

# NORTH DAKOTA

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



## LWCF Funded Places in North Dakota

### Federal Program

Knife River Indian NHS  
North Dakota NWRs  
North Dakota Prairie Project  
Fort Union Trading Post NHS

\*Dakota Grassland CA  
Dakota Prairie Grasslands  
\*Dakota Tallgrass Prairie WMA

**Federal Total** \$ 37,800,000

### Habitat Conservation (Sec.6)

\$ 500,000

### State & Local Program

Total State Grants \$ 35,400,000

**Total** \$ 73,700,000

\*multistate project

## LWCF Success in North Dakota

The Land and Water Conservation Fund has helped protect some of North Dakota's most treasured places. North Dakota has received approximately \$74 million over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site and the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site.

## Dakota Grassland Conservation Area & Dakota Tallgrass Prairie WMA

Grasslands once covered 90% of the Dakotas. Today, less than 3% of the native prairie remains. These two prairie conservation projects will enable the Fish and Wildlife Service, working with private landowners across the Dakotas, to protect the largest remaining intact grassland habitats in North America. This area includes most of the famed "duck factory" which produces the vast majority of waterfowl in the U.S. and provides critical wetland and prairie habitat for an array of additional bird and vertebrate species. Over 147 species of breeding birds, including 40 species of neotropical migrants and 12 species of waterfowl, inhabit the area. Fragmentation and conversion to crop production are the primary threats. LWCF protection through conservation easement purchases can protect this vital ecosystem maintaining productive wetland and grassland habitats on private lands across this working landscape.

## Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of the North Dakota economy. The Outdoor Industry Association has found that active outdoor recreation generates \$3.1 billion annually in consumer spending in North Dakota, supports 30,000 jobs across the state which generate \$848 million in wages and salaries and produces \$179 million annually in state and local tax revenue. Fishing and hunting in North Dakota contributed an estimated \$1.4 billion in annual input to the state's economy, according to a report by the Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics at North Dakota State University. Overall, anglers and hunters in North Dakota spent \$642.9 million dollars on equipment, vehicles, boats, travel, lodging, food and many other items.

Camp at Knife River Indian NHS Credit: NPS  
Top: Dakota Grassland CA Credit: USFWS

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

## LWCF in North Dakota

Over the past forty-five years, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of North Dakota's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Public lands such as the National Park Service's Fort Union Trading Post and Knife River Indian National Historic Sites, U.S. Forest Service's Dakota Prairie Grasslands, numerous U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wildlife Refuges and Wetland Management Districts and landscapes in between have benefitted. LWCF state assistance grants have benefitted hundreds of state and local parks across North Dakota. There are multiple pending and proposed projects in North Dakota that are in need of continued LWCF funding.

### 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, North Dakota'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                     |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                    | <b>\$425,000,000</b> | <b>- \$12,867,000*</b>  |

\*proposed rescission of already appropriated LWCF funds



Recreation at Dakota Tallgrass Prairie  
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.lwcfcoalition.org](http://www.lwcfcoalition.org)