

Oregon

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 \$305 million in Oregon to expand public access to lakes and streams, build sports fields, trails and local parks, conserve working forests and protect Oregon icons. From the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, Oregon Coast Wildlife Refuges and West Eugene Wetlands, to the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, Nez Perce National Historic Trail and Fort Clatsop National Memorial, LWCF funding has helped protect Oregon's most precious public lands.

Oregon's \$16.4 billion outdoor recreation industry is an economic powerhouse – supporting 172,000 jobs which generate \$5.1 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$749 million annually in state and local tax revenue.

The Wild and Scenic John Day River

The Wild and Scenic John Day River flows through the sagebrush steppe and grasslands of eastern Oregon's Columbia Plateau, providing some of the best angling, boating, hiking and hunting opportunities in the Pacific Northwest. The stunning lower river canyon, however, was largely inaccessible except by boat, and over 78,000 acres of public BLM land was cut off from general access. Using LWCF funds, The Western Rivers Conservancy and the BLM have conserved the ranch at the mouth of Thirtymile Creek—securing the first overland public access to the Lower John Day Wild and Scenic River corridor and providing the only permanent public access to a 70-mile stretch of the river. The project will also enable restoration of four miles of Thirtymile Creek and ten miles of the mainstem John Day for the sake of fish and wildlife. Thirtymile Creek provides some of the most important steelhead spawning and rearing habitat in the John Day basin. These threatened runs of wild steelhead are considered to be the healthiest in the entire Columbia River system. Conservation of Thirtymile Creek using LWCF dollars is a significant step towards species recovery.



Oregon's Wild and Scenic John Day River, Credit: Western Rivers Conservancy, Dave Jensen

“At KEEN, we think everyone should have the opportunity to get outside and play, whether at a park down the street or on our incredible public lands. Conservation of the places where we live, work, and play is at the core of KEEN's values, which is why we so strongly support reauthorization and full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. LWCF is a vital investment in public lands protections and access to recreation for future generations, ensuring we will have healthy parks to enjoy and clean rivers to fish and float for years to come.” -Erin Gaines, Advocacy Manager, KEEN, Inc.

East Moraine, Forest Legacy Project

Located in Wallowa County near the town of Joseph, the Wallowa Lake moraines are considered one of North America's most perfectly formed and best-preserved glacial landscapes. The wildlife and scenery are a major draw for 700,000 visitors to Wallowa County each year. The Wallowa County Board of Commissioners, Wallowa Resources, Wallowa Land Trust, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and The Trust for Public Land came together to form the Wallowa Lake Moraines Partnership to work with landowners to protect the East Moraine. The multi-million-dollar LWCF Forest Legacy Project is assisting in protecting 1,533 acres of the East Moraine of Wallowa Lake. As a working landscape at risk of conversion to development, LWCF is the best tool available for protecting the East Moraine of Wallowa Lake. Conserving the East Moraine will allow for continued forestry, grazing and public access, while protecting a world-famous scenic vista.



Wallowa Lake East Moraine, Credit: Leon Werdinger

#SaveLWCF to protect the places we love in Oregon!

www.lwcfcoalition.org/lwcf52weeks/