

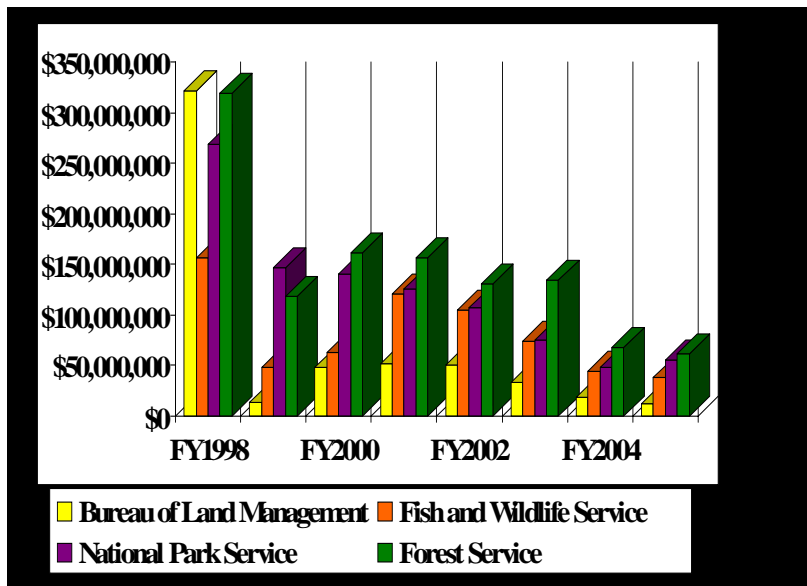
## LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND'S (LWCF) IMPORTANCE TO THE NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM

Since 1964, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding for acquisition of public lands to ensure all Americans can enjoy open space and outdoor recreation and education opportunities. Leveraged each year by \$900 million, primarily from Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas leasing, Congress is directed to allocate money, through the annual appropriations process, for the purchase of land, waters, and wetlands on public lands.

LWCF helps protect the **National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS)** from development by allowing the BLM to purchase private in-holdings and property located adjacent to NLCS units *from willing sellers*. These purchases help BLM preserve entire landscapes, wildlife habitat, and cultural resources. For example, in FY05 LWCF funding enabled the BLM to purchase 1,180 acres in Canyons of the Ancients National Monument in southwest Colorado. This property faced the immediate threat of rural residential development, degrading land use practices, and allowed vandals easy access to significant and nearly pristine archaeological sites.

Across the NLCS, there is an urgent need for additional LWCF funding, a need which will only increase as development pressures in and around Western cities and towns grow. In just Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, over 9,000 acres still face imminent development and degradation.

Unfortunately, the continued drastic decline in LWCF funding (*see graph*) severely curtails the BLM's ability to acquire key parcels from willing sellers. For FY 2006, the total proposed LWCF budget is \$147 million, about \$20 million less than Congress approved last year. BLM's land acquisition funding share in FY06 is just \$9.5 million, about half of what BLM received in FY05. Only five NLCS land acquisition projects are proposed for funding. (See table). LWCF funds for land acquisition in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Cascade Siskiyou National Monument, and Steens Mountain Cooperative Management Area, among others, should be added to the FY06 budget.



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State	Project Name	Request (\$)
ID	Upper Snake/South Fork Snake River ACEC/SRMA	3,000,000
CO	Canyons of the Ancients National Monument	1,100,000
OR	Sandy River/Oregon National Historic Trail	1,600,000
CO	Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area	1,500,000
UT	Colorado River SRMA	1,200,000
CA	Carrizo Plain National Monument	500,000
OR	Oregon National Wild and Scenic Rivers/ North Fork Owyhee National Wild and Scenic River	650,000
Total Line Item Projects		9,550,000
Acquisition Management		2,300,000
Emergency/Inholding/Hardship		1,500,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>13,350,000</b>