

# North Dakota

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



## LWCF Funded Places in North Dakota

### Federal Units

- Burleigh County WPA
- Dakota Prairie Grasslands
- Dickey County WPA
- Fort Union Trading Post NHS
- Grand Forks County WPA
- Kellys Slough NWR
- Kidder County WPA
- Knife River Indian Villages NHS
- Lake Alice NWR
- Lake Ilo NWR
- Long Lake NWR
- Lostwood NWR
- Ramsey County WPA
- Shell Lake NWR
- Stewart Lake NWR
- Stutsman County WPA
- Theodore Roosevelt NP
- Ward County WPA
- Wells County WPA

**Federal Total**     \$9,642,685

### State Programs

Habitat             \$750,000  
Conservation  
(Sec. 6)

Stateside            \$40,039,434

**Total**                \$50,432,119

## LWCF Success in North Dakota

The Land and Water Conservation Fund has helped protect some of North Dakota's most treasured places. North Dakota has received approximately \$50.43 million over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site and the Dakota Tallgrass Prairie.

Throughout its history, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of North Dakota's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Public lands such as the National Park Service's Fort Union Trading Post and Knife River Indian National Historic Sites, U.S. Forest Service's Dakota Prairie Grasslands, numerous U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wildlife Refuges and Wetland Management Districts and landscapes in between have benefitted. LWCF state assistance grants have benefitted hundreds of state and local parks across North Dakota. 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 North Dakota's economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis has found that outdoor recreation generates \$1.3 billion in value added to North Dakota's economy, 13,615 homegrown jobs, and accounts for 1.8% of the state's economy. Further, fishing and hunting in North Dakota contributed an estimated \$1.4 billion in annual input to the state's economy, according to a report by the Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics at North Dakota State University. Overall, anglers and hunters in North Dakota spent \$642.9 million dollars on equipment, vehicles, boats, travel, lodging, food and many other items.





## LWCF in North Dakota

### Dakota Grassland Conservation Area & Dakota Tallgrass Prairie WMA

Grasslands once covered 90% of the Dakotas. Today, less than 3% of the native prairie remains. These two prairie conservation projects will enable the Fish and Wildlife Service, working with private landowners across the Dakotas, to protect the largest remaining intact grassland habitats in North America. This area includes most of the famed “duck factory” which produces the vast majority of waterfowl in the U.S. and provides critical wetland and prairie habitat for an array of additional bird and vertebrate species. Over 147 species of breeding birds, including 40 species of neotropical migrants and 12 species of waterfowl, inhabit the area. Fragmentation and conversion to crop production are the primary threats. LWCF protection through conservation easement purchases can protect this vital ecosystem maintaining productive wetland and grassland habitats on private lands across this working landscape.

### Fiscal Year 2025 Agency LWCF Project List for North Dakota

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
USFWS	Dakota Grassland CA*	\$8,000,000	Hoeven, Cramer/ Armstrong
USFWS	Dakota Tallgrass Prairie WMA*	\$6,000,000	Hoeven, Cramer/ Armstrong



## 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](#)

**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](http://www.lwcfcoalition.org)