



Frequently Asked Questions
Land and Water Conservation Fund
State of Colorado
Colorado Parks and Wildlife



Answers are intended for general guidance to prospective grant applicants. Some of the information may refer to a specific grant cycle or may change with upcoming Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant cycles.

1) What is LWCF?

In 1962, President Eisenhower's Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission recommended that Congress establish a source of funding to safeguard important natural areas and provide outdoor recreation opportunities to all Americans. The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program was enacted by Congress in 1965 to create parks and open spaces; protect wilderness, wetlands, and refuges; preserve wildlife habitat; and enhance recreational opportunities.

In 1968, Congress made offshore federal oil and gas drilling lease revenues the primary source to fund LWCF. Congress has an uneven history of annual LWCF appropriations, seldom reaching the fully authorized amount. This funding program is administered at the federal level by the National Park Service (NPS).

2) Who's eligible?

Local, County, and State governments are eligible for Land and Water Conservation funds. Applicants must have management responsibilities over public lands or authorization from the land manager for the project work proposed.

3) What types of projects are eligible for LWCF grants?

To be considered eligible, projects must implement statewide outdoor recreation goals presented in the [2019 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan \(SCORP\)](#). Trail based recreation continues to be the number one outdoor recreation activity identified by Coloradoans so project proposals should include the development of new trails or maintenance of existing trails.

4) How much funding is available for grant requests?

The maximum grant request for Land and Water Conservation Funds varies depending on the apportionment the State of Colorado receives. For the 2021 Grant Cycle, the maximum grant request is \$750,000.00.

5) When are applications due?

By 5 pm on October 1st. Postmark or deliver one hard copy and one electronic copy of the application and all required attachments. Incomplete applications or those posted after the deadline will not be considered.

Please also note that we require applicants to submit a basic project scope and map to the local Area Wildlife Manager (AWM) by September 8th. A list of AWMs is provided on our webpage.

6) How many grants will be awarded?

It depends on the apportionment the State of Colorado receives each fiscal year from the National Park Service and how many applications we receive.

7) How much match is required?

LWCF grants require a 1:1 match, meaning the grant award must be matched 100% by the applicant. Matching funds can be a combination of both cash and in-kind contributions.

8) What can serve as match?

A minimum of 10% must be cash match. Partner and in-kind contributions can also be used to meet the match requirements. Please see our Grant Instructions for further details on what can be used as match.

9) What long-term commitments are associated with LWCF?

The agreed upon property boundary must be open to public outdoor recreation in perpetuity. The other requirement is that the LWCF symbol has to be posted at the funded site to identify it as an LWCF property.

10) What does perpetuity mean?

Forever.

11) When are LWCF projects inspected?

LWCF projects are inspected every 5 years to ensure compliance with the LWCF commitments. Since these projects are required to be open for public outdoor recreation, inspectors typically don't set up appointments to inspect the area. Depending on the results of the inspection, you will receive a letter of compliance or non-compliance with requests for correction(s). If an inspector finds items unrelated to public outdoor recreation (indoor facilities such as rec center, libraries, etc), that will result in a conversion. The conversion process is both lengthy and expensive. It requires the project sponsor to replace the converted parcel with new public outdoor recreation at an equal or greater monetary value to the converted parcel.

12) What is a Section 6(f) Boundary Map?

A Section 6(f) (3) Boundary Map defines the area being improved, developed or acquired with LWCF grant money. This area will be given the protection of Section 6(f)(3) of the LWCF Act, which states that property acquired or developed with LWCF money shall not be converted to other uses other than public outdoor recreation in perpetuity. A Section 6(f)(3) Boundary Map also ensures that the area defined by the boundary line is a self-sustaining recreation unit. The defined area must be capable of acting as a stand-alone park without reliance on adjoining or additional areas not identified in the scope of the project. This area is typically the entire park, support facilities, including parking and a trailhead. The project sponsor is not required to submit the Section 6(f)(3) boundary map with the original project grant application, but it will be necessary to furnish one for NPS approval of the project.