

Friends of Acadia Advocacy Alert

No. 30, February 11, 2011

Acadia Needs Your Your Help

Please contact your representative in Congress to discourage cuts to appropriations for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) in FY 2011. Acadia National Park's project to acquire 37 acres inside park boundaries at Lower Hadlock Pond is threatened by these cuts.

In a nutshell...

Friends of Acadia and Maine Coast Heritage Trust have been working together to protect 37 acres of undeveloped land on Lower Hadlock Pond, to hold them until Acadia National Park can obtain funding to acquire the lands in February 2012. These undeveloped lands are within the Acadia's boundary and important to the park because several trails traverse the parcel and the pond is important habitat for birds and aquatic species. Additionally, the lands help preserve the watershed for Mount Desert's water supply. Acadia National Park needs \$2.35M in order to purchase the entire 37 acres for inclusion in the park. President Obama's FY 2011 budget included \$1.76M for this project, and all four members of Maine's delegation supported the project. However, Congress is operating under a continuing resolution through March 4, 2011 and has not yet taken action on the FY 2011 Interior Appropriations Bill. The House of Representatives recently released its FY 2011 appropriations recommendations, reducing LWCF levels to \$348M, which would jeopardize the FY 2011 funding for Lower Hadlock Pond in Acadia. Please contact your Representatives today to encourage them to fully fund LWCF, including the \$1.76M for Acadia that was in President Obama's FY 2011 budget.

Action You Can Take:

Please contact your Representatives to ask them to fully fund LWCF, including the \$1.76M for Acadia that was in President Obama's FY 2011 budget.

If you live in Maine:

Both Congressman Michaud and Congresswoman Pingree have supported Acadia's Lower Hadlock project. Please **thank them for their support**, and ask that they continue to advocate for funding for land projects within Acadia.

1. To reach Congressman Michaud, call 202-225-6306, send a fax to 202-225-2943, or type a message on his webform at https://forms.house.gov/michaud/webforms/issue_subscribe1.htm.
2. To reach Congresswoman Pingree, call 202-225-6116, send a fax to 202-225-5590, or type a message on her webform at <https://pingree.house.gov/contact-form.shtml>.

If you live outside of Maine:

To write to other members of Congress, please visit:

<https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>.

In addition, residents of any state can contact the following House Leaders:

To reach Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, go to <http://www.democraticleader.gov/contact>

To reach Congressman Edward Markey (Ranking Member of the House Natural Resources Committee), go to http://markey.house.gov/index.php?option=com_email_form&Itemid=124

To reach the Speaker of the House, John Boehner, go to <http://www.speaker.gov/Contact/>

Talking Points:

- 1) When the Land and Water Conservation Fund was established, Congress authorized it to receive \$900M from offshore oil and gas revenues annually. Congress has not lived up to this intent, and has raided these funds for other purposes. Cutting LWCF jeopardizes significant land acquisition projects at some of the nation's most important federal lands, including Acadia.
- 2) The Outdoor Industry Association (OIA) reports that recreation contributes \$730 billion annually to the U.S. economy and supports nearly 6.5 million jobs across the U.S. When land is developed rather than conserved, the benefits to the outdoor recreation economy are lost forever.
- 3) The Trust for Public Land has found that every \$1 spent on LWCF returns \$4 in economic value. Reduced LWCF spending will reduce these returns.
- 4) Dr. Daniel Stynes of Michigan State University estimates that visitors to Acadia National Park spent \$161M during their visit in 2009, making possible the employment of over 2,700 people. If Acadia is threatened by inappropriate development within its boundaries, this economic contribution is at risk.
- 5) Reducing LWCF to \$348M in FY 2011 appropriations will threaten Acadia's project to purchase 37 acres inside park boundaries at Lower Hadlock Pond. Friends of Acadia and Maine Coast Heritage Trust are working in the interim to purchase and hold these lands, but Acadia National Park needs \$2.35 million total in FY 2011 and FY 2012 in order to permanently protect these lands and incorporate them into the park.
- 6) Preserving the acreage around Lower Hadlock Pond is important for protecting Northeast Harbor's water supply, for protecting bird, amphibian, and fish habitats, and for long-term preservation of recreational trails through the area.
- 7) Land preservation is the best long-term economic investment that today's Congress can give to future generations.

For More Information: Contact Friends of Acadia Conservation Director Stephanie Clement at 207-288-3340 or stephanie@friendsofacadia.org.

This Advocacy Alert was sent to citizens who have expressed interest in joining the Acadia Advocacy Network. If you would like to be removed from the Network, email stephanie@friendsofacadia.org with the word, "unsubscribe" in the subject line. Thank you very much for your support of Friends of Acadia and for weighing in on issues of importance to Acadia National Park.