

November 10, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Reid and McConnell,

Sportsmen and women hunt the majority of the time on publicly owned lands—especially now during big game and waterfowl season. That is why our organizations support full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and why we work on LWCF projects that preserve key habitat as part of National Forests, Wildlife Refuges, and BLM districts. These projects promote hunting opportunities, which helps to maintain the tradition of hunting and the strong conservation values that originated with America's sportsmen.

More focus is needed on projects that will enhance access to existing public lands. Often, easements or rights of way can be acquired quite inexpensively so that large tracts of existing public lands can be easily accessed. Better access to public lands is crucial to the future of hunting.

This Congress has an extraordinary opportunity to sustain hunting and angling on our public lands. It can pass legislation that provides full and permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), including language that establishes a 1.5% share for access-enhancement projects.

We urge you to work towards passing full and dedicated funding for LWCF and the recreational access-enhancement language from S.3663, which we support:

*(iii) RECREATIONAL ACCESS-*

*(I) IN GENERAL- In preparing the priority list under subparagraph (A), the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall ensure that not less than 1.5 percent of the annual authorized funding amount is made available each year for projects that secure recreational public access to existing Federal public land for hunting, fishing, and other recreational purposes through easements, rights-of-way, or fee title acquisitions.*

*(II) ACQUISITION OF LAND- For each recreational access project carried out under subclause (I), the land or interest in land shall be acquired by the Federal Government only from willing sellers.*

Please take action on LWCF this November and support America's proud hunting and fishing traditions.

Sincerely,

Boone and Crockett Club  
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
Mule Deer Foundation  
Ducks Unlimited  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
Wild Sheep Foundation

Pheasants Forever  
Quail Forever  
The Wildlife Society  
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
Wildlife Management Institute  
Izaak Walton League of America

Cc: The Honorable Peter M. Rouse, Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff

The Honorable Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior  
The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture  
The Honorable Nancy Sutley, Chair, Council on Environmental Quality  
James T. "Jay" Heimbach, Special Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs