

Iowa

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 more than \$71 million over the past five decades to protect Iowa's outdoor places, open access for hunting, fishing, hiking, and other outdoor activities, and to build close to home parks. From soccer fields and local parks to Iowa's wildlife refuges and historic sites, LWCF has protected places like the Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge, Herbert Hoover National Historic Site, habitat for the Indiana Bat, and the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center.

Iowa's \$8.7 billion [outdoor recreation industry](#) is an economic powerhouse – supporting 83,000 jobs which generate \$2.7 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$649 million annually in state and local tax revenue.

Forest Legacy Project – Caves

Canyon and cave formations are rare in Iowa. This project involved two tracts (Caves and Whitewater) located 5-10 miles from the City of Dubuque in Eastern Iowa. Caves is a 140-acre central hardwood forest that lies along the north fork of the Maquoketa River and borders Searryl's Cave State Preserve. It is an incredible 4 mile stretch of river in terms of beauty, habitat, forest and cultural history, possessing limestone bluffs and caves. The Whitewater tract contains 182 acres of central hardwood along the Whitewater Canyon that is a tributary of the Maquoketa River. Both projects initiated protection of this watershed from neighboring development, protect water quality, enhance nesting eagles, and brood rearing for many species of bats.



Timber Industry in Iowa Credit: Iowa DNR

“Access to quality hunting land continues to be one of the number one reasons hunting participation is declining. The Land and Water Conservation Fund provides critical funding for public hunting and outdoor recreation lands that in turn keep our heritage of sportsmen and women alive.”

- Tammi Kircher, Iowa Ducks Unlimited State Chair

Upper Mississippi National Wildlife Refuge

Providing protected habitat on the Mississippi Flyway in four Midwestern states, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Illinois, the Upper Mississippi National Wildlife Refuge has received almost \$6 million in LWCF funds over the past 52 years. The Refuge was established in 1924 to provide habitat to year long species and also hundreds of thousands of migrating birds such as canvasbacks, common mergansers, mallards, and goldeneyes, to name just a few. Spanning over 240,000 acres, this refuge has also been designated a Wetland of International Importance and a Globally Important Bird Area. It provides access for hunting, fishing, canoeing, hiking, and opportunities for environmental education.



Bald Eagles call the Refuge home all year-round Credit: USFWS

#SaveLWCF to protect the places we love in Iowa!

www.lwcfcoalition.org/lwcf52weeks/