

FLORIDA

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Florida

Federal Program

- Apalachicola NF
- Archie Carr NWR
- Big Cypress NPres
- Biscayne NP
- Canaveral NS
- Chassahowitzka NWR
- Crocodile Lake NWR
- Crystal River NWR
- Everglades NP
- Everglades Headwaters NWR/CA
- Ohio Key
- Florida NFs & NPs
- Florida NST
- Florida Panther NWR
- Florida Longleaf Initiative
- Fort Caroline NM
- Great White Herons NWR
- Gulf Islands NS
- Ding Darling NWR
- Lake Wales Ridge NWR
- Lake Woodruff NWR
- Lower Suwannee NWR
- National Key Deer NWR
- Ocala NF
- Osceola NF
- Pelican Island NWR
- Pinellas NWR
- St Johns NWR
- St Marks NWR
- St Vincent NWR
- Timucuan EHP

Federal Total \$ 881,400,000

Forest Legacy Program \$ 25,200,000

Habitat Conservation (Sec.6) \$12,400,000

State Program
Total State Grants \$ 144,600,000

Total \$ 1,063,600,000

LWCF Success in Florida

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Florida’s most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Florida has received approximately \$1.06 billion in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as Everglades National Park, Big Cypress National Preserve, Canaveral National Seashore, Florida National Scenic Trail, and Ding Darling and St. Marks 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 Northeast Florida Timberlands in Clay 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 \$25 million in federal funds to invest in Florida’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 Florida’s state and local parks including Cape Florida State Recreation Area in Dade County, Caspersen Beach in Sarasota County, and Paynes Prairie State Preserve in Alachua County.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of the Florida economy. The Outdoor Industry Association has found that active outdoor recreation supports \$58.6 billion in consumer spending in Florida, 485,000 jobs across Florida which generate \$17.9 billion in wages and salaries, and produces nearly \$3.5 billion annually in state and local tax revenue. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 7 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Florida, contributing over \$8.1 billion in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.



Wildlife viewing & recreation at Biscayne NP Credit: NPS
Top: Timucuan EHP Credit NPS

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

LWCF in Florida

Big Cypress National Preserve and Everglades National Park

In FY 2012, Big Cypress National Preserve and Everglades National Park received \$30 million in LWCF funding. Funding for Big Cypress will protect land that is essential to the water quality of South Florida. Through its protection and restoration as wetlands, this land will improve water quality by acting as a protective buffer between natural and urban areas and will also serve as a water storage area. Funding for the Everglades will ensure the continuation of the Florida Everglades Restoration Project, a massive undertaking by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other stakeholders to restore the natural flow of water in the Everglades ecosystem. Restoring this piece of America's heritage has provided crucial protection to wildlife, increased access to outdoor recreation, promoted smart growth by reducing sprawl, and helped local economies through increased tourism revenues.

Fiscal Year 2020 Agency Priority Project List for Florida

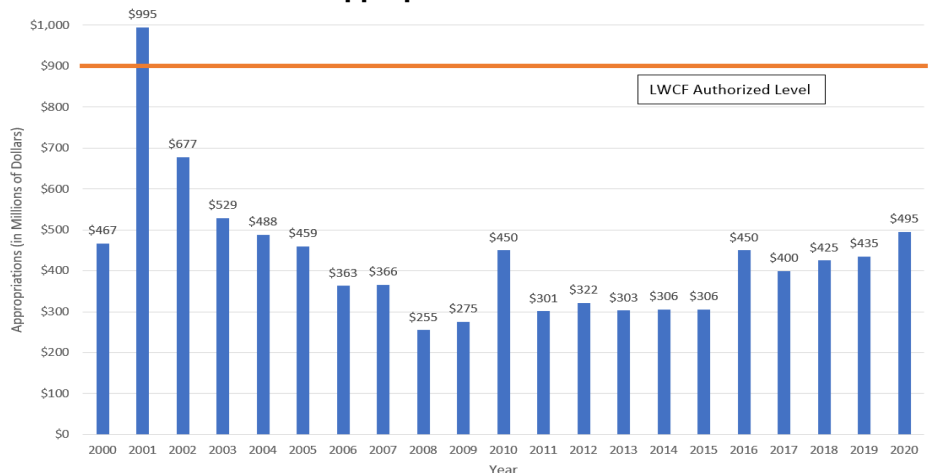
Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
FWS	Everglades Headwaters NWR and CA	\$3,700,000	Rubio, Scott/Soto
FWS	St. Marks NWR	\$1,500,000	Rubio, Scott/Dunn
FLP	Wetland Watershed Forest	\$2,900,000	Rubio, Scott/ Gaetz

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



Recreation at Big Cypress NPres
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

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