

North Carolina

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in North Carolina

Federal Units

- Alligator River NWR
- Blue Ridge Parkway
- Cape Hatteras NS
- Cape Lookout NS
- Carl Sandburg Home NHS
- Cherokee NF
- Croatan NF
- Currituck NWR
- Fort Raleigh NHS
- Great Dismal Swamp NWR
- Great Smoky Mountains NP
- Guilford Courthouse NMP
- Mackay Island NWR
- Moores Creek NB
- Pee Dee NWR
- Pisgah NF
- Roanoke River NWR
- Uwharrie NF

Federal Total \$131,097,619

State Programs

Forest Legacy Program \$13,789,009

Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6) \$4,983,993

American Battlefield Protection Program \$3,895,896

ORLP \$1,347,600

Stateside \$92,109,367

Total \$247,223,484

LWCF Success in North Carolina

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of North Carolina's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. North Carolina has received approximately \$247.2 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Cape Lookout National Seashore, Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests.

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 Whitehurst Forest in Craven County and Clarendon Plantation in Brunswick 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 \$13.8 million in federal funds to invest in North Carolina'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 North Carolina's state and local parks including Leinbach Park in Forsyth County, Camden Community Park in Camden County, Pittsboro Recreation Complex in Chatham County and Four Mile Creek Greenway in Mecklenburg County. Additionally, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP), which funds city park projects in economically disadvantaged areas, supported John Chavis Memorial Park in Raleigh, and Peeler Community Park in Greensboro.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of North Carolina's economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis has found that outdoor recreation generates \$14.6 billion in value added to North Carolina's economy, 146,507 homegrown jobs, and accounts for 2% of the state's economy. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 3.4 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in North Carolina, contributing over \$2.7 billion in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.



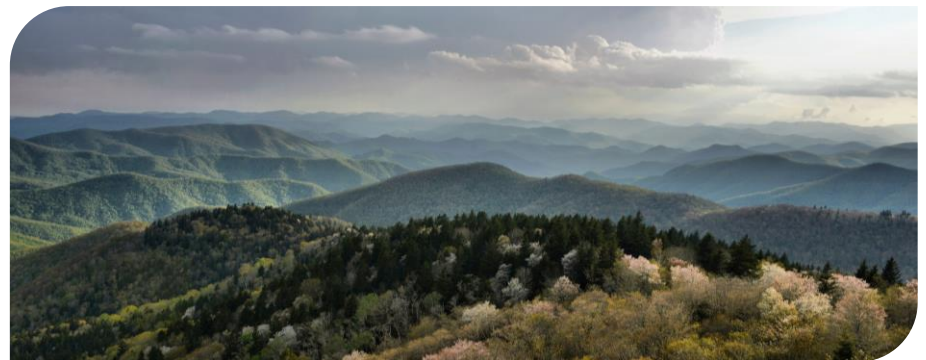
LWCF in North Carolina

Pisgah National Forest

From the forested crown of Mt. Mitchell, highest peak east of the Mississippi, to the spectacular purple rhododendrons of Craggy Gardens, Pisgah National Forest protects North Carolina’s rugged mountain heritage. Many projects in the forest have acquired key inholdings, which help to protect the forest from overdevelopment and pollution. Located within the forest, the clean, clear waters of Lake James provide recreation activities to visitors and ensure ongoing tourism for local communities. Land and Water Conservation Fund projects like this protect America’s special places, promote healthy lifestyles, and help sustain local economies.

Fiscal Year 2025 Agency LWCF Project List for North Carolina

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
USFWS	Mountain Bogs National Wildlife Refuge	\$1,000,000	Tillis, Budd/Edwards
USFS	National Forests in North Carolina (Supplemental List)	\$850,000	Tillis, Budd/Edwards
FLP	Roanoke River Bottomlands Forest	\$3,000,000	Tillis, Budd/Davis



Status of the Land and Water Conservation Fund

In August 2020, permanent, dedicated funding for LWCF was secured through the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) – ensuring that each year the \$900 million deposited into the LWCF account is directed to conservation and recreation priorities; however, in FY24 Congress backtracked on that promise when they rescinded \$94 million of unobligated LWCF funding (\$89M from the NPS State & Local Assistance Program & \$5M from BLM). GAOA has not eliminated the backlog of LWCF priorities that are waiting in line as nearly all LWCF programs remain oversubscribed - each year the LWCF supplemental project list includes about \$200 million in urgent needs that are authorized to use this funding. To support these critical projects, unspent LWCF funding should be reallocated to the states by the Secretary of the Interior (per the LWCF Act) or reprogrammed by Congress to LWCF sub-programs with outstanding funding need. If funding is rescinded rather than reallocated or reprogrammed, landowners and communities miss out on LWCF funding, and these critical priorities could be lost forever.

FY25 Budget Update: The Biden Administration’s FY25 budget proposal included detailed LWCF priority project lists and balanced program allocations, as well supplemental project lists over and above LWCF’s current \$900 million funding level. [Click here to view a map of past LWCF projects](#)

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, for 55 years the promise of LWCF was broken as \$22 billion was diverted from the program.

The **Great American Outdoors Act** ended the diversion and ensures that LWCF’s permanently authorized \$900 million is used for conservation and recreation projects each year.

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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