

Land and Water Conservation Fund

Agencies: U.S. National Park Service

Citation: [16 U.S.C. §§ 4601-4 et seq.](#)

Enacted as: the “Land and Conservation Fund Act of 1965”, on September 3, 1964

Summary:

In 1965, the [Land and Water Conservation Fund \(LWCF\)](#) was created in response to a bi-partisan Congressional mandate to meet the nation’s growing need for access to close-to-home outdoor recreation. The money for the fund comes not from taxes, but primarily from oil and gas lease revenues derived from federal lands. This is intended to help balance the environmental impacts associated with resource extraction by ensuring that new park lands are set aside for endless enjoyment.

The LWCF currently funds several grant programs, including the state and Local Assistance Program. This program provides grants to local, state, and tribal governments for planning, acquisition, development, and stewardship of outdoor recreation lands throughout the U.S. Grant sponsors must match the federal award by contributing at least 50% of a project’s funding using local resources and private donations. Funding is used to renovate existing sites, develop new facilities, acquire land for public parks, and promote statewide recreation planning.

In partnership with states and territories, the U.S. National Park Service administers the LWCF State and Local Assistance Program to ensure that funds are used according to the purposes of the LWCF and to safeguard the legacy of protected places.

Source: http://www.nps.gov/lwcf/LWCF%20Annual%20Report%202011_final.pdf and http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/lwcf/fed/images/LR_Report_Final_SPREADS.pdf

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