

**LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND:  
PARKS FOR THE PEOPLE**

# THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

**For many Arizona Latino families, exploring the outdoors may be as simple as celebrating a birthday at a local park or an overnight camping trip to one of our national forests. If you have walked a nature trail, played a local softball game, taken the kids to a city-run skate park, or explored the Grand Canyon, you are likely among the countless Arizona residents who have enjoyed the benefits provided by the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).**

# ABOUT LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

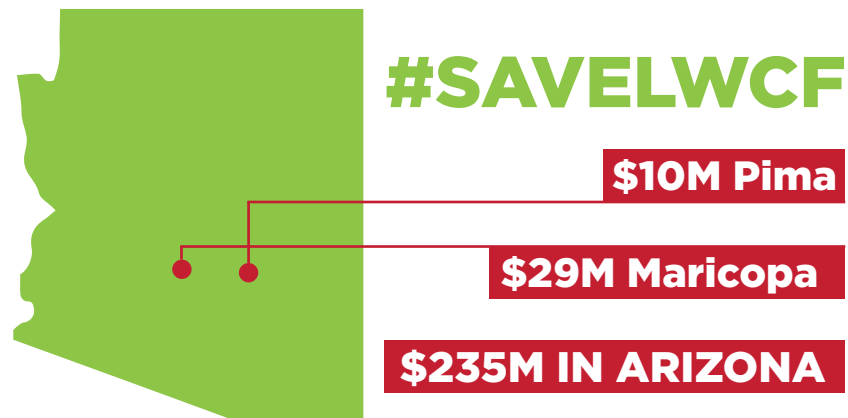
Created in 1964, the LWCF is a federal fund used to protect and conserve public lands and waterways. The funds do not come from taxpayers but from royalties paid by offshore oil leases. Throughout its history LWCF has been instrumental in countless projects to upgrade the public's experience with outdoor recreational spaces.

LWCF has invested in parks through state grants that filter down into local projects and supports a broad federal forest conservation program, which has been used to protect and enhance federal lands such as Prescott National Forest, Ironwood Forest National Monument, and Tonto National Forest among others.

Since its inception, LWCF has invested nearly \$235 million throughout Arizona, including nearly \$29 million in Maricopa County and \$10 million in Pima County for local parks we all enjoy.

While the LWCF collects \$900 million annually from royalties, Congress has consistently redirected many of these dollars away from the outdoor projects they were intended to develop and protect.

We support a permanent authorization and full mandatory funding for LWCF, a program that invests in our communities, our health, and our environment.



*LWCF has invested \$235 Million in Arizona. Federal investment includes Prescott National Forest, Ironwood Forest National Monument, and Tonto National Forest.*

# INVEST IN COMMUNITY

For Latinos in Arizona - nearly 31% of our state's population - LWCF has provided funds for the very spaces we all count on to give our lives balance and respite. From South Mountain Park - one of the nation's largest municipal parks - to Encanto Park, Camelback Mountain, and Piestewa Peak. In Tucson, city parks such as Jesse Owens, Joaquin Murrieta, and Rudy Garcia have served as the backdrop for many community members' lives.

As Laura Dent, Executive Director of CHISPA Arizona, notes,



*LWCF has played a major part in developing local and community parks across our state, helping to make access to open space a reality for all families. This program not only advances traditional conservation priorities across our state, but also helps make public lands accessible to working families and diverse communities in Arizona cities.*



**- Laura Dent**

**Executive Director of CHISPA Arizona**

In addition to providing outdoor recreation opportunities for communities, LWCF investments have boosted local economies in myriad ways: job creation, state and tax revenue, and improving public health and quality of life in our communities.

The LWCF has played a pivotal role in what can be considered a democratization of the outdoors. Some parks, such as Oury Park in Tucson, host beautiful murals or artwork that document the history and connection to neighborhoods and communities. This gives individuals an avenue to learn about their culture through public spaces that reflect a more complete look at our diverse stories and experiences.

# INVEST IN OUR HEALTH

Investing in parks is a commitment to build community cohesion, pride and the overall quality of life.

For Latino families the issue becomes personal considering the tremendous challenge presented by health disparities. Obesity, diabetes, asthma and heart disease disproportionately impact U.S. Latinos.

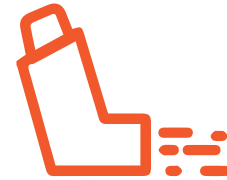
Health professionals have made the link between these chronic illnesses and the quality of the environment where they reside. Latinos are more likely to live in areas with less access to public parks, open spaces and economic means to visit national parks and forests. Moreover, Latinos often live in areas with high pollution.

Engaging in physical activity is an important strategy to combat the onset of these chronic conditions. Creating more opportunities for Latinos to have safe spaces to engage in physical activity has positive results in combating some of these conditions. LWCF investment to encourage physical activity can be seen in trails, basketball courts, soccer fields, baseball fields, tennis courts and other park infrastructure.



## 40%

Latino children are 40 percent more likely to die from asthma than non-Latino whites



Nearly 1 in 10 Latino children under the age of 18 suffer from chronic respiratory illness.

## 1.7x

Diabetes is the leading cause of death for U.S. Latinos. Diabetes rates among Latinos are 1.7 times higher than for non-Hispanic whites. Latinos also have greater rates of high-blood pressure, which is a major cause of strokes and heart disease.

# INVEST IN OUR HEALTH

The psycho-social benefits of spending time in nature and the outdoors has been noted by mental health experts. Richard Louv coined the term ‘**Nature Deficit Disorder**’ in his book “Last Child in the Woods” to describe how alienation from the outdoors when coupled with rapid social and technological change, poor urban planning, and disappearing open space, can have negative impacts on children.

Latinos now make up more than half of Arizona’s K-12 population. It is incumbent on community advocates, politicians and policy makers to provide robust outdoor experiences for this and future generations of Arizona children.

The benefits of interacting with nature for children include positive outcomes in physical health, psychological well-being, cognitive functioning and self-control, affiliation and imaginative play, and affiliation with other species and the natural world.



**More than half of Arizona’s Student Population (K-12) is Latino**





# TOTAL LWCF INVESTMENT IN ARIZONA

Federal Lands

**\$165.7M**

Forest Legacy Program

**\$4.3M**

Habitat Conservation

**\$4.7M**

State and Local Programs

**\$60M**

Total LWCF in Arizona

**\$235M**



# INVEST IN OUR ENVIRONMENT

Latinos are well aware of the benefits of being in nature and have traditionally aligned with and considered themselves conservationists.

Latinos consistently support the environment and share a deep understanding of the importance of keeping federal lands under federal control, the need for federal agencies to address air and water quality issues, and the need to keep parks and greenspaces well funded and well maintained.



## 3/4 OF LATINOS

In a 2018 poll by The Colorado College, three-fourths of Latinos surveyed agreed that the federal government should focus on protecting public lands.



82 percent of Latinos are opposed to mining on public lands abutting Grand Canyon National Park. And believe the West's outdoor recreation opportunities give states an economic advantage when it comes to attracting well-paying jobs and innovative companies.

These findings support earlier surveys that showed Latinos overwhelmingly support the concept that having a strong economy is compatible with protecting land and water.

Latinos support creating new parks and monuments and generally believe cutting funding to state parks and protections to water quality is a “serious problem.”

**“ Public Lands are a Connection to our Heritage ”**

Many first- and second-generation Latinos have roots in rural America or to parents and grandparents who came from rural areas in their home country. For them, they see their connection to the public lands as a connection to their heritage and a place to pass down memories and stories.



# INVEST IN OUR ENVIRONMENT

National and Latino leadership on LWCF is close to home. Arizona's Congressman Raúl M. Grijalva, has a long history in championing public lands issues as Ranking Member of the Committee on Natural Resources.

Congressman Grijalva has championed LWCF reauthorization in past years and in 2018, he is shepherding the negotiations.

At a community conversation on public lands, Congressman Grijalva emphasized the importance in LWCF,



**“ [LWCF] is an opportunity to create spaces for our community to recreate, to protect water streams, to create space for clean air, and to create spaces for family and children.” He also said, “It’s an equality issue here. Since our community does not have the access and opportunity for these green spaces, the fund needs to be prioritized to be able to create the spaces and to derive the benefits of those green spaces. ”**

**- Raúl M. Grijalva,  
U.S. Representative, AZ-03**

# LWCF STATE AND LOCAL GRANTS PER CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



**Tom O'Halleran**  
**(AZ-01) \$9.7 M**



**Martha McSally**  
**(AZ-02) \$9.7 M**



**Raúl M. Grijalva**  
**(AZ-03) \$9.7 M**



**Paul Gosar**  
**(AZ-04) \$10.2 M**



**Andy Biggs**  
**(AZ-05) \$9.7 M**



**David Schweikert**  
**(AZ-06) \$8.9 M**



**Ruben Gallego**  
**(AZ-07) \$2.4 M**



**Debbie Lesko**  
**(AZ-08) \$1.9 M**



**Kyrsten Sinema**  
**(AZ-09) \$17 K**

# #SAVE LWCF

For more than 50 years, LWCF has touched the lives of many individuals and communities. Because of LWCF we can all breathe more fresh air, enjoy green spaces and drink cleaner, fresher water. Federal investment in green spaces, parks and preserving natural areas allows people to experience and enjoy nature in both pristine and urban settings. Latinos recognize the vital importance of these public lands and spaces to their communities, and see themselves as caretakers for future generations.

Latinos now have an opportunity to leave an imprint on the future of LWCF. Leaders such as Congressman Grijalva understand LWCF and its investment in public lands is an equity issue in addition to being an environmental issue. Permanently reauthorizing and fully funding LWCF is an opportunity to create a greater democratization of the outdoors. Latino communities in particular recognize the high stakes involved in preserving, protecting and expanding access to the outdoors and passing along this collective national inheritance to our families and future generations.





# FEDERAL LANDS IN ARIZONA FUNDED BY LWCF

Agua Fria National Monument  
Bonita Creek Area  
Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge  
Cerbat Foothills  
Chiricahua National Monument  
Coconino National Forest  
Coronado National Memorial  
Dry Lake  
Fort Bowie National Historic Site  
Glen Canyon  
Grand Canyon National Park  
Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site  
Ironwood Forest National Monument  
Kofa National Wildlife Refuge  
Lake Mead National Recreation Area  
Leslie Canyon National Wildlife Refuge  
Montezuma Castle National Monument  
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument  
Petrified Forest National Park  
Prescott National Forest  
Red Rock-Secret Mountain  
Saguaro National Park  
San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area  
San Pedro River Ecosystem  
Sears Point Area of Critical Environmental Concern  
Tonto National Forest  
Tumacácori National Historical Park  
White Vulcan Pumice Mine



# LWCF INVESTMENT PER COUNTY

APACHE COUNTY	\$808K
COCHISE COUNTY	\$1.2 M
COCONINO COUNTY	\$1.2 M
GILA COUNTY	\$1.1 M
GRAHAM COUNTY	\$575K
GREENLEE COUNTY	\$95K
LA PAZ COUNTY	\$1 M
MARICOPA COUNTY	\$28.8 M
MOHAVE COUNTY	\$2.4 M
NAVAJO COUNTY	\$2.1 M
PIMA COUNTY	\$10 M
PINAL COUNTY	\$3.9 M
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY	\$1.3 M
YAVAPAI COUNTY	\$3.5 M
YUMA COUNTY	\$1.1 M
<b>TOTAL STATE GRANTS</b>	<b>\$60 M</b>





# ABOUT CHISPA ARIZONA

Chispa, which means “spark” in Spanish, is a program of the League of Conservation Voters. Chispa Arizona launched in July 2014 to elevate Latino voices and leadership via grassroots organizing, civic engagement, and direct advocacy, growing our political power in the fight against climate change and in support of a proactive, pro-environment agenda.

Latinos are among the most impacted and the least involved in mainstream environmental organizations, they are also some of the most committed to supporting strong government action to curb pollution and confront climate change. To create the momentum and movement necessary to tackle these threats, Latino communities and leaders must be seen and heard by decision-makers as the leaders they are on environmental issues. Moreover, Latino communities need to have the political muscle to successfully advocate for climate solutions. Chispa Arizona is dedicated to building that capacity, and to advocacy work that helps advance our vision of an inclusive and reflective democracy that prioritizes communities' rights to clean air and water, healthy neighborhoods, and a safe climate for generations to come.



# REFERENCES



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