

Arizona

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Arizona

Federal Units

- Agua Fria NM
- Apache NF
- Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness
- Beaver Dam Slope ACEC
- Bill Williams River NWR
- Black Mountains Ecosystem
- Buenos Aires NWR
- Burro Creek ACEC
- Cabeza Prieta NWR
- Cerbat Foothills Recreation Area
- Chiricahua NM
- Coconino NF
- Coronado NF
- Coronado NM
- Cottonwood Point Wilderness
- Coyote Mountains Wilderness
- Fort Bowie NHS
- Gila Box Riparian NCA
- Glen Canyon NRA
- Grand Canyon National Park
- Grand Canyon-Parashant NM
- Hubbell Trading Post NHS
- Ironwood Forest NM
- Joshua Tree Forest-Grand Wash Cliffs ACEC
- Kofa NWR
- Lake Mead NRA
- Leslie Canyon NWR
- Montezuma Castle NM
- Mount Nutt Wilderness
- Mount Tipton
- Muggins Mountain
- New Water Mountains
- Northern Santa Theresa Wilderness
- Organ Pipe Cactus NM
- Petrified Forest National Park
- Prescott NF
- Redfield Canyon Wilderness
- Saguaro National Park
- San Bernardino NWR
- San Pedro Ecosystem
- Sears Point ACEC
- Swansea Wilderness
- Three Rivers Riparian ACEC
- Tonto NF
- Tumacacori NHP
- Wabayuma Peak

LWCF Success in Arizona

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Arizona's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Arizona has received approximately \$259.8 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Grand Canyon and Saguaro National Parks, Lake Mead NRA, Coconino NF, Buenos Aires NWR, and San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area.

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 unique riparian forest ecosystem at Cedar Springs in Coconino County. The FLP assists states and private forest owners to maintain working forest lands through matching grants for permanent conservation easements and fee acquisitions and has leveraged approximately \$1.9 million in federal funds to invest in Arizona'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 Arizona's state and local parks including Lost Dutchman and Patagonia Lake State Parks. 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 Arizona's economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis has found that outdoor recreation generates \$11.7 billion in value added to Arizona's economy, 106,571 homegrown jobs, and accounts for 2.5% of the state's economy. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 1.5 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Arizona, contributing over \$2.1 billion in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.

Federal Total \$181,989,993

State Programs

Forest Legacy Program \$1,932,679
Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6) \$6,621,020
Stateside \$69,274,055

Total \$259,817,747

LWCF in Arizona

Coconino NF

The 56,000-acre Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Area is one of the jewels of the Coconino NF. The Forest Service used funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA) to protect the Packard Ranch property. The tract is adjacent to the wilderness area and at the trailhead of two hiking trails, the Parson's and Packard trails that lead into Sycamore Canyon. Two perennial streams that join on the property, the Verde River and Sycamore Creek, provide habitat for several endangered and threatened fish species and are important sources of drinking water for Phoenix. The area in which this property is located also has archeological resources of national and international importance.

Fiscal Year 2025 Agency LWCF Project List for Arizona

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
USFS	Prescott NF	\$10,500,000	Sinema, Kelly/Crane
USFS	Coconino NF (Supplemental List)	\$12,150,000	Sinema, Kelly/Crane
FLP	The Sonoita Creek Wildlife Corridor	\$2,200,000	Sinema, Kelly/Grijalva



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

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](#)