



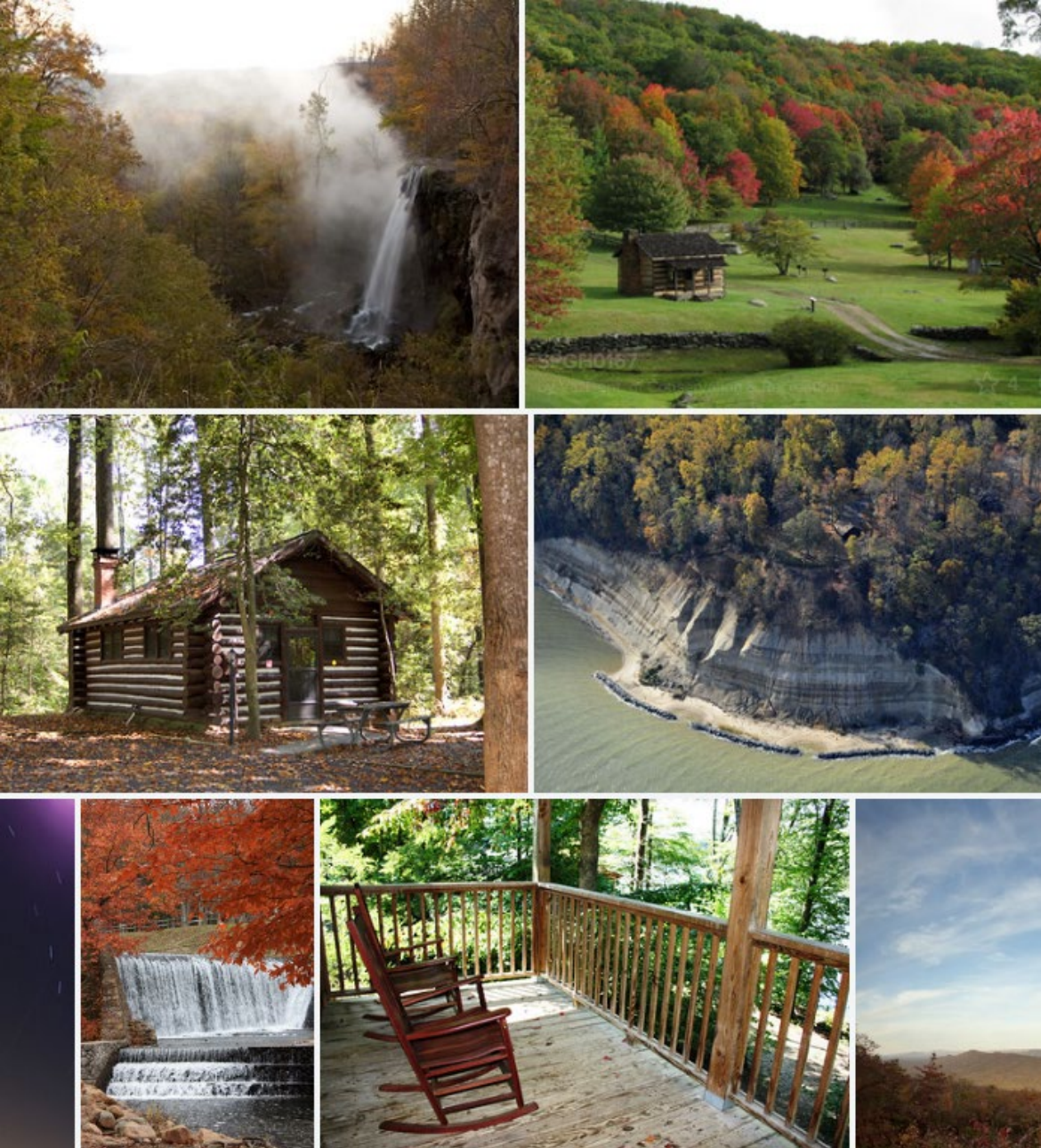
VaULT Presentation

Great American Outdoors Act & Land & Water Conservation Funds

Webinar Presentation – March 14th, 2023

DCR Division of Planning & Recreation Resources (PRR)

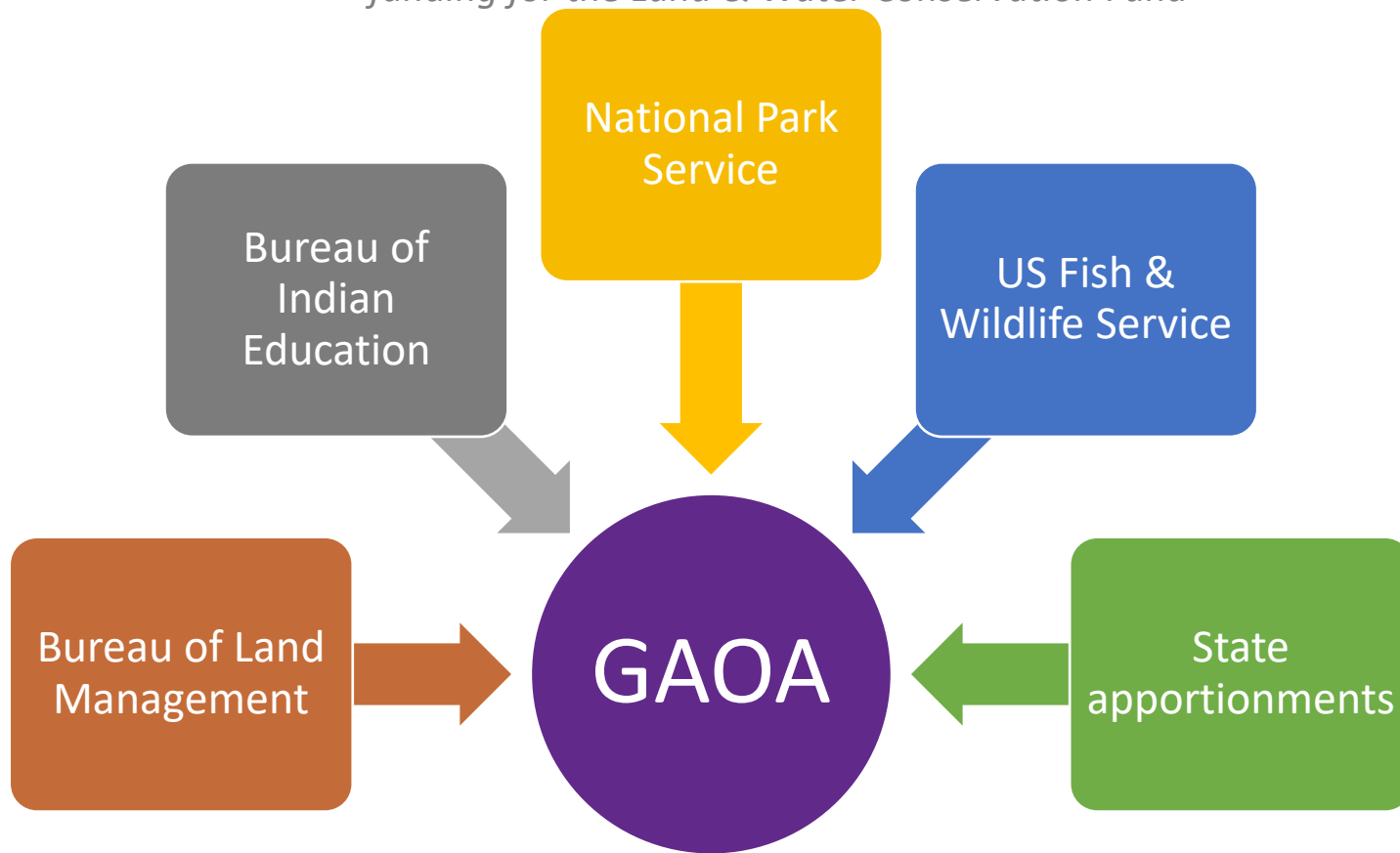
Kristal McKelvey – Chief Recreation Grants Manager



Presentation Agenda

- What is the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA)?
- What is the Land & Water Conservation Act (LWCF)?
- How do Federal recreation grants work?
 - Process for Grant Round Planning
 - Eligible Applicants & Projects
 - Long-Term Compliance
- What does DCR-PRR Recreation Grants do?
 - Land & Water Conservation Fund – State & Local Formula (LWCF)
 - Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program (ORLP)
 - Recreational Trails Program (RTP)
 - **Grant Round Open Now!**
 - American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) –
 - Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants (BLAG) NPS Coordination
 - Virginia Land Conservation Fund (VLCF) : Open Spaces & Parks
 - Environmental Impact Review (DCR Divisions coordination)
- Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)
 - Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP) 2023

This was instrumental legislation for the continued funding of public recreation resource support; Permanently authorized funding for the Land & Water Conservation Fund



<https://doi.gov/great-american-outdoors-act-resources>

Great American Outdoors Act

2020

Amended the authorization for LWCF to provide full and permanent funding for the program

- Law provides for a deposit of \$900 million into LWCF each fiscal year
- GoMESA (Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006) also funds the LWCF program
- Federal budget allocates those funds to the programs.

LWCF Overview



- A Federal, State and Local Partnership since 1965 = State Assistance Program
- Purpose: to provide matching grants to States and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities.
- Funding: U.S. Department of Interior – **National Park Service – LWCF Act**

LWCF Overview

- Grants provided to the States, and through the States to Subrecipients
- **Matching Reimbursement up to 50%**
- Property must be protected *in perpetuity* for the purpose of *outdoor recreation*.
- 462 sites in VA
- VOP (SCORP)



Applicant Eligibility

- Local Governments
- State Agencies
- Tribal Governments
- Public Recreation Government Entities (Park Authorities, etc)



Final landowner must be able to keep land protected and managed in perpetuity.

- **All scored together equally.**
- On application, please provide contact of specific entity lead (not contractor)

Funding - Acquisitions

- NO PURCHASES can be made prior to grant agreement release*
- Only cost of acquisition purchase eligible (surveys and appraisals not reimbursable)
- Based on appraised and reviewed value
- Appraisals
 - UASFLA (Yellow Book) level and Reviewed
 - Within one year of when NPS will receive it

Items of Note:

- **ENTIRE** park (including existing property) must be 6(f) protected upon funding.
- **Public Recreation** will be available w/in 3 years of acquisition or at completion of construction
- **Be clear** about park boundary, acreage, and all existing conditions.



The LWCF Apportionment Process

Dept. of
Interior/National
Park Service
(Federal)

- Apportions LWCF money and approves or denies the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP; i.e. the Virginia Outdoors Plan - VOP)
- Sets SCORP content priorities for national recreation planning efforts



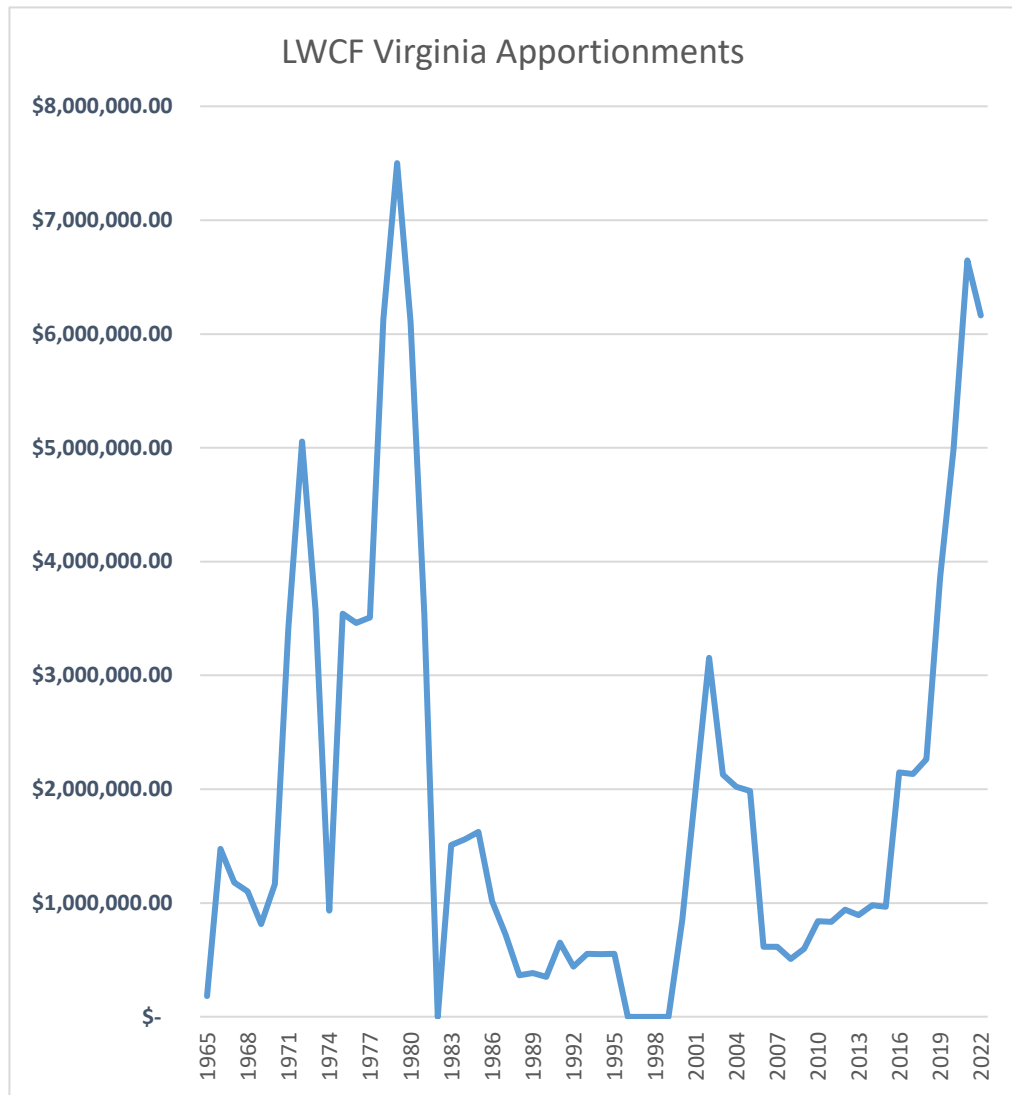
DCR (State)

- Administers the Program after the Virginia Outdoors Plan is approved by NPS
- Manages the State's apportioned budget
- Sponsors locality/State submitted projects that meet LWCF criteria

Government
entities (local,
state, political
subdivisions)

- Applies for *matching* LWCF money for outdoor recreation projects
- References VOP content to support their need for LWCF funding assistance



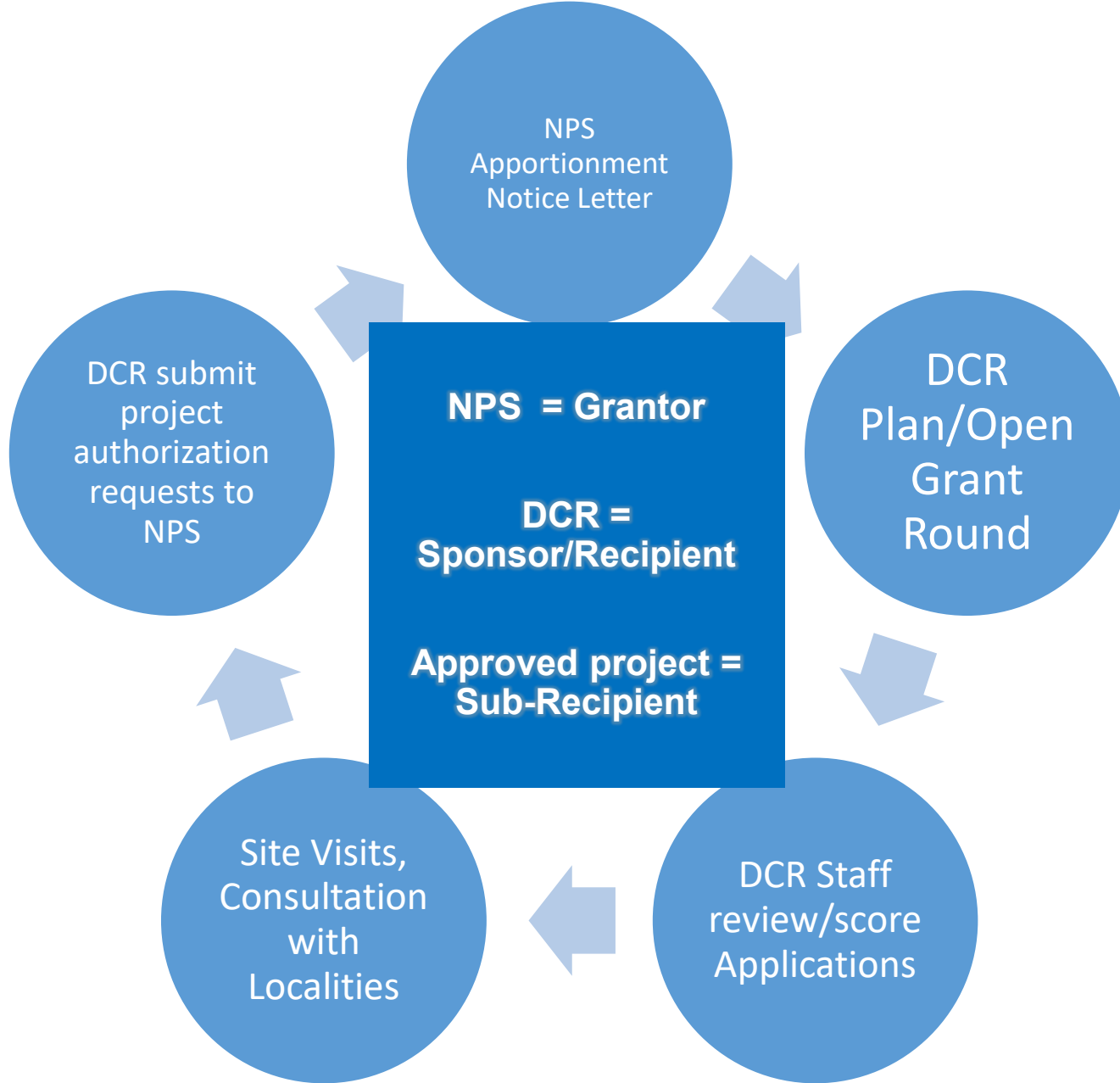


LWCF Apportionments: History and Current Status

The Commonwealth of Virginia's apportionment for FY 2022 is \$6.1 million and is available for obligation for State-established priority outdoor recreation projects benefiting your communities.

The apportionment is determined through a formula pursuant to the LWCF Act of 1965 (LWCF Act), as amended (54 U.S.C. § 200301 et seq.). This year's total is derived from two sources. First, \$196.1 million was allocated from the available \$900 million from the LWCF. Second, \$83.6 million in revenues was authorized by the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act. Both amounts reflect a reduction of 5.7 percent as mandated by the Budget Control Act of 2011.

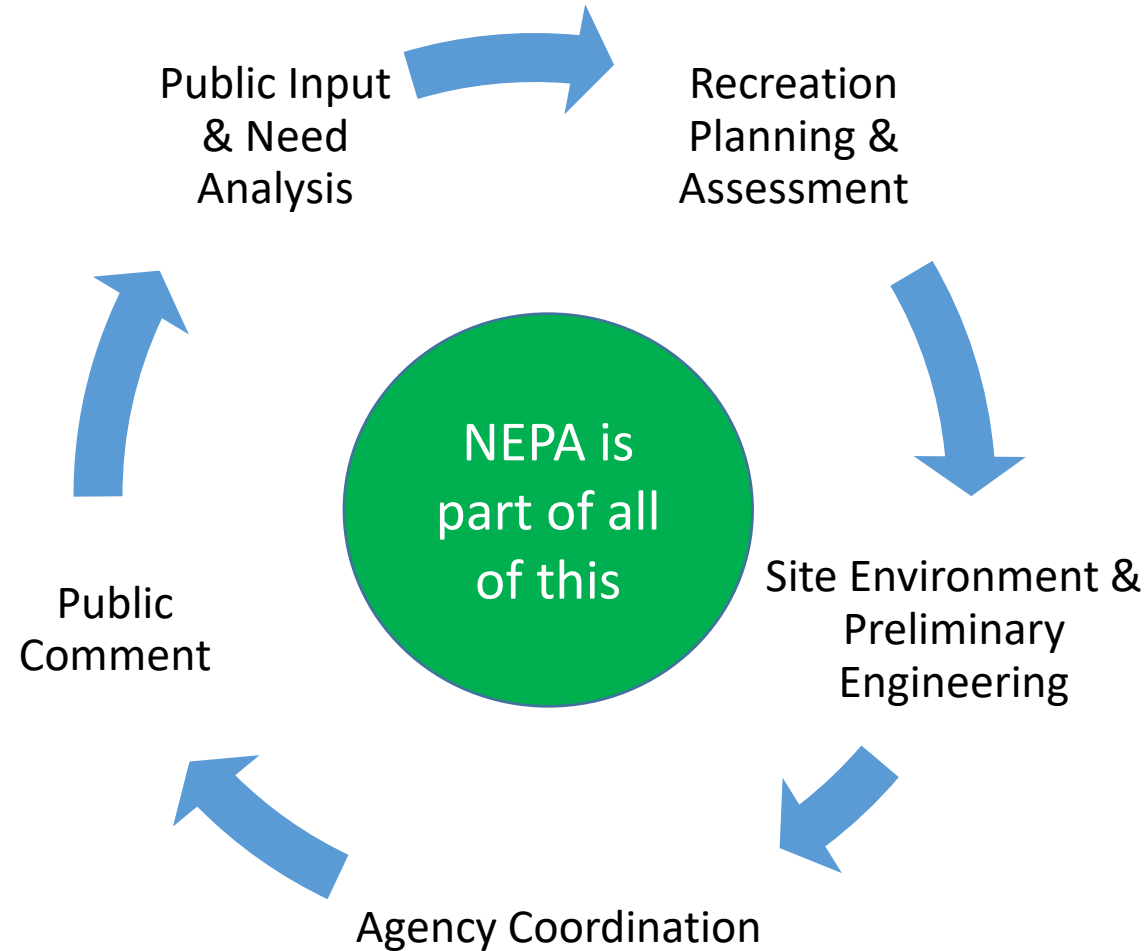
LWCF Stateside & Local Formula – Grant Process



- DCR also holds the responsibility of ensuring all LWCF funded parks are **protected in perpetuity** for the sole purpose of **public outdoor recreation**

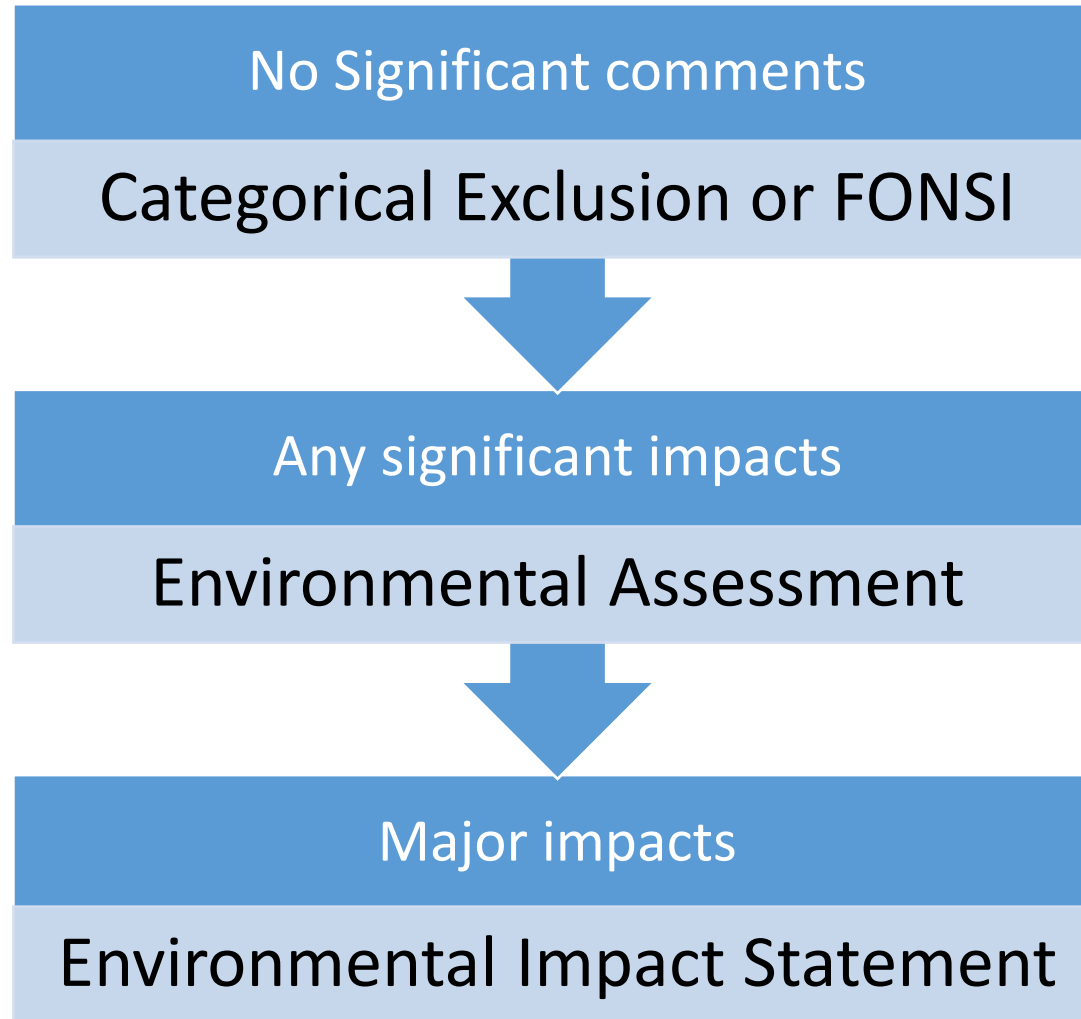
We don't know how to get past concept phase for our park idea...

We want to know the possible impacts



NEPA Terminology

What does all that work look like?
What is the final Federal review result?



- **Categorical Exclusion** forms and guidance
- Projects with **any significant impacts** to the natural and/or human environment need an **Environmental Assessment** document.
- Projects with **major impacts** may need an **Environmental Impact Statement**.

National Environmental Protection Act

Proper planning and design implementation takes coordination.

Environmental Analysis

- Coordinating Agencies
- Permitting procedures
- Federal Consistency
- Wetland Delineation
- Possible Alternatives

Human Environment

- Environmental Justice
- Meets the needs of all
- Economic Impacts
- Appraisal and Deed Research (easements)

Cultural & Historical Review

- Historic Resources – National Historic Registry
- Tribal Consultation
- May need to do surveys

State Environmental Impact Review

- Department of Environmental Quality
- Department of Conservation & Recreation
 - Floodplains and Public Waterways
- Wetlands and ecologically sensitive areas
- Erosion & Sediment control

Coordinating Agencies & Entities

- Department of Historic Resources
- US Fish Service
- Department of Wildlife Resources
- US Army Corps of Engineers

Local Boards/Councils & Public Comment

- Public Input and planning for all the community
- Alignment with local comprehensive plans
- Board of Supervisors or Town/City Council
- Public Comment period

Grant Timelines

April - May:
Apportionment
Letter (3 years to
obligate funds)

Grant Round:
planning,
materials,
committees

**NPS Pre-App
Review** and
coordination

**Grants.gov
Windows**
(2-4 a year; DCR
access only)

**Authorization &
Implementation**
(3 year project
period)

Federal Fiscal Year = October 1 – September 30
State Fiscal Year = July 1 – June 30

Grant Application Workflow



LWCF Partner Hub

- Submit pre-application Materials
- File sharing between POs and state officers
- Allows for quick updates of documents before official application is submitted
- Eliminates need to email various files



Grants.gov

- Submit final application materials
- Federal grants are required to submit in grants.gov
- Use only after PO has approved pre-application and all required files are in partner hub



Grant Solutions

- Pulls files from Grants.gov to process them
- Post-award compliance



Thank you!

For further information please contact:
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