

**Bureau of Land Management  
Land and Water Conservation Fund  
FY 2015 (Core) Submission Process**

- The Office of Management and Budget and the Department of the Interior (DOI) Budget Office will inform the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) funding target no earlier than May 2013. FY 2015 President's Budget targets are due back to the DOI Budget Office within 30 days of notification.
  
- Submissions are limited to no more than ten (10) projects per State Office (SO). To be eligible projects must be:
  - 1) Within or contiguous to a unit of the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) (with the exception of Wilderness Study Areas), an Area of Critical Environmental Concern, or a Special Recreation Management Area;
  - 2) Comply with Section 205 (b) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (identified for acquisition within an approved land use plan); and
  - 3) Available for purchase from a willing seller owner.

Project proposals will be more competitive and receive greater consideration if they:

- 1) Support multiple resource goals;
  - 2) Support America's Great Outdoors (AGO) goals;
  - 3) Are inholdings within the project boundary;
  - 4) Have a recent LWCF appropriations history;
  - 5) Are under contract or option or have been pre-purchased by a third-party partner;
  - 6) Include a non-BLM funding leverage or are offered as a bargain sale;
  - 7) Request funding to complete a project;
  - 8) Request funding to acquire the last phase of a multi-phased transaction; or
  - 9) Request funding to continue phasing of a multi-phased transaction.
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- Each submission must include a completed project narrative, fact sheet, questionnaire, representational map(s), and digital color images. The narrative, fact sheet, and questionnaire have been revised for FY 2015 and are the only versions that will be accepted. If resubmitting requests for any unfunded and/or underfunded projects, please update parcel ownership, property value, and availability and resubmit. In addition, circulate the questionnaire among resource specialists and managers for completion of their respective sections. The Division of Lands, Realty and Cadastral Survey (WO-350) has emailed all documents to respective SO LWCF Program Leads for electronic submittal to WO-350 via state-specific FY 2015 folders accessible at the following link: \\ilmwols3ds1\ls\pub\wo350\LWCF.

- Headquarters Selection Process:
  - Collect and process State Office submissions.
  - Review and prioritize recommendations.
  - Conduct Washington Office briefings and secure concurrence from the Director.
  - Finalize submission for transmittal to the DOI Budget Office.
  
- Core vs. Collaborative Submission Processes:
  - In FY 2013 the DOI, working with the Department of Agriculture, created two complimentary and parallel LWCF submission processes (Core and Collaborative) for the BLM, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and U.S. Forest Service.
  - The “Core” process (each agency’s “traditional” program) focuses on projects meeting the highest land acquisition priorities of each agency. Each agency maintains discretionary control of their respective Core process. This directive is specific to the Core program.
  - The “Collaborative” process focuses on large landscapes that meet shared goals among the four agencies, with an emphasis on wildlife connectivity, recreation and public access, and broad DOI goals (including those identified in the America’s Great Outdoors initiative). Each year the DOI will select which geographies are eligible to compete for Collaborative funding. The DOI will request coordinated agency Collaborative submissions through separate guidance from each agency’s Core process. Landscapes identified in the Collaborative process may coincide with proposals included in each agency’s Core process.