

# DELAWARE

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



## LWCF Funded Places in Delaware

### Federal Program

Bombay Hook NWR  
Captain John Smith NHT  
Prime Hook NWR

**Federal Total**               \$ 7,400,000

**Forest Legacy Program**               \$ 14,900,000

**Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6)**               \$ 2,000,000

**State Program**  
**Total State Grants**   \$ 36,900,000

**Total**                       \$ 61,200,000

## LWCF Success in Delaware

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Delaware's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Delaware has received approximately \$61 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge and the Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge.

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 Green Horizons forest in Sussex 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 \$15 million in federal funds to invest in Delaware'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 Delaware's state and local parks including Brandywine Creek and Fox Point State Parks.

## Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of the Delaware economy. The Outdoor Industry Association has found that active outdoor recreation generates \$3.1 billion in consumer spending in Delaware, 29,000 jobs which generate \$959 million in wages and salaries, and produces \$145 million annually in state and local tax revenue. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 460,000 people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Delaware, contributing \$304 million in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.



Bombay Hook NWR Credit: USFWS  
Top: Prime Hook NWR Credit Friends of Prime Hook

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



Kayaker at Prime Hook NWR  
Credit: Friends of Prime Hook

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

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## LWCF Delaware

### Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge

Acres of freshwater marsh, tidal marsh, and open water where visitors enjoy solitude and the sights of rare birds make the Prime Hook NWR on the west shore of Delaware Bay an important piece of America's natural heritage. These marshes serve as critical breeding and wintering habitats for migratory wildfowl, and neighboring timber, brush, and grassland habitats provide a home to such wildlife species as the endangered Delmarva fox squirrel. LWCF acquisitions protect valuable habitats and ensure ongoing recreation opportunities such as hiking, fishing, hunting, and bird watching.

### 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, Delaware'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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$425,000,000</b>	<b>- \$12,867,000*</b>

\*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