

PUERTO RICO

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND STATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Need for LWCF State Assistance in Puerto Rico

Presidential outdoor recreation studies under three different administrations in 1964, 1986 and 2010, as well as an independent report by a non partisan Outdoor Recreation Resources Group in 2009 have all documented the importance and need for the LWCF. And underscored the benefits to the nation of providing places for outdoor recreation close to home.

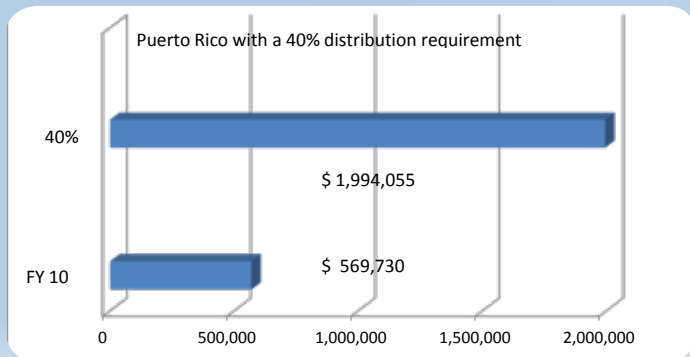
LWCF State Assistance Program in Puerto Rico

Since the limits on LWCF funding on the local level in recent years, the need for outdoor recreation resources has grown. The National Park Company reported the annual need for recreational facilities development in Puerto Rico was in excess of \$12,000,000. One of the primary reasons for the size of this need has been the lack of equity in the distribution of the LWCF to the states and territories which led to reduced State Assistance appropriations. In FY 2010 the LWCF distribution to Puerto Rico was \$569,730 which barely funded smaller local needs for projects and met only 5 % of the total need.



What would a 40% Allocation to the State Assistance Program Accomplish?

In FY 2010, if equity in the distribution formula had been required as we suggest, Puerto Rico would have received \$1,994,055 for local and state grants, which when matched would provide an additional \$ 3,988,110 in parks and open space improvements, addressing 17 % of the total annual need. Over the long term, with this level of funding and the matching requirement applied, a much of the backlog of projects identified in Puerto Rico would be addressed. This graph demonstrates the level of funding that was provided to Puerto Rico and how much more would have been available for grants if a 40% state share had been required. It is essential to restore equity, so that outdoor recreation needs close to home can be addressed.



What benefits would be gained in Puerto Rico from requiring a 40% allocation in LWCF?

1. Locally based projects support economic activity through equipment sales and tourism in Puerto Rico.
2. Locally based LWCF projects provide access for citizens for active lives which have community health benefits.
3. LWCF park projects in Puerto Rico increase the value of adjacent property and the tax base
4. Research shows that parks funded with LWCF are key components in community development revitalization.
5. LWCF projects in Puerto Rico provide places for local and regional sports and community events.
6. LWCF projects provide direct benefits providing jobs and contracts for local businesses and employees.

Where can I find a listing of Puerto Rico projects and the communities that have benefitted from this program?

Data from the NPS shows that, on a national basis, 98% of all communities in our country have utilized state and local LWCF grants for projects in the past. You can find the projects for each county in Puerto Rico by going to the National Park Service State Assistance website at:
<http://waso-lwcf.ncrc.nps.gov/public/index.cfm>



(or scan this)

The LWCF has an impact in Puerto Rico by providing economic benefits and jobs

A 2012 study by the Outdoor Industry Foundation showed that Outdoor recreation is an economic powerhouse in the United States. Each year the data shows that these activities generate \$646 billion in consumer spending and 6.1 million direct jobs in the industry. You can find more information on this study at:

<http://www.outdoorindustry.org/advocacy/recreation/economy.html#sthash.xlbKYJvK.dpufin>

These data demonstrate the development of facilities and areas using the LWCF State Assistance program pays off for Puerto Rico and throughout the nation.



National Recreation and Park Association
www.nrpa.org



The National Association of State Park Directors
www.naspd.org