

Nebraska

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Nebraska

Federal Units

- Agate Fossil Beds NM
- Boyer Chute NWR
- Clay County WPA
- Fillmore County WPA
- Hamilton County WPA
- Homestead NM
- Nebraska NF
- North Platte NWR
- Phelps County WPA
- Scotts Bluff NM
- Seward County WPA
- Valentine NWR

Federal Total \$11,055,735

State Programs

Forest Legacy Program \$382,904

Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6) \$2,946,024

Stateside \$51,019,776

Total \$65,404,439

LWCF Success in Nebraska

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Nebraska's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Nebraska has received approximately \$65.4 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Rainwater Basin Wildlife Management Area, Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuge and Agate Fossil Beds National Monument.

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 the Pine Ridge Forest in Dawes County. 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 \$382,904 in federal funds to invest in Nebraska'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 Nebraska's state and local parks Ponca State Park in Dixon County and Walnut Grove Park in Omaha. 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 Nebraska's economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis has found that outdoor recreation generates \$2.8 billion in value added to Nebraska's economy, 27,921 homegrown jobs, and accounts for 1.7% of the state's economy. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 750,000 people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Nebraska, contributing over \$640 million in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.





LWCF in Nebraska

Scotts Bluff National Monument

The Scotts Bluff National Monument is a 3,000 acre park located in Western Nebraska. Scotts Bluff rises 800 feet above the North Platte River and was used as a path marker for the Oregon, California, Pony Express, and Mormon Trails. Today, the park helps teach us about the experience of the people that crossed the Plains on these trails. There are many bicycle, car and walking trails that allow visitors to see the remnants of the old trails. The Park's Oregon Trail Museum and Visitor Center has the world's largest collection of paintings by William Henry Jackson, a painter and photographer famous for his depictions of the American West.

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](#)