

**Interior and Environment Subcommittee:**  
**Land and Water Conservation Fund--**  
**Federal land acquisitions**

**Program Description**

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was established by Congress in 1964 to fulfill a bipartisan commitment to safeguard our natural areas, water resources, and cultural heritage, and to provide recreation opportunities to all Americans. The fund invests revenues from offshore oil and gas leasing to help strengthen communities, preserve our history, and protect important fish, wildlife, and plant habitats.

LWCF funds are used for federal land acquisitions by four federal agencies for the following purposes:

**National Park Service**

This activity provides for the acquisition of land and interests in land to preserve and protect, for public use and enjoyment, the historic, scenic, natural, and recreational values of congressionally authorized areas within the National Park System. The acquisition of land may be through donation, exchange, or purchase. Under this budget activity, NPS also supports grants to eligible entities such as States, local communities, or non-profit groups to allow the acquisition and protection of Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and Civil War battlefields outside of the National Park System.

**Fish & Wildlife Service**

Acquired lands and waters become part of the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) or National Fish Hatchery System (NFHS). When acquired in fee title, these lands and waters provide the public opportunities to hunt, fish, observe and photograph wildlife, and enjoy environmental education and interpretation.

**Bureau of Land Management**

The BLM's Land Acquisition program provides for the purchase of lands, waters, or interest in lands for sportsman access for hunting, fishing, and other recreation and to consolidate public lands through purchase, exchange, and donation to increase management efficiency and preserve areas of natural, cultural, and recreational importance.

**Forest Service**

The Forest Service uses Federal land acquisition funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965 to acquire land within or adjacent to the boundaries of national forests and within Wilderness Areas, and to acquire inholdings. Land acquisitions improve recreational access and create efficiencies for priority stewardship activities such as hazardous fuels treatments and watershed protection. The LWCF appropriations also support land exchanges by funding cash equalization payments and needed staff.

**General Guidance for CPF Requests for LWCF Federal Land Acquisition Funds**

Federal acquisition of lands and water and interests therein must be for the purpose of land and habitat conservation and the encouragement of outdoor recreation, as established by the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965. Only acquisitions that will become federally managed lands will be considered for community project funding requests.

Land acquisition project requests funded from the LWCF should specify the agency that would manage the land being acquired. The four land management agencies are:

- within the Department of the Interior, (1) the Bureau of Land Management, (2) the Fish and Wildlife Service, and (3) the National Park Service;
- and within the Department of Agriculture, (4) the Forest Service.

Third party organizations (i.e. The Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, etc.) frequently participate in the federal acquisition process by coordinating the negotiation and purchase of tracts. If the project you are requesting involves a third-party organization, please be mindful that funding for the project is directed to the agency that will manage the land, not the third party.

The Great American Outdoors Act of (Public Law 116-152) and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260) mandates that the president submit, along with the upcoming fiscal year's budget request, proposed and supplemental project lists. While it is not required that a project appear on either of these lists for funding, Committee approval is more likely for projects that appear in either of these lists. **After submitting your request, please follow-up with our office to indicate whether the project is on either of these lists once the President's Budget is released.**

**Interior and Environment Subcommittee:**  
**Environmental Protection Agency**  
**State and Tribal Assistance Grants--**  
**Select water infrastructure projects**

**Program Description**

The major water infrastructure accounts within the State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) at EPA are:

- The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Program, which capitalizes state revolving loan funds in all 50 states and Puerto Rico to finance infrastructure improvements for public wastewater systems and projects to improve water quality. These funds directly support the Agency's goal to ensure waters are clean through improved water infrastructure and sustainable management.
- The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), which is designed to assist public water systems to finance the costs of drinking water infrastructure improvements needed to achieve or maintain compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirements, to protect public health, and to support state and local efforts to protect drinking water.

**General Guidance for CPF Requests**

STAG water infrastructure grants fund local wastewater and drinking water projects. This includes construction of and modifications to municipal sewage treatment plants and drinking water treatment plants.

Community project funding for STAG infrastructure grants is limited only to projects that are publicly-owned or owned by a non-profit entity and that are otherwise eligible for the funding from that state's Clean Water or Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRF) loan programs. Privately-owned projects are NOT eligible for infrastructure grants, even if they are otherwise eligible for assistance under a SRF program.

Committee approval is more likely for projects that are listed on a state's most recent Intended Use Plan. **Please include the status of your project on Minnesota's list with your request.**

There is a minimum 20% cost share requirement for any portion of a project funded through a STAG infrastructure grant. For example, a \$1 million project could receive a maximum of \$800,000 from the Federal government, with the remaining \$200,000 the responsibility of the grantee. In almost all cases, other federal funds cannot be used to meet this 20% cost share. Ability to fund the 20% cost share is required before EPA can award a STAG grant. Please note that only the non-federal portion of assistance provided by a SRF can be applied towards a project's matching requirement. **Please include demonstration of your project's ability to meet the 20% cost share requirement with your request.**

**Interior and Environment Subcommittee:**  
**U.S. Department of Agriculture**  
**U.S. Forest Service**  
**State and Private Forestry**

**Program Description**

The State and Private Forestry (S&PF) organization of the USDA Forest Service reaches across the boundaries of national forests to states, tribes, communities and non-industrial private landowners. S&PF is the federal leader in providing technical and financial assistance to landowners and resource managers to help sustain the nation's forests and grasslands, protect communities from wildland fire and restore fire-adapted ecosystems. This federal investment leverages the capacity of state agencies and partners to manage state and private lands and produce ecological, social and economic benefits for the American people.

**General Guidance for CPF Requests**

The State and Private Forestry account provides technical and financial assistance, usually through the network of State Foresters, to improve the management, protection, and utilization of the Nation's forests.

Community projects are usually limited and include various specific urban and community forestry projects and specific forest disease or pest treatment areas. Specific State fire assistance projects or specific forestry assistance projects will also be considered.

Requests for projects that are listed on any federal or state ordinal list or are clearly demonstrated to meet the goals of a State Forest Action Plan(s) will be more likely to receive Committee approval. **If applicable, please include the status of your project on a federal or Minnesota state list with your request.**

Specific accounts may include: Landscape Scale Restoration, Forest Health Management, Cooperative Fire Assistance, Forest Stewardship, Urban & Community Forestry