

South Dakota

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in South Dakota

Federal Units

- Badlands NP
- Black Hill NF
- Brown Country WPA
- Clark County WPA
- Custer NF
- Day County WPA
- Hamlin County WPA
- Hand County WPA
- Kingsbury Count WPA
- Lacreek NWR
- Marshall County WPA
- Mcpherson County WPA
- Nebraska NF
- Potter County WPA
- Sand Lake NWR
- Spink County WPA
- Sully County WPA
- Wind Cave NP

Federal Total \$23,308,652

State Programs

Forest Legacy Program \$1,688,000

Stateside \$41,803,973

Total \$66,800,625

LWCF Success in South Dakota

The Land and Water Conservation Fund has helped protect some of South Dakota's most treasured places. South Dakota has received approximately \$66.8 million over the past five decades, protecting places such as Wind Cave National Park, the Black Hills National Forest, the Missouri National Recreational River, the Dakota Grassland Conservation Area and the Dakota Tallgrass Prairie Wildlife Management 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 Blood Run National Historic Landmark Area in Lincoln County, SD. 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 \$1.7 million in federal funds in South Dakota'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 South Dakota's state and local parks including Lewis & Clark Recreation Area in Yankton County, Hartford Beach State Park in Roberts County, and Dinosaur Park in Rapid City, SD in Pennington County. 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 South Dakota's economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis has found that outdoor recreation generates \$1.7 billion in value added to South Dakota's economy, 18,134 homegrown jobs, and accounts for 2.5% of the state's economy. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 683,000 people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in South Dakota, contributing over \$550 million in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.





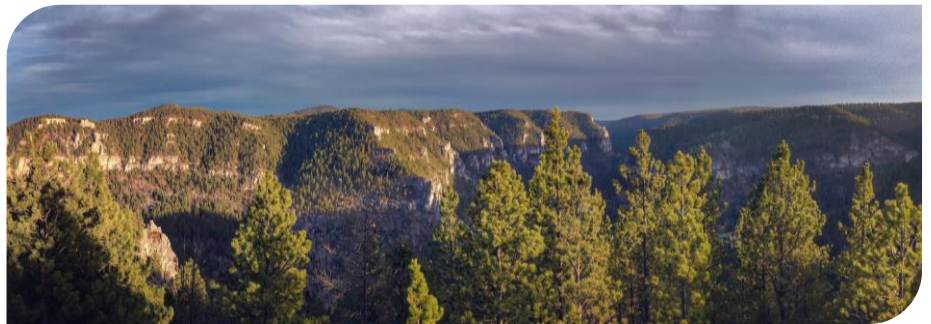
LWCF in South Dakota

Blood Run National Historic Landmark Area

Situated in an agricultural landscape at the heart of the Blood Run National Historic Landmark Area, this project represents an opportunity to preserve a nationally important cultural icon and a unique large tract of forest with oak trees left untouched since the 1880's. This project will protect the rich pre-settlement history of the Oneota Native American culture as well as forest, wetland and grassland habitats. The area is most immediately threatened by development. Preservation and establishment of this tract as the Good Earth State Park at Blood Run will complement Blood Run NHL. Without protection, this cultural icon will be lost forever.

Fiscal Year 2025 Agency LWCF Project List for South Dakota

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
USFWS	Dakota Grassland CA*	\$8,000,000	Thune, Rounds/Johnson
USFWS	Dakota Tallgrass Prairie WMA*	\$6,000,000	Thune, Rounds/Johnson
USFS	Black Hills National Forest (Supplemental List)	\$2,374,000	Thune, Rounds/Johnson



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](#)