

# TEXAS

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



## LWCF Funded Places in Texas

### Federal Program

Anahuac NWR  
Angelina NF  
Aransas NWR  
Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR  
Balcones Canyonlands NWR  
Big Thicket NPres  
Fort Davis NHS  
Guadalupe Mountains NP  
Laguna Atascosa NWR  
Lower Rio Grande NWR  
Lyndon Johnson NHP  
Neches River NWR  
Padre Island NS  
Palo Alto Battlefield NHS  
Sabine NF  
Sam Houston NF  
San Antonio Missions NHP  
San Bernard NWR  
Santa Ana NWR  
Texas NWRs  
Trinity River NWR

**Federal Total** \$ 336,800,000

**Forest Legacy Program**  
\$ 9,900,000

**Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6)**  
\$ 53,600,000

**State & Local Program**  
Total State Grants \$ 177,300,000

**Total** \$ 577,600,000

## LWCF Success in Texas

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Texas' most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Texas has received approximately \$577 million in LWCF funding over the past four decades, protecting places such as Big Thicket National Preserve, San Antonio Missions National Historic Park, Padre Islands National Seashore and Balcones Canyonlands and Lower Rio Grande national wildlife refuges.

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 Turkey Creek Project in Tyler and Hardin County and Burleson Wetland Project in Smith County. 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 \$10 million in federal funds to invest in Texas' 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 Texas' state and local parks including Palo Duro Canyon State Park in Armstrong County, Bastrop State Park in Bastrop County, Big Bend Ranch State Park in Presidio County and McKinney Falls State Park in Travis County.

## Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of the Texas economy. The Outdoor Industry Association has found that active outdoor recreation contributes \$52.6 billion annually to Texas' economy, supports 411,000 jobs across the state which generate \$15.8 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$3.5 billion annually in state and local tax revenue. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year over 7.1 million people enjoy hunting, fishing and watching wildlife across Texas, contributing \$9.2 billion to the state economy from wildlife recreation spending.



Balcones Canyonlands NWR Credit: USFWS  
Top: Guadalupe Mountains NP Credit: NPS

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

## LWCF in Texas

### Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge

Consisting of approximately 19,000 acres, Balcones Canyonlands NWR plays a significant role in habitat protection in the Southwest, supporting at least 375 species of birds, at least 1,500 plant species, over 120 native tree species, 55 species of mammals, 70 species of reptiles, and 80 species of fish. A boom in population and significant growth in commercial and residential development threatens privately held lands within refuge boundaries. Appropriations received over the last several years have protected these vital endangered species habitat lands and consolidated refuge inholdings. Completing the acquisition of these lands ensures the continued protection of this valuable area.

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

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
FWS	Laguna Atascosa NWR	\$1,000,000	Cornyn, Cruz/Vela
FWS	Lower Rio Grande NWR	\$1,500,000	Cornyn, Cruz/ Gonzalez, Vela, Cuellar

### 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, Texas'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



Lyndon Johnson NHP  
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)

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Note - All approximate totals derived from appropriations bills  
- Forest Legacy Program & Sec. 6 funded from LWCF starting in 2004