

ALABAMA

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Alabama

Federal Program

Alabama NFs
Blowing Wind/Sauta Cave NWR
Bon Secour NWR
Cahaba NWR
Clear Creek Recreation Area
Fern Cave NWR
Grand Bay NWR*
Little River Canyon NPes
Talladega NF
Wheeler NWR
William Bankhead NF

Federal Total \$ 67,200,000

Forest Legacy Program \$ 14,600,000

Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6) \$ 6,600,000

American Battlefield Protection Program \$ 84,000

State Program
Total State Grants \$64,900,000

Total \$153,384,000
*multistate project

LWCF Success in Alabama

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Alabama's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Alabama has received approximately \$153 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Bon Secour and Cahaba National Wildlife Refuges, Little River Canyon National Preserve, and Talladega, Tuskegee and Bankhead National Forests.

Forest Legacy Program (FLP) grants are also funded under LWCF, to help protect working forests. The FLP cost-share funding supports timber sector jobs and sustainable forest operations while enhancing wildlife habitat, water quality and recreation. For example, the FLP contributed to places such as the Mobile Tensaw Delta in Mobile and Baldwin Counties and Cumberland Mountains Preserve in Jackson County. The FLP assists states and private forest owners to maintain working forest lands through matching grants for permanent conservation easement and fee acquisitions, and has leveraged approximately \$14 million in federal funds to invest in Alabama's forests, while protecting air and water quality, wildlife habitat, access for recreation and other public benefits provided by forests.

LWCF state assistance grants have further supported hundreds of projects across Alabama's state and local parks including John B. Lagarde Park in Anniston, the Skyline Wildlife Management Area in Chambers County, and Lake Guntersville State Park in Marshall County.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of the Alabama economy. The Outdoor Industry Association has found that active outdoor recreation generates \$14 billion in consumer spending in Alabama, 135,000 jobs which generate \$3.9 billion in wages and salaries, and produces \$857 million annually in state and local tax revenue. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 2.1 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Alabama, contributing over \$2.2 billion in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.



Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge
Top: Hunter in Pirogue Gulf Coast Marshes,
Credit: Ducks Unlimited

**SUPPORT PERMANENT REAUTHORIZATION AND FULL FUNDING FOR
THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND**

LWCF in Alabama

Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge

The Cahaba River remains Alabama's only free flowing river, and its wild habitat currently supports 64 rare and imperiled plant and animal species. Recognizing the need to protect this piece of America's natural heritage, Congress authorized the creation of the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge in 2000. Using LWCF funds, approximately 3,000 acres of land along the banks of the Cahaba River have been protected. When complete, the wildlife refuge will provide countless recreation opportunities, including hiking, fishing, canoeing, hunting, outdoor education, and wildlife viewing.

Fiscal Year 2019 Agency Priority Project List for Alabama

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
BLM	Rebel Road	\$400,000	Shelby, Jones
NPS	Coastal Headwaters	\$2,750,000	Shelby, Jones/
FS	Alabama's Wild Wonders; National Forests of Alabama	\$2,000,000	Shelby, Jones

The Fiscal Year 2019 President's Budget:

The President's Fiscal Year 2019 Budget proposal would gut the Land and Water Conservation Fund, reducing the program's budget by over 100% from enacted levels. Under this proposal, no projects would be funded for federal land conservation at America's National Parks, National Forests, National Wildlife Refuges, and other public lands. State grant programs to support local recreation facilities, state parks, wildlife habitat, and other community conservation priorities would also be completely wiped out. Without robust LWCF funding in FY 2019, Alabama's conservation and outdoor recreation needs could be put on hold or lost forever.

FY18 Enacted vs. FY19 Budget Request Comparison

Agency/Program	FY18 Enacted Funding	FY19 President's Budget
National Park Service	\$46,935,000	- \$1,212,000*
Bureau of Land Management	\$24,916,000	- \$6,608,000*
U.S. Forest Service	\$64,337,000	- \$17,000,000*
Fish and Wildlife Service	\$53,839,000	\$6,953,000
Sec. 6 Habitat Conservation	\$19,638,000	\$0
Forest Legacy Program	\$67,025,000	- \$4,000,000*
Highlands Conservation Act	\$10,000,000	\$0
American Battlefield Protection	\$10,000,000	\$0
State & Local Assistance	\$124,006,000	\$0
TOTAL	\$425,000,000	- \$12,867,000*

*proposed rescission of already appropriated LWCF funds



Swimmers in the Little River Canyon
National Preserve
Credit: NPS

LWCF is a simple idea: that a portion of offshore drilling fees should be used to protect important land and water for all Americans. These are not taxpayer dollars. Unfortunately, the promise of LWCF has been broken. The program is authorized to receive up to \$900 million each year—but most of these funds have been diverted elsewhere. Now is the time to fix this and ensure that funds retained in the LWCF account are used for their intended conservation and recreation purposes.

LWCF supports the acquisition of land and conservation easements to protect our national parks, wildlife refuges, forests, trails, and BLM sites, grants funds to the states for local and state park needs, protects critical wildlife habitat, watersheds and recreational access, and conserves working farms, ranches and forestlands that enhance local economies.



www.lwcfcoalition.org

For more information:
Amy Lindholm, alindholm@outdoors.org

Note - All approximate totals derived from appropriations bills
- Forest Legacy Program & Sec. 6 funded from LWCF starting in 2004