

Montana

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 \$579 million to protect Montana's open spaces, historic sites, and increase recreation access. From national parks and national forests to ballfields and community parks, LWCF has protected places like Bitterroot National Forest, Glacier National Park, Nez Perce National Historical Park, Lolo National Forest, and Lone Pine State Park.

Montana's \$7.1 billion outdoor recreation industry is an economic powerhouse – supporting 71,000 jobs which generate \$2.2 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$286 million annually in state and local tax revenue.

Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Area

Within Montana's Rocky Mountain Front and Blackfoot River Watershed, conservation easements – largely funded by LWCF through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as well as grants from the Forest Legacy and Cooperative Endangered Species Programs – are being used to conserve thousands of acres and maintain the regions ranching history. Large working ranches play a vital conservation role in this area, where private lands along the Front provide habitat for grizzly bears, trumpeter swans, long-billed curlews and numerous other species of grassland birds. New LWCF funding for a conservation easement will allow one ranching family to expand their ranching business and protect more than 8,500 acres of native prairie habitat. Efforts like this help to maintain the biological integrity of an iconic landscape while ensuring a way of life for ranchers and others who depend on the land for their livelihoods.



Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Area, Credit: Todd Kaplan Photographics

“The Land and Water Conservation Fund is about doing what’s right for the land – conserving acres, preventing development, creating wide open spaces, and leaving habitat for wildlife, predators, and my cattle. LWCF is a win for everybody.”

– Karl Rappold, rancher on the Rocky Mountain Front

Tenderfoot Creek, Lewis and Clark National Forest

Lewis and Clark National Forest is home to Tenderfoot Creek and the Little Belt Mountains, inhabited by elk, mule deer, moose, black bear and other wildlife. The creek itself is a spectacular cold-water fishery, hosting rainbow, brook and brown trout, as well as native west slope cutthroat trout. Over \$10 million in LWCF investment conserved a vital piece of Montana elk country, and habitat for a wide variety of other species. In addition, the land is now open to permanent public access for hunters, anglers, hikers and others to enjoy and continue Montana's traditions.



*Tenderfoot Creek, Lewis and Clark NF
Credit: Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation*

#SaveLWCF to save the places we love in Montana!

www.lwcfcoalition.org/lwcf52weeks/