

MONTANA

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Montana

Federal Program

Bear Creek Flats/Blackfoot River
Beaverhead River
Big Hole NB
*Bighorn Canyon NRA
Bitterroot NF
Blackfoot River Watershed/SRMA
Blackfoot River Special Recreation Management Area/Lewis and Clark NHT
Blackfoot River Watershed/Douglas Creek
Blackfoot Challenge
Chain of Lakes RMA/L&C NHT
Charles Russell NWR
Crown of the Continent Northern Rockies: MT Legacy Completion, Lolo/Flathead NF
Crown of the Continent: Rocky Mtn Front, Blackfoot Valley & Swan Valley
Cas, Red Rock Lakes NWR
Custer NF
Beaverhead/Deerlodge NF
Devils Elbow/Missouri River
Elkhorn/Ironmask
Flathead NF
Gallatin NF/GYE
Garnet Ghost Town
Glacier NP
Grant-Kohrs NHS
Helena NF
Kootenai NF
Lewis & Clark NF
*Lewis & Clark NHT
Lolo NF
Madison River SRMA – High Divide
Montana Conservation Areas
Montana Legacy Completion
Montana NFs
Meetetsee Spires ACEC
Nez Perce NHP
Rattlesnake NRA
Red Rock Lakes NWR
Rocky Mountain Front
Rye Creek
Upper Missouri WSR
West. Montana Project/Blackfoot
Western Montana Project

Federal Total \$ 478,900,000

LWCF Success in Montana

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Montana's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Montana has received approximately \$639.5 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, Rocky Mountain Front, Glacier National Park and numerous other landscapes.

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 Kootenai River watershed in northwest Montana and the North Swan River Valley. 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 \$77 million in federal funds to invest in Montana'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 Montana's state and local parks including Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park, Lone Pine State Park in Flathead County and hundreds of fishing access sites across the state.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of the Montana economy. The Outdoor Industry Association has found that active outdoor recreation generates \$7.1 billion annually in consumer spending in Montana, supports 71,000 jobs across the state which generate \$2.2 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$286 million annually in state and local tax revenue. Further, the U.S. Census reports that over 950,000 people hunt, fish or watch wildlife in Montana each year, spending over \$1.1 billion on wildlife-related recreation.



Hiking in Lolo NF Credit: USFS Credit: NPS
Top: Glacier NP Credit: NPS

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

Forest Legacy Program

\$ 77,400,000

Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6)

\$ 42,500,000

State Program

Total State Grants \$ 39,700,000

Total \$ 639,500,000



Camping at Flathead NF
Credit: USFS

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

LWCF in Montana

Rocky Mountain Front

The US Fish & Wildlife Service recently purchased an easement using LWCF on a 12,130 acre ranch – the largest US Fish & Wildlife Service easement in the lower 48 states – that protects critical grassland grizzly bear and bird habitat. The conservation of this multi-generational family ranch also accomplished protection on 17 miles of riparian habitat along the Teton River, extending from the Mountains onto the plains. LWCF dollars were matched in excess of 2:1 by private funds, and will be recycled into the local economy through the continuation of this traditional agricultural operation. Home to 3 million acres of large cattle ranches and prime grizzly bear habitat, the Rocky Mountain Front boasts over 150,000 acres of ranches with conservation easements (many used LWCF) and another 100,000 acres of current easement demand “in the pipeline.”

Fiscal Year 2020 Agency Priority Project List for Montana

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
BLM	Blackfoot River Watershed	\$3,500,000	Tester, Daines/Gianforte
FWS	Montana National Wildlife Refuges and Conservation Areas	\$2,000,000	Tester, Daines/Gianforte
FS	Clearwater-Blackfoot Project; Lolo	\$8,000,000	Tester, Daines/Gianforte
FS	Lolo Trails Landmark; Lolo	\$4,400,000	Tester, Daines/Gianforte
FS	Falls Creek Access; Lewis and Clark	\$1,000,000	Tester, Daines/Gianforte
FLP	Lost Trail Conservation Project	\$2,850,000	Tester, Daines/Gianforte

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.