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Contact
Caroline Brouwer
202-420-9625, cbrouwer@refugeassociation.org

President Calls for Full Funding of Land and Water Conservation Fund

'A Great Legacy' is Being Created to Conserve Our Heritage

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) –President Obama announced plans to request full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund in his FY17 budget request. According to the [announcement from the Department of Interior](#), in 2017, the President's budget calls for \$900 million in conservation and recreation projects, through a combination of discretionary (\$475 million) and mandatory (\$425 million) funding, and pursues permanent authorization in annual mandatory funding beginning in FY18.

National Wildlife Refuge Association President David Houghton had this to say:

“President Obama is creating a great legacy of land and water conservation by requesting full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), and recommending permanent authorization in annual mandatory funding for the Fund’s programs beginning in 2018. Giving federal land managers the resources they need to partner with local communities on land conservation projects means critical wildlife habitat can be protected and local communities can conserve valuable land for future generations.”

Under the president’s request, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would get \$35,884,000 in discretionary funding and \$74,426,000 in mandatory funding. The mandatory side will only be funded should Congress create full and permanent funding for the program and remove it from the annual appropriations process.

About the Land and Water Conservation Fund: The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was established 51 years ago to protect valuable conservation lands and water for future generations. The fund is derived from offshore oil and gas drilling proceeds, but has been underfunded by Congress for years, delaying progress on important conservation projects across the nation. Since it’s inception, this successful conservation program has supported more than 42,000 national, state and local parks and outdoor recreation projects in all 50 states. For every \$1 invested through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, there is an estimated return of \$4 in local economic activity.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Project Requests:

LWCF Discretionary Projects as Requested in President's FY2017 Budget—U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service		
Arkansas	Cache River National Wildlife Refuge	\$ 1,406,000
Florida	Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area	\$ 2,500,000
	St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge	\$ 2,500,000
Hawaii	Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge	\$ 6,200,000
Maryland	Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge	\$ 1,200,000
Montana	Montana National Wildlife Refuges	\$ 1,500,000
	Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge	\$ 2,000,000
Pennsylvania	Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge	\$ 2,200,000
Tennessee	Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge	\$ 1,500,000
Virginia	James River National Wildlife Refuge	\$ 900,000
Washington	Willapa National Wildlife Refuge	\$ 991,000
Subtotal, Discretionary, Individual Land Acquisition Projects		\$ 22,897,000
Multi-State Projects	Dakota Grassland Conservation Area (North Dakota/South Dakota)	\$ 8,000,000
	Dakota Tallgrass Prairie Wildlife Management Area (North Dakota/South Dakota)	\$ 3,000,000
	Mountain Bogs National Wildlife Refuge (North Carolina/Tennessee)	\$ 478,000
	Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge (Iowa/Minnesota)	\$ 500,000
	Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge (Connecticut/Massachusetts/New Hampshire/Vermont)	\$ 1,009,000
Subtotal, Discretionary, Multi-State Land Acquisition Projects		\$ 12,987,000
TOTAL, DISCRETIONARY, FY 2017 FWS LWCF		35,884,000

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The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge Association is to conserve America's wildlife heritage for future generations through strategic programs that protect and enhance the National Wildlife Refuge System and the landscapes beyond its boundaries.