

#I Can See LWCF FROM COLORADO

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is America's premier federal program that reinvests offshore energy revenue into conservation to ensure that we all have access to the outdoors. Whether it is a local community park or playground, or the vast expanses of our federal public lands, Congress created the LWCF over a half-century ago to guarantee America's natural, historical and outdoor recreation heritage.

TELL YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS ABOUT YOUR CONNECTION TO THESE LWCF PLACES NEAR YOU.

Project overviews courtesy of the LWCF Coalition. lwcfcoalition.com

Project Name/Unit: Rocky Mountain National Park (NPS)

LWCF Contribution: \$8.7 million total

Stakeholders Involved: The Trust for Public Land, Rocky Mountain Conservancy

Keywords/Characteristics (eg. rec access, drinking water, consolidating maintenance): Recreation access, consolidating maintenance, historic preservation, finishing our parks/trails

Short Description: Over the course of LWCF's history, there has been over \$8 million in LWCF projects in Rocky Mountain NP, protecting wildlife habitat, public access, water resources, and landscape integrity so 4.5 million annual visitors can have a memorable experience at one of our nation's most iconic places.

Most recently, in 2016, the Trust for Public Land protected the last piece of privately-held commercial property within Rocky Mountain National Park, Cascade Cottages. Located close to the Fall River entrance, this rustic retreat was family-operated for over seven decades and the owners were committed to the conservation of the land, rather than selling to a private developer. Private fundraising and LWCF funding has guaranteed public access to this part of the park for future generations.



Cascade Cottages
Credit: TPL

Project Name/Unit: Cross Mountain Canyon Ranch (Forest Legacy Project — state grant program)

LWCF Contribution: \$1.8 million

Stakeholders Involved: Trout Unlimited, Western Rivers Conservancy

Keywords/Characteristics (eg. rec access, drinking water, consolidating maintenance): Sportsmen access, wildlife habitat, recreation access, consolidating maintenance

Short Description: Considered a sportsmen's paradise, Cross Mountain Canyon Ranch is perfectly situated along the Yampa River in western Colorado and boasts some of the best elk hunting and angling in the country. In addition to having one of the largest elk herds, this area has excellent whitewater, making it a rafting and kayaking destination. Over \$1.8 million in LWCF funds was used to protect public access to the 920-acre ranch and surrounding 88,000 acres of public lands. In providing necessary connectivity, sportsmen and recreationists alike can continue to have uninhibited access for decades to come.



Kayakers on Yampa River
Credit: Trout Unlimited

Project Name/Unit: Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park (NPS)

LWCF Contribution: \$5.3 million

Stakeholders Involved: The Conservation Fund

Keywords/Characteristics (eg. rec access, drinking water, consolidating maintenance): Recreation access, consolidating maintenance, finishing our parks/trails

Short Description: Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park in western Colorado is a paradise for outdoor recreation. Visitors have opportunities to hike, camp, fish, picnic, view wildlife, rock climb and enjoy the quiet solace of the outdoors. LWCF monies allowed the National Park Service (NPS) to purchase a 2,494-acre property on the Park's south rim, eliminating unwanted threats and uses within the Park boundary, and providing opportunities for improved management and cost reduction for the benefit of the public. NPS' protection of the property with LWCF has increased public access for recreation, including more family friendly hiking on the canyon rim near the Visitor's Center and access to the inner canyon via the popular Red Rock Canyon trail; provided a source of water to supply the Visitor's Center and allow NPS to work to regenerate the popular Gandalf's Beard ice climbing route; protected the south canyon rim from residential development and other unwanted uses inside the Park; and protected the Park's outstanding scenic qualities.



Hiker at Great Pillars
Credit: NPS

Project Name/Unit: Montbello Open Space (ORLP urban parks program — local grant)

LWCF Contribution: \$250,000

Stakeholders Involved: The Trust for Public Land, Environmental Learning for Kids, City of Denver

Keywords/Characteristics (eg. rec access, drinking water, consolidating maintenance): Recreation access, urban parks, environmental education, public health

Short Description: The Trust for Public Land, alongside local Denver nonprofit Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK), is utilizing LWCF funding to transform 5 acres of the city's Montbello neighborhood into a restored natural area with native gardens, educational kiosks, walking trails, and interactive nature play spaces. This project will bring much needed open space to far northeast Denver and provide opportunities for healthy and active recreation. The ELK Education Center and Montbello Open Space will serve more than 42,000 youth and families annually in the Denver area.

The ORLP is funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The ORLP program, administered by the National Park Service, seeks to identify and highlight new ways of providing opportunities for expanding outdoor play in areas with great need, as well as promoting the development of new or enhanced partnerships for outdoor recreation in urban communities across the nation.



Montbello Open Space
Credit: TPL

Project Name/Unit: Wilson Peak (U.S. Forest Service)

Stakeholders Involved: The Trust for Public Land

Keywords/Characteristics (eg. rec access, drinking water, consolidating maintenance): Recreation access

Short Description: Rising over Telluride in southwest Colorado is Wilson Peak, one of the 54 mountains in Colorado that top 14,000 feet. Climbers and hikers eager to summit 14,017-foot Wilson Peak, located in the Lizard Head Wilderness, have been frustrated for years by key access routes being blocked by private land. In addition, Wilson Peak long remained the last fourteener in Colorado without public access. Through nine years of complex land exchange negotiations and work to assemble suitable exchange properties and funding, The Trust for Public Land purchased twenty-five patented mining claims (approximately 200 acres), including the summit and key portions of the main summit trail, from multiple private owners. In 2011, The Trust for Public Land formally transferred ownership of the land to the U.S. Forest Service, ensuring in perpetuity public access to Wilson Peak's summit. This project involved years of work and LWCF provided a small but pivotal contribution that finally brought the project to a successful conclusion.



Wilson's Peak
Credit: TPL

Project Name/Unit: Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve (NPS)

LWCF Investment: \$26.3 million

Stakeholders Involved: The Nature Conservancy

Keywords/Characteristics (eg. rec access, drinking water, consolidating maintenance): Recreation access, historic preservation, development pressure

Short Description: Thanks to funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and over 5 years of negotiations with multiple state, federal, and private agencies, the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve was created in 2005. This remarkable landscape containing the tallest sand dunes in North America, massive mountains, aspen groves, wetlands, and tundra has been forming through complex geologic processes over millions of years. Without LWCF's investment in the "Baca Ranch" property the amazing geologic and Native American history of this area could have been lost to private development.



Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve
Credit: NPS

Project Name/Unit: Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (NPS)

LWCF Investment: \$700,000

Keywords/Characteristics (eg. rec access, drinking water, consolidating maintenance): Recreation access, habitat conservation, connectivity, finishing our parks/trails

Short Description: Spanning over 3,000 miles from Canada to Mexico, the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail is a national treasure and needs the ongoing support of LWCF to guarantee access for trail explorers from long distance to day hikers.



Continental Divide NST
Credit: Bob Wick

Project Name/Unit: South Boulder Creek (Forest Legacy Project — state grant program)

LWCF Investment: \$5,065,000

Stakeholders Involved: The Conservation Fund, Trust for Public Land

Keywords/Characteristics (eg. rec access, drinking water, consolidating maintenance): Recreation access, drinking water

Short Description: The South Boulder Creek project helps protect safe drinking water for 1.3 million people in the city of Denver, preserves a scenic and historic landscape, and supports Colorado's substantial outdoor recreation economy.



South Boulder Creek
Credit: USFS

LWCF EXPIRES SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

TELL YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS WHY THE FUND IS SO IMPORTANT TO OUTDOOR RECREATION AND HOW PROTECTING PLACES TO PLAY OUTSIDE DIRECTLY FUELS YOUR BUSINESS. #SAVELWCF