

# Vermont

## Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



### LWCF Funded Places in Vermont

#### Federal Units

- Appalachian NST
- Dwight D. Eisenhower NFH
- Green Mountain NF
- Missisquoi NWR
- Silvio O. Conte NFWR
- White River NFH

**Federal Total \$105,221,235**

#### State Programs

Forest Legacy Program \$33,356,267

Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6) \$2,033,000

ORLP \$500,000

Stateside \$36,534,420

**Total \$177,644,922**

### LWCF Success in Vermont

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Vermont's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Vermont has received approximately \$177.6 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Green Mountain National Forest, Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge and the Appalachian Trail.

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 Brushwood Community Forest in West Fairlee and Eden Forest in Lamoille 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 \$33.4 million in federal funds to invest in Vermont'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 Vermont's state and local parks including the Quechee and Camel's Hump State Parks, Rutland's Pine Hill Park and the Pomfret School Playground. Additionally, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP), which funds city park projects in economically disadvantaged areas, supported the acquisition of a new neighborhood park on Burlington's Waterfront.

### Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of Vermont's economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis has found that outdoor recreation generates \$1.9 billion in value added to Vermont's economy, 15,340 homegrown jobs, and accounts for 4.6% of the state's economy. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 545,000 people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Vermont, contributing over \$383 million in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.





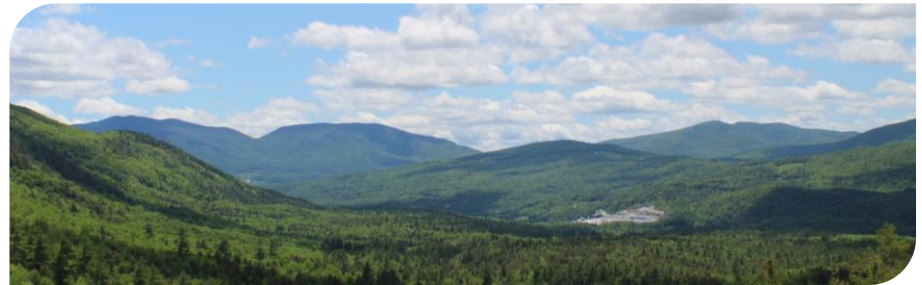
## LWCF in Vermont

### Green Mountain National Forest

The Green Mountains of Vermont are one of the most popular and heavily visited areas within the northeastern United States. Within a day's drive for residents of the surrounding states of New York, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut, millions of tourists and Vermonters are attracted to the national forest's scenic beauty and recreational opportunities including the Appalachian and Long Trails. The acquisition of properties in the Green Mountain National Forest protects recreational opportunities that have long been important to residents and visitors alike, such as camping, hiking, hunting, and cross-country skiing. Federal appropriations in recent years have allowed the Forest Service to acquire and protect critical watershed properties in the northern section of the forest as well as excellent recreation and habitat lands in the Taconics region.

### Fiscal Year 2025 Agency LWCF Project List for Vermont

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
USFWS	Silvio Conte NFWR*	\$2,000,000	Sanders, Welch/Balint
FLP	Hazen's Notch	\$2,260,000	Sanders, Welch/Balint



**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](#)