

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, DEDICATED 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
- Additions to national parks, forests and wildlife refuges
- Preserving historic battlefields and cultural sites
- Acquiring land by rivers, lakes and oceans
- Protecting water supplies and clean water
- Conserving working farms and ranches
- Preserving natural areas and wildlife habitat
- Creating and improving state and local parks



www.lwcfcoalition.org

From the Grand Canyon National Park to the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has helped protect some of America's most treasured places. Over the past four decades, it has protected more than 5 million acres of local and national parks in every state and many territories.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is a simple idea: that a portion of offshore drilling fees should be used to protect important land and water for all Americans. On July 30th 2010, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Consolidated Lands and Energy Aquatic Resources (CLEAR Act, H.R. 3534) Act, which included a provision to provide full and dedicated funding of LWCF at its authorized level of \$900 million each year. LWCF is now closer than ever to finally fulfilling its 45 year promise to provide critical conservation and outdoor recreation needs across the country. LWCF is authorized to receive a very small percentage of OCS revenue - \$900 million a year from revenues that typically exceed \$6 billion annually. Over the years, however, much of that \$900 million has been diverted from its intended purpose in the annual budget and appropriations process. Today, the LWCF has an authorized balance of more than \$17 billion - a \$17 billion unmet promise.

Recent polling found that voters think LWCF is more important than ever in light of the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. A May 2010 public opinion survey found:

- 86% of Americans are supportive of funds from offshore drilling fees going towards the Land and Water Conservation Fund
- A nearly equal number of voters view the LWCF as more important in light of the recent Gulf oil spill. A striking 85 percent say that it is more important today that funds "from offshore oil and gas drilling be used to protect our forests, rivers, lakes, wetlands, beaches and wildlife habitat."
- More than three-quarters – 77 percent – support funding LWCF at \$900 million a year



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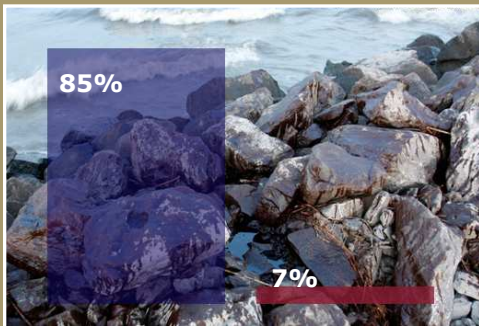
A family fishes in Odell Creek, Montana.



A couple survey Barker Pass on the Pacific Crest Trail in California.

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There is near unanimity that the Land and Water Conservation Fund is more important in light of the recent Gulf oil spill.



■ More important ■ Less important

Given the recent oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, would you say that it is more important or less important that these funds from offshore oil and gas drilling be used to protect our forests, rivers, lakes, wetlands, beaches and wildlife habitat?

National telephone survey conducted May 11-13, 2010 by the bipartisan research team of Public Opinion Strategies and FM3.



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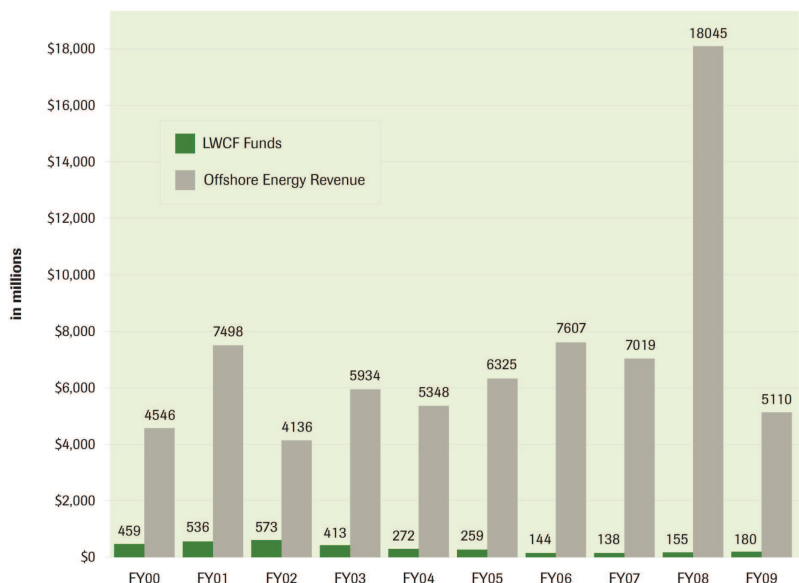
LWCF investments: protect clean drinking water supplies, support jobs and local economies, reduce fire-fighting costs, and conserve our common heritage and natural areas for wildlife, recreation, and for our children and grandchildren to enjoy.

If permanently funded at the authorized level of \$900 million a year, the LWCF will help ensure our quality of life, from the water we drink to our enjoyment of the great outdoors. The LWCF Coalition is comprised of a diverse group of national, state and local partners that includes conservation and recreation organizations, the outdoor recreation industry, sportsmen, land trusts, and advocates of trails, parks, refuges and forests working together to meet America's conservation and recreation needs for the 21st century, strongly supports legislation for full and dedicated funding of LWCF, including the Land and Water Conservation Authorization and Funding Act of 2009 (S.2747).

Benefits of LWCF Investments:

- Protection of America's most treasured cultural and historical places benefits our national heritage
- Wetland conservation and forest and watershed protection is the most cost-effective way to ensure clean and adequate water supplies
- Visitor-driven business is important to local communities surrounding national parks, state parks and other public lands
- Outdoor recreation has become an economic building block in our national economy generating more than 6.5 million jobs and more than \$730 billion annually, according to the Outdoor Industry Association
- Wildlife-related recreation generates more than \$1.7 billion annually and generates 27,000 jobs, according to the US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Protection of habitat for the entire diversity of plants and animals native to North America
- Access to parks, trails and open spaces to promote healthy lifestyles
- Land acquisition and protection along the forested-development edge of our communities is an essential tool in preventing forest fires
- The strategic acquisition of key tracts of land enhances efforts to adapt to climate change.

LWCF Funds and Offshore Energy Revenue FY00-FY09



In 2009, the Department of the Interior collected \$5 billion from offshore energy production, but only \$180 million, or about three percent of that revenue, was set aside to protect America's land and water.

For more information:

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