

MINNESOTA

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Minnesota

Federal Program

Boundary Waters Canoe Wild.

Chippewa-Superior NF

Crane Meadows NWR

*Great Lakes Northwoods

Lower St Croix NSR

Mississippi NRR

Minnesota Valley NWR

*Northern Tallgrass Prairie

Saint Croix NSR

*Upper Mississippi River NWR

Voyageurs NP

Federal Total \$ 170,300,000

Forest Legacy Program

\$ 16,000,000

Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6)

\$ 400,000

American Battlefield Protection Program

\$ 70,000

State Program

Total State Grants \$ 78,000,000

Total \$266,300,000

*multistate project

LWCF Success in Minnesota

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Minnesota's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Minnesota has received approximately \$266.3 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as Voyageurs National Park, Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Saint Croix National Scenic River.

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 Koochiching Forest, Sugar Hills and Brainerd Lake. 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 \$16 million in federal funds to invest in Minnesota'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 Minnesota's state and local parks including Mississippi River Overlook in Cass County, Vermillion Empire View Wildlife Management Area in Dakota County and Kensington Runestone Park in Douglas County.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of the Minnesota economy. The Outdoor Industry Association has found that active outdoor recreation contributes \$16.7 billion annually in consumer spending to Minnesota's economy, supports 140,000 jobs which generate \$4.5 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$1.4 billion annually in state and local tax revenue. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that each year 3.7 million people participate in hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching in Minnesota contributing \$4.3 billion to the state economy.



Wildlife viewing at Crane Meadows NWR

Credit: USFWS

Top: Superior NFs Credit: USFS

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



Recreation at St Croix NSR
Credit: NPS

LWCF in Minnesota

Superior and Chippewa National Forests

The Minnesota Wilderness land acquisition program includes the Superior and Chippewa national forests in Minnesota. The Superior NF spans 150 miles along the US-Canadian border and is one of the wettest, wildest forests in the national forest system. Glacial lakes, bogs and rocky outcrops create the only thriving boreal or northern forest in the continental US. Over ten percent of the forest consists of surface water, and another 1,300 miles of cold-water streams and 950 miles of warm water streams flow through the landscape. Meanwhile, over 400,000 acres of the Chippewa NF are actually lakes and wetlands. The Chippewa contains two of Minnesota's five largest lakes, and eight different types of wetlands each with distinct plant and animal life.

Fiscal Year 2020 Agency Priority Project List for Minnesota

Agency	State	Project	Amount	Delegation
FWS	IA/MN	Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR	\$1,000,000	Klobuchar, Smith/Peterson, Hagedorn
FWS	IA/IL/MN/WI	Upper Mississippi National Wildlife and Fish Refuge	\$1,000,000	Klobuchar, Smith/Hagedorn
FS	MN	School Trust; Superior	\$4,500,000	Klobuchar, Smith/Stauber

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



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