWCF funds.

Along with protecting important natural and cultural resources, the LWCF contributes to overall public lands health and development which in turn supports the outdoor recreation economy. The outdoor recreation industry is an \$887 billion industry that is growing faster than the overall United States economy. This industry relies on healthy public lands which are critical to the distinct culture of western mountain communities. Permanently reauthorizing and fully funding the LWCF is vital for the way of life those of us that live in and visit mountain towns have grown to love.

This important piece of conservation legislation is key to the continued success of our mountain communities and western way of life. We hope Congress will hear our voices and vote to fully fund and permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund so that we many continue to preserve and enhance America's public lands and waters.

**We would like to take a moment to acknowledge all of the elected officials that have been involved with this campaign – thank you for all that you do. Special thank you to all the newly engaged elected officials from Moab, UT; Eagle County, CO; Santa Fe, NM; Red River, NM; Wenatchee, WA; Jackson, WY; and Flagstaff, AZ. As always, thank you to our rockstar towns who continue to be engaged.**

*If you would like to help us continue to work on important conservation efforts like this one, please consider donating [here](#).*

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