

**Bureau of Land Management  
Land and Water Conservation Fund  
FY2017 (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) 2017 Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) funding target no earlier than May 2015. FY 2017 President's Budget targets are due back to the DOI Budget Office within 30 days of notification.
- Submissions are limited to no more than twenty (20) 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) Be 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, and
  - 9) Request funding to continue phasing of a multi-phased transaction.
- Each submission will 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 2017 and are the only versions that will be accepted. Resubmitted requests for unfunded and/or underfunded projects from the last few years must be updated prior to resubmission to reconfirm parcel ownership, property value and availability. Parcels which were identified in FY 2016 but were not funded within the President's Budget can be resubmitted. The questionnaire should be circulated among resource specialists and managers for completion of their respective sections. All documents are provided and have been emailed to respective SO LWCF Program Leads. These documents will be electronically submitted to the Division of Lands, Realty and Cadastral Survey (WO-350) via state-specific FY 2017 folders accessible at the following link:

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- Headquarters Selection Process:
  - Collect and process State Office submissions.
  - Review and prioritize recommendations, including through convening an interdisciplinary selection team.
  - 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 Department of the Interior (Department), 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 which meet shared goals among the four agencies, with an emphasis on wildlife connectivity, recreation and public access and broad Departmental goals (including those identified in the AGO initiative). Each year the Department will select which geographies are eligible to compete for Collaborative funding. The Department 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.