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PRESS RELEASE

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Glenwood Spring Calls on Colorado Congressional Delegation to Fully Fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, CO – The City of Glenwood Springs sent a letter to the Colorado congressional delegation requesting them to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).

The City also joined a broader letter signed by over 150 elected officials from 11 Western states, including 22 Colorado communities, asking Congress to fully fund LWCF. The letter was organized by The Mountain Pact, an organization that works with communities with outdoor recreation economies in the West.

Glenwood Springs has benefited from LWCF funding for increased river access to the Roaring Fork River in 1966 and 1989.

“Many projects funded by the LWCF are multi-year projects that require commitment and collaboration from a variety of stakeholders. This sort of partnership requires certainty that the project will be funded to completion. We need the reassurance that essential recreation and public lands funding will come through for our community and need Congress to pass full funding for the LWCF,” said Mayor Jonathan Godes.

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More about the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was created with bipartisan support in 1964 and has since increased the conservation and health of public lands and waters in every state and nearly every county in the United States. The LWCF draws funds from offshore oil and gas royalties, not taxpayers, to provide financial support through grants dedicated to expansion, development, and improvement of national parks, forests, monuments, rivers, lakes, wildlife refuges, community parks, trails, and ball fields.

The funds are used for recreation infrastructure, conservation, preservation, access, and restoration of natural ecosystems. Each year \$900 million in royalty payments are to be paid into the fund, but often Congress funnels this money elsewhere, leaving many key conservation

projects without funding. Over time, \$22 billion of these funds have been diverted to other uses leaving inadequate funding for conservation projects. Funding for the LWCF was originally approved for 25 years, was reauthorized for another 25 years in 1990, then was reauthorized for three years in 2015 and expired on September 30, 2018. LWCF was in limbo for over four months at a loss of more than \$300 million for conservation and recreation projects across the country.