

Arkansas

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Arkansas

Federal Units

- Arkansas Post Natl Mem.
- Bald Knob NWR
- Buffalo National River
- Cache River NWR
- Dale Bumpers White River NWR
- Felsenthal NWR
- Fort Smith NHS
- Holla Bend NWR
- Hot Springs NP
- Little Rock Central High School NHS
- Logan Cave NWR
- Mammoth Spring Natl. Fish Hatchery
- Ouachita NF
- Ozark-St. Francis NF

Federal Total \$122,025,680

State Programs

Forest Legacy Program	\$13,879,523
Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6)	\$9,151,989
American Battlefield Protection Program	\$2,193,541
ORLP	\$1,500,000
Stateside	\$55,302,837
Total	\$204,053,570

LWCF Success in Arkansas

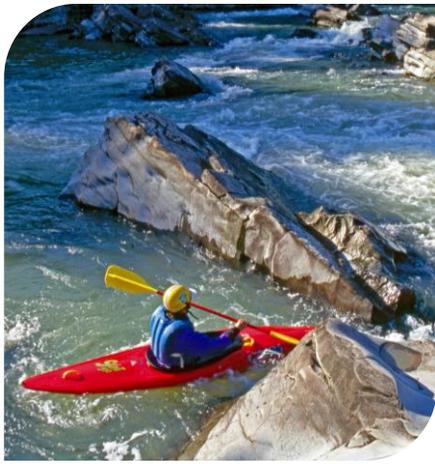
The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Arkansas' most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Arkansas has received approximately \$204 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Ouachita and Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, Cache River National Wildlife Refuge, and Buffalo National 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 Longview-Saline Forest in Ashley County, Maumelle Water Excellence in Little Rock and Pine-Flatwoods Recovery Initiative in Drew 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 \$13.9 million in federal funds to invest in Arkansas' 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 Arkansas' state and local parks including Terre Noire Natural Area in Clark County and the Children's Discovery Garden in Garland County. Additionally, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP), which funds city park projects in economically disadvantaged areas, supported the May Branch Railroad Trail in Fort Smith and Western Hills Park in Little Rock.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of Arkansas' economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis has found that outdoor recreation generates \$4.1 billion in value added to Arkansas' economy, 43,422 homegrown jobs, and accounts for 2.5% of the state's economy. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 1.7 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Arkansas, contributing over \$2.1 billion in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.



LWCF in Arkansas

Cache River National Wildlife Refuge

The Cache River NWR project area encompasses some of the largest remaining contiguous blocks of bottomland hardwood forest in the Lower Mississippi Valley and some of the largest remaining expanses of forested wetlands on any tributary within the Mississippi Alluvial Valley. It is considered the most important wintering area for mallards in North America, and one of the most important for pintail and teal ducks, Canada geese, and other migratory waterfowl. Forest and wetland restoration on these tracts would facilitate carbon sequestration, provide surrogate species habitat, and fulfill national and state conservation plan goals. LWCF funds have been used for many different purposes at the Cache River NWR, including increasing access for hunters and anglers, and protecting some of the best quality and last remaining old growth hardwood forest in the area.

Fiscal Year 2025 Agency LWCF Project List for Arkansas

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
USFWS	Cache River NWR	\$500,000	Boozman, Cotton/Crawford
USFS	Ouachita NF (Supplemental List)	\$7,668,000	Boozman, Cotton/Hill



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.



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