



Golden-winged Warbler

Land and Water Conservation Fund

Support Permanent Reauthorization for LWCF

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has protected birds and the places they need in **every state and nearly every county for over 50 years**. LWCF conserves our natural heritage, local parks, areas of cultural and historical significance, and provides recreational opportunities across the country.

Receiving over \$3 billion in grants and leveraging over \$7 billion in matching funds, LWCF has secured critical funding at local, state, and federal levels to conserve some of the most important bird habitat in the country. It has protected Important Birds Areas like California's Point Reyes National Seashore, Golden-winged Warbler habitat in North Carolina, wintering areas for Bald Eagles in Washington, and is helping to restore the Everglades.

LWCF Provides Significant Economic Benefits

Every state in the country has benefited from LWCF. For every dollar invested in federal land acquisition through LWCF, there is a return of \$4 in economic value. Since 1964, the fund has helped conserve more than **5 million acres of public lands** throughout the United States like national parks, national forests, and national recreation areas. On a local level, the program has helped establish and improve a variety of recreation and conservation areas including baseball fields, community green spaces, and public access sites to rivers and lakes. More than 10 million people visit areas LWCF has invested in each year, spending over **\$500 million in local communities**.

Outdoor recreation—especially wildlife-associated recreation—is growing in the country. Areas protected and improved by LWCF ensure that this 40% of the population, including 45.1 million birders, has a place to explore.

Protect America's Natural Heritage

October 2018 marks the potential expiration of one of the country's oldest and most important conservation programs. This valuable, time-tested program has long enjoyed bipartisan support because it helps ensure every state and almost every county benefit from protected wildlife, public outdoor recreational opportunities, access to historical sites, and climate strongholds that will serve as habitat for birds into the future.

To defend America's conservation legacy, we urge members of Congress to **support permanent reauthorization for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) by cosponsoring H.R.502/S.569**. With your support, LWCF can remain a critical piece for the protection of natural landscapes and outdoor spaces that serve as habitat for birds and opportunities for recreation across the country.

Furthermore, as the appropriations process continues, we ask that you maintain funding levels for LWCF at historic levels or higher, upholding our nation's commitment to conservation for birds, other wildlife, and people across the United States.



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For more information contact:

Justin Stokes, Director of Legislative Affairs | jstokes@audubon.org | 202.600.7959
1200 18th Street NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20036 | Audubon.org