

WEST VIRGINIA

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in West Virginia

Federal Program

Canaan Valley NWR
Cranberry Wilderness Area
Gauley River NRA
Harpers Ferry NCTC
Harpers Ferry NHP
Leetown Science Center
Monongahela NF
New River Gorge NR
Ohio River Islands NWR
Spruce Knob/Seneca Rock NRA
White Sulphur Springs NFH

Federal Total \$ 185,300,000

Forest Legacy Program
\$ 4,000,000

Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6)
\$ 1,500,000

American Battlefield Protection Program
\$ 5,300,000

State & Local Program
Total State Grants \$ 45,000,000

Total \$ 241,100,000

LWCF Success in West Virginia

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of West Virginia's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. West Virginia has received approximately \$241 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Harpers Ferry National Historic Park, Monongahela National Forest and New River Gorge National River.

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 Potomac River Hills in Morgan 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 \$4 million in federal funds to invest in West Virginia'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 West Virginia's state and local parks including Valley Park, Cacapon State Park and Canaan Valley State Park.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of the West Virginia economy. The Outdoor Industry Association has found that active outdoor recreation generates \$9 billion in consumer spending in West Virginia, 91,000 jobs which generate \$2.4 billion in wages and salaries, and produces \$660 million annually in state and local tax revenue. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year over 994,000 people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in West Virginia, contributing \$905 million in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.



Recreation at Gauley River NRA Credit: NPS
Top: New River Gorge NR Credit: NPS

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

LWCF in West Virginia

Gauley River National Recreation Area and New River Gorge Recreation Area

All public access points along West Virginia's Lower and Middle Gauley River, which is used by over 50,000 people annually, were made possible by LWCF funding. LWCF has also protected 57,000 acres in the Gauley River and New River Gorge Recreation Area that includes not just river access but over 2,000 named rock climbing routes. LWCF has also funded protection of the remnants of 19th and 20th century mining towns in the New River Gorge. These historic sites protect unique West Virginia heritage and diversify the base of visitors to the area. Roughly 1.2 million visitors enjoy these two parks annually, bringing \$53 million to the local economy and directly supporting more than 700 jobs.

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, West Virginia'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



Visitors at Harper's Ferry NHP
Credit: NPS

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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