

Henry P. Roybal
Commissioner, District 1

Miguel M. Chavez
Commissioner, District 2

Robert A. Anaya
Commissioner, District 3



Kathy Holian
Commissioner, District 4

Liz Stefanics
Commissioner, District 5

Katherine Miller
County Manager

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 27, 2015

TO: Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County

FROM: Julia Valdez, Constituent Services Liaison, Manager's Office *JV*

VIA: Katherine Miller, County Manager *KM 8/31/15*

RE: A Resolution in Support of the Reauthorization of and Full Funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (Commissioner Stefanics)

ITEM AND ISSUE:

This resolution asks that Santa Fe County support and urge Congress to enact full funding for the permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. (Commissioner Stefanics)

BACKGROUND

Since its enactment in 1965, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (LWCF) has preserved land in every state and enabled more than 42,000 state and local conservation projects. To this day, LWCF is the only federal program dedicated to the continued conservation of our national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, playgrounds, civil war battlefields and state and local parks with no cost to tax payers. However, unless Congress moves to extend LWCF's mandate by September 30, 2015, the funds that enable the purchase and protections of these lands are in danger of expiring.

In addition to valuing the areas secured for the public enjoyment on our shared national policy lands in New Mexico, LWCF's grants made to the State have positively impacted New Mexico's economy and infrastructure by creating thousands of jobs in construction, outdoor recreation and tourism.

In the past five decades New Mexico has received nearly \$261 million in LWCF funding, which has been matched with state and local resources to plan, construct and enhance parks, playgrounds, trails, ball fields, pools and other recreation facilities in communities across the state.

Nationally, the President has proposed to fully fund LWCF at \$900 million for the fiscal year 2016. Out of these \$900 million, approximately \$14 million will go to fund projects in New Mexico.

Quick Facts:

- The LWCF is completely funded by federal revenues from offshore oil and gas leasing, which means it doesn't cost taxpayers a single dime.
- Since 1965, New Mexico has received more than \$261 million in LWCF funding.
- For the FY 2016, New Mexico is scheduled to receive \$14 million in funding if the President's proposal is approved by Congress.
- LWCF has helped maintain and revitalize over 20 iconic National Monuments and public land in New Mexico including Valle de Oro Wildlife Refuge, Aztec Ruins National Monument, Pecos National Historical Park, Petroglyph National Monument and many more.
- LWCF has benefited New Mexico's communities and residents through both its "state-side" and "federal-side" programs. The federal side program has allowed for the acquisition of important lands within our national parks, monuments, wildlife refuges, and forests, including critical areas within Petroglyph and Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monuments; Valles Caldera National Preserve, Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, Orilla Verde Recreation Area; and the Gila National Forest.

SANTA FE COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2015-_____

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE REAUTHORIZATION OF AND FULL FUNDING FOR THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

WHEREAS, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), created by Congress 50 years ago, is one of the most successful government programs in preserving our country's precious natural and cultural resources and improving equitable access to the outdoors in urban and rural communities, which is essential to New Mexico's health, culture, economic opportunity and the future of our children and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, over the last 50 years, LWCF funding has preserved public lands that are critical to New Mexico and Santa Fe County, including the Santa Fe Watershed, Fort Marcy Recreation Complex, Glorieta Pass Battlefield, San Lazaro Pueblo Archaeological Site, El Rancho de las Golondrinas, Hyde Memorial State Park, and countless other public lands, and community parks, ballfields, playgrounds, and other recreational facilities in our communities; and

WHEREAS, LWCF has been instrumental in creating opportunities for New Mexicans in urban, suburban, and rural areas to get outdoors, and has been a critical tool in conserving national parks and historic sites, national wildlife refuges, watersheds, working forests, wildlife areas, and state and local parks, trails and ball fields; and

WHEREAS, LWCF is based on the simple premise that as we extract natural resources that belong to our nation – offshore oil and gas – we should in turn protect and invest in onshore resources for future generations; and

WHEREAS, LWCF takes a portion of royalties from offshore oil and gas development and invests that money in protecting America's important public lands for future generations – be that an iconic national park or an urban playground; and

WHEREAS, though LWCF is authorized to receive \$900 million annually, this cap has been met only twice during the program's nearly five decades of existence and, instead of being fully funded, nearly every year Congress diverts much of this funding to purposes other than conserving our most important lands and waters; and

WHEREAS, despite receiving only a fraction of its intended funding over the last 50 years, LWCF has led to the protection of land in every state and nearly every county, has improved access to these public lands, and has provided matching grants for the creation of more than 41,000 state and local park projects; and

WHEREAS, LWCF supports and maintains the economic asset that our federal, state, and local public lands represent; and

WHEREAS, hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, paddling and other outdoor recreation activities on public lands contribute a total of \$6.1 billion annually to the New Mexico's economy and support 68,000 jobs in our state, and whether manufacturing, retail or service related, most of these jobs are sustainable resource or tourism-based jobs and cannot be exported; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico has received more than 1,000 state side grants to local governments, totaling \$42 million and touching every county in our state; and

WHEREAS, the parks, trails, and recreation projects dependent upon LWCF funding are green spaces that contribute to the health and well-being of New Mexican families; and

WHEREAS, the Land and Water Conservation Fund was initially authorized in 1965 by the President and Congress to last for 50 years and thus expires September 30, 2015.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County expresses support for, and urges Congress to act swiftly to enact full funding for and permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, given the important contributions it makes to our nation's and New Mexico's health, well-being, economic opportunity and access to our nation's natural treasures.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 8th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2015.
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Robert A. Anaya, Chair

ATTEST:

Geraldine Salazar, Santa Fe County Clerk

Date: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Gregory S. Shaffer, Santa Fe County Attorney



Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage

LWCF IN NEW MEXICO

HELP PROTECT NEW MEXICO'S QUALITY OF LIFE BY SUPPORTING FULL FUNDING
FOR THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

LWCF Funded Units in New Mexico

Federal Program

Aztec Ruins NM
Bandelier NM
Bluewater Canyon
ACEC
Carson NF
Chaco Culture NHP
Cibola NF
El Malpais NCA
El Malpais NM
Fort Union NM
Gila NF
Kasha-Katuwe Tent
Rocks NM
La Cienega ACEC
Lincoln NF
Lower Gila Box ACEC
Organ Mountains ACEC
Orilla Verde Recreation
Area/Taos
Overflow Wetlands HMP
Pecos NHP
Petroglyphs NM
Rio Chama WSR
Rio Grande WSR



www.lwcfcoalition.org

LWCF Success in New Mexico

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of New Mexico's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. New Mexico has received approximately \$261 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Petroglyph, El Malpais, and Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rock National Monuments, the Gila, Cibola, Sante Fe and Carson National Forests, and the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River.

Forest Legacy Program (FLP) grants are also funded under LWCF, to help protect working forests-- supporting timber sector jobs and sustainable forest operations while enhancing wildlife habitat, water quality and recreation at places such as High Country Ranch in Rio Arriba County and Horse Springs Ranch in Catron County. The Forest Legacy Program assists states and private forest owners to maintain working forest lands through matching grants for permanent conservation easement and fee acquisitions, and has leveraged approximately \$7 million in federal funds to invest \$12.5 million in New Mexico's forests, while protecting air and water quality, wildlife habitat, access for recreation and other public benefits provided by forests.

LWCF state assistance grants have further supported hundreds of projects across New Mexico's state and local parks including Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park in Dona Ana County and the Eagle Nest Lake Park in Colfax County.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of the New Mexico economy. The Outdoor Industry Association has found that active outdoor recreation contributes \$6.1 billion annually in consumer spending to New Mexico's economy, supports 68,000 jobs which generate \$1.7 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$458 million annually in state and local tax revenue. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that each year 947,000 people participate in hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching in New Mexico contributing \$823 million to the state economy.



Above: The Taos Valley in New Mexico

Salinas Pueblo
 Missions NM
 Santa Fe Watershed
 Protection
 Santa Fe NF
 Sevilleta NWR
 Valle de Oro NWR
**Approximate Federal
 Total** \$ 212,000,000
**State Program
 Approximate Total**
 Stateside Grants \$ 42,000,000
**Forest Legacy Program:
 Approximately** \$ 7,000,000
Approximate Total \$ 261,000,000

LWCF is a simple idea: that a portion of offshore drilling fees should be used to protect important land and water for all Americans. These are not taxpayer dollars. Unfortunately, the promise of LWCF has been broken. The program is authorized to receive up to \$900 million each year—but most of these funds have been diverted elsewhere. Now is the time to fix this and ensure that funds retained in the LWCF account are used for their intended conservation and recreation purposes.

LWCF supports the acquisition of land and conservation easements to protect our national parks, wildlife refuges, forests, trails, and BLM sites, grants funds to the states for local and state park needs, protects critical wildlife habitat, watersheds and recreational access, and conserves working farms, ranches and forestlands that enhance local economies.



www.lwfc coalition.org

LWCF in New Mexico

Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River/Taos Gorge

The canyonlands of the upper reaches of the Rio Grande comprise one of the most spectacular landscapes in New Mexico. Within New Mexico, the Rio Grande is not only an important natural and ecological resource, it is also critical to water supplies and the economy. About 1.3 million people, or nearly 70% of the state's population, live in the ten counties along the river. The Rio Grande provides vital drinking water to these residents and irrigation water for agricultural purposes. The Land and Water Conservation Fund has provided funds to protect the wild and scenic river, consolidate holdings to prevent fragmentation, ensure recreational access, and prevent development from marring the canyon.

New Mexico and the Fiscal Year 2016 President's Budget:

Below is information regarding New Mexico's projects recommended for LWCF funding in the President's Fiscal Year 2016 budget. These projects enhance recreation and conservation, protect clean water, often reduce management costs resulting in savings to the agencies, and support jobs and economic vitality across New Mexico's communities.

Agency	State	Project	Funding Request	Representative
BLM	NM	Rio Grande del Norte NM	\$ 2,900,000	Lujan
BLM	NM	Continental Divide NST	\$ 2,300,000	Pearce
NPS	NM	Pecos NHP	\$ 386,000	Lujan
USFS	NM	CLP: Upper Rio Grande - Carson	\$ 3,000,000	Lujan
USFS	NM	Heart Bar Ranch - Gila	\$ 2,500,000	Pearce
USFWS	CO/NM	Sangre de Cristo CA	\$ 1,000,000	Lujan Grisham
USFWS	CO/NM	Sangre de Cristo CA	\$ 1,890,250	Lujan Grisham

The Fiscal Year 2016 President's Budget:

The President has proposed to fully fund LWCF at \$900 million in FY2016, restoring a long-standing promise that a small portion of the revenues from offshore oil and gas development are used to make strategic investments to protect America's irreplaceable natural, historic and recreational outdoor places.

The New Mexico projects above are included within the following allocation of funds among projects and programs:

2016 President's Request

Bureau of Land Management:		Federal Projects:	\$93.3 million
		Sportsmen & Recreational Access:	\$10 million
US Fish & Wildlife Service:		Federal Projects:	\$164.7 million
		Sportsmen & Recreational Access:	\$2.5 million
National Parks Service:		Federal Projects:	\$171 million
		Sportsmen & Recreational Access:	\$9.5 million
		American Battlefield Protection Grant Program:	\$13.5 million
US Forest Service:		Federal Projects:	\$127.6 million
		Sportsmen & Recreational Access:	\$5 million
State Grants:		NPS State and Local Assistance Grants:	\$100.1 million
		NPS Urban Parks and Recreation Fund:	\$25 million
		Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund:	\$100 million
		Forest Legacy Program:	\$100 million

