



February, 2019

The ACA visited the Hill in late November of 2018 to work with other member organizations from the Outdoor Alliance to voice support for key pieces of legislation in support of our public lands. These are important pieces of legislation because they will ultimately help **provide protections for headwaters and rivers that are important to the paddling community.**

Sen. Murkowski, Sen. Manchin and Sen. Cantwell are trying to bring a public lands package to the Senate Floor for a vote this week. Many of these bills are important to the paddling community, including The Oregon Wildlands Act ([S. 1548](#)) which will protect outstanding rivers and wild landscapes in Oregon. It would designate approximately 108,000 acres of Wilderness, **safeguard 252 miles as Wild and Scenic Rivers**, and preserve more than 119,000 acres as national recreation areas.

In addition, this public lands package includes protections for the Methow Valley and its headwaters in Washington State. This region is home to spectacular lands, diverse wildlife, and critical water resources. The headwaters are the heart and lifeblood for the valley, and are under threat from planned exploratory drilling and the potential for future development of an industrial-scale copper mine. The bill will protect these critical lands through a mineral withdrawal that makes **340,000 acres of the headwaters off-limits to large-scale mining** and the potential damaging impacts it could bring to this vital and fragile area.

Finally, the renewal of the LWCF, Land and Water Conservation Fund, is vital for paddlers everywhere. The LWCF is **one of our country's best conservation programs**, and provides funding from the depletion of offshore oil and natural gas, to fund local, state, and national parks. In the paddling community, the LWCF provided over seven million dollars to purchase access in the Gauley River National Recreation Area, including put-in and take-out points along the river at Mason Branch and Woods Ferry, and millions of dollars in funding for the Boundary Waters Canoe Wilderness Area to improve recreational opportunities and management. The LWCF expired on September 30th, 2018, and it is in the paddling community's best interest to see this important conservation tool renewed.

ACT NOW!

The Senate is starting to discuss the package today, and right now is an important time to reach out.



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Please consider writing your Senator and voice your support for this historic public lands package. You can use this tool through our partnership with the Outdoor Alliance: [ASK CONGRESS TO PASS HISTORIC PUBLIC LAND'S PACKAGE.](#)

In 2019, the ACA is focused on providing opportunities for members to exercise their voice for the protection of our most cherished paddling resources through safeguarding funding, preventing water pollution, and establishing new protections in the form of Wild and Scenic Rivers and other designations. We appreciate your support!

Sincerely,

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