

# Washington

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage

#SaveLWCF

America's most important conservation and recreation program will expire in less than a year unless Congress acts. For 52 years, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has protected national parks and open spaces in every corner of the United States. But in less than 52 weeks, it could be gone forever and along with it, future protection of the places we love.

[LWCF](#) has invested over \$675 million over the past five decades to protect Washington's iconic outdoor places, open access for hunting, fishing, hiking, and other outdoor activities, and build close to home parks. From urban parks and ballfields to wilderness areas, hunting destinations, and iconic National Parks, LWCF has protected places like Mount Rainier and Olympic National Parks, the Pacific Crest Trail, Ebey's Landing, Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, and the Columbia River Gorge, to state and local parks like Gas Works Park in Seattle, Riverbend Park in Spokane, and Fallen Leaf Lake Park in Camas.

Washington's \$26.2 billion [outdoor recreation industry](#) is an economic powerhouse – supporting 201,000 jobs which generate \$7.6 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$2.3 billion annually in state and local tax revenue.

## Yakima River

The Yakima River is Washington's only Blue Ribbon River, attracting anglers from all over the world. LWCF funding has been key to protect the headwaters of the Yakima River within the Wenatchee National Forest, ensuring water quality and habitat for salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. LWCF has also helped ensure public access to the river for angling, rafting, kayaking and other outdoor recreation. The project has been ranked a national priority in 2017 and funding is needed to continue to ensure this world-class outdoor resource is protected for future generations.



*Anglers on the Yakima River  
Photo courtesy of Yakima Conservation Campaign*

“The great outdoors aren't just a way of life here in Yakima — they are also big business. Our natural beauty and opportunities for outdoor recreation help drive our tourism industry, bringing people from across the state and around the world to raft down the Yakima River, bird watch in the Cowiche Canyon and fly fish on the Naches and Yakima Rivers. We need Congress to stand up for Yakima's great outdoors and take a leadership role to reauthorize the LWCF and preserve our environment for future generations.” – Steve Joyce, co-owner, Red's Fly Shop in Yakima

## Pacific Crest Trail

The Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) is an international destination and symbolizes everything there is to love—and protect—in Washington. Over the last 15 years, approximately \$25 million from LWCF has been used to acquire and permanently protect more than 18,000 acres along the PCT. And there are still many private properties on and near the PCT for sale. Without a permanent protection, they could be developed. For example, as the PCT runs through the Cascades LWCF investment has created a mostly public-owned corridor for the trail on what was a checkerboard of national forest and private timber production properties.



*Hikers on the Pacific Crest Trail Snoqualmie Pass  
Photo courtesy of Connie Davis*

**#SaveLWCF to protect the places we love in Washington!**

[www.lwcfcoalition.org/lwcf52weeks/](http://www.lwcfcoalition.org/lwcf52weeks/)