

JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE

Activity: State Conservation Grants

	2001 Enacted	Uncontr/ Related Changes	Program Changes (+/-)	2002 Budget Request	Change From 2001 (+/-)
A. Grants to States (Includes FY 2001 Title VIII)	88,804	0	+342,196	431,000	+342,196
B. Grants to Indian Tribes	0	0	+10,000	10,000	+10,000
Total Requirements \$(000)	88,804	0	+352,196	441,000	+352,196

AUTHORIZATION

16 U.S.C. 4601-4-11, Land and Water Conservation Fund (L&WCF) Act of 1965, as amended

OVERVIEW

The State Conservation Grants activity provides matching grants to States, and through States, to local units of government for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities that provide public access to lands, waters and other recreation resources. The grants provide incentives for continuing State outdoor recreation planning and for greater commitments by State governments to conservation and improvement of recreation resources at every level, emphasizing the role of States and localities in a nationwide recreation system.

APPLICABLE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MISSION GOALS

- IIIb Through partnerships with other federal, state and local agencies and nonprofit organizations, a nationwide system of parks, open space, rivers, and trails provides educational, recreational, and conservation benefits for the American people.
- IIIc Assisted through Federal funds and programs, the protection of recreational opportunities is achieved through formal mechanisms to ensure continued access for public recreational use.

State Conservation Grants FY 2001 Estimated Program and Anticipated Accomplishments

Enacted: \$88,804,000

In FY 2001, approximately \$39 million was appropriated for State Conservation Grants within the NPS appropriation, and an additional \$50 million was provided in Title VIII of the Interior Appropriations Act – more than twice the appropriation for FY 2000. It is estimated that 8,000 grant applications will be received by the States requesting over \$1.6 billion. Approximately 500 new grants will be approved by NPS for the \$88.804 million available.

The demand for outdoor recreation opportunities and facilities accessible to urban and growing suburban areas continues to increase. The grant program also recognizes State and local efforts to acquire open space, park and recreation lands and other highly valued resources; and seeks to leverage State and local efforts to address these needs through matching grant assistance.

Land Acquisition and State Assistance/State Conservation Grants

Since 1965, over 37,000 State and local grants have been awarded totaling in excess of \$3.3 billion. States and localities have matched this amount dollar-for-dollar, thereby doubling the Federal investment. This program has been very successful in encouraging States to take greater responsibility for the protection and development of open space and recreational resources. Every project acquired or developed is protected in perpetuity pursuant to section 6(f)(3) of the enabling legislation. Through this partnership with States and local governments, providing recreation opportunity while preserving these areas for future generation can often be accomplished in a more timely and cost-effective way than through Federal action. Therefore, funding for State and local park recreation projects is a viable alternative to Federal management of these areas.

JUSTIFICATION OF FY 2002 BUDGET REQUEST FOR STATE CONSERVATION GRANTS

	2002 Budget Request	Program Changes (+/-)
State Conservation Grants \$(000)	441,000	+352,196

The FY 2002 request for State Conservation Grants is \$441 million, which represents an increase of \$352.196 million over the FY 2001 enacted level. The justification of the proposed programmatic increase of \$352.196 million follows.

▪ **State Conservation Grants (+\$352,196,000):** An increase of \$352.196 million is proposed in FY 2002 to fund a wide array of recreation and conservation projects to address the growing demand for conservation of wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities and facilities in urban and suburban areas. The State grant program will enhance State flexibility to establish priorities while achieving efficiencies in the diversity of funds by leveraging State, local and Federal dollars and by combining the objectives of several Department grant programs under the Land and Water Conservation Fund umbrella. Grants will be provided for the traditional recreation venues, as well as for protection of lands and interests in lands that provide habitat for a vast array of fish and wildlife, including wetlands for migratory birds and threatened and endangered species. It is estimated that approximately 5,760 new grants would be awarded. Projects range from acquisition of open spaces and natural areas to the development of active use development facilities.

Of the total requested, \$10 million would be set aside to be apportioned to Federally-recognized Indian tribes through a new competitive grant program that will be consistent with the objectives of the Land and Water Conservation Fund program. In addition, \$157,500,000 of the remaining \$431,000,000 balance would be distributed equally to the States and territories, and \$273,500,000 would be apportioned on the ratio which the land area of such State bears to the total land areas of all such States (30 percent) and the ratio which the population of such State bears to the total United States population (70 percent).