

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage

AMERICA DEPENDS ON THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

HELP PROTECT AMERICA'S TREASURED LANDS, CLEAN WATER, AND OUR QUALITY OF LIFE BY SUPPORTING FULL FUNDING FOR THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is the nation's premier land conservation program that provides funds for:

- Recreational areas, trails and waterways for paddling, hiking, biking, hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching
- Enhancing access to national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, and other public lands
- Preserving historic battlefields and cultural sites
- Safeguarding rivers, watersheds, water supplies, and clean water
- Conserving working forests, farms, and ranches
- Preserving natural areas and wildlife habitat
- Creating and improving state and local parks
- Supporting local economies and jobs through increased outdoor recreation



www.lwcfcoalition.org

From the Grand Canyon National Park to the Appalachian National Scenic Trail to our favorite neighborhood park or playground, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has helped protect America's most treasured places. Over the past four decades, it has touched every state, conserving national parks and forests, land by rivers, lakes and oceans, working forests, farms and ranches, fish and wildlife refuges, trails, and state and local parks.

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. However, the promise of LWCF has been broken. Each year \$900 million from offshore royalties is deposited in the LWCF account in the federal treasury — yet more than \$17 billion of those funds have then been diverted elsewhere. This needs to be corrected and the funds retained in the LWCF account so that they are dedicated to their intended conservation and recreation purposes.

Despite chronic underfunding, LWCF has had positive conservation and recreation impacts throughout our country. Over its 46-year history, LWCF has protected land in every state and supported over 41,000 state and local park projects. The program enjoys strong bipartisan and popular support. Recent polling found that 86% of Americans are supportive of reinvesting funds from offshore drilling fees into land and water protection and more than 77% support funding LWCF at its authorized level of \$900 million a year. On election day 2010, voters demonstrated their support for conservation by approving 30 of 36, or 83 percent, of new land protection initiatives. These initiatives generated \$2 billion in new state and local conservation funding. LWCF funding leverages and complements these state and local conservation dollars.



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Children in Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge, Maine



©Phil Schermeister

Hikers survey Barker Pass on the Pacific Crest Trail in California



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Fly fishing in Odell Creek, Montana



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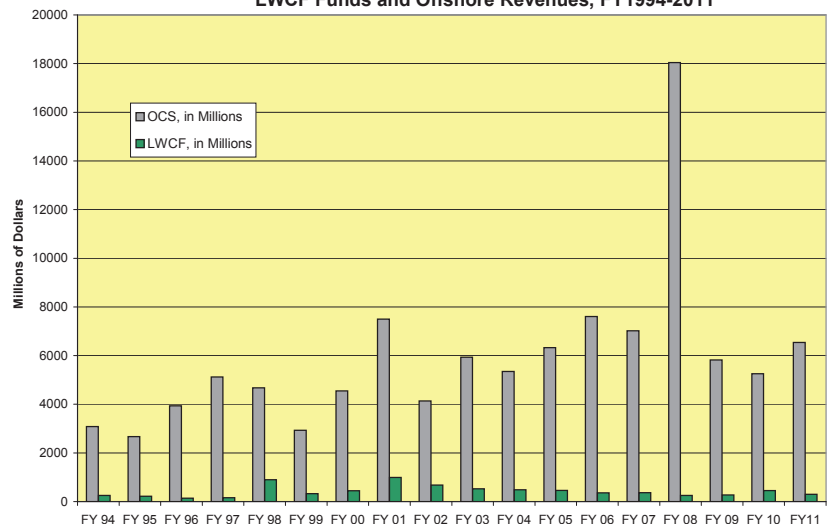
LWCF investments protect watersheds and drinking water supplies, preserve our national heritage, and conserve natural areas and open space for wildlife and recreation--all while providing sustainable, domestic jobs in urban and rural communities across America. Active outdoor recreation provides a powerful building block in our national economy that supports more than 6.5 million jobs (1 out of 20 jobs in the U.S.) and contributes more than \$730 billion annually, according to the Outdoor Industry Association. The Trust for Public Land has found that every \$1 spent on LWCF returns \$4 in economic value such as protecting water quality and supply. Whether it is close to home parks and trails or vacation destinations, LWCF provides places for all Americans to enjoy hunting, fishing camping, picnicking, climbing, hiking, paddling, backcountry skiing, mountain biking, wildlife viewing, and other outdoor activities.

Benefits of LWCF Investments:

- Conserves natural areas, wildlife habitat and open space from urban parks to large landscapes
- Improves access for sportsmen and recreationists on federal, state, local and private lands and waters
- Stimulates local economies and jobs supporting tourism and outdoor recreation-sectors
- Preserves wetlands, forests and watersheds ensuring clean and adequate water supplies in the most cost-effective manner
- Streamlines federal land management by improving access, consolidating ownership, and reducing management and firefighting costs
- Builds rural partnerships to keep ranchers and farmers on the land, and promotes sustainable, working forests, while maintaining wildlife habitat and open space
- Protects treasured cultural and historical sites such as civil war battlefields commemorating our national heritage
- Provides state and local grants to support community parks, trails, recreational access sites and open spaces-- promoting active, healthy lifestyles and gets kids and families outdoors

The LWCF Coalition supports full and dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. We are comprised of conservation, recreation, business, and sportsmen's groups working together to support the LWCF program in order to meet America's conservation and recreation needs in the 21st Century. Visit lwcfcoalition.org for more information about LWCF in your state and how you can take action.

LWCF Funds and Offshore Revenues, FY1994-2011



In 2011, the Department of the Interior collected approximately \$6.5 billion from offshore energy production, but only \$301 million went towards LWCF and the programs LWCF funds.

For more information:

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