

# MISSISSIPPI

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



## LWCF Funded Units in Mississippi

### Federal Program

Dahomey NWR  
Delta NF  
\*Grand Bay NWR  
Gulf Islands NS  
Mississippi Sandhill Crane NWR  
Natchez NHP  
Panther Swamp NWR  
DeSoto NF  
Vicksburg NMP

**Federal Total** \$ 92,700,000

**Forest Legacy Program** \$ 5,500,000

**American Battlefield Protection Program** \$ 4,100,000

**State Program**  
Total State Grants \$46,400,000

**Total** \$148,700,000  
\*multistate project

## LWCF Success in Mississippi

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Mississippi's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Mississippi has received approximately \$149 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge and the Natchez National Historical Park.

Forest Legacy Program (FLP) grants are also funded under LWCF, to help protect working forests. The FLP cost-share funding supports timber sector jobs and sustainable forest operations while enhancing wildlife habitat, water quality and recreation. For example, the FLP contributed to places such as the Escatawpa River Conservation Corridor in Jackson County and the Pascagoula River Conservation Lands. The FLP assists states and private forest owners to maintain working forest lands through matching grants for permanent conservation easement and fee acquisitions, and has leveraged approximately \$5.5 million in federal funds to invest in Mississippi's forests, while protecting air and water quality, wildlife habitat, access for recreation and other public benefits provided by forests.

LWCF state assistance grants have further supported hundreds of projects across Mississippi's state and local parks including Popp's Ferry Causeway Park in Biloxi and Calling Panther Lake in Copiah County.

## Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of the Mississippi economy. The Outdoor Industry Association has found that active outdoor recreation contributes \$8 billion annually in consumer spending to Mississippi's economy, supports 79,000 jobs which generate \$2.1 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$620 million annually in state and local tax revenue. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that each year over 1.3 million people participate in hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching in Mississippi contributing \$1.1 billion to the state economy.



Gulf Islands National Seashore  
Top: Hunter in Pirogue Gulf Coast Marshes,  
courtesy of Ducks Unlimited

**SUPPORT PERMANENT REAUTHORIZATION AND FULL FUNDING FOR THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND**

## LWCF in Mississippi

### Gulf Islands National Seashore

Offshore islands with snowy-white beaches, sparkling blue waters, fertile coastal marshes, and maritime forests draw visitors from across America to this 160-mile seashore. Recreational activities range from exploring 19th Century forts to hiking in the designated wilderness areas of Horn and Petit Bois Islands. The Gulf Islands National Seashore was originally protected in 1971, and recently the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund has helped a broad public coalition extend protection to more coastal islands. Gulf Islands National Seashore is very popular destination, averaging almost 3.5 million annual visitors each of the past ten years.

### Fiscal Year 2019 Agency Priority Project List for Mississippi

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
FLP	Pascagoula River Conservation Lands	\$3,500,000	Wicker, Hyde-Smith/Palazzo

### The Fiscal Year 2019 President's Budget:

The President's Fiscal Year 2019 Budget proposal would gut the Land and Water Conservation Fund, reducing the program's budget by over 100% from enacted levels. Under this proposal, no projects would be funded for federal land conservation at America's National Parks, National Forests, National Wildlife Refuges, and other public lands. State grant programs to support local recreation facilities, state parks, wildlife habitat, and other community conservation priorities would also be completely wiped out. Without robust LWCF funding in FY 2019, Mississippi's conservation and outdoor recreation needs could be put on hold or lost forever.

### FY18 Enacted vs. FY19 Budget Request Comparison

Agency/Program	FY18 Enacted Funding	FY19 President's Budget
National Park Service	\$46,935,000	- \$1,212,000*
Bureau of Land Management	\$24,916,000	- \$6,608,000*
U.S. Forest Service	\$64,337,000	- \$17,000,000*
Fish and Wildlife Service	\$53,839,000	\$6,953,000
Sec. 6 Habitat Conservation	\$19,638,000	\$0
Forest Legacy Program	\$67,025,000	- \$4,000,000*
Highlands Conservation Act	\$10,000,000	\$0
American Battlefield Protection	\$10,000,000	\$0
State & Local Assistance	\$124,006,000	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$425,000,000</b>	<b>- \$12,867,000*</b>

\*proposed rescission of already appropriated LWCF funds



Vicksburg National Military Park  
Credit: NPS

LWCF is a simple idea: that a portion of offshore drilling fees should be used to protect important land and water for all Americans. These are not taxpayer dollars. Unfortunately, the promise of LWCF has been broken. The program is authorized to receive up to \$900 million each year—but most of these funds have been diverted elsewhere. Now is the time to fix this and ensure that funds retained in the LWCF account are used for their intended conservation and recreation purposes.

LWCF supports the acquisition of land and conservation easements to protect our national parks, wildlife refuges, forests, trails, and BLM sites, grants funds to the states for local and state park needs, protects critical wildlife habitat, watersheds and recreational access, and conserves working farms, ranches and forestlands that enhance local economies.



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