

Committee on Natural Resources
Oversight Hearing
1324 Longworth House Office Building
March 27, 2019
10:00 am

Hearing on “*Examining the Department of the Interior’s Spending Priorities and the President’s Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Proposal*”

Questions from Rep. Debbie Dingell for Scott Cameron, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Office of the Assistant Secretary - Policy, Management, and Budget

- Mr. Cameron, in February, Congress passed S. 47, the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act, which was the most comprehensive public lands legislation in a decade. A major provision of that bill—one that helped it cross the finish line—was permanent authorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The program routinely receives broad, bipartisan support; yet, DOI’s FY 20 budget requests Congress reduce funding for this program by three quarters and would allocate almost nothing to Federal acquisitions.
 1. Do you believe this request conforms with the sense of a Congress that just permanently authorized LWCF as part of a package with a 363-62 voting margin, and a 92-8 margin in the Senate?
 2. How does the agency justify trying to eliminate a program so widely supported by the American people?
- Mr. Cameron, this administration claims to support hunters, anglers, and outdoor recreation enthusiasts, but I notice that your budget includes a 50 percent reduction in the amount of funds for recreation access acquisitions. That means less money towards helping outdoor recreationists access and enjoy our public lands.
 3. How can this administration claim to support public land users when it doesn’t want to use money to help American’s access their lands?