

Utah

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Utah

Federal Units

- Arches NP
- Ashley NF
- Bear River Bird Refuge
- Canyonlands NP
- Capitol Reef NP
- Colorado River SRMA
- Desolation Canyon
- Dinosaur NM
- Dixie NF
- Fishlake NF
- Golden Spike NHS
- Grand Staircase Escalante NM
- Gunnison Sage Grouse
- Hovenweep NM
- Mount Grafton Wilderness
- Pariette Wetlands
- Red Cliffs NCA
- Spring Creek Canyon
- Uinta NF
- Uinta-Wasatch-Cache NF
- Zion NP

Federal Total \$79,183,269

State Programs

Forest Legacy Program	\$23,141,039
Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6)	\$44,121,972
Stateside	\$53,581,847

Total \$200,028,127

LWCF Success in Utah

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Utah's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Utah has received approximately \$200 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Bonneville Shoreline Trail, Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area, Golden Spike National Historic Site and the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

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 Chalk Creek in Summit County and Cedar Ranches in Iron 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 \$23.1 million in federal funds to invest in Utah'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 Utah's state and local parks including Bear Lake State Park, Antelope Island State Park and Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area. 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 Utah's economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis has found that outdoor recreation generates \$8.1 billion in value added to Utah's economy, 71,677 homegrown jobs, and accounts for 3.2% of the state's economy. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 1.1 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Utah, contributing over \$1.3 billion in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.



LWCF in Utah

Bonneville Shoreline Trail

Local governments, citizens, non-profits, and private landowners have been working with the U.S. Forest Service since 1991 to acquire and protect properties along the Bonneville Shoreline Trail. Because the BST crosses scores of canyons that drain the Wasatch Mountains, residents along the trail – about 80 percent of all Utahans – rely on the lands along the BST for recreation access into the canyons and for watershed protection. LWCF funds have protected thousands of acres and ensured a high quality of life for the area’s residents. As Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon has stated, “Open space in our urban interface areas may well be one of the final frontiers. It’s no secret our valley is growing dramatically and with this project, and others, we will provide future generations with that elbow room we used to think was so readily available here in the Mountain West.”

Fiscal Year 2025 Agency LWCF Project List for Utah

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
BLM	Red Cliffs National Conservation Area	\$5,700,000	Lee, Romney/Maloy
BLM	Grand Staircase – Escalante National Monument	\$600,000	Lee, Romney/Maloy
USFS	Fishlake National Forest	\$5,000,000	Lee, Romney/Maloy
FLP	Zion Connectivity Project	\$3,000,000	Lee, Romney/Maloy



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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