LWCF Success in Idaho

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Idaho’s most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Idaho has received approximately $289.6 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Boise Foothills, Sawtooth Valley and Hell’s Canyon National Recreation Areas, Middle Fork Clearwater and Middle Fork Salmon Wild and Scenic Rivers.

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 Henry’s Lake, the South Fork Snake River and the McArthur Lake Wildlife Corridor. 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 $37.3 million in federal funds to invest in Idaho’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 Idaho’s state and local parks including the Boise Greenbelt and Wood River Trails, Coeur d’Alene’s Tubbs Hill and Sandpoint’s City Beach.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of the Idaho economy. The Outdoor Industry Association has found that active outdoor recreation supports $7.8 billion in consumer spending in Idaho, 78,000 jobs across Idaho which generate $2.3 billion in wages and salaries, and produces nearly $447 million annually in state and local tax revenue. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year over 1 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Idaho, contributing over $923 million in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.

LWCF Funded Places in Idaho

Federal Program
- Big Wood River
- Blackwell Island
- Bear River Watershed CA
- Boise Front ACEC
- Bruneau River
- Caribou-Targhee NF
- Camas NWR
- City of Rocks NRes
- Clearwater NF
- Craters of the Moon NPM/Oregon NHT
- Frank’s Church Wilderness
- Gray’s Lake NWR
- Hagerman Fossil Beds NM
- Hells Canyon NRA
- Henrys Lake ACEC
- Hulls Gulch
- Idaho Land Exchange
- Idaho NFs/ID Wilderness/WSRs
- Idaho Lands
- Kaniksu NF
- Lewis and Clark NHT
- Lower Salmon ACEC
- Middle Fork Clearwater WSR
- Middle Fork Salmon WSR
- Minidoka NHS
- Nez Perce NHP
- Nez Perce NHT
- Payette NF
- Salmon WSR
- Salmon-Challis and Sawtooth NRA
- Sands Desert HMA
- Sawtooth NF
- Sawtooth NRA
- Snake River Birds of Prey NCA
- Soda Springs Hills
- St Joe WSR
- Thousand Springs ACEC
- Upper Snake/South Fork Snake
- Wolf Lodge/Beauty Bay SRMA

Federal Total: $207,800,000

Forest Legacy Program
- $37,300,000

Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6)
- $2,200,000

State Program
- Total State Grants: $42,300,000

Total: $289,600,000

SUPPORT FULL AND PERMANENT FUNDING FOR THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND
LWCF in Idaho

Sawtooth National Recreation Area
The 756,000-acre Sawtooth National Recreation Area comprises one of the largest and most magnificent national recreation areas in the US. Four mountain ranges: the Sawtooths, Boulders, White Clouds, and Smokies provide scenic landscapes in every direction, with more than 50 major peaks over 10,000 feet, 300 lakes, and 250 miles of trails. The headwaters of four of Idaho’s major rivers originate here: the Salmon, South Fork of the Payette, the Boise, and the Big Wood. The Sawtooth NRA offers some of the finest and most renowned outdoor recreation in the world including fishing, white-watersports, hiking, backpacking, snowmobiling, mountain biking and Nordic skiing. To protect the historic uses and compatible public recreation values of this landscape, the Forest Service has utilized LWCF dating back to 1972 to acquire conservation easements that protect some 17,000 acres of private ranch lands within.

Fiscal Year 2020 Agency Priority Project List for Idaho

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Delegation</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BLM</td>
<td>Coeur d’Alene Lake SRMA</td>
<td>$1,300,000</td>
<td>Crapo, Risch/Fulcher</td>
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<tr>
<td>FS</td>
<td>Teton Timbers; Caribou Targhee</td>
<td>$2,750,000</td>
<td>Crapo, Risch/Simpson</td>
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<td>FS</td>
<td>SF Wilderness Ranch; Payette</td>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
<td>Crapo, Risch/Fulcher</td>
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<tr>
<td>FLP</td>
<td>Movie River Corridor</td>
<td>$4,500,000</td>
<td>Crapo, Risch/Fulcher</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

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

For more information:
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