

Wyoming

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Wyoming

Federal Units

- Ashley NF
- Bighorn Canyon NRA
- Bridger-Teton NF
- Brown/Howe Dinosaur ACEC
- Caribou-Targhee NF
- Cedar Mountain WSA
- Cokeville Meadows NWR
- Devils Tower NM
- Fort Laramie NHS
- Fossil Butte NM
- Grand Teton NP
- Little Mountain ACEC
- Medicine Bow-Routt NF
- Mortenson Lake NWR
- North Platte River SRMA
- National Elk Refuge
- Saratoga NFH
- Seedskaadee NWR
- Sheep Mountain ACEC
- Shoshone NF

Federal Total \$141,033,372

State Programs

Forest Legacy Program \$17,100,000

Stateside \$37,376,535

Total \$195,509,907

LWCF Success in Wyoming

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Wyoming's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Wyoming has received approximately \$195.5 million over the past five decades, protecting places such as Grand Teton National Park, Bridger-Teton National Forest, National Elk Refuge, Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area and Craig Thomas-Little Mountain Special 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 Munger Mountain Corridor near Jackson Hole. The Forest Legacy Program 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 \$17.1 million in federal funds to invest in Wyoming'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 Wyoming's state and local parks including Glendo State Park, Hot Springs State Park, Keyhole State Park and Guernsey 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 Wyoming's economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis has found that outdoor recreation generates \$2 billion in value added to Wyoming's economy, 16,202 homegrown jobs, and accounts for 4.1% of the state's economy. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 762,000 people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Wyoming, contributing over \$300 million in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.





LWCF in Wyoming

Craig Thomas Little Mountain Special Management Area

Located approximately 50 miles from the town of Cody, this remarkable concentration of natural and cultural features is managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Little Mountain's well-established populations of elk, black bear, deer, antelope, bighorn sheep, and mountain lion, as well as sage grouse and other small game, make it a destination for thousands of sportsmen each year. The Big Horn River and its tributaries are likewise a major draw for anglers. Because of its importance for outdoor recreation, the protection of this area has been a significant priority for sportsmen. In 2010, \$2 million of LWCF was used to protect Devil's Canyon Ranch, providing permanent recreation access, wildlife protection, and preservation of historic sites.

Fiscal Year 2025 Agency LWCF Project List for Wyoming

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
NPS	Grand Teton National Park	\$34,780,000	Barrasso, Lummis/Hageman
NPS	Grand Teton National Park (Supplemental List)	\$12,000,000	Barrasso, Lummis/Hageman
USFS	Bridger-Teton National Forest	\$7,500,000	Barrasso, Lummis/Hageman



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](#)