



Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage

AMERICA DEPENDS ON THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

SUPPORT THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is the nation's premier land conservation program that provides funds for:

- Recreational areas, trails and waterways for paddling, hiking, biking, hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching
- Enhancing access to national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, and other public lands
- Preserving historic battlefields and cultural sites
- Safeguarding rivers, watersheds, water supplies, and clean water
- Conserving working forests, farms, and ranches
- Preserving natural areas and wildlife habitat
- Creating and improving state and local parks
- Supporting local economies and jobs through increased outdoor recreation



www.lwcfcoalition.org

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) had done more than any other program to expand the systems of local parks, recreational green spaces and public lands enjoyed by hundreds of millions of Americans.

LWCF is a wise investment to ensure access to public lands for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation and support economic vitality and jobs in communities.

- LWCF positively impacts people and jobs in every state. Active outdoor recreation contributes \$730 billion to America's economy every year and supports 6.5 million jobs.
- Over 87.5 million people enjoy hunting, fishing or other wildlife-related recreation, spending \$45.7 billion annually in local communities.
- Strategic land acquisitions by agencies such as the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service promotes management efficiencies and often results in significant cost-savings to agencies.

LWCF is funded from a fraction of the proceeds from federal offshore oil and gas leasing royalties, and does not rely on taxpayer dollars.

- Congress intended LWCF to be a conservation offset to the depletion of these public offshore resources. Unfortunately, year after year, much of the lease revenue is diverted to other purposes, leaving LWCF perpetually underfunded.
- Years of funding shortfalls and diversion of LWCF funds represent a broken promise to the American people.
- Public opinion polls reveal that more than three quarters of Americans think these dollars should be used as intended for conservation.

LWCF has taken more than its fair share of cuts already and Congress should act to defend and restore the program in the Fiscal Year 2012 budget.

- The recently enacted Fiscal Year 2011 budget cut LWCF to \$301 million, a \$149 million reduction from the previous year and less than one-half of the President's budget request. This is a mere one-third of the program's authorized level of \$900 annually.*
- Further cuts will drastically undermine this bipartisan program and cause hardships for landowners, communities and local economies all across America.

The President's budget for Fiscal Year 2012 wisely recommends full funding of LWCF at \$900 million.

- Americans understand that LWCF is essential to protecting critical habitat for wildlife, conserving wetlands, watersheds, and clean water supplies, and ensuring public access for hunting, fishing, and other recreation.

* These numbers refer to all of the programs funded through LWCF: federal, stateside, Forest Legacy Program, and the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund.

LWCF in New Jersey

Over the past forty-five years, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect New Jersey's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Public lands such as the Garden State's five national wildlife refuges, Morristown National Historic Park, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Appalachian National Scenic Trail and numerous landscapes in between have benefitted. LWCF funding conserves land and drinking water supplies in the Highlands Region and through Forest Legacy Program grants protects working forestlands while enhancing wildlife habitat, water quality and recreation at places such as the Raritan River Watershed in Hunterdon and Morris Counties and Upper Delaware River Watershed in Sussex County. LWCF has provided vital support to state and local parks across New Jersey including the Old Bridge Waterfront Park, and Salem River Wildlife Management Area, and helped conserve land and drinking water supplies through the Highlands Conservation Act program. There are numerous pending and proposed projects in New Jersey that are in need of continued LWCF funding.



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Delaware Water Gap in New Jersey

Economic Benefits for New Jersey

- The U.S. Census Bureau reports that each year over 2.6 million people participate in hunting, fishing and wildlife watching in New Jersey, contributing \$1.7 billion to the state economy.

LWCF supports the acquisition of land at national parks, wildlife refuges, forests, trails, and BLM sites, grants funds to the states for local and state park needs, protects critical wildlife habitat through the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund, and conserves working forestlands that enhance local economies through the Forest Legacy Program.

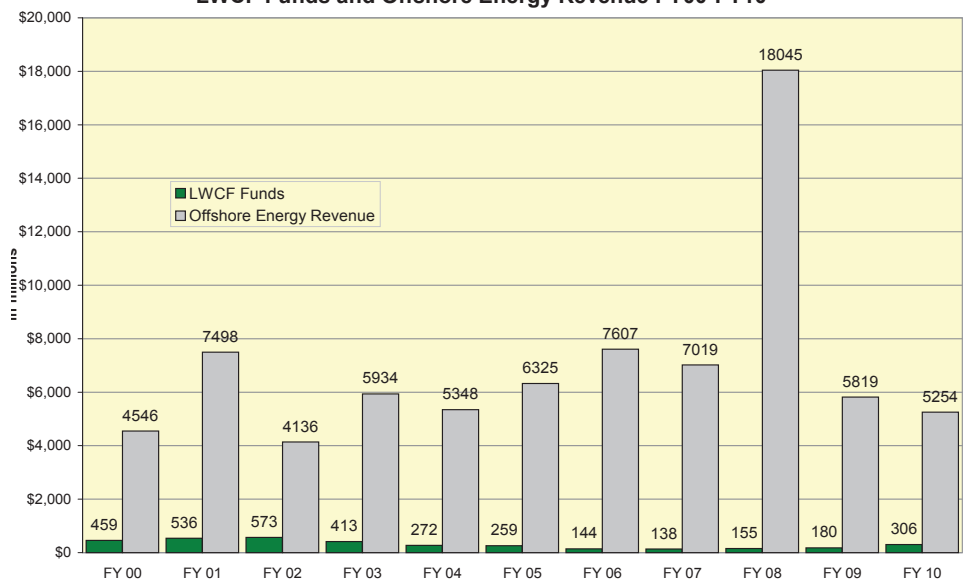
New Jersey and the Fiscal Year 2012 President's Budget:

Below is information regarding New Jersey projects recommended for LWCF funding in the President's Fiscal Year 2012 budget. These projects enhance recreation and conservation, protect clean water, conserve working forests and create management efficiencies which often result in savings to the agencies. Moreover, they support jobs and economic vitality across New Jersey's communities. The President has proposed to fund LWCF at its fully authorized level of \$900 million. However, without Congressional support for ample LWCF funding in Fiscal Year 2012, many worthy projects such as these will not be completed.

Agency	State	Project	Funding Request	District and Rep
FLP	NJ	Working Forests, Healthy Forests	\$ 2,000,000	5- Garrett, 11-Frelinghuysen
USFWS	NJ	Edwin B. Forsythe NWR	\$ 500,000	2- LoBiondo, 3- Runyan, 4- Smith
USFWS	CT/NJ/NY/PA*	Highlands Conservation Area	\$ 5,000,000	

*Multistate project

LWCF Funds and Offshore Energy Revenue FY00-FY10



In 2010, the Department of the Interior collected approximately \$5.2 billion from offshore energy production, but only \$306 million, or about seven percent of that revenue, went to federal and stateside LWCF.

For more information:

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