

# Colorado

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage

#SaveLWCF

America's most important conservation and recreation program will expire in less than a year unless Congress acts. For 52 years, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has protected national parks and open spaces in every corner of the United States. But in less than 52 weeks, it could be gone forever and along with it, future protection of the places we love.

[LWCF](#) has invested more than \$268 million to protect Colorado's outdoor places, public access to trails, climbing spots, sportsmen access, and to build close to home parks. From national forests, to Colorado's breathtaking national parks and wildlife refuges, LWCF has protected places like Mesa Verde National Park, Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, Arapaho National Forest, Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge, a nature education park in Denver's Montbello neighborhood, and Denver Urban Gardens.

Colorado's booming \$28 billion [outdoor recreation industry](#) is an economic powerhouse – supporting 229,000 jobs which generate \$9.7 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$2 billion annually in state and local tax revenue.

## Rocky Mountain National Park

In 2016, the Trust for Public Land protected the last piece of privately-held commercial property within Rocky Mountain National Park, Cascade Cottages. Located close to the Fall River entrance, this rustic retreat was family-operated for over seven decades and the owners were committed to the conservation of the land, rather than selling to a private developer. Private fundraising and LWCF funding has guaranteed public access to this part of the park for future generations. Over the course of LWCF's history, there has been over \$8 million in LWCF projects in Rocky Mountain NP, protecting wildlife habitat, public access, water resources, and landscape integrity so 4.5 million annual visitors can have a memorable experience at one of our nation's most iconic places.



*Cascade Cottages Credit: TPL*

**“At Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, LWCF will improve access to some of Colorado’s most outstanding hiking, climbing, fishing, rafting, and wildlife viewing, boosting the outdoor recreation economy that the surrounding communities depend on. Bipartisan support from Senator Bennet, Senator Gardner, and Congressman Tipton allowed this project to succeed.”**

**– Christine Quinlan of The Conservation Fund’s office in Boulder**

## Cross Mountain Canyon Ranch

Considered a sportsmen's paradise, Cross Mountain Canyon Ranch is perfectly situated along the Yampa River in western Colorado and boasts some of the best elk hunting and angling in the country. In addition to having one of the largest elk herds, this area has excellent whitewater, making it a rafting and kayaking destination. Over \$1.8 million in LWCF funds was used to protect public access to the 920-acre ranch and surrounding 88,000 acres of public lands. In providing necessary connectivity, sportsmen and recreationists alike can continue to have uninhibited access for decades to come.



*Kayakers on Yampa River Credit: Trout Unlimited*

**#SaveLWCF to protect the places we love in Colorado!**

[www.lwcfcoalition.org/lwcf52weeks/](http://www.lwcfcoalition.org/lwcf52weeks/)