



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 \$215 million to protect Wisconsin's open spaces, national trails, and increase recreation access. From national wildlife refuges and national forests to ballfields and community parks, LWCF has protected places like Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, Ice Age National Scenic Trail, Wolf Wild and Scenic River, Devil's Lake State Park, High Cliff State Park, and Central Sands Pine Forest.

Wisconsin's \$17.9 billion outdoor recreation industry is an economic powerhouse – supporting 168,000 jobs which generate \$5.1 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$1.1 billion annually in state and local tax revenue.

Ice Age National Scenic Trail

The Ice Age National Scenic Trail is a dynamic public/private partnership among the National Park Service, the State of Wisconsin, local governments, and the nonprofit Ice Age Trail Alliance. During the past decade more than \$12 million of LWCF money has been matched by \$22 million of Wisconsin Stewardship Fund and local money to preserve 57 additional miles of the Ice Age Trail. This partnership is prepared to continue this important conservation work in America's heartland if LWCF money continues to be provided by Congress. There are still more than 500 miles of unmarked connecting routes linking the blazed segments that need to be protected in order to complete the Ice Age Trail, which is nearly half of the 1200-mile trail.



Ice Age National Scenic Trail, Credit: NPS

“Participation in hunting and fishing is on the decline, and the number one reason cited by sportsmen who give up this lifestyle is a lack of access to places where they can hunt or fish. This makes it critical to permanently reauthorize and fully fund LWCF, which is the best program out there for expanding access to our public lands. We are working hard out here in Wisconsin to pass these traditions on to the next generation, and we need LWCF to ensure they can always find places to hunt and fish.” Lucas Olson, Board Member, WI Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

Chippewa Flowage Forest Legacy Project

The Chippewa Flowage is Wisconsin's third largest inland body of water and a world-class fishery for muskellunge and walleye. About \$4 million in funding from the Forest Legacy Program, a program funded out of LWCF that assists states and private forest owners in maintaining working forest lands, purchased a conservation easement on over 18,000 acres of resource rich forest, connecting it to nearly one million acres of protected forest lands on either side of the Chippewa Flowage. This easement ensures unrestricted access for paddlers, sportsmen, and other recreationists to this Northwoods jewel and continued support for the local timber industry. The property delivers wood to 66 different customers in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan, providing raw materials for products ranging from fuel pellets to high end veneer. This area is also popular for hunters in pursuit of deer, bear, and grouse and provides diverse trapping opportunities.



Chippewa Flowage, Credit: Wisconsin DNR/Ann Scott

#SaveLWCF to save the places we love in Wisconsin!
www.lwcfcoalition.org/lwcf52weeks/