LWCF Success in New Hampshire

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of New Hampshire’s most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. New Hampshire has received approximately $166.8 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the White Mountain National Forest, Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge, Saint Gaudens National Historic Site and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

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 Connecticut Lakes in Coos County and Pillsbury-Sunapee Highlands in Grafton, Sullivan and Merrimack Counties. 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 $54 million in federal funds to invest in New Hampshire’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 New Hampshire’s state and local parks and forests including Moose Brook State Park in Gorham, Pisgah State Park in the Monadnock Region, Rolfe Park and Oak Hill in Concord.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of the New Hampshire economy. The Outdoor Industry Association has found that active outdoor recreation generates $8.7 billion annually in consumer spending in New Hampshire, supports 79,000 jobs across the state which generate $2.6 billion in wages and salaries and produces $528 million annually in state and local tax revenue. Further, the U.S. Census reports that 839,000 people hunt, fish or watch wildlife in New Hampshire each year, spending over $560 million on wildlife-related recreation.

LWCF Funded Places in New Hampshire

Federal Program
Appalachian Trail
Great Bay NWR
Umbagog NWR
Saint Gaudens NHS
*Silvio Conte NFWR
White Mountains NF

Federal Total $ 72,700,000

Forest Legacy Program

$ 54,000,000

State Program
Total State Grants $ 40,100,000

Total $166,800,000

*multistate project

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

### Fiscal Year 2020 Agency Priority Project List for New Hampshire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Delegation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FWS</td>
<td>CT/MA/ME/NH/RI</td>
<td>Great Thicket NWR</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>Shaheen, Hassan/Pappas</td>
</tr>
</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

![LWCF Appropriations Chart](chart.png)

- Forest Legacy Program & Sec. 6 funded from LWCF starting in 2004

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