

# COLORADO

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



## LWCF Funded Places in Colorado

### Federal Program

Arapaho NF/Arapaho NRA  
Arkansas River SRMA  
Baca Ranch/NWR  
Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP  
Blanca Wildlife Habitat Area  
Canyons of the Ancients NM  
Colorado Canyons NCA  
Colorado NWRs & NFs  
Colorado NM  
CO River/Ruby Canyon NCA  
Comanche Nat Grassland  
Cross Mountain NCA  
Cross Mountain Ranch Hunting & Fishing Access  
Dominguez-Escalante NCA  
Garden Park Fossil Area  
Golden Bair Ranch  
Grand Mesa Slopes SMA  
Great Sand Dunes NP  
Gunnison Basin ACEC  
Gunnison Gorge NCA  
Gunnison NF  
Lake Fork of Gunnison SMA  
McIntire Spring/Conejos River  
Mesa Verde NP  
Perins Peak WHA  
Powderhorn WSA  
Rio Grande NF  
Rocky Mountain NP  
Roosevelt NF  
Ruby Mountain  
Sand Creek Massacre NHS  
San Miguel River  
\*Sangre de Cristo CA  
Two Ponds NWR  
Unaweep/Tabeguache NSB  
Uncompahgre/San Juan NF  
Upper Huerfano River EMA  
Upper Colorado River SRMA  
White River NF

<b>Federal Total</b>	\$ 191,300,000
<b>Forest Legacy Program</b>	\$ 22,600,000
<b>Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6)</b>	\$ 1,800,000
<b>State Program</b>	
Total State Grants	\$65,300,000
<b>Total</b>	\$281,200,000

## LWCF Success in Colorado

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Colorado's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Colorado has received approximately \$281.2 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Great Sand Dunes National Park, Uncompahgre, Arapahoe-Roosevelt, Gunnison and Rio Grande National Forests, and Canyon of the Ancients National Monument.

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 Catspaw Ranch along the headwaters of the Navajo River in Southern Colorado and Ben Delatour Scout Ranch along the Front Range near Fort Collins. 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 \$22.6 million in federal funds to invest in Colorado'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 Colorado's state and local parks including trails development in Lory and Cheyenne Mountain State Parks and park acquisitions at Golden Gate Canyon, Boyd Lake, and Roxborough State Parks.

## Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of the Colorado economy. The Outdoor Industry Association has found that active outdoor recreation generates \$28 billion in consumer spending in Colorado, 229,000 jobs which generate \$9.7 billion in wages and salaries, and produces \$2 billion annually in state and local tax revenue. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year over 2.2 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Colorado, contributing \$3 billion in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.

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

## LWCF in Colorado

### Cross Mountain Ranch

LWCF funding in FY2013 was used to acquire the 920 acre Cross Mountain Ranch on the Yampa River in northwest Colorado. Previously, access to the area was difficult at best because the only feasible routes were through private property or by boat. Now, the conservation lands, as well as the access they provide, are open to all hunters, anglers, boaters, hikers and other outdoor recreationists. The project area includes 2.8 miles of frontage on the Yampa River and provides habitat to 400 elk (including a large number of trophy bulls), mule deer and all four species of Colorado warm-water fish.

### Fiscal Year 2020 Agency Priority Project List for Colorado

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
BLM	McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area	\$600,000	Bennet, Gardner/Tipton
FLP	Navajo River Headwaters	\$7,000,000	Bennet, Gardner/Tipton

### Status of the Land and Water Conservation Fund

In 2019, permanent authorization of LWCF was secured as part of S. 47, the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act. Passage of the Dingell Act ensures that LWCF no longer faces the uncertainty of potential expiration, and that the unique structure and inflow of funds to LWCF is protected. The focus is now on permanent full funding for LWCF – ensuring that each year the \$900 million deposited into the LWCF account actually goes towards conservation and recreation priorities. Over the 55 years of the program, over \$22 billion has been diverted from LWCF to other, unknown purposes. That means that our public lands, waters, and historic sites have been put in peril. As open space continues to shrink, LWCF investments become even more critical to providing the outdoor opportunities for all future generations

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Permanent Funding Act – S. 1081 and H.R. 3195 – have passed through their respective committees and are ready for floor votes in both chambers.

### LWCF Appropriations FY2000-FY2020



Step House, Mesa Verde NP  
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)

For more information:  
Amy Lindholm, [alindholm@outdoors.org](mailto:alindholm@outdoors.org)

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