

ARKANSAS

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Arkansas

Federal Program

Arkansas NFs
Arkansas Post NMem
Bald Knob NWR
Buffalo National River
Cache River NWR
Little Rock Central HS NHS
Ouachita NF
Ozark-St. Francis NFs

Federal Total \$ 108,000,000

Forest Legacy Program

\$ 10,000,000

Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6)

\$ 6,500,000

American Battlefield Protection Program

\$ 2,200,000

State & Local Program

Total State Grants
\$49,400,000

Total \$176,100,000

LWCF Success in Arkansas

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Arkansas' most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Arkansas has received approximately \$176 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Ouachita and Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, Cache River National Wildlife Refuge, and Buffalo National River.

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 Longview-Saline Forest in Ashley County, Maumelle Water Excellence in Little Rock and Pine-Flatwoods Recovery Initiative in Drew 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 \$10 million in federal funds to invest in Arkansas' 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 Arkansas' state and local parks including Tierre Noire Natural Area in Clark County and the Children's Discovery Garden in Garland County.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of the Arkansas economy. The Outdoor Industry Association has found that active outdoor recreation generates \$9.7 billion in consumer spending in Arkansas, 96,000 jobs which generate \$2.5 billion in wages and salaries, and produces \$698 million annually in state and local tax revenue. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year over 1.7 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Arkansas, contributing over \$2.1 billion in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.



Recreation at Ozark-St. Francis NF, Credit: USFS
Top: Buffalo National River, Credit: NPS

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



Kayaker on Cossatot River, Ouachita NF
Credit: USFS

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.



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LWCF in Arkansas

Cache River National Wildlife Refuge

The Cache River NWR project area encompasses some of the largest remaining contiguous blocks of bottomland hardwood forest in the Lower Mississippi Valley and some of the largest remaining expanses of forested wetlands on any tributary within the Mississippi Alluvial Valley. It is considered the most important wintering area for mallards in North America, and one of the most important for pintail and teal ducks, Canada geese, and other migratory waterfowl. Forest and wetland restoration on these tracts would facilitate carbon sequestration, provide surrogate species habitat, and fulfill national and state conservation plan goals. LWCF funds have been used for many different purposes at the Cache River NWR, including increasing access for hunters and anglers, and protecting some of the best quality and last remaining old growth hardwood forest in the area

Fiscal Year 2019 Agency Priority Project List for Arkansas

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
FWS	Cache River NWR	\$3,100,000	Boozman, Cotton/Crawford
FWS	Felsenthal NWR	\$1,000,000	Boozman, Cotton/Westerman
NPS	Buffalo National River	\$246,000	Boozman, Cotton/Crawford, Womack, Westerman
FLP	Hot Springs Forest	\$1,370,000	Boozman, Cotton/Westerman

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, Arkansas'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

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