

NEW MEXICO

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Units in New Mexico

Federal Program

- Aztec Ruins NM
- Baca Ranch (Valles Caldera)
- Bandelier NM
- Bluewater Canyon ACEC
- Carson NF
- Chaco Culture NHP
- Cibola NF
- Continental Divide NST
- El Malpais NCA
- El Malpais NM
- Fort Union NM
- Gila NF
- Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks NM
- La Cienega ACEC
- Lesser Prairie Chicken ACEC
- Lincoln NF
- Lower Gila Box ACEC
- New Mexico BLM
- Organ Mountains ACEC
- Orilla Verde Recreation Area/Taos
- Overflow Wetlands HMP
- Pecos NHP
- Petroglyphs NM
- Rio Chama WSR
- Rio Grande WSR
- Rio Grande del Norte NM
- *Sangre de Cristo CA
- Salinas Pueblo Missions NM
- Santa Fe Watershed Protection
- Santa Fe NF
- Sevilleta NWR
- White Mountains Wilderness
- Valle de Oro NWR

Federal Total \$ 273,300,000

Forest Legacy Program

\$ 10,700,000

American Battlefield Protection Program

\$ 15,000

State & Local Program

Total State Grants \$ 47,600,000

Total \$332,400,000

*multistate project

LWCF Success in New Mexico

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of New Mexico's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. New Mexico has received approximately \$322.4 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Petroglyph, El Malpais, and Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rock National Monuments, the Gila, Cibola, Santa Fe and Carson National Forests, and the Rio Grande Wild and 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 High Country Ranch in Rio Arriba County and Horse Springs Ranch in Catron County. The Forest Legacy Program 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 \$11 million in federal funds to invest in New Mexico'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 Mexico's state and local parks including Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park in Dona Ana County and the Eagle Nest Lake Park in Colfax County.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of the New Mexico economy. The Outdoor Industry Association has found that active outdoor recreation contributes \$9.9 billion annually in consumer spending to New Mexico's economy, supports 99,000 jobs which generate \$2.8 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$623 million annually in state and local tax revenue. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that each year 947,000 people participate in hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching in New Mexico contributing \$823 million to the state economy.



School Group at Pecos NHP Credit: NPS
Top: El Malpais NCA Credit: BLM

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



Recreation on Rio Grande WSR
Credit: BLM

LWCF in New Mexico

Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River/Taos Gorge

The canyonlands of the upper reaches of the Rio Grande comprise one of the most spectacular landscapes in New Mexico. Within New Mexico, the Rio Grande is not only an important natural and ecological resource, it is also critical to water supplies and the economy. About 1.3 million people, or nearly 70% of the state's population, live in the ten counties along the river. The Rio Grande provides vital drinking water to these residents and irrigation water for agricultural purposes. The Land and Water Conservation Fund has provided funds to protect the wild and scenic river, consolidate holdings to prevent fragmentation, ensure recreational access, and prevent development from marring the canyon.

Fiscal Year 2020 Agency Priority Project List for New Mexico

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
NPS	El Malpais National Monument	\$5,182,189	Udall, Heinrich/Torres Small
FS	Mimbres River Parcels; Gila	\$2,906,000	Heinrich, Udall/Torres Small

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 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 Appropriations FY2000-FY2020

