The Land and Water Conservation Fund has helped protect some of South Dakota’s most treasured places. South Dakota has received approximately $103.5 million over the past five decades, protecting places such as Wind Cave National Park, the Black Hills National Forest, the Missouri National Recreational River, the Dakota Grassland Conservation Area and the Dakota Tallgrass Prairie Wildlife Management Area.

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 the Blood Run National Historic Landmark Area in Lincoln County, SD. 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 $1.7 million in federal funds in South Dakota’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 South Dakota’s state and local parks including Lewis & Clark Recreation Area in Yankton County, Hartford Beach State Park in Roberts County, and Dinosaur Park in Rapid City, SD in Pennington County.

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of the South Dakota economy. Each year, 251,000 sportsmen and 432,000 wildlife watchers combine to spend $550 million on wildlife-associated recreation in South Dakota. According to the Outdoor Industry Association, outdoor recreation in South Dakota generates $4.7 billion in consumer spending, $48,000 in direct South Dakota jobs, $1.2 billion in wages and salaries $255 million in state and local tax revenue. At least 70% of South Dakota residents participate in outdoor recreation each year.
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.

For more information:
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Missouri NRR
Credit: NPS

Note - All approximate totals derived from appropriations bills
- Forest Legacy Program & Sec. 6 funded from LWCF starting in 2004

LWCF in South Dakota

Blood Run National Historic Landmark Area

Situated in an agricultural landscape at the heart of the Blood Run National Historic Landmark Area, this project represents an opportunity to preserve a nationally important cultural icon and a unique large tract of forest with oak trees left untouched since the 1880’s. This project will protect the rich pre-settlement history of the Oneota Native American culture as well as forest, wetland and grassland habitats. The area is most immediately threatened by development. Preservation and establishment of this tract as the Good Earth State Park at Blood Run will complement Blood Run NHL. Without protection, this cultural icon will be lost forever.

Fiscal Year 2020 Agency Priority Project List for South Dakota

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Delegation</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FWS</td>
<td>SD</td>
<td>Dakota Grassland Conservation Area</td>
<td>$4,250,000</td>
<td>Thune, Rounds/Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>NPS</td>
<td>NE/SD</td>
<td>Missouri National Recreation River</td>
<td>$2,100,000</td>
<td>Thune, Rounds/Johnson</td>
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</tbody>
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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

www.lwcfcoalition.org