



Topic: Land and Water Conservation Fund
Request: Full and dedicated funding (\$900 million annually)

What is the Land and Water Conservation Fund? LWCF was established by Congress in 1964 with a strong bipartisan commitment to protect natural, cultural and water resources including 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. Over the past five decades, LWCF has benefitted every state and helped protect America's most treasured places, from the Grand Canyon National Park to the Appalachian National Scenic Trail to neighborhood parks.

Why support LWCF? It protects watersheds and drinking water, preserves our national heritage and conserves open space for wildlife and recreation. Since LWCF was created, it has protected lands and waters in every state, supporting over 41,000 state and local park projects. It provides 9.4 million sustainable, domestic jobs in urban and rural communities across America while contributing a total of \$1.06 trillion annually to the national economy. Thanks to LWCF, all Americans can better enjoy an array of outdoor activities – including hunting, fishing, camping, picnicking, climbing, hiking, paddling, backcountry skiing, mountain biking and wildlife viewing.

How is LWCF funded? LWCF is a simple idea with a powerful result. By investing a small portion of federal offshore drilling fees in protecting important land, water and recreation areas, all Americans benefit. These funds are not taxpayer dollars. Each year, \$900 million from offshore royalties is deposited into the LWCF federal treasury account. However, those funds are routinely redirected. More than \$20 billion have been diverted to date.

Didn't Congress already act on LWCF? Earlier this year, Congress permanently reauthorized LWCF with large, bipartisan votes in the House and Senate. Now that we have protected this important conservation program, we are excited to work together with Congress on the next step: ensuring LWCF funds are used for their intended purposes by enacting legislation to provide full and dedicated funding.

**We urge you to provide full and dedicated funding
for LWCF at \$900 million annually.**