

Washington

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Washington

Federal Units

- Abernathy Fish Tech Center
- Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually NWR
- Columbia NWR
- Colville NF
- Columbia River Gorge NSA
- Conboy Lake NWR
- Cowiche Canyon
- Dungeness NWR
- Ebey's Landing NHR
- Fishtrap Lake
- Fort Vancouver NHS
- Franz Lake NWR
- Gifford Pinchot NF
- Grande Ronde
- Grays Harbor NWR
- Julia Butler Hansen NWR
- Juniper Dunes Wilderness
- Kaniksu NF
- Klondike Gold Rush NHP
- Lake Chelan NRA
- Leavenworth NFH
- Lewis and Clark NHP
- Little Pend Oreille NWR
- Little White Salmon NFH
- Makah NFH
- McNary NWR
- Moses Coulee
- Mount Rainier NP
- Nez Perce NHP
- Nisqually NWR
- North Cascades NP
- Okanogan-Wenatchee NF
- Olympic NF & NP
- Pierce NWR
- Protection Island NWR
- Quilcene NFH
- Ridgefield NWR
- San Juan Island NHP & NM
- Spring Creek NFH
- Steigerwald Lake NWR
- Toppenish NWR
- Turnbull NWR
- Upper Crab Creek
- Whitman Mission NHS
- Willapa NWR
- Yakima River Canyon

Federal Total \$472,208,618

LWCF Success in Washington

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Washington's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Washington has received approximately \$731.8 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Mount Rainier and Olympic National Parks, Pacific Crest Trail, Cascade Ecosystems, Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge and the Skagit 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 the Mount Saint Helens Forest in Washington County and Issaquah Creek Headwaters in King 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 \$37.6 million in federal funds to invest in Washington'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 Washington's state and local parks including Sacagawea Heritage Trail in Benton County, Fallen Leaf Lake in Clark County and Tacoma Narrows in Pierce County. Additionally, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP), which funds city park projects in economically disadvantaged areas, supported Skyway Park in King County, Swan Creek Park in Tacoma, and the South Park Playground, Spray Park, and Playfield in Seattle.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of Washington's economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis has found that outdoor recreation generates \$20 billion in value added to Washington's economy, 121,446 homegrown jobs, and accounts for 2.7% of the state's economy. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 2.7 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Washington, contributing over \$3 billion in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.

State Programs

Forest Legacy Program	\$37,579,750
Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6)	\$131,543,933
ORLP	\$1,869,626
Stateside	\$88,555,754

Total \$731,757,681

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 Washington

Yakima River

The Yakima River is Washington's only Blue Ribbon River, attracting anglers from all over the world. LWCF funding has been key to protecting the headwaters of the Yakima River within the Wenatchee National Forest, ensuring water quality and habitat for salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. LWCF has also helped ensure public access to the river for angling, rafting, kayaking and other outdoor recreation. The project was ranked a national priority in 2017, and funding is needed to continue to ensure this world-class outdoor resource is protected for future generations.

Fiscal Year 2025 Agency LWCF Project List for Washington

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
NPS	San Juan Island NHP	\$5,920,000	Murray, Cantwell/Larsen
USFS	Okanogan-Wenatchee NF	\$8,000,000	Murray, Cantwell/Schrier
FLP	Spirit of Mt Spokane Phase 2B	\$5,060,000	Murray, Cantwell/McMorris Rodgers
FLP	Mt. Adams Forest (Supplemental List)	\$13,875,000	Murray, Cantwell/Gluesenkamp Perez, Newhouse



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](#)