

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage

LWCF in NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

LWCF Funded Units in New Hampshire

Federal Program

Appalachian Trail
Great Bay NWR
Umbagog NWR
Saint Gaudens NHS
*Silvio Conte NFWR
White Mountains NF

Federal Total \$ 71,900,000

Forest Legacy Program

\$ 48,300,000

State Program

Total State Grants \$ 37,100,000

Total \$157,300,000

*multistate project

LWCF Success in New Hampshire

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of New Hampshire's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. New Hampshire has received approximately \$157 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the White Mountain National Forest, Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge, Saint Gaudens National Historic Site and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

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 Connecticut Lakes in Coos County and Pillsbury-Sunapee Highlands in Grafton, Sullivan and Merrimack Counties. 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 \$48 million in federal funds to invest \$67 million in New Hampshire'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 New Hampshire's state and local parks and forests including Moose Brook State Park in Gorham, Pisgah State Park in the Monadnock Region, Rolfe Park and Oak Hill in Concord.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of the New Hampshire economy. The Outdoor Industry Association has found that active outdoor recreation generates \$8.7 billion annually in consumer spending in New Hampshire, supports 79,000 jobs across the state which generate \$2.6 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$528 million annually in state and local tax revenue. Further, the U.S. Census reports that 839,000 people hunt, fish or watch wildlife in New Hampshire each year, spending over \$560 million on wildlife-related recreation.



School Group at Saint Gaudens NHS Credit: NPS
Top: Umbagog NWR Credit: USFWS



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Recreation in White Mountain 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 New Hampshire

Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge

Kayakers, canoeists, and anglers explore numerous coves and bays on Lake Umbagog and dozens of rivers, streams, and lesser ponds that surround the lake. Hunters, hikers, nature photographers, and wildlife watchers all find extensive opportunities in the refuge's remote expanses. The Umbagog Refuge is a well-known and sought-after fishing area that offers anglers the opportunity to fish for warm water species such as smallmouth bass, brown bullheads, perch, and pickerel in Lake Umbagog and for cold water species, notably brook trout, in the feeder streams and surrounding ponds.

Fiscal Year 2018 Agency Priority Project List for New Hampshire

| Agency | State | Project | Amount | Delegation |
|--------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|
| FWS | CT/MA/ME/ NH/NY/RI | Great Thicket NWR | \$1,100,000 | Hassan, Shaheen/ Kuster |
| FWS | CT/MA/NH/VT | Silvio O. Conte NF & WR | \$1,750,000 | Hassan, Shaheen/ Shea-Porter |

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, New Hampshire'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 |