

## The LWCF Toolbox

LWCF has evolved to become an innovative toolbox supporting everything from local sports fields to national parks, to working forests and wildlife refuges. These tools include:

### Federal Land Management Agency Projects

**Primary Focus:** Federal land acquisition

For federal agencies, LWCF is the primary source of funding to open up public access and add lands to our nation's treasured federal public lands – our National Parks, National Forests, National Wildlife Refuges, and Bureau of Land Management lands, and other public lands. Within the current boundaries of these public lands, there is still privately-owned land. LWCF allows purchase of these properties from willing sellers to open up access for hunters and anglers, ensure visitor amenities, prevent incompatible development and consolidate land ownership to make management more efficient.

**Bureau of Land Management:** The Bureau of Land Management's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

**National Park Service:** The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's mission is, working with others, to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

**U.S. Forest Service:** The U.S. Forest Service's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

#### Examples:

##### *Saguaro National Park, Arizona*

Located adjacent to the Tucson metroplex and its one million residents, over a million visitors each year come to enjoy the park's remarkable landscape and over 165 miles of trails. Over many years, \$45 million in LWCF funds have been invested in the park to preserve its unique and fragile desert habitat that supports the iconic saguaro cacti. Surrounded on both its east and west sections by the dense Tucson metropolitan area, the park attracts visitors who want to get up close to vast swaths of saguaro cacti and also offers Tucson's residents a much-needed close-to-home respite from urban life. LWCF funding in FY 2016 supported the protection of 44 acres on the east side of the park along Rincon Creek including a critical water resource. More recent LWCF investments secured trail connections from the park to the popular Sweetwater Preserve adjacent to the western section of this incredible urban outdoor recreation area.

##### *Bozeman Pass, Gallatin National Forest, Montana*

Less than 20 minutes from the heart of town is Chestnut Mountain, Bozeman's newest trailhead and gateway to Bozeman Pass, offering some of the best outdoor recreation in Montana. The trailhead, used by hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians, is also a much-needed safe access point to Frog Rock, a popular rock-climbing spot just off the Interstate. Previously, climbers were parking illegally on I-90, then crossing railroad tracks and bushwhacking to get to the rock face. \$2.6 million in LWCF funds were used in combination with funding from the Gallatin County Open Space Program and a land donation to protect over 2,000 acres of land and provide safe public access to trails and rock climbing.

## State and Local Assistance Program

**Primary Focus:** Disbursing funds for states to use on acquisition and development of outdoor recreation areas and facilities

The LWCF State Assistance Program provides matching grants to States, and through the States to local and tribal governments, for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Planning grants are also available to the States to assist in the development of Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORP). The program is administered by the National Park Service.

LWCF funds are allocated to each state annually by a population-based formula, and then granted out via a competitive process. The first step for potential applicants is to [contact your State office](#) for information on application deadlines, priorities and selection criteria, and the grant award process.

**Eligible Entities:** State, local, tribal governments

**What is eligible for funding:** To be eligible for assistance, projects must be in accord with the state's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), be sponsored by a governmental agency, and meet other state and federal requirements.

- Acquisition of park and recreation lands (land purchase)
- Development of new recreation facilities / initial park development
- Redevelopment of older recreation facilities, including improved access for people with disabilities
- State planning grants and analytic studies on recreation potentials, needs, opportunities and policies
- Requires 50-percent non-federal match

### Examples:

#### *Rockin' River Ranch State Park, Arizona*

Nestled between a leisurely stretch of the Verde River, one of the Southwest's last free-flowing rivers, and open grasslands shaded by cottonwood trees sits the site of Arizona's soon-to-be newest state park: Rockin' River Ranch. An LWCF grant of \$700,000 in 2017 has contributed to the total of \$4,000,000 gathered to support the initial development of the park. This development includes the installation of day-use area amenities, various types of camping sites, cabins, riverside access, and an equestrian center. Once complete, the park will provide visitors access to one of Arizona's most unique and pristine natural landscapes, as well as enhanced opportunities for outdoor recreational activities. More than one mile of riverfront will provide access for fishing, kayaking, and wildlife viewing. The park will offer stables for horseback riding, hiking and equestrian trails which connect visitors to Prescott National Forest, campgrounds, cabins, and space for community events.

#### *Great Salt Lake State Park Saltair Beach / Marina, Utah*

Great Salt Lake State Park offers beautiful views of Great Salt Lake, nearby Antelope Island State Park, and Black Rock. \$889,000 in LWCF funds went to developing and enlarging the marina to ensure that boaters can enjoy close-to-home access to the Great Salt Lake including kayak and boat rentals.

For more information, visit: <https://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/lwcf/manual/lwcf.pdf>

## Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program

**Primary Focus:** Competitive grants that target communities which are underserved with respect to parks and outdoor recreation

The Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program is a complementary grant program to the State and Local Assistance formula grants program. Project proposals should target low to moderate income neighborhoods that are under-served with respect to parks and other outdoor recreation resources. To be eligible, a jurisdiction must have a population of at least 50,000 people and be located within an Urbanized Area as designated from the 2010 Census. The pre-applications will be submitted through the State lead agencies for LWCF; please [contact your state lead agency](#) for information about their process to select proposals to submit for the national competition.

## Forest Legacy Program

**Primary Focus:** Acquisition or conservation easements to encourage protection of privately-owned forest lands

The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) is a conservation program administered by the U.S. Forest Service in partnership with State agencies to encourage the protection of privately-owned forest lands through conservation easements or land purchases. Protection of private forests through FLP maintains a multitude of public benefits including:

- Opportunities to hunt, fish, and camp
- Clean and abundant drinking water,
- Habitat for fish and wildlife, and
- Timber, fuel wood, and other forest products.

**Eligible entities:** State governments are eligible to apply, in partnership with private landowners, nonprofits, and/or local governments

### What is eligible for funding:

- Conservation easements to protect threatened private working forestlands from conversion to non-forest uses, retaining their benefit for recreation, drinking water, habitat, and/or economic forest value.
- Purchase of threatened forestland to keep the land in working timber land and preserve benefits listed above.
- Requires at least 25-percent non-federal match

#### Example:

##### Crisp Point, Michigan

The Crisp Point project received \$5.175 million in FY2011. This allowed the forest to continue as a working forest, helping to sustain the Upper Peninsula's timber production base. Logging of timber and its associated value-added products helps smooth out the employment base curve in the two counties the project is located in due to the seasonal employment nature of tourism. The property had previously been privately owned, and no public access was available. This project guarantees full public access for a variety of recreational opportunities. The property was previously at severe risk of development. A 30x30 structure would have removed up to 15.6 acres of huntable lands due to firearm safety zones. This project ensures that the entire property and adjacent State land will be open for public hunting. The tract contains approximately 2.5 miles of snowmobile trail #8, a major trail route that stretches across the UP. Development of this land would have included the very real threat of losing a portion of this major trail. This project ensures that the trail route stays intact and accessible to the public.

Additional resources here: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/private-land/forest-legacy/program>

Watch a video that highlights how Forest Legacy helps communities, here: <https://vimeo.com/213534300>

## American Battlefield Protection Program

**Primary Focus:** Grants for states and local governments to acquire and/or preserve threatened battlefield land

American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants help States and local communities acquire and preserve threatened battlefield land. This grant program allows for the permanent protection of historic battlefield lands through fee simple acquisition or through the purchase of an interest in the land through a preservation covenant.

**Who is eligible to apply:** State or local government entities are eligible to apply, and nonprofits may act as subrecipients of grant funds.

**What is eligible for funding:** Land must be at least 50% within the boundary of one of the 384 battlefields identified in the 1993 Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields, or one of the 177 battlefields identified in the 2007 Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Historic Preservation Study. The land must also be outside the boundaries of any National Park Service unit legislative boundary. The grants require at least 50-percent non-Federal match.

Battlefield Land Acquisition Grant applications are accepted on a rolling basis. The Notice of Funding Opportunity and application materials are available now on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).

## Section 6, Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

**Primary Focus:** Funding to states for species and habitat conservation on non-federal lands.

Section 6 provides funding to states for species and habitat conservation on non-federal lands. Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Recovery Land Acquisition grants are funded through LWCF. The HCP Land Acquisition program promotes voluntary conservation in areas where landowners, states and other stakeholders have agreed on conservation and development goals. Recovery Land Acquisition grants similarly help states and landowners protect habitat as an alternative to regulation.

## Highlands Conservation Act Grant Program

**Primary Focus:** Grants to state agencies in Connecticut, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania for conservation projects.

Projects supported by the Highlands Conservation Act grant program address key conservation objectives laid out under the Highlands Conservation Act. These projects prioritize important stewardship goals such as clean water, recreational and cultural resources, forests, wildlife habitat, and agriculture.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages the Program, awarding grant money to state agencies for projects within the Highlands region. The states in partnership with local governments, conservation organizations, and private landowners propose land conservation projects that have met [grant criteria](#) and eligibility requirements.

Project eligibility:

- Eligible entities are State agencies in the Highlands region (Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania) that have authority to own and manage land for conservation purposes, including the Palisades Interstate Park Commission
- Requires 50-percent non-federal match.
- Must permanently protect land for conservation purposes.
- The project must be in an area identified as having high conservation value as determined in one of the [scientific studies](#) supporting the Act.

Learn more about the HCA and eligibility here:

<https://www.fws.gov/northeast/highlands-conservation-act/conservation-goals.html>