

Minnesota

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Minnesota

Federal Units

- Big Stone County Waterfowl Production Area
- Big Stone NWR
- Chippewa NF
- Crane Meadows NR
- Douglas County Waterfowl
- Glacial Ridge NWR
- Grand Portage NM
- Grant County WPA
- Hamden Slough NWR
- Lac Qui Parle County WPA
- Lower Saint Croix NSR
- Minnesota Valley NWR
- Mississippi NR and RA
- Northern Tallgrass Prairie
- Rice Lake NWR
- Saint Croix NSR
- Stevens County WPA
- Superior NF
- Tamarac NWR
- Upper Mississippi River NWR
- Voyageurs NP

Federal Total \$144,940,540

State Programs

Forest Legacy Program	\$13,406,000
Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6)	\$110,865
American Battlefield Protection Program	\$70,250
ORLP	\$1,500,000
Stateside	\$82,426,137

Total \$242,453,792

LWCF Success in Minnesota

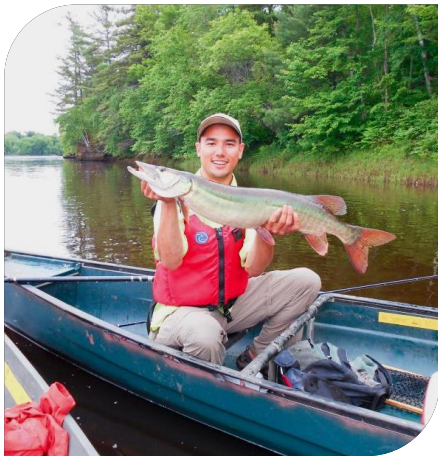
The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Minnesota's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Minnesota has received approximately \$242.4 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as Voyageurs National Park, Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Saint Croix National Scenic River.

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 Koochiching Forest, Sugar Hills and Brainerd Lake. 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 \$13.4 million in federal funds to invest in Minnesota'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 Minnesota's state and local parks including Mississippi River Overlook in Cass County, Vermillion Empire View Wildlife Management Area in Dakota County and Kensington Runestone Park in Douglas County. Additionally, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP), which funds city park projects in economically disadvantaged areas, supported Sheridan Memorial Park in Minneapolis, Lincoln Park in Duluth, and Midway Peace Park in St. Paul.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of Minnesota's economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis has found that outdoor recreation generates \$11.7 billion in value added to Minnesota's economy, 93,733 homegrown jobs, and accounts for 2.6% of the state's economy. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 3.7 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Minnesota, contributing over \$4.3 billion in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.



LWCF in Minnesota

Superior and Chippewa National Forests

The Minnesota Wilderness land acquisition program includes the Superior and Chippewa national forests in Minnesota. The Superior NF spans 150 miles along the US-Canadian border and is one of the wettest, wildest forests in the national forest system. Glacial lakes, bogs and rocky outcrops create the only thriving boreal or northern forest in the continental US. Over ten percent of the forest consists of surface water, and another 1,300 miles of cold-water streams and 950 miles of warm water streams flow through the landscape. Meanwhile, over 400,000 acres of the Chippewa NF are actually lakes and wetlands. The Chippewa contains two of Minnesota's five largest lakes, and eight different types of wetlands each with distinct plant and animal life.

Fiscal Year 2025 Agency LWCF Project List for Minnesota

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
FWS	Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR*	\$750,000	Klobuchar, Smith/ Finstad, Fischbach, Craig, Stauber



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

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](#)