

# North Dakota

#SaveLWCF

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage

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 \$73 million to protect North Dakota's grasslands, rivers, and increase recreation access. From national wildlife refuges to community parks, LWCF has protected places like Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site, Dakota Grassland Conservation Area, and Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site.

North Dakota's \$3.1 billion outdoor recreation industry is an economic powerhouse – supporting 30,000 jobs which generate \$848 million in wages and salaries and produces \$179 million annually in state and local tax revenue.

## Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park

Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park has had nearly a dozen LWCF state and local grants, protecting this North Dakota state park which has a strong Native American and military history. Its location, just 12 miles outside of Bismarck, makes it a destination for visitors interested in its history and trails. Popular historic sites at the park include the On-A-Slant Indian Village, reconstructed earth lodges depicting the lifestyle of the Mandan Indians, who lived in this place from about 1575-1781. Also, the reconstructed military post, which includes Lt. Col. Custer's house, is also a big highlight. In addition to viewing this park's deep history, visitors can hike, mountain bike, horseback ride, cross country ski, and snowshoe, making it an excellent year-round recreation destination in North Dakota.



*On-A-Slant Indian Village, Credit: NPS*

## Dakota Grassland Conservation Area

Known as "America's Duck Factory," the Prairie Pothole Region of North Dakota is one of the most important migratory bird habitats in the Western Hemisphere. Unfortunately it is also one of the most altered as wetlands are drained and native grasslands destroyed. To stem the loss of habitat, LWCF funding for voluntary wetland and grassland conservation easements on private working farms and ranches is essential. Since 2011, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Ducks Unlimited has partnered with landowners to secure easements on 13,700 acres. To ensure a sustainable future for this vital habitat and the migratory birds that depend on it, the Dakota Grasslands Conservation Area has a bold vision for wetland and critical grassland habitat protection. Currently, 800 landowners are on the waitlist for the program.



*Prairie Potholes North Dakota Credit: USFWS*

**#SaveLWCF to save the places we love in North Dakota!**

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