

VERMONT

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Vermont

Federal Program

Appalachian Trail

*Silvio Conte NFWF

Green Mountain NF

Federal Total \$ 67,600,000

Forest Legacy Program

\$ 37,000,000

Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6)

\$ 2,000,000

State Program

Total State Grants \$ 33,100,000

Total \$139,700,000

*multistate project

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 \$140 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 \$37 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.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of the Vermont economy. The Outdoor Industry Association has found that active outdoor recreation contributes \$5.5 billion annually in consumer spending to Vermont's economy, supports 51,000 jobs which generate \$1.5 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$505 million annually in state and local tax revenue. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that each year over 545,000 people participate in hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching in Vermont, contributing \$383 million to the state economy.



Hiking Appalachian Trail, VT Credit: ATC
Top: Green Mountain NF Credit: TWS

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



Eden Forest Credit: Jerry Monkman, TPL

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 2019 Agency Priority Project List for Vermont

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
FS	Rolston Rest; Green	\$2,700,000	Leahy, Sanders/ Welch
FLP	Hunger Mountain Headwaters	\$155,000	Leahy, Sanders/ Welch
FLP	Worcester Woods II	\$3,530,000	Leahy, Sanders/ Welch

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

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, Vermont'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
TOTAL	\$425,000,000	- \$12,867,000*

*proposed rescission of already appropriated LWCF funds