

#I Can See LWCF FROM MINNESOTA



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. lwcfoalition.com

Project Name/Unit: Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

LWCF Contribution: \$5,995,600 (multistate: MN/WI/IA/IL)

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

Short Description: Providing protected habitat on the Mississippi Flyway in four Midwestern states, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Illinois, the Upper Mississippi National Wildlife Refuge has received almost \$6 million in LWCF funds over the past 52 years. The Refuge was established in 1924 to provide habitat to year long species and also hundreds of thousands of migrating birds such as canvasbacks, common mergansers, mallards, and goldeneyes, to name just a few. Spanning over 240,000 acres, this refuge has also been designated a Wetland of International Importance and a Globally Important Bird Area. It provides access for hunting, fishing, canoeing, hiking, and opportunities for environmental education. Habitat on the Refuge is recognized as continentally significant, a globally Important Bird Area, a Wetland of International Importance, and in some areas, critical habitat for federally endangered freshwater mussels. In December 2010, the FWS acquired a 21-acre tract at Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. The acquisition eliminated the need to maintain fencing in a flood prone area of the refuge, saving \$6,000-7,000 per flood season in fence repairs.



Upper Mississippi NWR
Credit: USFWS

Project Name/Unit: Boundary Waters Canoe Area (U.S. Forest Service)

LWCF Contribution: \$14.4 million

Stakeholders Involved: The Conservation Fund

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

Short Description: The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW), located in the northern third of Superior National Forest, is an outdoor recreation paradise featuring more than 1,200 miles of canoe routes, 11 hiking trails and approximately 2,000 designated campsites. Embedded throughout the BWCAW are approximately 82,400 acres of Minnesota School Trust lands. Through the recently enacted Fiscal Year 2018 omnibus spending bill, the U.S. Forest Service's Superior National Forest was awarded \$4 million in LWCF funding to advance the first phase of an effort to purchase these lands that would expand recreational opportunities and improve management. This project will provide a resolution to a decades-old land



Boundary Waters Canoe Area
Credit: Hansi Johnson

conflict by also allowing the state to acquire working forestlands outside of the National Forest that will generate revenue for Minnesota's schools and contribute to the local timber economy. This multi-year efforts aims to protect 50,000 acres within the BWCAW, incorporating valuable lakefront lands and expanding opportunities for outdoor recreation, including hiking, canoeing, camping, and fishing.

Project Name/Unit: Superior and Chippewa National Forest (U.S. Forest Service)

LWCF Contribution: \$17.7 million

Stakeholders Involved: The Trust for Public Land, The Conservation Fund, The Wilderness Society

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

Short Description: The Minnesota Wilderness land acquisition program includes the Superior and Chippewa national forests in Minnesota. The Superior NF spans 150 miles along the US-Canadian border and is one of the wettest, wildest forests in the national forest system. Glacial lakes, bogs and rocky outcrops create the only thriving boreal or northern forest in the continental US. Over ten percent of the forest consists of surface water, and another 1,300 miles of cold-water streams and 950 miles of warm water streams flow through the landscape.



Chippewa National Forest
Credit: USFS

Project Name/Unit: Voyageurs National Park (NPS)

LWCF Contribution: \$52.8 million

Stakeholders Involved: Friends of Voyageurs National Park, The Conservation Fund

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

Short Description: A unique park situated on the border of Minnesota and Ontario, Voyageurs National Park is a network of lakes, streams, and forestlands with a strong history of Native Peoples and explorers in the region. Recreation opportunities include paddling excursions, hiking, wildlife viewing, and camping. Over \$52 million in LWCF funding has protected the land and water in Voyageurs, preventing incompatible development, protecting resources, and guaranteeing access to the park.



Grassy Bay, Voyageurs National Park
Credit: NPS

Project Name/Unit: Koochiching-Washington Forest Legacy Project (Forest Legacy Program — state grant)

LWCF Contribution: \$9.9 million

Stakeholders Involved: The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land

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

Short Description: The conserved lands in the Koochiching-Washington Forest Legacy Project include coniferous forest and peatland, along with 13 lakes and more than 90 ponds totaling 46.9 miles of shoreline. The properties also encompass 43.5 miles of rivers and streams as well as 18,971 acres of wetlands. The conservation easements in place on Koochiching-Washington Forest Legacy Project lands allow for sustainable logging. Outdoor recreation opportunities include hunting, fishing, hiking, and cross-country skiing. The area also includes prime lands for hunting ruffed grouse. Abundant and diverse populations of wildlife, including wood thrush, Canada lynx, red-necked grebe, American black duck, American woodcock, greater yellowlegs, and American bittern, as well as neotropical migratory birds and other songbird species, can be found in the area.



Koochiching State Forest
Credit: Minnesota DNR

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