

# Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage

AMERICA DEPENDS ON THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

HELP PROTECT AMERICA'S TREASURED LANDS, CLEAN WATER, AND OUR QUALITY OF LIFE  
BY SUPPORTING FULL FUNDING FOR THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is the nation's premier land conservation program that provides funds for:

- Recreational areas, trails, and waterways for paddling, hiking, biking, hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching
- Enhancing access to national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, and other public lands
- Preserving historic battlefields and cultural sites
- Safeguarding rivers, watershed, water supplies, and clean water
- Conserving working forests, farms, and ranches
- Preserving natural areas and wildlife habitat
- Creating and improving state and local parks
- Supporting local economies and jobs through increased outdoor recreation



[www.lwcfcoalition.org](http://www.lwcfcoalition.org)

From the Grand Canyon National Park to the Appalachian National Scenic Trail to our favorite neighborhood park or playground, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has helped protect America's most treasured places. Over the past five decades, it has touched every state, conserving national parks and forests, land by rivers, lakes and oceans, working forests, farms and ranches, fish and wildlife refuges, trails, and state and local parks.

LWCF is a simple idea: to invest a small portion of federal offshore drilling fees towards protecting important land, water and recreation areas for all Americans. These are not taxpayer dollars. However, the promise of LWCF has been broken. Each year \$900 million from offshore royalties is deposited in the LWCF account in the federal treasury — yet more than \$20 billion of those funds have then been diverted elsewhere. Another obstacle is that Congress allowed LWCF to expire in 2015 after 50 years of success. It was reinstated within months and is now authorized through September 2018. It is now critical that LWCF be permanently reauthorized with full, dedicated funding.

Despite this uncertainty, LWCF has had positive conservation and recreation impacts throughout our country. Over its 50-year history, LWCF has protected land in every state and supported over 41,000 state and local park projects. The program enjoys strong bipartisan and popular support. A recent bipartisan poll found that an overwhelming majority - 82% - of voters support continuing to deposit fees from offshore oil and gas drilling into the LWCF. This broad support comes from every geographic region of the country, in red and blue states alike.



Recreation at Superior National Forest, Minnesota  
Photo Credit: Darcy Kiefel



Fly fishing in Odell Creek, Montana  
Photo Credit: Alex Diekmann

LWCF protects watersheds and drinking water supplies, preserves our national heritage, and conserves natural areas and open space for wildlife and recreation – all while providing sustainable, domestic jobs in urban and rural communities across America. Outdoor recreation, natural resource preservation, and historic preservation activities provide a powerful building block in our national economy that supports 9.4 million jobs and contributes a total of \$1.06 trillion annually, according to the National Fish and Wildlife Federation. Whether it is close to home parks and trails or vacation destinations, LWCF provides places for all Americans to enjoy hunting, fishing, camping, picnicking, climbing, hiking, paddling, backcountry skiing, mountain biking, wildlife viewing, and other outdoor activities.

Permanent reauthorization and full, dedicated funding will ensure high and consistent levels of funding for all parts of LWCF: state grants including the National Park Service State and Local program, the Forest Legacy Program and US Fish and Wildlife Service Section 6 grants as well as funding for national parks, national forests, national wildlife refuges and Bureau of Land Management lands.

**Benefits of LWCF Investments:**

- Conserves natural areas, wildlife habitat and open space from urban parks to large landscapes
- Improves access for sportsmen and recreationists on federal, state, local, and private lands and waters
- Stimulates local economies and jobs supporting tourism and outdoor recreation-sectors
- Preserves wetlands, forests and watersheds ensuring clean and adequate water supplies in the most cost-effective manner
- Streamlines federal land management by improving access, consolidating ownership, and reducing management and firefighting costs
- Builds rural partnerships to keep ranchers and farmers on the land, and promotes sustainable, working forests, while maintaining wildlife habitat and open space
- Protects treasured cultural and historical sites such as civil war battlefields commemorating our national heritage
- Provides state and local grants to support community parks, trails, recreational access sites and open spaces – promoting active, healthy lifestyles and gets kids and families outdoors

The LWCF Coalition supports permanent reauthorization and full, dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. We are comprised of conservation, recreation, business, and sportsmen’s groups working together to support the LWCF program in order to meet America’s conservation and recreation needs in the 21st Century. Visit [www.lwcfcoalition.org](http://www.lwcfcoalition.org) for more information about LWCF in your state and how you can take action.



Student tour at Martin Luther King Jr National Historic Site, Georgia  
Photo Credit: Peter Beney



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