

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage

LWCF in LOUISIANA

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

LWCF Funded Units in Louisiana

Federal Program

Atchafalaya NWR
Bayou Cocodrie NWR
Bayou Sauvage NWR
Big Branch Marsh NWR
Black Bayou NWR
Bogue Chitto NWR
Cane River Creole NHP
Cat Island NWR
Grand Cote NWR
Isle Dernieres
Jean Lafitte NHP
Kistachie NF
Lake Ophelia NWR
Louisiana Black Bear NWR
Red River NWR
Southeast LA NWRs
Tensas River NWR
Upper Ouachita NWR

Federal Total \$ 143,000,000

Forest Legacy Program \$ 340,000

Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6) \$ 500,000

American Battlefield Protection Program \$ 450,000

State Program
Total State Grants \$ 71,700,000

Total \$215,990,000



www.lwcfcoalition.org

LWCF Success in Louisiana

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Louisiana's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Louisiana has received approximately \$216 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Jean Lafitte National Historic Park, Kisatchie National Forest, Tensas River, Atchafalaya, Bayou Sauvage and Bogue Chitto National Wildlife Refuges.

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 Potomac River Hills in Morgan 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 \$500,000 in federal funds to invest in Louisiana'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 Louisiana's state and local parks including Brechtel Park in New Orleans, Lake Bistineau State Park, Lake Claiborne State Park and Lake D'Arbonne State Park.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of the Louisiana economy. The Outdoor Industry Association has found that active outdoor recreation generates \$12.2 billion in consumer spending in Louisiana, 103,000 jobs which generate \$3.4 billion in wages and salaries, and produces \$893 million annually in state and local tax revenue. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year over 1.2 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Louisiana, contributing \$2 billion in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.



Bayou Tour Jean Lafitte NHP Credit: NPS
Top: Atchafalaya NWR Credit: USFWS



Sportsman at Cat Island 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.



www.lwfccoalition.org

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LWCF in Louisiana

Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge

The Land and Water Conservation Fund, along with other federal funds and private sources, was instrumental to protecting thousands of acres of land at Tensas River NWR. The acquisition effort linked separated portions of the refuge and provided significant opportunities for bottomland hardwood reforestation and habitat restoration, especially for the Louisiana black bear. When European settlers first arrived in the area, an estimated 25 million acres of bottomland hardwoods were seasonally flooded in the Mississippi Valley. Currently, less than 5 million acres of this valuable resource remain, fragmented and scattered throughout the valley, serving as islands of wooded habitat.

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, Louisiana's 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