

# #ICanSeeLWCF FROM NORTH CAROLINA

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](http://lwcfc coalition.com)*

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### **Project Name/Unit:** Catawba Falls, Pisgah National Forest (U.S. Forest Service)

**LWCF Contribution:** \$16 million in Pisgah NF overall

**Stakeholders Involved:** Foothills Conservancy

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

**Short Description:** Inaccessible to the public for decades, Catawba Falls is now one of the region's most popular attractions. In 2010 the US Forest Service purchased the access area to the falls from Foothills Conservancy who had prioritized opening a gateway to the stunning site for years. By enabling the acquisition of a parking area and entrance to the trail network, funds from LWCF kick-started an economic revival in an area of NC hard hit by the decline in manufacturing. Improved access has also reduced the cost of management for the local EMS by providing safe ingress and egress to a site that once was reachable only by helicopter.



Hikers enjoying Catawba Falls  
Credit: Southern Appalachian  
Highlands Conservancy

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### **Project Name/Unit:** North Mills River, Pisgah National Forest (U.S. Forest Service)

**LWCF Contribution:** \$16 million in Pisgah NF overall

**Stakeholders Involved:** Conserving Carolina (formerly Carolina Mountains Land Conservancy) led

**Keywords/Characteristics (eg. rec access, drinking water, consolidating maintenance):** Recreational access for trout fishing. Solved a longstanding trespass issue. Makes blue ribbon trout stream accessible from a public campground.



North Mills River, Pisgah National Forest  
Credit: USFS

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**Project Name/Unit: Blue Ridge Parkway (NPS)**

**LWCF Contribution:** \$2.5 million

**Keywords/Characteristics (eg. rec access, drinking water, consolidating maintenance):** Recreation access, economic benefits, cultural significance

**Short Description:** The Blue Ridge Parkway is the nation's most visited National Park unit, welcoming nearly 16 million visitors last year. In the fall, motorists from around the world take in the views of mountains, waterfalls, thriving towns and valley settlements. According to Don Barger, Regional Director of the National Parks Conservation Association "The Parkway is not only America's favorite drive, it is an unparalleled economic engine. In 2016 visitors to the Parkway spent over nine hundred million dollars in communities near the park, supporting nearly 16,000 local jobs." The Land and Water Conservation Fund purchases tracts in the national forests through which the Parkway winds and also fills needs in making its trails and streams accessible to the public.



Fall Foliage on Blue Ridge Parkway  
Credit: Blue Ridge Parkway Daily

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**Project Name/Unit: East Fork of the French Broad Headwaters (Forest Legacy Program — state grant)**

**LWCF Contribution:** \$12,226,000

**Stakeholders Involved:** The Conservation Fund, Land Trust for Central North Carolina

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

**Short Description:** Since 2010, multiple public and private partners have been working to permanently protect the future Headwaters State Forest in western North Carolina. This will expand public recreation by offering multiple-use trails, opening trout streams, and enhancing opportunities for hunting.



East Fork of the French Broad Headwaters  
Credit: USFS

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**Project Name/Unit: Appalachian National Scenic Trail (NPS, USFS)**

**LWCF Contribution:** \$10,889,000 across the entire trail

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

**Short Description:** Appalachian Trail (AT) is a centerpiece of conservation efforts throughout the East. Acting as a spine that connects large tracts of forests, wilderness and more developed parkland, it traverses 14 states, runs through 88 counties, connects more than 75 public land units (federal, state and local) and has upward of 2.5 million visitors each year. The trail is managed and maintained by volunteers, providing substantial cost savings to federal agencies. To date, LWCF has helped protect nearly 200,000 acres of the highest valued lands within the Appalachian Trail corridor, from the birthplace of the AT in New York's Bear Mountain State Park, to Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee, up the Blue Ridge Parkway to George Washington National Forest in Virginia and beyond. Recent trail protection projects at Crocker Mountain in Maine and Rocky Fork in Tennessee were funded in part through LWCF. Future projects are targeted in Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Vermont to protect the remaining unprotected miles of trail and lands along its corridor.

## 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**