

# Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage

AMERICA DEPENDS ON THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

## THE FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM AND LWCF

### Forest Legacy Program Facts:

- States identify priority areas within the state to target
- Program operates on the principle of willing buyer, willing seller
- Provides forest products and resource based jobs, protects air and water quality, provides recreational opportunities, and protects fish and wildlife habitat
- Land trusts and other conservation organizations play a critical role in the program by working with landowners, identifying projects, helping to secure cost share, and facilitating the completion of projects



The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a simple idea: to invest a small portion of federal offshore drilling fees towards protecting important land, water and recreation areas for all Americans. These are not taxpayer dollars. Unfortunately, for 55 years the promise of LWCF was broken as \$22 billion was diverted from the program. Enactment of the Great American Outdoors Act in August 2020 ended the diversion and ensures that LWCF's permanently authorized \$900 million is used for conservation and recreation projects each year.

Despite chronic underfunding, LWCF has had positive conservation and recreation impacts throughout the country, supporting public land protection and outdoor recreation opportunities at the federal, state and local levels. These investments also provide significant boosts to tourism, jobs and local economies.

### Forest Legacy Program

Established by Congress in 1990 and administered through the USDA Forest Service, the Forest Legacy Program (FLP) assists states and private forest owners to maintain working forest lands through an up to 75:25 matching grant for permanent conservation easement and fee acquisitions. FLP supports timber sector jobs and sustainable forest operations while protecting air and water quality, wildlife habitat, access for recreation and other public benefits provided by forests. Conserving working forest lands contributes significantly to local and state economies, especially in rural areas. According to the National Alliance of Forest Owners, U.S. forests support approximately 2.5 million jobs, \$109 billion in payroll, and \$288 billion in sales.

Since Fiscal Year 2004, FLP has been funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. While demand from the states for FLP funding is around \$155 million a year, annual program appropriations averaged less than \$57 million over that same period. FLP is a critical part of the suite of state grant programs, including Stateside LWCF grants and Section 6 Cooperative Endangered Conservation Fund grants, funded through LWCF that assist communities, landowners and states in conserving vital working lands, wildlife habitats areas, and outdoor recreation. FLP has led to the conservation of over 2.58 million acres of working forest lands, primarily through conservation easement purchases, with more than 50 percent of project costs leveraged from other sources. This has ensured public access to natural resources and recreation lands for hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, hiking and other outdoor activities in the 49 states and the four territories with completed or pending projects.





[www.lwcfcoalition.org](http://www.lwcfcoalition.org)

### Forest Legacy Program Project Spotlight: Whitefish Lake, MT

In FY17, the Forest Legacy Program funded Phase 2 of the Whitefish Lake Watershed Project which protected a highly-developable 8,627-acre private inholding, long identified as one of the top international conservation priorities in the Crown of the Continent eco-region. This Phase of the project received \$7 million in FLP funding and \$8.25 million in non-federal cost share, totaling \$15.250 in conservation dollars going into this area. This project not only sustains local timber jobs, it conserves key habitat and scenery, guarantees public access, helps protect the water supply for the City of Whitefish, and protects the land from any future development.



State	FLP Contribution	Project Total	State	FLP Contribution	Project Total	State	FLP Contribution	Project Total
AK	\$2.8M	\$5.7M	LA	\$341,250	\$455,000	OR	\$7.5M	\$12.9M
AL	\$11.6M	\$20.9M	MA	\$31.1M	\$51.1M	PA	\$11.3M	\$19.6M
AR	\$11.3M	\$28.9M	MD	\$4.6M	\$7.8M	PR	\$2.4M	\$4.8M
AZ	\$1.9M	\$2.7M	ME	\$76.1M	\$146.6M	RI	\$8.1M	\$22.5M
CA	\$23.1M	\$105.9M	MI	\$17.4M	\$40.6M	SC	\$40.9M	\$135.9M
CO	\$22.6M	\$39M	MN	\$15.9M	\$37.4M	SD	\$1.7M	\$2.7M
CT	\$9.8M	\$22.1M	MO	\$2M	\$4.7M	TN	\$32.9M	\$56.2M
DE	\$14.9M	\$25.4M	MS	\$8.7M	\$14.8M	TX	\$9.9M	\$13.6M
FL	\$17.1M	\$52.1M	MT	\$83.4M	\$159.5M	UT	\$31.7M	\$68.2M
GA	\$41.4M	\$151.1M	NE	\$382,904	\$642,904	VT	\$34.3M	\$50.1M
HI	\$23.7M	\$83.5M	NC	\$19.5M	\$42.3M	VA	\$16M	\$25.7M
IA	\$1.7M	\$2.9M	NH	\$50.4M	\$75.3M	VI	\$2.1M	\$2.8M
ID	\$40.1M	\$62.4M	NJ	\$17.2M	\$50.6M	WA	\$45.9M	\$98.4M
IL	\$2.5M	\$3.4M	NM	\$7.2M	\$12.5M	WV	\$3.9M	\$6.8M
IN	\$9.9M	\$13.2M	NV	\$438,000	\$585,000	WI	\$28.3M	\$54.7M
KS	\$499,000	\$1.3M	NY	\$12.1M	\$34.3M	WY	\$9M	\$22.2M
KY	\$13.2M	\$25.9M	OH	\$6.6M	\$9.7M			