

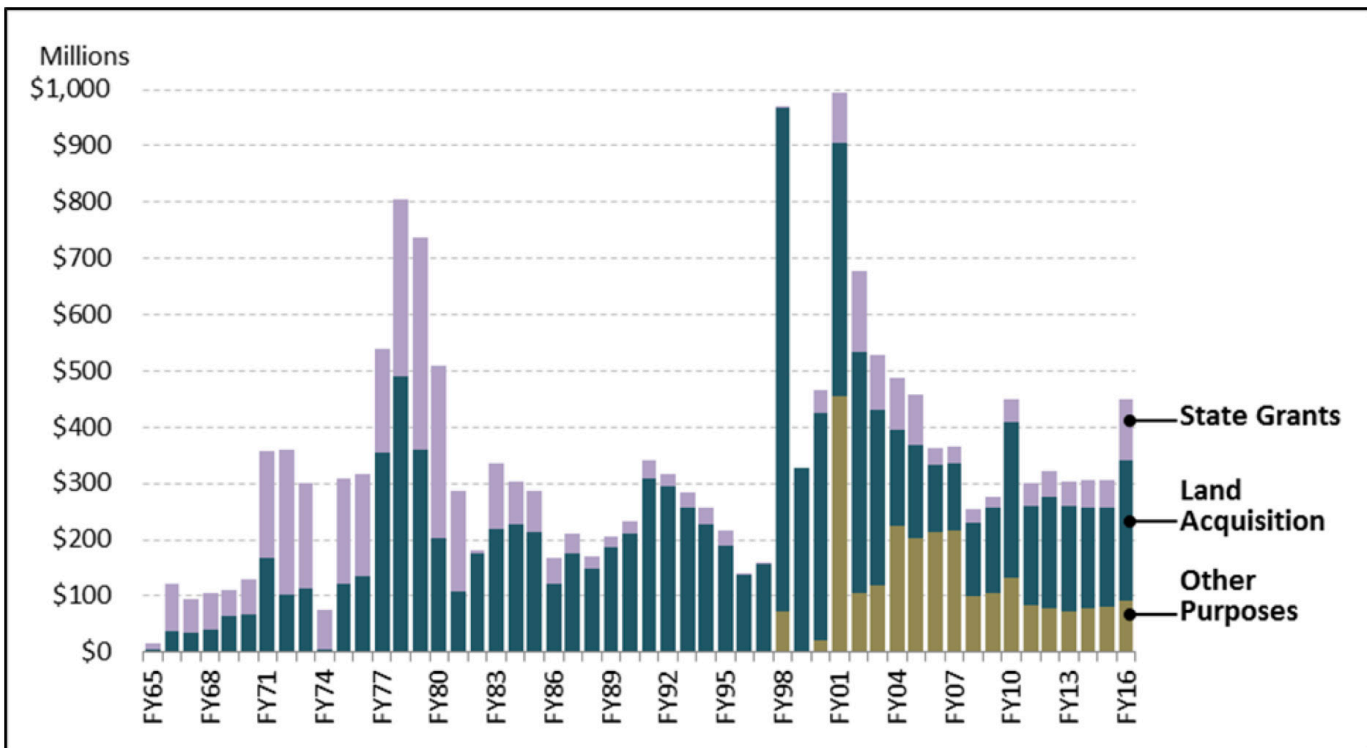
**History of the Land and Water Conservation Fund**

In the early 1960’s, faced with growing concerns about the nation’s environment and public health, an Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission (ORRRC) recommended the development of a national recreation policy. The goal was to “preserve, develop and make accessible to all Americans the resources needed for individual enjoyment and to assure the physical, cultural, and spiritual benefits of outdoor recreation.” The Commission also recommended a federal funding program to support state and local recreation programs as well as federal funds to acquire lands for conservation and recreation.

Signed into law in 1964, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (LWCF) implemented the recommendations made by the Commission. LWCF funding is focused on two areas: funding for acquisition of federal agency land and water for recreational purposes, and a state matching grant program to states and local governments for planning, developing, and acquiring land and water areas, natural resource protection, and recreation enhancement.

Later updates to the law designated offshore oil and gas receipts as the revenue stream and ultimately authorized the program to receive up to \$900 million per year. However, Congress must appropriate LWCF funds annually and typically funding falls well short of the authorized level, limiting funding for states.

**Annual LWCF Appropriations, FY 1965-FY2016 (in millions of dollars, not adjusted for inflation) – Source Congressional Resource Service<sup>2</sup>**



In 2006, the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) was signed into law designating a portion of new offshore oil and gas leasing revenues in the Gulf of Mexico to coastal conservation and restoration as well as state LWCF programs. As a result, there have been additional apportionments to states and with Phase II of GOMESA going into effect in 2017, the allocations have increased substantially.

- Increase protected state and local outdoor recreation resources and ensure they are available for public use in perpetuity.
- Encourage sound planning and long-term partnerships to expand the quantity and ensure the quality of state and local outdoor recreation resources.

Since the inception of the LWCF, over \$4.2 billion has been made available to state and local governments to fund more than 42,000 projects throughout the nation. The overall goals of LWCF state and local grant funds, including funds allocated through GOMESA, are to:

- Meet state and public outdoor recreation resources needs to strengthen the health and vitality of Americans.

Also, as envisioned by the original ORRRC, planning of conservation and recreation activities is a key component of LWCF. Since the original LWCF Act was signed into law, states have been required to develop Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORPs) that are updated every five years in order to receive their share of funding.

Sources:  
<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/lwcfhistory.htm>  
[https://www.everysreport.com/files/20160906\\_RL33531-ac1555f37bb1a30bee404e6a00ad1b22af2e9f8e.pdf](https://www.everysreport.com/files/20160906_RL33531-ac1555f37bb1a30bee404e6a00ad1b22af2e9f8e.pdf)

## APPENDIX A: LWCF HISTORY

### Colorado LWCF Apportionments – 2014 to 2018

Year	Regular Apportionment	GOMESA Apportionment	Total
2014	\$745,258	\$24,748	\$770,006
2015	\$745,258	\$14,149	\$759,407
2016	\$1,685,444	\$1,531	\$1,686,975
2017	\$1,670,488	\$5,511	\$1,675,999
2018	\$1,777,444	\$1,095,669	\$1,095,669

Note: GOMESA stands for the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, federal law that allocates funding from new offshore oil and gas leasing revenues in the Gulf of Mexico to coastal conservation and restoration as well as state LWCF programs.



**Colorado LWCF Projects 2014-2017**

<b>Award Year</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Recipient/Location</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>	<b>Work Summary</b>
<b>2014</b>	Lyons St. Vrain Corridor Trail Recovery Project	Town of Lyons	\$350,000	0.7 miles of concrete path and 3 pedestrian bridges to support regional trail system
<b>2015</b>	CFRT - Loveland to Fort Collins Connection	Larimer County Natural Resources Department - Loveland, CO	\$221,700	2.2 miles of 10-foot trail connecting over 65 near-by paved trails
	CFRT - Erger's Pond Open Space Section	City of Brighton	\$55,000 (LWCF) + \$128,300 (RTP)=\$350,000 Total	23,000-foot concrete trail and supporting infrastructure to increase user access
	Pagosa Regional Trail Project	Archuleta County - Pagosa Springs, CO	\$199,645	10,730 lineal feet of trail to safely connect recreational trails/areas
	West Tollgate Creek Replacement - E. Iliff Ave. to E. Hampden Ave.	City of Aurora	\$308,629	1.6 miles of trail replacement with 10-foot wide concrete path
	Montbello Open Space	Denver Parks and Recreation	\$250,000	Restoration of 4.5 acres of open space to a prairie habitat to support urban environmental education programs
<b>2016</b>	HLC Trail Connection	City of Cherry Hills Village	\$130,000	665'x10' path to connect two underpasses and ensure safety for pedestrians and cyclists
	Ute Pass Regional Trail 1	El Paso County Community Services Department	\$150,000	0.66-mile trail and implementation of first phase of regional trail master plan, providing the only non-motorized connection in the area
	Bennett Open Space Trail	Town of Bennett	\$128,000	2 miles of 8-foot wide soft-surface trail and supporting structures to provide safe recreation
<b>2017</b>	Cuerno Verde Trail	State of Colorado - Walensburg, CO	\$525,000	Resurfacing 3 miles of high use trail into a 6-foot wide concrete path
	Idaho Springs Greenway	City of Idaho Springs	\$400,000	2,900 lineal feet of concrete path connecting surrounding trails
	Legacy Loop	City of Colorado Springs	\$400,000	0.25 miles of concrete trail and underpass to improve multi-functionality of trails
	Clear Creek Trail	City of Wheat Ridge	\$124,793	Reconstruction of 0.2 miles of trail to meet ADA standards and improve overall access
	2019-2023 SCORP	State of Colorado	\$114,000	Development of SCORP to guide recreational efforts statewide
	Sylvan Lake Spillway Replacement	State of Colorado - Eagle, CO	\$1,039,275	Improvements to high hazard spillway to continue providing recreation and water storage area