

# Oregon

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



## LWCF Funded Places in Oregon

### Federal Units

- Bandon Marsh NWR
- Bear Valley NWR
- Beatty Creek
- Birch Creek Historic Ranch
- Blue Canyon WSA
- Cascade-Siskiyou NM
- Clark R Bavin NFW Lab
- Criterion Ranch
- Deschutes NF
- Grande Ronde
- Hart Mountain Antelope Range
- John Day Fossil Beds NM
- John Day National WSR
- Klamath Marsh NWR
- Klamath FNF
- Lewis and Clark NHP
- Malheur NF & NWR
- Mt Hood NF
- Nestucca Bay NWR
- New River ACEC
- North Spit
- North Umpqua National WSR
- Oregon Badlands Wilderness
- Oregon Islands NWR
- Owyhee WSR
- Rogue National Wild & Scenic River
- Sandy River/Oregon NHT
- Siletz Bay NWR
- Siuslaw NF
- Snake River Breaks ERMA
- South Fork Walla Walla River ACEC
- Steens Mountain
- Table Rocks
- Tualatin NWR
- Umatilla NF & NWR
- Umpqua NF
- Upper Klamath Lake NWR
- Wallowa-Whitman NF
- Wapato Lake NWR
- Warner Wetlands
- West Eugene Wetlands
- Willamette NF
- Yaquina Head Natural Area

**Federal Total \$240,615,597**

## LWCF Success in Oregon

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Oregon's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Oregon has received approximately \$328 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, Oregon Coast Wildlife Refuges, West Eugene Wetlands, Hells Canyon National Recreation Area and the Oregon National Historic Trail.

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 South Eugene Hills in Lane 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 \$7.5 million in federal funds to invest in Oregon'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 Oregon's state and local parks including the Tualatin Hills Nature Park in Beaverton to Volunteer Park in Springfield, to Sawyer Park in Bend and Fern Hill Park in Portland. Additionally, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP), which funds city park projects in economically disadvantaged areas, supported Thomas Cully Park in Portland

## Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of Oregon's economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis has found that outdoor recreation generates \$7.5 billion in value added to Oregon's economy, 72,737 homegrown jobs, and accounts for 2.5% of the state's economy. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 1.8 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Oregon, contributing over \$2 billion in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.

## State Programs

Forest Legacy Program	\$7,493,391
Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6)	\$11,671,596
ORLP	\$500,000
Stateside	\$67,481,239
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$328,010,609</b>

**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)

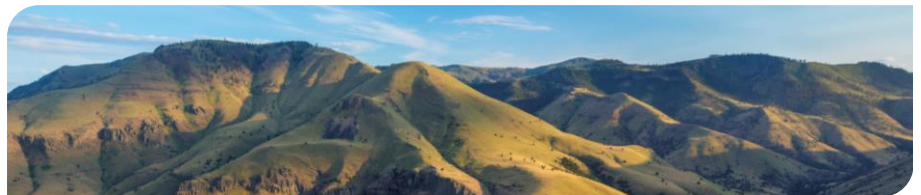
## LWCF in Oregon

### Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area

The Columbia River Gorge is a spectacular river canyon, 80 miles long and up to 4,000 feet deep, cutting the only sea level route through the Cascade Mountain Range. It is more than a natural wonder; the Gorge is a critical transportation corridor and is home to 75,000 people, resource dependent communities, farms and schools. The Gorge offers a multitude of outdoor recreational opportunities, including biking, fishing, camping and canoeing. Sections of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and the Pacific Crest Trail pass through the Gorge, offering excellent hiking opportunities. LWCF has helped protect many parts of this National Scenic Area, which the Forest Service estimates receives over 2.3 million visitors per year.

### Fiscal Year 2025 Agency LWCF Project List for Oregon

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
BLM	Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument	\$2,500,000	Wyden, Merkley/Bentz
USFWS	Willamette Valley Conservation Area	\$1,800,000	Wyden, Merkley/Bonamici, Blumenauer, Hoyle, Chavez-DeRemer
USFS	Mt. Hood National Forest	\$6,000,000	Wyden, Merkley/Bentz
FLP	Tualatin Mountain Forest Project	\$5,765,000	Wyden, Merkley/Bonamici
FLP	The Columbia Gorge Forest (Supplemental List)	\$9,315,000	Wyden, Merkley/Bentz, Blumenauer



### 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](#)