

## The Conservation Trust Fund (CTF)

### Congress' Promise to Fund Historic, Wildlife and Natural Resources

#### Status:

In one of its greatest bipartisan achievements, Congress established the Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) or "CARA compromise" in 2000 to address chronic and severe under funding of our nation's resource protection programs including the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery and the Historic Preservation Fund. CTF established a six year funding mechanism designed to significantly increase funding to these programs. Last year, the mechanism governing the CTF expired, and it, along with numerous other budgetary provisions, was not renewed. Unfortunately, this allowed House and Senate appropriators to walk away from the promise embodied in the CTF, thereby under funding the account by more than \$500 million. In FY 2005, the CTF is intended to receive \$1.68 billion from the Interior Appropriations bill. The President's budget provides just \$1.165 billion, some \$515 million below the authorized amount. As a consequence, historic preservation programs will be undermined by a third year of level funding.

#### Support a Recommitment to the Conservation Trust Fund:

Congress can reestablish its commitment to historic, wildlife and natural resources by fully funding the CTF. Full funding would allow substantial increases to a tool kit of proven resource protection activities including historic preservation. The CTF can bring millions of dollars to State Historic Preservation Offices, State Wildlife Agencies, and local officials who put that money to work to create healthy, attractive and safe places for all. Most importantly, the CTF ensures an adequate and predictable federal investment in the very places that give context and meaning to the American experience.

#### Programs Supported by the Conservation Trust Fund

- ~ The Historic Preservation Fund
- ~ Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund
- ~ Stateside Land and Water Conservation Fund
- ~ State Wildlife Grants
- ~ The Cooperative Endangered Species Fund
- ~ The North American Wetlands Conservation Fund
- ~ US Geological Survey State Planning Partnerships
- ~ Forest Legacy
- ~ Landowner Incentive and Stewardship
- ~ The Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program
- ~ Urban and Community Forestry
- ~ Youth Conservation Corps