



National Association of
State Outdoor Recreation
Liaison Officers

President

Lauren Imgrund
Pennsylvania

Vice President

John Beneke
Arkansas

Secretary

Jan Hunt
Oregon

Past President

Tim Hogsett
Texas

Executive Director

Doug Eiken
Missouri

Board of Directors

Kaleen Cottingham
Washington

Erica Rivers
Minnesota

Linda Lanterman
Kansas

Eric Feldbaum
New Hampshire

Cleve Hardman
Louisiana

Amy Blinson
South Carolina

Sedrick Mitchell
California

Gerald Parish
Tennessee

Sue Black
Arizona

Doug Beck
Maine

Land and Water Conservation Fund: It's Support for Outdoor Recreation and the National Economy

LWCF is a program enacted in 1967 that provides federal outdoor recreation 50% matching grants, through the state to local communities and state parks. Since that time over 8 billion dollars have been invested in the nation's outdoor recreation infrastructure and these investments are the backbone of local, regional and state tourism and tourism related businesses.

- ✓ Since 1967, LWCF has been the Nation's **most successful park and outdoor recreation partnership program** generating an excess of \$8.5 billion in state and local investments in over 42,000 outdoor recreation projects on the state and local level.
- ✓ The federal investment is multiplied, as all funds are matched dollar for dollar to improve outdoor recreation in areas close to the population.
- ✓ Almost every community in the US and the Territories have at least one LWCF project in a park, or a school playground. (NPS data shows 98% of the nation's counties have at least one LWCF project) The facilities are not only local attractions, but are used extensively for local, regional and statewide events and as economic development and tourism assets by local business and community leaders.
- ✓ Parks backed by LWCF are forever places. All LWCF outdoor recreation projects guarantee public access and are protected in perpetuity.
- ✓ LWCF has been essential in the revitalization of cities; improvements in health and quality of life; in providing places for active lifestyles; contributed to consumer and tourism spending; and has created jobs at the local, state and national levels.
- ✓ The CDC knows the value of easy access to parks in health management. They, along with NRPA, developed a guide for incorporating public health considerations in outdoor recreation planning. This tool starts a collaborative discussion about the health benefits of parks and trails and completing a health impact assessment of proposed projects.
- ✓ Studies have shown that neighborhood, local, regional and state parks are used by the majority of the population as " gateway " experiences to enjoy outdoor recreation and encourage them to explore other outdoor recreation options.
- ✓ These " gateway experiences " often drive the outdoor recreation economy as these citizens expand their options and increase their ownership of items to better participate in these expanding options.
- ✓ Recent research has shown the value of increasing LWCF state grants for meeting the outdoor recreation needs of their communities. States report:
 - **75% of state and local LWCF grants are awarded for infrastructure improvements that in turn stimulate local economies and create jobs.**
 - **A recent assessment by NASORLO of economic impacts from local construction projects, applied to LWCF infrastructure projects, indicated the FY 18 local and state grants, with its required local/ state match, will create a 255 million dollar increase in the nation's Gross Domestic Product and sustains 2100 jobs from the infrastructure projects completed with FY 18 grants.**
- ✓ These data show that LWCF investments in state, local and urban grants, along with their matching requirement, not only support the growing outdoor recreation economy by creating " gateway " experiences in close to home locations, but the development of these areas alone are significant annual contributions to local, state and national economy and jobs creation.

105H, ABNR BUILDING
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
COLUMBIA, MO 65211-7230
573.353.2702 P
573.882.9526 F