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/SMRA
- 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.
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

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency/Program</th>
<th>FY17 Enacted Funding</th>
<th>FY18 President’s Budget</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Park Service</td>
<td>$42,023,000</td>
<td>$14,856,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bureau of Land Management</td>
<td>$31,416,000</td>
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<td>U.S. Forest Service</td>
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<td>Fish and Wildlife Service</td>
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<td>$17,051,000</td>
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<td>Sec. 6 Habitat Conservation</td>
<td>$30,800,000</td>
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<td>Forest Legacy Program</td>
<td>$62,347,000</td>
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<td>Highlands Conservation Act</td>
<td>$10,000,000</td>
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<td>American Battlefield Protection</td>
<td>$10,000,000</td>
<td>$8,481,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>State &amp; Local Assistance</td>
<td>$110,006,000</td>
<td>$3,043,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note - All approximate totals derived from appropriations bills
- Forest Legacy Program & Sec. 6 funded from LWCF starting in 2004

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.lwfc_coalition.org

For more information: Amy Lindholm, alindholm@outdoors.org