

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage

LWCF in KANSAS

HELP PROTECT KANSAS' QUALITY OF LIFE BY SUPPORTING FULL FUNDING FOR THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

LWCF Funded Units in Kansas

Federal Program

Brown vs. Board of Education NHS
Cimarron Nat Grassland
Flint Hills Conservation Area
Fort Larned NHS
Fort Scott NHS
Marais des Cygnes NWR

Federal Total \$ 6,300,000

American Battlefield Protection Program \$ 40,000

Forest Legacy Program \$ 500,000

State Program
Total State Grants \$ 50,900,000

Total \$ 57,240,000

LWCF Success in Kansas

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Kansas' most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Kansas has received approximately \$57 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as Flint Hills Conservation Area, Marais des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge and Brown vs. Board of Education 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. The FLP assists states and private forest owners to maintain working forest lands through matching grants for permanent conservation easement and fee acquisitions. Kansas received its first FLP grant in FY2012, which will be used to protect 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 Kansas' state and local parks including El Dorado State Park Campground in Chautauqua County and Crawford State Park.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of the Kansas economy. The Outdoor Industry Association has found that active outdoor recreation generates \$7.3 billion in consumer spending in Kansas, 71,000 jobs which generate \$1.8 billion in wages and salaries, and produces nearly \$481 million annually in state and local tax revenue. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year over 1.3 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Kansas, contributing \$839 million in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.



www.lwcfcoalition.org



Living History Tour at Brown v. Board of Education NHS Credit: NPS
Top: Flint Hills CA Credit: USFWS

LWCF in Kansas

Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Area

Located in eastern Kansas, the Conservation Area is part of a landscape-scale, strategic habitat conservation effort to protect a unique, highly diverse, and largely unfragmented area of tallgrass prairie. Using conservation easements, important habitat for a diverse array of grassland-dependent species has been protected. The Flint Hills are particularly important for grassland birds, serve as a staging area for numerous raptors, and comprise North America's only north-south tallgrass prairie corridor used extensively by migrants. Landowners who protect their lands from future development with conservation easements gain meaningful income and ensure that the land will remain in agriculture production. While landowners with a conservation easement still control access to their private property, preservation of the Flint Hills ensures that wildlife and clean water will be plentiful for generations to come, which translates into enhanced future recreational opportunities.

The Fiscal Year 2018 President's Budget:

The President's Fiscal Year 2018 Budget proposal would virtually eliminate the Land and Water Conservation Fund, reducing the program's budget by nearly 85% from this year's enacted level. Under this proposal, funding for federal land conservation at America's National Parks, National Forests, National Wildlife Refuges and other public lands would be slashed as much as 89%. State grant programs to support local recreation facilities, state parks, wildlife habitat and other community conservation priorities would also be largely wiped out. Working forest protection—which opens up public access and protects drinking water supplies while still keeping jobs in the woods—is eliminated altogether. Without robust LWCF funding in FY 2018, Kansas' conservation and outdoor recreation needs could be put on hold or lost forever.

FY17 Enacted vs. FY18 Budget Request Comparison

Agency/Program	FY17 Enacted Funding	FY18 President's Budget
National Park Service	\$42,023,000	\$14,856,000
Bureau of Land Management	\$31,416,000	\$3,609,000
U.S. Forest Service	\$54,415,000	\$7,000,000
Fish and Wildlife Service	\$49,995,000	\$17,051,000
Sec. 6 Habitat Conservation	\$30,800,000	\$0
Forest Legacy Program	\$62,347,000	\$0
Highlands Conservation Act	\$10,000,000	\$0
American Battlefield Protection	\$10,000,000	\$8,481,000
State & Local Assistance	\$110,006,000	\$3,043,000



Visitors at Marais des Cygnes NWR
Credit: USFWS

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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