

West Virginia

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 \$241 million to protect West Virginia's forests, wildlife refuges, historic sites, and increase recreation access. From backcountry trails to community parks, LWCF has protected places like the Monongahela National Forest, Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area, Gauley River National Recreation Area, and Canaan Valley State Park.

West Virginia's \$9 billion outdoor recreation industry is an economic powerhouse – supporting 91,000 jobs which generate \$2.4 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$660 million annually in state and local tax revenue.

Gauley River National Recreation Area and New River Gorge National River

All public access points along West Virginia's Lower and Middle Gauley River, which is used by over 50,000 people annually, were made possible by LWCF funding. LWCF has also protected 57,000 acres in the Gauley River and New River Gorge Recreation Area that includes not just river access but over 2,000 named rock climbing routes. LWCF has also funded protection of the remnants of 19th and 20th century mining towns in the New River Gorge. These historic sites protect unique West Virginia heritage and diversify the base of visitors to the area. Roughly 1.2 million visitors enjoy these two parks annually, bringing \$53 million to the local economy and directly supporting more than 700 jobs.



Gauley River National Recreation Area, Credit: NPS

"West Virginia's iconic public lands are our Wild and Wonderful identity. LWCF has helped purchase recreation land along our rivers and create access through trailheads and visitor centers. Permanent reauthorization gives a needed boost to West Virginia's recreation economy."

– Angie Rosser, Executive Director of West Virginia Rivers Coalition

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

Located at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park is steeped in natural beauty and history. Thomas Jefferson described the view from what is now known as Jefferson Rock as: "perhaps one of the most stupendous scenes in Nature." Well known as the site of abolitionist John Brown's raid in 1859—a pivotal point leading up to the Civil War—Harpers Ferry also tells the stories of burgeoning transportation and industry, Civil War battles, and early civil rights activities. Thanks to LWCF, the Park has grown by nearly 2,000 acres, allowing visitors to more fully experience its rich, multi-layered history.



Merchant's District, Credit: NPS

#SaveLWCF to save the places we love in West Virginia!

www.lwcfcoalition.org/lwcf52weeks/