

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage

LWCF in MONTANA

HELP PROTECT MONTANA'S QUALITY OF LIFE BY SUPPORTING FULL FUNDING FOR THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

LWCF Funded Units in Montana

Federal Program

Bear Creek Flats/Blackfoot River
Beaverhead River
Big Hole NB
*Bighorn Canyon NRA
Bitterroot NF
Blackfoot River Watershed/SRMA
Blackfoot River Special Recreation Management Area/Lewis and Clark NHT
Blackfoot River Watershed/Douglas Creek
Blackfoot Challenge
Chain of Lakes RMA/L&C NHT
Charles Russell NWR
Crown of the Continent Northern Rockies: MT Legacy Completion, Lolo/Flathead NF
Crown of the Continent: Rocky Mtn Front, Blackfoot Valley & Swan Valley
Cas, Red Rock Lakes NWR
Custer NF
Beaverhead/Deerlodge NF
Devils Elbow/Missouri River
Elkhorn/Ironmask
Flathead NF
Gallatin NF/GYE
Garnet Ghost Town
Glacier NP
Grant-Kohrs NHS
Helena NF
Kootenai NF
Lewis & Clark NF
*Lewis & Clark NHT
Lolo NF
Montana Legacy Completion
Montana NFs
Meeteetsee Spires ACEC
Nez Perce NHP
Rattlesnake NRA
Red Rock Lakes NWR
Rocky Mountain Front
Rye Creek
Upper Missouri WSR
West. Montana Project/Blackfoot
Western Montana Project

Federal Total \$ 434,800,000

LWCF Success in Montana

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Montana's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Montana has received approximately \$580 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, Rocky Mountain Front, Glacier National Park and numerous other landscapes.

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 Kootenai River watershed in northwest Montana and the North Swan River Valley. 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 \$67 million in federal funds to invest \$101.5 million in Montana'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 Montana's state and local parks including Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park, Lone Pine State Park in Flathead County and hundreds of fishing access sites across the state.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of the Montana economy. The Outdoor Industry Association has found that active outdoor recreation generates \$7.1 billion annually in consumer spending in Montana, supports 71,000 jobs across the state which generate \$2.2 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$286 million annually in state and local tax revenue. Further, the U.S. Census reports that over 950,000 people hunt, fish or watch wildlife in Montana each year, spending over \$1.1 billion on wildlife-related recreation.



Hiking in Lolo NF Credit: USFS Credit: NPS
Top: Glacier NP Credit: NPS

Forest Legacy Program

\$ 66,900,000

Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6)

\$ 40,000,000

State Program

Total State Grants \$ 38,000,000

Total

\$ 579,700,000



Camping at Flathead NF
Credit: USFS

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

LWCF in Montana

Rocky Mountain Front

The US Fish & Wildlife Service recently purchased an easement using LWCF on a 12,130 acre ranch – the largest US Fish & Wildlife Service easement in the lower 48 states – that protects critical grassland grizzly bear and bird habitat. The conservation of this multi-generational family ranch also accomplished protection on 17 miles of riparian habitat along the Teton River, extending from the Mountains onto the plains. LWCF dollars were matched in excess of 2:1 by private funds, and will be recycled into the local economy through the continuation of this traditional agricultural operation. Home to 3 million acres of large cattle ranches and prime grizzly bear habitat, the Rocky Mountain Front boasts over 150,000 acres of ranches with conservation easements (many used LWCF) and another 100,000 acres of current easement demand “in the pipeline.”

Fiscal Year 2018 Agency Priority Project List for Montana

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
FWS	Montana Conservation Areas	\$2,000,000	Daines, Tester/Gianforte
FS	Clearwater-Blackfoot Project: Lolo NF	\$5,000,000	Daines, Tester/Gianforte
FS	Green Mountain National Trails: Helena NF	\$1,000,000	Daines, Tester/Gianforte
FS	Beavertail to Bearmouth (B2B): Lolo NF	\$2,000,000	Daines, Tester/Gianforte
FLP	Whitefish Watershed	\$4,000,000	Daines, Tester/Gianforte
FLP	Dome Mountain	\$1,900,000	Daines, Tester/Gianforte

The Fiscal Year 2018 President’s Budget:

The President’s Fiscal Year 2018 Budget proposal would virtually eliminate the LWCF, reducing the program’s budget by nearly 85% from this year’s enacted level. Under this proposal, funding for federal land conservation at America’s National Parks, National Forests, National Wildlife Refuges and other public lands would be slashed as much as 89%. State grant programs to support local recreation facilities, state parks, wildlife habitat and other community conservation priorities would also be largely wiped out. Working forest protection—which opens up public access and protects drinking water supplies while still keeping jobs in the woods—is eliminated altogether. Without robust LWCF funding in FY 2018, Montana’s conservation and outdoor recreation needs could be put on hold or lost forever.

FY17 Enacted vs. FY18 Budget Request Comparison

Agency/Program	FY17 Enacted Funding	FY18 President’s Budget
National Park Service	\$42,023,000	\$14,856,000
Bureau of Land Management	\$31,416,000	\$3,609,000
U.S. Forest Service	\$54,415,000	\$7,000,000
Fish and Wildlife Service	\$49,995,000	\$17,051,000
Sec. 6 Habitat Conservation	\$30,800,000	\$0
Forest Legacy Program	\$62,347,000	\$0
Highlands Conservation Act	\$10,000,000	\$0
American Battlefield Protection	\$10,000,000	\$8,481,000
State & Local Assistance	\$110,006,000	\$3,043,000