

**National Affairs and Legislation Committee  
The Garden Club of America  
111th Congress, 2nd Session — July 27, 2010**

**Update #12**

**ACTION ALERT**

**• LWCF ON HOUSE & SENATE FLOORS THIS WEEK**

**Both the House and Senate are poised to move ahead on bills focused on the Gulf of Mexico oil spill. Both bills contain provisions to improve funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).**

**How you can help:**

*If you support full funding for the LWCF, contact your representative and senators right now—especially if your legislator is on the target list at the end of this alert.*

*Urge them to include full funding for Land & Water Conservation in the Gulf oil spill legislation.*

*Send an e-mail or call their office -- today!*

**Historic opportunity to do the right thing:**

The 300 GCA members who attended the Washington, DC meeting last February learned about the abysmal funding history that has limited the effectiveness of the LWCF. Now, with your interest, support and urging from the grass roots, that may be about to change. Here are some key points you can make when you contact your legislators:

- We now have an historic opportunity to return to the original vision of LWCF—as we take environmental risks to deplete one finite natural resource (our oil and gas reserves), we should invest a small portion of the receipts from those activities into protecting our natural resources for all Americans.
- Since 1965, when LWCF was enacted, it has been the *only* conservation offset for offshore oil drilling.
- The balance between resource extraction and protection has been one-sided for many years, with \$17 billion in offshore oil revenues intended for LWCF diverted to other uses. The program has not been implemented as originally intended and as the public deserves.
- Despite being hobbled by underfunding, LWCF has positively impacted every state. National parks, forests, wildlife refuges funding by LWCF provide public access to recreation in urban, suburban and rural areas alike. LWCF funds have gone to more than 41,000 projects in almost every county in America including parks, sports fields, swimming pools, playgrounds, and trails. LWCF has also funded the protection of more than 1.5 million acres of working forests in more than 30 states.
- LWCF enjoys broad bipartisan support and is supported by a broad range of constituencies including more than 800 national, regional and local conservation groups and garden clubs, sportsmen's organizations, and business leaders in the forest products and outdoor recreation industries.
- Including full and dedicated funding in the oil spill energy legislation is an opportunity to realize some positive good from the tragic and environmentally devastating Gulf oil spill.

## **GCA policy:**

The 2010 position paper on National Parks and Public Lands calls for *fully funding the LWCF* and using the federal portion for its intended purpose: the purchase and restoration of public lands.

## **Background**

Legislative [Update #7 \(February 9, 2010\)](#) provides a full background. [Update #11](#) gives highlights of the recent Senate and House mark-ups.

### **Now the legislation is rolling ahead in both bodies, and votes are expected soon.**

- **In the House** a bill is scheduled to be on the floor by Friday. It will be offered as a substitute amendment by Rep. Rahall (D-WV) to replace the text of the CLEAR Act, H.R. 3534, reported by the House Natural Resources Committee on July 15. Most of the bill deals with overhauling offshore drilling management, standards, royalties, and blowout preventers. The Congressional Budget Office reports that the bill would reduce the federal budget deficit. The bill includes these notable provisions:

LWCF: Title IV would provide full funding of \$900 million annually for LWCF, extend its authorization to 2040, and make the funding automatic without further appropriations.

ORCA: Section 605 establishes the Ocean Resources Conservation and Assistance Fund which would get 10 percent of royalty funds from off-shore drilling. This money would be used for grants to coastal states, and for ocean and Great Lakes grants programs for conservation and management of ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems and marine resources.

The text of the Rahall amendment can be found at [http://www.rules.house.gov/111/LegText/111\\_hr3534\\_amnd.pdf](http://www.rules.house.gov/111/LegText/111_hr3534_amnd.pdf).

- **In the Senate** the Democratic leaders are scrambling to salvage what they can from their failed effort to limit greenhouse gases and put together a package of energy and Gulf spill provisions. They want to start debate very soon—maybe later this week—so they can finish by the beginning of the August recess at the end of next week.

Majority Leader Reid (D-NV) yesterday released a draft of the bill that will be the starting point for the amendment process. The LWCF provisions were very carefully crafted to garner maximum support. The good news is that the LWCF would be permanently authorized at \$900 million annually (not just until 2040 as the House bill does). Full funding of \$900 million would be dedicated to LWCF without further appropriation each year through 2015. In 2016, \$500 million would be dedicated to LWCF, and the remaining \$400 million would be subject to appropriations. From 2017 through 2020, all funding would be subject to appropriations. Then, beginning in 2021, \$500 million would be dedicated annually to LWCF.

No word yet on whether an effort will be made on the floor to make the entire \$900 million available without appropriations. Weighing in on the other side are the appropriators who are loathe to create another entitlement to let funds flow automatically without their approval even if priorities change in future decades. Others don't want to see LWCF "cut to the front of the Outer Continental Shelf revenue line" before coastal states get their money. Also, some charge that advocates are using the oil spill disaster to push unrelated portions of the environmental agenda. Others are raising budget deficit concerns.

## **Target List**

Key senators to contact: Lincoln and Pryor (AR), Carper (DE), Lemieux (FL), Crapo and Risch (ID), Bayh and Lugar (IN), Collins and Snowe (ME), McCaskill (MO), Burr (NC), Conrad and Dorgan (ND), Nelson

(NE, Gregg (NH), Brown and Voinovich (OH), Casey and Specter (PA), Graham (SC), Alexander (TN), Warner and Webb (VA), and Goodwin and Rockefeller (WV).

Senators who have supported LWCF but should be contacted just in case: Begich (AK), Boxer (CA), Bennet and Udall (CO), Dodd and Lieberman (CT), Kaufman (DE), Nelson (FL), Akaka and Inouye (HI), Harkin (IA), Burriss and Durbin (IL), Landrieu (LA), Kerry (MA), Cardin and Mikulski (MD), Levin and Stabenow (MI), Franken and Klobuchar (MN), Bond (MO), Baucus and Tester (MT), Hagan (NC), Shaheen (NH), Lautenberg and Menendez (NJ), Bingaman and Udall (NM), Gillibrand and Schumer (NY), Merkey and Wyden (OR), Reed and Whitehouse (RI), Johnson (SD), Leahy and Sanders (VT), Cantwell and Murray (WA), Feingold and Kohn (WI).

Key representatives to contact: Adler (NJ), Altmire (PA), Arcuri (NY), Barrow (GA), Berry (AR), Sanford Bishop (GA), Timothy Bishop (NY), Boccieri (OH), Bono Mack (CA), Boren (OK), Boswell (IA), Boucher (VA), Boyd (FL), Bright (AL), Carney (PA), Castle (DE), Childers (MS), Connolly (VA), Cooper (TN), Critz (PA), Cuellar (TX), Dahlkemper (PA), Lincoln Davis (TN), Delahunt (MA), Donnelly (IN), Chet Edwards (TX), Ellsworth (IN), Foster (IL), Giffords (AZ), Gordon (TN), Grayson (FL), John Hall (NY), Halvorson (IL), Herseth Sandlin (SD), Hill (IN), Jones (NC), Kagen (WI), Kanjorski (PA), Kilroy (OH), Kirk (IL), Kirkpatrick (AZ), Kissell (NC), Kosmas (FL), Kratovil (MD), Larsen (WA), Betsy Markey (CO), Marshall (GA), McIntyre (NC), McMahan (NY), McNERNEY (CA), Melancon (LA), Michaud (ME), Minnick (ID), Mitchell (AZ), Mollohan (WV), Dennis Moore (KS), Scott Murphy (NY), Patrick Murphy (PA), Nye (VA), Owens (NY), Perriello (VA), Peterson (MN), Pomeroy (ND), Rodriguez (TX), Salazar (CO), Schauer (MI), Schrader (OR), David Scott (GA), Sestak (PA), Shuler (NC), Skelton (MO), Snyder (AR), Space (OH), Stupak (MI), Sutton (OH), Tanner (TN), Taylor (MS), Teague (NM), Titus (NV), and Charles Wilson (OH).

Your message should be simply that you support full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and hope your legislator will vote to retain a long-term extension of LWCF and its full funding as part of the Gulf oil spill legislation. Urge legislators to oppose any weakening amendments or any motion to recommit the bill and send it back to committee for further review.

### **How to contact your legislators:**

To send email to your representative , go to <https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>.

To send e-mail to your senator, go to [http://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm) and scroll to the senator's name. There you will see a "web form" address in red type. Click on that address and follow the directions for sending e-mail.

To telephone any legislator, call the Capitol switchboard: 202-224-3121. Ask for your senator's or representative's office. When the phone is answered, say that you want to leave a message about upcoming legislation. A very young aide will take the message or send you to the legislator's voice mail. This seems impersonal, but is nevertheless effective—legislators keep track of how many calls come in on different issues and the direction in which sentiment is running. Even a relatively small number of calls are enough to warrant serious consideration of the view expressed.

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NAL updates serve in an **advisory** capacity, based on committee research. Individual clubs and members may act on any issue as they choose.

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