

Idaho

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Idaho

Federal Units

- Agency Creek Campground
- Bear Lake NWR
- Bitterroot NF
- Boise Front ACEC
- Camas NWR
- Caribou-Targhee NF
- City of Rocks NF
- Clearwater River
- Coeur d'Alene NF
- Cougar Bay
- Craig Mountain ACEC
- Deep Creek
- Egin Lakes
- Gamlin Lake
- Garden Creek
- Grays Lake NWR
- Great Rift Backcountry Area
- Hagerman Fossil Beds NM
- Henrys Lake
- Hixon Coulmbia Sharp-Tailed Grouse Habitat
- Kaniksu NF
- Lewis and Clark NHT
- Lower Salmon River
- Minidoka NHS
- Morley Nelson Snake River
- Birds Of Prey NCA
- Nez Perce NHP
- Nez Perce-Clearwater NF
- Nine Mile Knoll ACEC
- Oregon National Historic Trail
- Oregon-California Trail Junction
- Owyhee River
- Payette NF
- Salmon-Challis NF
- Sand Point
- Sawtooth NF
- Snake River ACEC
- Soda Hills
- St. Joe NF
- Tex Creek WMA
- Thousand Springs
- Upper Lolo Creek
- Wallowa-Whitman NF

Federal Total \$218,544,036

LWCF Success in Idaho

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Idaho's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Idaho has received approximately \$305.2 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Boise Foothills, Sawtooth Valley and Hell's Canyon National Recreation Areas, Middle Fork Clearwater and Middle Fork Salmon Wild and Scenic Rivers.

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 Henry's Lake, the South Fork Snake River and the McArthur Lake Wildlife Corridor. 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 approximately \$39 million in federal funds to invest in Idaho'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 Idaho's state and local parks including the Boise Greenbelt and Wood River Trails, Coeur d'Alene's Tubbs Hill and Sandpoint's City Beach. Additionally, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP), has annual funding opportunities for city park projects in economically disadvantaged areas.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of Idaho's economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis has found that outdoor recreation generates \$3.4 billion in value added to Idaho's economy, 35,530 homegrown jobs, and accounts for 3.1% of the state's economy. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year over 1 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Idaho, contributing over \$923 million in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.

State Programs

Forest Legacy Program \$39,079,216

Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6) \$2,798,400

Stateside \$44,760,332

Total \$305,181,984

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

LWCF in Idaho

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 US. 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. The headwaters of 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 of the finest and 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.

Fiscal Year 2025 Agency LWCF Project List for Idaho

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
BLM	Craters of the Moon NM	\$2,400,000	Crapo, Risch/Simpson
BLM	Boise Foothills	\$200,000	Crapo, Risch/Simpson
USFWS	Bear River Watershed CA*	\$2,750,000	Crapo, Risch/Simpson
USFWS	Minidoka NWR	\$3,000,000	Crapo, Risch/Simpson
FLP	Spirit of Mt Spokane Phase 2A	\$8,000,000	Crapo, Risch/Fulcher



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](#)