

On September 30th, America's most important conservation and recreation program, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, **EXPIRED.**

### What is the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)?

For over 50 years, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has protected America's public lands and parks in every corner of the United States, including New Mexico.

### How does LWCF work?

LWCF uses revenues paid to the government from offshore oil and gas drilling – *not taxpayer dollars* – to fund conservation and recreation projects. LWCF is used to purchase land from willing sellers that becomes public land with public access.

### What does LWCF do?

Our parks and public lands are unfinished and threatened by development. LWCF enhances access to outdoor recreation from local ballfields to national parks in a way no other funding source can. LWCF's revenues help address conservation and outdoor recreation needs at the local, state, and federal levels and provide certainty and consistency for planning that communities, landowners and states need.

### Who supports LWCF?

LWCF enjoys strong bipartisan support, and many members of Congress, including in New Mexico, have announced their support for LWCF's reauthorization and full funding. Despite the overwhelming bipartisan support, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has been allowed to expire. Beyond simple reauthorization, there is an urgent need for dedicated full funding into the future for LWCF.

# New Mexico's Outdoor Economy

**\$312 Million** Invested from LWCF to protect natural areas, trails, public access, and urban parks in New Mexico

**\$9.9 Billion** In annual consumer spending

**\$623 Million** Generated annually in state and local taxes

**99,000 Jobs** In the outdoor industry in New Mexico

### What is at risk now that LWCF has expired?

There is a backlog of unmet conservation and recreation needs and a long line of willing-seller landowners and community stakeholders clamoring for access to LWCF funds. Communities that have lined up matching funds from state, local and private sources deserve a reliable federal partner.

With each passing day the American people lose out on funding that should be going toward expanding access and protection of public lands. Permanently reauthorizing and fully funding LWCF will ensure that our nation continues to invest in its natural, cultural, and recreational heritage, which benefits our communities, our economy, and future generations.

LWCF has funded many of the iconic places where New Mexicans and visitors alike recreate outdoors and learn about culture and history. This includes:

- ✦ Petroglyph National Monument
- ✦ Valles Caldera National Preserve
- ✦ El Malpais National Monument
- ✦ Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument
- ✦ Gila, Cibola, Lincoln, Santa Fe and Carson National Forests
- ✦ Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River
- ✦ Continental Divide National Scenic Trail
- ✦ Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park
- ✦ Eagle Nest Lake State Park



# The Continental Divide Trail **NEEDS** the Land and Water Conservation Fund to protect the iconic landscapes along the CDT in New Mexico.



## About the Continental Divide Trail

The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT) is one of the world's premiere long-distance trails, stretching 3,100 miles from Mexico to Canada along the Continental Divide. Designated by Congress in 1978, the CDT is the highest, most challenging and most remote of the 11 National Scenic Trails. It provides recreational opportunities ranging from hiking to horseback riding to hunting for thousands of visitors each year. While 95% of the CDT is located on public land, approximately 180 miles are still in need of protection - including 65 miles in New Mexico.

## How has LWCF impacted the CDT in New Mexico?

The CDT is a world-class resource that draws thousands of visitors to New Mexico each year, and 2018 marked the 40th anniversary of this national treasure. Despite decades of progress, the trail is still incomplete due to gaps in public lands where the CDT is forced to follow dangerous highways and roads. *Without LWCF funding, we lose our only tool to help us complete the CDT.*

In central New Mexico, travelers along the CDT are forced to walk along the side of a road for more than 50 miles due to lack of access to public lands. In 2016, LWCF was used to finance the purchase of 5,867 acres of land near Pie Town, NM. This was an important step in connecting existing public lands and expanding access, but more acquisitions are necessary to move the CDT off the road and onto a route appropriate for a National Scenic Trail.

## About the Continental Divide Trail Coalition

The CDTC was founded in 2012 by volunteers and recreationists hoping to provide a unified voice for the Trail. Working hand-in-hand with the U.S. Forest Service and other federal land management agencies, the CDTC is a non-profit organization supporting stewardship of the CDT. The mission of the CDTC is to complete, promote and protect the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail.

## How can you help save LWCF?

Securing permanent funding and reauthorization for LWCF is one sure way we can work together to meet conservation needs across the country. We're asking you to call your Senators and Representative and urge them to #SaveLWCF!

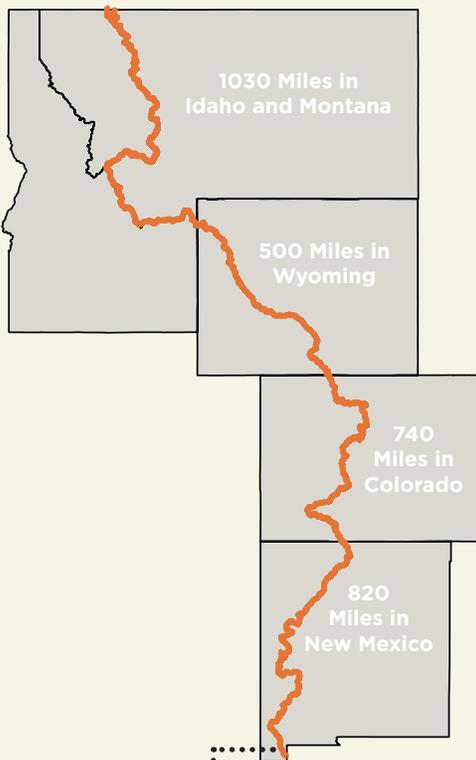
Senator Tom Udall | (505) 988-6511

Senator Martin Heinrich | (505) 988-6647

1st District Rep | Michelle Lujan Grisham | (505) 346-6781

2nd District Rep | Steve Pearce | (575) 522-0771

3rd District Rep | Ben Ray Luján | (505) 984-8950



Big Hatchet Peak, NM

