LWCF Success in Kansas

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Kansas’ most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Kansas has received approximately $63.6 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as Flint Hills Conservation Area, Marais des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge and Brown vs. Board of Education National Historic Site.

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. The FLP assists states and private forest owners to maintain working forest lands through matching grants for permanent conservation easement and fee acquisitions. Kansas received its first FLP grant in FY2012, which will be used to protect 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 Kansas’ state and local parks including El Dorado State Park Campground in Chautauqua County and Crawford State Park.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of the Kansas economy. The Outdoor Industry Association has found that active outdoor recreation generates $7.3 billion in consumer spending in Kansas, 71,000 jobs which generate $1.8 billion in wages and salaries, and produces nearly $481 million annually in state and local tax revenue. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year over 1.3 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Kansas, contributing $839 million in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.
LWCF in Kansas

Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Area

Located in eastern Kansas, the Conservation Area is part of a landscape-scale, strategic habitat conservation effort to protect a unique, highly diverse, and largely unfragmented area of tallgrass prairie. Using conservation easements, important habitat for a diverse array of grassland-dependent species has been protected. The Flint Hills are particularly important for grassland birds, serve as a staging area for numerous raptors, and comprise North America's only north-south tallgrass prairie corridor used extensively by migrants. Landowners who protect their lands from future development with conservation easements gain meaningful income and ensure that the land will remain in agriculture production. While landowners with a conservation easement still control access to their private property, preservation of the Flint Hills ensures that wildlife and clean water will be plentiful for generations to come, which translates into enhanced future recreational opportunities.

Fiscal Year 2020 Agency Priority Project List for Kansas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Delegation</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FWS</td>
<td>Flint Hills Legacy CA</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
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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