

TEXAS

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Texas

Federal Program

Anahuac NWR
Angelina NF
Aransas NWR
Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR
Balcones Canyonlands NWR
Big Thicket NPres
Fort Davis NHS
Guadalupe Mountains NP
Laguna Atascosa NWR
Lower Rio Grande NWR
Lyndon Johnson NHP
Neches River NWR
Padre Island NS
Palo Alto Battlefield NHS
Sabine NF
Sam Houston NF
San Antonio Missions NHP
San Bernard NWR
Santa Ana NWR
Texas NWRs
Trinity River NWR

Federal Total \$ 345,300,000

Forest Legacy Program
\$ 9,900,000

Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6)
\$ 53,600,000

State & Local Program
Total State Grants \$ 194,100,000

Total \$ 604,300,000

LWCF Success in Texas

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Texas' most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Texas has received approximately \$604.3 million in LWCF funding over the past four decades, protecting places such as Big Thicket National Preserve, San Antonio Missions National Historic Park, Padre Islands National Seashore and Balcones Canyonlands and Lower Rio Grande national wildlife refuges.

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 Turkey Creek Project in Tyler and Hardin County and Burluson Wetland Project in Smith County. 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 \$10 million in federal funds to invest in Texas' 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 Texas' state and local parks including Palo Duro Canyon State Park in Armstrong County, Bastrop State Park in Bastrop County, Big Bend Ranch State Park in Presidio County and McKinney Falls State Park in Travis County.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of the Texas economy. The Outdoor Industry Association has found that active outdoor recreation contributes \$52.6 billion annually to Texas' economy, supports 411,000 jobs across the state which generate \$15.8 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$3.5 billion annually in state and local tax revenue. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year over 7.1 million people enjoy hunting, fishing and watching wildlife across Texas, contributing \$9.2 billion to the state economy from wildlife recreation spending.



Balcones Canyonlands NWR Credit: USFWS
Top: Guadalupe Mountains NP Credit: NPS

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

LWCF in Texas

Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge

Consisting of approximately 19,000 acres, Balcones Canyonlands NWR plays a significant role in habitat protection in the Southwest, supporting at least 375 species of birds, at least 1,500 plant species, over 120 native tree species, 55 species of mammals, 70 species of reptiles, and 80 species of fish. A boom in population and significant growth in commercial and residential development threatens privately held lands within refuge boundaries. Appropriations received over the last several years have protected these vital endangered species habitat lands and consolidated refuge inholdings. Completing the acquisition of these lands ensures the continued protection of this valuable area.



Lyndon Johnson NHP
Credit: NPS

Fiscal Year 2020 Agency Priority Project List for Texas

| Agency | Project | Amount | Delegation |
|--------|-----------------------------|-------------|--|
| FWS | Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR | \$2,000,000 | Cornyn, Cruz/ Gonzalez, Vela, Cuellar |
| FWS | Laguna Atascosa NWR | \$2,000,000 | Cornyn, Cruz/Vela |
| NPS | Palo Alto Battlefield NHP | \$3,500,000 | Cornyn, Cruz/Vela |
| FLP | Fox Hunters Hill | \$1,000,000 | Cornyn, Cruz/Gohmert |

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

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.