

# Vermont

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 \$127 million over the past five decades to protect Vermont's outdoor places, open access for hunting, fishing, hiking, and other outdoor activities, and to build close to home parks. From working forests, to Vermont's comprehensive network of hiking trails and skiing spots, LWCF has protected places like Green Mountain National Forest, Appalachian Trail, Brushwood Community Forest, Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, and Eden Forest.

Vermont's \$5.5 billion [outdoor recreation industry](#) is an economic powerhouse – supporting 51,000 jobs which generate \$1.5 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$505 million annually in state and local tax revenue.

## Green Mountain National Forest

The Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) not only contributes to Vermont's timber industry while avoiding the hazards of unsustainable production, it also offers visitors and residents from around the region a scenic respite from major urban centers to its north and south. To ensure a high-quality visitor experience and protect key natural resources, the Forest has focused on protecting critical properties inside its boundaries. Available for acquisition in FY 2018 is the first phase of the Rolston Rest project, GMNF's largest private inholding. Rolston Rest has been a high priority for the Forest for more than 40 years. \$1.8 million from the LWCF in FY 2018 is needed to complete the first phase of this project, which will offer new and enhanced access for hiking, hunting, and skiing while preventing incompatible development that would permanently deny public access and threaten water quality.



*Rolston Rest Property Credit: TPL*

## Forest Legacy Program – Eden Forest

In FY09, LWCF funding was used to protect 5,727 acres of Eden Forest in the Northern Green Mountains, which has been managed for timber production for over 50 years. This project was a particular priority for Vermont because of the 4-mile buffer it provided for the Long Trail, the nation's oldest long-distance hiking trail, as well as black bear and blue heron habitat, 120 acres of beaver wetlands, extensive watershed protection, and opportunities for recreation such as snowmobiling, hunting, hiking, and cross-country skiing. The investment of LWCF funds through the Forest Legacy Program allows the land to continue to be privately, sustainably managed for timber production, while also boosting tourism as a significant driver of the local economy.



*Eden Forest Credit: Jerry Monkman, TPL*

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

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