

FULLY FUNDING LWCF SUPPORTS A STRONGER ARIZONA ECONOMY

The Land and Water Conservation Fund has supported a booming outdoor recreation economy in Arizona. During these uncertain times, we need LWCF now more than ever for our businesses.



For five decades, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Arizona's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Those same public lands have supported Arizona's booming outdoor recreation economy, providing a stable income for our families, local communities, and more.

LWCF was permanently reauthorized in 2019 - thankfully no longer facing the uncertainty of potential expiration and its unique structure is protected. The focus is now on permanent full funding for LWCF - ensuring that each year the \$900 million deposited into the LWCF account actually goes towards conservation and recreation priorities to support our outdoor recreation economy.

Over the 55 years of the program, over \$22 billion has been diverted from LWCF to other, unknown purposes. That means that our public lands, waters, and historic sites have been put in peril - and our local outdoor recreation businesses have been getting shortchanged.

\$247M

LWCF funding
Arizona has
received over
50 years

\$2.1B

Outdoor
recreation's annual
contribution to
Arizona's economy

201K

The number of
jobs in Arizona
supported by
outdoor recreation



Why #FundLWCF?

As open space continues to shrink yet more people seek it, LWCF investments are even more critical to providing the outdoor opportunities for all future generations and the foundation for rebuilding our gateway communities.

In the past, the outdoor economy has been a source of stability and resiliency in economic recovery: from 2005 to 2011, when the Great Recession saw most economic sectors and employment contract, the outdoor recreation sector grew at a rate of 5 percent annually. During our economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, it makes even more sense to permanently fully fund LWCF and support the outdoor recreation economy that helps keep our state afloat.

Meanwhile, hunting, angling, camping, and other outdoor recreation activities on public lands are an essential element of domestic travel and hospitality industries. America's hunters, anglers, and target shooters contribute \$119 billion annually to the U.S. economy and support 1.6 million jobs.

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, the promise of LWCF has been broken. The program is authorized to receive up to \$900 million each year—but most of these funds have been diverted elsewhere. Now is the time to fix this and ensure that funds retained in the LWCF account are used for their intended conservation and recreation purposes.

LWCF supports our most remote outdoor adventures as well as those closest to home. Funding goes to support access to our public lands and trails in national forests and wildlife refuges, infrastructure and improvements to our state parks, creation of local playgrounds and recreation centers, and conservation of working farms, ranches, and forestlands that benefit local economies.

LWCF Appropriations FY2000-FY2020

