

GOP Members of Congress Disagree on Federal Conservation Program

What is the Land and Water Conservation Fund?



- The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was created in 1965 by Congress to protect natural areas, water resources, and cultural heritage, while also providing opportunities for recreation.
- The fund uses revenue from offshore oil and gas to support national parks, national wildlife refuges, national forests, community parks, and more.
- The fund expired in September, but is currently active under the current federal spending resolution.

What is happening with the LWCF in the House?



- The House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT) has plans to overhaul the fund.
- Bishop believes the federal government has too much power with the fund and he introduced a bill limiting federal land purchases and instead giving more money to state conservation programs.

How is Congress reacting to Bishop's plan for LWCF?



- Democrats oppose the plan and support a clean reauthorization of the fund.
- Senator Richard Burr (R-NC) also does not support Bishop's plan to overhaul the LWCF, and he authored a bill to permanently [reauthorize](#) the LWCF.
- Representative Patrick Meehan (R-PA) criticized Bishop's bill and supports reauthorizing the LWCF in its current form.

What can we expect next for the LWCF?



- The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee voted to reauthorize the LWCF over the summer.
- This bill would split the fund evenly between state and local programs, but it awaits a full Senate vote.
- Currently, action on the bill stalled while other issues are the focus in the Senate.