

## The Land and Water Conservation Fund

*Working for sportsmen and -women*

### History

Since 1965, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has been one of the most successful federal conservation endeavors. The LWCF has played a crucial role in the conservation of our nation's natural resources, and the program has long enjoyed bipartisan support. These funds provide millions of public acres on which people can recreate, supporting the hunting, fishing and larger outdoor recreation economy.

The LWCF is premised on a sensible bargain: use revenues from offshore oil and gas production to conserve important natural resources. LWCF dollars sustain valuable fish and wildlife habitat and

improve access for economically important outdoor recreation like hunting and fishing. LWCF funds have been leveraged with private dollars to help conserve wetlands and native grasslands through voluntary easements on private lands across the Prairie Pothole region. In the West, LWCF dollars have conserved some of the best big game and fish habitat in the world and have assured that those acres remain accessible to hunters and anglers. In the South, LWCF funding has kept working forests working while enhancing habitat for bobwhite quail, wild turkeys and native brook trout.



Sportsmen and -women nationwide support the Land and Water Conservation Fund and recognize the program as essential to the future of hunting and fishing in the United States.

### Challenge

Each year the authorized amount of \$900 million is deposited in the LWCF account in the federal treasury, yet Congress has historically diverted a large percentage of this money to other uses. More than \$17 billion of LWCF funds has vanished into the general revenue stream. As we move toward a crucial time in the appropriations process, it is essential that congressional appropriators keep the promise of the LWCF by allocating the full funding in fiscal year 2015.

**Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership**

*Guaranteeing all Americans quality places to hunt and fish*

# LWCF - Helping Sportsmen Nationwide

## California

LWCF funding helped establish the 10,775-acre Sacramento Valley Wildlife Refuge. This area offers some of California's finest public waterfowl hunting and diverse wildlife habitat. As part of the Pacific Flyway, this area offers hunters the opportunity to harvest a wide variety of duck and geese species. The Sacramento Valley Wildlife Refuge also features one of California's healthiest pheasant populations with seasonal hunting available to sportsmen and -women.

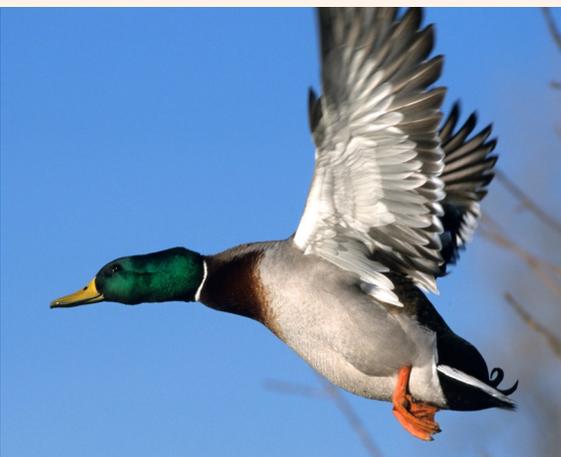


## Kentucky

The LWCF has ensured sportsmen's access by contributing funds for the restoration of Kentucky's Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge. This area features 9,000 acres now open for hunting and fishing, providing needed public access to sportsmen in a state in which 94 percent of land is privately owned. The conservation of this acreage was considered by many leading conservation organizations to be one of the most essential in Kentucky's history and was made possible only by LWCF funding.

## Montana

Since 2003, the LWCF has played a crucial part in conserving the Blackfoot River Special Resource Management Area, which boasts 89,000 acres available to hunters, fishermen and other outdoor recreationists. This area contains vital wildlife habitat for elk, grizzly bear and many native trout species. Anglers are free to trek over 34 miles of the pristine Blackfoot River and Wolverine Creek, while hunters can chase game in the surrounding areas. In 2014, LWCF funds will continue to be directed toward protecting this area and will ensure public access to sportsmen and -women.



## Prairie Pothole Region

Often referred to as America's "Duck Factory," the Prairie Pothole Region is responsible for approximately half of waterfowl production in the United States. But this habitat is threatened as wetlands are drained and grasslands are plowed under. In response to these challenges, LWCF funding has enabled the creation of the Dakota Grassland Conservation Area, which boasts 1.7 million acres of grassland habitat as well as 240,000 acres of wetlands. Not only has this ensured access to hunters, but the establishment of conservation easements on private land has kept these agricultural lands working.