

WISCONSIN

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Wisconsin

Federal Program

Apostle Islands NL
Chequamegon-Nicolet NF
Fairfield Marsh WPA
*Great Lakes Northwoods
Ice Age NST
Iron River Fish Hatchery
Lower St Croix NSR
North Country NST
St Croix NSR
*Upper Mississippi River NWR
Whittlesey Creek NWR
Wolf WSR

Federal Total \$ 107,500,000

Forest Legacy Program

\$ 28,400,000

Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6)

\$ 6,200,000

State & Local Program

Total State Grants \$ 81,900,000

Total

\$ 225,800,000

*multistate project

LWCF Success in Wisconsin

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Wisconsin's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Wisconsin has received approximately \$225.8 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, the Ice Age and North Country National Scenic Trails, St. Croix National Scenic River and Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.

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 Chippewa Flowage in Sawyer County and the Wolf River Watershed in Langlade 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 \$28 million in federal funds to invest in Wisconsin'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 Wisconsin's state and local parks including Lake Kegonsa State Park in Dane County, Devil's Lake State Park in Sauk County and High Cliff State Park in Calumet County.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of the Wisconsin economy. The Outdoor Industry Association has found that active outdoor recreation contributes \$17.9 billion annually in consumer spending to Wisconsin's economy, supports 168,000 jobs which generate \$5.1 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$1.1 billion annually in state and local tax revenue. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that each year 2.9 million people participate in hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching in Wisconsin contributing \$3.9 billion to the state economy.



Recreation at St Croix NSR Credit: NPS
Top: Ice Age NST Credit: Ice Age Trail Alliance

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

LWCF in Wisconsin

Ice Age National Scenic Trail

The Ice Age National Scenic Trail is a dynamic public/private partnership among the National Park Service, the State of Wisconsin, local governments, and the nonprofit Ice Age Trail Alliance. During the past decade more than \$12 million of LWCF money has been matched by \$22 million of Wisconsin Stewardship Fund and local money to preserve 57 additional miles of the Ice Age Trail. This partnership is prepared to continue this important conservation work in America's heartland if LWCF money continues to be provided by Congress. There are still more than 500 miles of unmarked connecting routes linking the blazed segments that need to be protected in order to complete the Ice Age Trail, which is nearly half of the 1200-mile trail.



Fishing at Apostle Islands NL
Credit: NPS

Fiscal Year 2020 Agency Priority Project List for Wisconsin

Agency	State	Project	Amount	Delegation
FWS	IA/IL/ MN/WI	Upper Mississippi National Wildlife and Fish Refuge	\$1,000,000	Baldwin, Johnson/Kind

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

