

#I Can See LWCF FROM MONTANA

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. lwcfc coalition.com

Project Name/Unit: Bozeman Pass, Gallatin National Forest (U.S. Forest Service)

LWCF Contribution: \$2.6 million

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

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

Short Description: Less than 20 minutes from the heart of town is Chestnut Mountain, Bozeman's newest trailhead and gateway to Bozeman Pass, offering some of the best outdoor recreation in Montana. The trailhead, used by hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians, is also a much-needed safe access point to Frog Rock, a popular rock-climbing spot just off the Interstate. Previously, climbers were parking illegally on I-90, then crossing railroad tracks and bushwhacking to get to the rock face. A \$2.6 million LWCF appropriation was used in combination with funding from the Gallatin County Open Space Program and a land donation to protect over 2,000 acres of land and provide safe public access to trails and rock climbing.



Views of Bozeman Pass
Credit: Alex Diekmann, TPL

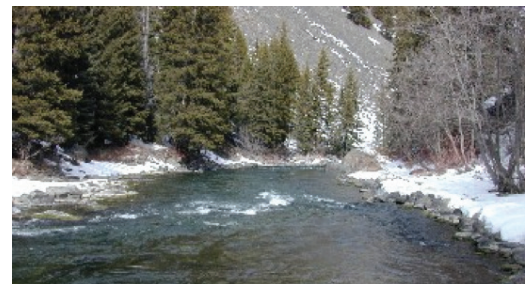
Project Name/Unit: Taylor Fork, Gallatin National Forest (U.S. Forest Service)

LWCF Contribution: \$10 million

Stakeholders Involved: The Trust for Public Land

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

Short Description: Using almost \$10 million in LWCF funding, close to 3,400 acres of checkerboard land in the famous Taylor Fork drainage was added to the Gallatin NF, bringing into public ownership one of the last, large remaining blocks of unprotected private land in the Gallatin National Forest. The acquisition was supported by many different groups, including Trout Unlimited, Orion The Hunters Institute and a broad coalition of local businesses and residents. Completion of the Taylor Fork consolidation is imperative to keeping intact some of the best elk, moose, and grizzly bear habitat in the Yellowstone area. In 2011, Montana saw 335,000 hunters and anglers spend an average of \$2,954 apiece, and about 2.5 million people visit Gallatin National Forest every year.



Gallatin National Forest
Credit: USFS

Project Name/Unit: Tenderfoot Creek, Lewis and Clark National Forest (U.S. Forest Service)

LWCF Contribution: \$10.1 million

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

Short Description: Tenderfoot Creek rolls down 3,200 feet of elevation through the Little Belt Mountains in central Montana. The mountains are home to elk, mule deer, moose, black bear and other wildlife. The creek itself is a spectacular cold water fishery, hosting rainbow, brook and brown trout, as well as native west slope cutthroat trout. Tenderfoot Creek is not only a great fishing stream; it is a major spawning tributary of the “Blue Ribbon” Smith River. From a hunter and angler perspective, the creek and forest posed significant public access challenges because it lay within a checkerboard system of ownership - a remnant of the railroad land grant era of the late 19th Century. Alternating sections of land were most recently held by private owners and the U.S. Forest Service, which made habitat management and hunter and angler access to its fish and game resources difficult. Not only did the project conserve a vital piece of Montana elk country, but moose, deer, native west slope cutthroat trout and a wide variety of other species are also benefactors, plus the land is now open to permanent public access for hunters, anglers, hikers and others to enjoy.



Tenderfoot Creek, Lewis and Clark National Forest
Credit: Forest Service Northern Region

Project Name/Unit: Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Area (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

LWCF Contribution: \$16.5 million

Keywords/Characteristics (eg. rec access, drinking water, consolidating maintenance): Habitat conservation, ranchland & grazing protection (working lands/traditional use preservation)

Short Description: The US Fish & Wildlife Service recently purchased an easement using LWCF on a 12,130 acre ranch – the largest US Fish & Wildlife Service easement in the lower 48 states – that protects critical grassland grizzly bear and bird habitat. The conservation of this multi-generational family ranch also accomplished protection on 17 miles of riparian habitat along the Teton River, extending from the Mountains onto the plains. LWCF dollars were matched in excess of 2:1 by private funds, and will be recycled into the local economy through the continuation of this traditional agricultural operation. Home to 3 million acres of large cattle ranches and prime grizzly bear habitat, the Rocky Mountain Front boasts over 150,000 acres of ranches with conservation easements (many of which used LWCF funding) and another 100,000 acres of current easement demand “in the pipeline.”

Project Name/Unit: The High Divide, MT & ID (Bureau of Land Management)

LWCF Contribution: \$16 million FY16

Keywords/Characteristics (eg. rec access, drinking water, consolidating maintenance): Habitat conservation, recreation access

Short Description: In fiscal year 2016 the High Divide received \$16 million for 18 projects that conserve 8,715 acres. The projects are securing wildlife migration bottlenecks in the Centennial and Big Hole Valleys, the Henry’s Lake/ Island Park area, Sawtooth National Recreation Area, Upper Salmon, Pioneers and Birch Creek regions – public lands overseen by the Bureau of Land Management. They will protect 7 miles of riparian corridors and streams for Chinook salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout, and 4,520 acres of critical sage grouse habitat. These projects have provided public access — including for hunting and fishing — to areas that were previously inaccessible. The acquisitions also allow for traditional land uses, including grazing.



The High Divide
Credit: Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

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