

Maine

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Maine

Federal Units

- Acadia NP
- Appalachian NST
- Aroostook NWR
- Green Lake NFH
- Moosehorn NWR
- Petit Manan NWR
- Rachel Carson NWR
- Saint Croix HIS
- Sunhaze Meadows NWR
- Umbagog NWR
- White Mountain NF

Federal Total \$127,112,414

State Programs

Forest Legacy Program	\$46,745,389
Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6)	\$6,237,122
ORLP	\$750,000
Stateside	\$45,997,846

Total \$226,842,771

LWCF Success in Maine

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Maine's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Maine has received approximately \$226.8 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as Acadia National Park and Preserve, the Saint Croix Island International Historic Site, Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

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 Grafton Notch and the Katahdin Forest. 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 \$46.7 million in federal funds to invest in Maine'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 Maine's state and local parks and forests including Rangeley Lake State Park, Bigelow Preserve and the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. Additionally, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP), which funds city park projects in economically disadvantaged areas, supported the Portland Landing Park Development Project.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of Maine's economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis has found that outdoor recreation generates \$3.3 billion in value added to Maine's economy, 32,274 homegrown jobs, and accounts for 3.9% of the state's economy. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 1 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Maine, contributing over \$1.5 billion in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.





LWCF in Maine

Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge

Consisting of meandering tidal creeks, coastal upland, sandy dunes, salt ponds, marsh, and productive wetlands, the Rachel Carson NWR provides critical nesting and feeding habitat for a variety of migratory birds along the Atlantic Flyway. The salt marsh habitat found at Rachel Carson NWR is relatively rare in Maine, which is better known for its dramatic, rocky coastline. Upland portions of the landscape in and around the refuge host a unique, unusually dense concentration of vernal pools that provide habitat for several rare plant and animal species. Acquisitions at the refuge also provided an important buffer between the intense development pressure along the southern Maine coast and its fragile coastal estuaries.

Fiscal Year 2025 Agency LWCF Project List for Maine

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
USFWS	Rachel Carson NWR	\$1,500,000	Collins, King/Pingree
USFWS	Great Thicket NWR*	\$1,500,000	Collins, King/Pingree
USFWS	Petit Manan NWR	\$1,000,000	Collins, King/Pingree, Golden

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, for 55 years the promise of LWCF was broken as \$22 billion was diverted from the program.

The **Great American Outdoors Act** ended the diversion and ensures that LWCF's permanently authorized \$900 million is used for conservation and recreation projects each year.

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 August 2020, permanent, dedicated funding for LWCF was secured through the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) – ensuring that each year the \$900 million deposited into the LWCF account is directed to conservation and recreation priorities; however, in FY24 Congress backtracked on that promise when they rescinded \$94 million of unobligated LWCF funding (\$89M from the NPS State & Local Assistance Program & \$5M from BLM). GAOA has not eliminated the backlog of LWCF priorities that are waiting in line as nearly all LWCF programs remain oversubscribed - each year the LWCF supplemental project list includes about \$200 million in urgent needs that are authorized to use this funding. To support these critical projects, unspent LWCF funding should be reallocated to the states by the Secretary of the Interior (per the LWCF Act) or reprogrammed by Congress to LWCF sub-programs with outstanding funding need. If funding is rescinded rather than reallocated or reprogrammed, landowners and communities miss out on LWCF funding, and these critical priorities could be lost forever.

FY25 Budget Update: The Biden Administration's FY25 budget proposal included detailed LWCF priority project lists and balanced program allocations, as well supplemental project lists over and above LWCF's current \$900 million funding level. [Click here to view a map of past LWCF projects](#)