

Arkansas

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 \$171 million over the past five decades to protect Arkansas' 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 Arkansas' wildlife refuges and historic sites, LWCF has protected places like the Cache River National Wildlife Refuge, Ouachita National Forest, Little Rock High School National Historic Site, Habitat Conservation on the Saline River, and Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park.

Arkansas' \$9.7 billion [outdoor recreation](#) industry is an economic powerhouse – supporting 96,000 jobs which generate \$2.5 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$698 million annually in state and local tax revenue.

Cache River National Wildlife Refuge

Cache River NWR protects blocks of bottomland hardwood forest that are critical for wintering waterfowl and breeding forest birds. As part of the Cache-Lower White Rivers Important Bird Area, it is recognized by the National Audubon Society as globally important because over half a million Mallards winter in this region. Migratory songbirds of conservation concern nesting there include Prothonotary, Swainson's, and Cerulean Warblers. LWCF funds have been used to purchase and restore new tracts, stitching back the landscape for birds and other wildlife. Forest and wetland restoration on these tracts also facilitate carbon sequestration, fulfill national and state conservation plan goals, and increase access for hunters and anglers to some of the best quality and last remaining old growth hardwood forest in Arkansas's Delta.



Sportsmen at Cache River NWR Credit: USFWS

“We know that LWCF is working because so many sites in Arkansas that have benefited from it are recognized by Audubon as Important Bird Areas. Birders continue to monitor this status through Audubon's Christmas Bird Count.” *Dr. Dan Scheiman, Bird Conservation Director, Audubon Arkansas*

Forest Legacy Project – Maumelle Water Excellence

Located 15 minutes west of Little Rock, Lake Maumelle supplies drinking water to over 400,000 Central Arkansas residents. Central Arkansas Water's ownership and management of the lake and surrounding land has created a natural and forested buffer to a vital drinking water supply for the region. However, due to growth pressures in Pulaski County and increased development around the lake, Central Arkansas Water worked over a four-year period to protect 1,400 additional acres. The effort was a collaboration with federal and state agencies and nonprofits. Audubon chapter members helped with signs about birds on the lake as well as a bird viewing platform and trails. Land acquisition and restoration were supported by funding from several sources, including \$4 million from the Forest Legacy Program and \$8 million from the state. In addition to protecting the drinking water supply, this project opened up a large area for new recreational opportunities including birding, hiking, fishing, and hunting.



Lake Maumelle Credit: Pulaski County

#SaveLWCF to protect the places we love in Arkansas!

www.lwcfcoalition.org/lwcf52weeks/