



America's most important conservation and recreation program will expire in less than a year unless Congress acts. For 52 years, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has protected national parks and open spaces in every corner of the United States. But in less than 52 weeks, it could be gone forever and along with it, future protection of the places we love.

[LWCF](#) has invested more than \$279 million to protect Idaho's forests, wildlife refuges, trails, and rivers, and to increase recreation access. From backcountry trails and boat launches to historic sites and community parks, LWCF has protected places like the Caribou-Targhee National Forest, Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve, Nez Perce National Historical Park, Salmon Wild and Scenic River, Henrys Lake Area of Critical Environmental Concern, Tubb's Hill at Coeur d'Alene, and the Boise Greenbelt.

Idaho's \$7.8 billion outdoor recreation industry is an economic powerhouse – supporting 78,000 jobs which generates \$2.3 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$447 million annually in state and local tax revenue.

Sawtooth National Recreation Area

The 756,000-acre Sawtooth National Recreation Area comprises one of the largest and most magnificent national recreation areas in the U.S. Four mountain ranges: the Sawtooths, Boulders, White Clouds, and Smokies provide scenic landscapes in every direction, with more than 50 major peaks over 10,000 feet, 300 lakes, and 250 miles of trails. Four of Idaho's major rivers originate here: the Salmon, South Fork of the Payette, the Boise, and the Big Wood. The Sawtooth NRA offers some most renowned outdoor recreation in the world including fishing, white-watersports, hiking, backpacking, snowmobiling, mountain biking and Nordic skiing. To protect the historic uses and compatible public recreation values of this landscape, the Forest Service has utilized LWCF dating back to 1972 to acquire conservation easements that protect some 17,000 acres of private ranch lands within, keeping them as working landscapes.



Sawtooth Mountains, Credit: Will Whelan/The Nature Conservancy

“We support the renewal of LWCF to conserve all the places that benefit our community. For the last six years, each summer, the Warriors Rock team has conducted a large scale adaptive climbing event providing veterans the opportunity to experience world class rock climbing at the Castle Rock State Park in southern Idaho. There is no place quite like Castle Rocks and we are grateful that LWCF has been used to protect this place.”

- Diana Lincoln-Haye LPC, NCC, RRT, Adventure Coordinator Warriors Rock

Upper Snake/South Fork Snake River Area of Critical Environmental Concern

The Upper Snake/South Fork Snake River Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) is one of the most valuable, biodiverse, and unique ecosystems in Idaho, supporting a thriving riparian ecosystem as well as native grass and shrub fields. With nearly \$28 million from LWCF, the Bureau of Land Management has been able to protect critical lands within the ACEC, ensuring world class fishing and recreation, connectivity for elk migration as well as conserving important nesting habitat for Columbian sharp-tailed grouse and bald eagle.



Snake River, Credit: Michael Whitfield

#SaveLWCF to save the places we love in Idaho!

www.lwcfcoalition.org/lwcf52weeks/