

Louisiana

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Louisiana

Federal Units

- Atchafalaya NWR
- Bayou Cocodrie NWR
- Bayou Sauvage NWR
- Bayou Teche NWR
- Big Branch Marsh NWR
- Black Bayou NWR
- Bogue Chitto NWR
- Cane River Creole NHP
- Cat Island NWR
- Catahoula NWR
- Grand Cote NWR
- Isle Dernieres
- Jean Lafitte NHP
- Kistachie NF
- Lacassine NWR
- Lake Ophelia NWR
- Red River NWR
- Southeast LA NWRs
- Tensas River NWR
- Upper Ouachita NWR

Federal Total \$121,393,793

State Programs

Forest Legacy Program	\$341,250
Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6)	\$500,000
American Battlefield Protection Program	\$446,784
Stateside	\$79,667,404

Total \$202,349,231

LWCF Success in Louisiana

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Louisiana's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Louisiana has received approximately \$202.3 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Jean Lafitte National Historic Park, Kisatchie National Forest, Tensas River, Atchafalaya, Bayou Sauvage and Bogue Chitto National Wildlife Refuges.

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 Potomac River Hills in Morgan 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 \$341,250 in federal funds to invest in Louisiana'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 Louisiana's state and local parks including Brechtel Park in New Orleans, Lake Bistineau State Park, Lake Claiborne State Park and Lake D'Arbonne State Park. 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 Louisiana's economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis has found that outdoor recreation generates \$7.9 billion in value added to Louisiana's economy, 57,580 homegrown jobs, and accounts for 2.7% of the state's economy. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 1.2 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Louisiana, contributing over \$2 billion in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.



LWCF in Louisiana

Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge

The Land and Water Conservation Fund, along with other federal funds and private sources, was instrumental to protecting thousands of acres of land at Tensas River NWR. The acquisition effort linked separated portions of the refuge and provided significant opportunities for bottomland hardwood reforestation and habitat restoration, especially for the Louisiana black bear. When European settlers first arrived in the area, an estimated 25 million acres of bottomland hardwoods were seasonally flooded in the Mississippi Valley. Currently, less than 5 million acres of this valuable resource remain, fragmented and scattered throughout the valley, serving as islands of wooded habitat.

Fiscal Year 2025 Agency LWCF Project List for Louisiana

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
USFWS	Upper Ouachita NWR (Supplemental List)	\$5,500,000	Cassidy, Kennedy/



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](#)