



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 nearly \$126 million to protect Kentucky's wildlife refuges, trails, and rivers, and to increase recreation access. LWCF has protected places like Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge, Daniel Boone National Forest, Marrowbone Creek State Forest, and Barren River State Park.

Kentucky's \$12.8 billion outdoor recreation industry is an economic powerhouse – supporting 120,000 jobs which generates \$3.6 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$756 million annually in state and local tax revenue.

Cumberland Gap National Historical Park

The first "great gateway to the west," Cumberland Gap National Historical Park has over 24,000 acres of naturally and culturally rich and diverse landscapes to enjoy, just as the Native Americans, buffalo, Pioneers and Longhunters did years ago. This beloved park offers breathtaking mountain vistas, 85 miles of trails, spelunking the caves, wildlife viewing, and many historic sites of the early settlers. There has been \$6.7 million in LWCF investment in the park, which was used for various projects including the conservation of land around Fern Lake, protecting the drinking water supply for city of Middlesboro, Kentucky.



Cumberland Gap NHP Credit: NPS

"Establishing this Wildlife Management Area is a win-win for Kentucky because it supports and creates outdoor recreation-related jobs and provides new hunting and fishing opportunities at this premiere spot. With such public opportunities limited in Kentucky, as 94% of the land is privately owned, funding from LWCF's Forest Legacy Program is critical to leveraging state and local dollars to be able to create new public lands for all to enjoy." -Ray Herndon, Director, Lower Mississippi Region, The Conservation Fund

Big Rivers Forest Legacy Project

In 2013, the Commonwealth of Kentucky and conservation partners wrapped up a land conservation effort using LWCF funds from the Forest Legacy Program, adding over 4,000 acres of forestland to the Big Rivers Wildlife Management Area and State Forest and expanding the area to more than 6,800 acres. Tucked along the Ohio and Tradewater Rivers in western Kentucky, the property has long been known as a premiere hunting spot. Big Rivers provides opportunities for deer, turkey and squirrel hunting as well as trapping and fishing at a time when many private landowners are becoming reluctant to open their properties for public access. Public access to this property based on a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Survey (2006) will generate an economic return to Kentucky of approximately \$500,000 dollars and create at least 5 new jobs annually.



*Big Rivers Wildlife Management Area
Credit: The Conservation Fund*

#SaveLWCF to save the places we love in Kentucky!

www.lwcfcoalition.org/lwcf52weeks/