

August 31, 2020

The Honorable David Bernhardt
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C St., NW
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Bernhardt and Secretary Perdue,

The undersigned organizations, representing hundreds of thousands of sportsmen and women and other conservationists, are writing to express our gratitude for your leadership on the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA), and to request that you allocate \$55 million of FY21 GAOA funding to the “recreational access” accounts at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Forest Service, National Park Service, and Fish and Wildlife Service.

In March 2019, the Dingell Act (S.47) dedicated a portion of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to be used to expand opportunities for recreational access, supported by priority lists for access acquisition. These provisions support the nexus between land conservation dollars and recreation on public land.

Collectively, BLM lands, National Wildlife Refuges, and National Forests annually support more than 25 million hunting days and nearly 45 million fishing days, highlighting the importance of access to these lands and waters for America's sportsmen and women. This funding is desperately needed to acquire rights-of-way and parcels that open up landlocked federal lands. For these reasons we ask that you allocate in FY21 at least \$55 million of the GAOA funds for LWCF Recreational Access projects.

Thank you for all that you do for America’s outdoor heritage.

Sincerely,

American Woodcock Society
Archery Trade Association
Boone and Crockett Club
California Waterfowl Association
Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation
The Conservation Fund
Conservation Force
Dallas Safari Club
Delta Waterfowl
Houston Safari Club
Izaak Walton League of America
Masters of Foxhounds Association
Mule Deer Foundation

North American Falconers Association
North American Grouse Partnership
National Association of Forest Service Retirees
National Shooting Sports Foundation
National Wild Turkey Federation
Orion: The Hunter's Institute
Public Lands Foundation
Quality Deer Management Association
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Ruffed Grouse Society
Safari Club International
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Whitetails Unlimited
Wildlife Mississippi
Wild Sheep Foundation