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U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

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April 24, 2015

JASON KNOX
STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop:


I respectfully request a hearing on H.R. 1814, which will permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and guarantee our lasting commitment to protecting and preserving our nation's most precious natural lands and water resources. The bill was introduced with 18 original cosponsors, 9 Democrats and 9 Republicans.

This bipartisan measure will set aside at least 1.5 percent or a minimum of \$10 million of LWCF funds to increase access to federal public lands for such activities as hunting, fishing and other recreational purposes. Using a portion of the revenues from offshore oil and gas development, the LWCF uses non-taxpayer funds to ensure that our nation's most remarkable and exceptional public lands are open for all to enjoy.

Since 1964, the LWCF has been the only federal program dedicated to the conservation of our nation's parks, forests, waterways, wildlife refuges and state and local parks. The primary purposes of the LWCF are to provide the main source of funds for the acquisition of federal lands for recreational purposes, finance a matching grant program to support states in their recreational planning and acquisition of recreational lands and waters, and fund other federal programs with related purposes.

By protecting our public lands and water resources, we not only conserve the areas rich histories but also celebrate their local heritages. Preserving our nation's natural and pristine lands, which are home to a vast array of plant and wildlife, is a legacy worth leaving for future generations to cherish. H.R. 1814 will permanently safeguard these national treasures so that they forever display the exceptional beauty of our country.

Sincerely,


Raúl M. Grijalva
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources