

New Mexico

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in New Mexico

Federal Units

- Aztec Ruins NM
- Ball Ranch ACEC
- Bandelier NM
- Bitter Lake NWR
- Bluewater Canyon ACEC
- Carson NF
- Chaco Culture NHP
- Cibola NF
- Continental Divide NST
- El Malpais NCA
- El Malpais NM
- El Morro NM
- Gila Lower Box
- Gila NF
- Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks NM
- La Cienega ACEC
- Lesser Prairie Chicken ACEC
- Lincoln NF
- Ojo Caliente
- Organ Mountains ACEC
- Orilla Verde Recreation Area/Taos
- Overflow Wetlands HMP
- Pecos NHP
- Petroglyphs NM
- Rio Chama WSR
- Rio Grande WSR
- Salinas Pueblo Missions NM
- San Andres NWR
- Santa Fe NF
- Sevilleta NWR
- Tularosa Creek RA
- Valles Caldera NP

Federal Total \$217,202,849

LWCF Success in New Mexico

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of New Mexico's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. New Mexico has received approximately \$327.8 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Petroglyph, El Malpais, and Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rock National Monuments, the Gila, Cibola, Santa Fe and Carson National Forests, and the Rio Grande Wild and 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 High Country Ranch in Rio Arriba Country and Horse Springs Ranch in Catron County. The Forest Legacy Program 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 \$7.2 million in federal funds to invest in New Mexico'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 New Mexico's state and local parks including Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park in Dona Ana County and the Eagle Nest Lake Park in Colfax County. Additionally, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP), which funds city park projects in economically disadvantaged areas, supported Apodaca Park in Las Cruces.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of New Mexico's economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis has found that outdoor recreation generates \$2.4 billion in value added to New Mexico's economy, 27,977 homegrown jobs, and accounts for 1.9% of the state's economy. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 947,000 people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in New Mexico, contributing over \$823 million in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.



State Programs

Forest Legacy Program	\$7,228,044
Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6)	\$107,000
American Battlefield Protection Program	\$15,605
ORLP	\$750,000
Stateside	\$48,538,201

Total \$327,841,699

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 New Mexico

Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River/Taos Gorge

The canyonlands of the upper reaches of the Rio Grande comprise one of the most spectacular landscapes in New Mexico. Within New Mexico, the Rio Grande is not only an important natural and ecological resource, it is also critical to water supplies and the economy. About 1.3 million people, or nearly 70% of the state's population, live in the ten counties along the river. The Rio Grande provides vital drinking water to these residents and irrigation water for agricultural purposes. The Land and Water Conservation Fund has provided funds to protect the wild and scenic river, consolidate holdings to prevent fragmentation, ensure recreational access, and prevent development from marring the canyon.

Fiscal Year 2025 Agency LWCF Project List for New Mexico

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
BLM	La Cienega ACEC	\$4,500,000	Heinrich, Lujan/Leger Fernandez
USFWS	Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge & Conservation Area (Supplemental List)	\$8,700,000	Heinrich, Lujan/Leger Fernandez
USFS	Cibola National Forest	\$10,000,000	Heinrich, Lujan/Vasquez



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](#)