

# Alabama

#SaveLWCF

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage

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 \$148 million to protect Alabama's outdoor places, increase sportsmen's access, and to build close to home parks. From national wildlife refuges and national forests to ballfields and city parks, LWCF has protected places like Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge, Talladega National Forest, Clear Creek Recreation Area, and Lake Guntersville State Park.

Alabama's \$14 billion [outdoor recreation industry](#) is an economic powerhouse – supporting 135,000 jobs which generate \$3.9 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$857 million annually in state and local tax revenue.

## Little River Canyon National Preserve

Established by Congress in 1992 to protect the scenic and biological integrity of the Little River, the Little River Canyon National Preserve is a treasure in northeast Alabama and protects the second deepest gorge east of the Mississippi River. Over \$11 million in LWCF funding has been used to protect the preserve, providing for increased public access, protection of water resources, and habitat for regional wildlife. Diverse species call this preserve home such as red-bellied woodpeckers, great horned owls, ospreys, bald eagles, river otters, black bears, and bobcats. Additionally, migratory bird species stopover or spend their winters in the preserve. Recreational opportunities include swimming, fishing, climbing, whitewater paddling, hunting, and trapping, making this area an economic driver and a place for residents to enjoy the great outdoors. Little River Canyon NP celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017 and is now Alabama's most visited National Park, drawing nearly half a million visitors annually.



Martha's Falls Credit: NPS

**“The Land and Water Conservation Fund helped purchase the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge, located at the heart of one of the nation’s most beautiful and biologically diverse rivers. These public lands offer Alabamians and tourists the opportunity to hunt, fish, paddle, swim and enjoy the remarkable beauty of this unique place, and the Refuge creates economic development potential for surrounding communities to benefit from recreation and tourism.” -Beth K. Stewart, Executive Director, Cahaba River Society**

## Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge

The Cahaba River remains Alabama's longest free flowing river, and its wild habitat currently supports 64 rare and imperiled plant and animal species. Recognizing the need to protect this piece of America's natural heritage, Congress authorized the creation of the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge in 2000. Using LWCF funds, approximately 3,000 acres of land along the banks of the Cahaba River have been protected. When complete, the wildlife refuge will provide countless recreation opportunities, including hiking, fishing, canoeing, hunting, outdoor education, and wildlife viewing.



Cahaba River NWR Credit: TNC, Carlton Ward

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

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