

# South Carolina

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



## LWCF Funded Places in South Carolina

### Federal Units

- Cape Romain NWR
- Carolina Sandhills NWR
- Chattahoochee NF
- Congaree NP
- Cowpens NB
- Ernest F. Hollings Ace Basin
- Fort Sumter & Moultrie NHP
- Francis Marion NF
- Ninety Six NHS
- Santee NWR
- Savannah NWR
- Sumter NF
- Waccamaw NWR

**Federal Total \$212,003,670**

### State Programs

Forest Legacy Program	\$23,913,050
Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6)	\$4,386,937
American Battlefield Protection Program	\$2,051,008
Stateside	\$67,661,563

**Total \$310,016,228**

## LWCF Success in South Carolina

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of South Carolina's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. South Carolina has received approximately \$310 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as Fort Sumter National Monument, Cape Romain, Waccamaw and Ace Basin National Wildlife Refuges, Congaree National Park, and Francis Marion National Forest as well as sites protected under the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program

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 Catawba-Wateree Forest in Chester County and the Savannah River Corridor in Hampton 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 \$23.9 million in federal funds to invest in South 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 South Carolina's state and local parks including Rifle Range Road Park in Mount Pleasant, Myrtle Beach State Park Boardwalk, Manchester Meadows Park in Rock Hill, and Jones Gap State Park. Additionally, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP), has annual funding opportunities for city park projects in economically disadvantaged areas.

## Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of South Carolina's economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis has found that outdoor recreation generates \$7.6 billion in value added to South Carolina's economy, 85,245 homegrown jobs, and accounts for 2.6% of the state's economy. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 893,000 people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in South Carolina, contributing over \$2.5 billion in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.





## LWCF in South Carolina

### Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area

The Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area includes 13,000 acres of mountain woodlands and multiple state parks that LWCF has made possible, including Caesar’s Head and Jones Gap State Park and protected areas, such as the Wildcat Wayside hiking trail between both parks. Caesar’s Head and Jones Gap offer 60+ miles of hiking trails and access to multiple scenic waterfalls as well as camping and trout fishing in the Middle Saluda River, South Carolina’s first designated scenic river. LWCF investments through the NPS State and Local Assistance Program helped to protect these places, including over \$1 million for trail development.

### Fiscal Year 2025 Agency LWCF Project List for South Carolina

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
USFWS	Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge	\$1,000,000	Graham, Scott/Fry
USFS	Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests	\$4,000,000	Graham, Scott/Mace



**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.



[www.lwcfcoalition.org](http://www.lwcfcoalition.org)

## 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](#)