

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF GILPIN, STATE OF COLORADO

RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING FULL FUNDING AND PERMANENT REAUTHORIZATION OF THE
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

WHEREAS, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was established by Congress in 1965. The Act designated that a portion of receipts from offshore oil and gas leases be placed into a fund annually for state and local conservation, as well as for the protection of parks, forest and wildlife areas; and

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2018, LWCF received \$425 million. The program is divided into two distinct funding streams: state grants and federal acquisition funds; and

WHEREAS, in Colorado, LWCF has provided more than \$268 million in funding from LWCF, and have leveraged more than \$147 million for local government and state park outdoor recreational investments in Colorado¹; and

WHEREAS, in Colorado, LWCF has protected more than 10,000 acres of public lands valued by sports enthusiasts since 2011. This land helps support Colorado's economy by bringing in \$28 billion in consumer spending and 229,000 direct jobs for tourism and outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, preparation for natural disasters in Colorado is essential, and money from LWCF is used to help prevent and remediate natural disasters like fires and floods; and

WHEREAS, in Colorado, agriculture is important to the economy and our Western heritage, and LWCF is essential in protecting agricultural land; and

WHEREAS, for over 50 years, LWCF has played a critical role in providing funding for conserving national parks and forests, rivers, farms and ranches, fish and wildlife, sports enthusiasts and recreation access and trails, and has additionally provided funding to conserve state and local parks and facilities throughout Colorado and the nation, and should therefore be fully funded;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Gilpin County, State of Colorado, as follows:

1. The Gilpin County Commissioners hereby recommend full funding and permanent reauthorization for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.
2. The Gilpin County Commissioners hereby encourage the Colorado Congressional delegation to support full funding and permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

ADOPTED this 21st day of August 2018, by a vote of 3 to 0.

¹ <http://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/TrailsLWCF.aspx>

ATTEST:

Sharon E. Cate

Deputy County Clerk

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF GILPIN, COLORADO**

[Handwritten Signature]

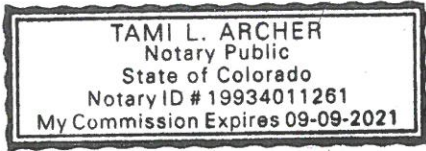
Chair

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

STATE OF COLORADO)
)ss.
COUNTY OF GILPIN)

Ron Engels, Chair, and Sharon E. Cate, Deputy County Clerk, County of Gilpin, acknowledged the foregoing Resolution before me this 21st day of August, 2018.

Witness my hand and official seal



Tami L Archer

Notary Public



Gilpin County Colorado

Commissioners

Ron Engels, District 1
Linda Isenhardt, District 2
Gail Watson, District 3

County Manager

Abel Montoya

County Attorney

Jim Petrock

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August 21, 2018

Dear Senator Bennet and Senator Gardner:

As local elected officials, we are accountable for overseeing efficient and responsive local governments and services for our citizenry in the great state of Colorado. The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a critical tool for local communities, and we are writing today to ask for permanent reauthorization and full funding of this valuable program.

For over 50 years, LWCF has played a critical role in providing funding for conserving national parks and forests, rivers, farms and ranches, fish and wildlife, access for hunters and recreationists, trails, state and local parks, and recreational facilities throughout Colorado and the nation.

LWCF plays a key role with state and local governments to provide resources for local recreation facilities such as parks, playgrounds and sports fields, but also critical preemptive programs including wildfire and flood mitigation. For example, LWCF matching funds enabled the town of Lyons, Colorado, to rebuild and extend its St. Vrain Corridor Trail, which suffered nearly \$50 million in damages in the devastating floods of 2013. The restoration efforts were significant, not only to quality of life for residents, but in supporting the community's recreation economy, as Lyons' parks can draw some 2,000 people on a typical summer weekend.

Whether Coloradans and visitors are fishing, mountain biking, hiking in the wild, enjoying a picnic in the park with the family, or watching their kids play soccer at the local field, it's likely the Land and Water Conservation Fund played a key role in protecting and providing access to their recreational opportunities locally and across the state.

Outdoor recreation on public lands is integral to the culture and economies of western mountain communities. In a study released earlier this year, the Outdoor Industry Association found that the outdoor recreation economy provides 229,000 jobs in Colorado, \$28 billion in spending, \$9.7 billion in wages and salaries, and \$2 billion in tax revenue. Without funding from LWCF for the further protection and enhancement of America's public lands, the economic success and cultural vitality of local communities will be at risk, and the outdoor recreation industry's significant contribution to the nation's economy will suffer.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is a federal program that works and is a resource that we as local elected officials need and appreciate.

Funding for this program runs out at the end of September 2018. Moreover, the President's Fiscal Year 2018 Budget proposal would virtually eliminate LWCF, reducing the program's budget by nearly 85 percent from this year's enacted level.

We thank you for your support of LWCF and request that you continue your bipartisan efforts to see that the program is permanently reauthorized and continues in perpetuity at its fully authorized amount of \$900 million.

Sincerely,

Ron Engels, Chair
Board of County Commissioners
Gilpin County, State of Colorado