

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage

LWCF in OKLAHOMA

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

LWCF Funded Units in Oklahoma

Federal Program

Chickasaw NRA
Deep Fork NWR
Fort Smith NHS
Ozark Plateau NWR
Wichita NEC
Tishomingo NWR

Federal Total \$ 7,800,000

Habitat Conservation (Sec.6)
\$ 1,400,000

American Battlefield Protection Program \$ 260,000

Forest Legacy Program \$ 500,000

State & Local Program
Total State Grants \$ 56,300,000

Total \$ 66,260,000

LWCF Success in Oklahoma

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Oklahoma's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Oklahoma has received approximately \$66 million over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Ozark Plateau and Deep Fork National Wildlife Refuges, Fort Smith National Historic Site and Chickasaw National Recreation Area.

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. Oklahoma received its first FLP grant in FY2012, which was 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 Oklahoma's state and local parks including Black Mesa State Park Campground in Cimarron County and Liberty Park Recreational Trail in Sapulpa.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of the Oklahoma economy. The Outdoor Industry Association has found that active outdoor recreation generates \$10.6 billion in consumer spending in Oklahoma, 97,000 jobs which generate \$3.1 billion in wages and salaries, and produces \$663 million annually in state and local tax revenue. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year over 1.7 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Oklahoma, contributing \$1.4 billion in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.



Hiking at Chickasaw NRA Credit: NPS
Top: Deep Fork NWR Credit: USFWS



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LWCF in Oklahoma

Chickasaw National Recreation Area



Recreation at Ozark Plateau NWR
Credit: USFWS

Located on almost 10,000 acres of land in south central Oklahoma, the Chickasaw National Recreation Area hosts roughly 1.3 million visitors per year. Chickasaw protects the area's natural resources, including animal and plant habitat, while providing visitors with exceptional recreational and cultural opportunities. The area is divided into two parts: the Platt Historic District and the Lake of the Arbuckles. The Platt Historic District housed a Civilian Conservation Corps camp which focused on masonry, forestry, and landscaping work. Today, guests can visit many remodeled houses from this camp. Lake of the Arbuckles provides many great recreational opportunities, including boating, swimming, fishing, hunting, hiking, and bicycling. LWCF funds were instrumental in providing the balance between conservation and recreation found in Chickasaw National Recreation Area.

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, Oklahoma'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 |

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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Note - All approximate totals derived from appropriations bills
- Forest Legacy Program & Sec. 6 funded from LWCF starting in 2004