

GEORGIA

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Georgia

Federal Program

Andersonville NHS
Banks Lake NWR
Bond Swamp NWR
Chattahoochee NF
Chattahoochee-Oconee NF
Chattahoochee River NRA
*Chattooga WSR
Cumberland Island NS
Fort Frederica NM
Harris Neck NWR
Jimmy Carter NHS
Kennesaw Mountain NBP
*Longleaf Pine Initiative
Martin Luther King Jr. NHS
Oconee NF
Okefenokee NWR
Savannah NWR

Federal Total \$ 197,200,000

Forest Legacy Program \$ 35,500,000

Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6) \$ 14,200,000

American Battlefield Protection Program \$ 4,400,000

State Program
Total State Grants \$ 83,100,000

Total \$ 334,400,000

LWCF Success in Georgia

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Georgia's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Georgia has received approximately \$334 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as Chattahoochee National Recreation Area, Cumberland Island National Seashore, Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests and the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site.

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 Pine Mountain in Harris County and the Altamaha River Corridor near Jesup, Georgia. 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 \$35.5 million in federal funds to invest in Georgia'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 Georgia's state and local parks including Lazer Creek WMA in Talbot County, Main Street Park in Moultrie, Panola State Park in Rockdale County and Chattahoochee Bend State Park in Coweta County.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of the Georgia economy. The Outdoor Industry Association has found that active outdoor recreation supports \$27.3 billion in consumer spending in Georgia, 238,000 jobs across Georgia which generate \$8.1 billion in wages and salaries, and produces nearly \$1.8 billion annually in state and local tax revenue. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 3.3 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Georgia, contributing over \$3.5 billion in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.



Canoeists at Bond Swamp NWR Credit: TPL
Top: Chattahoochee NF Credit: National Forest Foundation

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



Student tour at Martin Luther King Jr NHS
Credit: Peter Beney

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

LWCF in Georgia Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area

In 1978, the Chattahoochee River NRA was established to provide water-oriented recreation opportunities for the millions of citizens in the Atlanta metropolitan area. This urban river provides 70 percent of metro Atlanta's drinking water. As the pace of urban development placed increasing pressure on remaining undeveloped lands, local communities along the river worked with the National Park Service to design a linear park south of Lake Lanier to the City of Columbus. LWCF has funded the protection of thousands of acres along the Chattahoochee and some 50 miles of river frontage are now protected; and a park system serving over 3.5 million people each year has been assembled.

Fiscal Year 2019 Agency Priority Project List for Georgia

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
FS	Chattahoochee Oconee National Forest	\$3,370,000	Isakson, Perdue/Collins, Graves, Hice

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, Georgia'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