

WYOMING

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Wyoming

Federal Program

- *Bear River Watershed CA
- Bighorn Canyon NRA
- Bridger-Teton NF
- Cokeville Meadows NWR
- Continental Divide NST
- Craig Thomas Little Mtn. SMA
- *Crown of the Continent
- *Flaming Gorge NRA
- Fossil Butte NM
- Grand Teton NP
- National Elk Refuge
- North Platte River SRMA
- Spring Gulch

Federal Total \$ 95,300,000

Forest Legacy Program
\$ 15,000,000

Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6)
\$ 710,000

State & Local Program
Total State Grants \$ 37,100,000

Total \$ 148,100,000
*multistate project

LWCF Success in Wyoming

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Wyoming's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Wyoming has received approximately \$148.1 million over the past five decades, protecting places such as Grand Teton National Park, Bridger-Teton National Forest, National Elk Refuge, Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area and Craig Thomas-Little Mountain Special 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 Munger Mountain Corridor near Jackson Hole. 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 \$9 million in federal funds to invest in Wyoming'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 Wyoming's state and local parks including Glendo State Park, Hot Springs State Park, Keyhole State Park and Guernsey State Park.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of the Wyoming economy. The Outdoor Industry Association has found that active outdoor recreation generates \$5.6 billion in consumer spending in Wyoming, and supports 50,000 jobs which generate \$1.6 billion in wages and salaries, and produces \$514 million annually in state and local tax revenue. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 762,000 people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Wyoming, contributing \$300 million in wildlife recreation spending.



Recreation at Grand Teton NP Credit: NPS
Top: Cokeville Meadows NWR Credit: USFWS

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



Devil's Canyon Ranch
Credit: TPL

LWCF in Wyoming

Craig Thomas Little Mountain Special Management Area

Located approximately 50 miles from the town of Cody, this remarkable concentration of natural and cultural features is managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Little Mountain's well-established populations of elk, black bear, deer, antelope, bighorn sheep, and mountain lion, as well as sage grouse and other small game, make it a destination for thousands of sportsmen each year. The Big Horn River and its tributaries are likewise a major draw for anglers. Because of its importance for outdoor recreation, the protection of this area has been a significant priority for sportsmen and many other Wyomingans. In 2010, \$2 million of LWCF was used to protect Devil's Canyon Ranch, providing permanent recreation access, wildlife protection, and preservation of historic sites.

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

