



BUDGET The United States Department of the Interior **JUSTIFICATIONS**

and Performance Information
Fiscal Year 2022

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

Fiscal Year 2022 President's Budget

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Conserving the Nature of America

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is the oldest Federal conservation agency, tracing its lineage back to 1871, and the only agency in the Federal government whose primary responsibility is management of biological resources for the American public. The Service helps ensure a healthy environment for people by providing opportunities for Americans to enjoy the outdoors and our shared natural heritage.



Festival of the Cranes

Photo by Refuge volunteer John Olson

The Service is responsible for implementing some of our Nation's most important and foundational environmental laws, such as the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), Marine Mammal Protection Act, Lacey Act, and international agreements like the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

The Service is a key player in the Administration's goals for climate change, environmental justice, and species and habitat conservation. The Administration has set ambitious goals that will ensure America and the world can meet the urgent demands of the climate crisis, while empowering American workers and businesses to lead a clean energy revolution that achieves carbon pollution-free electricity by 2035 and puts the United States on a path to a net-zero emission economy by 2050. The Administration and this budget is focused on actions we can take to advance those goals and ensure that we conserve our natural resources and drive our Nation toward a clean energy future, create well-paying jobs, and deliver justice for communities who have been subjected to environmental harm.

The Service's Organization

The Service has headquarters in Washington, D.C. and Falls Church, Virginia, with eight regional offices and over 700 field stations. These stations include 568 National Wildlife Refuges, 70 National Fish Hatcheries and one historic fish hatchery, 51 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices, 80 Ecological Services Field Stations, nine Fish Health Centers, and seven Fish Technology Centers. The Service manages more than 850 million acres of lands and waters, including 568 national wildlife refuges, 38 wetland management districts, 49 coordination areas, seven National Monuments, and 760 million acres in Marine National Monuments.

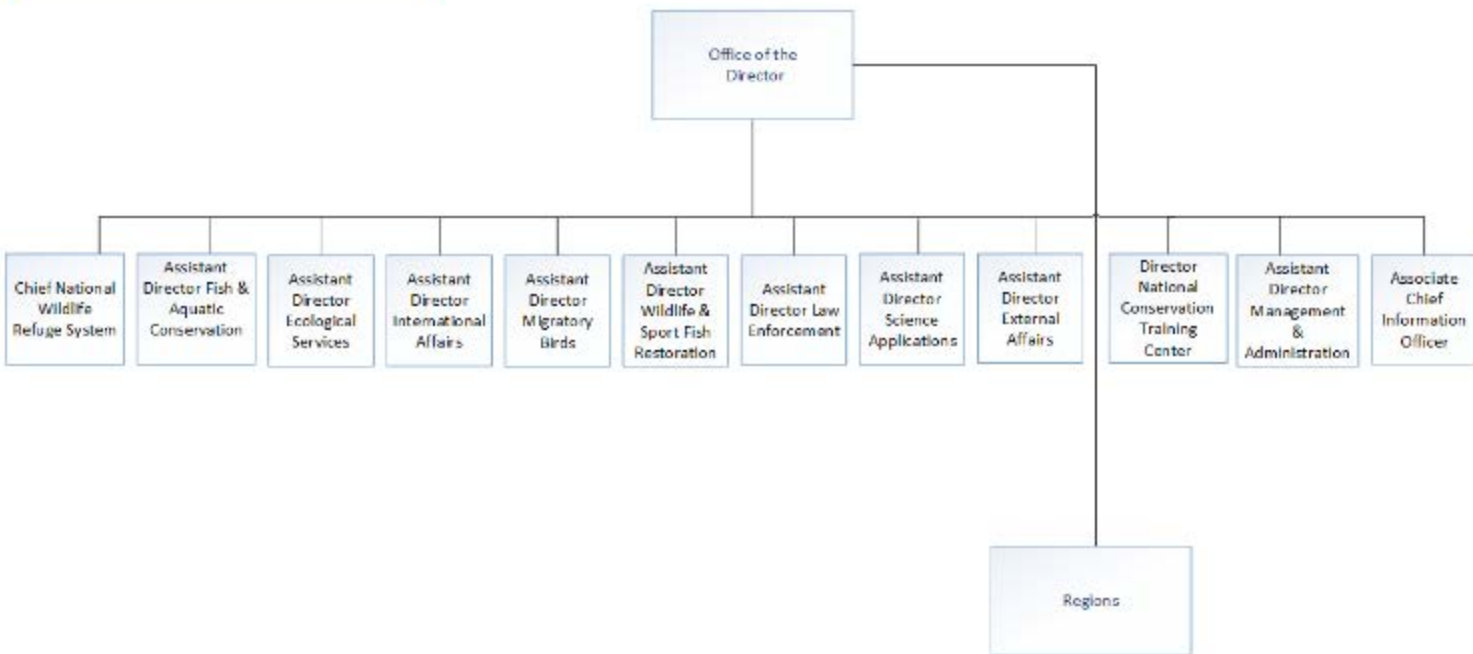
The Service works with diverse partners to accomplish its conservation mission, including other Federal agencies, State and local governments, Tribes, international organizations, and private organizations and individuals.

The Director reports to the Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and has direct line authority over headquarters and eight Regional Directors. Headquarters-based Assistant Directors provide policy, program management, and administrative support to the Director. The Regional Directors guide policy and program implementation, supervising the field structures, and coordinating activities with partners.

(See organizational chart, next page)



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



Jun 2021

Overview of FY 2022 Budget Request

Budget Authority	2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022 Request	Change from 2021 (+/-)
Discretionary Current Authority	1,665,919	1,596,361	1,915,207	+318,846
Rescission/Cancellation of Direct Appropriation Balances	-22,399	-12,500	0	+12,500
Supplemental Appropriation	4,000			
Sub-total:	1,647,520	1,583,861	1,915,207	+331,346
Mandatory	1,304,057	1,642,653	1,638,836	-3,817
Total \$\$\$	2,951,577	3,226,514	3,554,043	327,529
Discretionary	6,490	6,429	7,177	+748
Mandatory	223	335	374	+39
Transfers/Alloc.	1,257	1,396	1,526	+130
TOTAL FTEs	7,970	8,160	9,077	+917

Overview

The 2022 President's Budget request for the Service totals \$3.6 billion, including current appropriations of \$1.9 billion. The discretionary request is an increase of \$331 million compared to the 2021 enacted level. The request also includes \$1.6 billion available under permanent appropriations, most of which will be provided directly to States for fish and wildlife restoration and conservation. The Service estimates staffing will equal 9,077 full time equivalents in 2022, an increase of 917 FTE from the 2021 enacted level. The 2022 Budget promotes strategic investments that begin to address the impacts of climate change, provide all Americans with the opportunity to connect with the outdoors, enable economic development, and create well-paying job opportunities.

The America the Beautiful Initiative – A key component of the Administration's strategy to address climate impacts on-the-ground through land stewardship and conservation is to leverage the power of Americans across the country. The Administration recently released a preliminary report to the National Climate Task Force: Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful¹, which recommending a ten-year, locally led campaign to conserve and restore America's lands and waters. The report provides an overarching framework to implement the President's goal to conserve 30 percent of U.S. land and waters by 2030, which will help address the climate crisis and its impacts on nature, improve equitable access to the outdoors, and strengthen the economy. The report recognizes and celebrates the voluntary conservation efforts of farmers, ranchers, and forest owners; the leadership of sovereign Tribal Nations in caring for lands, waters, and wildlife; the contributions and stewardship traditions of America's hunters, anglers, and

¹ <https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/report-conserving-and-restoring-america-the-beautiful-2021.pdf>

fishing communities; and the vital importance of investing in playgrounds, trails, and open space in park-deprived communities.

The America the Beautiful initiative is intended to serve as a call to action to support locally led conservation and restoration efforts across public, private, State, and Tribal lands and waters. The initiative welcomes all communities wishing to steward their lands and waters and boost the economy and support jobs. The guiding principles—which include a commitment to collaboration, support for voluntary and locally led conservation, and honoring of Tribal sovereignty and private property rights—are essential to building and maintaining broad support, enthusiasm, and trust for this effort. Supporting these principles, the 2022 Budget includes increases across Interior to support local partnership programs, improve targeted conservation efforts, restore damaged lands, and promote locally led efforts of all kinds where communities wish to safeguard the lands and waters they know and love.

Conservation – In 2022, a total of \$1.2 billion in current funding is proposed for the Service to support President Biden’s Executive Orders: Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle Climate Change; and Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad. This Budget includes an increase of \$240.0 million above the 2021 enacted level for programs and projects that will contribute to minimizing the negative effects of climate change, bolster community resilience, and increase carbon sequestration. The Budget accelerates conservation efforts by supporting the America the Beautiful Initiative through investments in partner programs, climate science, and habitat adaptation and resilience. Additional funding will be used to support land management and restoration, collaborating with States, Tribes and private landowners to conserve habitat while supporting working lands, and engaging urban communities in conservation. These investments will create job opportunities for Americans in the outdoors and through increased project consultation capacity to simultaneously support conservation and economic development.

The Budget proposes enhancements to a broad suite of Service conservation programs aimed at stemming the effects of climate change while creating new industries and jobs to transition to a clean energy economy. Within the Service’s Ecological Services Program, the Budget focuses resources on species conservation and recovery while improving the tools and data systems the Service relies on to develop and implement conservation plans effectively and efficiently. Species conservation involves creation of conservation plans and strategies; development of collaborative conservation vehicles like candidate conservation agreements and safe harbor agreements; and collaborative implementation of conservation actions. The Budget proposes \$55.4 million for Conservation and Restoration, a program increase of \$20.8 million above the 2021 enacted level. These funds will contribute to conservation of marine mammals and at-risk species conservation, often involving private partners, and support systems such as the National Wetlands Inventory to inform adaptation and resilience projects. The Budget provides \$19.1 million for collaborative conservation of at-risk species, a program increase of \$5.0 million above the 2021 level. A requested increase of \$6.0 million will support enhanced planning and response to hazardous spills and the restoration of resources in collaboration with the Department’s Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program.

Recognizing that conservation, adaptation, and resiliency actions are most effective when they involve partners, the Budget directs resources to the Service programs that engage State, local, and Tribal governments along with private organizations. With most of the land in the United States under private ownership, it’s critical for the Service to collaborate to achieve landscape level conservation goals that improve habitat, provide clean water, and limit the effects of climate change. The Budget enables the Service to work alongside private landowners by investing \$80.8 million, a program increase of \$9.5 million, in the Partners for Fish and Wildlife and Coastal programs. The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program provides technical and financial assistance to landowners interested in restoring and enhancing wildlife habitat on their land. Since the program’s start in 1987, some 50,000 landowners have worked

with the Service to complete 60,000 habitat restoration projects on 6 million acres. In 24 priority coastal areas along every shore, the Coastal Program collaborates with partners and private landowners to provide technical assistance for habitat conservation design and planning, and financial assistance for habitat restoration and protection projects. The Budget also includes \$82.4 million for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants, an increase of \$10.0 million above the 2021 level, to support the protection of wildlife habitat benefitting non-game species.

A critical component of the Administration's climate adaptation, conservation, and job creation objectives is the National Wildlife Refuge System. The Refuge System's 850 million acres of lands and waters, includes 568 national wildlife refuges, waterfowl production areas in 209 counties managed within 38 Wetland Management Districts and 49 Coordination Areas, seven National Monuments, and 760 million acres in Marine National Monuments. The Refuge System delivers conservation on a landscape level, providing important ecosystem services such as improved water quality, flood mitigation, and habitat for the survival and protection of hundreds of threatened and endangered species. Wildlife Refuges also offer recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing, and watching wildlife. Through the Urban Wildlife Conservation Program initiative, the Service is welcoming city dwellers to enjoy the outdoors by creating steppingstones of engagement for new audiences to connect them with outdoor experiences that build on one another, both on wildlife refuges and partner lands. The Budget includes \$12.5 million, an increase of \$7.0 million to expand opportunities for Americans, 80 percent of whom reside in urban communities, to connect with the outdoors and contribute to conservation. At least one wildlife refuge is within an hour's drive of most major cities and more than 260 wildlife refuges are near smaller cities. More than a dozen Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnerships are within 25 miles of cities like Baltimore, Maryland and Seattle, Washington, and offer access to outdoor experiences ranging from bird watching to fishing. The Refuge System and other Service programs will also play a strong role in the Administration's Civilian Climate Corps (CCC) by providing opportunities to put young people to work improving America's lands, waters, and infrastructure. The 2022 budget includes \$14.0 million to put the CCC to work to advance habitat restoration and adaptation while creating good-paying conservation jobs.

The Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Program carries out aquatic resources conservation work through a nationwide network of more than 150 facilities that includes national fish hatcheries, fish and wildlife conservation offices, fish health centers, and fish technology centers. These facilities are neighbors to communities across the Nation, providing the American public a variety of long-standing outdoor opportunities to see and learn about fish and aquatic resources and enjoy nature. Through biological inventories, assessments, resource modeling, and conservation strategies, the Fisheries Program and its partners strive to understand and alleviate threats to aquatic resources by propagating fish, mussels, and other aquatic species to enhance wild populations, strategically improving habitat, restoring the connectivity of the Nation's waterways, and preventing new infestations of aquatic invasive species. The Budget includes \$254.9 million for the Fisheries Program, \$48.3 million above the 2021 enacted level.

Implementing an aggressive agenda to tackle climate change requires investments in support facilities and real property. The Service is responsible for more than \$50 billion in constructed real property assets that include over 25,000 structures (e.g., buildings and water management structures) as well as nearly 14,000 roads, bridges, and dams. These facilities allow manipulation of water levels in wetlands to support migrating wildlife, research to propagate at-risk species, and maintenance of land management equipment and vehicles – all which support conservation and counter the effects of climate change. The Great American Outdoors Act of 2021 (GAOA) provides up to \$95 million annually for five years for deferred maintenance projects within the Refuge System and the Service is utilizing these funds for projects that will improve land management capabilities. The Budget includes \$273.2 million for asset maintenance and construction, an increase of \$77.0 million above the 2021 level. The Service will utilize these funds to address high-priority health and safety needs for Service-owned assets to begin a transition to a life-cycle

maintenance strategy that will increase utilization rates while reducing long-term maintenance costs. Maintenance funding will support major energy and efficiency upgrades at fish hatcheries, coordination offices, and other facilities that are ineligible for deferred maintenance funding provided by GAOA.

Electric Vehicles and Charging Infrastructure:

In support of the President's goal of transitioning to a fully Zero Emission Vehicle Federal fleet, the Service's request includes \$20.2 million for zero emission vehicle (ZEV - battery electric, plug-in electric hybrid, and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles) acquisitions and deploying necessary vehicle charging and refueling infrastructure. These acquisitions are a significant step towards eliminating tailpipe emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) from the Service fleet and aligning the Service's fleet operations with the goal of achieving a fully ZEV Federal fleet. This action is important because tailpipe emissions are currently the leading source of GHG emissions that threaten the planet and harm U.S. communities.

The Service ZEV acquisitions may include vehicles for both its agency-owned and GSA-leased segments of its vehicle fleet, including incremental costs of leased vehicles and lease payments to GSA for conversion of agency-owned vehicles to GSA's leased fleet where appropriate. To ensure effective and efficient deployment of ZEVs, the Service will undertake preparation and planning for arriving ZEVs at its facilities, properly prioritizing transition to ZEVs where it is simplest and allow time for additional planning where mission demands pose a challenge to transitioning based on current technologies. Integral to this preparation is growth in the number of agency-accessible re-fueling points (vehicle charging stations). In installing this infrastructure on-site to support acquired ZEVs, the Service will take the long-term view to ensure efficiencies and thereby ensure wise infrastructure decisions that limit total expenditures. Using its experienced personnel and lessons learned in the fleet arena, the Service will undertake a process that relies on a cross-functional team of staff from fleets, operations, facilities, finance, and acquisition departments with executive leadership support. The collaboration will not stop with initial deployment, as the Service fleet and facility managers will work closely and employ existing training and tools to control utility costs by managing the overall charging load and thereby ensuring a seamless operation that now will involve building systems and vehicles together. Further, the Service will ensure proper training of personnel to address any initial shortcomings in terms of any necessary ZEV knowledge and operations as the advanced vehicle technologies roll into the Service's fleet.

The Agency is coordinating all of these efforts to meet or exceed the ZEV-related goals set forth in the comprehensive plan developed pursuant to E.O. 14008, Section 205(a). Funds for these Service ZEV activities are part of a \$600 million request in the President's Budget for ZEVs and charging infrastructure that is contained within the individual budgets of 18 Federal agencies, including ZEV Federal fleet dedicated funds at the General Services Administration. This investment will be complemented by Department of Energy funding to provide technical assistance to agencies through the Federal Energy Management Program as the Service builds and grows its ZEV infrastructure. This investment serves as a down payment to support a multiyear, whole-of-government transformation to convert the Federal motor vehicle fleet to ZEVs and thereby reduce carbon emissions.

Deploying Clean Energy – The Service recognizes the need to support the development of clean energy sources in order to create new industries to support American workers while reducing emissions that contribute to climate change. The budget proposes \$27.6 million, a program increase of \$13.0 million, for activities associated with energy development, including a program increase of \$8.0 million for the Ecological Services Planning and Consultation program to support reviews and permitting of clean energy projects. Within the Migratory Bird Management program, the Budget includes a program increase of \$5.1 million for clean energy project permitting to ensure we can utilize renewable resources while protecting migratory birds, notably iconic Bald and Golden eagles.

Advancing Science – The request includes \$35.5 million, a program increase of \$15.0 million above 2021, for landscape level science that is necessary to guide expanded use of clean energy sources and improve resilience to changing temperatures, water levels, and weather patterns resulting from a changing climate. Fish, wildlife, and plant resources are integral to the Nation’s natural landscapes and have played a major role in shaping America’s history, identity, and character. Jobs, income, food, clean water and air, building materials, storm protection, tourism, and recreation are important benefits of America’s landscapes. Global and national conservation challenges like development pressure, resource extraction, wildfire, drought, invasive species, changing ocean conditions, and other impacts to the land, water, and wildlife are magnified by a rapidly changing climate. The Budget will support expanded scientific research into the habitat requirements to enable economic develop and inform conservation decisions in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey and other Federal agencies, State and local government partners, and non-government organizations.

Promoting Equity and Diversity – The Service’s request includes \$1.4 million as part of a Departmentwide Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility budget initiative to address identified high-priority needs in support of Executive Order 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government, and Executive Order 13988, Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation. As part of this initiative, the Department, bureaus, and offices will jointly conduct a review of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility program across Interior to identify gaps, challenges, and best practices and to examine Department and bureau roles, responsibilities, and governance.

Good Accounting Obligation in Government Act Report – The Good Accounting Obligation in Government Act (GAO-IG Act, P.L. 115-414) enacted January 3, 2019, requires that Agencies report the status of each open audit recommendation issued more than one year prior to the submission of the Agency’s annual budget justification to Congress. The Act requires Agencies to include the current target completion date, implementation status, and any discrepancies on closure determinations.

The Department of the Interior leadership takes audit follow-up very seriously and considers our external auditors, to include the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and Office of the Inspector General, valued partners in not only improving the Department’s management and compliance obligations but also enhancing its programmatic and administrative operations. As stewards of taxpayer resources, the Department applies cost-benefit analysis and enterprise risk management principles in recommendation implementation decisions. The Department’s GAO-IG Act Report is available at the following link: <https://www.doi.gov/cj>.

Resource Management – The 2022 President's budget for the principal Service operating account, Resource Management, is \$1.7 billion, an increase of \$298.3 million above the 2021 level. The increase includes \$27.7 million for fixed costs and \$270.6 million in program increases to address climate change, improve habitat and recover species while supporting the American workforce.

Ecological Services – The request includes \$332.1 million to conserve, protect, and enhance listed and at-risk fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats, an increase of \$62.4 million compared with the 2021 level. The request enables economic progress with increases that will support conservation and development including program changes totaling \$19.2 million for planning and consultation services. Within this amount is \$8.0 million to foster clean energy development, \$500,000 for pesticide consultations, and \$10.7 million for data management system improvements and expanded capabilities to cooperate with developers to minimize natural resource impacts. The request for Conservation and Restoration advances proactive, cooperative conservation with investments in programs aimed at preventing the listing of species under the Endangered Species Act. The request provides \$55.4 million with \$20.0 million in program increases of which \$7.0

million will support conservation of at-risk species and their habitats, including the sage-steppe ecosystem in the American West. The request provides increases of \$4.0 million and \$2.0 million respectively for the National Wetlands Inventory and the Coastal Barrier Resources Act programs that provide habitat data to inform reviews of proposed development and identify areas well-suited for restoration and conservation to contribute to the Administration's 30 by 30 Initiative.

The request for species recovery activities includes \$123.1 million, a program increase of \$16.1 million above the 2021 level. The request restores capability to increase the pace of species recovery with a program increase of \$15.7 million that will increase completion of 5-year species status reviews and implementation of recovery actions. The Service will use this funding to help Federal, State, and private parties design, implement, and align conservation efforts to ensure they collectively advance the recovery of listed species. In 2022, the Service will capitalize on the knowledge and innovation of its employees to catalyze the recovery of endangered species by making funds available to implement final recovery plan actions that could lead to species delisting. The Service piloted similar efforts during the past two decades that led to the delisting or downlisting of more than 34 species including the least tern delisted in February. The Service will challenge employees to take on-the-ground actions where meaningful progress can be achieved that will significantly improve the status of listed species.

Habitat Conservation The Partners for Wildlife and Coastal programs deliver on-the-ground conservation by working collaboratively with partners to restore, enhance and protect habitat for priority Federal trust species. Through voluntary partnerships with private landowners, Tribes, other government agencies, non-government organizations and other stakeholders, the Service provides technical and financial assistance and leverages partner resources in support of Federal and local conservation strategies on public and private lands to conserve habitat in support of the 30 by 30 Initiative and address conservation challenges like climate adaptation and habitat fragmentation. The request for the Partners for Wildlife Program is \$65.2 million, an increase of \$8.4 million above the 2021 level and the Coastal Program request is \$15.6 million, a program increase of \$2.0 million above the 2021 level, in recognition of the importance of voluntary conservation on private lands to habitat adaptation and resilience as well as a healthy economy.

National Wildlife Refuge System – With 568 units, the National Wildlife Refuge System is a model for conservation around the world. More than 160 coastal refuges buffer communities from the increasing frequency and intensity of storms and even more provide habitat for millions of migrating birds each year. The Budget for the Refuge System is \$584.4 million, an increase of \$80.5 million above the 2021 level. Funding for operations including wildlife and habitat management, visitor services, Refuge law enforcement, and planning is \$409.8 million, an increase of \$51.7 million to advance climate adaptation and resilience and improve climate science. The request includes an increase of \$5.0 million for the Refuge System's Inventory and Monitoring program to identify the prevalence among ungulates of Chronic Wasting Disease in and around wildlife refuges to support State disease control efforts and to support scientific studies of successful pollinator conservation strategies.

Program changes totaling \$39.0 million will begin to restore conservation and management capacity and create American jobs. The Budget will allow the Service to attract biologists and land managers, visitor services professionals, conservation planners, and Refuge wildlife officers to ensure the safety of visitors and protection of Federal property. The Refuge System will regain the capability to restore and manage habitat, including pollinator habitat restoration and implementing strategies to identify and monitor potential disease threats to wildlife. In addition, more than 53 million people that visit wildlife refuges each year will be welcomed to enjoy the outdoors through expanded recreational and educational opportunities including hunting and fishing, birding events, and wildlife festivals. The request includes an increase of \$10.0 million for the Civilian Climate Corps to create jobs through the restoration and management of habitat in order to improve resiliency and reengage Americans with the outdoors.

A program increase of \$7.0 million for Urban Wildlife Conservation Partnerships will expand partnerships that leverage community resources to create opportunities for an increasingly urban population to connect and interact with the outdoors. The program creates community partnerships to invite city dwellers to enjoy the outdoors by creating opportunities to connect nature through the Refuge System. More than a dozen Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnerships are within 25 miles of cities of major cities and this request will support designating six additional Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnerships.

The GAOA provides up to \$95 million annually for five years for deferred maintenance across the Refuge System, a much-needed boost to address the \$1.5 billion maintenance backlog. With nearly \$50 billion in constructed real property assets, including hundreds of miles of levees and dikes that support habitat management, trails and wildlife drives for visitors, administrative offices, and maintenance facilities, additional investments are required to transition to a more cost effective life-cycle maintenance strategy. The request for Refuge Maintenance is \$174.6 million, a program increase of \$27.1 million above the 2021 level. The request provides the personnel and project funding to begin addressing maintenance requirements on a timely basis in order to avoid adding projects to the maintenance backlog. An increase of \$2.0 million is also included to provide well-paying maintenance jobs while reconnecting people to the outdoors in support of the Administration's Civilian Climate Corps.

Migratory Bird Management – The request includes \$66.1 million for the Migratory Bird Management Program, a \$18.2 million increase over the 2021 level. Conserving migratory bird populations through management, restoration, and protection, the Program will focus on working with partners to support the development of renewable clean energy projects while conserving migratory birds. The Budget includes a program increase of \$5.0 million to modernize the permitting process and supporting systems to enable the use of the latest scientific information and energy production technologies when evaluating development proposals. This emerging industry will foster economic growth and generate new jobs. The Program will also use a \$250,000 increase to replace aging fossil fuel vehicles with electric vehicles.

The Budget includes an increase of \$7.5 million to advance migratory bird management in an era of a changing climate and to support the bold actions the Administration is taking to begin a transition to clean energy sources. The request will enable new habitat and species analyses, and develop management techniques, and work toward promulgating new regulations that will protect birds and provide greater certainty to regulated parties. A program increase of \$2.5 million in the Joint Venture program will support grants to improve the resilience of important habitats—and nearby communities—across the Nation's four migratory bird flyways. Joint Venture projects are generally designed to address local, regional, and continental goals for sustaining migratory bird populations by building landscape level conservation plans and developing targeted habitat projects.

The Budget includes an increase of \$1.0 million for Urban Bird Treaties grants that support partnerships to conserve birds in urban environments by creating parks and restoring nearby wetlands, all while engaging local communities. Employing the arts to engage new audiences in conservation, the request also features a \$1.0 million increase to expand participation in the Duck Stamp and Junior Duck Stamp programs. Since 1934, the Federal Duck Stamp Program has provided more than \$1.1 billion for migratory bird habitat conservation.

Law Enforcement – The request provides \$95.0 million for the law enforcement program to investigate wildlife crimes and enforce the laws that govern the Nation's wildlife trade, an increase of \$8.1 million over the 2021 level. The Service continues to work with the State Department, other Federal agencies, and foreign governments to address the serious and urgent conservation and global security threat posed by illegal wildlife trade and trafficking. A program increase of \$7.7 million will provide for proactive law enforcement efforts to target and stop illegal trade; ensure sustainable legal trade through the Convention

on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; reduce demand for illegal wildlife products in consumer countries; and provide technical assistance and grants to other Nations to build local enforcement capabilities. The Service will also continue to strengthen its smuggling interdiction efforts at the Nation's ports of entry by using trained wildlife detector dogs in its frontline force and working with the Department of State to support attachés key wildlife trafficking countries in Asia, Africa, and South America.

International Affairs – The Budget includes \$29.3 million, an increase of \$6.2 million over the 2021 level. The Service provides international conservation grants and technical support to assist conservation efforts of other countries and will target assistance to climate change adaptation and resilience. A net program increase of \$5.9 million will expand conservation capacity in range countries for iconic species such as elephants and rhinos. The request will complement Service Law Enforcement efforts to reduce illegal wildlife trafficking and develop innovative conservation activities that target market and consumer demand for illegal products, with the goal of changing attitudes and consumption patterns. These attitudes and patterns are driving a rapid increase in the poaching of species such as tigers and pangolins. The Program will also investigate the human drivers of wildlife disease transmission including risk tolerance, motivations of behaviors, and economic impacts. Understanding wildlife disease transmission will allow FWS to cooperate internationally to implement best practices to protect disease transmission through the wildlife trade.

Fish and Aquatic Resource Conservation – This budget activity supports 70 National Fish Hatcheries, aquatic habitat conservation and restoration, and the prevention and management of aquatic invasive species, such as invasive carp in the Mississippi River watershed. The Budget requests \$254.9 million for Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation, an increase of \$48.3 million above the 2021 level. The request includes \$81.8 million for operation of the National Fish Hatchery System, an increase of \$16.2 million above the 2021 level. The request will support recovery of federally-listed threatened or endangered aquatic species, restoration of at-risk species, and fulfillment of Tribal partnerships and trust responsibilities. The Hatchery System is an international leader in the propagation of imperiled aquatic species propagation and developing best practices for climate adaptation strategies and the request will expand capabilities to ensure the health of aquatic species. Advancing aquatic conservation requires modernizing and maintaining hatchery pumps, raceways, and effluent control systems, among other infrastructure. The request for National Fish Hatchery Maintenance is \$50.0 million, an increase of \$24.7 million above the 2021 level. Hatchery maintenance projects are not eligible for funding under the Great American Outdoors Act and the proposed increase will support critical maintenance projects necessary to propagate endangered aquatic and sportfish species.

The Budget includes \$122.6 million for Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation, an increase of \$7.4 million above the 2021 level. The request includes program increases of \$4.0 million to expand aquatic invasive species prevention efforts, \$1.0 million for the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, and \$2.9 million for aquatic species assessments and cooperative management to enhance habitat adaptation and resilience.

Cooperative Landscape Conservation – The Cooperative Landscape Conservation Program will support development of landscape conservation objectives to promote biodiversity, climate adaptation and resiliency, and habitat conservation to advance the Administration's conservation objectives, including the 30 by 30 Initiative. The request for the Program is \$18.8 million, an increase of \$6.3 million above the 2021 level. Weaving together proven landscape conservation designs and leveraging locally based conservation blueprints, the Program will invest in technical capacity, such as geospatial mapping and social science expertise, to proactively engage with States, Tribes, industry, conservation groups, and other stakeholders to identify and pursue high priority conservation opportunities.

Science Support – The 2022 request for Science Support is \$36.4 million, an increase of \$19.2 million above the 2021 level. Collaborative groups, including landowners, industry, conservation experts, Tribes, and State and local governments in various parts of the United States have achieved substantial conservation objectives using modern data tools to identify areas ideal for conservation and development. A program increase of \$12.3 million for adaptive science activities will build on this success as the Service will create opportunities to work with collaborative groups to design and implement conservation and habitat management strategies that promote climate adaptation and resilience. Collaboration will focus on addressing climate stressors with goals that include increasing coastal resilience, mitigating desertification, controlling invasive species, and reducing the prevalence and magnitude of wildfires. Landscape conservation designs will also identify ideal habitat for conservation in the face of a changing climate under the Administration’s 30 by 30 Initiative.

General Operations – The General Operations request totals \$180.3 million, a program increase of \$38.4 million above the 2021 level. The request includes a program increase necessary to provide administrative support for Service personnel as they tackle the climate crisis and support economic development and job creation. The request provides an increase of \$23.0 million for Central Office Operations and Management and Administration to provide leadership and policy guidance, human resource, acquisition management, and information technology. This request includes \$2.0 million to expand Tribal consultations, \$1.4 million to improve workforce diversity, and \$150,000 to manage the transition to a zero emission vehicle fleet. An increase of \$2.0 million is provided for the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) to lead Service efforts to create a Civilian Climate Corps to support conservation and habitat restoration. The request also contains program increases of \$2.0 million to expand conservation programs managed in cooperation with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, \$2.0 million for NCTC maintenance and \$2.3 million for the 2022 Working Capital Fund requirements. The Service request also includes \$5.6 million in program increases for the Working Capital Fund.

The request includes appropriations language that will provide the Service with the authority, like that of the National Park Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to seek and retain compensation from responsible parties who injure or destroy refuge system resources. Under this authority, damages recovered will be used to reimburse assessment costs; prevent or minimize the risk of loss; monitor ongoing effects; and restore, replace, or acquire resources equivalent to those injured or destroyed. The Service proposal ensures that natural resources will be available for future generations and requires that persons responsible for harm, not taxpayers, pay for any injury caused.

Construction – The 2022 Construction request totals \$39.6 million. The request includes \$21.7 million for line-item construction projects, an \$11.3 million program increase over the 2021 level. The specific refuge and fish hatchery projects funded within the request are ranked as the top priorities by the Service using a merit-based process.

Land Acquisition – Directly supporting the Administration’s conservation objective is funding from the mandatory LWCF, which was permanently and fully funded starting in 2021 in GAOA. The 2022 FWS portion of the LWCF permanent funding totals \$120.9 million, without sequestration applied. With a 5.7 percent sequestration reduction, LWCF permanent funding will total \$114.0 million, including \$103.5 million for Federal land acquisition and \$10.5 million for specific recovery land acquisition.

Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund – The budget requests \$42.7 million for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund to support State and local efforts to recovery listed species and contribute to the 30 by 30 Initiative. The budget requests \$13.0 million for conservation grants

to States, \$8.0 million for Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance grants, \$19.0 million for Habitat Conservation Plans Land Acquisition Grants to States, and \$2.7 million for administrative costs.

National Wildlife Refuge Fund – The request eliminates the current funding contribution to the National Wildlife Refuge Fund, a reduction of \$13.2 million below 2021. The permanent receipts under the program will remain a source of revenue for counties. In addition to payments to counties, wildlife refuges provide tangible and intangible benefits to communities such as increased property values, and opportunities for the American public to connect with nature and engage in recreational activities on refuges that generate revenue for local communities.

North American Wetlands Conservation Fund – The 2022 budget is \$46.5 million for the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund, equal to the 2021 level. Conservation grants from the Fund are leveraged more than one-to-one with partners for wetlands and waterfowl conservation to support the Administration’s 30 by 30 Initiative, climate adaptation and resiliency, and important sportsperson activities.

Multinational Species Conservation Fund – The 2022 budget includes \$18.0 million for the Multinational Species Conservation Fund, equal to the 2021 level. These grants support the conservation and protection of African and Asian elephants, rhinos, tigers, great apes, and marine turtles, and leverage funds from partners to nearly triple available funding for these species and foster improved management of elephants, rhinoceros, and tigers, including reducing human-animal conflicts.

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund – The 2022 request includes \$7.9 million for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, an increase of \$3.0 million above the 2021 level. Neotropical birds, such as Goldfinch, have seen populations decline due to climate change and habitat loss. These grants for the conservation of migratory birds are matched at least three-to-one by partners throughout the western hemisphere.

State and Tribal Wildlife Grants – The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants request is \$82.4 million, an increase of \$10.0 million above the 2021 level. These grants support and leverage State management of non-game species and improve the resiliency of State and Tribal natural resources in the face of stressors, such as rising temperatures and changing weather patterns.

Fixed Costs – Fixed costs increases of \$27.9 million are fully funded.

U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE							
MAJOR ACCOUNT SUMMARY OF FISCAL YEAR 2022							
Account	2020 Actual	2021 Enacted *	2022				
			Fixed Costs (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	2022 Request	Change from 2021 (+/-)	
<u>Current Appropriations</u>							
Resource Management							
FTE incl. offsetting coll.FTE) *	\$000	1,368,289	1,379,828	+27,727	+270,558	1,678,113	+298,285
	FTE	6,345	6,345		+747	7,092	+747
Construction	\$000	29,704	18,193	+169	+21,258	39,620	+21,427
	FTE	42	48		0	48	0
Land Acquisition	\$000	70,715	0	0	0	0	0
	FTE	68	0		0	0	0
National Wildlife Refuge Fund	\$000	13,228	13,228	0	-13,228	0	-13,228
	FTE	0	0			0	0
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund	\$000	54,502	43,340	0	-638	42,702	-638
	FTE	9	9		0	9	0
North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	\$000	46,000	46,500	0	0	46,500	0
	FTE	6	5		0	5	0
Multinational Species Conservation Fund	\$000	15,000	18,000	0	0	18,000	0
	FTE	4	4		0	4	0
Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation	\$000	4,910	4,910	0	+3,000	7,910	+3,000
	FTE	1	1		0	1	0
State and Tribal Wildlife Grants	\$000	67,571	72,362	0	+10,000	82,362	+10,000
	FTE	15	17		+1	18	+1
Total, Current Appropriations	\$000	1,669,919	1,596,361	+27,896	+290,950	1,915,207	+318,846
	FTE	6,490	6,429		+748	7,177	+748
Rescissions/Cancellations							
Land Acquisition		-3,628	0	0	0	0	0
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund		-18,771	-12,500	0	+12,500	0	+12,500
Subtotal, Rescissions/Cancellations		-22,399	-12,500	0	+12,500	0	+12,500
TOTAL, Current Appropriations with Supplemental/ Rescissions/ Cancellations.		1,647,520	1,583,861	+27,896	+303,450	1,915,207	+331,346
	FTE	6,490	6,429	0	+748	7,177	+748
*FY 2021 Mandatory appropriation of \$105 Million for American Rescue Plan shown in Permanent Appropriations section.							

U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE							
MAJOR ACCOUNT SUMMARY OF FISCAL YEAR 2022 REQUEST							
Account	2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022				
			Fixed Costs (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	2022 Request	Change from 2021 (+/-)	
Permanent and Trust Accounts							
Resource Management - American Rescue Plan	\$000	0	105,000	0	-105,000	0	-105,000
	FTE	0	30		+37	67	+37
National Wildlife Refuge Fund	\$000	6,915	7,948	0	+52	8,000	+52
	FTE	3	4		+2	6	+2
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund - Payment to Special Fund	\$000	66,170	85,965	0	+4,775	90,740	+4,775
	FTE	0	0			0	0
Land Acquisition	\$000	0	111,840		-8,379	103,461	-8,379
	FTE	0	70		0	70	0
North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	\$000	170	243	0	-149	94	-149
	FTE	1	1			1	0
Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration	\$000	458,332	512,752	0	-14,820	497,932	-14,820
	FTE	50	50		0	50	0
Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration	\$000	671,324	726,089	0	+120,370	846,459	+120,370
	FTE	53	53		0	53	0
Migratory Bird Conservation Account	\$000	85,427	77,664	0	-664	77,000	-664
	FTE	74	74		0	74	0
Federal Lands Recreational Enhancement Act	\$000	5,745	5,802	0	-2	5,800	-2
	FTE	25	30		0	30	0
Contributed Funds	\$000	6,219	5,000	0	0	5,000	0
	FTE	15	18		0	18	0
Miscellaneous Permanent Appropriations	\$000	3,755	4,350	0	0	4,350	0
	FTE	2	4		0	4	0
Coastal Impact/Exotic bird	\$000	0	0	0	0	0	0
	FTE	0	1		0	1	0
Subtotal, Permanent Appropriations	\$000	1,304,057	1,642,653	0	-3,817	1,638,836	-3,817
	FTE	223	335	0	39	374	39
TOTAL, Permanent Appropriations with Rescissions/ Cancellation of balances. \$000		1,304,057	1,642,653	0	-3,817	1,638,836	-3,817
Reimbursements, Offsetting Collections, Allocations From Others							
RM Reimbursable	FTE	790	815		0	815	0
National Parks and Public Lands	FTE	0	39		+61	100	+61
Wildland Fire Management (incl. reimb)	FTE	376	451		+69	520	+69
Southern Nevada Lands	FTE	2	2		0	2	0
Federal Aid - Highway	FTE	15	15		0	15	0
NRDAR	FTE	54	54		0	54	0
Central HAZMAT	FTE	6	6		0	6	0
Disaster Relief	FTE	3	3		0	3	0
Energy Act - Permit Processing	FTE	11	11		0	11	0
Subtotal, Other		1,257	1,396	0	+130	1,526	+130
TOTAL FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE without Rescissions/ Cancellation	\$000	2,973,976	3,239,014	+27,896	+287,133	3,554,043	+315,029
	FTE	7,970	8,160	0	+917	9,077	+917
Rescissions/ Cancellation	\$000	-22,399	-12,500		+12,500	+0	-12,500
TOTAL FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE with Rescissions/Cancellation of Balances	\$000	2,951,577	3,226,514	+27,896	+299,633	3,554,043	+327,529
	FTE	7,970	8,160	0	+917	9,077	+917

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Budget At A Glance						
Dollars in Thousands (\$000)						
	2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	2022 Request
Appropriation: RESOURCE MANAGEMENT						
ECOLOGICAL SERVICES						
LISTING	20,318	20,767	+512	0	+1,000	22,279
General Program Activities					+1,000	
PLANNING AND CONSULTATION	109,016	109,251	+2,841	0	+19,200	131,292
General Program Activities					+10,700	
Energy - Renewable Permitting					+8,000	
Pesticide Consultations					+500	
CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION	33,696	34,617	+799	0	+20,000	55,416
Environmental Response and Restoration					+6,000	
Candidate Conservation					+5,000	
National Wetlands Inventory					+4,000	
Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem					+2,000	
Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA)					+2,000	
Marine Mammals					+1,500	
Sea Otter Assessment					-500	
RECOVERY	102,982	105,031	+1,991	0	+16,080	123,102
General Program Activities					+15,680	
Zero Emission Vehicles					+1,500	
Florida Grasshopper Sparrow					-100	
Wolf Livestock Loss Demonstration Program					-1,000	
ECOLOGICAL SERVICES TOTAL	266,012	269,666	+6,143	0	+56,280	332,089
HABITAT CONSERVATION						
PARTNERS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE	56,951	56,859	+856	0	+7,500	65,215
General Program Activities					+7,500	
COASTAL PROGRAM	13,375	13,360	+256	0	+2,000	15,616
General Program Activities					+2,000	
HABITAT CONSERVATION TOTAL	70,326	70,219	+1,112	0	+9,500	80,831
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM						
WILDLIFE AND HABITAT MANAGEMENT						
Refuge Wildlife & Habitat Management	238,612	239,568	+4,949	0	+15,000	259,517
General Program Activities					+10,500	
Inventory & Monitoring					+5,000	
Refuge Water Efficiency/ Quivira					-500	
Refuge Visitor Services	74,227	75,033	+1,704	0	+20,000	96,737
General Program Activities					+13,000	
Urban Wildlife Conservation Program					+7,000	
Refuge Law Enforcement	41,000	40,907	+1,008	0	+7,000	48,915
General Program Activities					+7,000	
Refuge Conservation Planning	2,523	2,523	+71	0	+2,000	4,594
Refuge Planning					+2,000	
Refuge Maintenance	146,042	145,822	+1,676	0	+27,138	174,636
Annual Maintenance					+9,638	
Maintenance Support					+7,000	
Equipment and Vehicle Management: Zero Emission Vehicles					+6,500	
Youth Conservation Corps					+2,000	
Deferred Maintenance					+2,000	
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM TOTAL	502,404	503,853	+9,408	0	+71,138	584,399

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Budget At A Glance						
Dollars in Thousands (\$000)						
	2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	2022 Request
CONSERVATION AND ENFORCEMENT						
MIGRATORY BIRD MANAGEMENT						
Conservation and Monitoring	28,837	28,784	+637		+12,250	41,671
General Program Activities					+7,500	
Energy					+3,500	
Urban Bird Treaties					+1,000	
Zero Emission Vehicles					+250	
Permits	3,424	3,411	+102	0	+1,500	5,013
General Program Activities					+1,500	
Duck Stamp Office	556	556	+16	0	+1,000	1,572
General Program Activities					+1,000	
North American Waterfowl Management Plan	14,640	15,122	+190	0	+2,500	17,812
General Program Activities					+2,500	
Migratory Bird Management Total	47,457	47,873	+945	0	+17,250	66,068
LAW ENFORCEMENT						
Law Enforcement Operations	81,143	85,950	+1,928	0	+6,194	94,072
General Program Activities					+7,694	
Intelligence Efforts					-1,500	
Equipment Replacement	910	910	0	0	0	910
Law Enforcement Total	82,053	86,860	+1,928	0	+6,194	94,982
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS						
International Conservation	10,810	10,294	+155	0	+325	10,774
General Program Activities					+1,875	
Arctic Council Support					-550	
Theodore Roosevelt Genius Prize					-1,000	
International Wildlife Trade	8,016	12,738	+228	0	+5,525	18,491
Permitting Modernization					+3,700	
General Program Activities					+1,825	
International Affairs Total	18,826	23,032	+383	0	+5,850	29,265
CONSERVATION AND ENFORCEMENT TOTAL	148,336	157,765	+3,256	0	+29,294	190,315
FISH AND AQUATIC CONSERVATION						
National Fish Hatchery Operations	64,272	65,551	+1,225	0	+14,998	81,774
General Program Activities					+17,898	
Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Program					-400	
Pacific Salmon Treaty					-2,500	
Maintenance and Equipment	25,846	25,822	+224	0	+24,500	50,546
Deferred Maintenance					+15,000	
Annual Maintenance					+8,000	
Zero Emission Vehicles					+1,500	
Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation	43,037	42,289	+337	0	+1,200	43,826
Habitat Assessment and Restoration					+1,000	
National Fish Habitat Action Plan					+1,000	
Truckee River Operating Agreement					+200	

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Budget At A Glance						
Dollars in Thousands (\$000)						
	2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	2022 Request
Population Assessment and Cooperative Mgmt.	31,840	31,792	+673	0	+1,000	33,465
General Program Activities					+1,968	
Great Lakes Consent Decree				+110		
Great Lakes F & W Restoration Program				-110		
Pacific Salmon Treaty					-150	
Lake Champlain Sea Lamprey					-818	
Aquatic Invasive Species	40,482	41,159	+304	0	+3,848	45,311
Prevention					+4,048	
Hydrilla, Eel and Milfoil Invasive Grasses					-200	
Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation Subtotal	115,359		+1,314	0	+6,048	122,602
FISH AND AQUATIC CONSERVATION TOTAL	205,477	206,613	+2,763	0	+45,546	254,922
COOPERATIVE LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION	12,500	12,500	+302	0	+6,000	18,802
Landscape Conservation Cooperatives						
General Program Activities					+6,000	
SCIENCE SUPPORT						
Adaptive Science	10,517	10,517	+33	0	+12,300	22,850
General Program Activities					+12,300	
Service Science	6,750	6,750	+83	0	+6,750	13,583
General Program Activities					+6,500	
Electric Vehicles					+250	
SCIENCE SUPPORT TOTAL	17,267	17,267	+116	0	+19,050	36,433
GENERAL OPERATIONS						
Central Office Operations	20,758	25,758	+608	0	+6,400	32,766
External Affairs					+2,000	
Native American Coordination Office					+2,000	
Diversity Office					+1,400	
Regional Directors					+1,000	
Management and Administration	49,166	44,166	+3,144	0	+12,847	60,157
JAO					+6,697	
Information Resources and Technology Mgmt					+6,000	
Electric Vehicle Management					+150	
Servicewide Bill Paying	35,770	35,748	+416	0	+8,503	44,667
Communication, Information Technology and Security					+5,200	
Working Capital Fund					+2,303	
Misc. Support - RSA's					+566	
Worker's Compensation					+280	
Unemployment Compensation					+154	
Aviation Management	3,237	3,237	+18	0	0	3,255
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation	7,022	7,022	0	0	+2,000	9,022
National Conservation Training Center	26,014	26,014	+441	0	+4,000	30,455
Annual Maintenance					+2,000	
Youth and Careers in Nature					+2,000	
GENERAL OPERATIONS TOTAL	141,967	141,945	+4,627	0	+33,750	180,322
TOTAL - RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	1,364,289	1,379,828	+27,727	0	+270,558	1,678,113

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Budget At A Glance						
Dollars in Thousands (\$000)						
	2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	2022 Request
Appropriation: CONSTRUCTION						
Nationwide Engineering Services	5,368	5,368	+169	0	0	5,537
Dam, Bridge and Seismic Safety Construction Projects	1,232	2,427	0	0	0	2,427
	23,104	10,398	0	0	+21,258	31,656
TOTAL - CONSTRUCTION	29,704	18,193	+169	0	+21,258	39,620
Appropriation: LAND ACQUISITION						
Land Protection Planning	465	0	0	0	0	0
Exchanges	1,500	0	0	0	0	0
Land Acquisition Management	13,000	0	0	0	0	0
Sportsmen and Recreational Access	8,000	0	0	0	0	0
Inholdings, Emergencies and Hardships	6,500	0	0	0	0	0
Highlands Conservation Act	10,000	0	0	0	0	0
Land Acquisition	31,250	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL - LAND ACQUISITION	70,715	0	0	0	0	0
Appropriation: NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FUND	13,228	13,228	0	0	-13,228	0
Appropriation: COOPERATIVE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND	54,502	43,340	0	0	-638	42,702
Appropriation: NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION FUND	46,000	46,500	0	0	0	46,500
Appropriation: MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND	15,000	18,000	0	0	0	18,000
Appropriation: NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION FUND	4,910	4,910	0	0	+3,000	7,910
Appropriation: STATE & TRIBAL WILDLIFE GRANTS	67,571	72,362	0	0	+10,000	82,362
TOTAL, FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (Current Disc.)	1,665,919	1,596,361	+27,896	0	+290,950	1,915,207
RESCISSION / CANCELLATION OF BALANCES						
Account: CONSTRUCTION	0	0	0	0	0	0
Account: LAND ACQUISITION	-3,628	0	0	0	0	0
Account: COOPERATIVE END. SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND	-18,771	-12,500	0	0	+12,500	0
TOTAL, FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (Discretionary)	1,643,520	1,583,861	+27,896	0	+303,450	1,915,207

Note: 2020 column does not include \$4M for USMCA

FY 2022 Summary of Fixed Cost Changes by Appropriation

Dollars in Thousands (\$000)

Fixed Cost Component	Resource		TOTAL
	Management	Construction	
Change in Pay Days	0	0	0
CY 2021 Pay Raise - One Quarter	2,049	14	2,063
CY 2022 Pay Raise - Three Quarters	16,389	111	16,500
FERS Employer Contribution Increase	6,785	44	6,829
Departmental Working Capital Fund	761	0	761
Workers' Compensation Payments	-471	0	-471
Unemployment Compensation Payments	55	0	55
GSA and non-GSA Space Rental Payments	2,141	0	2,141
Net O&M Baseline Adjustment	18	0	18
TOTAL, Fixed Costs	27,727	169	27,896

Resource Management

Appropriations Language

For necessary expenses of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, as authorized by law, and for scientific and economic studies, general administration, and for the performance of other authorized functions related to such resources, [\$1,379,828,000] \$1,678,113,000 to remain available until September 30, [2022]2023: *Provided*, That not to exceed [\$20,767,000] \$22,279,000 shall be used for implementing subsections (a), (b), (c), and (e) of section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533) (except for processing petitions, developing and issuing proposed and final regulations, and taking any other steps to implement actions described in subsection (c)(2)(A), (c)(2)(B)(i), or (c)(2)(B)(ii)).
(*Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2021.*)

Authorizing Statutes

African Elephant Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 4201-4245, 1538). Authorizes funding for approved projects for research, conservation, management or protection of African elephants. Authorizes prohibitions against the sale, importation, and exportation of ivory derived from African elephants.

Agricultural Credit Act, (P. L. 100-233). Section 616 authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to transfer lands, interest therein, to Federal or State agencies for conservation purposes. The Fish and Wildlife Service assesses inventory lands to determine when such lands would be of benefit to the National Wildlife Refuge System and makes transfer recommendations.

Airborne Hunting Act, (16 U.S.C. 742 j-1). Section 13 of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 prohibits taking or harassing wildlife from aircraft, except when protecting wildlife, livestock, and human health or safety as authorized by a Federal or State issued license or permit.

Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 410hh-3233, 43 U.S.C 1602-1784). Provides for the designation and conservation of certain public lands in Alaska, including units of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and for the continuing subsistence needs of the Alaska Natives. Sec. 42(g) of this Act makes use of such Native lands subject to refuge regulations.

Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, (43 U.S.C. 1601-1624). Provides various measures for settling the claims of Alaska Native peoples to land in Alaska, including authorization of selection and ownership of land within National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska by Native Corporations.

Anadromous Fish Conservation Act, (P. L. 89-304). Authorizes the Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce to enter into cooperative agreements with the States and other non-Federal interests for the conservation, development, and enhancement of anadromous fish, including those in the Great Lakes, and to contribute up to 50 percent of the costs of carrying out such agreements.

Antarctic Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 2401). Provides for the conservation and protection of the fauna and flora of Antarctica, and their ecosystems.

Archaeological Resources Protection Act, (16 U.S.C. 470aa-47011). Provides for protection of archaeological resources and sites on public and Tribal lands and for increased cooperation between government authorities, the professional archaeological community, and private collectors with collections obtained before October 31, 1979.

Arctic Tundra Habitat Emergency Conservation Act, (P.L.106-108). Requires the Secretary of the Interior to prepare, and as appropriate implement, a comprehensive, long-term plan for the management of mid-continent light geese and conservation of their habitat.

Asian Elephant Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 4261-4266, 1538). Provides for cooperative projects for the conservation and protection of Asian elephants.

Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act, (16 U. S.C. 5151-5158). The purpose of this Act is to support and encourage development, implementation, and enforcement of effective interstate action regarding the conservation and management of Atlantic striped bass. The Act recognizes the commercial and recreational importance of Atlantic striped bass and establishes a consistent management scheme for its conservation. The three partners which share management responsibility for Atlantic striped bass are the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Every two years, the Services are required to produce an Atlantic Striped Bass Biennial Report to Congress on the status and health of Atlantic Coast Striped Bass Stocks.

Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, (16 U.S.C. 668-668d). This Act provides for the protection of Bald Eagles and Golden Eagles by prohibiting take, possession, sale, purchase, transport, export or import of such eagles or their parts or nests. Take, possession, and transport are permitted for certain authorized purposes.

Brown Tree Snake Eradication and Control Act, (P.L. 108-384). Through this Act, the U.S. Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture support a multi-agency and partner effort to eradicate brown tree snakes in Guam and to prevent introduction or establishment of this invasive species on other Pacific islands or the U.S. mainland.

Billy Frank Jr. Tell Your Story Act, (P.L. 114-101). Establishes the Medicine Creek Treaty National Memorial within the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. The Department of the Interior must: (1) establish the boundaries of the Medicine Creek Treaty National Memorial and to provide for its administration and interpretation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and (2) coordinate with representatives of the Muckleshoot, Nisqually, Puyallup, and Squaxin Island Indian Tribes in providing for that interpretation.

Chehalis River Basin Fishery Resources Study and Restoration Act, (P. L. 101-452). Authorizes a joint Federal, State, and Tribal study for the restoration of the fishery resources of the Chehalis River Basin, Washington.

Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990, (16 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). Requires the Secretary (delegated to the Service) to maintain the maps of the Coastal Barrier Resources System, to review the system at least every five years for changes which have occurred as a result of natural forces, and to make minor and technical changes to the maps of the System reflecting those natural changes. It also requires the Secretary to submit a study to Congress on the need to include the west coast in the system, and to lead an interagency task force to provide recommendations to Congress for legislative action and Federal policies on developed and undeveloped coastal barriers.

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act, (16 U.S.C. 3951-3156). Provides a Federal grant program for the acquisition, restoration, management, and enhancement of coastal wetlands of States adjacent to the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, the Great Lakes, and the Pacific, including Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Pacific U.S. insular areas. Provides that the Service update and digitize wetlands maps in Texas and conduct an assessment of the status, condition, and trends of wetlands

in that State. Provides permanent authorization to appropriate receipts, coastal wetlands conservation grants and North American Wetlands Conservation projects.

Coastal Zone Management Act, (16 U.S.C. 1451-1464). Establishes a voluntary national program within the Department of Commerce to encourage coastal States to develop and implement coastal zone management plans. Activities that affect coastal zones must be consistent with approved State programs. The Act also establishes a National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS).

Colorado River Floodway Protection Act, (43 U.S.C 1600; 42 U.S.C. 4029). Establishes a Task Force to advise the Secretary of the Interior on the specific boundaries for and management for the area.

Colorado River Storage Project Act, (43 U.S.C. 620). Provides that facilities will be built and operated to mitigate losses of, and improve conditions for, fish and wildlife in connection with the Colorado River Storage.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, (42 U.S.C. 9601, et seq.). Provides that responsible parties, including Federal landowners, investigate and clean up releases of hazardous substances. Trustees for natural resources, which includes the Secretary of the Interior, may assess and recover damages for injury to natural resources from releases of hazardous substances and use the damages for restoration, replacement or acquisition of equivalent natural resources. Provides permanent authorization to appropriate receipts from responsible parties.

Coral Reef Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.). Promotes wise management and sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems and develop sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems and threats to them. Provides financial resources to local communities and nongovernmental organizations to assist in the preservation of coral reefs. It establishes a formal mechanism for collecting and allocating monetary donations from the private sector to be used for coral reef conservation projects.

Delaware River Basin Restoration Act, (P.L. 114-322). Establishes a Delaware River Basin restoration program and directs the Secretary to produce a basin-wide strategy that draws on existing conservation efforts, involves partners, and provides for the implementation of a shared set of science-based restoration and protection activities, including cost-effective projects with measurable results that maximize conservation outcomes with no net gain of Federal employees. Establishes a voluntary grant and technical assistance program. Sunsets on September 30, 2023. Enacted as part of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016.

Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking Act of 2016, (P.L. 114-231). Sets forth a national policy on wildlife trafficking and several directions for the U.S. Secretary of State. Creates a Presidential Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking, the co-chairs of which include the Secretary of the Interior. Authorizes anti-poaching and anti-trafficking programs. Amends the Pelly Amendment to the Fisherman's Protection Act to require that Pelly certifications made to the President by the Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior be reported to Congress.

Emergency Wetlands Resources Act, (16 U.S.C. 3901). Provides for the collection of entrance fees, thirty percent of which may be used for refuge operations and maintenance, and for the Secretary of the Interior to establish and periodically review a national wetlands priority conservation plan for Federal and State wetlands acquisition, complete National Wetlands Inventory maps for the contiguous United States by September 30, 1998, to update the report on wetlands status and trends by September 30, 1990, and at 10-year intervals thereafter.

Endangered Species Act, (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544). Prohibits the import, export, or taking of fish and wildlife and plants that are listed as threatened or endangered species; provides for adding species to and removing them from the list of threatened and endangered species, and for preparing and implementing plans for their recovery; provides for interagency cooperation to avoid take of listed species and for issuing permits for otherwise prohibited activities; provides for cooperation with States, including authorization of financial assistance; and implements the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).

Fallon-Paiute Shoshone Indian Water Settlement Act, (P.L. 101-618). Establishes the Lahontan Valley and Pyramid Lake Fish and Wildlife Fund. Funds are administered by the Service for use in restoring Lahontan Valley wetlands and recovering the endangered and threatened fish of Pyramid Lake. Section 206(a) authorizes the acquisition of water rights for restoring wetlands in Lahontan Valley. The Act stipulates that sufficient water rights be acquired to restore and sustain, on a long-term average, approximately 25,000 acres of primary wetland habitat within Nevada's Lahontan Valley.

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Control Act, (7 U.S.C. 136-136y). Provides for the registration of pesticides to avoid unreasonable adverse effects to humans or the environment. Such registrations are considered Federal actions and are subject to consultations with the Service under the Endangered Species Act.

Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA), (16 U.S.C. 6801-6814). Through this Act, Congress authorized Federal collection of fees for recreational use of public lands managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service.

Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA), (43 U.S.C. 2301-2306). Allows the sale of BLM lands identified for disposal, with sales proceeds used for land acquisition by the various land management agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Federal Power Act, (16 U.S.C. 791a et seq.). Provides that each license for hydropower projects issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission includes fish ways prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior or Commerce, and that conditions for the protection, mitigation and enhancement of fish and wildlife based on recommendations of the Service and other agencies.

Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act), (33 U.S.C. 1251-1387). Section 404 (m) authorizes the Service to comment on permit applications submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the discharge of dredged or fill material into navigable waters of the United States. Section 208(i) authorizes the Service to provide technical assistance to States in developing management practices as part of its water pollution control programs and to continue with the National Wetlands Inventory. Section 320 authorizes the establishment of a State/Federal cooperative program to nominate estuaries of national significance and to develop and implement management plans to restore and maintain the biological and chemical integrity of estuarine waters.

Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, (16 U.S.C. 742(a)-754). Establishes a comprehensive national fish and wildlife policy and authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to take steps required for the development, management, advancement, conservation, and protection of fisheries resources and wildlife resources through research, acquisition of refuge lands, development of existing facilities, and other means.

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 2901-2911). Directs the Secretary of the Interior to undertake research and conservation activities, in coordination with other Federal, State, international and private organizations, to fulfill responsibilities to conserve migratory nongame birds under existing

authorities. The Secretary is required, for all species, subspecies, and migratory nongame birds, to monitor and assess population trends and status; to identify environmental change and human activities; and to identify species in need of additional conservation and identify conservation actions to ensure perpetuation of these species.

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, (16 U.S.C. 661-666(e)). Directs the Service to investigate and report on proposed Federal actions that affect any stream or other body of water and to provide recommendations to minimize impacts on fish and wildlife resources.

Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act, (16 U.S.C. 777 note; P.L. 106-502). Congress reauthorized the Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act (FRIMA) as part of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, P.L. 111-11. FRIMA was established in 2000 and has been an important tool for addressing fish screening and fish passage needs in the Pacific Northwest States.

Fishery Conservation and Management Act, (Magnuson-Stevens Act), (16 U.S.C. 1801-1882, 90 Stat. 331). Authorizes the conservation and management of the fishery resources found within the Exclusive Economic Zone of the United States, including anadromous species, through eight Regional Fishery Management Councils. Establishes the Service as a nonvoting member of the Councils.

Food Security Act, (16 U.S.C. 801-3945). Provides that the Secretary of Agriculture consult with the Secretary of the Interior on the identification of wetlands, determinations of exemptions, and issuance of regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act. Requires the Service to concur in wetland mitigation plans in association with minimal effect exemptions and to concur in conservation plans for lands proposed for inclusion in the Wetlands Reserve program. Establishes a program to protect and restore wetlands on Farmers Home Administration inventory property and provides for the Service to identify such wetlands.

Great Ape Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.). Authorizes grants to foreign governments, the CITES secretariat, and non-governmental organizations for the conservation of great apes. The funds are to be a sub-account of the Multinational Species Conservation Fund.

Great Lakes Critical Programs Act, (P.L. 101-596). Authorization for Service activities is contained in title III, the "Lake Champlain Special Designation Act of 1990".

Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act, (P.L. 109-326). The 2006 reauthorization places new emphasis on terrestrial wildlife projects, whereas the previous Acts were primarily devoted to fisheries. The bill also reauthorizes the existing State and Tribal grant program and provides new authority for the Service to undertake regional restoration projects. In addition, it directs the Service to create and maintain a website to document actions taken as a result of the Act. Under authority of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 2006, the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act Grant Program provides Federal grants on a competitive basis to States, Tribes and other interested entities to encourage cooperative conservation, restoration and management of fish and wildlife resources and their habitat in the Great Lakes basin.

Great Lakes Fishery Act, (16 U.S.C. 931-939). Implements the Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries between the United States and Canada, and authorizes the Secretary of the Interior and the Service to undertake lamprey control and other measures related to the Convention.

Highlands Conservation Act, (P.L. 108-421). Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assistance to the States of Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania (Highland States) to preserve and protect high priority conservation land in the Highlands region, an area depicted on a National Forest Service map entitled "The Highlands Region" dated June 2004.

Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act, (16 U.S.C. 719 et seq.). Authorizes an annual Junior Duck Stamp competition and environmental education program for school children; provides for the licensing and marketing of winning designs, with proceeds used for awards and scholarships to participants. Public Law 109-166 reauthorizes the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act of 1994.

Klamath River Basin Fishery Resources Restoration Act, (16 U.S.C.460ss et seq.). Requires the Secretary to develop and implement a restoration plan for the Klamath River Basin.

Lacey Act Amendments of 1981, (18 U.S.C. 42; 16 U.S.C. 3371-3378). Provides that the Secretary of the Interior designate injurious wildlife and ensure the humane treatment of wildlife shipped to the United States. Prohibits importation, exportation, transportation, sale, or purchase of fish and wildlife taken or possessed in violation of State, Federal, Indian Tribal, and foreign laws. Provides for enforcement of Federal wildlife laws, and Federal assistance to the States and foreign governments in the enforcement of non-Federal wildlife laws.

Marine Mammal Protection Act, (16 U.S.C. 1361-1407). Establishes a moratorium on taking and importing marine mammals, including parts and products. Defines the Federal responsibility for conservation of marine mammals, with management authority vested in the Department for the sea otter, walrus, polar bear, dugong, and manatee.

Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grants, (16 U.S.C. 1421f; 114 Stat. 2765. Title II of P.L. 106-555). Amends the Marine Mammal Protection Act to authorize grants to non-governmental organizations which participate in the rescue and rehabilitation of stranded marine mammals.

Marine Turtle Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 6601-6607). Establishes a Marine Turtle Conservation Fund in the Multinational Species Conservation Fund. The fund is a separate account to assist in the conservation of marine turtles, and the nesting habitats of marine turtles in foreign countries.

Migratory Bird Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 715-715d). Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to conduct investigations and publish documents related to North American birds and establishes a Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (MBCC) to approve areas recommended by the Secretary for acquisition. The MBCC also approves wetlands conservation projects recommended by the North American Wetlands Conservation Council under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act, (16 U.S.C. 718). This Act, commonly referred to as the Duck Stamp Act, requires waterfowl hunters, 16 years of age or older, to purchase and possess a valid Federal waterfowl hunting stamp prior to taking migratory waterfowl. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to use \$1 million from sales of migratory bird hunting and conservation stamps to promote additional sales of stamps.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, (16 U.S.C. 703-712). Implements four international treaties that affect migratory birds common to the United States, Canada, Mexico, Japan, and the former Soviet Union. Establishes Federal responsibility for protection and management of migratory and non-game birds, including the establishment of season length, bag limits, and other hunting regulations, and the issuance of permits to band, possess or otherwise make use of migratory birds.

National Aquaculture Development Act, (16 U.S.C. 2801-2810). Establishes a coordinating group, the Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture (JSA). The JSA has been responsible for developing the National Aquaculture Development Plan. The plan establishes a strategy for the development of an aquaculture industry in the United States.

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, (NEPA), (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.). Provides that the Service examine the environmental impacts, incorporate environmental information, and use public participation in the planning and implementation of all actions; integrate NEPA with other planning requirements; prepare NEPA documents to facilitate better environmental decision making; and review Federal agency environmental plans and documents when the Service has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impacts involved.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act, (16 U.S.C. 3701-3709). Establishes a federally-chartered, nonprofit corporation to encourage and administer donations to benefit Service programs and other activities to conserve fish, wildlife, and plant resources.

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, (16 U.S.C. 470-470b, 470c-470n). Directs Federal agencies to preserve, restore, and maintain historic cultural environments.

National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.). Provides authority, guidelines and directives for the Service to improve the National Wildlife Refuge System; administers a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and restoration of fish, wildlife and plant resources and habitat; ensures the biological integrity, diversity, and environmental health of refuges is maintained; defines compatible wildlife-dependent recreation as appropriate general public use of refuges; establishes hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education as priority uses; establishes a formal process for determining compatible uses of refuges; and provides for public involvement in developing comprehensive conservation plans for refuges.

The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act, (P.L. 105-57). Spells out wildlife conservation as the fundamental mission of the refuge system; requires comprehensive conservation planning to guide management of the refuge system; directs the involvement of private citizens in land management decisions; and provides that compatible wildlife-dependent recreation is a legitimate and appropriate use that should receive priority in refuge planning and management.

The National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Act, (P.L. 106-408). Reinforces *National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act* provisions to raise public understanding and appreciation for the refuge system; calls on the Secretary of the Interior to establish a Centennial Commission to oversee special public outreach activities leading up to and during the Centennial year, leverage resources with public and private partners for outreach efforts, and plan and host a major conference in 2003; calls on the Service to develop a long-term plan to address the highest priority operations, maintenance, and construction needs of the National Wildlife Refuge System; and requires an annual report assessing the operations and maintenance backlogs and transition costs associated with newly acquired refuges lands.

National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Improvement Act, (P.L. 111-357). Authorizes cooperative agreements with nonprofit partner organizations, academic institutions, or State and local governments to construct, operate, maintain, or improve refuge facilities and services, and to promote volunteer, outreach, and education programs.

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 6101 et. seq.). Authorizes grants for the conservation of neotropical migratory birds in the United States and Latin America and the Caribbean, with 75 percent of the amounts made available to be expended on projects outside the United States. The funds are to be a sub-account of the Multinational Species Conservation Fund. Title III of P.L. 109-363, reauthorized appropriations for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act.

New England Fishery Resources Restoration Act, (P.L. 101-593). Authorizes the Service to formulate, establish, and implement cooperative programs to restore and maintain nationally significant interjurisdictional fishery resources in New England river systems.

Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Species Prevention and Control Act, as amended by the National Invasive Species Act, (NISA, 16 U.S.C. 4701 et seq.). Authorizes the Service to develop and implement a program to prevent and control infestations of zebra mussels and other nonindigenous aquatic invasive species in waters of the United States.

North American Wetlands Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 4401). Authorizes grants to public-private partnerships in Canada, Mexico and the U.S. to protect, enhance, restore, and manage waterfowl, other migratory birds and other fish and wildlife, and the wetland ecosystems and other habitats upon which they depend, consistent with the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. There is a Standard and a Small Grants Program. Both are competitive grants programs which require that grant requests be matched by partner contributions at no less than a 1-to-1 ratio. Funds from U.S. Federal sources may contribute towards a project but are not eligible as match. Public Law 109-322 reauthorized the North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

Nutria Eradication and Control Act, (P.L. 108-16). Provides for the States of Maryland and Louisiana to implement nutria eradication or control measures and restore marshland damaged by nutria.

Oil Pollution Act, (P.L. 101-380). Provides that the Service consult with others on the development of a fish and wildlife response plan for the protection, rescue, and rehabilitation of, and the minimization of risk of damage to fish and wildlife resources and their habitat harmed or jeopardized by an oil discharge.

Partnerships for Wildlife Act, (16 U.S.C. 3741-3744). This Act establishes a Wildlife Conservation and Appreciation Fund to receive appropriated funds and donations from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and other private sources to assist the State fish and game agencies in carrying out their responsibilities for conservation of nongame species and authorizes grants to the States for programs and projects to conserve nongame species.

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Act, (16 U.S.C. 3771-3774). Provides for the restoration, enhancement, and management of fish and wildlife habitats on private land through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, a program that works with private landowners to conduct cost-effective habitat projects for the benefit of fish and wildlife resources in the United States.

Pelly Amendment to the Fishermen's Protective Act, (22 U.S.C. 1978). Authorizes the President to embargo wildlife products, including fish, and limit other imports from nations whose nationals are determined by the Secretary of the Interior or Commerce to be engaging in trade or take that undermines the effectiveness of any international treaty or convention for the protection of endangered or threatened species to which the United States is a party.

Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act, (P.L. 113-239). Authorizes the Service to permanently allow any State to provide hunting and conservation stamps for migratory birds (referred to as Federal Duck Stamps) electronically. The electronic stamps would remain valid for 45 days to allow for the physical stamps to arrive in the mail.

Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act, (16 U.S.C. 2602-2645) and ***Energy Security Act of 1980***, (16 U.S.C. 792-828(c)). Authorizes the Service to investigate and report on effects of hydropower development on fish and wildlife during the licensing process of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Recreational Use of Fish and Wildlife Areas, (16 U.S.C. 460k-460k-4). Commonly known as the Refuge Recreation Act of 1962, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to administer refuges, hatcheries, and other conservation areas for recreational use when such use does not interfere with the primary purpose for which these areas were established.

Refuge Recreation Act, (16 U.S.C. 460k-460k-4). Public Law 87-714, approved September 28, 1962 (76 Stat.653) as amended by Public Law 89-669, approved October 14, 1966, (80 Stat.930) and P.L. 92-534, approved October 23, 1972, (86 Stat. 1063). Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to administer refuges, hatcheries and other conservation areas for recreational use, when such uses do not interfere with the areas' primary purposes.

Resource Conservation Recovery Act, (42 U.S.C. 6901). Establishes standards for Federal agencies on the treatment, transportation, storage, and disposal of solid and hazardous wastes on Federal lands and facilities.

Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act, (16. U.S.C. 5306(a), 1538). Authorizes grants to other nations and to the CITES Secretariat for programs directly or indirectly assisting in the conservation of rhinoceros and tigers. Prohibits the sale, importation, and exportation of products derived from any species of rhinoceros and tiger.

Salmon and Steelhead and Conservation and Enhancement Act of 1980, (16 U.S.C. 3301, 11-15, 21-25, 31-36, 41-45). Provides for management and enhancement planning to help prevent a further decline of salmon and steelhead stocks, and to assist in increasing the supply of these stocks within the Columbia River conservation area and the Washington conservation area.

Sikes Act, (16 U.S.C. 670a-670o). Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to cooperate with the Department of Defense, Department of Energy, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Bureau of Land Management, and State agencies in planning, developing, maintaining and rehabilitating Federal lands for the benefit of fish and wildlife resources and their habitat.

Strategic Response to Asian Carp Invasion Act, (P.L. 113-121). Requires the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in coordination with the Army Corps of Engineers, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Geological Survey, to lead a multiagency effort to slow the spread of Asian Carp in the Upper Mississippi and Ohio River basins and tributaries by providing high-level technical assistance, coordination, best practices, and support to State and local government strategies, to slow, and eventually eliminate, the threat posed by such Carp. Enacted in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014.

Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, (30 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.). Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to regulate surface mining and reclamation at existing and future mining areas. The Service provides technical assistance for fish and wildlife aspects of the Department of the Interior's programs on active and abandoned mine lands.

Water Resources Development Act, (90 Stat. 2921). Authorizes the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan to mitigate fish and wildlife losses caused by power generation at four Corps of Engineers dams on the Lower Snake River in Washington.

Wild Bird Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 4901-4916). Requires that all trade in wild birds involving the United States is biologically sustainable and to the benefit of the species, and by limiting or prohibiting imports of exotic birds when not beneficial to the species.

Youth Conservation Corps Act, (16 USC 1701-1706) as amended by P.L. 93-408, September 3, 1974. Expands and makes permanent the Youth Conservation Corps, and for other purposes. The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program, started in 1971, is a summer employment program for young men and women (ages 15–18) from all segments of society who work, learn, and earn together by doing projects for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s National Wildlife Refuge System lands and National Fish Hatcheries. The objectives of this program (as reflected in Public Law 93-408) authorize the Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service to operate the YCC Program.

Executive Orders

The Executive Orders listed are not an exhaustive list and are those most frequently referenced and used by the Service.

Floodplain Management, (Executive Order 11988). Requires that federally-owned floodplains be protected through restricting future activities that would harm the floodplain resource or withhold such properties from lease or disposal to non-Federal public or private partners.

Migratory Birds, (Executive Order 13186). Directs Federal agencies taking actions that may have measurable negative impacts on migratory bird populations to enter into memoranda of understanding (MOU) with the Service to promote conservation of migratory bird populations and directs the Secretary of the Interior to establish a multi-agency Council for the Conservation of Migratory Birds.

Protection of Wetlands, (Executive Order 11990). Requires that federally-owned wetlands proposed for lease or conveyance to non-Federal public or private parties be protected through restricting any future uses that would degrade or harm the wetland resource in the conveyance or withhold such properties from lease or disposal.

Recreational Fisheries, (Executive Order 12962). Directs Federal agencies to improve the quantity, function, and sustainable productivity, and distribution of U.S. aquatic resources for increased resources for recreational fishing opportunities. The Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service are ordered to promote compatibility and to reduce conflicts between the administration of the *Endangered Species Act* and recreational fisheries. The Secretary of the Interior is directed to expand the role of the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership council to monitor specific Federal activities affecting aquatic systems and the recreational fisheries they support.

Combating Wildlife Trafficking, (Executive Order 13648). Directs agencies to combat the illegal poaching and wildlife trade of protected species, both domestically and internationally. Wildlife trafficking not only endangers the survival of wildlife species, but also contributes to global instability and undermines security. The Secretary of the Interior will co-chair a Presidential Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking with the Secretary of State and Attorney General, or their designees.

Improving Performance of Federal Permitting and Review of Infrastructure Projects, (Executive Order 13604). Directs agencies to make the Federal permitting and review process of infrastructure projects efficient and effective to support economic growth while ensuring the health, safety, and security of the environment and communities. Agencies are to provide transparency, consistency, and predictability in the process for both project sponsors and affected communities.

Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis, (Executive Order 13990). Directs all executive departments and agencies to immediately review and, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law, take action to address the promulgation of Federal

regulations and other actions during the last 4 years that conflict with national objectives, and to immediately commence work to confront the climate crisis.

Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, (Executive Order 14008). Directs climate considerations be an essential element of United States foreign policy and national security. The United States will work with other countries and partner to put the world on a sustainable climate pathway and build resistance against the impacts of climate change.

Major Treaties and Conventions

The Service is party to numerous International Treaties and Conventions, all of which cannot be listed here due to space constraints. However, those listed below are more pertinent to the daily activities of Service programs.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Flora and Fauna, (TIAS 8249). Parties who signed the Convention in March of 1973 agreed to restrict international trade in all species threatened with extinction (Appendix I species), all species which may be threatened with extinction unless trade is halted or restricted (Appendix II species), and all species which the parties identify as being subject to regulation for the purpose of preventing or restricting exploitation (Appendix III species). Many species listed under CITES are also listed under the *Endangered Species Act*. The Service is responsible for issuing all CITES permits in the United States.

Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere, (56 Stat. 1354). Signed in October of 1940, this Convention authorizes the contracting parties to establish national parks, national reserves, nature monuments, and strict wilderness reserves for the preservation of flora and fauna, especially migratory birds.

Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar), (TIAS 11084). The Ramsar Convention, ratified by over 90 nations, promotes the sustainable management of important wetlands around the world, especially as habitat for waterfowl. The Service's objective with this initiative is to strengthen worldwide collaboration regarding conservation and management of wetlands habitats which sustain resources shared by or of importance to all countries of the globe.

Summary of Requirements Appropriation: Resource Management <i>(Dollars in Thousands)</i>													
	2020 Actual		2021 Enacted		Fixed Costs	Internal Transfers		Program Changes (+/-)		2022 Request		Change from 2021 (+/-)	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	(+/-)	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Ecological Services													
Listing	112	20,318	112	20,767	+512	0	0	+7	+1,000	119	22,279	+7	+1,512
Planning and Consultation	591	109,016	591	109,251	+2,841	0	0	+101	+19,200	692	131,292	+101	+22,041
Conservation and Restoration	171	33,696	171	34,617	+799	0	0	+106	+20,000	277	55,416	+106	+20,799
Recovery	441	102,982	441	105,031	+1,991	0	0	+38	+16,080	479	123,102	+38	+18,071
Subtotal, Ecological Services	1,315	266,012	1,315	269,666	+6,143	0	0	+252	+56,280	1,567	332,089	+252	+62,423
Habitat Conservation													
Partners for Fish and Wildlife	203	56,951	203	56,859	+856	0	0	+15	+7,500	218	65,215	+15	+8,356
Coastal Program	41	13,375	41	13,360	+256	0	0	+6	+2,000	47	15,616	+6	+2,256
Subtotal, Habitat Conservation	244	70,326	244	70,219	+1,112	0	0	+21	+9,500	265	80,831	+21	+10,612
National Wildlife Refuge System													
Wildlife and Habitat Management	1,208	238,612	1,208	239,568	+4,949	0	0	+45	+15,000	1,253	259,517	+45	+19,949
Visitor Services	470	74,227	470	75,033	+1,704	0	0	+100	+20,000	570	96,737	+100	+21,704
Refuge Law Enforcement	232	41,000	233	40,907	+1,008	0	0	+24	+7,000	257	48,915	+24	+8,008
Conservation Planning	16	2,523	16	2,523	+71	0	0	+10	+2,000	26	4,594	+10	+2,071
Refuge Maintenance	522	146,042	522	145,822	+1,676	0	0	+70	+27,138	592	174,636	+70	+28,814
Subtotal, National Wildlife Refuge System	2,449	502,404	2,449	503,853	+9,408	0	0	+249	+71,138	2,698	584,399	+249	+80,546
Conservation and Enforcement													
Migratory Bird Management	188	47,457	188	47,873	+945	0	0	+28	+17,250	216	66,068	+28	+18,195
Law Enforcement	447	86,053	447	86,860	+1,928	0	0	+24	+6,194	471	94,982	+24	+8,122
International Affairs	69	18,826	69	23,032	+383	0	0	+9	+5,850	78	29,265	+9	+6,233
Subtotal, Conservation and Enforcement	705	152,336	704	157,765	+3,256	0	0	+61	+29,294	765	190,315	+61	+32,550
Fish and Aquatic Conservation													
National Fish Hatchery System Operations	317	64,272	317	65,551	+1,225	0	0	+45	+14,998	362	81,774	+45	+16,223
Maintenance and Equipment	67	25,846	66	25,822	+224	0	0	+20	+24,500	86	50,546	+20	+24,724
Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation	284	115,359	285	115,240	+1,314	0	0	-1	+6,048	284	122,602	-1	+7,362
Subtotal, Fish and Aquatic Conservation	668	205,477	668	206,613	+2,763	0	0	+64	+45,546	732	254,922	+64	+48,309
Cooperative Landscape Conservation	55	12,500	55	12,500	+302	0	0	+11	+6,000	66	18,802	+11	+6,302
Science Support													
Adaptive Science	7	10,517	7	10,517	+33	0	0	+3	+12,300	10	22,850	+3	+12,333
Service Science	13	6,750	13	6,750	+83	0	0	+7	+6,750	20	13,583	+7	+6,833
Subtotal, Science Support	20	17,267	20	17,267	+116	0	0	10	+19,050	30	36,433	+10	+19,166
General Operations													
Central Office Operations	104	20,758	104	25,758	+608	0	0	+22	+6,400	126	32,766	+22	+7,008
Management and Administration	651	49,166	651	44,166	+3,144	0	0	+51	+12,847	702	60,157	+51	+15,991
Service-wide Bill Paying	2	35,770	2	35,748	+416	0	0	0	+8,503	2	44,667	0	+8,919
Aviation Management	5	3,237	5	3,237	+18	0	0	0	0	5	3,255	0	+18
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	1	7,022	1	7,022	0	0	0	0	+2,000	1	9,022	0	+2,000
National Conservation Training Center	100	26,014	100	26,014	+441	0	0	+6	+4,000	106	30,455	+6	+4,441
Subtotal, General Operations	862	141,967	863	141,945	+4,627	0	0	+79	+33,750	942	180,322	+79	+38,377
Offset Collections FTE	27		27							27			
Total, Resource Management	6,345	1,368,289	6,345	1,379,828	+27,727	0	0	+747	+270,558	7,092	1,678,113	+747	+298,285

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Resource Management
Justification of Fixed Costs and Internal Realignments**
(Dollars In Thousands)

Fixed Cost Changes and Projections	2021 Total or Change	2021 to 2022 Change
Change in Number of Pay Days This column reflects changes in pay associated with the change in the number of paid days between 2021 and 2022, which is the same number of paid days in both 2021 and 2022.	-3,185	+0
Pay Raise The President's Budget for FY2022 includes one quarter of a planned 1% pay raise and three quarters of a planned 2.7%.	+12,707	+18,438
Employer Share of Federal Employee Retirement System The change reflects a 1.1% (and 1.8% for Law Enforcement) increase in the employer contribution to the Federal Employee Retirement System.	+7,522	+6,785
Departmental Working Capital Fund The change reflects the final 2022 Central Bill approved by the Working Capital Fund Consortium.	-383	+761
Worker's Compensation Payments The amounts reflects final chargeback costs of compensating injured employees and dependents of employees who suffer accidental deaths while on duty. Costs for the 2022 will reimburse the Department of Labor, Federal Employees Compensation Fund, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 8147(b) as amended by Public Law 94-273.	+514	-471
Unemployment Compensation Payments The amounts reflect projected changes in the costs of unemployment compensation claims to be paid to the Department of Labor, Federal Employees Compensation Account, in the Unemployment Trust Fund, pursuant to Public Law 96-499.	-180	+55
Rental Payments The amounts reflect changes in the costs payable to General Services Administration (GSA) and others for office and non-office space as estimated by GSA, as well as the rental costs of other currently occupied space. These costs include building security; in the case of GSA space, these are paid to Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Costs of mandatory office relocations, i.e. relocations in cases where due to external events there is no alternative but to vacate the currently occupied space, are also included.	+816	+2,141
Baseline Adjustments for O&M Increases In accordance with space maximization efforts across the Federal Government, this adjustment captures the associated increase to baseline operations and maintenance requirements resulting from movement out of GSA or direct-leased (commercial) space and into Bureau-owned space. While the GSA portion of fixed costs will go down as a result of these moves, Bureaus often encounter an increase to baseline O&M costs not otherwise captured in fixed costs. This category of funding properly adjusts the baseline fixed cost amount to maintain steady-state funding for these requirements.	+4	+18
Internal Realignments and Non-Policy/Program Changes (Net-Zero)		2022 (+/-)
Fish and Aquatic Conservation: Population Assessment and Cooperative Management: Great Lakes Consent Decree This moves funds from Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration to Great Lakes Consent Decree. While new staff has not been added to this Program since 2000, budgets have not kept pace with increasing costs over time, so this shift is necessary to continue to fully fund their work. FY22 projected salary and benefit costs of staff that conduct work in support of the Great Lakes Consent Decree across three Regional FWCO's totals approximately \$1.04 million. The Region will continue to cover costs of vessels, gear, and other equipment needed to conduct this work.	+110	
Fish and Aquatic Conservation: Population Assessment and Cooperative Management: Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration This moves funds from Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration to Great Lakes Consent Decree. While new staff has not been added to this Program since 2000, budgets have not kept pace with increasing costs over time, so this shift is necessary to continue to fully fund their work. FY22 projected salary and benefit costs of staff that conduct work in support of the Great Lakes Consent Decree across three Regional FWCO's totals approximately \$1.04 million. The Region will continue to cover costs of vessels, gear, and other equipment needed to conduct this work.	-110	

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ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

ACTIVITY: ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

Item		2020 Enacted	2021 Enacted	2022			Budget Request	Change from 2021 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Trans- fers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
Listing	(\$000)	20,318	20,767	+512	0	+1,000	22,279	+1,512
	FTE	112	112	0	0	+7	119	+7
Planning and Consultation	(\$000)	109,016	109,251	+2,841	0	+19,200	131,292	+22,041
	FTE	591	591	0	0	+101	692	+101
Conservation and Restoration	(\$000)	33,696	34,617	+799	0	+20,000	55,416	+20,799
	FTE	171	171	0	0	+106	277	+106
Recovery	(\$000)	102,982	105,031	+1,991	0	+16,080	123,102	+18,071
	FTE	441	441	0	0	+38	479	+38
Total, Ecological Services	(\$000)	266,012	269,666	+6,143	0	+56,280	332,089	+62,423
	FTE	1,315	1,315	0	0	+252	1,567	+252

Summary of 2022 Program Changes for Ecological Services

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Listing	+1,000	+7
• Planning and Consultation Activities	+10,700	+51
• Energy	+8,000	+47
• Pesticide Consultations	+500	+3
• Environmental Response and Restoration	+6,000	+40
• Candidate Conservation	+5,000	+33
• National Wetlands Inventory	+4,000	+3
• Coastal Barrier Resources Act	+2,000	+13
• Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem	+2,000	+7
• Marine Mammals	+1,500	+10
• Sea Otter Assessment	-500	0
• Recovery Activities	+15,680	+38
• Electric Vehicles	+1,500	0
• Florida Grasshopper Sparrow	-100	0
• Wolf-Livestock Demonstration Program	-1,000	0
Program Changes	+56,280	+252

Overview

Program Mission

The Ecological Services Program serves the American people by working closely with Federal, State, Tribal and private partners to protect trust natural resources, focusing on imperiled species and habitats. Through

leadership in environmental response and restoration; environmental reviews of Federal projects; listing and recovery of candidate, threatened, and endangered species; management of decision support and mapping tools; and financial assistance to States and others under the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund and other grant authorities; the Program works closely with our partners to meet the conservation challenges of today and tomorrow. As a result, the Ecological Services program is well situated to advance the Administration's agenda to "Build Back Better" and address the predominant conservation challenges of our time: economic recovery and climate change.

Ecological Services will support "**Build Back Better**" by:

- Assisting Federal, State, Tribal and private entities in siting and developing environmentally sound infrastructure and energy projects that minimize and mitigate impacts to trust resources, preserve habitat connectivity, improve our energy infrastructure, and reduce our Nation's emission of greenhouse gases;
- Engaging in early environmental reviews of infrastructure projects so that project proponents proceed with well-designed and justified projects that achieve their goal and minimize impacts to natural resources;
- Improving our analytical tools and data to inform and facilitate decision making during project reviews;
- Continuing to invest in new tools and technologies to assist other Federal agencies, industry, States, Tribes and other partners in their decision-making to advance conservation of listed and at-risk species while balancing the needs of the communities; and
- Pursuing shovel-ready projects that advance recovery of listed species while also creating jobs.

We will integrate **Climate Change** into our processes. Examples include:

- Considering climate risk assessments as part of species status assessments, listing determinations, critical habitat designations, project reviews and permitting, and recovery planning and implementation;
- Prioritizing environmental reviews for clean, green energy and projects that will lead the Nation toward carbon pollution free electricity by 2035 and a net-zero emission economy by 2050;
- Encouraging mitigation and adaptation efforts for riverine or coastal projects and providing information and tools to support community planning to prevent repeated damage from natural disasters;
- Reducing the potential of harm to the environment through planning and preparedness for wildfires, and oil and hazardous materials spill response and restoration;
- Supporting the Administration's efforts to protect biodiversity and create a natural environment more resilient to the effects of climate change by conserving at least 30% of our lands and waters by the year 2030; and
- Supporting the Civilian Climate Corps initiative by identifying work opportunities where climate change adaptation studies and projects can be completed.

Ecological Services will advance **Racial Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion** within our agency and in our work with all the public we serve by:

- Connecting with local communities to get their input on our decisions, and translating our outreach into other languages as appropriate;
- Considering the needs of underserved communities when providing technical assistance for infrastructure and energy projects;

- Supporting land acquisition and restoration projects that connect underserved communities with their local natural resources and wildlife;
- Addressing environmental concerns in communities that have been disproportionately impacted by pollution, including inclusive assessment and restoration planning and rectifying impacts through restoration;
- Pursuing hiring practices that recruit from all segments of our communities so that our workforce reflects our Nation; and
- Providing a safe, inclusive culture so all employees feel welcome and heard and have equal opportunity to advance the mission of the Ecological Services Program.

Program Elements

To achieve our mission and the Administration's priorities, the Ecological Services program is comprised of the following program elements:

- **Listing** – Uses the best scientific and commercial information available to identify plant and animal species that are in danger of extinction or are likely to become in danger of extinction within the foreseeable future, and thus need protection under the ESA.
- **Planning and Consultation** – Provides integrated advanced project planning, environmental review, and permitting assistance to resolve environmental concerns in support of economic growth, renewable energy production, landscape planning, and resilient community development.
- **Conservation and Restoration** – Delivers species conservation in partnership with States, Tribes, local governments, and private landowners to prevent the need to list a species when possible; protect and restore habitat important to Federal trust species; and provide databases and mapping products that are essential tools for conservation and restoration of species and habitats by landowners, other Federal and State agencies, and the public.
- **Recovery** – Works with communities and stakeholders to recover endangered and threatened species, with the goal to minimize or reduce threats to a listed species and improve their status so the species no longer needs Federal protection.

Applicable Laws, Acts, and Orders

Under various statutes and authorities, the Ecological Services Program is charged with providing technical assistance and compliance review under a variety of conservation laws, including the ESA; *Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act* (FWCA); *Marine Mammal Protection Act* (MMPA); *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA); *Emergency Wetlands Resources Act*; *Clean Water Act*; *Coastal Barrier Resources Act* (CBRA); *Oil Pollution Act* (OPA); *Federal Power Act*, *Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act* (CERCLA); and multiple Executive Orders. Through these operating authorities, the Service identifies potential impacts and provides solutions that prevent species and their habitats from becoming imperiled and support the Secretary's priorities.

ACTIVITY: ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

Subactivity: Listing

		2020 Enacted	2021 Enacted	2022			Change from 2021 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Listing	(\$000)	20,318	20,767	+512	0	+1,000	22,279	+1,512
	FTE	112	112	0	0	+7	119	+7

Summary of 2022 Program Changes for Listing

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Listing	+1,000	+7
Program Changes	+1,000	+7

Program Overview

The purpose of the ESA is to conserve endangered and threatened species and the ecosystems on which they depend, and thus advance wildlife conservation. Before a plant or animal species can receive the protection provided by the ESA, it must first be added to the Federal lists of threatened and endangered wildlife and plants. Placing a species on the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife (50 CFR 17.11) or the List of Endangered and Threatened Plants (50 CFR 17.12), and designating critical habitat as required under the ESA, focuses resources and efforts by the Service and its partners on recovering the species. Through the Listing subactivity, the Service uses the best scientific information available to identify foreign and domestic plant and animal species that are in danger of extinction or likely to become in danger of extinction within the foreseeable future and thus meet the ESA’s definition of endangered or threatened. This determination helps identify and address the conservation needs of the species, including the designation of critical habitat. Legal protections afforded under sections 7 and 9 of the ESA become effective upon listing, preventing the decline and extinction of many species. Information sought and compiled through the rule-making process associated with the listing determination informs and streamlines subsequent section 7 consultation and section 10 permitting activities and provides information crucial for recovery planning and implementation. In many ways, the listing process sets the stage for recovery needs and objectives, which facilitates early response and implementation.

The ESA uses the following definitions for listing determinations:

ESA DEFINITIONS	
<i>Endangered</i>	<i>Threatened</i>
A species is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.	A species is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

The Service's Endangered Species Listing subactivity supports development of the recommendations to the Director for listing a species as "Threatened" or "Endangered," uplisting a species from "Threatened" to "Endangered," and designating critical habitat. Species considered for listing can be identified independently by the Service or brought to the Service's attention by petitions received from the public under Section 4 of the Act. The Service also receives petitions for amendments to critical habitat and other actions. Under the ESA, when the Service receives a petition for listing or critical habitat amendments, it must respond within set timeframes. The Listing subactivity does not fund delisting and downlisting recommendations, which are funded through the Recovery subactivity.

Listing determinations, critical habitat designations, and their associated processes are important tools that support the Service's goal to recover species. This support stems in large part from the information developed when conducting the analysis of whether a species meets the definition of threatened or endangered. The Service works closely with States and Tribes during the listing process, which includes the development of a species status assessment (SSA) that reflects the best available scientific and commercial information regarding life history, biology, and the factors affecting the viability of a species, including the impacts of a changing climate. The Service maintains a National Listing Workplan to encourage States, Tribes and the public to undertake conservation activities now for species on the workplan so that the species does not need the protection of the ESA.¹ Recovery efforts for species are also initially outlined based on information to address threats identified within the listing rules. In this way, listing packages are a crucial step on the road to recovery.



Alligator snapping turtle. Photo © Chris Coppola. Taken from: <https://www.fws.gov/southeast/news/2021/04/service-proposes-listing-surwanee-alligator-snapping-turtle-as-threatened-under-the-endangered-species-act-and-seeks-public-comments/>

The broad range of management tools for domestic species includes recovery planning and implementation under ESA section 4, cooperation with States under section 6, coordination with other Federal agencies under section 7, full take prohibitions under section 9, management agreements and permits under section 10, and other laws and treaties such as the MMPA or Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). In contrast, foreign species' management tools are limited to import and trade restrictions through ESA section 9 and CITES, education and public awareness, and conservation funding through grants. Direct recovery actions are not practicable. The continuation of a budget sub-cap for listing and petition findings related to foreign species allows the Service, within its existing resources,

to balance its duty to protect both foreign and domestic species in a way that will not detract from its efforts to protect imperiled domestic species.

2022 Program Activities

The 2022 budget will:

- Support implementation of the approved National Listing Workplan. This plan identifies and prioritizes 12-month findings, listing rules, and critical habitat rules that are required by law. Based on the

¹ <https://www.fws.gov/endangered/what-we-do/listing-workplan.html>

requested funding level for FY 2022, the Service plans to publish 12-month findings, listing rules, and critical habitat rules for 59 species in FY 2022. Listing determinations will be based on SSAs.

- Support staff work on SSAs, petition findings, rules, public hearings, printing, and economic analyses for critical habitat.

Proposed Program Changes

The 2022 budget request for Listing is \$22,279,000 and 119 FTE, a program change of +\$1,000,000 and +7 FTE from the 2021 Enacted.

Listing (+\$1,000,000/+7 FTE) - Through the Listing subactivity, the Service uses the best scientific and commercial information available to identify species that are in danger of extinction or likely to become so within the foreseeable future and thus need protection under the ESA. As a result of a high number of petitions, over 400 species are awaiting status reviews to determine if listing is warranted. In 2016, the Service shared with the public its 7-year National Listing Workplan covering FYs 2017-2023; since that time, workload demands have exceeded the capacity provided by available resources. These funds will allow the Service to address the listing backlog at a reasonable pace and help avoid ESA litigation over missed statutory deadlines. In addition, increased funds will be used to improve the data collection and analysis, in coordination with States, Tribes, academia, and others, during the development of an SSA that reflects the best available scientific and commercial information regarding life history, biology, and the factors affecting the viability of a species, such as the effects of a changing climate.

ACTIVITY: ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

Subactivity: Planning and Consultation

		2020 Enacted	2021 Enacted	2022			Change from 2021 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Planning and Consultation	(\$000) FTE	109,016 591	109,251 591	+2,841 0	0 0	+19,200 +101	131,292 692	+22,041 +101

Summary of 2022 Program Changes for Planning and Consultation

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Planning and Consultation Activities	+10,700	+51
• Energy	+8,000	+47
• Pesticide Consultations	+500	+3
Program Changes	+19,200	+101

Program Overview

Within Planning and Consultation, the Service will contribute to the President’s “Build Back Better” initiative by providing a field-based, landscape-level approach that works collaboratively with industry, agencies, Tribes, and other stakeholders to balance conservation and development needs. The Service works with stakeholders at the planning stages of federally-authorized, licensed, or funded land, water, and energy development projects—from highway expansions to energy development—to ensure that development has minimal impact on wildlife and habitats. Service staff have extensive knowledge in numerous statutory authorities, including the ESA, Clean Water Act, NEPA, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Federal Power Act, MBTA and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and use that background to bring a true “One Service” integrated presence to our work. By engaging in development processes early, Service recommendations save taxpayers money by streamlining the permitting process, reducing paperwork, and ensuring minimized environmental and community impacts of development projects. Advanced biological planning and conservation design also assists communities and industry in adapting to climate change.

Early coordination and involvement in the project siting and design process can minimize the impacts of a project on fish and wildlife. Through the NEPA process, the Ecological Services Program works closely with the lead Federal agency to streamline the review process for Federal projects, including infrastructure and renewable energy. Exercising authority for interagency consultation under section 7 of the ESA, the Service collaborates with Federal agencies and applicants to identify opportunities to reduce their proposed actions’ effects on listed species, while ensuring important economic activity can appropriately proceed.

Environmental review functions constitute a large and growing workload for the Service, and we are continuously seeking ways to improve the efficiency, consistency, transparency, and effectiveness of environmental review and permitting development projects. The Service is enhancing our Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) decision support system to streamline the environmental review process. IPaC currently assists over 44,000 registered users by (1) identifying listed species, critical habitat, and other trust resources (e.g., migratory birds) within a project area and generates ESA section 7 species lists;

(2) providing conservation recommendations to minimize impacts to ESA-listed species and other trust resources; and (3) delivering concurrence letters for implementation of programmatic consultations through determination keys (D-Keys). In FY 2020, the IPaC program delivered over 17,300 streamlined consultation documents and generated over 101,650 official species lists in response to user requests and is well on the way to surpassing that for FY 2021. In FY 2021, the Service added new functionality to IPaC called Consultation Package Builder (CPB) that leads Federal agencies through the development of biological assessments; this critical new feature provides more transparency and consistency in the ESA section 7 consultation process and improves conservation outcomes. In FY 2022, the Service will be improving the CPB to further streamline the process of creating a biological assessment, integrating with the new ECOSphere platform to improve consultation reporting, and expanding our delivery of programmatic consultations to cover more species and locations. In addition, the Service is refining species range maps in a way that is transparent and repeatable. Improving range maps for listed species further streamlines the environmental review process by helping avoid impacts to listed species and trust resources, and ensure environmental reviews focus on where listed species and trust resources are most likely to be affected by the proposed project.

Using the incidental take permit authority under section 10 of the ESA, the Service provides technical assistance to non-Federal entities in the development of incidental take permit applications that include Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs), and issues incidental take permits. The Service's incidental take permit program is a flexible process for addressing situations in which a property owner's otherwise lawful activities might result in incidental take of listed wildlife. Under section 10, the Service facilitates private and other non-Federal land development through species and conservation planning that strikes a regulatory balance for development while mitigating impacts to species.

Water Quality and Pesticide Consultations

As part of our ESA consultations process, the Service works with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to improve and refine methods to conduct ESA section 7 consultations on pesticide registrations under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). The Service also works closely with EPA to conduct section 7 consultations on water quality such as establishing national water quality standards, issuing national general permits for discharges, and conducting National Aquatic Resources surveys. The Service develops and implements scientifically rigorous protocols for national consultations with EPA to protect threatened and endangered species and their designated critical habitats by assessing impacts from pesticides and other pollutants. This rigorous and thorough assessment process for evaluating risks to listed species and their critical habitats, which the Service is incorporating in ongoing consultations, will greatly improve how the Service conducts current and future Section 7 consultations on pesticide registrations and discharge permits. Increasing the scientific and technical capacity of the Service will help ensure ESA compliance for pesticides early in the registration process, minimize the threat of lawsuits, and provide more certainty and guidance to applicants for how those chemicals can continue to be available for production of food and fiber in this country, while ensuring the protection of listed species.



Mount Storm Wind Farm. Credit: Ryan Hagerty/USFWS

Renewable Energy

One of the Administration's priorities for which the Department of the Interior will play a prominent role is in securing a sustainable energy future that involves the responsible use of our resources. The unparalleled drive toward clean and renewable domestic energy has increased emphasis on expanding and accelerating hydroelectric, solar, geothermal, wind, tidal, and hydrokinetic energy projects. At the same time, traditional energy sources, such as oil and gas, continue to be developed. Consequently, the Service is increasingly engaged in extensive coordination with other Department of the Interior bureaus, Federal agencies, States, Tribes, and industry early in the process to ensure conservation of trust resources and racial equity as the Nation transitions to carbon pollution free electricity by 2035 and a net-zero emission economy by 2050.

2022 Program Activities

The 2022 budget will:

- Provide integrated advanced project planning, environmental review, and permitting assistance to address environmental concerns while supporting the Nation's efforts to build back better through energy production, infrastructure, and other development activities.
- Support development and population of data in IPaC, our web-based application, to streamline the ESA consultation process and provide transparency and predictability for Federal agencies and applicants.
- Collaborate with partners by providing technical assistance in evaluating the impacts of proposed Federal activities on fish, wildlife, and plants.
- Consider the needs of local underserved communities when advising on siting determinations, the impacts of Federal projects, and adapting to climate change.

Proposed Program Changes

The 2022 budget request for Planning and Consultation is \$131,292,000 and 692 FTE, a program change of +\$19,200,000 and +101 FTE from the 2021 Enacted.

Planning and Consultation Staffing (+\$10,700,000/+51 FTE) - In order to effectively support the surge in economic recovery and infrastructure development expected in FY 2022 and outyears, the Service is requesting additional field office capacity to ensure Service project review and permitting functions are not bottlenecks in the environmental clearance process for priority economic revitalization projects. The Administration's Build Back Better initiative is expected to spur investment on a wide variety of development projects. By engaging early in project development, Service staff can bring their extensive knowledge in numerous authorities, including the ESA, and NEPA to streamline the permitting process and minimize environmental and community impacts of development projects.

The Administration has emphasized that climate initiatives will be part of the Build Back Better initiative. Service biologists can provide critical technical assistance to other Federal agencies, States, Tribes, contractors, and private industry to assist with project siting and minimization and mitigation of impacts, while addressing climate change impacts, thereby facilitating timely environmental reviews, improving conservation outcomes, implementing compliance and effectiveness monitoring, and helping others understand and plan for the effects of climate change, especially in disadvantaged communities. For

example, the hotter, drier conditions experienced in recent years because of climate change are resulting in significantly longer and more severe fire seasons with significant loss of habitat for listed and at-risk species. In the West, significant acreages were lost in 2020: over 4 million acres of forested habitat in California; an estimated 1.1 million acres were lost in Oregon; almost 400,000 acres in Idaho; and over 800,000 acres in Washington. In the Southeast, the number of fires is staggering – nearly 23,000 fires, representing nearly half of all fires in the United States. Fire risk maps for 2021 validate the concern across the U.S. (see <https://www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/outlooks/07-Jul.png>). Additional capacity will provide timely and expert support and collaboration with Federal and non-Federal land managers, and Tribes to address the growing fire threat.

The Service is also seeking additional resources to provide more automated tools to facilitate environmental reviews and coordination. The Service would add new functionality to IPaC to streamline the Section 7 consultation process in a transparent and consistent way. The development of ECOSphere, which hosts IPaC, into a robust tracking and transactional workflow system will allow Service biologists to manage work for listed species and other trust resources throughout the continuum of the species protection provided by the ESA. ECOSphere is a cloud-based pool of applications and workflows that provides access to Service data in regards to threatened and endangered species, conservation of habitat and species, refuges, and migratory birds. ECOSphere provides a central point to gather and store information from Federal, State, and Tribal partners to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and, where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States. Expanding the data management and delivery of information used by Service biologists to manage the conservation and recovery of these species will boost efforts internally and externally, as well as streamline the review of high priority infrastructure and renewable energy development projects. Workflows that centralize the information and manage data in a consistent manner, including timeline dependencies and notifications, will create efficiencies in process and streamline coordination across offices, biologists, and partners for conservation.

Energy Staffing (+\$8,000,000/+47 FTE) - In order to effectively support the Administration's priorities to Build Back Better, the Service is requesting additional field office capacity to ensure that project review and permitting functions are not bottlenecks in the environmental clearance process for renewable energy projects. This new capacity will enable and deepen the Service's contribution to the Government-wide approach to addressing the climate crisis envisioned in E.O. 14008. For example, E.O. 14008 states the Administration's goal of doubling offshore wind energy production by 2030 while ensuring robust protection for our lands, waters, and biodiversity and creating good jobs. Concurrently, E.O. 14008 also stresses the importance of revitalizing the economics of coal, oil and gas, and power plant communities for economic and social recovery. Strengthened Service programs will help advance the clean energy transition by efficiently reviewing projects on public lands, in offshore waters and elsewhere to increase renewable energy production while ensuring robust protections for wildlife.

Additional field office capacity will allow the Service to focus on early engagement in renewable energy development processes. When the Service engages early, our recommendations save taxpayers money by facilitating timely decisions and ensuring that environmental and community impacts are minimized. Additional field office capacity will also allow the Service to provide timely and expert support to non-Federal entities and landowners seeking incidental take permits for renewable energy projects. Lastly, new capacity will support pro-active biological planning and conservation design, which will help communities address climate change and industry make better decisions regarding where to pursue renewable energy development.

Pesticide Consultations (+\$500,000/+3 FTE) - The section 7 consultations on pesticide registrations is a complex, ongoing process involving the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Marine Fishers Service (NMFS), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), registrants and the public.

EPA's extensive consultation needs for registration of new pesticides, new pesticide uses, and the required registration review of existing pesticides is currently driven by litigation. Several lawsuits have been filed against EPA, the Service, and NMFS by non-governmental organizations citing the threat to listed species and their designated critical habitats arising from noncompliance of pesticide registration with section 7 of the ESA. Due in part to these lawsuits and related settlements, EPA has a large backlog of section 7 consultations and will most likely be requesting initiation of consultation for many of these chemicals in the coming years - including at least 6 additional pesticides this year. These national consultations often address most or all domestically listed species and their critical habitats. The Service is seeking additional resources to support these consultations, given the development of new pesticides and technologies as well as new uses that will result in increasing numbers of pesticide registrations and consultation requests in the coming years.

ACTIVITY: ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

Subactivity: Conservation and Restoration

		2020 Enacted	2021 Enacted	2022			Change from 2021 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Conservation	(\$000)	33,696	34,617	+799	0	+20,000	55,416	+20,799
and Restoration	FTE	171	171	0	0	+106	277	+106

Summary of 2022 Program Changes for Conservation and Restoration

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Environmental Response & Restoration	+6,000	+40
• Candidate Conservation	+5,000	+33
• National Wetlands Inventory	+4,000	+3
• Coastal Barrier Resources Act	+2,000	+13
• Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem	+2,000	+7
• Marine Mammals	+1,500	+10
• Sea Otter Assessment	-500	0
Program Changes	+20,000	+106

Program Overview

Through the Conservation and Restoration program, the Service supports collaborative species conservation efforts, works to protect and restore habitats that are important to Federal trust species, and provides mapping products and databases that are essential tools for conservation and restoration of species and habitats by other Federal and State agencies, Tribes, and the public. Activities under this program will further the Administration’s priorities in multiple areas by providing technical experts to improve habitat connectivity and protect wildlife and habitat; providing tools and technologies to assist other Federal agencies, industry, States, Tribes and other partners in their decision-making to advance conservation of listed and at-risk species while balancing the needs of the communities; aligning conservation with the needs of landowners through different working models for partnerships; reducing the potential of harm to the environment through planning and preparedness for oil and hazardous materials spill response; encouraging mitigation/adaptation efforts for riverine or coastal projects and providing information and tools to advance community planning in order to prevent repeated damage from natural disasters; and supporting land acquisition and restoration projects that connect underserved communities with their local natural resources and wildlife.

Candidate Conservation

Candidate Conservation focuses on two primary activities: species assessment and facilitating voluntary conservation efforts for species under consideration for listing under the ESA. Candidate Conservation uses all available information to conduct a scientifically rigorous assessment process that identifies species that warrant listing. The Service uses a species status assessment framework (SSA), which is an analytical approach to deliver foundational science for informing all ESA decisions. The 2019 and 2020 Candidate

Notice of Review, published on November 16, 2020, identified a total of 11 domestic species as candidates for listing.

Candidate Conservation also provides technical assistance to private landowners, States, Tribes, and Federal agencies for developing Candidate Conservation Agreements (CCA) and Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAA) for candidate and other at-risk species, such as the monarch butterfly. Candidate Conservation was highlighted as a conservation priority in the Administration's recently released report outlining the America the Beautiful initiative, which sets a goal of conserving 30 percent of the Nation's lands and waters by 2030.

For example, the Service collaborates with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to develop landscape level partnerships to conserve at-risk species by leveraging the financial incentives available in the Farm Bill with the regulatory incentives available under the ESA. Immediate opportunities exist to expand and enhance the Working Lands for Wildlife model of conservation delivery, with specific emphasis to create and maintain regenerative agricultural, grazing, and forest management systems that (1) recover and conserve at-risk species such as pollinators; (2) encourage adoption of healthy soil and habitat practices which sequester carbon, reduce nitrogen emissions, and deploy climate mitigation strategies; and (3) provide long-term regulatory predictability to keep their working lands working.

For candidate species, the Service uses a proactive, strategic, and collaborative approach for conservation planning that is designed to reduce or remove identified threats. A conservation agreement or strategy is then prepared that covers the entire range of one or more candidate species, or a landscape scale plan targeting threats in a particular area that supports multiple at-risk species. In 2016, the sicklefin redhorse (a freshwater fish that can grow up to 25 inches) was removed from the candidate list in part because of conservation actions carried out under a CCA among the Service, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Duke Energy Carolinas, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Tennessee Valley Authority, and Georgia Department of Natural Resources. The Washington ground squirrel was also removed from the candidate list in 2016 in part due to the Navy's commitment to implement conservation efforts that eliminate or reduce threats to Washington ground squirrels from military readiness activities on the 19,020 ha (47,000 ac) of Naval Weapons System Training Facility Boardman through a combination of best management practices, mitigation, monitoring, and adaptive management. These are examples of how designing and implementing a conservation strategy early can successfully preclude the need to list a species.

Marine Mammals

Marine mammals are a resource of great cultural, aesthetic, economic, and recreational significance. Enacted in 1972, the MMPA is one of the most important statutory authorities for conserving and managing marine mammals. This statute provides protection by prohibiting (with certain exceptions): (1) take of marine mammals in U.S. waters and by U.S. citizens on the high seas, and (2) the import, export, and sale of marine mammals and marine mammal parts and products in the U.S. Under the MMPA, marine mammal populations, and the health and stability of marine ecosystems upon which they depend, are required to be maintained at, or returned to, healthy levels. The MMPA assigns the Department of the Interior, through the Service, responsibility for the conservation and management of polar bears, walrus, sea and marine otters, three species of manatees, and dugongs. Through regular monitoring, the Service can



Walrus. Credit: Joel Garlich Miller/USFWS

learn more about the effects of global changes on the environment by understanding the health and dynamics of marine mammal populations that depend on these environments.

Meeting the Service's mandate for the conservation of marine mammal species requires communication and cooperation with other Federal agencies, State governments, Alaska Native Organizations, scientists from numerous institutions and organizations, industry groups, and nongovernmental organizations. Through active collaboration and coordination, the Service is able to enhance the effectiveness of implementing the MMPA and achieve its goal of optimum sustainable population levels for marine mammal stocks. In FY 2022, the Service will continue to work with partners to sustain efforts to survey and assess population status and trends for sea otters, Pacific walrus, polar bears, and West Indian manatees and will continue to support response efforts for stranded or beached marine mammals. The Service will also continue efforts to maintain current stock assessment reports for all 10 marine mammal stocks under the conservation and management jurisdiction of the Service. Working with Alaskan natives and local communities, the Service will coordinate management of the Pacific walrus stock with Russia and the two polar bear stocks shared with Russia and Canada, in support of our existing international agreements. The Service will continue implementing regulations associated with oil and gas industry activities to minimize potential impacts and will address other sources for incidental take authorizations.

National Wetlands Inventory

The Service is the principal Federal agency tasked with providing publicly available information on the status and trends of our Nation's wetlands. Wetlands provide habitat for fish, wildlife and plants - many of which have a commercial or recreational value, recharge groundwater, reduce flooding, provide clean drinking water, offer food and fiber, and support cultural and recreational activities, supporting the Administration's priorities related to Climate Change and Build Back Better. Unfortunately, over half of America's wetlands have been lost since 1780, and wetland losses continue today. The National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) provides an online mapping resource that gives detailed information on the abundance, characteristic, and distribution of America's wetlands. The wetland data layer underlying the mapper is the best available data on wetlands for the Nation. However, approximately 70% of the NWI data are over 20 years old and do not meet modern data quality standards; over half of Alaska is currently unmapped. The Service works extensively with other Federal, State and Tribal partners to continually update the data layer and mapper. NWI maps expedite conservation and business decisions on, for instance, siting of infrastructure or other development projects to reduce impacts to wetlands and promote a wide array of environmental benefits including climate resiliency. In FY 2022, the Service will complete the collection of data for the sixth decadal report to Congress on the status and trends of the Nation's wetlands. As required by law, the next report will provide an assessment of the quantity of America's wetlands, supporting the "no net loss of wetlands" goal and informing policy and management decisions across the Federal Government.

Coastal Barrier Resources Act

In the early 1980s, Congress recognized that certain Federal actions and programs have historically subsidized and encouraged development on coastal barriers, resulting in the loss of natural resources; threats to human life, health, and property; and the expenditure of millions of tax dollars each year. To remove the Federal incentive to develop these areas, CBRA designated relatively undeveloped coastal barriers along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts as part of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS), and made these areas ineligible for most new Federal expenditures and financial assistance. CBRA does not prohibit or restrict development conducted with non-Federal funds.

Implementing CBRA relies on mapping capabilities. The Service continues to take significant steps to improve efficiencies and effectiveness of CBRA administration including: (1) maintaining the CBRS Mappers that make CBRS data more accessible to property owners, project proponents, and other interested

stakeholders; (2) advancing the prepared final recommended maps for the CBRS along the Atlantic coast from New Hampshire to Virginia (covering 42 percent of the total units and representing 16 percent of the total CBRS acreage) and an accompanying report through internal approval and ultimate enactment by Congress; and (3) establishing a process for conducting reviews of CBRS maps at least once every 5 years as required by CBRA; and, (4) supporting CBRA consistency consultations for federally funded projects affecting the CBRS. Lastly, the CBRA program will continue to review and remap additional CBRS areas, as appropriate, on a case-by-case basis.

Environmental Response and Restoration

Our coasts, rivers, estuaries, wetlands and other natural places are home to spectacular native wildlife and provide Americans with unrivaled places to fish, hunt, and experience the great outdoors. They also play a critical role in our economy, generating revenues from tourism and recreational activities, while providing us with clean water and performing countless other important ecological functions. There are many pressures on wildlife resources along coastal ecosystems including the ongoing effects of hazardous materials and toxic chemicals released from facilities damaged by hurricanes. Climate change-induced sea level rise and more intense hurricanes put not only our coastal refuges at direct risk, but also the vast petrochemical industry sharing these ecosystems. The Service's Environmental Response and Restoration Program protects and restores fish and wildlife populations, and habitats that have been injured by the release of oil or hazardous substances. To be effective in responding to emergency spills, the Service must maintain a cadre of trained responders. Funding for this preparedness is critical to maintain the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's required training certificates or medical monitoring, to supply responders and Natural Resources Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR) practitioners with the equipment and supplies to prevent exposure and/or minimize injuries to spilled oil or environmental contaminants, and to conduct associated pre-assessment investigations. Trained responders increase the Service's capacity to provide technical support and expertise to the U.S. Coast Guard and Environmental Protection Agency who rely on the Service to oversee the collection and rehabilitation of oiled birds and other wildlife during spill events.

The Environmental Response and Restoration program oversees the NRDAR activities nationwide, managing over 89% of the 434 active Departmental NRDAR cases. To achieve restoration, the Service uses its technical expertise to convert damage assessment recoveries to on-the-ground restoration. The Service uses appropriated funding to support ongoing cases and conduct early investigations that could potentially lead to restoration projects worth millions of dollars. The program has a commitment to the public in restoring injured natural resources and supporting local communities, rural economies, States, and Tribes.

For example, through ongoing cases in FY 2020, the Service, in coordination with co-trustees, put more than \$100 million of recovered funds on the ground to restore habitat, fish and wildlife for the American people; enhancing, restoring, or protecting over 114,500 acres and 195 stream miles. As a result, 28 restoration projects with direct benefits



Workers at the Bird Triage Center in Grand Isle attempt to clean a pelican soiled by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. Credit: Steve Martarano

to threatened and endangered species were completed, and more than 116 acres were made available for recreational use. The economic impact of NRDAR restoration generates millions of dollars for the local economy and hundreds of year-long jobs.

2022 Program Activities

The 2022 budget request will allow Ecological Services to:

- Review and process section 10 enhancement of survival permit applications for candidate and other at-risk species.
- Update the national wetlands layer data by working extensively with other Federal and State partners; and complete the collection of data for the sixth decadal report to Congress on the status and trends of the Nation's wetlands.
- Prioritize NRDAR activities to identify opportunities for new cases, accelerate assessment casework that has a nexus to underserved communities, and increase capacity for restoration implementation to address injuries to natural resources and benefit economic recovery.
- Participate in oil spill training, spill drills, the formulation of Regional Contingency Plans and Area Contingency Plans, and carry out section 7 consultation on those plans and response actions.
- Increase field staff to improve the Service's engagement with Federal action agencies and our responsiveness to their requests for CBRA consistency determinations.
- Submit final recommended maps of the CBRS from Maine to Virginia, and the accompanying report to Congress and complete the 5-year map review for 25% of CBRS Units.
- Maintain current stock assessment reports for MMPA protected species, process and issue Incidental Take Regulations, and engage in and support conservation partnerships to address animal standings and unusual mortality events.

Proposed Program Changes

The 2022 budget request for Conservation and Restoration is \$55,416,000 and 277 FTE, a net program change of +\$20,000,000 and +106 FTE from the 2021 Enacted.

Environmental Response and Restoration (+\$6,000,000/+40 FTE) - Through the Service's Environmental Response and Restoration program, the Service supports the NRDAR and environmental response training (spill response planning and coordination). In support of the NRDAR program, the Service will use the requested increase to build capacity to work with Tribal, State, and other Federal co-trustees to conduct assessment activities, accelerate restoration planning and implementation, and increase opportunities for employee development through establishment of a mentoring and training program. There are currently 434 active Departmental NRDAR cases, of which the Service manages 386 cases. To achieve restoration, the Service uses its technical expertise to convert damage assessment recoveries to on-the-ground restoration. The Service will prioritize backlogged casework, with an eye toward opportunities for restoration in underserved communities, and land acquisition projects with restoration activities that can offset climate impacts and increase conservation to contribute to the Administration's America the Beautiful initiative, which sets a goal of conserving 30 percent of the Nation's lands and waters by 2030. In FY 2020, the NRDAR program managed more than \$100 million in funds recovered from responsible parties to implement restoration projects for the benefit of the American people. The economic impact of NRDAR restoration generates millions of dollars for the local economy and hundreds of year-long jobs while protecting Federal trust resources, public health and safety, and restoring and enhancing essential ecosystem services.

We will also conduct threats assessments at sites where oil or chemical releases have/or are likely to occur in areas that overlap with trust resources and underserved communities, in preparation for initiating new

NRDAR cases following a release. The Service will conduct ongoing cases and initiate early investigations that could potentially lead to restoration projects worth millions of dollars. This is especially important in economically disadvantaged communities where the Service represents these communities in negotiations on restoration plans and actions.

Hazardous substance releases, exacerbated by climate change, threaten millions of miles of coastline, river systems, lakes, and terrestrial habitat and the species that depend on these habitats. These ecosystems are home to spectacular native wildlife and provide Americans with unrivaled places to fish, hunt, and get outdoors. They also play a critical role in our economy, generating revenues in tourism and recreational opportunities, while providing clean water and other important ecological functions that are especially important to underserved communities. Past spills are a testament to the significant risk spills pose to our trust resources. The National Response Center (NRC) reports approximately 26,000 spills a year; more than 13,500 are serious enough for the Service to further evaluate and 300 to initiate response. Recent hurricanes have highlighted the need for our technical assistance to the Refuge Program and Office of Emergency Management with regard to contaminant releases, pesticide applications, and more. The Service emphasizes contingency planning and cooperation at the local, regional, and national level to minimize injury to fish, wildlife, and sensitive environments from hazardous substance releases and oil spills. With the recent increase in weather related events and the number of oil and gas facilities currently in existence, particularly those along the coast, it is imperative for employees responsible for planning and responding to spills and other natural disasters to be effectively trained in those areas. The Service will increase spill response capacity nationwide to ensure a consistent approach and better train, plan, prepare and respond to incidents to minimize impacts to fish and wildlife and their habitats and facilitate restoration of those resources. Service staff will be able to participate in area contingency planning meetings, regional response team meetings, and critical exercises and drills to improve our ability to provide support to the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and EPA. The USCG and EPA rely on the Service to participate in the formulation of Area Contingency Plans; carry out section 7 consultation on those plans and response actions, prevent or reduce impacts of spilled oil on fish and wildlife and their habitats, oversee the collection and rehabilitation of oiled birds and other wildlife, and conduct natural resource damage assessments to facilitate restoration of fish and wildlife resources affected by the spill. The Service remains committed to its role as a partner in conserving America's natural resources, and effectively responding to spills is a key element of this commitment.

Candidate Conservation (+\$5,000,000 / +33 FTE) - Integrating the conservation objectives of candidate conservation, along with our other authorities, helps the Service and local communities achieve a balance between species conservation and economic and local priorities. This funding will be used to support conservation efforts at different scales, at the State agency level for landscape conservation efforts as well as at the local landowner level. The Service will focus on improving the ability of State agencies to provide technical assistance for some Candidate Conservation Agreements and CCAAs. Guided by the National Listing Workplan, the States can leverage their localized expertise and relationships to provide landowners with technical assistance to achieve specific conservation goals for candidate and petitioned species and thus provide regulatory certainty to participating landowners and potentially eliminate the need to list a species. Candidate Conservation was highlighted as a conservation priority in the Administration's recently released report outlining the America the Beautiful initiative, which sets a goal of conserving 30 percent of the Nation's lands and waters by 2030.

For many listed species, conservation happens through voluntary efforts on private working lands. These voluntary conservation actions are key to helping to prevent species from needing the protection of the Act while contributing to pollinator and wildlife habitat and providing carbon-sequestering opportunities. Additional capacity would allow the Service to stand up a specialized team that would simplify and accelerate the process for getting section 10 permits and associated candidate conservation plans in place and functioning for working lands. Consistent with the Administration's 30x30 initiative, the team would

develop, administer and monitor implementation of these voluntary landowner agreements. The Service would also be able to expand its effort in working with other Federal agencies, such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service, to offer regulatory predictability when partnering with farmers, ranchers and forest landowners to keep their working lands working, similar to the Working Lands for Wildlife Program.

Updating National Wetlands Inventory maps (+\$4,000,000 / +3 FTE) - The Service's Inventory (NWI) geospatial dataset provides detailed information on the abundance, type, and distribution of America's wetlands, which is used to model the effects of climate change, and develop climate adaptation and resilience strategies. Additionally, government and private sector organizations rely on NWI data to enhance and streamline infrastructure planning, permitting, and mitigation decisions. For example, the states of Michigan and Minnesota save \$750,000 and \$1 million, respectively, each year by using the NWI dataset to support their regulatory review and planning programs. Use of NWI data by environmental consulting firms saves an additional estimated \$7.8 million annually. Contemporary wetlands data get infrastructure projects to the construction phase faster, while supporting the long-term health and resilience of our environment. However, the last major NWI mapping initiative occurred over 30 years ago, and the dataset needs substantive reinvestment to continue to support informed public and private sector decision-making. This funding request is the first installment of a long-term reinvestment in the Nation's wetland dataset. Funding will be used primarily to contract out for data collection and quality control. The increase will be used to update about 10% of infrastructure development priority areas and Alaska. An estimated investment of \$40M over 10 years is needed to map approximately 625 million acres, focusing on unmapped portions of Alaska, coastal areas and areas of anticipated rapid economic development in the lower 48 States. The focus will be to strategically update wetlands data in areas of significant change and development interest, where wetlands function to abate flooding from storms and provide water storage and filtration, as well as provide habitat for many of the Service's trust resources, including about half of threatened and endangered species.

CBRA Consistency Consultation Reviews (+\$2,000,000 / +13 FTE) - The Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) is an underutilized tool that restricts most new Federal expenditures that encourage development of these ecologically sensitive and unstable areas (e.g., flood control projects, disaster assistance, and flood insurance). The proposed increase in funding would support additional field staff to conduct CBRA consistency consultations for federally funded projects affecting the CBRS to ensure consistency in providing responses as recommended by the Government Accountability Office's report issued March 10, 2021 (GAO-21-258 – <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-21-258>).

Sagebrush Ecosystem (+\$2,000,000/+7 FTE) - This request prioritizes funding to allow the Service to continue to engage with Federal and State partners to proactively conserve America's sagebrush ecosystem, which extends across 13 Western States and supports nationally significant wildlife, cultural and economic resources. Durable conservation of this landscape requires a long-term collaborative conservation effort unprecedented in geographic scope and scale. The additional resources identified in this request will support a dedicated workforce to expand these and other vital rangewide coordination efforts and help reduce the need for future Federal regulatory intervention in this landscape. Through strategic, sustained investment in science-driven collaborative conservation, the Service can provide expertise to the Westwide campaign to maintain a healthy, working sagebrush landscape that supports a wealth of native wildlife resources and viable rural economies.



Greater Sage Grouse Flying. Credit: Tom Koerner/USFWS

To support successful conservation of this ecosystem and native wildlife species, including greater sage-grouse, the Service has identified the priority need for staff across our western regions for scientific expertise, technical assistance for on-the-ground conservation project delivery, geospatial support, internal and external communication, and partnership coordination. Partners in the ongoing effort to conserve this ecosystem include western States, the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, other Federal agencies (e.g., Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service), private landowners, and others. The Service will use part of this additional capacity to work closely with

private landowners considering enrollment in CCAAs; as well as develop other partnership agreements with energy and mining interests across the ecosystem. Without this additional capacity, the Service will miss a critical opportunity to enroll large blocks of privately-owned habitat in voluntary conservation programs in the sagebrush ecosystem to further the Administration's 30x30 initiative and advance climate resilience efforts for this landscape. Success requires constant communication, planning, adaptive management, and monitoring to ensure long-term conservation for sage-dependent wildlife, including migratory birds that are declining or at risk.

The Service will also prioritize completing high priority projects (e.g., management of invasive annual grasses and conifers in high-quality habitat for at-risk species) with partners on Federal and private land across the sagebrush ecosystem. A central component of the Service's work with State and Federal partners in the sagebrush ecosystem is to provide scientifically sound management recommendations to conserve healthy sagebrush rangelands for wildlife and for people. To achieve this, the Service must continue to work with Federal and State partners to implement priority on-the-ground conservation efforts, namely the fight against invasive annual grasses that cause too-frequent rangeland fires that threaten human livelihoods, as well as wildlife. This effort to combat invasive species and fire directly supports the Administration's climate resilience priorities through a "defend and grow the core" approach involving stewardship of intact lands and restoration with native seeding.

Marine Mammal Protection Act (+\$1,500,000 / +10 FTE) - The Service has responsibility for 10 marine mammal stocks, protected under the MMPA; all of these populations are highly vulnerable to climate change. Additional capacity would allow the Service to bolster Service-wide procedures and tracking for MMPA administration, including incidental harassment authorizations, incidental take regulations, stock assessment reports, conservation plans, grant administration, and other responsibilities. The added capacity would provide the necessary staff time to process MMPA permits, and develop assessments and reports satisfying regulatory requirements and meeting mandatory timeframes. Furthermore, the Service would be able to provide the vital engagement necessary to strengthen our co-management relationships with Alaska Native Organizations and the Nation's Bilateral Treaty with Russia. Lastly, the Service would commit resources critical to supporting conservation partnerships to address human/animal conflict, animal strandings, and unusual mortality events, all of which are growing stressors to these species and are steadily exacerbated by the effects of climate change.

Sea Otter Assessment (-\$500,000/0 FTE) – Within the FY 2021 Appropriations bill, Congress directed the Service to study the feasibility and cost of reestablishing sea otters on the Pacific Coast of the contiguous United States, and to report to Congress on the results of such a study within 1 year of passage of this Act. Funding for this assessment is no longer required.

ACTIVITY: ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

Subactivity: Recovery

		2020 Enacted	2021 Enacted	2022			Change from 2021 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Recovery	(\$000)	102,982	105,031	+1,991	0	+16,080	123,102	+18,071
	FTE	441	441	0	0	+38	479	+38

Summary of 2022 Program Changes for Recovery

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Recovery Activities	+15,680	+38
• Zero Emission Vehicles	+1,500	0
• Florida Grasshopper Sparrow	-100	0
• Wolf-Livestock Demonstration Program	-1,000	0
Program Changes	+16,080	+38

Program Overview

Preventing extinction and recovering listed species has always been, and will continue to be, one of the Service’s highest priorities. The goal of the Recovery program is to minimize or remove the threats that led to the species’ listing and to work toward improving the status of listed species so that protection under the Act is no longer necessary. This process requires planning, monitoring, and management together with close coordination with Service partners. The Service plays a vital role in guiding the recovery planning process, and in facilitating, supporting, and monitoring the implementation of recovery actions by the Service and others.

Recovery plans, which are non-regulatory blueprints for the conservation work that needs to be done to recover a species, are required under the ESA. Recovery plans identify specific recovery tasks, establish downlisting and delisting criteria, and provide timetables and cost estimates. Recovery criteria provide specific targets to measure delisting and downlisting objectives in recovery plans ensuring that funding and other resources are directed towards those actions that will have the most benefit for the species and

regulated communities. Recovery plans are often developed collaboratively with interested partners and may address multiple species. The Service provides the opportunity for public review and comment for each draft recovery plan. The Service strives to enhance and increase partnerships with agencies and organizations to implement highest priority recovery actions identified in recovery plans for endangered and threatened species under the trusteeship of the Service in the United States and its Territories, such that known threats to the species may be reduced or eliminated.



After more than three decades of conservation partnerships inspired by the Endangered Species Act, the Service celebrated the delisting of the interior least tern due to recovery in January 2021. Thanks to the diverse efforts of local, State, and Federal stakeholders across an 18-State range, the tern's populations are healthy, stable, and increasing. Credit: Laurie Sheppard/USFWS

The standards for delisting a species consider the same five statutory factors as the listing of a species. This requirement ensures that all species proposed for delisting receive the same careful analysis to determine whether or not they meet the statutory definitions of a threatened or endangered species as is done for determining whether to add a species to the list. To encourage collaboration, the Service maintains a national downlisting and delisting workplan to enable our partners participate in a substantive way to ensure that species ready for delisting or downlisting meet their recovery plan objectives.

The ESA requires the Service to review the status of listed species once every five years to determine whether the current listing status, as endangered or threatened, is still appropriate. This assessment includes a notice to the public informing them the species under review.

Service biologists support the implementation of the ESA via collaborative conservation actions that are advantageous, feasible, and practicable for all parties. Staff provide technical assistance to our partners to support and guide recovery projects. Recovery projects can range from habitat restoration to captive rearing and reintroduction to landowner agreements that provide habitat for one or more listed species for a set period of time. The Service also provides technical assistance in the development of Safe Harbor Agreements, which are voluntary landowner agreements that benefit species and provide assurances that landowner conservation actions (e.g., habitat restoration, reintroduction), will not result in additional regulation on the landowner.

2022 Program Activities

The 2022 budget will:

- Support work to complete the recovery responsibilities required by statute - preparing recovery plans for newly listed species within two and a half years of the final listing, reducing the recovery plan backlog, completing 5-year reviews for approximately 20% of listed species annually, acting on the recommendations to reclassify or delist species, and encouraging collaborative partnerships with others for recovery implementation.

- At the requested FY 2022 funding level, the Service expects to propose or finalize 21 delisting or downlisting rules.
- Provide staff and funds to support on-the-ground recovery of listed species that prevent extinction and expand recovery efforts.

Proposed Program Changes

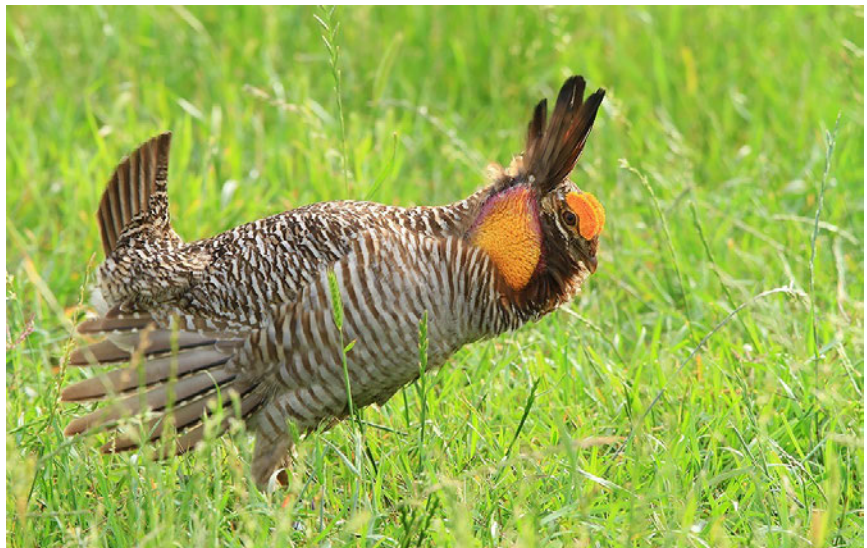
The 2022 budget request for Recovery of Listed Species is \$123,102,000 and 479 FTE, a net program change of +\$16,080,000 and +38 FTE from the 2021 Enacted.

Catalyzing Recovery for Listed Species and Preventing Extinction (+\$15,680,000, +38 FTE)

Our goal is to align these funds with our highest priority actions to prevent extinction and achieve recovery for listed species. For many listed species, recovery happens through voluntary conservation on private lands, consistent with the Administration's goals for the 30x30 initiative. These voluntary conservation actions are key to meeting delisting or downlisting goals while respecting the management objectives of landowners. In FY 2022, these funds will be the start of a multi-year investment to provide capability for Service offices to catalyze and support high priority recovery activities that contribute to conservation actions outlined in Service recovery plans for priority species. There are over 15,000 priority 1 actions identified in recovery plans, of which most need additional funding to achieve the intended outcome. Most of the requested funding will be supporting projects to immediately implement or expand recovery efforts or prevent the extinction of the most imperiled endangered species. Simultaneously, these projects often mitigate the effects of climate change, including high-severity wildfire and invasive species. In FY 2022, the Service will catalyze the recovery of endangered species by making recovery funds available to implement final recovery actions that could lead to species recovery. The Service piloted similar efforts during the past two decades that led to the delisting or downlisting of more than 34 species including the interior least tern delisted in February 2021.

The demand exists to fund recovery actions that do not require a cost match from the States or private landowners. Most of the Service's current funding for recovery projects, such as Recovery Challenge grants or the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund grants to states, require a cost-match, limiting the ability to engage with economically disadvantaged landowners or communities with limited resources. Dedicating funding to support on-the-ground recovery of listed species, with an emphasis on partnerships with economically disadvantaged landowners, will facilitate conservation within these communities while expanding recovery activities across the range of listed species, thus leading to delisting or downlisting sooner.

In addition, Service staff will be able to develop and facilitate implementation of recovery plans. We project the need to produce approximately 30 recovery plans and 300 5-year status reviews



After decades of protection and conservation efforts, Texas' critically endangered Attwater's prairie-chicken population is at its highest since 1993. Based on the 2021 spring count, the Service estimates the current population has grown to at least 178. Credit: John Magera/USFWS

annually. To achieve this goal, we will continue a multi-year investment in information management to provide our field staff with better tools to develop recovery plans, monitor the status of species, and prioritize and implement recovery actions. This investment will build off similar investments in other aspects of the ES program to integrate the information so decision making is based on the best available science and continually updated to reflect the status of a listed species.

Zero Emission Vehicle Fleet Conversions (+\$1,500,000/+0 FTE) – The 2022 budget includes funding to convert approximately one third of the Service's sedan fleet to zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) and provide approximately 130 charging stations and hydrogen fueling stations to support those vehicles and future ZEVs. This conversion will immediately reduce the Interior's contributions to greenhouse gas emissions and dependence upon hydrocarbons. The investment in infrastructure will support these new vehicles and ensure charging infrastructure is available for subsequent ZEVs. This project is being coordinated across Interior and with other agencies to maximize utility of charging and hydrogen fueling stations in areas where multiple agencies operate. The funding also supports a small planning and coordination function to effectively deploy the fleet and charging infrastructure.

Florida Grasshopper Sparrow (-\$100,000/-0 FTE) - The budget does not requested funding for this program in order to focus on other recovery activities.

Wolf Livestock Demonstration Program (-\$1,000,000/-0 FTE) - The budget does not request funding for this program in order to focus on other recovery activities. Funding for recovery of listed species is limited and the Service is focused on preventing extinction and improving the status of species through on-the-ground conservation actions for listed species.

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HABITAT CONSERVATION

Activity: Habitat Conservation

		2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022			Change From 2021 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Partners for Fish and Wildlife	(\$000)	56,951	56,859	+856	0	+7,500	65,215	+8,356
	FTE	203	203	0	0	+15	218	+15
Coastal Program	(\$000)	13,375	13,360	+256	0	+2,000	15,616	+2,256
	FTE	41	41	0	0	+6	47	+6
Total, Habitat Conservation	(\$000)	70,326	70,219	+1,112	0	+9,500	80,831	+10,612
	FTE	244	244	0	0	+21	265	+21

Summary of 2022 Program Changes for Habitat Conservation

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Partners for Fish and Wildlife Activities	+7,500	+15
• Coastal Program Activities	+2,000	+6
Program Changes	+9,500	+21

Program Mission

Habitat Conservation, which includes the Partners for Fish and Wildlife (Partners, PFW) and Coastal Programs, as well as the Farm Conservation Program, provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners and other conservation partners to voluntarily protect, conserve, and restore private lands. By working together with landowners, the Service achieves voluntary habitat conservation by providing technical and financial assistance for the benefit of Federal trust species. Through these partnerships, Service biologists deliver strategic habitat conservation, landscape-scale conservation planning and design, and implement habitat improvement and protection projects that conserve species of greatest conservation concern, improve habitat connectivity and promote ecosystem health and resilience considering effects of climate change. Supporting voluntary conservation with partners such as private landowners is critical to achieving the President’s America the Beautiful initiative, which sets a goal of conserving 30 percent of the Nation’s lands and waters by 2030. Service programs such as the Partners for Fish and Wildlife and the Coastal programs are well positioned to expand collaborative efforts with landowners in support of this priority.

Program Elements

The Partners and Coastal Programs support the President’s 30 by 30 initiative through ongoing efforts to deliver cooperative, on-the-ground conservation programs in targeted geographic areas in biologically sensitive landscapes. Field-based biologists have an intimate knowledge of the natural resource concerns and conservation challenges in local communities and cooperate with local stakeholders to leverage partners’ resources and Federal dollars to support conservation strategies on both public and private lands. These efforts help conserve America’s traditional land uses for future generations, while supporting robust, biologically diverse fish and wildlife populations; addressing conservation challenges such as climate

change resiliency, habitat fragmentation, invasive species; and buffering important infrastructure from climate disasters.

A large part of PFW work includes coordinating with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide technical assistance in the development, implementation, and evaluation of Farm Bill conservation programs and initiatives to meet shared conservation goals. This work includes delivery of fish and wildlife technical assistance associated with implementation of any new programs, rules, or policies resulting from passage of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Farm Bill) in FY 2019, as well as the continuation of effective partnerships with USDA that help sustain wildlife populations and agricultural production, such as the Working Lands for Wildlife model of conservation on working landscapes.

Applicable Laws, Acts, and Orders

The Partners and Coastal Program are implemented under the following authorities:

- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661)
- Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742 a-j)
- Partners for Fish and Wildlife Act (16 U.S.C. §§3771-3774)

Activity: Habitat Conservation
Subactivity: Partners for Fish and Wildlife

		2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022			Change From 2021 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Partners for Fish and Wildlife	(\$000)	56,951	56,859	+856	0	+7,500	65,215	+8,356
	FTE	203	203	0	0	+15	218	+15

Summary of 2022 Program Changes for Partners for Fish and Wildlife

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Partners for Fish and Wildlife Activities	+7,500	+15
Program Changes	+7,500	+15

Program Overview

The Partners program is a voluntary, citizen, and community-based stewardship program for fish and wildlife conservation on private land. Nearly 70% of land in the United States is privately-owned.¹ To implement landscape-scale impacts for wildlife conservation it is critical the Service engages in conservation with private landowners. Through the program, the Service and private landowners work collaboratively to implement local conservation strategies. In turn, the restored areas provide valuable benefits to the surrounding communities by supporting tourism and recreation, protecting infrastructure from flood damage, and supporting America’s agricultural production by conserving soil, controlling pests, and benefitting pollinators. The program continues to be a leader in climate change adaptation which focuses on providing cooperators tools to live with the effects of climate change. A great example is working with local communities on water conservation projects which allow them to be more resistant to increased periods of drought. Climate-proofing for the future, or resilience, is another strong point as public-private partnerships will be key to addressing extreme weather events caused by climate change. Funds spent in support of restoration projects create jobs, generate tax revenues, and spur economic activity in local economies. A Service report found that for every dollar the program contributed to a beneficiary project, \$15.70 was generated in economic returns to local communities.

In FY 2020, the Partners program worked with private landowners and partners to complete nearly 2,000 projects across the Nation. In total, the program has restored approximately 6.8 million acres of habitat while leveraging program dollars at a ratio of 4:1 or more. In FY 2022, the Partners program will build on this success by assisting in the execution of the 30 by 30 initiative, expanding work on migration corridors and connectivity, conserving pollinators, bolstering government-to-government relationships with federally recognized Tribes, collaborating with private land owners, and implementing a variety of tools related to securing the future of species of greatest conservation concern. This includes using tools like Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances and Safe Harbor Agreements. Nearly every restoration project the Partners program delivers can be tied to confronting climate change. From keeping streams running cold and clear supporting native fish reproduction to providing movement corridors for species impacted by warming temperatures, voluntary habitat restoration provided by the Partners program will be key in achieving climate goals.

¹ <https://wildlifemanagement.institute/outdoor-news-bulletin/september-2020/who-are-private-landowners-midwest>



Island Marble Butterfly: Photo Credit/USFWS

Endangered island marble butterflies benefited from a Partners project in North Puget Sound, WA.

2022 Program Activities

The 2022 budget will:

- In FY 2022, the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program will engage in voluntary conservation efforts with willing landowners to assist in execution of the 30 by 30 initiative, help to conserve pollinators, work with Tribes and other underserved communities and combat Global Climate Change and work with private landowners on finding solutions for carbon sequestration.
- At the requested FY 2022 funding level, the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program will restore and enhance approximately 14,841 wetland acres, 142,375 upland acres, 208 riparian miles, and 66 fish passage structures.

Proposed Program Changes

The 2022 budget request for Partners for Fish and Wildlife is \$65,215,000 and 218 FTE, a program change of +\$7,500,000 and +15 FTE from the 2021 Enacted.

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Activities (+\$7,500,000/+15 FTE) –At the requested funding level, the Service will increase the ability to restore and enhance an additional 5,072 wetland acres, 31,030 upland acres, 91 riparian miles, and 17 fish passage structures. These accomplishments will advance voluntary conservation on private lands and support high priority DOI and Service efforts. These accomplishments will also contribute to the Administration’s goal of conserving 30% of the Nation’s lands and waters by 2030. The public-private partnerships forged through these agreements will enhance relationships and build trust with local communities.

Activity: Habitat Conservation

Subactivity: Coastal Program

		2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022			Change From 2021 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Coastal Program	(\$000)	13,375	13,360	+256	0	+2,000	15,616	+2,256
	FTE	41	41	0	0	+6	47	+6

Summary of 2022 Program Changes for the Coastal Program

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Coastal Program Activities	+2,000	+6
Program Changes	+2,000	+6

Program Overview

The Coastal Program is a voluntary, partnership-based program that provides technical and financial assistance for habitat conservation in coastal watersheds. Our locally based field staff work with diverse partners, including Federal, State and Tribal agencies, non-governmental organizations and private landowners, to improve and protect habitat on public and private lands. We use a landscape approach to the conservation of Federal trust species. Our conservation actions are guided by a five-year national strategic plan that incorporate the goals and priorities of our partners and stakeholders.

Coastal watersheds and estuaries are highly dynamic, diverse, and complex areas that support 45 percent of threatened and endangered species, 85 percent of waterfowl, and 68 percent of commercial fish. They are home to 40 percent of the U.S. population and produce 50 percent of the Nation’s economic output, resulting in intense development pressure. In addition to providing valuable fish and wildlife habitat, coastal ecosystems supply clean drinking water, attenuate floods, and provide recreational opportunities to coastal communities.

The Coastal Program supports planning and conservation actions to respond to climate change stressors and implement projects that increase coastal ecosystem resilience, incorporate adaptation strategies, promote habitat connectivity, and conserve species of greatest conservation concern. Through its technical and financial assistance, the Coastal Program conserves coastal habitat, in support of the initiative to conserve 30 percent of the Nation’s lands and waters by 2030, including by administering the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program that helps States and U.S. territories protect and restore coastal wetlands.

The Coastal Program provides value to the American public by leveraging partners’ resources at a ratio of 5:1, multiplying the Service’s conservation impact. This investment stimulates local economies by supporting jobs necessary to deliver habitat conservation, including environmental consultants, engineers, construction workers, and landscapers. These jobs also generate indirect economic activities that benefit local businesses. The Service estimates that the average Coastal Program project directly supports twelve jobs and eight businesses.



Project Example: Protecting Texas Salt Bayou Communities and Ecosystems.

2022 Program Activities

The 2022 budget will:

- In FY 2022, the Coastal Program will build on program success by improving the resiliency of coastal communities to the impacts of climate change, contributing to the 30 by 30 initiative, restoring coastal habitat connectivity, conserving Federal trust species and pollinators, and engaging historically underserved coastal communities.
- At the requested FY 2022 funding level, the Coastal Program will restore or protect approximately 28 miles of stream/shoreline, 7,147 wetland acres, 10,310 upland acres, and improve eight fish passage barriers.

Proposed Program Changes

The 2022 budget request for the Coastal Program is \$15,616,000 and 67 FTE, a program change of +\$2,000,000 and +6 FTE from the 2021 Enacted.

Coastal Program Activities (+\$2,000,000/+6 FTE) – Climate change affects all parts of the ecosystem including those on which people depend. The requested funding increase will allow the Coastal Program to expand on-the-ground conservation projects and planning efforts to improve ecosystem health and resilience to climate change impacts and benefit communities of fish, wildlife, plants and people. For example, restoring coastal wetlands and watersheds improves ecosystem health for coastal dependent birds and fish and reduces the risk of floods in coastal communities; and installing living shorelines reduces coastal erosion and builds oyster reefs and salt marsh. These types of accomplishments contribute to the Administration’s goal of conserving 30% of the Nation’s lands and waters by 2030. This increase enables the Service to protect and restore an additional 1,399 acres of wetlands and 1,141 acres of uplands, four riparian miles, and three fish passage structures in coastal watersheds. The increased funding further enables the Service to engage historically underserved communities and implement projects that provide socio-economic benefits as well as environmental benefits.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

Activity: National Wildlife Refuge System

		2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022			Budget Request	Change From 2021 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
Wildlife and Habitat Management	(\$000)	238,612	239,568	+4,949	0	+15,000	259,517	+19,949
	FTE	1,208	1,208	0	0	+45	1,253	+45
Visitor Services	(\$000)	74,227	75,033	+1,704	0	+20,000	96,737	+21,704
	FTE	470	470	0	0	+100	570	+100
Refuge Law Enforcement	(\$000)	41,000	40,907	+1,008	0	+7,000	48,915	+8,008
	FTE	232	233	0	0	+24	257	+24
Conservation Planning	(\$000)	2,523	2,523	+71	0	+2,000	4,594	+2,071
	FTE	16	16	0	0	+10	26	+10
Refuge Operations	(\$000)	356,362	358,031	+7,732	0	+44,000	409,76	+51,732
	FTE	1,926	1,927	+0	0	+179	2,106	+179
Refuge Maintenance	(\$000)	146,042	145,822	+1,676	0	+27,138	174,636	+28,814+7
	FTE	522	522	0	0	+70	592	0
Total, National Wildlife Refuge System	(\$000)	502,404	503,853	+9,408	0	+71,138	584,399	+82,546
	FTE	2,449	2,449	0	0	+249	2,698	+249

Program Mission

The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and restoration of fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.

Program Elements

The National Wildlife Refuge System (Refuge System) embodies our Nation’s commitment to conserving wildlife populations and biodiversity for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans. The Refuge System spans more than 850 million acres of lands and waters and includes 568 national wildlife refuges, 38 wetland management districts, 50 coordination areas, seven National Monuments, and 760 million acres in Marine National Monuments.

The Refuge System protects forests, prairies, desert, coral reefs, tundra, and wetlands in all 50 States and five U.S. territories as well as providing critical habitat for a range of wildlife both rare and abundant. Amid unprecedented human demands on the environment and other stressors such as drought, disease, and climate change, the Refuge System relies on broad management capabilities to ensure the integrity and health of the Nation’s fish and wildlife. Through careful long-term planning with public involvement, managers deploy a variety of wildlife conservation tools that include habitat restoration, land acquisition,

infrastructure maintenance, prescribed fire, visitor services and outreach, emergency management, wilderness preservation, and law enforcement.

With units in every ecosystem and paired with robust partnership programs, the Refuge System has the potential to facilitate conservation in all 50 States, including vast expanses of coastal and marine resources. These characteristics make the Refuge System critical to achieving the Administration's goal of conserving at least 30 percent of the Nation's lands and waters by 2030.

With refuge units near communities of all sizes, the Refuge System delivers outdoor recreational, ecological and economic benefits to local communities, while striving to address racial inequality in wildlife conservation and outdoor recreation. In FY 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Refuge System hosted a record breaking 61.4 million visits to national wildlife refuges, an increase of 38% since FY 2010. According to the Banking on Nature 2017 report, the economic impact on local communities from recreation visits totaled \$3.2 billion of spending in regional economies. The Refuge System also generates \$1.1 billion in job income and over 41,000 jobs nationally. Through our groundbreaking Urban Wildlife Conservation Program we are targeting investments to underserved communities and addressing racial inequalities in recreational access and conservation participation.

Protecting refuges supports local and national economies, and Americans' health and well-being. Through efforts to conserve migratory birds, protect endangered species, restore and manage habitats, and combat invasive species, the Refuge System enhances nature's benefits to improve air and water quality, reduce erosion, improve soil health and ground water retention, reduce coastal impacts from hurricanes, sequester carbon, and store excess water during storms or spring snow melts.

Applicable Laws, Acts, and Orders

The National Wildlife Refuge System is implemented under the following authorities:

- The Fish and Wildlife Act (16 U.S.C. 742a-742j) establishes a comprehensive national fish and wildlife policy and authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to take steps required for the development, management, advancement, conservation, and protection of fisheries resources and wildlife resources through research, acquisition of refuge lands, development of existing facilities, and other means;
- The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661-666e) directs the Service to investigate and report on proposed Federal actions that affect any stream or other body of water, and to provide recommendations to minimize impacts on fish and wildlife resources;
- The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee) provides authority, guidelines, and directives for the Service in administering the lands and waters of the National Wildlife Refuge System, including establishing six wildlife-dependent recreation activities as priority uses;
- The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act (P.L. 105-57) spells out wildlife conservation as the fundamental mission of the Refuge System, requires comprehensive conservation planning to guide management of the Refuge System, directs involvement of private citizens in land management decisions, and provides that compatible wildlife-dependent recreation is a legitimate and appropriate use that should receive priority in refuge planning and management;

- The National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Improvement Act (P.L. 111-357) authorizes cooperative agreements with nonprofit partner organizations, academic institutions, or State and local governments to construct, operate, maintain, or improve refuge facilities and services, and promotes volunteer, outreach, and education programs;
- The Refuge Recreation Act (16 U.S.C. 460k-460k-4) authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to administer refuges, hatcheries, and other conservation areas for recreational use, when such uses do not interfere with the area's primary purposes;
- The National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Act (P.L. 106-408) reinforces National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act provisions to raise public understanding and appreciation for the Refuge System;
- The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 410hh-3233, 43 U.S.C. 1602-1784) provides for the designation and conservation of certain public lands in Alaska, including units of the Refuge System, and for the continuing subsistence needs of Alaska Natives;
- The Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 715-715d, 715e, 715f-715r) authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to conduct investigations and publish documents related to North American birds, and establishes a Migratory Bird Conservation Commission to approve areas recommended by the Secretary for acquisition;
- The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act (16 U.S.C. 718a-718k) requires waterfowl hunters 16 years of age or older to possess a valid Federal Duck Stamp;
- The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712) establishes Federal responsibility for protecting and managing migratory birds; and
- The Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131-1136) establishes a National Wilderness Preservation System for the permanent good of the whole people.

Activity: National Wildlife Refuge System
Subactivity: Wildlife and Habitat Management

		2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022			Change From 2021 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Wildlife and Habitat Management	(\$000)	238,612	239,568	+4,949	0	+15,000	259,517	+19,949
	FTE	1,208	1,208	0	0	+45	1,253	+45

Summary of 2022 Program Changes for Wildlife and Habitat Management

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Wildlife and Habitat Management Activities	+10,500	+40
• Inventory and Monitoring	+5,000	+5
• Refuge Water Efficiency (Quivira)	-500	+0
Program Changes	+15,000	+45

Program Overview

Through its wide-ranging wildlife and habitat management and partnership activities, the Refuge System has the potential to facilitate conservation on millions of acres across the United States and its territories. Wildlife and habitat management includes a host of scientifically sound management tools, including active water management, habitat management and restoration, collaboration with stakeholders, wilderness character monitoring, and invasive species eradication. These tools are all aimed at ensuring a balanced conservation approach to benefit both wildlife and people for a climate resilient American future.

General Wildlife and Habitat Management

The Wildlife and Habitat Management subactivity funds refuge operations, including monitoring plant and animal populations; restoring wetland, forest, grassland and marine habitats; managing habitats through manipulation of water levels, prescribed burning, haying, grazing, timber harvest, and planting vegetation; controlling invasive species; monitoring air quality; investigating and cleaning up contaminants; controlling wildlife disease outbreaks; assessing water quality and quantity; and addressing the human dimensions of wildlife management. These activities are vital for the Refuge System to achieve its mission at local, landscape and national levels.

Inventory and Monitoring

To successfully deliver positive conservation outcomes and inform larger landscape-level planning efforts across the Refuge System, the Service deploys adaptive management through a continuous iterative cycle where we plan and design management actions to achieve specific outcomes for priority species and habitat, monitor the effects, and adjust management accordingly. This approach is transparent and science-driven, it is also labor intensive, specifically for the planning and monitoring responsibilities. It relies on an interdisciplinary team who inventory and monitor the biological resources, ecological processes, physical environment, and human interactions throughout the Refuge System. The inventory and monitoring team is coordinated by the Natural Resource Program Center to ensure that collected data is consistent and relevant at multiple scales, and that data analysis and storage achieve the highest scientific standards.

To maintain data quality across the Service, the Refuge System has designed and implemented an integrated set of data information systems to ensure consistent information collection and access across the regions. We have made great strides toward ensuring use of rigorous peer-reviewed biological monitoring protocols and alignment of monitoring to natural resource management objectives. These protocols help frontline managers adapt when conditions change or priorities shift.

Invasive Species Management

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, invasive species and habitat loss are the two greatest threats to our federally listed threatened and endangered species and overall biodiversity throughout the United States. Invasive species negatively impact native species through habitat modification, competition, predation, herbivory, pathogenic vectors, and by hybridizing with natives. They are one of the most serious threats to native plants, fish, and wildlife populations. Management activities are critical to preventing the introduction, establishment and spread of invasive species, and controlling or eradicating invasive species where they are present. Funds are used to inventory, monitor, and treat invasive species on refuge lands to protect and restore native ecosystems. Treatment methods can include mechanical removal, pesticide applications, prescribed burns, flooding, or biological controls.

The Service works with partners to implement invasive species mitigation and restoration projects through the use of Strike Teams for early detection and rapid response (EDRR). EDRR aims to limit the establishment or range of invasive species and prevent the need for more costly ongoing treatments often required once invasive species populations are established. The Refuge System has 14 Strike Teams, with at least one team in each Service Region.



Helicopters were used to disperse rodenticide at Palmyra Atoll NWR during the successful rat eradication (photo: USFWS).

The Large Invasive Species allocation is a \$1 million allocation of Refuge System invasive species funding that is competitively awarded to one refuge each year to completely eradicate or achieve 99% maximum control of one or more invasive species. Since its inception, the Large Invasive Species Allocation has funded successful projects that include rat eradication at Palmyra Atoll and Desecheo NWR; *Spartina* eradication and control at Humboldt Bay NWR and San Francisco Bay NWR; and yellow crazy ant eradication on Johnson Atoll. Native biodiversity is now thriving at these sites.

Marine National Monuments

The Service manages 760 million acres of submerged lands and waters within five Marine National Monuments (Marianas Trench, Pacific Remote Islands, Papahānaumokuākea, Rose Atoll, and Northeast Canyons and Seamounts). These Marine National Monuments are considered the most unspoiled tropical ecosystems under U.S. purview and are some of our Nation's last frontiers for wildlife conservation and scientific exploration. Spanning an area larger than the Continental United States, the Marine National Monuments represent the greatest opportunity for the Service to sustain marine biodiversity and

environmental health by providing vital habitat for sea turtles, sharks, and coral reefs, along with many other threatened, endangered and unknown species.

The Marine National Monuments are also vital areas that can buffer against the effects of climate change. These areas provide management certainty and large-scale ecosystem protections while decreasing human stressors which allows for greater biodiversity, biological productivity, and ability for species to move to more suitable areas as conditions change.

2022 Program Activities

The 2022 Budget will:

- Enable the Service to focus on wildlife and habitat management activities in support of Secretarial priorities, including conservation stewardship, utilizing natural resources, expanding access for outdoor recreation, and using science to identify best practices to manage land and water resources. This includes using traditional approaches, such as water level manipulation, prescriptive grazing, and selective timber harvesting, to achieve desired habitat conditions for fish and wildlife. Healthy habitats are vital to ensure sustainable wildlife populations, whether they are imperiled or game species. In 2022, the Service expects to actively manage more than 3 million acres of habitat.
- Support the President's initiatives to Build Back Better. The Refuge System will recruit and retain a talented workforce that is reflective of the diverse communities we serve with emphasis on racial equity and underserved communities. We will offer development and training opportunities to help sustain local economies through employment and partnership. We will protect our workforce and our volunteers through appropriate health and safety programs that promote safe working conditions. We will embrace fully climate change goals to manage public lands for resilient landscapes while sequestering carbon and reducing greenhouse gas emissions through clean energy and green infrastructure.

Proposed Program Changes

The 2022 budget request for Wildlife and Habitat Management is \$259,517,000 and 1,253 FTE, a program change of +\$15,000,000 and +45 FTE from the 2021 Enacted.

Wildlife and Habitat Management Activities (+\$10,500,000/+40 FTE) – The request will support implementation of the President's Build Back Better initiatives by remobilizing diverse American scientific and professional talent in Wildlife and Habitat management with the addition of 40 FTEs. The Refuge System will support E.O. 14005, *Ensuring the Future is Made in All of America by All of America's Workers* and E.O. 14008, *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad*, by responding to the climate crisis by managing crucial habitat using landscape conservation approaches. This amount includes an increase of \$3 million to provide resources to focus on the conservation of pollinators and the habitats on which they depend.

Wildlife Disease Prevention – Currently the Service is supported by a wildlife health office staffed by three people — a wildlife veterinarian, a biologist, and a technician. This limits the Service's ability to proactively manage wildlife disease risks instead of maintaining only a reactionary capability. Additional funding will be used to conduct surveillance and monitoring activities on and around wildlife refuges, as well as leverage those of other Federal agencies, States, Tribes, and

non-governmental organizations. These activities are a vital part of creating a national, government-wide network that will enhance timely detection and diagnosis of, as well as effective response to, disease outbreaks. In addition to detection, diagnosis, and response, preparation and planning must be collaborative across the broader wildlife health partnership. This funding will allow staff to complete disease contingency planning to ensure that Refuge System efforts are done in coordination with and contribute to a broader landscape-level strategy. Implementing a coordinated response will maximize the chances of containing a disease outbreak and limiting impacts on both the wildlife and human populations. The Service chairs the Department of the Interior's One Health Group that works toward a more proactive approach on wildlife, human and environmental health issues. One Health is multi-disciplinary approach that operates on the idea that the health of wildlife, domestic animals, and human health are inextricably linked and confronting all will help us overcome some of the greatest infectious disease challenges of our generation. Most international, Federal, and State animal and human health agencies recognize the importance of One Health and have designated resources and personnel towards this comprehensive approach to health and environmental problems improving the country's ability to prevent the next global pandemic.

To implement a proactive One Health approach, the Refuge System will invest in more disease prevention, and inter-agency coordination. Additional funds will be used hire wildlife veterinarians, wildlife health experts, biologists, technicians and conservation social scientists necessary to move the program towards a more proactive approach. Increased capacity will support intra-agency coordination to ensure the Service is addressing emergent infectious diseases collaboratively.

Rebuilding Our Workforce – The mission of the Refuge System can only be met when the capacity exists to manage habitat for wildlife and fish, invite and engage visitors, and build conservation partnerships. Providing an effective level of staffing is integral to the success of the Service, the Refuge System, and the conservation of America's lands and waters. Over the past ten years, the National Wildlife Refuge System full-time-equivalent staffing has decreased by nearly 25 percent. These reductions have occurred as the number of units in the Refuge System grew and the Refuge System was entrusted to manage more than 750 million acres of submerged lands and waters across seven Marine National Monuments.

In FY 2022, the Refuge System will begin to fill critical vacancies in Wildlife and Habitat Management that support scientific studies, habitat restoration and management, landscape conservation, and climate resiliency. Recruitment will focus on entry level positions to attract the next generation workforce to career opportunities in conservation and civil service. The Refuge System is dedicated to recruiting a workforce that reflects the communities we serve through strong relationships with youth and veteran organizations and a goal to rebuild our capacity with team members of racial, ethnic, and socio-economic diversity.

Landscape Conservation – The mission of the Refuge System is fulfilled, in part, by building resiliency for species and the habitats they depend upon. The greatest challenge we currently have is to do this in the face of a rapidly changing climate. Wildlife Refuges are managed in a continuous iterative adaptive management cycle (planning, design, implementation of actions, and monitoring the effectiveness of those actions) to achieve specific outcomes that improve resiliency and sustainability. Our priority is to ensure that our conservation strategies complement and build on those of our partners while fulfilling the Service's stewardship responsibilities. However, this science-driven work requires significant investment in our capacity to carry out planning, design, and monitoring. Additional funds will be used to increase staff with expertise in spatial ecology,

biology, botany, and hydrology throughout the organization to help integrate Service lands into large landscape conservation priorities.

Inventory and Monitoring (+\$5,000,000/+5 FTE) – Investments in monitoring of priority resources on Refuge lands are needed to inform planning efforts and evaluate the effectiveness of management interventions, especially in a rapidly changing human and climactic environment. A robust Inventory and Monitoring (I&M) program provides a scientifically defensible and transparent rationale for the expenditure of public funds through management activities. By monitoring the impacts of resource management actions, we can better target management activities for desired outcomes and inform effective strategies on changing landscapes.

Climate change poses an existential threat to the entire world. Impacts are seen from rural areas to urban centers. Climate change does not discriminate against any community, ecosystem, or economy. In addition, because of climate change, threats to national security and major weather changes are increasing daily. It's imperative that we, as U.S. Citizens, work together to slow the warming of the earth by decreasing greenhouse gases and find alternative energy sources. An emerging framework for natural resource management referred to as RAD (Resist, Accept, or Direct) calls on land managers to make conscious decisions about whether management interventions should attempt to resist, accept, or direct the impacts of climate change. The intent is to make informed decisions in order to maximize the effectiveness and the durability of conservation investments. In order to make these kinds of transparent choices, we must first understand how the environment is changing: How fast is it changing? What is changing towards? How will that impact our trust resources? Service staff, working with the U.S. Geological Survey's Climate Adaptation Science Centers and other climate scientists are integral to ensure the Service develops a consistent and systematic approach to consideration of climate change. Additional funding will be used to build capacity and provide resources to develop predictive models and decision support tools to inform climate adaptation strategies across the landscape. Establishing this expertise will ensure that conservation investments are made using the best available science and that those investments will both accomplish what they are intended to accomplish and persist on the landscape for a period of time that would provide a wise return on investment of public resources.

This request includes \$2 million for inventory and monitoring of key pollinator populations, identified in the Federal Pollinator Strategy as important to landscape resiliency. Funds will also be used to provide education and outreach about pollinator populations. Additionally, \$750,000 will go towards detecting, monitoring, and preventing the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease in ungulate populations in and around wildlife refuges.

Refuge Water Efficiency (Quivira) (-\$500,000/ -0 FTE) – The budget does not request funding for this program in FY 2022. Funding will be invested in other priority Refuge System projects.

Activity: National Wildlife Refuge System

Subactivity: Refuge Visitor Services

		2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022			Change From 2021 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Refuge Visitor Services	(\$000)	74,227	75,033	+1,704	0	+20,000	96,737	+21,704
	FTE	470	470	0	0	+100	570	+100

Summary of 2022 Program Changes for Refuge Visitor Services

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Refuge Visitor Services Activities	+13,000	+80
• Urban Wildlife Conservation Programs	+7,000	+20
Program Changes	+20,000	+100

Program Overview

Opportunities for outdoor recreation drew a record-breaking 61.4 million visits to national wildlife refuges in FY 2020. During the COVID-19 pandemic, America’s public depended greatly on access to their public lands for recreational opportunities. The Service responded by applying recommended science-based responses to keep employees and the public safe and to simultaneously provide access to public lands managed within the Refuge System. This included developing creative approaches to virtual programming, applying innovative measures for customer service and improved sanitation protocols.

While some visitors take part in wildlife-dependent recreation such as hunting and fishing, many more enjoy walking, paddling, wildlife viewing or nature photography. All of these activities offer visitors a chance to unplug from the stresses of modern life and reconnect with their natural surroundings.

As a designated High Impact Service Provider by the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-11 Section 280, the Service’s Refuge System is responsible for maintaining a high level of customer satisfaction and community engagement in its delivery of services to socially and racially diverse local communities across the country. To accomplish this, the Service welcomes and orients visitors through in-person and on-line trip planning tools, manages a variety of recreation opportunities, protects cultural resources, and creates and delivers engaging interpretive and education programming in-person and virtually to people of all ages and backgrounds.

The Refuge System also supports many Service-wide community engagement programs including a robust volunteer program, youth and veterans’ programs, Friends groups, and the Urban Wildlife Conservation Program (UWCP). Through these programs, the Refuge System strives to ensure safe, welcoming experiences for everyone and create lasting relationships to meet community needs.

Youth and Careers in Nature

The Service builds upon existing, proven programs with new and creative approaches to offer public service opportunities, support education and outdoor learning laboratories, and engage young Americans in conservation work and provide recreational access to public lands. Each year, the Service relies on

thousands of eager, qualified youth interns and volunteers to engage in important functions of refuge operations including trails maintenance, invasive species response, habitat restoration, greet visitors and perform other necessary tasks. Through these efforts, the Service has developed more than 50 partnerships with non-profit youth serving organizations to recruit and employ youth in entry level internships and temporary employment.

The Refuge System youth programs are vital to developing a Civilian Climate Corps to introduce a new generation of Americans to conservation and climate resiliency work and careers in nature and science. From high school aged Youth Conservation Corps summer work programs to temporary student employment (Pathways) positions, youth gain critical real-world job experiences, mentorship and mobility across the Refuge System.

Urban Wildlife Conservation Program

The Urban Wildlife Conservation Program (UWCP) is one of the Service's primary focal points for prioritizing racial equity in conservation and recreational access. The program includes 101 urban national wildlife refuges, seven flagship urban national wildlife refuges that innovate scalable solutions for the broader conservation community, 32 designated Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership cities, and 30 Urban Bird Treaty cities.

This Service-wide program builds on the idea that long-term, meaningful relationships with diverse communities are how we will best achieve equitable conservation outcomes. This requires a new way of doing business—including innovative approaches, skill-building, and a workforce that better mirrors the diversity of America. Together with the Civilian Climate Corps as directed in Executive Order: 14008: Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, UWCP is well positioned to help formulate community-centered foundations, and to deliver the eight *Standards of Excellence* - measurable indicators of success that are also a commitment to racial equity, social and environmental justice, and natural resources conservation in the communities we serve.

Cultural Resources

The Service's Cultural Resources program began in the mid-late 1970s in response to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800. Today, the Service-wide cultural resources program is a primary means of engagement with Native American Tribes and other descendant communities via consultation with these groups over Trust resources.

The cultural resources program monitors and protects thousands of cultural and historic sites and more than 6 million museum property items that have come to the agency via laws like the Archaeological Resources Protection Act and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act and for which the Service is now a steward. Continued successes will require investment in and innovative additions to our workforce that will result in better management of these non-renewable resources and better consultation and engagement with those communities whose cultural patrimony we are entrusted with protecting.

2022 Program Activities

The 2022 Budget will:

- Implement the Civilian Climate Corps to mobilize the next generation of conservation professionals and climate resilience workers, equitably engaging young Americans with well-paid internships and volunteer experiences that will prepare them for careers to combat the climate crisis.
- Recommit and expand on our service to urban communities, restoring and building on a tradition of trust through community-centered conservation efforts. As we continue to develop private/public partnerships to increase opportunities, we will also work to increase access for urban communities through transportation incentives and enhancement of trails networks.
- Introduce new users to recreational and other outdoor activities on the Refuge System; and improve our digital infrastructure and ability to offer new technologies. The Service will continue to strategically balance the expected increases in public demand for services while sustaining high rates of visitor satisfaction (≥ 90 percent), and ensuring the continued conservation of plants, animals and habitat.

Proposed Program Changes

The 2022 budget request for Visitor Services is \$96,737,000 and 570 FTE, a program change of +\$20,000,000 and +100 FTE from the 2021 Enacted.

Refuge Visitor Services Activities (+\$13,000,000/+80 FTE) – Funding will enable the Service to implement and administer the Civilian Climate Corps (CCC) by providing additional capacity in regions to mobilize the next generation of conservation professionals. Funding will allow the Service to provide living wage internship opportunities that will help rebuild the workforce and create clear pathways to careers in conservation. Remaining funding will contribute to rebuilding the visitor services workforce, focusing on entry-level positions that will greet visitors, teach students, engage communities, and coordinate volunteer programs. These positions are critical to providing safe and welcoming access to visitors. The structure of these positions will also provide career opportunities for diverse applicants. The Refuge System will apply funding to:

Implement Civilian Climate Corps (CCC) – The Service is committed to mobilizing the next generation of conservation and climate resilience workers and maximizing training opportunities and good jobs. Funding will support President Biden’s vision of a Civilian Climate Corps as detailed in E.O. 14008 “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad”. The Service is well-positioned to help establish a new Civilian Climate Corps to tackle the issues of the 21st Century and work towards the goals set out by the President: 1) conserving and restoring public lands and waters, 2) bolstering community resilience, 3) increasing reforestation, 4) increasing carbon sequestration in the agricultural sector, 5) protecting biodiversity, 6) improving access to recreation, and 7) addressing the changing climate. With this additional investment, the Service intends to expand its capacity to host Civilian Climate Corps teams, recruit diverse candidates, establish a living wage requirement for the program, and expand program administration by hiring an additional 15 FTEs in order to streamline financial assistance and increase ability to operationalize performance data.

Across the Refuge System, we employ thousands of eager, qualified young adults through internships, volunteer projects and temporary and permanent jobs. This age cohort is critical to our work to bolster community engagement, build climate resilience, protect biodiversity and improve access to recreation. The Service partners with more than 50 youth-serving organizations that recruit for public service opportunities. With our partners, the Refuge System is increasing living-wage internship opportunities to ensure we attract emerging conservation leaders from broad socioeconomic backgrounds. Placements give young adults valuable job training and a pathway to obtaining a good, union job.

Rebuild the Workforce – The mission of the Refuge System can only be met when the capacity exists to execute habitat management, visitor engagement, and partnership building. Providing the appropriate level of staffing is integral to the success of the Service, the Refuge System, and all the lands and waters we manage. Over the past ten years, the Refuge System full-time-equivalent staffing has decreased by nearly 25 percent. These reductions have occurred as the number of visits to Wildlife Refuges continue to increase an average of 3% a year, from 45.7 million in FY 2011 to over 61.4 million in FY 2020. The Refuge System will increase its capacity by 65 FTEs to welcome visitors, engage communities, lead volunteers, and teach local students. As visitation steadily increases, these positions will be critical to ensuring safe, welcoming, and accessible recreation opportunities for visitors from all backgrounds. As we rebuild capacity, we will focus on increasing the diversity of our visitor services workforce by focusing on entry-level positions and recruiting candidates from historically marginalized communities and from CCC participants.

Urban Wildlife Conservation Programs (+\$7,000,000/ +20 FTE) – The requested funds will allow the Service to hire 20 FTEs that will expand on the Service’s demonstrated local successes and creation of scalable conservation equity solutions. Funding will ensure long-term resources at more urban refuges and engagement in more community partnerships; it will enable the Service to create a culturally relevant and welcoming environment for visitors; expand youth and local hiring opportunities; and improve access for disadvantaged communities through public transportation and trails projects.

Engage Communities – The Urban Wildlife Conservation Program (UWCP) creates opportunities for the 80% of Americans who live in urban areas to benefit from time spent in nature. More than 100 national wildlife refuges are within 25 miles of a population of more than 250,000 people. The UWCP creates long-term, meaningful partnerships with disadvantaged communities to make conservation and recreation experiences relevant and positive.

This increase will provide \$1 million above the typical individual unit allocation to seven additional urban refuges. The funds will be used to expand and improve citizen science, conservation education, recreation, and habitat restoration programs, with the overarching goal of increasing the quality and quantity of urban wildlife habitat. To increase access for historically marginalized communities, the Service will expand transportation and facilities projects, and decrease barriers by developing better signage, interpretive and educational materials. The UWCP will expand grant opportunities and develop a new grant program that supports the human dimensions of conservation, focusing on conservation education outcomes.

Additional funding will help expand the Service's opportunities to connect in areas without national wildlife refuges. UWCP partnerships provide funding for local non-profit organizations working with refuges, ecological services offices, fish hatcheries or other offices to engage local communities in conservation, such as removing invasive plants or cleaning waterways. By increasing funds for urban refuges, the Service can increase the number of innovative community-based conservation projects.

Activity: National Wildlife Refuge System

Subactivity: National Wildlife Refuge System Law Enforcement

		2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022			Change From 2021 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Refuge Law Enforcement	(\$000)	41,000	40,907	+1,008	0	+7,000	48,915	+8,008
	FTE	232	233	0	0	+24	257	+24

Summary of 2022 Program Changes for National Wildlife Refuge System Law Enforcement

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Refuge Law Enforcement Activities	+7,000	+24
Program Changes	+7,000	+24

Program Overview

The National Wildlife Refuge System Law Enforcement (NWRSLE) program supports the Department of the Interior priority of safeguarding the integrity of a vast and abundant public lands network while serving and protecting those who enjoyed a record 61.4 million recreational visits in FY 2020. The Refuge System’s cadre of Federal wildlife officers support protection of endangered species, habitat conservation and a broad spectrum of Service programs, ensuring public safety and education, resource protection, and protecting Native American resources and Alaska Native subsistence rights.

Federal wildlife officers serve as ambassadors for the Refuge System and the Service. They support the public as hunter safety instructors; coordinate with veterans and disabled sportsperson’s groups to create outdoor opportunities; and lead youth shooting, hunting and fishing events on refuges. They are routinely involved with local and other Federal law enforcement agencies in cooperative efforts to combat the Nation’s drug problems, address border security issues, and support nationwide disaster recovery efforts.

Through the NWRSLE, the Service has integrated community outreach and de-escalation techniques into both its initial and follow-on training. With a focus on human and civil rights, the program has taken a bold step forward to establish cross cultural communications with local and indigenous communities. The program works with non-profit groups that focus on creating access to the outdoors for urban communities to build trust between Refuge System officers and communities of color and create opportunities for internal reflection and training on relationship building and intervention. As leaders in the law enforcement community in building trust with local communities, the Service actively recruits and hires Refuge Law Enforcement Officers from minority and underrepresented communities. The program has increased the diversity of its workforce while creating a community of practice where law enforcement professionals are not only good stewards of public lands; they are also good neighbors.

2022 Program Activities

The 2022 budget will:

- Support work to implement Executive Order 13985- *Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities through the Federal Government* and the Secretaries’ priority

to *promote equity and environmental justice* by continuing to provide effective public safety and resource protection by building a law enforcement workforce that represents the American People. National Wildlife Refuge System Law Enforcement will enhance regulations to ensure equality and equity in the protection of individuals and cultures.

- Continue to support the Secretaries' priority to *Strengthen the government-to-government relationship with sovereign Tribal nations* and Secretarial Order 3399 - *Department-Wide Approach to the Climate Crisis and Restoring Transparency and Integrity to the Decision-Making Process* by supporting the Enhancing Archeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA), the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), and the Resource Protection Act. The National Wildlife Refuge System has partnered with the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) to develop a staffing deployment model that prioritizes the mission essential activities of the Service, coupled with the threats and risks to the public and wildlife. Using the NWRs/IACP developed model, coupled with investment in Federal Wildlife Officer capacity, the Service's capability to provide for the safety of the visiting public to Wildlife Refuges, help facilitate wildlife dependent recreation activities, continue partnerships and local community support across the country, protect and conserve critical habitats and species, and fulfill the Service's commitment to the safeguarding of cultural resources for Native Americans will be expanded to the benefit of the American public.

Proposed Program Changes

The 2022 budget request for National Wildlife Refuge System Law Enforcement is \$48,915,000 and 257 FTE, a program change of +\$7,000,000 and +24 FTE from the 2021 Enacted.

National Wildlife Refuge System Law Enforcement Activities (+\$7,000,000/+24 FTE) – The Refuge System will utilize funding to increase its capacity to ensure visitor safety and protection of natural and Service-owned resources by hiring 24 new Federal wildlife officers and direct \$900,000 to the acquisition of body cameras for NWRsLE officers.

Diversity and Inclusion in the Workforce – Additional investment in NWRsLE will be directed towards the continued recruitment, hiring, and training of new Federal wildlife officers utilizing hiring practices that have demonstrated significant increases in women and underrepresented populations in the workforce. With the Service's National Hiring Program for law enforcement, we will continue to expand on our current 20% women/diverse hiring rates and provide more opportunities for promotion and advancement into mid-level and senior leadership positions for women and people of color.

Pursuing Equity – This investment will continue to expand training of Federal wildlife officers in connecting and creating meaningful partnerships with the communities we serve and promote equity in the delivery of public safety services. Refuge System officers will continue to expand engagement with Native Alaskan and Native American communities, nationalize the inventory and monitoring of sacred cultural resources sites, expand training in the Archeological Resource Protection Act and the Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act. NWRsLE will establish a board of advisors with members comprised of diverse backgrounds across the Service to review our policies and practices and seek ways to improve for the people we serve.

Building Trust – The Service will continue leading by example in the use of body worn cameras by modernizing the body worn camera program that was established in 2014. As the first DOI law

enforcement program to standardize the use of body worn cameras for all field law enforcement activities, NWRSL E will continue to invest in the body worn camera program. The Service will modernize the camera inventory, improve the data management and storage capacity, increase training for Federal wildlife officers and managers, and develop standard practices in transparent reporting of law enforcement activities to the public.

Activity: National Wildlife Refuge System
Subactivity: Conservation Planning

	2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022				Change From 2021 (+/-)
			Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Conservation Planning	2,523	2,523	+71	0	+2,000	4,594	+2,071
(\$000)	16	16	0	0	+10	26	+10
FTE							

Summary of 2022 Program Changes for Conservation Planning

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Refuge Planning	+2,000	+10
Program Changes	+2,000	+10

Program Overview

Our ability to conserve fish, wildlife and their habitats for future generations of Americans begins with our commitment to conservation planning. Planning guides on-the-ground stewardship of threatened and endangered species, migratory birds, inter-jurisdictional fish and other species of special concern entrusted to us by the American people. We develop our plans using an interdisciplinary approach, to ensure management activities address diverse biological and socioeconomic issues.

Consistent with *Conserving the Future: Wildlife Refuges and the Next Generation*¹, the Service is preparing the Refuge System to confront challenges posed by climate change, invasive species, habitat fragmentation and urbanization. To be successful, these issues must be addressed collaboratively. Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCPs) and step-down management plans drive on-the-ground management on wildlife refuges across the Country. CCPs are based on Landscape Conservation Designs (LCD), often developed with the assistance of our Science Applications program, which create a framework by linking refuge planning and management actions to create functional landscapes and ensure that refuge-level actions contribute to a landscape-level vision. In collaboration with communities, design development looks at current and future conditions and determines where on the landscape to focus program delivery. On many wildlife refuges, targeted restoration is necessary to bring altered landscapes back into balance. These restoration efforts create landscape-level habitats capable of supporting viable populations of target species; be resilient to climate fluctuations; restore ecosystem processes; integrate partnerships; and integrate with future acquisition efforts.

CCPs identify goals and objectives for refuge management and identify strategies to achieve these goals and objectives. The 1997 National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act mandates that the Service complete a CCP for every unit of the Refuge System and revise it every 15 years. Many of the CCPs are in need of revision and so it's timely to update our processes by incorporating landscape level influences, such as climate, into the next generation of CCPs. Additionally, these long-term management plans, as well as step-down management plans, rely on public participation during development and give communities a stake in their local refuge. Public participation provides refuges a powerful alliance with local communities

¹ <https://www.fws.gov/refuges/pdfs/FinalDocumentConservingTheFuture.pdf>

and encourages improved quality of life beyond refuge boundaries. The next generation of plans will broaden consideration of factors in surrounding landscapes that can impact refuge resources, incorporate the best available science, encourage collaboration with partners, and inspire action to align with the President's 30 by 30 goals. Conservation planning ensures that refuge management and land protection efforts are based on priorities that support the mission of the Refuge System and conservation objectives in cooperation with State fish and wildlife agencies.

Proposed Program Changes

The 2022 budget request for Conservation Planning is \$4,594,000 and 26 FTE, a program change of +\$2,000,000 and +10 FTE from the 2021 Enacted.

Refuge Planning Activities (+\$2,000,000/+10 FTE) – With the addition of 10 FTEs, the Service will be able to guide landscape-scale conservation delivery, encourage working with partners to catalyze conservation action, and achieve positive outcomes amid climate pressures on wildlife habitats, ensuring that refuge management objectives, restoration actions, and biological monitoring achieve Service goals and objectives. The Service needs adequate staffing to fully execute the adaptive management cycle. The funding will increase expertise in the form of planners, spatial ecologists, biologists, botanists, and hydrologists with the goal of enhancing our adaptive landscape management. This increase in staffing would also assist in updating the Refuge System's CCPs to ensure that each Refuge continues to be adaptively managed to fulfill its established purpose and respond to natural and human pressures.

Activity: National Wildlife Refuge System

Subactivity: Refuge Maintenance

	2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022				Change From 2021 (+/-)
			Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Refuge Maintenance	146,042	145,822	+1,676	0	+27,138	174,636	+28,814
(\$000) FTE	522	522	0	0	+70	592	+70

Summary of 2022 Program Changes for Refuge Maintenance

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Deferred Maintenance	+2,000	+0
• Maintenance Support	+7,000	+70
• Youth Conservation Corps	+2,000	+0
• Annual Maintenance	+9,638	+0
• Equipment and Vehicle Management	+6,500	+0
Program Changes	+27,138	+70

Program Overview

The Refuge Maintenance subactivity underpins every aspect of Refuge System operations. Infrastructure investments create jobs and support local, State and national economies, directly supporting the Administration’s jobs and economic recovery goals to Build Back Better. Investments also modernize facilities and fleets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and support climate change resiliency. The Refuge Maintenance subactivity includes visitor and administrative facilities maintenance; fleet and heavy equipment; and infrastructure for wildlife and habitat management, fire management, law enforcement, and public access and outdoor recreation. Refuge Maintenance is one of several Refuge System program areas where the next generation of conservation workers can find employment opportunities through the Civilian Climate Corps (CCC).

The Refuge Maintenance budget consists of four program elements:

- **Refuge Maintenance Support:** Refuge Maintenance Support includes supplies, materials and salaries to maintain and manage facilities and equipment. Maintenance employees, including youth hired through the CCC, are critical in proactively maintaining facility and equipment assets. This results in significant cost savings, compared to waiting for repairs to become deferred. Maintenance employees spend about half their time maintaining infrastructure and equipment and the other half maintaining habitat and supporting public recreational activities.
- **Annual Maintenance:** Annual Maintenance encompasses all non-staff expenditures for preventative maintenance needed to keep the Service’s infrastructure and mobile equipment fleet functioning. Annual maintenance includes: custodial care and snow removal for offices, administrative, and public buildings; repair of system failures before they are deferred; and preventive maintenance—including scheduled servicing, repairs, and parts replacement—required to achieve the expected life of facilities and equipment. Proactively maintaining facilities through Maintenance Support

and Annual Maintenance is 40 percent more cost effective on average than waiting until maintenance is deferred. These funds are critical in providing the American taxpayers the maximum return on investment.

- **Deferred Maintenance:** Deferred Maintenance projects repair, rehabilitate, dispose of, or replace constructed real property assets. Funds are directed to the highest priority, mission-critical projects based on facility condition, asset priority, consequences of failure to act, and return on investment in accordance with Departmental guidance. Projects are prioritized by DOI priority scoring and by the frontline field, operations, and facilities managers that know firsthand the field-based mission impacts, return on investment, and outside funding opportunities available. Projects are annually reported to DOI and OMB in the five-year deferred maintenance plans. The Service uses a strategic, portfolio-based approach to manage assets in a manner that informs decision-making and maximizes efficient and effective mission delivery with an emphasis on mission-critical assets and the protection of investments through long-term life cycle management. The Refuge System has worked to reduce the deferred maintenance backlog through the use of Maintenance Action Teams, proactive investments, improved policies, improved data quality and increased focus on preventative and routine maintenance investments. The recently passed Great American Outdoors Act—National Parks and Public Lands Legacy Fund will help to slow the rate of the deferred maintenance backlog growth (See LRF chapter for more information).
- **Equipment and Vehicle Management:** The Refuge System requires an extensive fleet of vehicles and equipment to successfully carry out the conservation mission and provide safe and reliable public recreation and education opportunities. The Refuge System employs rental and leasing options to provide a cost-effective, efficient program. Equipment and Vehicle Management funds optimize the management of fleets to meet mission needs and serve as an example for the efficient use of public assets. The Refuge System is actively focusing on modernizing our equipment and vehicles by implementing utilization and age standards, and investing in a smaller, more agile fleet including zero emission vehicles.
 - **Fleet Management:** The majority of the 3,600 vehicles used on refuges are four wheel-drive trucks and utility vehicles for transporting personnel, equipment, materials, and tools to remote sites for firefighting, wildlife and habitat management, and law enforcement.
 - **Small Equipment:** Specialized equipment such as all-terrain vehicles, small aircraft, boats, small tractors, snowmobiles, trailers, agricultural implements, and similar equipment is needed to access, maintain, and restore habitats in remote or rugged areas. In total, the Refuge System's small equipment fleet consists of about 5,000 assets.
 - **Heavy Equipment:** Heavy equipment management includes acquisition, rental, and repair of heavy equipment. Agricultural, earthmoving, and construction equipment are used to maintain wetland impoundments and roads; construct and maintain wildlife habitat; control invasive plants; and maintain and construct visitor facilities such as boardwalks, observation platforms, fishing piers, hunt blinds, tour routes, and trails. The Service owns nearly 4,000 heavy equipment assets with a combined replacement value of about \$423 million.

Service facilities and equipment are in a constant state of degradation, while identified deficiencies are being corrected other deficiencies develop. Industry standards require 2-4% of the current replacement

value (CRV) of constructed assets be invested in maintenance each year to maintain the assets in good condition. However, due to prioritization, strict life-cycle investment strategies, aggressive use of Maintenance Action Teams, and the disposal of unneeded assets, the Service could maintain its assets in acceptable condition for 1.3% of CRV per year if adequate funding is provided in the appropriate accounts to support the Service's strategic investment strategy. Shifting the focus from deferred maintenance to proactive maintenance will save the American taxpayers approximately 40% by repairing and replacing infrastructure before repairs are deferred and cause additional damage requiring expensive emergency repairs. The additional funding proposed for maintenance combined with funding provided by the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) for deferred maintenance, could assist the Service in shifting towards life-cycle maintenance. Specifically, the Service will receive up to \$95 million annually from GAOA to address deferred maintenance needs, such as repair and rehabilitation of dilapidated bunkhouses, repair and replacement of accessible boardwalks and trails, and repair of high hazard dams to preserve restored habitat and protect neighboring communities. However, GAOA does not provide funding for annual maintenance requirements, like servicing filters on geothermal heating and cooling systems that prevent costly repairs and system failures because of the lack of preventative maintenance, or new construction such as new nature centers that support youth education and economic vitality of rural and urban communities, or levee, parking lot and trail construction at new Refuge and Wetland Management District units to support habitat, wildlife and outdoor recreation today and into the future. Discretionary maintenance funding is vital to support all types of Service maintenance needs, which enables the best use of funds by transitioning to life-cycle maintenance.

Federal Lands Transportation Program

Transportation touches every aspect of the Service. The visiting public relies on safe roads, trails, and parking areas. Land managers rely on safe access to natural resources so they can conserve lands and waters. To access these lands, efficient and safe transportation corridors must be in place. In support of the Service's primary conservation mission, we develop environment context-sensitive transportation assets and road treatments, improve and build alternative transportation systems, and repair hydrologic flows with improved culverts.

The Service's transportation program is also integral in breaking down racial inequities to improve safe, reliable access to public lands for all Americans. We are analyzing different ways to help visitors and local communities know about their lands, how to reach them, and be safe while doing so. We work closely with neighboring communities and cities to identify opportunities for improvement—including installing signs on State or local roads, installing off-road multi-modal trails, and connecting with local transit systems—and frequently provide the needed match funding for Federal Land Access (FLAP) awards provided by the U.S. Department of Transportation. These awards are specifically intended to improve the safety and access to Federal lands. The Service has worked with communities surrounding refuges to add turning lanes, new bike and pedestrian trails, new or improved access points, and other projects to better welcome visitors.

The Service has been part of the surface highway bill since 1998 and receives \$30 million per year through the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act to build and maintain safe, reliable transportation assets for access to and through publicly accessible refuges and hatcheries. Demand for outdoor recreation increased significantly in FY 2020 and highlighted the need for transportation improvements both on- and off-refuge to ensure all Americans feel welcome and are able to access public lands.

The Service's network has over 5,400 miles of public use roads, 5,000 public use parking lots, over 300 public bridges, 23 on-refuge transit systems, and 2,100 miles of terrestrial trails and boardwalks. The Service leverages a variety of funding sources to manage this extensive system, including the Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP), FLAP, and the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), all funded through the Highway Trust Fund, as well as Service appropriated and non-appropriated funding sources by completing projects through Maintenance Actions Teams with both FLTP and Deferred Maintenance or GAOA funds, as well as leveraging our partners, like Team Rubicon and the Union Sportsmen's Alliance, and volunteers to compete FLTP funded projects. The Service effectively leverages funds from these sources to maximize improvements to its transportation infrastructure, enhance relationships with States and local jurisdictions, improve returns on investments, and increase safe access to public lands. These funds are often necessary to complete complex projects involving many partners. Since 2013, the Service has helped gateway communities and local partners successfully apply for 102 FLAP awards totaling \$156.5 million, and provided \$12.9 million in FLTP matching funds to leverage \$71 million in FLAP funds. These investments, along with the successful leveraging of funds, support the Administration's jobs and economic recovery goals to Build Back Better.

Funds from the FAST Act fuel long-range planning and maintenance of our transportation assets to meet the needs of visitors, staff and biological resources. Projects are prioritized based on six overarching goals: coordinated opportunities; asset management; safety; environmental sensitivity; access, mobility and connectivity; and visitor experience. The same priorities are used to develop five-year project plans. Additionally, the Service is implementing a life cycle investment model to repair assets before they add to the deferred maintenance backlog. On average, proactive maintenance is up to 40 percent cheaper than waiting until assets fail or become deteriorated.

Proposed Program Changes

The 2022 budget request for Refuge Maintenance is \$174,636,000 and 592 FTE, a program change of +\$27,138,000 and +70 FTE from the 2021 Enacted.

Deferred Maintenance (+\$2,000,000/+0 FTE) – Public Law 116-260 signed December 27, 2020 restored the National Bison Range so that it is held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes CSKT. The legislation also created a two-year transition period during which the Secretary of the Interior through the Service will cooperate with the Tribes in transition activities as the Tribes assume full management of the Bison Range. This funding, as well as an additional \$3.4 million of the DM appropriation, is dedicated to addressing the deferred maintenance backlog at the field station as part of the transfer to the CSKT.

Maintenance Support (+\$7,000,000/+70 FTE) – This funding will help the Service move towards restoration of an equitably recruited infrastructure workforce that is capable of maintaining Refuge System assets using a life-cycle investment model to prevent growth of the deferred maintenance backlog. The 70 FTEs will help the Refuge System begin to bridge the gap created by the reduction of over 25% of wage-grade positions over the past decade. The Refuge System maintains over 44,000 assets representing over \$40 billion in public investments, including 6,400 buildings, 17,500 roads, bridges and trails, 8,700 water management and 11,400 other real property assets. A robust maintenance workforce will continue

responsible rehabilitation, maintenance, and construction of Service infrastructure and further the goal to Build Back Better with a focus on resilient infrastructure.

Rebuild the Workforce – The mission of the Refuge System can only be met when the capacity exists to execute habitat management, visitor engagement, and partnership building. Providing the appropriate level of staffing is integral to the success of the Service, the Refuge System, and all the lands and waters we manage. Over the past ten years, the National Wildlife Refuge System full-time-equivalent staffing has decreased nearly 25%, including 190 maintenance professional FTEs. These reductions have occurred as the number of visits to National Wildlife Refuges increased an average of 3% a year, the size of the Refuge System grew over 2 million acres, and the replacement value of the infrastructure portfolio has grown by \$15 billion. These positions are critical to ensuring safe, welcoming, and accessible facilities for staff and visitors. As we rebuild capacity, we will focus on increasing the diversity of our maintenance workforce by focusing on entry-level career ladder positions and recruiting among historically marginalized communities, youth organizations, and veteran groups.

Youth Conservation Corps (+\$2,000,000/+0 FTE) – The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) provides a first work experience in conservation for high-school aged youth. While this funding does not include permanent employment positions, it provides summer jobs for more than 240 youth and 60 part time crew leaders. YCC crews build and maintain trails, maintain facilities, remove invasive species, and perform many other tasks. In addition, one day each week is dedicated to environmental education and enrollees are engaged in activities such as bird banding, tours with biologists, and other activities.

Civilian Climate Corps – Rebuilding the Refuge Systems maintenance workforce ensures it remains nimble and committed to rebuilding an inclusive organizational culture and delivering conservation in effective and innovative ways. The Refuge System is primed with thousands of vacancies and shovel-ready projects that can mobilize the next generation of conservation and resilience workers by providing career and job opportunities across a variety of trades and professions throughout the country.

The Refuge Systems aims to strategically leverage a variety of youth programs, direct hires, and contracted labor to deliver local jobs to achieve community resilience and restoration efforts as well as justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion outcomes. Through community hiring the Refuge System is growing a vibrant local community conservation corps addressing local problems. Restoration projects support local jobs through partners and contractors. These projects improve flood resilience, expand outdoor recreation opportunities, and create meaningful opportunities for local residents to contribute through volunteering and project input.

Annual Maintenance (+\$9,638,000/+0 FTE) – Additional funding will be used to Build Back Better by completing repairs proactively to prevent maintenance from being deferred. The funding will be used, though a balanced approach, to purchase materials and supplies to complete proactive preventative and cyclical maintenance and repairs with the maintenance workforce and through contracts with local and regional companies. Repairs will include re-graveling and grading trails, roads and parking lots to support safe and reliable access, rehabilitation of boardwalks, piers, docks and other recreational assets before they

become hazards to the visiting public; preservation of cultural and historic structures and archeological assets; rehabilitation of water control structures, levees, fences and other wildlife management infrastructure to provide habitat; replacement of roofing, siding and windows on educational centers, bunkhouses and maintenance shops before they start leaking and create further damage; and repairs and routine maintenance to high hazard dams and flood protection levees to protect neighboring communities.

Equipment and Vehicle Management - Zero Emission Vehicle Fleet Conversions (+\$6,500,000/+0 FTE) – The 2022 budget includes funding to convert approximately one third of the Service's sedan fleet to zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) and provide approximately 130 charging stations and hydrogen fueling stations to support those vehicles and future ZEVs. This conversion will immediately reduce the Interior's contributions to greenhouse gas emissions and dependence upon hydrocarbons. The investment in infrastructure will support these new vehicles and ensure charging infrastructure is available for subsequent ZEVs. This project is being coordinated across Interior and with other agencies to maximize utility of charging and hydrogen fueling stations in areas where multiple agencies operate. The funding also supports a small planning and coordination function to effectively deploy the fleet and charging infrastructure.

The Refuge System is actively focusing on modernizing our equipment and vehicles by implementing and investing in a smaller, more agile, and fuel-efficient fleet. The transition to zero emission vehicles would occur at priority locations across the Country and would replace 80% of our passenger car fleet. In addition, the installation of Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) at select Refuges would connect to the increased demand for charging stations across the country offering a unique opportunity for the Refuge visitors in both urban and rural communities. Additionally, the EVSE will work in conjuncture with electrification of the Service's fleet. This opportunity is in direct response to the Biden Administration's Climate Crisis and Build Back Better priorities creating a more resilient, sustainable and clean energy future. This program will expand the national public Electric Vehicle charging network while advancing Federal sustainability and emission-reduction goals.

MIGRATORY BIRD MANAGEMENT

Activity: Conservation and Enforcement Program: Migratory Bird Management

		2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022			Budget Request	Change From 2021 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
Conservation and Monitoring	(\$000)	28,837	28,784	+637	0	+12,250	41,671	+12,887
	FTE	119	119	0	0	+26	145	+26
Permits	(\$000)	3,424	3,411	+102	0	+1,500	5,013	+1,602
	FTE	27	27	0	0	+1	28	+1
Federal Duck Stamp	(\$000)	556	556	+16	0	+1,000	1,572	+1,016
	FTE	3	3	0	0	+1	4	+1
North American Waterfowl Management/ Joint Ventures	(\$000)	14,640	15,122	+190	0	+2,500	17,812	+2,690
	FTE	39	39	0	0	+0	39	+0
Total, Migratory Bird Management	(\$000)	47,457	47,873	+945	0	+17,250	66,068	+18,195
	FTE	188	188	0	0	+28	216	+28

Program Overview

The Migratory Bird Program is the premier Federal leader in migratory bird conservation and manages birds in the U.S. and internationally through effective partnerships, applied science, and innovative strategies. Migratory birds are enjoyed by millions of Americans for birding, hunting, and viewing around their homes and in their communities. Migratory birds also provide important ecosystem services to people, including insect and rodent control, plant pollination, and seed dispersal.

The Service, through the Migratory Bird Program has the legal mandate and responsibility to ensure the continued existence of healthy migratory bird populations for the benefit of the American public. We sustainably manage ducks, geese and other migratory game birds to provide for hunting opportunities for generations to come. In addition, we prioritize birds of conservation concern, and develop strategic and collaborative approaches to bird conservation at landscape scales. The Service works with our partners to conserve migratory birds and their habitats, and to preserve outdoor recreational pursuits involving birds. The Service works with partners such as national sporting groups, conservation organizations, Tribes, State wildlife agencies, and others to monitor bird status and conserve habitats needed to support these populations for future generations of Americans to enjoy. According to the 2016 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, Americans spent \$2.3 billion on migratory bird-related trips and equipment in 2016; of which, \$1.3 billion was spent on hunting trips.

Program Elements

Four elements comprise the Migratory Bird Management program:

- Conservation and Monitoring – Conducts surveys and other monitoring activities to determine the status and health of migratory birds and uses the results to develop bird harvest and other regulations that ensure healthy and sustainable populations, while providing recreational opportunities. Works with partners to balance human-wildlife conflicts and seeks to reduce human caused mortality of migratory birds.
- Permits – Provides authorization of take and possession of protected migratory bird species for scientific, religious, educational and other activities. The permit program assists biologists to track the impact of these activities, and permits ensure that such activities are conducted in a manner that safeguards migratory bird populations and promotes conservation efforts.
- Federal Duck Stamp Program – Produces the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp), which is required for anyone 16 years of age and older to hunt waterfowl. Proceeds from the sale of the stamp are deposited into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund and expended to conserve wetland habitats within the National Wildlife Refuge System.
- North American Waterfowl Management Plan and Migratory Bird Joint Venture Partnerships – Employs a tripartite agreement among the United States, Canada and Mexico as a basis for promoting collaborative, voluntary partnerships that restore or protect waterfowl and other migratory bird habitat.



*A Migratory Bird Program biologist in the field banding waterfowl.
Credit: USFWS*

Applicable Laws, Acts, and Orders

More than 25 laws, treaties, and conventions mandate that the Service sustain over 1,000 species of migratory birds and their habitats. Primary among these is the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) (16 U.S.C. 703-712), which establishes Federal responsibility for protecting and managing migratory birds. Other important laws that directly and significantly impact program activities include the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d), the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4401-4412) and the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 6101-6109), which promote habitat and bird conservation across North America and throughout the western hemisphere through competitive grants. Additionally, the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act (U.S.C. 718-718j) requires waterfowl hunters 16 years of age or older to possess a valid Federal Duck Stamp.

Subactivity: Migratory Bird Management
Program Element: Conservation and Monitoring

		2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022				Change From 2021 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Conservation and Monitoring	(\$000)	28,837	28,784	+637	0	+12,250	41,671	+12,887
	FTE	119	119	0	0	+26	145	+26

Summary of 2022 Program Changes for Conservation and Monitoring

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Conservation, Capacity, and Regulatory Enhancements	+7,500	+16
• Clean Energy	+3,500	+9
• Urban Bird Treaties	+1,000	+1
• Zero Emission Vehicle Fleet Conversions	+250	+0
Program Changes	+12,250	+26

Program Description

The ability of the Service to deliver conservation benefits to birds, manage the myriad threats facing birds, and provide recreational opportunities for the American public is critically dependent on the quality of our monitoring programs. The ability to monitor bird populations allows the Service to evaluate the effectiveness of management actions, identify population shifts due to climate change and other factors, and make informed decisions about management plans and regulations. In addition, monitoring provides valuable information to assess potential landscape-level impacts of energy and other development activities on migratory bird populations. It also provides the necessary information the Service needs to provide recreational opportunities to the public and alleviate problems associated with some bird species (e.g., crop and livestock depredation, damage to buildings or equipment, human safety and health).



The Annual Parts Collection Survey collects over 100,000 migratory bird wings each year from hunters. The species, age and sex of birds harvested are determined by expert biologists who usually come together for a week each year at four flyway "wingbees," to provide critical information about species-specific bird harvest in the US. The COVID-19 pandemic required some flexibility and creativity. Left: A socially distanced mini wingbee in the Central Flyway. Right: A Service wildlife biologist helps classify bird parts from his home with assistance from his daughter. Credit: USFWS

Monitoring and assessment are the fundamental activities that define the Service's key role in addressing treaty mandates for conserving migratory birds. Monitoring is essential to informing a science-based approach to bird conservation and is critical to the Service's ongoing efforts to improve the status of Birds of Management Concern. Each year the Service conducts extensive migratory bird population, harvest, and habitat surveys, as well as a waterfowl banding program, across North America. These surveys are a critical component to the successful management of the Nation's migratory bird hunting programs. These monitoring programs provide the basis for States to open annual hunting seasons for certain migratory birdspecies.



Waterfowl banding in Oregon during the time of COVID-19. Credit: USFWS

Upon completion of the surveys, we produce a series of critically important reports that assess their status. These reports include the most current breeding population, production, and harvest information available for waterfowl, sandhill cranes, woodcock, dove, rail and other wetland game birds in North America and are the result of cooperative efforts with the Canadian Wildlife Service, various State and provincial conservation agencies, and private conservation organizations.

The Service then uses that waterfowl monitoring data in an Adaptive Resource Management framework to set and evaluate hunting seasons in the United States, a process recognized by experts as the best implementation of an adaptive framework in a harvest-management context. This process is a collaborative venture with the States and ensures migratory bird regulations are commensurate with population status while maximizing recreational opportunities and ensuring long-term sustainable migratory bird populations. Results from assessments of the other migratory bird species also are used in making informed decisions, which ensure that the data are used efficiently when promulgating regulations.

Government and non-government resource managers, researchers and other conservation professionals depend on the Service's migratory bird surveys and assessment capabilities to provide accurate, comprehensive population status and trend information. Survey data are essential for identifying management actions, prioritizing research needs and providing a scientific, informed basis for effective long-term migratory bird conservation and management on a national and international scale. The Service takes its data stewardship responsibilities seriously, and is committed to FAIR data standards (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) by sharing these data through a new, DOI accessible migratory bird data portal that will be operational in 2021, with public access via [Data.gov](https://www.data.gov). In addition, many of the Service's Population Status reports and results of other assessments can be found at: www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/NewsPublicationsReports.html

Long-term Monitoring and Climate Change

The Service's 65+ year history of migratory bird monitoring programs provides a unique perspective on shifting bird distributions and habitat conditions across the North American landscape over time. These rich datasets have been widely used in peer-reviewed studies and management plans to assess and mitigate climate change impacts on bird population dynamics, migration chronology, productivity, and habitat acquisition and restoration. The value of these programs is not just in their long duration but also in their continental coverage and consistent, rigorous methodology. Waterfowl population and harvest distributions from these surveys provide baseline data for diverse uses, including prioritizing land acquisitions across the National Wildlife Refuge System, establishing continental population goals for the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, modeling population responses to climate change projections from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and investigating human participation trends in hunting activity and harvest.

Due to the importance of its survey and monitoring programs, the Service is committed to periodic review and improvement of many of these programs to maximize their utility in informing management decisions while maintaining cost efficiency and enhancing customer service. In 2020, the Service invested in several program improvements, including:

- Implementation of an online application to collect hunter and harvest information, giving over 180,000 sampled hunters an easier way to submit harvest data. This reduces postage costs and data processing times while still providing the Service with the information needed to make informed hunting regulations.
- Continued investment in developing online resources such as the collaborative Avian Knowledge Network, to provide better data access and decision support tools; and the Service's Information, Planning, and Consultation system, that helps identify possible migratory bird impacts from development projects by generating lists of birds of conservation concern present in a specific geography, a graph of when those species are present, and other useful resources to address project-related impacts.
- Partnering with the U.S. Geological Survey and national and international universities to initiate a multi-year project to establish a theoretical framework and best management practices for conservation decision making amidst global environmental change. This project is based on three migratory bird management case studies including adaptive harvest management, wind energy development and eagle conservation, and habitat conservation by the Migratory Bird Joint Ventures Program.

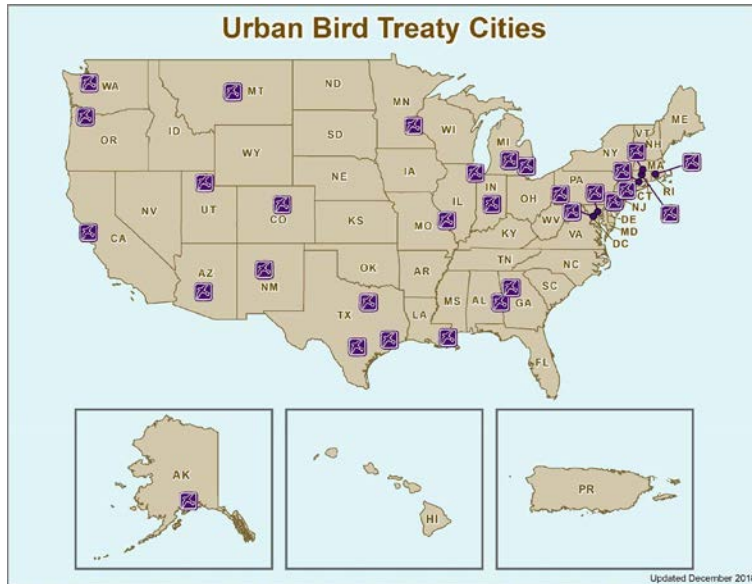
Reducing Incidental Take

The Service continues to work with partners to reduce the incidental take of migratory birds through both regulatory and non-regulatory means. The Service is leading the development of guidance, recommendations, and best practices to empower the public, Federal agencies, conservation organizations and industries with the solutions to address direct and indirect impacts to migratory birds. Recent guidance



A young female Cooper's hawk equipped with a transmitter as part of a long-term demographic study coordinated by the Migratory Bird Program in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Data from this project help inform population models the Service uses to manage bald and golden eagles and other raptors. Credit: USFWS

includes revised recommendations for reducing bird collisions with building glass, a video specifically targeting communication tower owners on how to retro-fit lighting fixtures to be more efficient and safer for birds, and recommendations for improving building energy efficiency while using bird safe measures to do so. These resources are available to anyone seeking to reduce impacts to migratory birds by going online to the Service's Migratory Bird Program webpage¹.



The Urban Bird Treaty Program

Millions of people throughout the Nation enjoy watching, feeding, and photographing birds. In urban areas, birds represent people's most frequent contact with wildlife. Urban areas can provide important habitats for birds, especially those on migration that need safe, food-rich areas to rest and refuel. But cities also pose a host of threats to birds, from collision hazards such as building glass and lights to hazardous trash and pesticides, all of which can result in mortality. The Urban Bird Treaty Program (UBT) is a unique collaboration between the Service and participating U.S. cities and their partners. The Service provides guidance

and technical assistance to help partners carry out projects and become designated as UBT cities. There currently are 22 cities across the U.S. with active treaties.

Activities undertaken by UBT cities include native plant restorations; bird-friendly building and lights out programs; and community education and engagement programs that create opportunities for people in cities to learn about and celebrate birds and participate in bird-related recreation, science, and conservation. Restoring natural areas, such as forests and meadows, not only provides bird habitat but also can improve air and water quality and access to urban green space. This benefits the health and well-being of birds and people, too, especially underrepresented and underserved communities.

2022 Program Activities

The 2022 budget will:

- Monitor migratory game bird species and establish annual migratory bird hunting seasons.
- Continue implementing a comprehensive cormorant management strategy, as informed by activities conducted in FY 2021.
- Continue to work with stakeholders and other conservation partners to reduce conflicts caused by species such as common ravens and black vultures.
- Support efficient permitting of infrastructure and energy projects for the take of bald and golden eagles.

¹ <https://www.fws.gov/birds>

Proposed Program Changes

The 2022 budget request for Conservation and Monitoring is \$41,671,000 and 145 FTE, a program change of +\$12,250,000 and +26 FTE from the 2021 Enacted.

Conservation, Capacity, and Regulatory Enhancements (+\$7,500,000/ +16 FTE) – The Service’s request for Conservation and Monitoring reflects an approach of working on multiple fronts simultaneously to conserve migratory birds:

Conservation and Capacity (\$4,800,000/ +12 FTE) – The U.S. is facing a staggering loss of populations of most groups of migratory birds, including many at-risk species. At the same time, the U.S. and the world face a growing climate crisis. The Service has an opportunity to take simultaneous action to conserve migratory birds and participate in the Government-wide effort to reduce climate pollution in every sector of the economy and increase resilience to the impacts of climate change. The Service is developing a range of actions to tackle the conservation issues facing grassland birds, forest birds, shorebirds, seabirds and aerial insectivores in addition to the threat of collisions. Targeted investments in partner engagement, monitoring, technical assistance, conservation planning, and promoting bird-friendly practices will greatly leverage the resources of other Service programs and other Federal, State, Tribal, and private conservation partners to dramatically increase the pace and scale of habitat conservation for birds of conservation concern. The Service will hire a mix of policy analysts and field biologists that will help implement the different activities that currently are under development. One area of focus for these new hires will be identifying the conditions that produce resilient landscapes—lands that can provide both high-quality bird habitat and demonstrate adaptive responses to climate change. Another internal investment will be to strengthen our bird monitoring and modeling so we can better understand how bird populations respond to our activities and to climate change. All of this work will directly contribute to the America the Beautiful initiative, by assisting in identifying important climate-resilient places on the landscape to conserve, and engaging with the Migratory Bird Program’s extensive partner network to expand conservation and restoration on the most important lands and waters for birds and other wildlife.

Regulatory Enhancements (\$2,700,000/ +4 FTE) – The Service is also requesting funding to build efficiencies and improve the clarity of regulations and their implementation under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). The additional resources will be used to develop training and outreach materials and expand the Service’s capacity to provide voluntary technical assistance to the public to conserve migratory birds. The Service will develop step-down guidance and multi-faceted training so that both internal and external audiences (Federal and State agencies, Tribes, and other and public partners) receive a consistent message about how to interpret Service regulations and policies. The Service also will expand its current efforts to offer technical assistance to any industry or Federal or State agency that voluntarily expresses interest in reducing their project-related impacts on migratory birds.

Clean Energy (+\$3,500,000/ +9 FTE) – One of the Administration’s priorities for which the Department of the Interior will play a prominent role is transitioning the Nation to carbon pollution free electricity by 2035 and a net-zero emission economy by 2050. In order to effectively support the surge in renewable energy development expected in FY 2022 and outyears, the Service is requesting additional funding to ensure Service project review and permitting functions are not bottlenecks in the environmental clearance process, while avoiding and reducing project-related impacts on migratory birds. The requested funding

will support regional clean energy industry liaisons to work proactively with industry to incorporate bird-friendly design elements into project proposals. For example, for solar energy projects, site selection (away from important bird habitats), landscape management (not clearing vegetation or creating conditions that attract birds), and infrastructure management (fencing, lighting) can greatly affect a project's impact on migrating birds. For wind energy projects, one modification operators can implement is to use Aircraft Detection Lighting Systems to turn on turbine lighting only when aircraft are near wind farms to reduce the attraction of birds to lights. The requested funding will also support permit process reviews and improvements. By proactively working with the clean energy industry to improve project design, while simultaneously improving back-end permitting processes, the Service will streamline project permitting and maintain necessary protections for migratory birds. The Service also will explore collaborative research opportunities with other Federal agencies (e.g., U.S. Geological Survey and the Department of Energy) to develop and test equipment and techniques that help avoid or minimize bird interactions, and update conservation planning tools that incorporate realistic climate scenarios to improve conservation delivery for birds.

Urban Bird Treaty (+\$1,000,000/ +1 FTE) – With the additional funding, the Service will grow the UBT program by investing in partnerships and projects in existing and new UBT cities across the U.S. In part, the funding will allow the Service to do more of what it already does well: provide access to nature, increase awareness of bird hazards, and offer communities a wide array of conservation, education, and outdoor recreation activities. It will strengthen the conservation capacity of partners in existing UBT cities and allow additional cities to become part of the UBT network. Additionally, the Service will identify and engage diverse, underrepresented audiences and encourage their participation in UBT activities through intentional, inclusive, and collaborative actions. Through these activities, the UBT Program will produce healthier environments for birds and people and lead to more equitable access to nature for all communities. This work will contribute to the goal of conserving 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by 2030, and complement the proposed increase for the Junior Duck Stamp program described below in the Proposed Program Changes for the Federal Duck Stamp Program.

Zero Emission Vehicle Fleet Conversions (+\$250,000/ +0 FTE) – The 2022 budget includes funding to convert approximately one third of the Service's sedan fleet to zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) and provide approximately 130 charging stations and hydrogen fueling stations to support those vehicles and future ZEVs. This conversion will immediately reduce the Interior's contributions to greenhouse gas emissions and dependence upon hydrocarbons. The investment in infrastructure will support these new vehicles and ensure charging infrastructure is available for subsequent ZEVs. This project is being coordinated across Interior and with other agencies to maximize utility of charging and hydrogen fueling stations in areas where multiple agencies operate. The funding also supports a small planning and coordination function to effectively deploy the fleet and charging infrastructure.

Subactivity: Migratory Bird Management
Program Element: Permits

		2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022			Change From 2021 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Permits	(\$000)	3,424	3,411	+102	0	+1,500	5,013	+1,602
	FTE	27	27	0	0	+1	28	+1

Summary of 2022 Program Changes for Permits

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Streamlining Permitting	+1,500	+1
Program Changes	+1,500	+1

Program Description

The Service administers the world’s oldest bird protection laws: the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (Eagle Act). It is the mission of the Migratory Birds Permits Program to promote long-term conservation of migratory birds and encourage joint stewardship with others through these laws.

As with all wildlife, there are times when birds and humans compete for similar resources or even have conflicts. Permits enable the public to engage in specific activities consistent with the MBTA and Eagle Act while providing a means to balance use with conservation. Permits also allow the Service to build partnerships and monitor activities to determine their effects on migratory bird populations. The Permits Program implements more than 32 regulations and administers more than 41 permit types. In FY 2020, the Program managed 66,000 permits and issued over 8,000 actions with fewer than 25 staff nationwide.

In FY 2020, the Permits Program had to quickly adapt its permit review processes in response to COVID-19. Hard-copy, paper permit processing was predominant at the beginning of 2020, but to keep its workforce safe and adapt to COVID-telework policies, the Permits Program transitioned to digital permit processing. The 2021 launch of ePermits will further support the digital transition, improving efficiency and promoting economic recovery through reduced administrative burden. However, further development, staff training, and technical support is needed for ePermits to reach its full potential. Additionally, more than 60,000 existing paper permit files need to be digitized to seamlessly access records for staff and the public.

The Permits Program is critical to the success of improving regulations and streamlining policies under the MBTA and Eagle Act; developing common sense standards that protect migratory birds while providing regulatory certainty to industry. Regulatory changes are being designed to support economic recovery. This work also contributes to climate change initiatives by providing regulatory certainty to the energy industry. The Service seeks collaborative and innovative approaches that reduce regulatory costs and uncertainty for the energy industry as well as to help build capacity to monitor and respond to the effects of climate change on bird populations.

Supporting Native American Tribes and honoring Tribal trust responsibility is also a key goal for the Permits Program. That’s why the Permits Program responded quickly and efficiently to develop procedures

to implement the new policy authorizing federally recognized Native American Tribes to retain whole eagle remains. We are also working to pursue new opportunities in partnership with Native American Tribes.

2022 Program Activities

The 2022 budget will:

- Continue to issue permits efficiently for the use of birds protected under the MBTA and BGEPA.

Proposed Program Changes

The 2022 budget request for Permits is \$5,013,000 and 28 FTE, a program change of +\$1,500,000 and +1 FTE from the 2021 Enacted.

Streamlining Permitting (+\$1,500,000/ +1 FTE) – The launch of the ePermits system in 2021 was a huge step forward for bringing efficiency and consistency to how the Service issues permits, but additional funding is needed for ePermits to reach its full potential. With the requested funding, the Migratory Bird Program plans to build on this initial success to strengthen the Permits Program by simplifying and streamlining processes. First, some permit types (e.g., permits involving the take of dead birds—taxidermy, for example) will transition to a fully online, self-service registration process that will reduce the burden for both applicants and the Service. Second, the Migratory Bird Program will develop a framework for programmatic National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review for proposed rulemaking actions. To accomplish these changes, the Service will hire a National Migratory Bird Permit Coordinator to serve as a dedicated liaison for the regional Permit staff and manage the implementation of regulatory changes. The remaining funding will support existing regional Permit staff.

**Subactivity: Migratory Bird Management
Program Element: Federal Duck Stamp Program**

		2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022			Change From 2021 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Federal Duck Stamp	(\$000)	556	556	+16	0	+1,000	1,572	+1,016
	FTE	3	3	0	0	+1	4	+1

Summary of 2022 Program Changes for Federal Duck Stamp Program

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Federal Duck Stamp Program	+1,000	+1
Program Changes	+1,000	+1

Program Description



The 2020-2021 Duck Stamp features Alabama artist Eddie LeRoy’s painting of black-bellied whistling-ducks. Each fall approximately 200 artists participate in the opportunity to become the next “Duck Stamp Artist” in the only federally regulated art contest.

The internationally recognized Federal Duck Stamp Program supports conservation of vital migratory bird habitat within the National Wildlife Refuge System through the sale of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, commonly known as the Duck Stamp. The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act requires all waterfowl hunters age 16 years or older to possess a valid Federal Duck Stamp.

Since it was first established in 1934, Duck Stamp sales have raised more than \$1 billion that have been used to conserve over 6 million acres of habitat for birds and other wildlife species.

The Federal Duck Stamp Program produces the stamp, which sells for \$25 and raises approximately \$40 million through sales each year. Over 98 percent of these funds are used to conserve wetland habitats through conservation easements and fee title land purchases in the National Wildlife Refuge System. More than 300 National Wildlife Refuges were created or expanded using Duck

Stamp dollars, and there is at least one refuge in nearly every State that has benefitted from the program.

In 2020, Duck Stamps sales totaled over \$37 million. Lands acquired with Duck Stamp dollars provide all Americans with opportunities to enjoy the outdoors by engaging in activities such as fishing, hiking and wildlife watching. In addition to waterfowl hunters, the Service encourages others interested in conservation, including bird watchers, nature photographers, and those who enjoy public wildlife areas to buy Federal Duck Stamps and support conservation. The conservation model of the Federal Duck Stamp is so successful that it became the model for raising conservation dollars for our State wildlife agency partners, other countries, and for other targeted species such as deer, turkey, trout and walleye. The Federal Duck Stamp is also distinctive in the way the stamp is created. Each year, the Service holds an art contest, the only juried art competition sponsored by the Federal government. The winning artwork from the national contest then becomes the next Federal Duck Stamp.

Stamps are valid for a one-year period and the sales period runs from July through the following June. Traditionally sold through a partnership with the U.S. Postal Service, the 2022 stamp will mark the fifteenth year that the Service is selling Duck Stamps through the Electronic Duck Stamp (E-Stamp) program. As of

Spring 2021, 28 States participate in the E-Stamp program and E-Stamp sales have increased from 58,000 in 2007 (the program's pilot year) to nearly 1 million in 2020. The E-Stamp program is a valuable customer service tool, making Duck Stamps immediately available to anyone with an internet connection, regardless of their State or country of residence. The COVID-19 pandemic clearly demonstrated the need for this immediate access and the overall effectiveness of this initiative. The Service will continue to expand participation of qualified States and hopes to add up to 10 additional States over the next two years, further improving the ability to meet customer needs.



At the 2020 National Junior Duck Stamp art contest, South Dakota student Madison Grimm's painting of a wood duck took top honors among the 53 State and territorial winners.

In addition to the Federal Duck Stamp, the Service also coordinates the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program. Since 1993, the Junior Duck Stamp Program Conservation and Design Program for students in K-12th grade has helped encourage students to explore their natural world, study wildlife and their habitats and then share what they have learned with others in their communities. The Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program strengthens youth connection to nature through a dynamic art- and science-based curriculum that teaches wetland and waterfowl conservation to students in kindergarten through high school. It crosses cultural, ethnic, social and geographic boundaries to teach greater awareness of our Nation's natural resources.

Students can participate in the Junior Duck Stamp Program at school, at home, in after-school groups, and at refuges, parks and nature centers. After learning about wetlands, waterfowl, and wildlife conservation, students express their learning through a drawing or painting of a duck, goose, or swan and a conservation message. Students then submit their entries to their state contest for local recognition. Each State Best of Show is then forwarded to the National Competition. The top piece of art in the Nation – which is chosen at the annual competition – is featured on the Junior Duck Stamp, sales of which support educational programs and activities that nurture our next generation of wildlife conservationists and land stewards. Winning artwork from State contests may also be used on the cover of the States' annual hunting regulation brochures. The annual art contest participation averages about 20,000 students.

2022 Program Activities

The 2022 budget will:

- Manage the production and sale of the Federal Duck Stamp.
- Promote and diversify participation in the Junior Duck Stamp Program.
- Investigate new and emerging methods to promote the Duck Stamp to increase revenues for habitat conservation.
- Expand the E-Stamp program to facilitate hunter access and improve satisfaction.

Proposed Program Changes

The 2022 budget request for Federal Duck Stamp Program is \$1,572,000 and 4 FTE, a net program change of +\$1,000,000 and +1 FTE from the 2021 Enacted.

Junior Duck Stamp and Urban Refuges (+\$1,000,000/ +1 FTE) – The Service proposes to use the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design (Junior Duck Stamp) program as a vehicle to showcase Urban Refuges, boost annual Duck Stamp sales, and increase diversity and inclusion among children in migratory

bird conservation by purposefully expanding art and science-based curriculum activities in underserved and minority communities. The Service will use the requested funding to hire a National Junior Duck Stamp Coordinator; invest in and grow Junior Duck Stamp programs in 35 States that are home to Urban Refuges as well as programs in States and territories without Urban Refuges. This work will complement the proposed increase for the Urban Bird Treaty Program described above in the Proposed Program Changes section for Conservation and Monitoring.

Subactivity: Migratory Bird Management
Program Element: North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP)/
Joint Ventures

		2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022			Change From 2021 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
North American Waterfowl Management/ Joint Ventures	(\$000)	14,640	15,122	+190	0	+2,500	17,812	+2,690
	FTE	39	39	0	0	+0	39	+0

Summary of 2022 Program Changes for NAWMP/Joint Ventures

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• NAWMP/Joint Ventures	+2,500	+0
Program Changes	+2,500	+0

Program Description

More than a quarter century ago, waterfowl populations in North America languished at historic lows. The waterfowl management community in the United States and Canada developed a strategy to respond to those low populations through habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement - an unprecedented recognition of the need for international cooperation to help restore these shared resources. This strategy became the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and still serves as a model for international conservation.

Signed by the United States and Canada in 1986, and by Mexico in 1994, the Waterfowl Management Plan has sustained abundant duck, geese, and swan populations across North America by conserving habitats through partnerships for the past 35 years.

In 2018, the Waterfowl Management Plan was updated to expand the community of waterfowl stakeholders, including hunters and the non-hunting public, to engage people who are committed to conservation and value waterfowl and their habitats as essential characteristics of the North American landscape. This expansion strives to increase public awareness and understanding that waterfowl provide both ecological and economic benefits to new audiences. For example, according to the *2016 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation*, migratory birds such as geese, ducks, and doves, attracted 2.4 million hunters who spent \$2.3 billion on hunting related expenditures; additionally, the 2013 addendum to the National Survey titled *Birding in the United States: A Demographic and Economic Analysis* showed that 47 million birders spent nearly \$41 billion on trip and equipment-related expenditures. Many of these expenditures take place where waterfowl are found, benefiting local businesses and municipalities.

The habitat goals of the Waterfowl Management Plan, as well as the conservation and management priorities of national and international shorebird, waterbird, and landbird partnership initiatives, are primarily implemented by 18 Migratory Bird Joint Ventures (JVs)—a network of regional, self-directed partnerships involving Federal, State, and local governments; corporations; individuals; and non-government conservation groups. JVs are considered the model for collaborative conservation in the 21st century, using state-of-the-art science and leveraging public and private resources to ensure that diverse habitat at a variety of scales is available to sustain migratory bird populations. JVs have an additional benefit of building capacity of participating partners, making their operations and activities more effective and efficient. In the Administration's [initial report¹ outlining steps](https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/report-conserving-and-restoring-america-the-beautiful-2021.pdf) to achieve the America the Beautiful

¹ <https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/report-conserving-and-restoring-america-the-beautiful-2021.pdf>

initiative, JVs were identified as an example of effective conservation partnerships that could be expanded.

The JV partnerships play a critical role in addressing problems migratory birds face due to a changing climate. Armed with the best available scientific information, JVs help predict how bird populations will respond to habitat conservation and other management activities, and then tailor conservation plans for those specific populations. These plans employ landscape-level conservation strategies that prioritize and direct habitat management resources where they will have greatest impact and lowest relative cost. This strategy enables JV partners to focus conservation programs on the highest priority areas and identify resources at the level needed to sustain healthy populations of migratory birds. The approach extends beyond climate change and can be used to examine social changes, effects of land use decisions, and fiscal constraints.

North American landscapes will continue to change in ways and at scales that have potential to drive bird populations downward, with more species at risk of being listed as threatened or endangered. JVs recognize the path to effective and sustainable bird conservation on dynamic landscapes must incorporate an understanding of the ways in which people value, use, and depend on the natural environment. Thus, JV efforts seek to align bird conservation with benefits to human society and local communities. JV implementation plans often focus bird habitat protection and restoration in areas that also serve to abate flooding, improve water quality, and enhance carbon sequestration. Focusing on a more integrated approach to landscape conservation that links the ecological and social drivers of conservation together, JVs are working to develop better implementation strategies with existing partners, as well as new approaches to connecting bird conservation with new partners and stakeholders inherent to the changing demographics of America. This approach is well aligned with the principles outlined in the Administration's Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful report and the JV partnerships are well-poised to meaningfully contribute to the recommended areas of focus.

Northern Great Plains Joint Venture – Sustaining grassland birds and rural communities



Chestnut-collared longspur.
Credit: Bob Martinka/NGPJV

Over two-thirds of the Northern Great Plains consists of privately-owned, intact grasslands providing important breeding habitat for grassland birds, many of which are experiencing severe population declines. The Northern Great Plains Joint Venture (NGPJV) partnership is conserving grasslands for the benefit of grassland birds, ranchers, and local ranching communities. In partnership with the South Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition and the Winnett Agricultural and Community Enhancement and Sustainability in central Montana, the NGPJV's Northern Grassland Restoration Incentive Program provides cost-share assistance to private landowners to restore and enhance working grasslands in key geographies. These projects keep native grass on the landscape for birds and cattle, while also helping to recharge aquifers, improve water quality, and stabilize soils for ranchers. This program also provides incentives to diversify native species plantings and employ sustainable grazing management. These practices help build landscapes resilient to a changing climate. Resilient grassland systems also support profitable ranching operations leading to vibrant rural economies. Joint Venture funding supports the NGPJV's work to amplify working grasslands conservation at scales meaningful for reversing grassland bird declines through innovative partnerships with producer groups, industry, non-governmental organizations, and agencies (e.g., USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, State wildlife agencies).

Upper Mississippi / Great Lakes Joint Venture – Restoring the Great Lakes bird communities

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), launched in 2010, seeks to protect and restore the largest system of fresh surface water in the world – the Great Lakes. This program has robust support and clearly identified long-term goals, including providing clean water, reducing invasive species, and providing critical habitat for native species. The Upper Mississippi / Great Lakes Joint Venture, through active partnerships between Federal agencies, States, and NGOs, has been contributing to the success of the GLRI. JV



*The Abbaye Peninsula along Lake Superior in Michigan.
Credit: Keweenaw Land Trust*

conservation planning and decision supports tools, like the revised Waterfowl and Waterbird Habitat Conservation Strategies, have helped JV partners focus resources on projects that will provide the greatest benefits to priority species of migratory birds. Within the Service, JV products have helped inform GLRI projects undertaken by National Wildlife Refuges and Partners for Fish and Wildlife and have stimulated cross-program dialogue around planning and project delivery. Lastly, the JV has used GLRI funds to make grants to directly support habitat projects across the entire Great Lakes basin that best align with bird habitat needs. While the focus to date has been largely on wetland habitats, the JV will expand its impact by leveraging GLRI funding to support habitats for grassland and forest birds consistent with the newly revised JV Landbird Habitat Conservation Strategy. The GLRI has been a conservation success story for the people who live in the Great Lakes region and the Upper Mississippi / Great Lakes JV will continue contributing to future wins for migratory bird habitat.

2022 Program Activities

The 2022 budget will:

- Continue to implement the 2018 Waterfowl Management Plan update with partners and the JVs to achieve waterfowl population, habitat, and human dimension objectives.
- Design and develop habitat strategies that work with landowners and other partners to conserve migratory bird resources across the landscape; and collect and analyze data on Black Duck, Arctic Geese, and Sea Duck species to inform harvest strategies that lead to hunter opportunities.

Proposed Program Changes

The 2022 budget request for NAWMP/Joint Ventures is \$17,812,000 and 39 FTE, a program change of +\$2,500,000 and +0 FTE from the 2021 Enacted.

Strengthening Joint Ventures' Partnerships (+\$2,500,000/ +0 FTE) – The Service will use a portion of the requested funding to achieve target funding levels for all 21 Migratory Bird Joint Ventures, including addressing base funding deficiencies for the Joint Ventures currently funded at a minimally viable level. This will allow all JVs to address capacity issues that prevent them from fully supporting migratory bird conservation and adaptation. JVs will promote conservation of working lands in collaboration with private landowners and local communities for the benefit of wildlife and help support the Administration's America the Beautiful initiative. Funds will be strategically invested among the

JVs to strengthen partners' ability to respond to a variety of pressures, including climate change, drought and flooding, invasive species, and habitat change. Specifically, the increased funding will support increased science capacity, including improved spatial tracking and assessment of landscape level changes; development or enhancement of conservation delivery networks that coordinate partners' on-the-ground conservation projects to accomplish greater results; and improved and increased outreach to raise awareness of JV activities and their many benefits. Together, these investments and activities will target the highest priority species and habitats across the Nation.

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OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Activity: Law Enforcement

		2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022			Budget Request	Change From 2021 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
Law Enforcement Operations	(\$000)	81,143	85,950	+1,928	0	+6,194	94,072	+8,122
	FTE	323	323	0	0	+24	347	+24
Equipment Replacement	(\$000)	910	910	0	0	0	910	0
USMCA	(\$000)	4,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total, Office of Law Enforcement	(\$000)	86,053	86,860	+1,928	0	+6,194	94,982	+8,122
	FTE	323	323	0	0	+24	347	+24

Summary of 2022 Program Changes for Law Enforcement Operations

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Wildlife Law Enforcement Capacity	+6,194	+24
Program Changes	+6,194	+24

Program Mission

The Service is the only agency in the Federal government that has the primary responsibility for management of fish and wildlife through conservation, protection, and restoration of certain populations of fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the American public. The Service enhances its conservation mission through the Office of Law Enforcement (OLE). The OLE is the investigative arm of the Service tasked to enforce wildlife laws, regulate wildlife trade, investigate wildlife crimes, help Americans understand and obey wildlife protection laws, and work in partnership with international, State, and Tribal counterparts to conserve and protect wildlife resources. Continuing to prevent introduction or transmittal of zoonotic diseases through inspection of wildlife imports is an important part of the Service’s preparation for future epidemics after lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic.

It’s our mission to protect wildlife and plant resources through the effective enforcement of Federal laws. By working with Federal, State, Tribal, and foreign enforcement agencies and other conservation partners, we help recover endangered species, conserve migratory birds, preserve wildlife habitat, safeguard fisheries, combat invasive species, and promote global wildlife conservation. The Service is responsible for enforcing the U.S. laws, regulations, and treaties that protect wildlife and plant resources. The Office of Law Enforcement officers work to intercept smuggling and facilitate legal commerce in fish, wildlife, and plant resources by investigating wildlife crimes and monitoring the Nation’s wildlife trade.

Program Elements

The program elements for the Office of Law Enforcement:

- Law Enforcement Operations – funds the day-to-day activities of special agents, intelligence analysts, forensic scientists, and support staff who serve critical roles in facilitating legal trade, the fight against wildlife trafficking, and the successful prosecution of criminals who break Federal and international wildlife laws.
- Equipment Replacement – maintains and replaces property and equipment, including scientific instruments at the National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory; purchases and configures vehicles to satisfy operational requirements.

Economic Benefits

The Service recognizes the hard work of our special agents, wildlife inspectors, intelligence analysts, forensic scientists, and support staff who serve critical roles in facilitating legal trade, the fight against wildlife trafficking, and the successful prosecution of criminals who break Federal and international wildlife laws. In 2019, the Service conducted almost 9,900 wildlife crime investigations, which resulted in ordered restitution of \$6 million in fines, \$600,000 in civil penalties, and 103 years in prison. Wildlife Inspectors facilitated legal trade valued at over \$4.3 billion through inspection of more than 195,000 declared wildlife shipments.

Applicable Laws, Acts, and Orders

The Service has the statutory mandate and trust responsibility to fulfill its mission derived from the Nation's wildlife and plant protection laws and several Presidential actions. Brief descriptions of these various laws follow:

- The *Lacey Act* (18 U.S.C. 42; 16 U.S.C. 3371-3378) prohibits the importation, exportation, transportation, sale, or purchase of fish, wildlife, or plants taken or possessed in violation of Federal, State, Tribal, or foreign laws.
- The *Migratory Bird Treaty Act* (16 U.S.C. 703-712) makes it unlawful to pursue, hunt, kill, capture, possess, buy, sell, purchase, or barter any migratory bird including their feathers, parts, and products.
- The *Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act* (16 U.S.C. 668-668C) prohibits import, export, or take of bald or golden eagles including their parts and products without permits, and prohibits the sale, purchase, or barter of their parts or products.
- The *Endangered Species Act* (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) prohibits the importation, exportation, take, and interstate or foreign commerce of fish, wildlife, and plants that are listed as threatened or endangered species.
- The *Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species* (CITES) is an international treaty to which 183 countries are parties, including the United States. CITES is implemented in the United States under the ESA and provides a set of universal protections and controls involving the international movement of plant and animal species engaged in significant global trade.
- The *Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act* (16 U.S.C. 718) requires waterfowl hunters to purchase and possess a valid Federal waterfowl hunting stamp before take of migratory waterfowl.
- The *Marine Mammal Protection Act* (16 U.S.C. 1361-1407) establishes a moratorium on the take and importation of marine mammals, including parts and products.
- The *Airborne Hunting Act* (16 U.S.C. 742j-1) prohibits taking or harassing wildlife from aircraft.
- The *National Refuge System Administration Act* (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee) provides guidelines for administration and management of all areas in the refuge system.

- The *African Elephant Conservation Act* (16 U.S.C. 4201-4245) places a moratorium on the importation of raw or worked ivory from African elephant-producing countries that do not meet certain criteria.
- The *Wild Bird Conservation Act* (16 U.S.C. 4901) limits or prohibits the importation of exotic bird species as necessary to ensure that their populations are not harmed by international trade.
- The *Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act* (16 U.S.C. 5301-5306) prohibits the import, export, or sale of any product, item, or substance containing, or labeled or advertised as containing, any substance derived from tiger or rhinoceros.
- The *Antarctic Conservation Act* (16 U.S.C. 2401) makes unlawful for any citizen to take, possess, or sell any native bird or mammal from Antarctica.
- The *Archeological Resources Protection Act* (16 U.S.C. 470aa) prohibits excavation, removal, damage, or alteration to any archaeological resource located on public or Indian lands without a permit.
- The *Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990* (P.L. 101-644) is a truth-in-advertising law that prohibits misrepresentation in marketing of Indian arts and crafts products within the United States.
- In conducting investigations of wildlife crimes, OLE frequently encounters and investigates violations of other Federal laws to include conspiracy, smuggling, money laundering, narcotics, cybercrimes, unlawful possession and trafficking of firearms, mail fraud, tax evasion, wire fraud, corruption, and bribery.
- The *Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt (END) Wildlife Trafficking Act* (P.L. 114-231) authorizes support for law enforcement training, investigative capacity building, range state conservation programs, and other important tools to protect and sustain wild populations of imperiled species in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and other critical locations.
- The *Presidential Executive Order on Combating Wildlife Trafficking* (issued July 1, 2013) coordinates efforts to combat wildlife trafficking and established a Presidential Task force, which released the *National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking*. The Strategy and accompanying Implementation Plan identify three main objectives – strengthening domestic and global law enforcement, reducing demand for illegally traded wildlife, and building international cooperation.
- The *Presidential Executive Order on Enforcing Federal Law with Respect to Transnational Criminal Organizations and Preventing International Trafficking* (issued February 9, 2017) strengthens enforcement of Federal law in order to thwart transnational criminal organizations and subsidiary organizations, including criminal gangs, cartels, racketeering organizations, and other groups engaged in illicit activities. This Executive Order specifically lists wildlife trafficking as a targeted transnational crime that presents a threat to public safety and national security.

Program Overview

Through the OLE, the Service protects fish, wildlife, and plant resources by investigating wildlife crimes and monitoring the Nation's wildlife trade to intercept smuggling and facilitate legal commerce. Effective enforcement of the Nation's wildlife laws is essential to the Service's conservation mission and combats wildlife trafficking, a threat to U.S. and foreign species and global security.



Ivory smuggled from Thailand to U.S. Photo credit: USFWS

Service special agents, wildlife inspectors, intelligence analysts, and forensic scientists play a critical global role in holding the line for species on the brink of extinction from the accelerating black market of wildlife trade. Service efforts that protect wildlife resources and support strategic habitat conservation are also vital

in the face of ongoing threats such as habitat loss and climate change. These threats make wildlife populations even more vulnerable to crimes such as poaching, black market trafficking, and industrial take.

The U.S. remains one of the world's largest markets for wildlife and wildlife products, both legal and illegal. Illegal global trafficking represents a threat to the continued viability of thousands of fish, wildlife, and plants around the world. In some regions, it threatens to undermine not only natural areas, but also governments, economies, and the rule of law itself.

Protecting our Nation's Species

Special agents investigate crimes involving federally-protected resources, including endangered and threatened species native to the U.S., migratory birds, eagles, and marine mammals. Enforcement efforts focus on dismantling criminal enterprises that illegally profit from trade in American wildlife and plants. The Service's law enforcement addresses other potentially devastating threats to wildlife, including habitat destruction, environmental contaminants, and industrial hazards and investigate violations of laws that safeguard wildlife and wildlife habitat. The Service also works with industries whose activities affect American wildlife resources and their habitat to reduce hazards and secure voluntary compliance with wildlife laws.



Oklahoma Box Turtle Smuggling Case

In January 2020, a New Jersey man was sentenced to two years of probation and ordered to pay restitution to FWS and Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation for illegally collecting more than 1,000 turtles from Oklahoma. He was part of a wildlife smuggling syndicate that exchanged turtles between the U.S. and China. OLE Special Agents are responding to the increasing demand of native species in illegal wildlife trade.

Box turtles can live beyond 100 years of age and inhabit both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. This makes them important indicators of environmental health. They eat fruit and are important for seed distribution. They also eat insects and carrion, curbing the spread of disease. Box turtles reach sexual maturity at about 10 years old and have a high nest and juvenile mortality rate. Due to these factors, turtle harvest can have highly detrimental impacts on populations.

OLE Special Agent in Charge Phillip Land, said, "This case is an excellent example of how State and Federal law enforcement agencies work together to combat the illegal wildlife trade. We will continue to vigorously investigate wildlife crime to hold traffickers accountable and protect imperiled species for future generations."

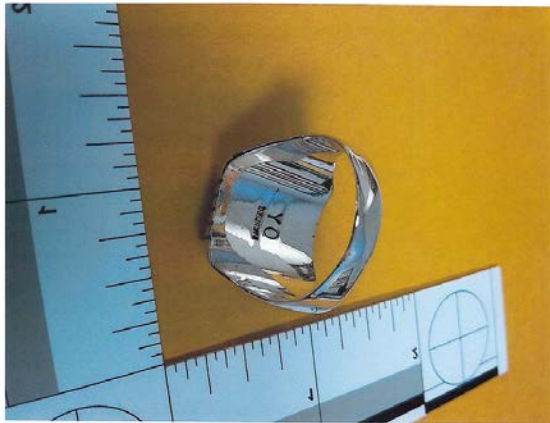
Photo credit: USFWS

Working with Native Americans and Alaska Natives

The Service supports Native Americans and Alaska Natives in numerous ways such as training Tribal conservation law enforcement officers, assisting with criminal investigations, providing eagle feathers and parts for use in religious ceremonies, supporting subsistence hunting, and enforcing Federal laws that protect Native American culture such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act, Archeological Resources Protection Act, and the Indian Arts and Crafts Act (IACA).

The IACA is a truth-in-advertising law that prohibits misrepresentation in marketing of American Indian or Alaska Native art and craft products within the U.S. To enforce IACA, OLE works closely with the Department of the Interior’s Indian Arts and Crafts Board (IACB).

The Service investigates retailers, wholesalers, manufacturers, counterfeiters, and smugglers who fraudulently produce and sell counterfeit Indian arts and crafts. The OLE has assigned special agents to disrupt and dismantle this criminal activity and successes are significant. Numerous defendants have been investigated, indicted and sentenced for their crimes, and their actions were documented in States such as Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, New Jersey, New Mexico and Texas; and in countries such as China, Indonesia, Mexico, Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand.



*A counterfeit ring has the fake initials of the artist and “sterling” stamped on the back. Since it does not display the country of origin, it is implied the piece was crafted in the United States.
Photo credit: USFWS*

Most of these defendants ran similar multinational criminal schemes in the Southwest United States that involved fake Native American art mass-produced in the Philippines. These fakes were then smuggled into the U.S. and sold as authentic Indian jewelry to unaware consumers at numerous retailers across the Country.

These crimes were not simple to investigate because they were multifaceted and involved other serious crimes such as identity theft, mail fraud, wire fraud, smuggling, conspiracy and money laundering. Throughout these investigations, OLE agents discovered that counterfeit Indian art criminal

networks operated a complex web of middlemen, across the Nation, to distribute and market fraudulent Indian artwork. In addition, these defendants used their illegal sales to undercut reputable competitors, often taking over their businesses. The millions of dollars generated by these counterfeit Indian art networks supported organized crime in the U.S. and were also funneled to overseas criminal operations.

Office of Law Enforcement
To learn more about OLE’s work, please visit https://fws.gov/le/ and if you believe you have knowledge about a wildlife crime, you may report it via the Service’s tip line by either calling 1- 844-FWS-TIPS (397-8477) or email fws_tips@fws.gov .

Combating Illegal Global Wildlife Trafficking

The Service’s investigation of wildlife trafficking and assistance to international counterparts disrupts highly organized smuggling networks trafficking wildlife around the globe. The Service’s trade monitoring activities at U.S. ports provide a front-line defense against illegal wildlife trade. Service wildlife inspectors process declared shipments, intercept wildlife contraband, conduct proactive enforcement operations to catch smugglers, and work with special agents to investigate businesses and individuals engaged in illegal wildlife trafficking. Service law enforcement officers also work to prevent the introduction of invasive species via international trade and travelers. In addition, special agents and wildlife inspectors enforce prohibitions on the importation of injurious wildlife. Costs of the inspection program incurred by the Service are charged against the Service’s wildlife inspection user fee account. However, in the event that costs exceed the user fee collections, they are funded by the law enforcement program’s appropriated funds.

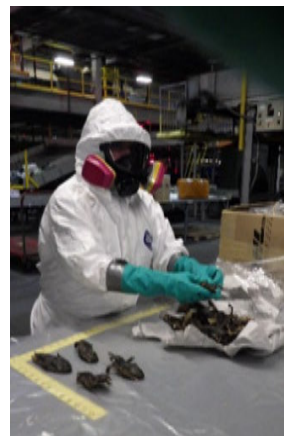
Zoonotic Disease Protection

The Service Mission Statement clearly states that all of the efforts its programs and employees make in the interest of wildlife conservation and protection are to be made for the continuing benefit of the American people. No area of focus, including the Service's duty to combat wildlife trafficking, dovetails more with that mission than the prevention of introduction or transmittal of zoonotic infectious disease. As the various classifications of diseases carried by wildlife potentially threaten wild populations of at-risk species, and in some cases may be transmissible to humans, it is necessary to focus an effort to prevent their spread through wildlife trafficking on behalf of the public.

As criminal networks have grown on a global scale, it has become increasingly necessary for law enforcement agencies to rely on any available technology or methodology that allows them to narrow their focus. There are many logistical challenges afforded to Service Wildlife Inspectors and Special Agents tasked with targeting potential disease vectors in imported and trafficked wildlife. Though proper identification, safe physical inspection, communication with cooperating agencies, and intervention with *declared* shipments is tasking enough; OLE staff are primarily expected to intercept undeclared illegal shipments internationally and domestically.

International Operations

In FY 2014, to make a greater impact, the Service began the International Attaché program to station special agents overseas to investigate international wildlife trafficking. In 2021, OLE has 12 attachés worldwide addressing limiting factors in countries that drive or enable the market for illegal wildlife by supporting direct partnerships with foreign governments to share and coordinate intelligence, expand training programs, and provide technical assistance in customs monitoring. The attachés have assisted in wildlife trafficking investigations by providing investigative expertise, as well as highly technical assistance to local governments involved in wildlife trafficking investigations. They have also provided training and capacity building, increased coordination among government agencies, and provided support to Wildlife Enforcement Networks throughout their areas of responsibility.



Wildlife Inspectors at the Port of Erlanger/Cincinnati suited up in the appropriate PPE to inspect and document a shipment containing bushmeat imported from Thailand and a second shipment that could possibly contain bushmeat from Hong Kong.
Photo credit: USFWS

WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT ATTACHÉS



Rhinoceros and Elephant Trafficking

One of the largest wildlife trafficking syndicates in Africa was disrupted in 2019. Four defendants in a transnational criminal enterprise are charged with conspiracy to traffic rhinoceros horn and elephant ivory valued at more than \$7 million, which involved the illegal poaching of more than 35 rhinoceros and 100 elephants. Three of the four defendants have been extradited to the U.S. The multiyear investigation was conducted jointly with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency and conservation partners in Uganda and Kenya. The defendants also face money laundering and drug trafficking charges.

Photo: Extradiction of Guinean subject with U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency vetted Senegalese drug unit officers. Credit: DEA

Facilitating Legal Wildlife Trade

The OLE’s mandate to enforce wildlife trade laws encompasses a responsibility to deal fairly and efficiently with the businesses, organizations, and individuals that legally import and export wildlife. The speed and efficiency of wildlife inspection operations affect not only businesses trading in legal commodities, but also the international transportation of wildlife for purposes ranging from scientific research to public entertainment. Officers provide guidance to individuals and businesses to help them obey wildlife laws and expedite their import and export transactions. Customer service efforts use technology to speed trade, streamline communication, and improve public access to information about laws and regulations affecting trade in wildlife and wildlife products.

National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory

The Service’s National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory (Lab), the world’s only full-service crime laboratory devoted exclusively to supporting wildlife law enforcement, is vital to the Service’s efforts to

fight illegal wildlife trade and protect plants and animals. Scientists at the laboratory identify the species of wildlife parts and products seized as evidence to link suspect, victim, and crime scene through the examination of physical evidence, cause of death determinations, and crime scene analysis.

The Lab can scientifically identify the species source of mammal, bird, plant, and reptile wildlife parts and products, a function frequently utilized by Service special agents, wildlife inspectors, and Justice Department prosecutors. Conclusive evidence of criminal activity in wildlife investigations often hinges on the investigators' and prosecutors' ability to establish animal or animal parts origin, often by country, so the Lab's capacity is integral to enforcing wildlife laws and treaties. Wildlife populations have identifiable genetic profiles, which result in specific isotopic signatures that reflect a specific geographic location. For example, this research data helps the Service determine where poached elephants were from by analyzing illegal ivory, or where poached rhinos were from by analyzing illegal horns, all of which aid efforts to prosecute criminals and stem poaching.

Digital Evidence Recovery and Technical Support Unit

The Digital Evidence Recovery and Technical Support Unit (DERTSU) provides special agents in the field with better support for retrieval and analysis of computer-based records and advanced surveillance techniques.

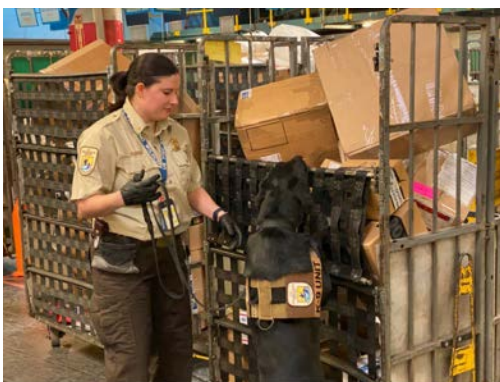
Based in Jacksonville, Florida, and co-located with a group providing similar support to criminal investigators from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, DERTSU is staffed by wildlife crime investigators with skills in computer forensics and technology-based investigations, as well as technical experts in these highly specialized fields. The Unit provides a source of multi-layered expertise (both technical and investigative) to assist field officers with large-scale and complex investigations.



*A senior special agent certified in digital forensics assists wildlife crimes investigations.
Photo credit: USFWS*

2022 Program Activities

In FY 2022, the Service will continue to utilize its network of special agent and international attachés to build on past successes in combating wildlife trafficking, both domestically and internationally. Investigations will continue to prioritize crimes that jeopardize wild populations of protected species devastated by poaching, black market trafficking, and transnational profiteering.



*Wildlife Inspector and canine partner
Photo credit: USFWS*

The Service will also focus on special agent and wildlife inspector staffing levels. Due to mandatory retirement age for law enforcement positions, field agents are at an historical low while global responsibilities continue to grow. As of the end FY 2020, OLE had 188 special agents, a reduction of 50 FTE from FY 2015. The planned opening of new designated ports will coincide with a phased comprehensive staffing plan for the Wildlife Inspection Program. The plan will ensure appropriate coverage at all ports of entry and prioritize currently unstaffed ports.

Proposed Program Changes

The 2022 budget request for Law Enforcement Operations is \$94,072,000 and 365 FTE, a program change of +\$6,194,000 and +24 FTE from the 2021 Enacted.

Capacity to Enforce Wildlife Laws (+\$7,694,000/+24 FTE) – Due to the physical and dangerous nature of Federal law enforcement work, the Service’s Special Agents face mandatory retirement at 57 years of age. Field Agents are at an historical low while global responsibilities continue to grow. As of the end FY 2020, OLE had 188 special agents, a reduction of 50 FTE from FY 2015. Within the next four years, OLE will have 29 mandatory retirements. With this funding, OLE will hire a full class of 24 new agents. A newly hired agent attends the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center academy and Field Training for Officers, which is an investment of 1.5 years until the agent is fully performing. New agents at GS-9 pay with permanent change of station and vehicles cost nearly \$300,000, so this funding will provide a partial year of salaries and benefits for the new class.

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Activity: Conservation and Enforcement
Subactivity: International Affairs

		2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022			Change From 2021 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
International Conservation	(\$000)	10,810	10,294	+155	0	+325	10,774	+480
International Wildlife Trade	(\$000)	8,016	12,738	+228	0	+5,525	18,491	+5,753
Total, International Affairs	(\$000)	18,826	23,032	+383	0	+5,850	29,265	+6,233
	<i>FTE</i>	69	69	0	0	+9	78	+9

Summary of 2022 Program Changes for International Affairs

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• CITES Permitting Modernization	+2,500	+0
• International Conservation Capacity	+1,875	+2
• Wildlife Disease and One Health	+1,825	+0
• Permit Backlog	+1,200	+7
• Arctic Council Support	-550	+0
• Theodore Roosevelt Genius Prize	-1,000	+0
Program Changes	+5,850	+9

Program Mission

Using scientific integrity and an evidence-based approach, the Service’s International Affairs Program works with partners worldwide to conserve fish, wildlife, plants, and the habitats on which they depend, and to maintain the integrity of ecological processes beyond our borders for present and future generations. Through this program, the Service leads domestic and international efforts to protect, restore, and enhance the world’s diverse wildlife and their habitats with a focus on international species, including domestic species that range beyond our borders or are traded internationally.

Program Elements

The International Affairs Program is comprised of the following elements:

- **International Conservation** – These species and regional programs provide technical and financial assistance and engage in partnerships around the globe to conserve high-priority species and habitats.
- **International Wildlife Trade** – This program is responsible for implementing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and other laws and treaties to, among other objectives, ensure international wildlife trade is legal and does not threaten

the survival of animals and plants in the wild. Through international collaborations and technical and financial assistance, this program strengthens global implementation of CITES, applies scientific analysis to decision-making concerning the conservation and sustainable use of international species, and combats wildlife trafficking. Additionally, this program administers the Service's marine mammal permitting program to ensure that otherwise prohibited activities, such as take and import involving marine mammal species under the Service's jurisdiction, are permitted to ensure conservation of marine mammal populations.

Applicable Laws, Acts, and Orders

The Service has the legal mandate and responsibility to engage in the conservation of wildlife species both within and beyond our borders in the context of several long-standing commitments. These obligations are contained in domestic laws, international treaties, and other multilateral agreements, such as the Endangered Species Act (ESA); CITES, the Multinational Species Conservation Acts; the Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt (END) Wildlife Trafficking Act; the Pelly Amendment to the Fishermen's Protective Act; the Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management; the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention); the Western Hemisphere Convention; the Lacey Act; the Wild Bird Conservation Act; the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA); the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA); and the Cartagena Convention and its Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife.

Program Overview

The survival of living resources important to the American public depends on effective international, as well as domestic, conservation. The Service, through the International Affairs Program, achieves this through numerous, complementary ways by: supporting on-the-ground conservation that addresses threats and strengthens capacity to manage and protect wildlife; providing leadership in international wildlife conservation policy and expanding international cooperation and commitment to address growing threats to species and habitats; and implementing laws and regulations in the United States to promote the sustainability and legality of international wildlife trade to support wildlife conservation.

The complex threats facing species under the Service's purview require a science-based conservation approach coupled with international wildlife and trade policy interventions. For example, the Service works to address the poaching of elephants and rhinos for the illegal trade in ivory and rhino horn. The Service undertakes on-the-ground efforts to protect species in their habitats and raise awareness of their plight, provide policy support and interagency collaboration to combat wildlife trafficking, and negotiate with international governments to improve treaty compliance and reduce consumer demand. These actions complement the activities of the Service's Office of Law Enforcement, which enforces and investigates violations of wildlife laws.

Elephants, rhinos, tigers, marine turtles, and apes are just a few of the species of foreign origin that captivate the hearts and minds of the American public. The Service's work in International Affairs is not constrained to foreign species, but also extends to native marine mammals and species of wildlife and plants that are traded internationally. The conservation of these species and the habitats on which they depend provides concrete benefits to U.S. residents and to our and the world's economy. In addition, this work benefits the American public in myriad other ways. Maintaining intact habitats and healthy populations provides ecosystem services such as clean air and water, helps combat the impacts of climate change and increase resiliency of wildlife and human communities, and helps prevent the spread of zoonotic diseases between wildlife and humans.

The Service works closely with State agencies and Tribes to ensure legal and sustainable wildlife trade and provides technical and financial assistance, working alongside communities and other partners, to strengthen the capacity of other countries to address conservation of species that are important to the American people and global biodiversity. This entails working together to find innovative solutions to address the most urgent threats to species' survival, including poaching and wildlife trafficking, disease, habitat loss, climate change, and inadequate human capacity to support wildlife conservation. Through these efforts, the Service's work supports sustainable trade and conservation of plants and animals, from helping to establish protected areas and supporting protected area and wildlife management and community-based conservation, to leading high-level international trade negotiations. The Service's international wildlife conservation efforts extend to some of the regions of the world that are hardest hit by climate change, which compounds other threats like habitat loss and poaching and can amplify pre-existing vulnerabilities of marginalized human communities around natural resource access and control, including for livestock grazing. Through financial and technical assistance, the Service helps build resilience against climate change by establishing and managing protected areas and other large landscapes while strengthening the capacity of national governments and local communities to manage them over the long term. Support for landscape-level conservation helps protect habitats acting as carbon sinks and maintain important wildlife refugia, such as the Amazon and Congo Basin as well as savanna and steppe grassland systems. The Service's approach helps build resiliency while supporting local solutions to complex problems.

Healthy intact habitats with rich biodiversity are linked with increased resiliency and reduced likelihood of zoonotic disease transmission between wildlife and humans. Conservation of the world's biodiversity is a critical strategy for reducing the likelihood of future pandemics and is an important component of the Service's international work. Through close collaboration with other U.S. agencies, the Service contributes to the governmentwide One Health approach, holistically considering how human, animal, and environmental health are closely linked. Through financial and technical assistance programs, the Service applies a range of evidence-based approaches that support pandemic prevention at the source, such as addressing illegal commercial bushmeat trade, supporting protected area management, curtailing the spread of injurious species and pathogens, and building multi-partner initiatives to address complex threats to wildlife and human health. Through its engagement on international treaties and conventions, and its role as the Management and Scientific Authority of the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES), the Service also aids in both halting current disease spread and reducing the risk of future outbreaks via wildlife trade. Although long-term results are not yet known, the disease, economic, and security implications of the COVID-19 pandemic are expected to have a strong negative impact on these at-risk species. From 2020 onwards, increases in poaching, hunting, and habitat loss are expected due to the pandemic, while significant reductions in tourist and donor revenue are reducing the ability to effectively manage protected areas and wildlife. These devastating findings underscore the critical importance of continuing the Service's longstanding international investment in community-based conservation, protected area management, and combating wildlife trafficking, as well as engaging in the development of One Health approaches more generally. For more detail on how the International Affairs program reduces the risk of zoonotic disease spillover and spread globally, see the Cross Program Strategies section on 'Preventing Spillover and Spread of Zoonotic Diseases' below.

In FY 2021, the Service published Notices of Funding Opportunity for all species and regional programs to provide technical and financial support for international conservation. From 1989 through 2020, the Service provided more than 4,400 grants for international conservation totaling nearly \$360 million. Investments in projects with more than 700 partners in developing countries have resulted in more than \$500 million in additional non-Federal support for grant projects, more than doubling the impact of

appropriated funding. In addition to the impact on wildlife conservation, these investments help set a positive tone for U.S. relations around the globe, including throughout the Western Hemisphere and across Africa and Eurasia.

International Conservation Strategies

Conserving Priority Species and Habitats across Landscapes



Guanaco. Credit: Jenny Martinez/USFWS

With mounting threats to wildlife and wild places across the globe, investing in protected areas and landscape-level conservation in collaboration with local communities serves as one of the most effective strategies to secure existing wildlife populations and ensure their future survival. Evidence from the scientific literature indicates that adequately staffed and resourced protected areas are linked to stable and increasing wildlife populations. The International Conservation facet of the Service's International Affairs Program has a well-established history of both supporting the creation of new protected areas as well as developing the human and financial capacity to effectively manage protected areas – ranging from supporting the creation of the first community co-managed protected area in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and supporting the development of the national parks agency of Gabon, to strengthening community forest management in one of Central America's largest intact forest blocks in Belize, and mitigating human-wildlife conflict across mixed-use landscapes in Indonesia. This

approach to conserving protected areas has been critical to the survival of the last remaining populations of great green macaws and other species.

Through the International Affairs Program, the Service also coordinates the U.S. implementation of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, known as the Ramsar Convention or the Convention on Wetlands. This intergovernmental treaty provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the convention and wise use of wetlands and their resources. In this work, the Program designates wetlands of international importance that are, in part, critical as migratory stopover sites for species in a changing climate.

The Service's investment in landscape-level conservation, both domestically and internationally, ensures ecosystem integrity and defends against further degradation due to unregulated industries and an expanding human footprint. It exemplifies a One Health approach – with healthy habitats, supporting healthy wildlife populations, supporting healthy human communities, and vice versa. Protecting intact habitats also serves the critical function of staving off the negative impacts of climate change at both the local and global scale by conserving vital ecosystem services and some of the world's most valuable carbon sinks.

Africa Regional Program

Central Africa's Congo and Ogooué Basins make up the world's second-largest expanse of tropical forest cover. These forests provide habitat to an incredibly diverse array of wildlife and plants and represent a critical carbon sink. Central Africa's forests also provide a vital source of food, clean water, and other benefits to approximately 80 million people across the region. The Service benefits from more than three decades of experience working in Central Africa with foreign governments, multi-donor agencies, other U.S. government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and local communities. Building on this experience, a strategic, results-based vision for wildlife conservation in Central Africa was established that focuses on 1) improving site-based wildlife conservation in priority population strongholds in Central Africa; 2) increasing individual and institutional capacity for more effective wildlife protection at the local, national, and regional level, including the professionalization of protected area staff; and 3) directly addressing regional and emerging pressures on wildlife, including zoonotic disease and the unsustainable regional bushmeat trade. Through this program, the Service has achieved significant results, including a long-term government-to-government partnership with the new parks agency of Gabon; a series of seven of the Service's signature MENTOR fellowship programs, which have educated a total of 61 Fellows; and the stabilization of one of the largest remaining populations of critically endangered forest elephants in the northern Republic of the Congo.

Latin America Regional Program

Latin America is the most biologically diverse region of the world and is critically important for wildlife conservation efforts in the Western Hemisphere and globally. It holds half of the world's tropical forests, 40 percent of the planet's available freshwater, and nearly 50 percent of the species known to science, making it Earth's richest genetic reservoir and a critical carbon sink for mitigating climate change. The U.S. and Latin America also share many species that depend on the region's unique ecosystems for their survival. Protecting wildlife and habitats in the Western Hemisphere is critical for regional stability, security, and economic prosperity.

The goal of the Latin America Regional Program is to conserve priority species and habitats in the region by reducing threats to key wildlife populations from wildlife trafficking, unsustainable resource use, and human-wildlife conflict. Competitive grants are the main vehicle the program employs to deliver financial and technical assistance to partners.

Through the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management, the Service collaborates with the governments of Mexico and Canada to implement regional priorities like wildlife law enforcement, CITES implementation, shared ecosystem conservation, conservation of species of concern, and migratory birds. The Trilateral is an important space for building relations between the three countries and improving resource management. In May of 2021, the U.S. hosted the 25th anniversary and first virtual annual meeting of the Trilateral Committee. Approximately 250 attendees participated, representing Federal and State government agencies, research and academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector from all three countries. Following a plenary on the Strategic Use of Ecosystem Restoration for the 21st Century, the participants spent the majority of the four-day meeting sharing information, coordinating efforts, and discussing priority topics in work groups. Productive discussions helped strengthen the working relationship between all three countries and led to an adoption of the following priority issues for next year's meeting: Zoonotic Disease, Climate Change, Integrating Human Dimensions, Technology Innovation for Conservation, and Diversity and Inclusion.

In Mexico, the Service works with local and indigenous communities to protect key species and habitats, like jaguars, scarlet macaws, and monarch butterflies. In Central America, the Service supports partners to implement a regional strategy to conserve the five largest remaining intact forests, which are strongholds for species like jaguars and tapirs, and for mitigating climate change. In South America, the Service assists partners in the Tropical Andes, the Gran Chaco, and Patagonia to curb wildlife trade, reduce human-wildlife conflict, and protect key species.

Through these projects, the Service aims to promote sound wildlife management practices that foster sustainable livelihoods for local communities and indigenous people. For example, the Service supports a community-led project to protect scarlet macaws in Honduras' Moskitia region from trafficking, making it the largest community-based parrot conservation area in Latin America (around the size of the Grand Canyon National Park).

Eurasia Regional Program

Eurasia has a vast and diverse terrestrial and marine environment and is home to numerous iconic species, including tigers, snow leopards, saiga antelopes, and Iberian lynx. The Service's Eurasia Program works on shared conservation interests with countries across Europe and Asia, focused primarily on promoting technical exchanges and information sharing. The U.S. shares populations of wildlife species that migrate between the U.S. and northeast Asia and partners with those countries to share information and improve wildlife management. For example, the Service maintains a decades-long dialogue with wildlife managers in Russia to ensure that populations of polar bears, walrus, and migratory birds will be maintained for future generations. In China, the Service encourages improved capacity to manage wetlands and natural areas that provide habitat to rare species of concern to the American people.

Foundations for Evidenced-Based Decision-making

The Service's international financial assistance programs are emerging as agency leaders of evidence-based conservation. In support of the Evidence Act and Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act, the Service's International Affairs Program has pioneered methods and partnerships to establish clear, measurable goals against which progress and Service resources can be monitored and evaluated. For species and projects where Service support has been sustained, the agency is positioned to assess the cost-effectiveness and return-on-investment of its activities. For example, the Service has supported conservation of the highly threatened forest elephant since 1990. At surveyed sites across the region, a reported 60 percent of the current elephant population would not exist today if not for past Service funding and support.

Saving the Last Great Forests for Wildlife and People



La Moskitia. Credit: Jose Ignacio Huerta Gray/CC

Studies show that illegal cattle ranching is responsible for more than 90 percent of forest loss in remaining wildlife strongholds in Central America. In addition to harboring wildlife, these forests generate important goods and services for people, including buffering against climate change. Since 2017, the Service has been supporting partners like civil society organizations, indigenous groups, and natural resource management agencies to implement a regional strategy in Central America to protect the region's five largest remaining intact forest landscapes. This strategy recognizes the drivers of forest loss and commits to concrete actions to address them, and is an important step toward conserving these forests for wildlife and people.

International Affairs' emerging monitoring and evaluation protocol represents an important milestone to improve the agency's monitoring and evaluation of its foreign assistance, and is helping the Service meet important objectives described in Congressional legislation¹. For the foreign species under the International Affairs Program's purview, monitoring and evaluation often require expensive methods or long time frames, or both, to credibly census and detect population trends. While recognizing these challenges, International Affairs is committed to an iterative approach to improving its practices. Active evaluation-related work includes working with third parties to review and assess the evidence for the activities funded by the Service, and building the program and partner capacity to report results and outcomes.



Forest Elephants. Credit: Daphne Carlson Bremer/USFWS

International Wildlife Trade Strategies

Sustainable Use of Wildlife

The U.S. is one of the world's largest importers and exporters of wildlife and wildlife products and plays a significant role in the global legal wildlife trade, currently valued in billions of dollars annually. To facilitate legal and sustainable trade between the U.S. and the CITES members – currently 182 countries and the European Union – and to ensure this international trade does not threaten the survival of animals and plants in the wild, the Service is responsible for implementation of CITES in the U.S. Each Party to the agreement designates Management and Scientific Authorities to issue permits, make legal and scientific non-detriment findings, and monitor trade. For the U.S., these authorities are delegated to the Service's International Affairs Program.

CITES Implementation and Leadership

CITES provides the necessary framework to ensure scientific integrity and global cooperation in order to facilitate legal and sustainable trade and combat wildlife trafficking for over 35,000 species of wild plants and animals, which are listed on one of three Appendices. On an ongoing basis, the International Affairs Program implements the treaty by: providing leadership for the U.S.'s engagement at CITES meetings; ensuring that U.S. exports and imports align with sustainable international species trade; and supporting capacity-building efforts abroad for CITES implementation around the world.

¹ *Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act of 2016* (P.L. 114-191) ; and OMB memo (January 2018): [M-18-04](#) "Monitoring and Evaluation Guidelines for Federal Departments and Agencies that Administer United States Foreign Assistance"



CITES CoP17 in Johannesburg, South Africa. Credit: Frank Kohn/USFWS

Signatories to CITES, known as Parties, gather at a series of policy and technical meetings. Conference of the Parties (CoP) meetings, which take place every two to three years with the next one scheduled for 2022, provide an opportunity to promote evidence-based policymaking and strengthen diplomatic relations and collaborations. At these

meetings, the Parties review the implementation of CITES, make decisions regarding the financing and function of the CITES Secretariat in Switzerland to enable it to carry out its functions, consider amendments to Appendices I and II, consider reports presented by the Secretariat, and adopt recommendations for the improved effectiveness of CITES. Any Party to CITES may propose amendments to Appendices I and II, resolutions, decisions, and agenda items for consideration by all the Parties at the meeting.

In addition to the CoPs, the work of the Parties is also carried out through regular Committee meetings, which take place yearly between the CoPs. These include the Standing Committee, Animals Committee, and Plants Committee meetings. The Standing Committee provides general policy and operational direction to the Secretariat regarding CITES implementation and advises the other committees as appropriate. The Animals and Plants Committee meetings fill in the gaps in biological and other specialized knowledge. The committees undertake periodic reviews of listed species and advise when trade in a particular species may be unsustainable. Throughout this work, the Service adheres to the principle of scientific objectivity and integrity and uses the best available scientific information and trade data to inform U.S. positions for technical meetings and making non-detriment findings.

The Service has always provided leadership at CITES CoPs and technical meetings, coordinated and supported through the International Affairs Program. At a previous CoP, this included encouraging Parties to consider climate change in their evaluations and scientific findings for CITES-listed species affected by both climate change and international trade.

The Service supports sustainable trade compliant with CITES in the U.S. through a variety of activities: administering the nation-wide permitting program, maintaining trade records, supporting law enforcement in confiscations, monitoring trade levels, and updating U.S. regulations to comply with CITES policies. The Service has also focused on strengthening the capacity of partners in developing nations to implement the treaty in their own countries, play leadership roles in CITES decision-making, and improve the effectiveness of CITES as a whole. We build capacity abroad by providing technical assistance and financial assistance, often partnering with the CITES Secretariat.

Supporting U.S. State, Tribal, and Local Economies through Conservation of Native Species

The international trade in CITES-listed native animal species such as bobcats, river otters, freshwater turtles, alligators, and plant species such as acacia and American ginseng, provides livelihoods for rural communities in the U.S. As an example of the value of this trade, from 2013 to 2018 the declared value of U.S. exports of skins from American alligators, bobcats, and river otters totaled more than \$790 million. The Service works to restore trust, reduce regulatory burden, and ensure that sustainable wildlife trade can remain an important part of our economy by working directly and closely with its partner State agencies to implement CITES for species of economic importance. Examples of this collaboration include assessing the status of native species impacted by trade, seeking input on CITES permit findings, facilitating participation on U.S. delegations to CITES meetings, and coordinating CITES export programs. Through the CITES Coordination Committee, the Service also works closely with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) to facilitate communication between State wildlife agencies and the Service's CITES authorities.

Wildlife trafficking undercuts legal trade and reduces populations of in-demand domestic species that are of significant economic value, threatening livelihoods for American communities. The Service's coordination of American ginseng conservation exemplifies how the Service works with States and Tribes to ensure conservation of America's natural resources. In 2018, the harvest of wild and wild simulated American ginseng roots exceeded 42,000 dried pounds, with most of this ginseng being legally exported to Asia. Harvesters ('diggers'), the first tier in the economic chain for the sale and export of American ginseng, received \$600 to \$1,000 a pound for dried wild American ginseng roots.

Conservative estimates have placed the wholesale value of wild American ginseng roots at roughly \$26.9 million per year.² The Service is working with the State and Tribal ginseng program officials in four American ginseng Working Groups (enforcement, biology, regulatory, and outreach) across 19 States to address issues and challenges associated with a legal and sustainable trade in American ginseng. Each Working Group has identified needed steps to improve the sustainability of wild ginseng. In coordination with the States and Tribes, the Service is now working to support and implement measures that these Working Groups recommended.

Sustainable Use of Native Species alongside Conservation Supports Local Economies



American alligator at the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge in Texas. Credit: Steve Hillebrand/USFWS

Working with various stakeholders, the recovery of the American alligator, together with the transformation of U.S. industry practices, is a success story that illustrates how conservation and sustainable use can go hand-in-hand and can contribute to building our economy back better. Once hunted to near extinction, the American alligator made a full recovery due to collaboration between the Federal government, State wildlife agencies, local and Tribal communities, and the leather industry. Today, the management program for American alligators includes a sustainable harvest, supporting industry while also conserving the species and its habitat, which in turn benefits many other species of plants and animals. This collaborative approach can serve as a model to promote sustainable trade and conservation of other native species.

² <https://www.fws.gov/international/pdf/factsheet-american-ginseng-harvesters-dealers-exporters.pdf>

Innovating and Improving a Responsive and Efficient Permitting Process



American ginseng fruit. Credit: Gary Kauffman/USFS

The Service's conservation permitting program managed through the International Affairs Program serves approximately 3,500 permit applicants and issues more than 25,000 permits per year under CITES and other permitting authorities. These permits facilitate more than \$675 million in legal wildlife trade annually and authorize a wide variety of activities, such as import, export, and re-export; captive breeding of non-native species; interstate commerce; and marine mammal research and public display.

This permitting work supports individuals and small businesses and is a strong component of the

Service's work in helping to build back this Nation's economy. In addition, this work is a component of the Service's efforts to fight COVID-19 and other zoonotic diseases. Not only are permits a conservation tool, but they also facilitate the import and export of biological samples needed for medical research, including studies on COVID-19 and preventing future outbreaks of other zoonotic diseases.

Another way the Service supports research on zoonotic disease, in addition to potential impacts of climate change, is through its authorizations and agreements related to marine mammal research, rescue, and rehabilitation activities. For example, the Service's International Affairs Program works with its State, Federal, and private partners to ensure that response to marine mammal unusual mortality events, strandings, and related research activities are in compliance with the MMPA and ESA. The Service has jurisdiction and authority for implementing the MMPA with respect to the polar bear, walrus, sea otters, the marine otter, manatees, and the dugong, and International Affairs has delegated authority for authorizing activities such as take and import of marine mammals under the MMPA and ESA.

In 2020, the Service launched the first phase of ePermits, a new electronic permitting system that enables permit applicants to apply for their permits online. Multiple Service programs worked together to bring ePermits to fruition and more are joining as the phased rollout gains momentum. Once it is fully operational, this system will streamline the permit application process while improving efficiency and reducing the regulatory burden associated with legal, sustainable trade, and other wildlife use. The system automatically integrates data submitted electronically into the permit database. Eventually, ePermits will also allow for the development of "expert" systems that will automate portions of the application review, permit issuance, and reporting, thereby allowing permit processors to harness the power of the data for decision-making, which will provide opportunities for refocusing personnel from administrative record keeping to processing additional permits. For FY 2022, the International Affairs Program will continue to apply \$3 million in base funding to build ePermits.

In reviewing permit applications, the Service uses the best available biological information to make findings, as required by Service regulations, such as whether the trade in CITES-listed species may be detrimental to their survival, or whether it will enhance the survival of species listed under the ESA. Decisions on whether to issue permits are frequently made in close consultation with foreign CITES authorities, State wildlife agencies and Tribes, other Federal agencies, the CITES Secretariat, other relevant experts, and applicants.

Cross Program Strategies

Combating Wildlife Trafficking

Conserving species impacted by wildlife trafficking is vitally important to wildlife as well as people. Wildlife trafficking is a multibillion-dollar transnational crime that involves the unlawful harvest of and international trade in live animals and plants or parts and products derived from species. Organized crime syndicates are well structured, often violent, and capable of moving large volumes of poached wildlife and wildlife products. As such, illegal wildlife trade threatens biodiversity, national security, and economic prosperity by depleting natural resource assets and revenues, driving numerous species of economic and ecosystem value to the brink of extinction.

The Service's International Affairs Program works to eliminate wildlife trafficking worldwide through a two-fold approach. First, with funds from the Service's program on International Wildlife Trade, International Affairs advances laws and policies related to wildlife trade and trafficking. As the U.S. Management and Scientific Authority of CITES, International Affairs implements the treaty, advancing global policy that supports legal and sustainable trade and thereby undermines illegal trade. Since 2016, the International Affairs Program has worked with the Office of Law Enforcement to represent the Department of the Interior as a co-chair on the interagency Presidential Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking. Bringing together 17 Federal departments and agencies, the Task Force serves as the primary Federal platform for coordination and priority-setting on wildlife trafficking. Through the Task Force, the Service helps implement the Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt (END) Wildlife Trafficking Act, providing support to develop and advance anti-trafficking strategies at U.S. Embassies in countries identified as significant source, transit, or destination locations for the illegal wildlife trade.



Grants on conservation of species primarily threatened by illegal trade support innovative approaches, such as the first use of African giant pouched rats to detect pangolin scales and hardwoods in shipping containers. Credit: APOPO's HeroRATS

Second, with funds from the Service's program on International Conservation, the Service's International Affairs Program provides financial and technical assistance to support on-the-ground conservation actions for species primarily threatened by illegal trade and for building capacity among emerging conservation leaders working on these issues. The Service especially supports efforts focused on understanding and addressing human behaviors along the illicit supply chain, including consumer demand – the ultimate driver of wildlife trafficking. Since 2016, grants and cooperative agreements have supported 55 field partners in more than 40 countries, advancing cutting-edge work such as piloting the use of African giant pouched rats to detect pangolin scales and hardwoods in shipping containers, and mapping emerging supply chains for lion bone.

The Service is also increasingly investing in select, priority conservation of international species experiencing profound, rapid declines largely due to wildlife trafficking, and for which strategic seed funding the Service has the potential to catalyze transformational recovery for the species. Initial support



Saiga. Credit: Daniel Rosengren

for saiga antelope, a flagship species of the Central Asian and Mongolian steppe, has resulted in enhanced community conservation and engagement and an increase in the saiga population at the Ustyurt plateau in Kazakhstan from 1,270 in 2016 to 5,900 in 2019. Finally, investments in capacity building have sponsored more than 40 professionals from Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean to graduate from the CITES Master's Course; graduates are part of a growing cadre of experts leading CITES implementation efforts, and often become leads for their countries' CITES Authorities.

Partnerships to Advance Shared Conservation Goals

Working with others towards shared conservation goals is a theme that runs throughout the Service's international work. Whether it is assisting the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation to develop a paddlefish sport fishing program that supports conservation; collaborating with officials from the Government of Oman and colleagues from the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to achieve conservation goals for shared marine turtle species; coordinating with Canada and Mexico to manage shared wildlife species; engaging with zoo staff to strategize how captive rhinos and outreach programs in the U.S. can contribute to the survival of wild rhinos; working with JetBlue Airlines to create an in-flight video to raise awareness about the need to preserve the beauty of the Caribbean; or collaborating with the U.S. Postal Service to raise funds for international wildlife conservation through sales of the Save Vanishing Species semipostal stamp – the Service's past and current partnerships increase the impact and reach of our work and establish the Service as a trusted and respected partner in wildlife conservation around the globe.

Preventing Spillover and Spread of Zoonotic Disease

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the interconnections between wildlife, environmental and human health, and the role of conservation in supporting resilient ecosystems that buffer both humans and wildlife from zoonotic disease spillover. Zoonotic diseases (also known as zoonoses) are caused by germs that spread between animals and people. Preventing the next pandemic – be it in people or wild animals – depends on our ability to stop disease from transmitting between wildlife and humans in the first place. With its ability to influence on-the-ground international wildlife conservation and international wildlife trade through experience, expertise, authorities, and partnerships, the Service's International Affairs Program is the U.S. Government's primary frontline defense for stopping zoonotic spillover and spread before zoonoses leave wild areas abroad and reach the U.S.

With support from the International Wildlife Trade and International Conservation programs, the Service works closely with international partners and through treaties to apply a range of evidence-based approaches to reduce the spread of zoonoses, including:

- *Increasing protections against disease through permitting:* Through the International Affairs Program, the Service administers the injurious wildlife permitting provisions of the Lacey Act. In anticipation of additional species potentially being listed as injurious in the FY 2022, the Service

will play a larger role in preventing the spread of zoonotic diseases through expanding these permitting provisions. In addition, the Service plans to expand its current capacity to assess risk in its permit evaluations for CITES-listed species that may carry disease and to examine permitting conditions related to importing and exporting high-risk pathogens.

- Combating illegal wildlife trade: Illegal wildlife trade poses a high risk of disease spread given the covert, unsanitary methods of trafficking animals, and has been linked to the spread of zoonotic diseases such as COVID-19 and Avian flu. Through serving as the U.S. Management and Scientific Authority for CITES, engaging with interagency partners on the Presidential Task Force for Wildlife Trafficking, and funding partners to carry out on-the-ground conservation actions to combat wildlife trafficking, the Service aids in both halting current disease spread and reducing the risk of future outbreaks via illegal wildlife trade.
- Conserving intact ecosystems with connected habitat and healthy wildlife populations: International Affairs' Regional Program grants support projects in Africa, Eurasia, and Latin America to improve wildlife health and habitat such as support for surveillance, research, and efforts to mitigate the spread of zoonotic disease. These efforts help maintain healthy, intact ecosystems that prevent habitat fragmentation and disturbance, a key driver of infectious disease emergence, as well as manage healthy and resilient wildlife populations.
- Supporting effective protected area management: The Service's approach to protected area management expands beyond park boundaries to include local communities and buffer zones, thereby supporting the capacity and good governance needed to reduce and respond to existing and emerging diseases. For example, the International Affairs Program supports project partners to understand and address the impacts of transhumance (the regular movement of farmers and their livestock in order to access seasonally available resources), including disease transmission, in and around high-value conservation areas in Africa's Sudano-Sahel.
- Forming partner networks to navigate complex disease threats: Through supporting monitoring, data collection, and efforts to understand the drivers of threats to wildlife and linkages to human health, International Affairs' Regional Programs enhance the U.S. Government's collective ability to reduce disease spread. These efforts include multi-partner initiatives that engage in innovative research, information sharing, developing an evidence base for policy- and decision-makers, and targeted behavior change strategies to understand and reduce emerging threats, including disease.
- Building capacity among conservation leaders: The Service supports young professionals to engage in MENTOR programs, the CITES Master's Course, and other professional development opportunities. These programs build effective, equipped wildlife conservationists who lead their communities and countries in creatively tackling conservation challenges and implementing international treaties like CITES.
- One Health approach through collaboration: The Service takes a One Health approach to reducing zoonotic disease risk by working closely with other U.S. agencies and external partners with expertise in human health and other aspects of animal and environmental health. Coordination with APHIS, CBP, USGS, and others advances a synchronized system for reviewing and permitting wildlife imports and exports in compliance with U.S. and international regulations. Close communication and collaboration with the State Department, USAID, Department of Justice, Forest Service, NOAA, and others enable a "One USG" approach to combating wildlife trafficking. Partnerships with USAID, USGS, and other agencies enhance technical and financial assistance to support external conservation partners implementing projects globally to conserve species and their habitats and mitigate the risk of zoonotic spillover and transmission.

2022 Program Activities

The 2022 budget will:

- Work with partners around the world to increase transparency and accountability in technical and financial assistance programs for the conservation of species of international concern and their habitats.
- Combat wildlife trafficking through international cooperation and technical and financial assistance programs that focus on species conservation and successful implementation of CITES.
- Support the Service's work to lead the U.S. at the 19th Conference of the Parties to CITES.
- Advance implementation of CITES and other U.S. wildlife laws domestically and ensure international wildlife trade does not threaten the survival of animals and plants in the wild.
- Increase the Service's capacity to address its permit processing backlog and become more efficient in permitting through additional enhancements to ePermits.
- Initiate solutions to securely eliminate the need for paper CITES permitting.
- Prevent the development and spread of zoonotic diseases.
- Develop conservation methods to address and adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- Enhance foundations for evidence-based decision-making.

Proposed Program Changes

The 2022 budget request for International Affairs is \$29,265,000 and 78 FTE, a net program change of +\$5,850,000 and +9 FTE from the 2021 Enacted.

CITES Permitting Modernization (+\$2,500,000/ +0 FTE)—Separate from and in addition to the base development and administration of the ePermits system (as discussed above), the Service needs to modernize the current paper delivery requirements for CITES permitting, and the Service needs to engage a contractor to develop the necessary software to create a secure system so that CITES permits can be issued electronically.

The commitment of resources to expand and modernize our permitting program and tools supports U.S. businesses engaged in legal, sustainable trade and reduces administrative burdens. Many industries have the technology to “scan” a permit, ticket, or barcode that indicates authorization or approval for a requested activity. Other countries that implement CITES have more modern capabilities. The goal is for the U.S. to ultimately have the security measures in place that would allow the Service to electronically issue CITES permits.

Although the Service recently launched the base ePermit system to electronically accept, process, and issue permits, International Affairs is still required to print hard copies of CITES permits on printers located in the Service's headquarters and to mail those hard copies to permit applicants. These methods are necessary for the Service to comply with CITES requirements for the use of special security paper and other security protocols. Through the development of special software that can provide an electronic alternative to CITES security requirements and that would enable permittees to view their permits on their personal mobile devices/computers, International Affairs will reduce processing time and will deliver permits to applicants more quickly, efficiently, and economically. This software will be integrated into the ePermit system. The development of an algorithm that meets CITES security requirements requires an expertise beyond what the Service currently has in-house and entails significant and secure development and customization.

International Conservation Capacity (+\$1,875,000/ +2 FTE):

Setting Precedent With Scientific Integrity: (+\$650,000)—With this funding, the Service will develop capacity and methodologies to better evaluate and improve the effectiveness of its

international conservation efforts and increase transparency, accountability, and oversight in technical and financial assistance programs. This new capacity is intended to improve how we support conservation and strengthen our ability to assess and communicate the impact and effectiveness of Service funds, programs and partners. Efforts to support evidence-building activities and evaluation capacity within International Affairs' financial assistance programs are supported and directed by the Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act (FATTA) of 2016, and the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act ("Evidence Act") of 2018. International Affairs will improve the collection and use scientific conservation evidence when making decisions and implementing foreign assistance programs. Recognizing the inherent challenges associated with the evaluation of wildlife conservation efforts, International Affairs is committed to an iterative approach to improving its practices and is exploring how the program can more meaningfully implement and demonstrate its contribution to wildlife conservation in foreign countries, through the use of procedures that are commensurate with the Service's foreign assistance programs and partner capacities.

The Service will use these funds to first develop more quantifiable, measurable outcomes (and associated monitoring methods and guidance), as a basis for proposing an evaluation policy to assess whether the program has successful outcomes. To accomplish these goals, the Service envisions the development of monitoring and evaluation policy for the conservation outcomes of international assistance; providing technical assistance to grant programs; managing evaluation and evidence-related contracts, grants, and funding opportunities; and representing its programs and the Service to partners on these issues. This will be a multi-year effort and funding will support an Evaluation Officer, one additional staff member, and other support.

Enhancing Financial Assistance: (+\$1,225,000)—The Service will apply these funds to support conservation in Latin America, which is the most biologically diverse region of the globe, harboring half of the world's tropical forests, 40 percent of the planet's available freshwater, and nearly half of all species known to science. Protecting and conserving wildlife and ecosystems in Latin America is critical for regional security and economic prosperity.

The Service has achieved its greatest conservation successes and most lasting impacts through efforts focused on strengthening capacity with partners in the Western Hemisphere. The Service will direct funds to projects that, among other conservation goals, address climate change, support local economies, and improve environmental justice through involvement and support of local communities. These projects may include but are not limited to the following:

- 1) Strengthening collaboration with partners to conserve shared species of importance between the U.S. and Mexico – such as the Monarch butterfly and the California condor – which will ensure the survival of these important species and strengthen bilateral relations.
- 2) Expanding strategic partnerships to bolster conservation of key habitats, like the tropical forests of Mexico and Central and South America, with the goal of protecting these strongholds not only for critical species, like the jaguar, scarlet macaw, and tapir, but also adapting to climate change.
- 3) Increasing investments in projects that promote sound wildlife management practices and foster sustainable livelihoods for local communities, indigenous people, and underrepresented groups (women, Afro-descendants, etc.) in the region.

- 4) The Service may also apply portions of this additional funding to conservation projects in other regions of the world to address conservation issues of particular and imminent concern.

Wildlife Disease and One Health (+\$1,825,000/ +0 FTE) –The massive economic and human toll resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic has made it clear how the health of humans, animals, and the environment are inextricably linked. Increasing conservation of wildlife and their habitats globally and addressing high-disease-risk species in international wildlife trade, are foundational strategies for preventing the next global pandemic. International Affairs is the Service’s primary frontline defense that stops zoonotic spillover and spread before zoonotic pathogens leave wild areas and foster pandemics on an international scale.

This funding will enhance the capacity of the Service to integrate a One Health approach to proactively address zoonotic disease, wildlife trade, and the conservation of wildlife and their habitats, both domestically and internationally. The Service will use these funds to reduce the threat of zoonotic pathogen spillover by providing technical and financial support for projects designed to improve wildlife and habitat health and ecosystem resilience in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, including in regions that are hotspots for disease. The Service will reduce transmission of zoonotic disease globally via international wildlife trade by investing these funds in strengthening capacity to regulate wildlife imports that pose high disease risk, such as through enhancing U.S. permitting processes for injurious species and biomedical materials and supporting capacity building with CITES Parties. The Service will also use this funding to engage in outreach and communication with the American public and global external partners to build awareness about the important role that wildlife conservation plays in preventing the spillover and spread of zoonotic disease and promote human behaviors that support healthy ecosystems and safe, legal wildlife trade.

Permit Backlog (+\$1,200,000/ +7 FTE)— Separate from and in addition to the base development and administration of the ePermits system, the International Affairs Program of the Service requires funding for additional personnel to support the Service’s ability to eliminate the international permitting backlog and reduce processing time. International Affairs receives approximately 5,000 permit applications per year and those applications result in 25,000 – 35,000 permits issued each year. Regulatory changes, court-required process changes, COVID-related staffing issues, transition to the new ePermits system, and other factors have resulted in delays in processing of permit applications. Nearly half of the approximately 3,000 applications that are currently pending are considered a “backlog” because it is taking longer than the expected time to process them. Reducing the backlog and improving the speed and efficiency by which permit applicants can obtain import, export and re-export permits will support economic recovery, as the permits issued by International Affairs facilitate trade in wildlife and plants necessary for commercial businesses. These permits also play a key role in helping to prevent the spread of zoonotic diseases because they prevent illegal wildlife trade that is a potential source for disease spread. Permits issued by International Affairs also facilitate the import and export of biomedical materials necessary for research on COVID-19 and other zoonotic diseases. In addition, these permits highlight the scientific integrity of the Service's work because the findings and decisions that support the permits are based on scientific evidence.

Arctic Council Support (-\$550,000/ +0 FTE) – The budget does not request funding as the U.S. chairmanship of the Arctic Council has ended.

Theodore Roosevelt Genius Prize (-\$1,000,000/ +0 FTE) – The budget does not request funding for this program.

Fish and Aquatic Conservation

Activity: Fish and Aquatic Conservation

		2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022			Change From 2021 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
National Fish Hatchery Operations	(\$000)	64,272	65,551	+1,225	0	+14,998	81,774	+16,223
	FTE	317	317	0	0	+45	362	+45
Maintenance and Equipment	(\$000)	25,846	25,822	+224	0	+24,500	50,546	+24,724
	FTE	67	66	0	0	+20	86	+20
Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation	(\$000)	115,359	115,240	+1,314	0	+6,048	122,602	+7,362
	FTE	284	285	0	0	-1	284	-1
Total, Fish and Aquatic Conservation	(\$000)	205,477	206,613	+2,763	0	+45,546	254,922	+48,309
	FTE	668	668	0	0	+64	732	+64

Summary of 2022 Program Changes for Fish and Aquatic Conservation

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Deferred Maintenance	+15,000	+0
• Hatchery Operations	+12,898	+35
• Annual Maintenance	+8,000	+20
• Fish Technology and Health Centers	+5,000	+10
• Prevention	+4,048	+8
• Population Assessment and Cooperative Management	+2,218	+5
• Zero Emission Vehicle Fleet Conversions	+1,500	0
• National Fish Habitat Action Plan	+1,000	-13
• Truckee River Operating Agreement	+200	+0
• Pacific Salmon Treaty	-150	-0
• Hydrilla, Eel and Milfoil Invasive Grasses	-200	-0
• Snakehead Eradication	-250	-0
• Lake Champlain Sea Lamprey	-818	-1
• Yukon River Salmon Agreement	-1,000	-0
• Pacific Salmon Treaty	-1,500	-0
Program Changes	+45,546	+64

Program Mission

The Fish and Aquatic Conservation (FAC) program works with partners and the public to conserve fish and other aquatic resources for the continuing benefit of the American people. For 150 years, the Service has provided economic and ecological benefits through the conservation of aquatic species and habitats. Since its inception as the United States Commission on Fish and Fisheries in 1871, the Service’s Fisheries Program has worked collaboratively with Native American Tribes, States, landowners, and other partners and stakeholders to achieve the goals of healthy, self-sustaining populations of fish and other aquatic species, and the conservation or restoration of their habitats. Building on this foundation, the FAC program will work closely with our partners in FY 2022 to implement the ambitious conservation goals established by Executive Order 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, and Conserving and Restoring

America the Beautiful. The FAC program focuses on restoring and retaining connected freshwater ecosystems to provide habitat for aquatic species and foster resiliency to effects of climate change.

Program Elements

The Fish and Aquatic Conservation program is comprised of the following program elements:

- National Fish Hatchery System Operations – propagates healthy, genetically diverse aquatic species to help re-establish wild populations, conducts applied scientific research, monitors and diagnoses aquatic animal health in captivity and in the wild, and develops management models to conserve fisheries in the face of climate change.
- Maintenance and Equipment – maintains property and equipment, including the repair, rehabilitation, and replacement of constructed assets, for 84 National Fish Hatchery System facilities and a National network of 51 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices (FWCOs or fisheries offices). The Service’s ability to accomplish its mission and ensure the safety of employees and visitors is dependent upon the condition of key assets associated with water delivery, aquatic species propagation, and effluent management.
- Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation – works to assess, conserve, and restore aquatic habitats and some of the Nation’s most iconic fish and other aquatic species, many of which are already adversely affected by climate change. This work, including initiatives to conserve aquatic species, encourage climate adaptation and build resiliency, is conducted by a nationwide network of 51 fisheries offices. Specific program areas include:
 - *Habitat Assessment and Restoration* – improves habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms through programs such as the National Fish Passage Program and the National Fish Habitat Partnership.
 - *Population Assessment and Cooperative Management* – works in cooperation with Federal, Tribal, and State partners to understand current and emerging challenges facing our Nation’s aquatic resources and to proactively manage these complex systems.
 - *Aquatic Invasive Species* – prevents and controls the introduction and spread of invasive species, a primary threat to the Nation’s natural resources. In addition to work carried out by fisheries offices, this is accomplished through leadership of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, Injurious Wildlife Listings, and national invasive species education campaigns.

Economic Benefits

The economic value of fisheries conservation is substantial and well documented. The Service’s 2016 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation reported that 35.8 million U.S. residents over 15 years old went on 383 million fishing trips, totaling 459 million days afield, and spent more than \$46.1 billion.

The positive environmental, social, and economic effects stemming from the Service’s work are of growing importance to communities nationwide, as the health and well-being of Americans are linked to the health and well-being of nature. The link between the health and well-being of Americans and a healthy functioning aquatic environment was clearly illustrated by American’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, fishing license sales to new anglers, who were younger, more ethnically diverse, and more urban than existing anglers, increased by 38%. Fishing and other aquatic-based recreational opportunities are multi-cultural, multi-generational experiences that improve the quality of life for diverse American families and also generate substantial economic returns for local communities. These outdoor recreational opportunities depend on the Service’s vital work to conserve fisheries and our Nation’s diverse aquatic habitats.

Applicable Laws, Acts, and Orders

The Service's Fish and Aquatic Conservation program is authorized by a wide range of statutes, treaties, compacts, court orders, mitigation agreements, and cooperative agreements. Relevant statutes include, but are not limited to:

- *The Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956* (16 U.S.C. 742a-742j)—establishes a comprehensive national fish and wildlife policy and authorizes the Secretary to take steps required for the development, management, advancement, conservation, and protection of fisheries and wildlife resources through research, acquisition of refuge lands, development of existing facilities, and other means.
- *The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act* (16 U.S.C. 661-666(e))—directs the Service to investigate and report on proposed Federal actions that affect any stream or other body of water and to provide recommendations to minimize impacts on fish and wildlife resources.
- *The Endangered Species Act* (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544)—prohibits the import, export, or taking of fish and wildlife and plants that are listed as threatened or endangered species; provides for adding species to and removing them from the list of threatened and endangered species; and for preparing and implementing plans for their recovery.
- *The Mitchell Act* (16 U.S.C. 755-757)—authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to carry on activities for conservation of fishery resources in the Columbia River Basin.
- *The Colorado River Storage Project Act* (43 U.S.C. 620)—provides that facilities will be built and operated to mitigate losses of, and improve conditions for, fish and wildlife in connection with the Colorado River Storage Project.
- *The Sikes Act* (16 U.S.C. 670a-670o)—directs the Secretary of Defense to conserve and rehabilitate natural resources on military installations and requires the military to work with the Service in preparing integrated natural resource management plans.
- *The Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Species Prevention and Control Act*, as amended by the *National Invasive Species Act*, (NISA, 16 U.S.C. 4701 et seq.)—authorizes the Service to develop and implement a program to prevent and control infestations of zebra mussels and other nonindigenous aquatic invasive species in waters of the United States.
- *The Lacey Act Amendment*, (18 U.S.C. 42; 16 U.S.C. 3371-3378)—provides that the Secretary designate injurious wildlife and ensure the humane treatment of wildlife shipped to the United States.
- *America's Conservation Enhancement Act*, (16 U.S.C. 8201 et seq.)—Title II encourage partnerships among public agencies and other interested persons to promote fish conservation.

Activity: Fish and Aquatic Conservation
Subactivity: National Fish Hatchery System Operations

	2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022				Change From 2021 (+/-)
			Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
National Fish Hatchery Operations	64,272	65,551	+1,225	0	+14,998	81,774	+16,223
(\$000)							
FTE	317	317	0	0	+45	362	+45

Summary of 2022 Program Changes for National Fish Hatchery System Operations

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Hatchery Operations	+12,898	+35
• Fish Technology and Health Centers	+5,000	+10
• Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership	-400	0
• Yukon River Salmon Agreement	-1,000	0
• Pacific Salmon Treaty	-1,500	0
Program Changes	+14,998	+45

Program Overview

The National Fish Hatchery System (NFHS) consists of 70 National Fish Hatcheries, one historic National Fish Hatchery, six Fish Health Centers, seven Fish Technology Centers, and the Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership Program. The NFHS operates under the authority of numerous treaties and consent decrees, statutes, and recovery and restoration plans.

The Service’s 70 propagation hatcheries raise over 100 million fish each year to aid in the recovery of threatened and endangered species, restore imperiled species, mitigate the impact of Federal water development projects, and enhance recreational fishing opportunities for the American public. Due to the growing impacts of habitat fragmentation and degradation, invasive species, and climate change, our hatcheries are increasingly called on to sustain and rear a wide range of other aquatic species. The work of our hatcheries is supported by a national network of highly skilled Fish Health and Fish Technology Centers that conduct applied scientific research to advance our understanding of these species and continually refine our propagation and stocking programs.

In 2020, 73 species of fish and 35 other aquatic species, such as endangered freshwater mussels, were propagated and distributed from the Service’s NFHS facilities. These facilities also implemented 296 recovery actions called for in approved Recovery Plans and Biological Opinions, benefitting 92 federally-listed species and provided refugia for 32 listed species facing catastrophic events such as wildfires, droughts, or floods. To help avoid further declines and Endangered Species Act listings, NFHS facilities also implemented over 501 unique tasks in Fisheries Management Plans and other agreements, benefitting at least 67 at-risk species.



Photo: Paddlefish by Ryan Hagerty/USFWS

Many National Fish Hatcheries are located along lakes, rivers, or streams that provide access to recreational

angling opportunities. Hatcheries located near urban centers provide a unique opportunity to engage a diverse public in the mission of the Service.

Fish Health Centers

Our six Fish Health Centers (Health Centers) are at the hub of the Service’s aquatic animal health program. Aquatic animal health professionals at Health Centers detect, monitor, and mitigate disease-causing pathogens that threaten aquatic species. Their findings inform decisions that improve the health of captive fishes at both Federal and partner hatcheries and of fish populations in the wild. To help prevent the introduction and spread of dangerous aquatic pathogens, our fish health professionals investigate emerging health issues, such as invasive species that can be vectors for disease. The Health Centers are also an integral part of the Nation’s aquatic animal health testing system: the National Animal Health Laboratory Network. This network of standardized testing facilities serves as the preeminent source of information on the status of aquatic animal pathogens in the wild and facilitates interstate and international commerce of aquatic animals, while protecting the natural resources of the U.S.

Fish Technology Centers

Fish Technology Centers (Tech Centers) provide the scientific foundation for recovery and restoration programs and enable fisheries professionals to carry out their work more effectively. The seven Tech Centers conduct practical research in animal culture biology, genetics, ecological physiology, nutrition, biometrics and modeling, and cryopreservation for application in aquatic resource management. The knowledge gained through Tech Centers informs and benefits conservation, the aquaculture industry and other fish propagation efforts. Tech Center staff have published more than 1,000 papers in peer-reviewed journals over the last 30 years, covering a broad range of scientific fish conservation challenges and findings to support the conservation of aquatic resources across the Nation.

<p>Conservation Genetics Laboratories</p> <p>The Service’s Tech Centers and conservation genetic laboratories use genetic DNA methods to meet real-time fishery needs to conserve and manage species. The Service and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs River in Oregon share an interest in using their co-managed hatchery, Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery, to increase Chinook salmon returning to the Warm Springs River for harvest, while not compromising the genetic characteristic of the endemic population. To help the Service and the Tribe achieve its goals, Service and Tribal biologists turned to the Abernathy Fish Technology Center to evaluate the genetic structure and diversity of the Chinook salmon population. The Tech Center found that Chinook salmon returning to the Warm Springs River had not changed substantially following three decades of hatchery production.</p>
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Aquatic Animal Health

The Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership (AADAP) program was established in 1994 to ensure Service compliance with the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act and to help maintain the health and fitness of fish reared at our hatcheries. AADAP works with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), other Federal and State agencies, Tribes, academic institutions, and private partners to obtain FDA approval of safe and effective new drugs needed for aquaculture and fisheries management. AADAP is the only program in the country singularly focused on obtaining critically needed new drugs for use in aquatic species. These drugs ensure the health and survivability of fish introduced to the wild for restoration, recovery, and recreational purposes and increase production and economic returns of fish reared in industry aquaculture.



Photo: Lab work at the Bozeman Fish Technology Center in Montana, by Ryan Hagerty/USFWS

The Service's National Investigational New Animal Drug (INAD) Program provides fisheries professionals across the country with legal access to 19 experimental drugs that AADAP is working on in pursuit of FDA approval, but would otherwise be unavailable. In addition to Service facilities, over 200 non-Service facilities (e.g., Federal, State, Tribal, and private) in 43 States received direct benefits by participating in this unique program in 2020. The data generated through this partnership supports the future approval of drugs critical to the health and fitness of fish held in captivity and in wild populations.

Recreation and Education

Hatcheries are integral parts of the communities in which they are located, providing opportunities for the public to visit hatcheries to learn about the Service's work to propagate and conserve fish and their habitats. For generations, the Service has engaged families and local communities to instill a love of the outdoors and a strong conservation ethic in tomorrow's leaders. Through the National Fish Hatchery Volunteer Act of 2006, Service hatcheries offer volunteer opportunities and education programs that provide hands-on experiences and opportunities for discovery to enhance the public's understanding of America's unique and diverse aquatic species and habitats. In 2020 despite the severe impact of the COVID-19 epidemic 1,347 youth and adults still managed to contribute 47,000 volunteer hours (the equivalent of 22 FTEs), assisting biologists in a variety of hands-on resource management activities. Twenty Friends Groups, composed of local volunteers, organized to support the Service in the Regions and helped coordinate volunteers and businesses in local communities to assist with Service facility operations, special events, and outdoor classrooms for youth.



Photo: Student scientists gather to release Chinook salmon they raised in their classrooms, by Pat Edwards/USFWS

The Service works to build the next generation of conservation and community leaders through youth engagement activities, exposing youth to conservation careers, and targeting under-represented groups, in urban centers, minorities and women. This is accomplished through various programs, including Pathways and the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). Youth engagement and introductions to FAC careers also include educational programs that connect youth directly with FAC staff on and off site. This includes school and community career days, Fish in the Classroom lessons, and hatchery tours to encourage the public to take advantage of recreational activities on hatchery grounds.

Mitigation

The Service conducts mitigation programs under the broad authorities of the *Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956*, the *Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act*, as well as authorities for specific Federal water development projects. The Service propagates fish at its hatcheries to mitigate the impacts of Federal water development projects on fisheries that are important for recreation and Tribal sustenance. These mitigation propagation programs are funded by the water development agencies, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,

Tennessee Valley Authority, Bureau of Reclamation, National Marine Fisheries Service and the Bonneville Power Administration.

2022 Program Activities

The 2022 budget will:

- Support work to propagate healthy, genetically diverse aquatic species to help sustain wild populations, fulfill Tribal trust responsibilities, and develop new scientific tools to advance conservation of threatened, endangered, and imperiled species; and
- Support the Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad to address climate change and its impacts to aquatic species.

Proposed Program Changes

The 2022 budget request for National Fish Hatcheries Operations is \$81,774,000 and 362 FTE, a net program change of +\$14,998,000 and +45 FTE from the 2021 Enacted.

Hatchery System Operations Activities (+\$12,898,000/ +35 FTE) – This request will focus on propagating fish and other aquatic species to carry out Tribal trust responsibilities and sustain wild populations, many of which are increasingly threatened by climate change. Funding will enable the Service to implement additional actions to help prevent the further decline of at-risk species and reduce the need for Endangered Species Act listings. In addition, these funds will be used to further refine hatchery propagation methods. The America the Beautiful initiative calls for a decade-long effort to support locally led and voluntary conservation and restoration efforts across public, private, and Tribal lands and waters in order to create jobs and strengthen the economy’s foundation; tackle the climate and nature crises; and address inequitable access to the outdoors. These increases support this effort and contribute to the America the Beautiful effort by supporting tribally-led conservation and restoration priorities and expanding collaborative conservation of fish and wildlife habitats and corridors.

Fish Health and Technology Centers (+\$5,000,000/ +10 FTE) – This request will enhance our ability to perform scientific research and analysis by increasing staffing. This will allow for increased services and applied research to mitigate disease-causing pathogens that threaten aquatic species, evaluate the impacts of climate change on the Nation’s aquatic ecosystems, and improve the effectiveness of our conservation efforts in response to climate change and other threats facing our native species.

Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership (-\$400,000/ -0 FTE) – The Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership will prioritize work with other Federal agencies, along with State and industry partners, to pursue U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval of safe and effective new drugs needed for aquaculture and fisheries management. While the Service waived application fees for this program last fiscal year because of sufficient funding, our partners can contribute to the costs of this program.

Yukon River Salmon Agreement (-\$1,000,000/ -0 FTE) – The budget includes a reduction in funding for this agreement, which is a pass-through to the State of Alaska. The reduction in funding allows for the Service to address other priority hatchery projects.

Pacific Salmon Treaty (-\$1,500,000/ -0 FTE) – The budget reduced funding for Pacific Salmon Treaty to preserve funding for higher priority work within Hatchery Operations.

Activity: Fish and Aquatic Conservation
Subactivity: Maintenance and Equipment

		2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022			Change From 2021 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
National Fish Hatchery Maintenance and Equipment	(\$000)	25,328	25,304	+224	0	+24,500	50,028	+24,724
	FTE	67	66	0	0	+20	86	+20
FWCO Maintenance and Equipment	(\$000)	518	518	+0	0	+0	518	+0
	FTE	0	0	0	0	+0	0	+0
Total, Maintenance and Equipment	(\$000)	25,846	25,822	+224	0	+24,500	50,546	+24,724
	FTE	67	66	0	0	+20	86	+20

Summary of 2022 Program Changes for Maintenance and Equipment

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Deferred Maintenance	+15,000	+0
• Annual Maintenance	+8,000	+20
• Zero Emission Vehicle Fleet Conversions	+1,500	+0
Program Changes	+24,500	+20

Program Overview

The Service’s National Fish Hatcheries produce fish and other aquatic species to meet recovery and restoration goals for threatened and imperiled species, enhance recreational angling opportunities, and provide public access to hatchery facilities for recreation and education. Properly functioning infrastructure is essential to fish production and to the safety of Service employees and visitors. The propagation process requires a complex life-sustaining system of wells, pumps, pipelines, and heating/cooling equipment to deliver a consistent, well-oxygenated water supply; tanks, ponds, and raceways to grow fish; and boats and trucks to transport this valuable cargo to its destination. While every piece of this infrastructure must be well-maintained to prevent mortality and meet production goals, a comprehensive asset management system prioritizes adequate water flow and quality to sustain captive aquatic populations to meet recovery, restoration, and Tribal trust responsibilities.

National Fish Hatchery System Maintenance and Equipment

Maintenance and equipment funds allow the Service to provide timely upkeep of hatchery property and equipment; purchase maintenance-related supplies; and repair, rehabilitate, or replace constructed assets. The Service’s ability to accomplish its mission is largely determined by the condition of key assets associated with water delivery, aquatic species culture, and effluent management. These assets deliver, treat, and discharge water from hatcheries and regulate the environment to maximize and optimize survival of aquatic organisms. Although the reliability of these assets is especially important with respect to threatened and endangered species, three-fourths of the NFHS’ \$3.3 billion of real property assets are considered mission-critical water management assets.

This past year The Great American Outdoors Act, P.L. 116-152, established the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund (LRF) to address the maintenance backlog of the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Indian Education and the Service. However, deferred

maintenance needs of the FAC program are not eligible to receive funding under GAOA. Therefore, the maintenance needs for the aging hatchery system remain reliant on discretionary funding.

The Service has developed asset performance measures and a strategy to ensure effective operations and service delivery. The Department measures real property asset conditions using a Facility Condition Index (FCI), a ratio of repair cost to replacement cost. A rigorous condition assessment process ensures that repair needs are determined objectively and associated costs are appropriately estimated, using industry standards. The Service’s Asset Management Plan and Regional Asset Business Plans are used to manage assets, address repair needs, and dispose of assets that are low in priority or excess to the Government’s needs.

Annual Maintenance

Annual maintenance funds ensure timely upkeep of NFHS real property and equipment. In addition to employee’s salaries, these funds are used to purchase maintenance-related supplies (e.g., lumber, pipe, paint, tools and filters) and replace small equipment costing less than \$5,000. Current annual maintenance funding expenditures are focused on priority preventive maintenance needs. Through the Service Asset Maintenance Management System and condition assessments, the Service can plan recurring maintenance to reduce long-term costs and foster successful operations and mission delivery.



Photo: Raceway maintenance at Jordan River National Fish Hatchery, Michigan, by USFWS

Deferred Maintenance

Fully functional properties and equipment are essential to the long-term success of the NFHS. Deferred maintenance projects are directed at the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of constructed assets, and encompass assets used for propagation of threatened, endangered and imperiled species, fulfilling Tribal trust and Federal mitigation responsibilities, and enhancing outdoor recreational opportunities. Deferred maintenance funds are directed at the highest priority assets in greatest need of repair across the NFHS based on a combination of FCI and Asset Priority Index scores. The Service has \$293 million in current deferred maintenance needs for the NFHS, of which \$68 million are maintained with non-Service funds.

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office Maintenance and Equipment

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office maintenance and equipment funds are used to purchase and maintain over \$34 million in assets such as boats, vehicles, and specialized fisheries equipment. This equipment is

Service Asset Maintenance Management System (SAMMS)

Under the auspices of the Occupational Safety and Health Act and DOI standards, the Service developed an Asset Management Plan that guides management of the NFHS’ \$3.3 billion in essential real and personal property inventories, including systematic and objective tracking, evaluation, reporting of asset condition, and prioritization of asset management. Using the Service Asset Maintenance Management System (SAMMS), an integrated web-based information system, the Service standardizes asset management, corroborates deferred maintenance needs with objective condition assessment data, identifies short- and long-term maintenance needs, and analyzes annual operating and maintenance expenditures.

essential for inventory and monitoring of aquatic species and is critical to the Service’s mission to restore native aquatic populations to self-sustaining levels.

2022 Program Activities

The 2022 budget will:

- Support maintenance of property and equipment, including the repair, rehabilitation, and replacement of constructed assets, for 84 Hatchery System facilities and 51 fisheries offices;
- Maintain the condition of key assets associated with water delivery, aquatic species culture, and effluent management; and,
- Prioritize energy efficiency and climate resilience investments in construction and the rehabilitation of facilities.

Proposed Program Changes

The 2022 budget request for Maintenance and Equipment is \$50,546,000 and 86 FTE, a net program change of +\$24,500,000 and +20 FTE from the 2021 Enacted.

Deferred Maintenance (+\$15,000,000/ +0 FTE) – This request will be used to maintain and improve the Hatchery System’s aging real property assets and address the \$293 million deferred maintenance backlog to repair critical water management and effluent control equipment. Funding will incorporate green infrastructure and energy efficient systems such as solar photovoltaic systems, new HVAC systems, and replace old pumping systems to reduce energy demands. These much-needed repairs will allow the Service to sustain operations of its 70 propagation fish hatcheries, many of which are at least 50 years old, and essential to the production of a wide range of aquatic species threatened by climate change, habitat loss and fragmentation, and invasive species. This increase addresses the Administration’s America the Beautiful priorities.

Annual Maintenance (+\$8,000,000/ +20 FTE) – This request will focus on energy efficiency improvements in Hatchery Systems while maintaining complex water system capabilities for production of fish and other aquatic species. Funding will also provide for additional staff and resources to increase preventative measures and better maintain assets. These changes will allow the Service to avoid more costly Deferred Maintenance repairs, and keep hatcheries operating to fulfill their vital role in conserving aquatic species and ecosystems and addressing the climate crisis.

Zero Emission Vehicle Fleet Conversions (+\$1,500,000/ +0 FTE) – The 2022 budget includes funding to convert approximately one third of the Service's sedan fleet to zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) and provide approximately 130 charging stations and hydrogen fueling stations to support those vehicles and future ZEVs. This conversion will immediately reduce the Interior’s contributions to greenhouse gas emissions and dependence upon hydrocarbons. The investment in infrastructure will support these new vehicles and ensure charging infrastructure is available for subsequent ZEVs. This project is being coordinated across Interior and with other agencies to maximize utility of charging and hydrogen fueling stations in areas where multiple agencies operate. The funding also supports a small planning and coordination function to effectively deploy the fleet and charging infrastructure.

Activity: Fish and Aquatic Conservation
Subactivity: Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation

		2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022			Change From 2021 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Habitat Assessment and Restoration	(\$000)	43,037	42,289	+337	0	+1,200	43,826	+1,537
	FTE	86	85	0	0	-13	72	-13
Population Assessment and Cooperative Management	(\$000)	31,840	31,792	+673	0	+1,000	33,465	+1,673
	FTE	126	126	0	0	+4	130	+4
Aquatic Invasive Species	(\$000)	40,482	41,159	+304	0	+3,848	45,311	+4,152
	FTE	74	74	0	0	+8	82	+8
Total, Aquatic Habitat & Species Conservation	(\$000)	115,359	115,240	+1,314	0	+6,048	122,602	+7,362
	FTE	284	285	0	0	-1	284	-1

Summary of 2022 Program Changes for Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Prevention	+4,048	+8
• Population Assessment and Cooperative Management	+2,218	+5
• National Fish Habitat Action Plan	+1,000	-13
• Truckee River Operating Agreement	+200	+0
• Pacific Salmon Treaty	-150	-0
• Hydrilla, Eel and Milfoil Invasive Grasses	-200	-0
• Snakehead Eradication	-250	-0
• Lake Champlain Sea Lamprey	-818	-1
Program Changes	+6,048	-1

Program Overview

Fifty-one Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices (fisheries offices) are strategically located across the Nation and play an important role in implementing the Service’s fish and aquatic resource conservation programs. Service staff work with a broad range of partners, and utilize a variety of non-regulatory conservation tools, to recover and restore some of the Nation’s most iconic fish and other aquatic species and their habitats, many of which are listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA, or are at-risk of listing. These offices are the Service’s “boots on-the-ground” fisheries conservation capacity and are under increasing demand for their services. They are essential components of Service efforts, aligned with Administration priorities, to tackle climate change, deliver environmental justice, and build our economy back better.

Fisheries offices work to restore degraded and fragmented habitats, organizing and implementing projects with partners, providing technical expertise, enlisting voluntary efforts of landowners and local communities, and delivering cost-shared resources to complete projects. These efforts improve habitat for fish and aquatic resources, support local economies, reduce public safety hazards, and help our communities become more resilient to climate change. Fisheries offices also provide important technical and biological

information to partners on the condition of aquatic habitats and populations of fish and other species, information that will be increasingly important in the face of climate change. These data will be used to inform ESA decisions, guide hydropower license conditions under the Federal Power Act, and establish frameworks to manage recreational and commercial fisheries. It also informs resource management decisions that lead to on-the-ground conservation actions (e.g., habitat restoration) conducted by fisheries offices in collaboration with private landowners, non-profit organizations, Tribes, and local, State, and Federal agencies. Other core functions include working closely with Tribes to fulfill trust responsibilities associated with fish and aquatic resources, preventing and controlling the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species, and monitoring and evaluating the survival of the more than one hundred million fish propagated and stocked each year by the Service's National Fish Hatcheries.

Habitat Assessment and Restoration Program Overview

Habitat loss, fragmentation, and degradation is a primary factor in the decline of native aquatic species. Utilizing its network of fisheries offices, the Service works with partners to restore aquatic habitats for the benefit of Federal trust species and local communities. Through this network, the Service works to restore natural flows to streams and rivers, restore riparian areas and wetlands, remove barriers to fish passage, and improve water quality. The Service enlists the voluntary efforts of landowners and local communities, provides technical expertise, delivers cost shared resources to complete habitat conservation projects, and organizes habitat conservation projects with partners. Work to restore degraded habitats also benefits human communities through development of more resilient infrastructure, reduced public safety hazards, and improved recreational opportunities. The National Fish Passage Program and National Fish Habitat Partnership are two of the tools used by the Service to restore aquatic habitats.

National Fish Passage Program

Millions of barriers, including dams, poorly-designed culverts, and water diversions fragment rivers and watersheds across the Nation. Barriers to fish passage have compromised the ability of the Nation's waterways to sustain healthy fish populations as many fish species and other aquatic life require open, free flowing rivers and streams to complete their life cycle. In addition, barriers can lead to public safety hazards, water quality degradation, and higher water treatment costs and degraded water quality. Undersized culverts in road crossings can cause water to back up behind the crossings during storms, often leading to culvert failure and severe road damage. Aging dams can fail, which can impact aquatic species and human health and safety. Recreational and commercial fishing and boating opportunities may be reduced due to impacts on habitat and fish populations. Climate change is exacerbating these impacts by further increasing the warming of our waters and changing flow regimes.



Photo: Assessing aquatic organism passage at a road-stream crossing in Maryland. Photo credit: Steve Droter/USFWS

The National Fish Passage Program (NFPP) is a cooperative conservation program that relies on a network of Service biologists and engineers stationed throughout the country to provide technical expertise, financial assistance, and coordinate diverse partners to complete aquatic ecosystem restoration projects. FWCOs work with Federal agencies, State governments, private landowners, Tribes, and community organizations to restore fish passage and aquatic connectivity by removing or bypassing barriers. Projects range in size from large-

Over the past 20 years, the National Fish Passage Program has:

- Removed or bypassed over 3,300 barriers to fish passage
- Reopened access to over 59,000 miles of upstream habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms
- Worked with over 2,000 partners across the country

scale dam removals, to the repair or removal of culverts at road-stream crossings, to the installation of fish screens at agricultural water diversions. The NFPP has reopened access to tens of thousands of miles of habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms.

The NFPP is an essential element of Service efforts to tackle climate change, deliver environmental justice, and build our economy. In addition to providing benefits for fish and aquatic species, the NFPP's work to restore degraded and fragmented habitats creates construction, engineering, and other jobs, stimulating the local economy. Work to reconnect aquatic habitats also decreases public safety hazards and improves infrastructure resilience by reducing flood risks, removing obsolete dams, and improving water delivery for local agriculture irrigation districts. In addition, this work often occurs in underserved communities such as old industrial areas of the northeast, rural parts of the southeast and Great Plains, mining communities in Appalachia, and Tribal lands in the southwest. Finally, fish passage projects provide quality-of-life benefits for local communities by providing new fishing and other outdoor recreational opportunities, including kayaking, canoeing, and rafting.

Transportation Infrastructure and the NFPP: Road-stream crossings that are designed to allow streams to flow freely eliminate barriers to fish passage, improve stream health, and benefit water quality. As many areas of the United States experience more frequent and intense precipitation events and riverine flooding due to climate change, replacing undersized culverts with larger road-stream crossings that can withstand greater river flows reduces flooding, providing public safety and local economic benefits. In several areas of the country, the NFPP is fostering collaboration with local, State, and Federal transportation agencies and providing technical and financial support to promote removal, replacement, and prevention of road-stream crossing barriers. Our objective is to increase the number of fish-friendly road-stream crossings across the landscape, resulting in improved stream health, fish passage, and infrastructure resilience.

In the northeast, the NFPP is working with several States to develop guidelines for design of road-stream crossings that benefit aquatic connectivity, stream health, and resilient infrastructure. These design standards can be incorporated into streamlined permitting processes, incentivizing fish-friendly crossing design and reducing the permitting timeline for infrastructure projects. In Maryland, NFPP biologists are helping to lead development of state guidance documents for road-stream crossing design in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Transportation, the Chesapeake Bay Fish Passage Workgroup, and other stakeholders. In Virginia, the NFPP is conducting pilot demonstration projects with the Virginia Department of Transportation to replace road-stream crossings with fish-friendly infrastructure.

A key element of the NFPP is its comprehensive fish passage engineering and technical assistance capacity. Program engineers and technical specialists ensure that passage projects are strategically selected and structurally sound, meet conservation goals for Federal trust species, and provide benefits to surrounding communities. NFPP program staff have been called upon by Federal and State partners to assist in design work for projects that affect the aquatic environment. The NFPP has also worked to develop training materials and guidance documents to assist others in minimizing impacts to fish passage and aquatic connectivity. In 2020, the program published design guidelines for culverts in fish bearing streams in Alaska. In 2021, the Service finalized agency-wide policy and guidance on consideration of aquatic connectivity and fish passage in all Service actions.

National Fish Habitat Action Plan

Developed in 2006 and updated in 2012, the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (Action Plan) provides the framework for the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP). In October of 2020, Title II of America's Conservation Enhancement (ACE) Act codified the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) and established a new 26-member National Fish Habitat Board (Board) to promote, oversee, and coordinate implementation of the program. The Service is leaning into the vision for program implementation established by Title II of the ACE Act. The Action Plan was highlighted in the Administration's initial steps¹ to achieve the President's America the Beautiful initiative, which sets a goal of conserving 30 percent of the Nation's lands and waters by 2030.

¹ <https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/report-conserving-and-restoring-america-the-beautiful-2021.pdf>

There are currently 20 Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs) that leverage Federal, State, Tribal, and private funding to conserve fish habitat under NFHP. FHPs are formed around distinct geographic areas, important fish species, or ecosystems, and include representatives from Federal, State, and Non-Governmental entities. FHPs identify and prioritize fish habitat conservation projects for funding within their boundaries, guided by individual FHP strategic plans. FHPs work with States, other Federal agencies, Tribes, private landowners, businesses, and others to restore stream banks, provide aquatic connectivity, plant vegetation, renovate oyster reefs, and improve habitat conditions.

The Service is a key partner in implementing NFHP with States, Tribes, other Federal agencies, conservation organizations and industry. Under this program, the Service has worked with the Board and FHPs to provide funding to hundreds of projects across the U.S. to protect, restore, and enhance priority habitats. Additionally, through appropriations from Congress, the Service has traditionally provided substantial support to FHPs to develop strategic plans, identify and develop fish habitat conservation projects, provide technical and engineering support, administer financial assistance agreements, and assist with required environmental compliance and permitting. The Service has also provided funding and staff to support operations of the Board and FHPs.

Title II of the ACE Act envisions significant changes to operations of the NFHP program. Changes include increases in available project funding, reductions in Service staffing support for technical, scientific, and administrative assistance, and the transition of many responsibilities for program implementation from the Service, to the Board and FHPs. This includes FHPs taking more active roles in implementing projects and the FHPs becoming formally designated by Congress. The Board will also hold the new responsibility of making funding recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior for fish habitat conservation projects.

Fiscal Year 2022 will be a transition year, where important fish habitat conservation projects will continue to be implemented under NFHP as the structure of the program changes. The Service is committed to working with the Board and the FHPs to facilitate a smooth transition to the new model of program implementation under the vision of the ACE Act. With this funding request for FY 2022, the Service will work with the FHPs and the Board to keep the program operational, while concurrently working collaboratively to develop plans for ACE Act implementation in future fiscal years. For FY 2022, this will include continuing to administer funding for fish habitat conservation projects, establishing a primary point of contact within the Service for each FHP to assist with the transition, and providing staff support to the Board. Additionally, during the remainder of FY 2021 and into FY 2022, the Service is leading an effort among other Federal agencies to develop an Interagency Operational Plan for Title II of the ACE Act that describes the functional, operational, technical, scientific, and general staff, administrative, and material needs for implementation of the Act. We anticipate this plan will inform program implementation in future years under the vision of the ACE Act.

Population Assessment and Cooperative Management Program Overview

The Service provides assistance to partners in efforts to maintain self-sustaining, healthy, and diverse populations of fish and other aquatic species. Fisheries offices assess the status and trends of aquatic species, evaluate the causes of species decline, determine the limiting factors for aquatic populations, and work with partners to implement actions to restore populations across habitat types and jurisdictional boundaries. Population assessment and cooperative management are essential components of the Service's efforts to tackle the climate crisis and deliver environmental justice.

Making informed and appropriate decisions on the conservation and management of fish and other aquatic species is dependent on the availability of accurate and up to date information. A core function of fisheries offices is collecting and evaluating population data and developing models to estimate population trends. This information is utilized by Tribes, and Federal and State natural resource agencies, to establish conservation and management strategies for a wide range of aquatic species and their habitats. The Service's work in the Great Lakes area is an example of how fisheries offices work closely with Tribal, State, Provincial, and other partners to restore lake trout, a native species important to the ecosystem, a valuable recreational species, and a species harvested by Tribes. The Service monitors populations by marking all hatchery-produced fish with coded-wire tags. Tags are recovered through cooperation with partners and returned to the Service for extraction and analysis. This data helps the Service and partners in the Great Lakes to understand lake trout population trends, assess program success, and inform management actions such as harvest limits.

These efforts also help ensure the Service meets our Tribal trust responsibilities.

Service biologists also provide leadership to technical committees and aquatic resource management boards, and participate in unique regional management initiatives to help recover and sustain fish and other aquatic species nationwide. These collaborative efforts are improving the management of river herring and striped bass along the Atlantic coast and in the Chesapeake Bay, helping to ensure the sustainable harvest of Pacific salmon in Alaska, and recovering iconic species such as the Lahontan cutthroat trout in Nevada.

Tribal Trust Responsibilities

As part of the Service's Tribal trust responsibilities and an important element of our efforts to deliver environmental justice, Fisheries offices work with Tribal resource agencies to manage a diverse array of fish and wildlife on millions of acres of Tribal and Alaska Native lands. Fisheries offices provide technical assistance, training, financial support, and equipment. Our Lander (WY) fisheries office has provided support to Tribes on the Wind River Reservation since 1941 on the conservation and management of cutthroat trout, burbot, and saugeye. Our Arizona fisheries office works with Tribal partners on the recovery of ESA-listed Apache trout. The Green Bay (WI) fisheries office works with multiple Tribes on the management of fishery resources in Lakes Michigan, Huron, and Superior. Our fisheries offices in the Pacific NW work with Tribes in WA, OR, and ID to mitigate impacts of hydropower in the region. Fisheries offices in Alaska employ cutting-edge genetic techniques to monitor Pacific salmon stocks as they enter the Yukon River, information that is critical to inform in-season harvest limits and other actions necessary to maintain healthy, sustainable salmon stocks.

FWCOs in Action – Fulfilling Tribal Trust Responsibilities: The Pyramid Lake Paiute people have lived around and fished at Cui-ui Pah or Pyramid Lake for countless generations. The Lahontan FWCO in Nevada is working with the Tribe to recover the Lahontan cutthroat trout and the cui-ui sucker in Pyramid Lake and nearby waters, including the Truckee River. Anglers seek out the Lahontan cutthroat, which can grow to 40 pounds. The cui-ui sucker is a cultural icon and historic food source for the Paiute people, as well as a key component of the native fish community.

Through collaboration among the Lahontan Fish and Wildlife Coordination Office, the Lahontan National Fish Hatchery, the Tribe, and other partners, recovery efforts for Lahontan cutthroat trout are already seeing success. The species was extirpated from the Truckee River by 1940, and it was one of the first species listed under the ESA. However, in 2014, thanks to the Lahontan FWCO and other partners, a successful spawning run was observed with about 200 fish running from Pyramid Lake into the Truckee. The number of spawning fish observed has increased since then. In 2019, over 800 fish were observed making the run. Ongoing restoration of these fish species will have deep cultural significance to the Tribe and provide important economic benefits.

Alaska Subsistence Management Program

Based on a 2010 economic assessment by the Service², over 135,000 people in over 270 communities in rural Alaska are entitled to subsistence fishing, hunting, and trapping on Federal lands. The average subsistence harvest in Alaska is approximately 375 pounds of food per person, or 50 million pounds of food per year. The Alaska Fisheries Subsistence Management Program manages fish and wildlife for subsistence uses on Federal public lands and waters in Alaska. The program provides a direct benefit to rural subsistence users on more than 237 million acres of Federal lands encompassing 66 percent of Alaska's land area and 52 percent of Alaska's rivers and lakes.



Salmon harvested under the Alaska Subsistence Management Program. Source: DOI.gov/subsistence/fisheries

The Service is the lead Federal agency in administering this program for the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture. Since 1999, the Service's Office of Subsistence Management has implemented an annual regulatory program and a fisheries monitoring program, supported 10 regional advisory councils, and has provided administrative and technical support to five Federal agencies and the Federal Subsistence Board. The Subsistence Management Program operates with strong stakeholder participation by rural residents and the State of Alaska.

Military Lands Conservation

The Service works with the Department of Defense (DOD), stewards to millions of acres of land used for national defense purposes, to protect and enhance natural resources on military installations. Under the authority of the Sikes Act, the Service works with DOD, States and other Service programs to review and update Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMPs) and implement conservation projects on military installations nationwide. Given the millions of acres of land under DOD stewardship, this provides an unprecedented opportunity to tackle climate change on a truly landscape scale.

Air Force Partnership Restores Fish to Dry Creek: Under a Service-wide national partnership established with the Air Force in 2012, FWCOs provide direct conservation assistance to Air Force installations across the Nation. In 2020, the Air Force and the Service collaborated to remove an obsolete dam at Beale Air Force Base in California. This partnership effort is now providing habitat for threatened Central Valley steelhead and fall-run Chinook salmon. In 2015, at Beale Air Force Base's request, the Service began a habitat assessment, which showed that tearing down the 165-foot-long, 12-foot high dam and restoring Dry Creek would be less expensive than installing and maintaining a new fish ladder. The dam removal and creek restoration project was carried out with Air Force funding and FWCO expertise. The new creek channel was designed by Service engineers from Alaska and Massachusetts. The California Department of Wildlife plans to build upon this successful partnership by improving spawning habitat upstream of the project.

Aquatic Invasive Species

Invasive species are a significant threat to natural resources, human and animal health, infrastructure, the economy, and cultural resources. Invasive species such as invasive carp, quagga and zebra mussels, Elodea, and lionfish cause tens of billions of dollars globally in economic and ecological impacts each year in diminished fish and wildlife resources, recreational opportunities, agricultural productivity, personal property values, human health and safety, and public utility capacity.³ These costs have increased each year since 1970 at a rate of more than threefold per decade. The threat of invasive species continues to

² Charbonneau, Joseph John, Ph.D. and James Caudill, Ph.D., September 2010. *Conserving America's Fisheries: An Assessment of Economic Contributions from Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation*. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

³ Diagne, C., Leroy, B., Vaissiere, A-C, Gozlan, R.E, Roiz, D., Jaric, I., Salles, J-M., Bradshaw, C.J.A., and Courchamp, R, 2021. High and rising economic costs of biological invasions worldwide. *Nature*. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-021-03405-6>.

grow as the globalization of trade and transport provide increased pathways for new species introduced into U.S. ecosystems.

Invasive species are a leading cause of declining fish, wildlife, and habitat globally. Aquatic invasive species are especially difficult to detect and to eradicate once they become established, as they can persist and spread widely even after their pathways of introduction are interrupted. In addition, natural areas already stressed by climate change are more susceptible to harm from invasive species than healthy ecosystems.

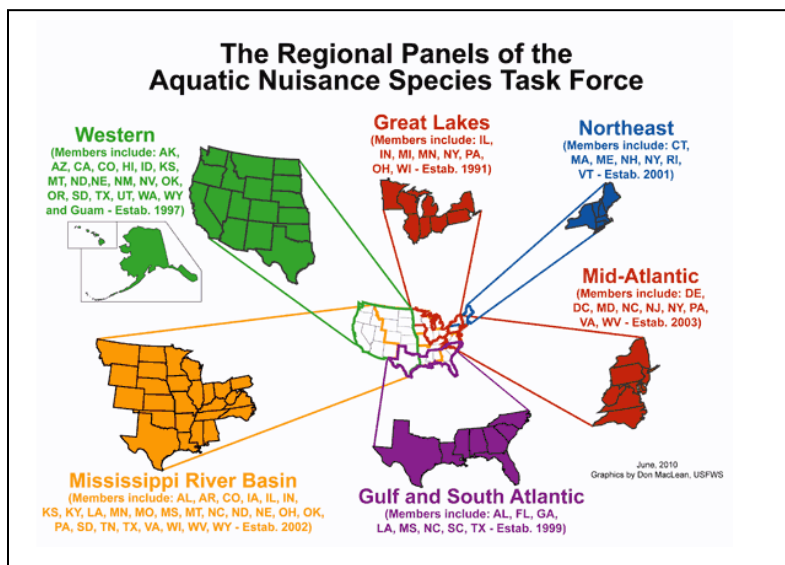
The Service plays a critical role in fighting the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) by preventing introduction, working to detect and respond to new invasions, and controlling invasive populations of plants and animals. The Service has made significant strides in recent years to strengthen partnerships and modernize scientific and administrative approaches to more quickly identify and prevent invasive species threats before they become pervasive on the landscape. Along with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Service co-chairs the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANS Task Force).

The ANS Task Force was established by Congress with the passage of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act (NANPCA) in 1990 and reauthorized with the passage of the National Invasive Species Act (NISA) in 1996 (collectively, the Act). Composed of 13 Federal and 13 ex-officio members, it is the only Federally-mandated intergovernmental organization solely dedicated to preventing and controlling AIS. The ANS Task Force recently completed a new Strategic Plan for 2020-2025 that establishes six goals, each with a targeted set of objectives and associated strategies. These six goals include Coordination, Prevention, Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR), Control and Restoration, Research, Outreach and Education.

Coordination

The ANS Task Force works in conjunction with Regional ANS Panels (Panels) and issue-specific committees to coordinate efforts among Federal and State agencies and the private sector. The six Panels are uniquely positioned to coordinate, prioritize, and implement regional invasive species management activities.

The ANS Task Force also approves State and interstate management plans to detect and monitor ANS, prevent their establishment and spread, and control established species. The Service provides essential funding for 44 approved State and Interstate Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plans that address State and Tribal priorities. State aquatic invasive species programs use Service funds to work with their partners to plan, direct, and accomplish significant regional and landscape-level invasive species prevention and management resource outcomes.

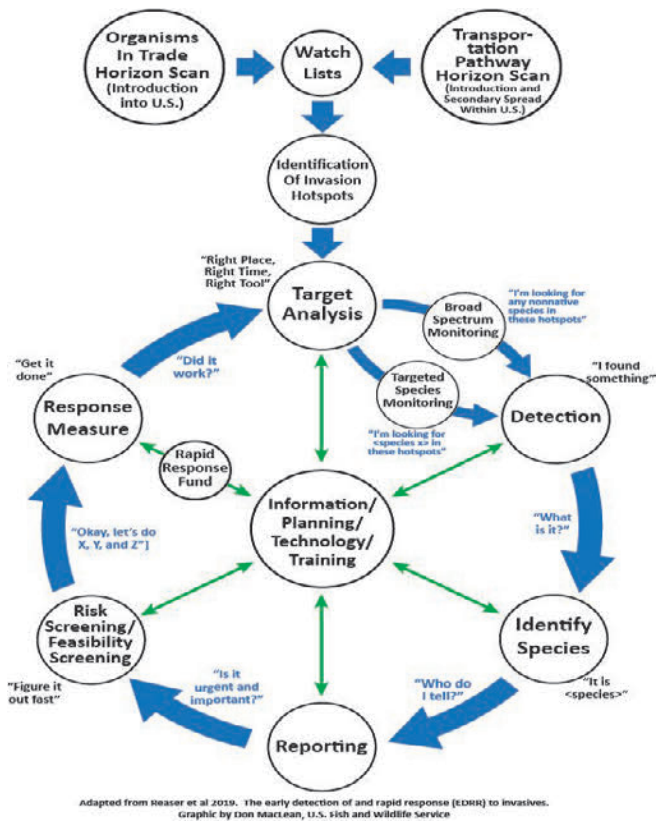


The ANS Task Force also works with member organizations and subject matter experts to develop species management plans. At present, there are nine Species Management and Control Plans. These Plans can be downscaled to basin-specific operational plans, perhaps best exemplified by the Management and Control Plan for Bighead, Black, Grass, and Silver Carps in the United States (Invasive Carp National Plan). The Service has worked with State and Federal agency partners to develop and implement four Asian Carp Control Strategy Frameworks under the auspices of the Invasive Carp National Plan. The Service plays a lead role in coordinating, implementing, and funding this work.

Prevention

Prevention is the most cost-effective strategy to minimize the long-term risk of impacts of invasive species to the American people and trust resources. The Service conducts public awareness and education campaigns to enlist the public’s help in preventing the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species. In addition, we are developing and implementing new risk assessment and risk mitigation tools to target our prevention efforts and those of our partners on invasive species that pose the greatest risk.

We are working with the U.S. Geological Survey to evaluate likely pathways for introduction of new invasive species into the United States. This information and the identification of geographical areas that are the most vulnerable to these species helps inform our efforts to conduct more in-depth risk screens and to target our early detection and response measures. For example, preventing the introduction and movement of ANS can be accomplished by inspecting and decontaminating watercraft and gear that could transport ANS, restricting the importation and release of potentially harmful species, and enforcing current laws and regulations aimed at reducing the risk of introduction and spread of ANS.



Injurious wildlife under the Lacey Act are defined as species that are injurious to the interests of human beings, agriculture, horticulture, forestry, wildlife, or wildlife resources of the U.S. By promulgating rules to designate species as injurious, the Service can prohibit their importation into the U.S. and their subsequent shipment within the country among certain enumerated jurisdictions. Relying on the tools described above, the Service will continue to focus our regulatory efforts on species that pose the greatest risk and that have not yet been introduced and become widely established in the U.S. In the past, proactive steps to list high-risk species as injurious wildlife have proven very successful in preventing these species from becoming established.

Early Detection and Rapid Response

EDRR is a comprehensive approach to defend the United States from newly arriving, establishing, and spreading invasive species. The approach uses a series of integrated steps to stop the next invasion. These steps include: horizon scanning technologies to identify species and vectors that present the greatest risk to the United States; invasion hotspot analyses to identify areas most likely to be invaded; the deployment of

genetic and traditional sampling tools to detect invading organisms at the earliest point possible; and response processes to quickly eradicate new invaders.

Control and Restoration

Once an invasive species becomes established in the environment, multiple tools and significant resources are necessary to lessen the impacts to public interests, slow the rate of range expansion, and increase the likelihood of eradication. Risk analysis, benefit-cost analysis, and other tools can help identify and select high-priority AIS to be targeted for control as well as the most appropriate and cost-effective mitigation measures to be undertaken. Habitat restoration is also important to ensure that native and managed ecosystems resiliency is restored once AIS are controlled. Adequate funding, public awareness, and management expertise are critical to success, particularly because AIS can span geographic and jurisdictional boundaries.

Research

The Service promotes, funds, and develops applied technologies to assess and help mitigate the environmental and economic risks and impacts associated with the introduction of ANS. The Service works to evaluate the principal pathways by which ANS are introduced and dispersed and to develop and assess the effectiveness of new methods for the prevention, monitoring and control of ANS. This research is an essential part of our ongoing work to prevent, detect, respond to, and control AIS nationwide.

Outreach and Education

To protect the waters of the United States, the public must also understand the wide-ranging impacts of AIS and actions that can be taken to prevent their introduction and spread. In many instances, the introduction of non-native species occurs due to the lack of public knowledge and understanding of the threats these species pose to the environment, recreation, and local communities. The Service and the ANS Task Force work alongside its partners to implement national ANS awareness and education campaigns, such as Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!, Habitattitude™ and Don't Let It Loose, to empower recreational water users to take action to prevent the spread of AIS and to inspire and educate people to be responsible pet owners and environmental stewards. Robust awareness helps the public understand the impacts caused by AIS so that they can be part of the solution. Education and outreach campaigns and initiatives also help facilitate on-the-ground action.

2022 Program Activities

The 2022 budget will:

- Utilize partnership programs such as the National Fish Passage Program and the National Fish Habitat Partnership to implement numerous local fish habitat restoration projects to improve riparian and aquatic habitats making them more resilient to the impacts of climate change;
- Work with partners to inventory, monitor, manage and restore fish and other aquatic species to maintain self-sustaining, healthy and diverse populations;
- Work to prevent the introduction and reduce the spread of AIS; a primary threat to the Nation's natural resources, infrastructure, economy and cultural resources; and
- Continue to target quagga and zebra mussels and invasive carp as high-priority species, leveraging prevention, control, and outreach resources among partners.

Proposed Program Changes

The 2022 budget request for Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation is \$122,602,000 and 284 FTE, a net program change of +\$6,048,000 and -1 FTE from the 2021 Enacted.

National Fish Habitat Action Plan (+\$1,000,000/ -13 FTE) – Consistent with the vision established in Title II of America's Conservation Enhancement Act, this request will significantly increase the amount of

funding for fish habitat conservation projects while reducing Service staffing support for technical, scientific, and administrative assistance. This funding request will allow the Service to continue to work with the FHPs and the Board to keep a level of operational continuity during FY 2022, while we work collaboratively to develop plans for ACE Act implementation in future fiscal years. For FY 2022, the Service is requesting \$6,323,000 for fish habitat conservation projects. An additional \$316,000 is requested for administrative and planning expenses, a portion of which will be provided to the Board to support required reporting requirements under the Act. This represents an amount equal to 5 percent of the amount requested for fish habitat conservation projects, as authorized under the Act. Additionally, as authorized under the Act, the Service is requesting \$400,000 in scientific and technical assistance for required environmental compliance and permitting. We anticipate this funding will be used primarily to complete required environmental compliance and permitting for fish habitat conservation projects approved for funding by the Secretary of the Interior. Finally, the Service requests funding for five FTE to support the 20 FHPs to provide a consistent point of contact and assistance in the transition to the new model of program implementation under the vision of the ACE Act.

This request represents a proposal from the Service for FY 2022 that we expect will help provide a glide path from the previous model of program implementation to a model consistent with the vision of the ACE Act. The proposal increases the amount of funding for fish habitat conservation projects, while reducing Service staffing support for technical, scientific, and administrative assistance. We anticipate this proposal would allow the Board and FHPs to assume their new responsibilities, as laid out in the ACE Act. Operating FY 2022 as a transition year will set a solid foundation under the new legislation and allow the Service, Board, and FHPs to be able to work collaboratively and effectively into the future to protect, restore, and enhance the Nation's fish habitat under the vision established by the ACE Act.

Prevention (+\$4,048,000/ +8 FTE) – Prevention funds will support work by the Service and its partners to prevent the introduction, establishment and spread of aquatic invasive species, and to help avoid and minimize their ecological and economic impacts. This funding increases staff capacity to provide risk screening, risk assessment, and analysis to identify and address species and pathways at greatest risk of causing harm to wildlife, wildlife resources and human health. Invasive species are a risk to ecosystems resilience and by conducting public awareness and education campaigns, evaluating likely pathways for introduction of new invasive species, and developing and implementing new risk assessment and risk mitigation tools the Service can reduce risks posed by invasive species before they become established.

Population and Assessment and Cooperative Management Activities (+\$2,218,000/ +5 FTE) -- Funding at the requested level will provide for Service field staff, who will work in close cooperation with our Federal, Tribal, and State partners to analyze the status and trends of aquatic resources and conserve these complex ecosystems. Funding will increase staff's ability to inventory, monitor, manage and restore fish and other aquatic species to maintain self-sustaining, healthy, and diverse populations.

Truckee River Operating Agreement (+\$200,000/ +0 FTE) – This request will fulfill Service's obligation to efficiently manage the Truckee Basin reservoir and river system in coordination with Nevada, California, the Truckee River Water Authority, and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe.

Pacific Salmon Treaty (-\$150,000/ -0 FTE) – The 2022 budget submission does not request funding for Pacific Salmon Treaty.

Hydrilla, Eel and Milfoil Invasive Grasses (-\$200,000/ -0 FTE) – The 2022 budget submission does not request funding for Hydrilla, Eel and Milfoil Invasive Grasses control in the Southeast.

Snakehead Eradication (-\$250,000 / -0 FTE) – The 2022 budget submission does not request funding for Snakehead Eradication.

Lake Champlain Sea Lamprey (-\$818,000/ -1 FTE) – The 2022 budget submission does not request dedicated funding for Lake Champlain Sea Lamprey.

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COOPERATIVE LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION

Activity: Cooperative Landscape Conservation

		2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022				Change from 2021 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Cooperative Landscape Conservation	(\$000)	12,500	12,500	+302	0	+6,000	18,802	+6,302
	FTE	55	55	0	0	+11	66	+11

Summary of 2022 Program Changes for Cooperative Landscape Conservation

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
Cooperative Landscape Conservation	+6,000	+11
Program Changes	+6,000	+11

Program Mission

The Science Applications program addresses complex conservation challenges using a collaborative landscape conservation approach and supports the organization’s science and data management needs. A special emphasis in the program’s work is the distillation of climate science to help natural resource managers implement climate adaptation strategies.

Through the Cooperative Landscape Conservation activity, Science Applications promotes an inclusive and participatory approach to landscape conservation; one that seeks to bring Service programs and partners together in pursuit of a shared conservation vision. Through the program’s leadership, the Service convenes others and facilitates a collaborative approach to fish and wildlife management, with accompanying shared goals, planning, strategic actions, and means to measure progress. The program’s work leads to durable conservation outcomes where partners implement proactive and voluntary actions to directly conserve at-risk species or reduce habitat stressors, often precluding regulatory interventions. Underpinning the program’s landscape conservation design work is our role in science support (*see Science Support Activity*).

The Service is building the next generation of landscape conservation efforts throughout the Country, in partnership with State fish and wildlife agencies and their regional associations, sovereign Tribal nations, territories, local officials, private landowners, and non-governmental organizations. Using this framework, Science Applications supports other collaborative landscape efforts, such as Migratory Bird Joint Ventures, National Fish Habitat Partnerships, and the Network for Landscape Conservation. The Service’s Cooperative Landscape Conservation activity, and the partnerships it supports, directly contribute to Administration priorities around climate adaptation, resilience and the Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful initiative, which sets a goal of conserving 30 percent of the Nation’s lands and waters by 2030.

Program Overview

Conservation efforts that occur at large landscape scales are recognized to be a more effective and efficient approach to the stewardship of fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats. Addressing complex environmental issues such as climate change, habitat degradation and habitat fragmentation are complicated by the fact that no one agency or organization can effectively manage for all these threats. Using Cooperative Landscape Conservation funding, the Service works with States, sovereign Tribal nations, Federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, universities and others to deliver conservation on a landscape scale beyond the scope of any one organization. These partnerships work together to identify shared conservation goals. With clear goals established, the Service and partners can identify where and how to act within their respective authorities and priorities to best contribute to the larger conservation effort. Science Applications also works with partners to identify biological and social science needs and provide science support that will inform conservation planning and catalyze coordinated management actions across multiple jurisdictions.

Much of the program's early work focused on landscape conservation under the standardized organizational construct of Landscape Conservation Cooperatives. In developing the next generation of landscape conservation partnerships, Science Applications now recognizes the importance of customizing its level of leadership and support to the needs of each individual partnership. Landscape conservation efforts therefore take on a variety of organizational forms, each tailored to local needs. In total, the program currently works with and supports more than 90 collaborative landscape scale partnerships throughout North America. Science Applications is the only program in the Federal government that provides collaboration and technical capacity to facilitate the integration, development, and strategic alignment of actions to achieve the conservation landscape of the future to sustain fish, wildlife, and plant by working with and for partners and local, State, and regional partnerships across the Nation. In doing so, the program directly supports the tenets in America the Beautiful and the goals of 30 by 30. Examples include:

- Science Applications provides dedicated collaboration and technical capacity in support of the partnership implementing the Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy. The private, State, and Federal SECAS partnership focuses collaborative conservation efforts on connecting a network of lands and waters that support healthy ecosystems, thriving fish and wildlife populations and vibrant communities. The manifestation of this is a Conservation Blueprint that encompasses 15 States across the southeastern United States, plus Puerto Rico and the Caribbean, to identify important areas for conservation and restoration. It serves as a primary example of how Science Applications and the Service can support the President's America the Beautiful initiative, which sets a goal of conserving 30 percent of the Nation's lands and waters (Exec. Order No. 14008, 2021).
- The Midwest Landscape Initiative uses shared conservation and management priorities to guide scalable solutions to achieve healthy, functioning ecosystems. Working alongside 13 Midwest States, three Canadian Provinces, and other partners, Science Applications co-leads and supports the MLI via a full-time coordinator, shared technical support, and convenes all participants to identify and address the region's conservation challenges.
- Nature's Network, which is a collaborative effort facilitated by Science Applications to bring together partners from 13 States, Federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations and universities to identify the best opportunities for conserving and connecting intact habitats and ecosystems and support imperiled species to help ensure the future of fish and wildlife across the northeast United States. Science Applications convenes the partners, negotiates shared strategic conservation goals that transcend jurisdiction, acquires and manages data and models that supports identified conservation targets, and interprets resulting scientific information that is then used to support project implementation and conservation actions.

Science Applications continues to work closely with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, regional associations, States, Tribes and other organizations on shared landscape conservation priorities. In some instances, newly formed collaborations are developed around specific geographies, while others partnerships focus on a specific group of organisms, such as pollinators, or ecological challenges, such as sagebrush and the interplay between invasive species and wildfires in the West. Working with several original Landscape Conservation Cooperative participants and new partners, Science Applications continues to build the next generation of collaborative landscape conservation efforts, framed in part, around regional associations of State fish and wildlife agencies.

Today, Science Applications' role in landscape conservation is multifaceted. Convening partners and facilitating collaborations are often the most critical needs to foster landscape conservation, and at times the most difficult needs for partners to address. By serving as a convener and a facilitator of sustained collaboration, Science Applications has supported large landscape collaboratives across the Country. Science Applications has evolved into a nimble program that in FY 2022 will be capable to work at the field-level providing resources and technical capacity, while also maintaining a nationwide perspective that can connect together landscape conservation efforts across the Country.

Applicable Laws, Acts, and Orders

- ***Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956***, as amended, (16 U.S.C 742(a)-754), establishes a comprehensive national fish and wildlife policy and authorizes the Secretary to take steps required for the development, management, advancement, conservation, and protection of fisheries resources and wildlife resources through research, acquisition of refuge lands, development of existing facilities, and other means.
- ***Executive Order 13990***, "Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis" issued in January 2021, directs all executive departments and agencies to immediately review and, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law, take action to address the promulgation of Federal regulations and other actions during the last 4 years that conflict with national objectives, and to immediately commence work to confront the climate crisis.
- ***Executive Order 14008***, "Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad" issued in January 2021, directs climate considerations be an essential element of United States foreign policy and national security. The United States will work with other countries and partner to put the world on a sustainable climate pathway and build resistance against the impacts of climate change.
- ***Presidential Memorandum***, "Restoring Trust in Government Through Scientific Integrity and Evidence-Based Policymaking" issued in January 2021, emphasizes the Administration's commitment to making evidence-based decisions and developing policies and programs that are guided by the best available scientific data.

Proposed Program Changes

The 2022 budget request for Cooperative Landscape Conservation is \$18,802,000 and 66 FTE, a program change of +\$6,000,000 and +11 FTE from the 2021 Enacted.

Cooperative Landscape Conservation (+\$6,000,000/+11 FTE)—The rapid disappearance of habitat across the country threatens native fish, wildlife, and plants. Recent peer reviewed literature¹ suggests that this decline in habitat will contribute to one-third of wildlife being at risk for extinction in the coming decades. The Administration recently outlined steps to achieve the President’s America the Beautiful initiative, which sets a goal of conserving 30 percent of the Nation’s lands and waters by 2030 to safeguard health, food supplies, biodiversity, and community prosperity. The preliminary report emphasized the critical importance of collaborative, locally led conservation, as well as connected landscapes. The Cooperative Landscape Conservation activity is uniquely capable of helping to implement this vision by expanding cooperative efforts with landscape-focused groups like SECAS, MLI, and Natures Network, the program will collaborate with States and stakeholders to identify shared conservation priorities and work with local and regional partners to contribute to the goals of 30 by 30. The program will apply funds to support local, State, private, and Tribal conservation and restoration efforts that will advance climate adaptation and resiliency particularly in underserved communities. This funding will be applied to building a durable conservation framework for application across landscapes by working with willing partners to promote biodiversity, climate adaptation and mitigation, and racial equity. Science Applications will continue to fill the important role of providing Federal support to local conservation efforts, creating a more inclusive and enduring conservation framework by bringing people and organizations together to accomplish shared conservation priorities. Funding for landscape conservation will (1) enhance support for partnerships support and development that is focused on landscape-scale conservation, (2) proactively support partnerships that advance the conservation and restoration of wildlife habitat in an era of climate change, (3) support the role of working lands in conservation, (4) increase scientific and conservation activities in collaboration with Tribes and States, and (5) increase access to nature, particularly in underserved communities.

Science Applications will invest in technical capacity, such as database management, and geospatial mapping capacity that works with and incorporates ongoing grassroots efforts that often go unaccounted in national databases. We will also invest in social science expertise to provide the data needed to inform and support outreach and stakeholder engagement. Increased social science capacity will allow the program to more consistently include and proactively engage with underrepresented communities and Tribes to identify high priority conservation opportunities.

Meeting people where they are, which includes earning trust and respecting cultural norms, is key to building successful partnerships. For example, we are proactive in our work with private landowners to demonstrate how working lands can contribute to the conservation of at-risk species and the creation of conservation corridors that connect lands, and in turn wildlife habitat, across the Country. Science Applications will continue to play a central, non-regulatory role, in engaging and coordinating with private landowners to restore biodiversity and functioning ecosystems.

Many partnerships, especially those that engage with local, grassroots organizations, need technical assistance and strategic investments to initiate conservation plans that lead to durable conservation outcomes. This support will be especially important as we promote environmental justice through conservation by working with underrepresented communities and underserved partners who have had limited opportunities to engage with landscape conservation efforts. We will use funding to facilitate the engagement of new partners, generate an understanding of their interests, concerns and how they want to contribute to shared conservation goals, and take collaborative action to design and implement conservation and adaptation goals.

¹Cristian Román-Palacios and John J. Wiens. Recent responses to climate change reveal the drivers of species extinction and survival. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 2020; 201913007 DOI: [10.1073/pnas.1913007117](https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1913007117)

Examples and Accomplishments

Southeast Blueprint helps connects wildlife and forest action plans in Tennessee

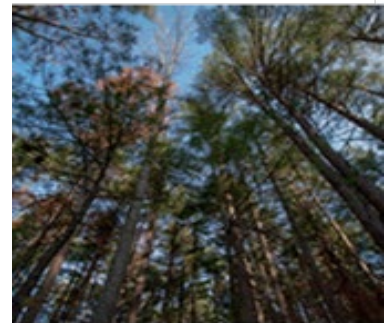
The Southeast Blueprint, a manifestation of the Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy, provided a bridge between the State Wildlife Action Plan and the State Forest Action Plan in Tennessee. Both statewide plans used a common spatial dataset based on the Blueprint to determine priorities, such as landscape resiliency and connectivity, which are integral to sustaining healthy wildlife communities and forest ecosystems. As a result of using a shared spatial dataset, the Tennessee Forest Action Plan now captures 96 percent of the State Wildlife Action Plan priorities, including more than 10 million acres of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency's Conservation Opportunity Areas. Use of the Southeast Blueprint has also resulted in a 79 percent overlap between Tennessee's forest priorities and areas identified as being of high and medium conservation value, demonstrating how a Blueprint can help managers identify what conservation actions will have the greatest positive impact on an ecosystem.



Forest in northeast United States. Creative Commons photo.

Wildlife Conservation Initiative: Sustainable Management of Working Forests to Benefit At-risk Species

Owners of private working forests are increasingly collaborating with State and Federal agencies to balance the need for sustainable forest management with the needs of at-risk species in a non-regulatory context. The Service, through Science Applications, is collaborating with the National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO), the National Council on Air and Stream Improvement, and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative on a series of demonstration projects across six of our eight legacy regions. These demonstration projects support the Wildlife Conservation Initiative which highlights the role of private landowners in landscape conservation, seeks to better understand the relationship between forest management on lands managed by NAFO members and habitat needs for at-risk species found on those lands. Projects under development in the West, Midwest and Northeast are focused primarily on terrestrial species, while the project in the Southeast will likely focus on aquatic species. Through these and other emerging projects, we continue to solidify collaboration between the Service and NAFO member landowners and managers.



Cherokee National Forest, TN. Photo by USFWS

13 Western States Partner to Conserve Rangeland Health in the Sagebrush Ecosystem

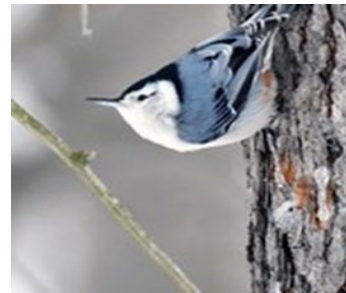
The ecosystem of the western United States is the largest continuous sagebrush ecotype in the lower 48. Sprawling across 13 States and 165 million acres, the “sagebrush sea” is at once vast and vulnerable, as climate change impacts such as drought, invasive species, and wildfire degrade habitats for native wildlife and threaten economies and lifeways. Current examples of the Science Applications program contributions to this vital work include the Nevada Invasives Treatment and Restoration Initiative, as well as the Cross-Regional Invasives and Fire Investments. The Nevada Invasives Treatment and Restoration Initiative is working to deliver effective solutions to the unique invasive species and wildfire challenges on the landscape through collaboration with private landowners to increase the availability of native seed stocks and development of an aggressive approach to restoring degraded habitats with site-appropriate seed mixes. For Cross-Regional Invasives and Fire Investments, Science Applications collaborated with State and Federal agencies, joint ventures, nongovernmental organizations and other partners to develop a framework for proactive management of invasive annual grasses to address three critical science needs: (1) identify current and future threat of invasive annual grasses; (2) define management effectiveness to break the fire and invasives cycle; and (3) assess the cost/benefit of fuel breaks with invasion risk. The cross-regional team is working on integrated, whole-ranch restoration for annual grass control and climate resilience and adaptation in Oregon, assessing annual grass management effectiveness in the eastern portion of the sagebrush ecosystem in Colorado and Utah, and examining the use of fuel breaks to quantify the balance of ecological risks and fire-management benefits across the Great Basin.



Sagebrush sparrow. Photo courtesy of Mick Thompson/CC

Conservation Blueprint in the Northeast

Nature’s Network Landscape Conservation Design is a voluntary conservation strategy that reflects the collective vision of partners for conserving habitats and ecosystems in the Northeast. The purpose of Nature’s Network is to identify the best opportunities for conserving and connecting intact habitats and ecosystems and supporting imperiled species to help ensure the future of fish and wildlife across the region. Conservation practitioners have made use of the Nature’s Network Landscape Conservation Design in a variety of ways to meet needs for specific conservation initiatives, while simultaneously moving the needle on shared conservation objectives. For example, Nature’s Network was used to provide the Species Status Assessment



White breasted nuthatch. Photo by USFWS.

team final spatial datasets and graphs for current and future condition for the Northern Red-Bellied Cooter to inform ESA decisions. Nature’s Network was also used to identify important locations within the Delaware River Watershed to protect imperiled species, like yellow lamp mussel and at-risk butterflies. Conservation activities needed on specific lands were identified that focused efforts to target at-risk species and aquatic connectivity improvements. In a separate instance, the strategy’s core data and models were used to create the Service’s North Atlantic-Appalachian Region Service Watershed Investment Map. This map identifies watersheds at the hydrologic unit level to guide cooperative conservation investments and leverage resources with partners for the greatest conservation gains.

SCIENCE SUPPORT

Activity: Science Support

		2020 Actual	2021 Enacted Baseline	2022				Change from 2021 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Adaptive Science	(\$000)	10,517	10,517	+33	0	+12,300	22,850	+12,333
	FTE	7	7	0	0	+3	10	+3
Service Science	(\$000)	6,750	6,750	+83	0	+6,750	13,583	+6,833
	FTE	13	13	0	0	+7	20	+7
Total, Science Support	(\$000)	17,267	17,267	+116	0	+19,050	36,433	+19,166
	FTE	20	20	0	0	+10	30	+10

Summary of 2022 Program Changes for Science Support

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Adaptive Science: Climate Science	+7,000	+3
• Adaptive Science: Conservation-Pollinators	+5,000	0
• Engaging Students in Conservation Science	+300	0
• Service Science: Conservation	+3,500	+4
• Service Science: Climate Science	+3,000	+3
• Service Science: Zero Emission Vehicles	+250	+0
Program Changes	+19,050	+10

Program Mission

The Service Science Support activity, implemented by the Science Applications program, addresses cross-cutting science needs for Service programs, as well as the adaptive science needs shared with the Service’s partners that focus on landscape and species conservation, and climate adaptation strategies.

Under the Service Science subactivity, Science Applications provides unique functions that support: (1) specific resource management decision-making across Service programs (e.g., listing under the ESA, wildlife refuge land acquisition, and climate adaptation best management practices); (2) linking and integrating independent management actions into a coordinated whole for species and ecosystem sustainability (e.g., pollinator conservation and wildlife health); and (3) science based tools for at-risk species conservation in a non-regulatory context. Science Applications also coordinates critical underlying aspects of Service work, including scientific integrity policies and a robust data management and science approach. We also coordinate work with the U.S. Geological Survey, such as the Climate Adaptation Science Centers and the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units Program, to obtain the best available science upon which to make decisions, and to ensure data and analyses are non-duplicative and accessible, as appropriate.

Under the Adaptive Science subactivity, we work with Tribes, Federal agencies, States, non-governmental organizations, and other partners to identify and address science needs and gaps related to shared conservation priorities across the Country. In the development of corresponding conservation plans, we work collaboratively to create applied tools for connecting lands and waters and to address

climate change and other landscape-scale threats. Development of Landscape Conservation Designs (LCD) under this subactivity underpins the program's overall collaborative landscape conservation efforts. LCDs are a partner-driven approach to achieve a sustainable, resilient landscape that meets the ecological and social needs of current and future generations. It is an iterative, collaborative, and holistic process resulting in spatially explicit products and adaptation strategies that provide information, analytical and decision support tools, maps, and strategies to achieve conservation goals collectively held among partners.

Program Elements

The Science Support activity is comprised of the following sub-activities:

- Adaptive Science – Large landscape conservation efforts are often accompanied by a wide array of science needs. Science Applications works with partners to identify gaps in knowledge around shared conservation priorities, and then works collaboratively to provide technical assistance, tools, and coordination support to inform conservation strategies and management actions.
- Service Science – Provides scientific support for Service programs by providing policy, guidance, information, and tools that inform decision-making for refuge management, at-risk and endangered species management, data and evidence management, climate adaptation strategies, and other conservation priorities.

Applicable Laws, Acts, and Orders

- *Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956*, as amended, (16 U.S.C 742(a)-754), establishes a comprehensive national fish and wildlife policy and authorizes the Secretary to take steps required for the development, management, advancement, conservation, and protection of fisheries resources and wildlife resources through research, acquisition of refuge lands, development of existing facilities, and other means.
- *Executive Order 13990*, “Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis” issued in January 2021, directs all executive departments and agencies to immediately review and, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law, take action to address the promulgation of Federal regulations and other actions during the last 4 years that conflict with national objectives, and to immediately commence work to confront the climate crisis.
- *Executive Order 14008*, “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad” issued in January 2021, directs climate considerations be an essential element of United States foreign policy and national security. The United States will work with other countries and partners to put the world on a sustainable climate pathway and build resistance against the impacts of climate change.
- *Presidential Memorandum*, “Restoring Trust in Government Through Scientific Integrity and Evidence-Based Policymaking” issued in January 2021, emphasizes the Administration's commitment to making evidence-based decisions and developing policies and programs that are guided by the best available scientific data.

Activity: Science Support

Subactivity: Adaptive Science

		2020 Actual	2021 Enacted Baseline	2022				Change from 2021 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Adaptive Science	(\$000)	10,517	10,517	+33	0	+12,300	22,850	+12,333
	FTE	7	7	0	0	+3	10	+3
Total, Adaptive Science	(\$000)	10,517	10,517	+33	0	+12,300	22,850	+12,333
	FTE	7	7	0	0	+3	10	+3

Summary of 2022 Program Changes for Adaptive Science

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Climate Science	+7,000	+3
• Conservation-Pollinators	+5,000	0
• Engaging Students in Conservation Science	+300	0
Program Changes	+12,300	+3

Program Overview

Science Applications is committed to providing critical science support to inform planning, monitoring, and evaluation work. Its non-regulatory nature allows it to be nimble, and therefore well-suited to assisting with both longstanding and emerging complex conservation issues. The program works with States, Tribes, and other partners to identify and address shared conservation priorities across the Country, understanding that different geographies, conservation challenges, and needs often require a tailored approach to optimize outcomes.

Through the Adaptive Science subactivity, the Service plays a national leadership role in the coordination and development of shared conservation priorities among partners by connecting lands and waters in support of species conservation, climate resiliency, and outdoor recreation. Local and grassroots efforts are often overlooked in their contribution to conservation. The Adaptive Science subactivity enables us to focus at different scales and tailor our approach to meet the needs of our partners. This subactivity provides for the development of scientific information, tools, and techniques that stakeholders can apply to anticipate, monitor, and adapt to environmental changes and their effects on fish, wildlife, plants and cultural resources. Adaptive Science supports the work with partners to design, identify, and deliver an ecologically connected network of landscapes and seascapes resilient to environmental threats, such as climate change. The output and subsequent outcomes of this work reflect the needs of the partners and the Service in that particular geography. Work often takes the form of LCDs, which serve as blueprints that guide partners in targeting their management efforts to areas of high conservation value.

Proposed Program Changes

The 2022 budget request for Adaptive Science is \$22,850,000 and 10 FTE, a program change of +\$12,300,000 and +3 FTE.

Climate Science (+\$7,000,000/+3 FTE)

With attention to social and environmental justice, Science Applications will revitalize and expand collaborative efforts with external partners to address climate change impacts at the landscape-level. The Program will work closely with State and Tribal wildlife managers, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and communities adjacent to National Wildlife Refuges, National Fish Hatcheries, and other public lands to identify shared science priority needs, support those needs, and develop high impact climate adaptation strategies. Science Applications will work with partners in a science support role to enhance collaborative landscape conservation designs, including the consistent incorporation of climate and ecological trajectory data to inform shared goal setting across geographic and political boundaries. Research will address climate stressors with goals that include increasing coastal resilience, mitigating desertification, and reducing uncontrolled wildfires. LCDs will also identify critical areas for management under the Administration's America the Beautiful initiative to ensure conservation of wildlife corridors and habitat connectivity in the face of a changing climate. Additionally, Science Applications will engage with States, Tribes, and non-governmental organizations on climate adaptation strategies for fish, wildlife, plants, and habitat. Science Applications will focus on the most significant issues raised by our partners to better integrate people, especially underrepresented communities, into climate adaptation efforts to conserve species and habitats.

Conservation-Pollinators (+\$5,000,000/0 FTE)

North America faces a pollinator crisis that impacts our natural ecosystems, our agricultural security, and the Nation's economy. Habitat loss and degradation, expansive pesticide use, and climate-driven impacts are causing increasing vulnerabilities and declining resiliency. Iconic species, like monarch butterfly and American bumblebee, have captured the public's attention. The list of at-risk pollinator species continues to grow. By mobilizing capacity, expertise, and partnerships, the Service will prioritize pollinator conservation to stabilize populations and ensure the sustained ecosystem and economic services that they provide. Results will benefit a broad array of trust resources, most notably declining migratory birds, provide benefits to a variety of sectors of society (including underrepresented communities), and contribute to climate change resiliency. Science Applications will also work in concert with partners and across Service programs to advance conservation of pollinators by: (1) advancing pollinator science including species range and distribution, population status and trends, and threats assessments, (2) strategic partnerships including expanding collaboration with States and Tribes, and (3) outreach and engagement that targets conservation agencies, private industry, and the public. Specifically, Science Applications will provide strategic direction and secure capacity to support partnerships with Tribes by working with the Tribal Alliance for Pollinators, implement projects through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Conservation Fund, and expand our scientific understanding of pollinators by working with the U.S. Geological Survey, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and other conservation science organizations. This investment will complement the work with the Refuge System, Natural Resource Program Center to invest in inventory and monitoring for pollinators on Service lands.

Engaging Students in Conservation Science (+\$300,000/0 FTE)

Conservation funding will seek to recruit students and recent graduates from minority and under-served communities to be conservation ambassadors within their communities. Interns will work with Service employees and leaders on landscape conservation projects that connect with or spark community actions that ultimately contribute to America the Beautiful efforts. This opportunity will provide interns with experience in conservation and help them explore potential careers in public service.

Key Examples and Accomplishments

Pollinators – State Conservation Planning for Monarchs

Science Applications worked with the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to develop the Mid-America Monarch Conservation Strategy and the subsequent Western Monarch Plan with the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. These planning efforts have helped empower State-led efforts to address the trend in declining monarch butterfly populations. Science Applications provides science leadership across North America, such as the Species Status Assessment Core Team, comprised of a diverse team of Service and State experts who assess the status of a species petitioned for possible listing under the Endangered



Monarch butterfly. Photo by USFWS.

Species Act. The program also provides support for the Monarch Conservation Science Partnership, a network of Service, USGS, AFWA, and Monarch Joint Venture scientists, working to coordinate and advance monarch science to inform regulatory decision making. Results from these efforts include numerous peer-reviewed scientific publications, models, land-use and landcover change scenarios, and geospatial tools that inform the Species Status Assessment, State-led planning efforts and a long-term monitoring strategy. Science Applications also supported a Structured Decision-Making workshop that produced a decision support tool to guide State planning efforts and related targets and priorities. Recent Service efforts focusing on the monarch butterfly offer a path forward for a broader effort with pollinators. For example, State-led planning efforts have mobilized conservation across millions of acres. A network of scientists has aligned across Federal and State governments, NGOs and academia, nationally and internationally, to advance a coordinated research portfolio and monitoring strategy at an unprecedented scale. Public-private partnerships have raised awareness and led to conservation outcomes across the Country. Nearly all sectors of society have engaged in meaningful ways, including numerous urban initiatives and rights-of-way efforts across the transportation and energy sectors, including the largest Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) ever completed. The benefits of these accomplishments extend far beyond monarch butterflies and our regulatory responsibilities, demonstrating the power of novel partnerships and innovations.

Supporting the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' President's Task Force on Shared Science and Landscape Conservation Priorities

Science Applications partnered with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and representatives from State wildlife agencies, the U.S. Geological Survey, and several NGOs to develop recommendations for strengthening cross-jurisdictional and regional science-based conservation partnerships, and using State wildlife action plans as frameworks for regional coordination and collaboration. These recommendations, which were adopted by AFWA and its member States, are now being implemented. Notably, Science Applications is a member of a multi-State workgroup to assess and develop recommendations for how State wildlife action plans can better contribute to landscape-scale conservation. The frameworks established through these efforts will allow the Service to rapidly respond to emerging opportunities to work with States and other Federal agencies on at-risk species conservation and shared science needs.

Invasive Annual Grasses and Fire in the Sagebrush Ecosystem

Infestations of invasive non-native grasses are ecosystem disruptors in sagebrush country. Fast to spread and hard to control, instances of invasion have reached historic rates. Fires are more frequent and intense when these grasses are present. There is an overwhelming need for pre- and post-fire restoration science that supports management, further prevents the spread of invasive plants, and addresses the challenges of climate change. Without intervention, invasive plant-driven catastrophic wildfires will continue to alter the sagebrush ecosystems.



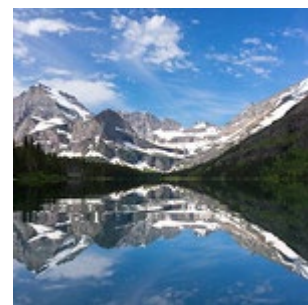
Greater sage-grouse. Photo by USFWS.

Building on years of partnerships, Science Applications provides strategic support for the science needed to actively manage the fire and invasives threat to the sagebrush landscapes, and to address needs for reducing and offsetting the impacts of climate change. Regional partnerships with groups such as Intermountain West Joint Venture and Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies help to identify key concerns related to the fire and invasive species threats through place-based investments relative to species-at-risk and management oriented for landscape success. The Natural Resources Conservation Service Cheatgrass Challenge and Western Governors' Association's Invasives Toolkit identified the need for effective proactive and preventative invasive species management while continuing fire mitigation measures.

A cross-regional Science Applications team developed a framework to address proactive management of invasive annual grasses using three critical science needs: (1) identify current and future threat of invasive annual grasses; (2) define management effectiveness to break the fire and invasives cycle; and (3) assess the cost/benefit of fuel breaks with invasion risk. The projects selected engage multiple partners and inform management of larger landscapes, are congruent with current collaborative management efforts, and benefit at-risk species. Science Applications continues to work with partners to help break the cycle of invasive grass infestations leading to damaging fires in an effort to conserve and restore the sagebrush ecosystem.

Crown of the Continent Landscape Conservation Design

Spanning the U.S. and Canada, the Crown of the Continent is a globally significant climate-change refuge comprised of 10 million acres of intact wildlife habitat. Science Applications works with the Crown Managers Partnership, provincial, State and Federal agencies, Tribes, and citizens to help bring science and planning efforts into a stakeholder-driven project to conserve wildlife, ecosystems, and cultural and economic priorities. The Crown LCD represents 42 stakeholder entities that are applying the best available spatial data, expert opinion, and Indigenous knowledge to design a holistic future. Spatial models are generated through data-derived mapmaking and then improved or validated by local, stakeholder knowledge. Maps will depict areas of conservation opportunity linked by corridors that support ecological processes and movements of wildlife and plants.



Crown of the Continent, Glacier National Park. Photo courtesy of Troy Smith/Creative Commons.

Madrean Landscape Conservation Design

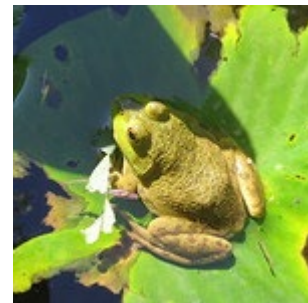
Conservation and recovery of at-risk species across the extremely diverse Madrean Archipelago region (also known as the Sky Island Region), located in southern Arizona and New Mexico and in northwestern Sonora and Chihuahua in Mexico, require coordination across several jurisdictions in both the U.S. and Mexico. In partnership with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Science Applications is developing an LCD for the Madrean Archipelago to prioritize opportunities for conservation agencies and organizations. The program is providing spatial analysis of ecological indicators, designing spatially explicit priority conservation challenges and adaptation strategies, developing case studies on these conservation actions, and identifying future science needs.



Sonoran desert tortoise. Photo courtesy of BLM.

Collaborative Conservation and Adaptation Strategy Toolbox

The Collaborative Conservation and Adaptation Strategy Toolbox (CCAST), coordinated by Science Applications and the Bureau of Reclamation, is a platform for collaborative conservation for Federal, State, non-profit, and private natural resource management agencies in the western United States. CCAST increases communication among the conservation community to advance the development of best management practices to achieve shared conservation goals. One of the main focuses has been non-native aquatic species control at the landscape-scale by developing context-specific decision-support tools and best management practices through a multi-agency community of practice. Science Applications provides the forum and management capacity for CCAST that allows State agencies to identify opportunities and geographies to leverage capacity and expertise to achieve compatible goals. Finally, because numerous academic institutions and U.S. Geological Survey scientists are engaged, this community of practice — a convening of natural resource partners that regularly interacts to learn how to more effectively conduct their work and achieve common goals — provides a platform for identification of key research needs related to priority non-native aquatic species and co-production of actionable science.



Invasive bullfrog. Photo courtesy of Johnida Dockens/CC.

Science Partnership in Support of Results-Oriented Grazing for Ecological Resilience (ROGER)

In early 2016, a group of Nevada ranchers with a proven track record of ecologically sound management across millions of acres of public and private lands in sagebrush habitats came together with various Federal and State agency leaders and staff. The goals were to seek solutions for adaptive management within current and impending sage-grouse land use plan amendments and improve ecological resilience, landscape health, and productivity. The Results Oriented Grazing for Ecological Resilience (ROGER) group continues to work together towards these goals. As a key partner in ROGER, Science Applications is coordinating science development and delivery with a research team consisting of university and agency scientists, State and Federal resource agencies, and ranchers to produce tools that support conservation-oriented management of sagebrush landscapes. Research, supported in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management, is being conducted at two primary research sites in northeast and central Nevada, and final products will apply to the southern Great Basin. So far, this multi-year research effort



Sagebrush. Photo by USFWS.

has produced a comprehensive database of vegetation monitoring data, advanced wildlife resource selection models incorporating rangeland ecology concepts, and developed geospatial products incorporating vegetation dynamics and land use information from cattle, wild horses, and sage-grouse across time and space to untangle complex interactions in sagebrush landscapes. Results will be used by ranchers and land managers to undertake actions that both keep working lands working and promote healthy sagebrush habitat.

Activity: Science Support

Subactivity: Service Science

		2020 Actual	2021 Enacted Baseline	2022				Change from 2021 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Service Science	(\$000)	6,750	6,750	+83	0	+6,750	13,583	+6,833
	FTE	13	13	0	0	+7	20	+7
Total, Service Science	(\$000)	6,750	6,750	+83	0	+6,750	13,583	+6,833
	FTE	13	13	0	0	+7	20	+7

Summary of 2022 Program Changes for Service Science

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Conservation Science	+3,500	+4
• Climate Science	+3,000	+3
• Zero Emission Vehicles	+250	+0
Program Changes	+6,750	+7

Program Overview

Scientific integrity and excellence are fundamental to the delivery of the bureau’s mission. Many of the threats to fish and wildlife resources that the agency works to manage or mitigate to maintain species at healthy, sustainable and desired levels come with gaps in knowledge that must be filled. Science Applications provides science support to ensure that Service programs are able to make informed decisions based on the best available science to support regulatory decisions, biological opinions, LCDS, and species and habitat conservation recommendations to land managers. Service Science provides Service programs with critical information that can improve decision-making for refuge management, endangered species listing and recovery, data management, and other activities that promote science excellence

Internally, Science Applications provides unique functions that support:

- (1) Specific resource management decision-making of Service programs (e.g., listing under the Endangered Species Act, National Wildlife Refuge land acquisition, and climate adaptation best management practices);
- (2) Linking and integrating independent management actions into a coordinated whole for species and ecosystem sustainability; and
- (3) Establishing science-based tools for at-risk species conservation in a non-regulatory context.

The Service partners with the U.S. Geological Survey, other Federal and State agencies, Tribes, universities, and scientific institutions for acquiring scientific knowledge to answer imminent and important natural resource management questions and provide near-term solutions to address urgent and emerging issues. Service Science funding is used to advance research, develop models, and secure scientific expertise to help managers interpret and apply the best science available. Priorities in this area include:

- North American pollinator conservation

- Climate adaptation and resilience
- Emerging wildlife health issues
- Data management
- At-Risk and Endangered Species recovery
- Pre-listing conservation partnerships with States
- Prevention and mitigation of invasive grasses and wildfires in the sagebrush ecosystem
- White-Nose Syndrome research, monitoring and outreach to save imperiled bats

Additionally, the Service's ability to provide rigorous scientific evidence for making critical conservation decisions rests on the quality and availability of our data and that of our partners. Statutory requirements for responsible data management include the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 and the Open, Public, Electronic, and Necessary (OPEN) Government Data Act of 2019 (also known as the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policy Making Act). These acts address the importance of sharing data, making it openly available and usable, and applying it to inform decision-making. The Science Support activity buttresses the Service's work of improving all aspects of data management to ensure the reliability, availability, and transparency of the agency's scientific information. Data stewardship and the monitoring of outcomes advances scientific understanding, helps adjust policies or operations, and ensures future decisions are evidence-based and made using the best available science.

Proposed Program Changes

The 2022 budget request for Service Science is \$13,583,000 and 20 FTE, a program change of +\$6,750,000 and +7 FTE.

Conservation Science (+\$3,500,000/+4 FTE)

Science Applications will develop or refine LCDs that: 1) support the revision of the Refuge System's Comprehensive Conservation Plans, and 2) provide scientific support for improved integration of Service lands and programs into shared landscape conservation priorities. Science Applications will provide science, geospatial technical capacity, and perform surveys to quantify abundance and distribution for at-risk species conservation efforts. This includes providing biological and data assistance for Species Status Assessments and convening innovative partnerships to address shared management challenges. Working with the Migratory Birds Program and external partners, Science Applications will support grassland conservation efforts and identify priority science and conservation needs to support the collaborative effort to bring back the 3 billion birds lost over the last half century. Working collaboratively within Service programs, Science Applications will tie together efforts with external partners and continue to build on collaborative conservation successes. Science Applications will also continue to model data excellence for the Service by improving our Science Catalog to provide collaborative conservation project and product data in a form that is discoverable, accessible, interoperable, and re-useable for all users. This includes developing a centralized, secure, metadata file storage system.

Climate Science (+\$3,000,000/+3 FTE)

The Nation is facing a biodiversity crisis with more than 1,600 endangered species and 12,000 species of greatest conservation need. A peer-reviewed study^a published in 2020 estimated that globally one-third of all species are at risk of extinction in the next fifty years due to climate change. Science Applications will work with Service programs to develop climate change adaptation and resilience strategies that will be

^a Román-Palacios, Cristian and John J. Wiens. Recent responses to climate change reveal the drivers of species extinction and survival. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Feb. 2020, 117 (8) 4211-4217; DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1913007117.

incorporated into management decisions to achieve long-term conservation objectives for habitats and at-risk species. In this science support role, we will continue to work seamlessly with the U.S. Geological Surveys' Climate Adaptation Science Centers (CASCS) and other Interior and science agencies to ensure climate science needs are fulfilled for Service programs in a timely manner. Science Applications distills climate research produced by the CASCS and others for natural resource managers to ensure the latest science and decision support tools are incorporated into Service management and conservation decisions. In partnership with others, Science Applications will also continue to develop and deliver training and technical assistance for climate adaptation and resilience projects, including Service infrastructure. In coordination with External Affairs, Science Applications will co-lead related strategic climate change communication efforts to (1) identify current and emerging climate change communication needs and opportunities across the Service, (2) create and implement a proactive national climate change communications strategy for the Service and corresponding toolkit for employees, and (3) coordinate climate change communication efforts with other bureaus and partners, as appropriate.

Zero Emission Vehicle Fleet Conversions (+\$250,000/0 FTE) – The 2022 budget includes funding to convert approximately one third of the Service's sedan fleet to zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) and provide approximately 130 charging stations and hydrogen fueling stations to support those vehicles and future ZEVs. This conversion will immediately reduce the Interior's contributions to greenhouse gas emissions and dependence upon hydrocarbons. The investment in infrastructure will support these new vehicles and ensure charging infrastructure is available for subsequent ZEVs. This project is being coordinated across Interior and with other agencies to maximize utility of charging and hydrogen fueling stations in areas where multiple agencies operate. The funding also supports a small planning and coordination function to effectively deploy the fleet and charging infrastructure.

Key Examples and Accomplishments

Service Science: Data Management

Scientific data are a cornerstone of the Service's work. The data employees collect throughout their careers inform decisions made by leadership. When properly collected and managed, this information is a testament to the bureau's scientific excellence and our commitment to our mission. In anticipation of emerging and recently released statutory standards and requirements, Science Applications and Information Resources and Technology Management (IRTM) proactively collaborated to provide the policy, guidance, and tools necessary to ensure the Service is a responsible public steward of sensitive and non-sensitive data. Accomplishments include the creation of the Service's updated Data Management policy ([274 FW1](#), *Data Management*), which defines Service data management



Data collection. Photo by USFWS.

requirements for all stages of the data lifecycle to ensure collected data are rigorous, discoverable, documented, accessible and secure. The Service's Data Standards policy, ([274, FW2](#)), has also been revised, and directs Service staff to use industry adopted data classification standards and only to develop new standards when no acceptable standards exist, while defining the required steps for new standards to be developed. Science Applications and IRTM, in concert with the Service's Data Management Governance Board, provide tools and resources via an internal SharePoint site to catalyze the adoption of data stewardship practices. Resources available to employees include, but are not limited to, the Data Management Handbook, a data plan template, links to informational webinars and ways to get involved in the Service data management community. Next steps include dedicating resources and authority to oversee and promote coordination of data management within the agency's many science programs, and to integrate

the Service's data assets with agencies and organizations in the Department, the Federal government, and our State, Tribal, and non-governmental partnerships.

Service Science: Focusing Wetland Conservation in Nebraska's Rainwater Basin

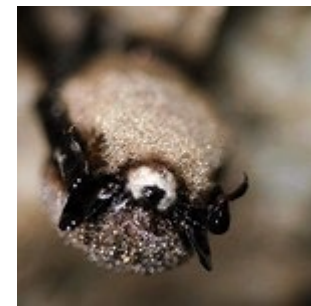
The Rainwater Basin Joint Venture, a partnership of Federal and State agencies, NGOs, agricultural producers, and other private landowners, works to conserve wetlands in Nebraska's mixed-grass prairies. This highly productive agricultural landscape provides crucial habitat for millions of migrating waterfowl and declining grassland bird species. Science Applications and other partners assisted the Joint Venture in understanding which wetland complexes and individual wetlands have the greatest potential to provide habitat during spring migration through the development of a prioritization tool. Using this tool, the partners allocate nearly \$4.5 million annually in wetland and grassland protection, restoration, and enhancement activities across 20,000 acres. Targeting funding to priority wetlands and associated grasslands in priority landscapes maximizes the probability that the Joint Venture's work will provide optimal habitat for species.



Blue-winged teal. Photo by USFWS.

Service Science: White-nose Syndrome in Bats

White-nose syndrome (WNS), a fungal disease that is killing and causing significant morbidity of hibernating bats is confirmed in 36 States and seven Canadian provinces with evidence of the causative fungus detected in four additional States. The Service developed the national WNS response plan as a multi-species recovery plan to address the conservation needs of all affected bat species and those at risk of being affected. Through implementation of the plan, the Service has built a strong multi-agency, international partnership to respond to the challenges to bat conservation posed by WNS. The majority of annual WNS funding is granted to State wildlife agencies, Tribes, and researchers to contain the spread, improve understanding of the pathogen and dynamics of the disease, and to develop tools to increase the survival of affected bat species and recovery of listed species. The remainder is used across Service Regions to cover coordination needs, communications projects, meetings with State and Federal partners, and to support implementation of the North American Bat Monitoring Program (NABat). The goal of the Service and partners remains to effectively manage WNS by preventing the spread of the disease, promoting survival, and helping the survivors through effective disease treatment so we can recover bat species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and preclude the need to list additional species in the future.



Little brown bat with white-nose syndrome. Photo by Jonathan Mays/Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

The collaborative, multi-agency model created to respond to WNS in North America has informed 1) response plans for other emerging wildlife diseases, 2) organizational processes and plans for disease surveillance and management, and 3) research priorities and objectives. Methodology developed for the NABat program was proposed to monitor populations of other wildlife species in the U.S., including the monarch butterfly. The Service's network, including partners in Canada and Mexico, is rapidly addressing concerns about the potential susceptibility of North American bats to the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2. The Service is working with the U.S. Geological Survey, State agencies, and other partners, to conduct a risk assessment to inform agency guidance around SARS-CoV-2.

Service Science: Collaborating with State Fish and Wildlife Agencies on Conservation of Wildlife

Trust responsibility for managing fish and wildlife uniquely lies with States, Tribes, and the Service. State fish and wildlife agencies have capacity and knowledge that can be harnessed to help the Service make more informed decisions to support regulatory decisions, biological opinions, LCDs, and species and habitat conservation recommendations to land managers. Science Applications provides funding to AFWA to identify and coordinate the science and research needs of State fish and wildlife agencies with those of the Service. In 2020, after years of building trust and collaborations, AFWA, Science Applications and partners for the first time developed a process for identifying shared science priorities for fish and wildlife conservation. States, AFWA leadership, Science Applications, regional partnerships and associations, as well as other Federal science agencies and bureaus, were surveyed to develop the first set of priorities, which Science Applications is currently advancing and supporting. These shared priorities include wildlife health, climate adaptation, invasive species, emerging technologies, and interjurisdictional cooperation (surveillance, management, assessment). With these five priority areas identified, Science Applications and AFWA are now asking Service managers and other partners what the most important aspects of each of these five priority areas are in order to further target the needed expertise and to direct shared resources to addressing the needs that are most important for wildlife conservation.

Service Science: Journal Access and Publication Support

Referencing peer-reviewed studies and other publications is a critical first step in any science or management project. Access to peer-reviewed research is often expensive and literature searches time consuming when having to perform searches journal-by-journal. To support the science of the Service and reduce individual costs, Science Applications provides funding to the Service's Conservation Library to manage bulk subscriptions to peer-reviewed journals in the biological sciences. Through the Conservation Library, Science Applications provides access to almost 5,000 journals. More than 300,000 unique searches are performed each year by Service staff.

Science Applications also supports the Service's own peer-review journal, the *Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management*. The *Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management* differs from traditional peer-review journals in that it does not require papers to allow for wide-scale inference, appeal to a broad audience, or be perceived as being novel. Similarly, the overarching goal of the journal is not to achieve a high scientific impact factor, but instead to publish rigorous applied science to meet the needs of the conservation community. The journal supports the confines of the Service's mission and work environment, recognizing that many employees focus on fairly narrow topics or specific management problems. The resulting products may be fundamentally sound, but not publishable in traditional peer-reviewed outlets because the topics or presentations are not sufficiently broad to appeal to editors of commercial journals. The *Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management* provides a mechanism for rigorous peer review, professional publication and wide dissemination of these types of scientific data and analyses, as well as more traditional applied conservation studies, and supports the dissemination of Service science and management.



Cover of the Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management.

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General Operations

Activity: General Operations

		2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022			Change from 2021 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal external Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Central Office Operations	(\$000) FTE	20,758 292	25,758 104	+608 0	0	+6,400 +22	32,766 126	+7,008 +22
Management and Administration	(\$000) FTE	49,166 423	44,166 651	+3,144 0	0	+12,847 +51	60,157 702	+15,991 +51
Servicewide Bill Paying	(\$000) FTE	35,770 20	35,748 2	+416 0	0	+8,503 0	44,667 2	+8,919 0
Aviation	(\$000) FTE	3,237 5	3,237 5	+18 0	0	0 0	3,255 5	+18 0
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	(\$000) FTE	7,022 1	7,022 1	0 0	0	+2,000 0	9,022 1	+2,000 0
National Conservation Training Center	(\$000) FTE	26,014 100	26,014 100	+441 0	0	+4,000 +6	30,455 106	+4,441 +6
Total, General Operations	(\$000) FTE	141,967 841	141,945 863	+4,627 0	0	+33,750 +79	+180,322 942	+38,377 +79

Summary of 2022 Program Changes for General Operations

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• External Affairs	+2,000	+15
• Native American Programs Coordination	+2,000	+5
• Diversity and Inclusive Workforce Management	+1,400	+2
• Regional Directors	+1,000	0
• Joint Administrative Operations	+6,697	+40
• Information Resources and Technology Management	+6,000	+10
• Zero Emission Vehicle Management	+150	+1
• Servicewide Bill Paying	+8,503	0
• National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	+2,000	0
• NCTC Operations	+2,000	+4
• NCTC Annual Maintenance	+2,000	+2
Program Changes	+33,750	+79

Program Mission

The General Operations Program provides the management and support that allows the Service’s programmatic activities and organizations to accomplish their goals and mission. Primarily, it provides headquarters, regions, and field offices with the resources and support services (e.g., human resources, finance, leadership, information management, etc.) needed to carry out the work of the Service to benefit the American people. General Operations also ensures that the Service is in compliance with legal, regulatory, and Departmental policies for all administrative areas and functions.

Program Elements

Five subactivities comprise the General Operations Program:

- Central Office Operations – Headquarters offices provide the Service with the leadership, strategic direction, and necessary resources to accomplish mission priorities and goals. The offices included in this sub-activity include the following: Office of the Director; Office of Diversity and Inclusive Workforce Management, External Affairs, Native American Coordination Office; Regional Directors Offices; and Document Tracking/Controlled Correspondence. These functions include policy development and implementation led by Senate-confirmed and Administration-appointed officials; implementation of equal employment opportunity and diversity programs; coordination of Service contact with Native American Tribes; communications and outreach, and correspondence and document tracking.
- Management and Administration –The Assistant Director for Management and Administration is responsible for the Joint Administrative Operations function which oversees Budget and Performance; Human Resources; Acquisition and Property Management, Safety; and Risk Management and Analytics. The Service recently restructured such that functions that require extensive training, certification (e.g., contracting warrants), or specialized knowledge (e.g., personnel policies and authorities) are centralized for cost and operational efficiencies. Also funded in this subactivity, the Agency Chief Information Officer (ACIO) supervises Information Resources and Technology Management and cybersecurity.
- Servicewide Bill Paying – This subactivity provides a means to centrally budget and pay for nationwide operational support and infrastructure costs that the Service incurs in the course of accomplishing its mission. A non-exhaustive list of expenses paid from this subactivity include Information Technology (IT) and communication needs, payments to the DOI Working Capital Fund (WCF), mail delivery and distribution, and some printing.
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) – NFWF runs a competitive challenge grant program with a statutory non-Federal matching requirement of 1:1 for all awards of federally appropriated funds. However, in recent years the non-Federal match has been closer to 3:1, multiplying the impact of the Service’s funding for on-the-ground conservation projects.
- National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) – Opened in 1997 and located on 533 acres along the Potomac River in Shepherdstown, WV, NCTC is the Service’s primary training facility. In addition to training Service employees, NCTC provides training on a reimbursable basis to conservation professionals from DOI, other Federal, State and local governments, not-for-profit conservation organizations, private landowners and the business community. In this way, NCTC programs expand their reach and impact and help Service professionals build collaborative partnerships for conservation.

Activity: General Operations
Subactivity: Central Office Operations

		2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022			Change from 2020 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Central Office	(\$000)	20,758	25,758	+608	0	+6,400	32,766	+7,008
Operations	FTE	292	104	0	0	+22	126	+22

Summary of 2022 Program Changes for Central Office Operations

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• External Affairs	+2,000	+15
• Native American Programs Coordination	+2,000	+5
• Diversity and Inclusive Workforce Management	+1,400	+2
• Regional Directors	+1,000	0
Program Changes	+6,400	+22

Justification of 2022 Program Changes

The 2022 budget request for Central Office Operations is \$32,766,000 and 126 FTE, a program change of +\$6,400,000 and +22 FTE from the 2021 Enacted.

External Affairs Program (+\$2,000,000/+15 FTE)—The budget increase will allow the Service’s External Affairs program to add critical communications capacity in the headquarters and regional offices to support the Administration’s priorities. This funding is critical to ensure timely and accurate communications with Congress, States, stakeholders, and the general public, as well as manage internal communications on high profile issues and improvements such as the Service’s diversity and inclusion efforts. Increased staff capacity is needed in emerging areas related to internal communications, social media, web publishing, and digital communications as well.

Native American Coordination Office (+\$2,000,000/+5 FTE) —On January 26, 2021, as one of his first executive actions, President Biden issued a Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships. In it, President Biden established as an Administration priority to respect Tribal sovereignty and self-governance; commit to fulfilling Federal trust and treaty responsibilities to Tribal Nations; and engage in regular, meaningful, and robust consultation with Tribal Nations, which are cornerstones of Federal Indian policy. The Department ardently supports that priority. Regular, meaningful, and robust consultation is an expression of respect for Tribal sovereignty and self-governance, and is both necessitated by and integral to fulfilling Federal trust and treaty responsibilities to Tribes. The program increases will provide an ability to hire two new staff, who will support the National Native American Affairs Programs Office. In addition to establishing greater internal support, the Program intends to use most of the increased funding for regional work with Tribes, enhancing government-to-government interactions. Three additional employees will be located in Regional Offices in areas with a large Tribal presence.

Diversity and Inclusive Workforce Management (+1,400,000/+2 FTE) —The Service budget includes \$1.4 million as part of a Departmentwide Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility budget initiative to address identified high-priority needs in support of Executive Order 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government, and Executive Order 13988, Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation. As part

of this initiative, the Department, bureaus, and offices will jointly conduct a review of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility program across Interior to identify gaps, challenges, and best practices and to examine Department and bureau roles, responsibilities, and governance. These funds will also bolster the Service's ability to support the planning, delivery, and oversight of strategic and measurable actions under the agency's Diversity and Inclusion Implementation Plan. The plan is focused on employee engagement, barrier analysis and removal, and targeted recruitment. The investment in the Diversity Program will improve diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in the Service, building a workforce that fully represents the people and communities we serve, and creating work environments where all employees feel enabled and inspired to succeed.

Regional Directors Offices (+1,000,000/+0 FTE) —The Service's eight Regional Directors oversee the day-to-day field operations of the Service, leading more than 7,000 highly-skilled biologists, maintenance workers, law enforcement officers, and an array of additional talented personnel. They are the means through which the Service advances conservation and engages the public and partners, and implements the Administration's priorities. This increase will provide \$125,000 per region to cover additional costs of leading a workforce with almost 1,000 new members, and increased challenges presented by increasing threats to our resources from climate change and other factors.

Program Overview

The Service's Central Office Operations provide leadership, strategic direction, and organizational management required to accomplish mission priorities and goals. These functions include policy provision from Administration-appointed officials, implementation of equal employment opportunity, coordination of Service contact with Native American Tribes, and communications and outreach.

Office of the Director, which includes the Director, Deputy Director, and staff specialists, provides policy direction and support for program and management activities of the Service. Goals for this office include promoting a national network of lands and waters for conserving fish and wildlife; protecting endangered species, migratory birds and inter-jurisdictional fish; and facilitating partnerships to conserve fish and wildlife for present and future generations.

Diversity and Inclusive Workforce Management delivers required equal employment opportunity (EEO) programs, including affirmative employment, public civil rights, and EEO complaints, along with programs and services to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion in the Service. The Service Diversity office is a part of the Department Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility effort to address high-priority needs in support of Executive Order 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government, and Executive Order 13988, Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation.

External Affairs (EA) oversees and coordinates the communications activities of the Service, including internal communications, public affairs, media services, congressional and legislative affairs, partnerships, webpage development, policy and compliance, printing and publishing, and multimedia communications.

Native American Programs Coordination serves as a key point of contact for Native American Tribes and works to expand the Service's capacity to work cooperatively with Tribes to further the Service's conservation mission.

Regional Directors (RDs) advise the Service Director, lead the Service's field staff, manage the conservation of our lands and the administration of our programs in the field, and develop recommendations on national and regional policies, plans, and procedures. In addition, the RDs serve as liaisons to State, local and Tribal governments, civic and interest groups, and the public within their geographic jurisdictions.

Correspondence/Document Tracking. The Department uses DTS to assign correspondence for action, route correspondence to officials for their review and concurrence, and track correspondence and other packages. Developed by the Service, DTS is used across all bureaus of the Department.

2022 Program Activities and Performance

- Provide the Service with the leadership, strategic direction, and technical expertise to accomplish mission priorities and goals.
- Provide policy direction and implementation guidance for the entire Service.
- Support the Administration's priorities for public civil rights, diversity, equity, and inclusion and implementing equal employment opportunity laws and directives; and the implementation of the Service's Diversity and Inclusion Implementation Plan.
- Coordinate Service consultation with Native American Tribes.
- Coordinate communications and outreach efforts across the organization
- Develop and implement communications policies and guidelines for Service employees.
- Provide strategic direction on significant, complex, and controversial issues.

Activity: General Operations**Subactivity: Management and Administration**

		2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022			Change from 2021 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Management and Administration	(\$000)	49,166	44,166	+3,144	0	+12,847	60,157	+15,991
	FTE	423	651	0	0	0	702	+51

Summary of 2022 Program Changes for Management and Administration

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Joint Administrative Operations	+6,697	+40
• Information Resources and Technology Management	+6,000	+10
• Zero Emission Vehicle Management	+150	+1
Program Changes	+12,847	+51

Justification of 2022 Program Changes

The 2022 budget request for Management and Administration is \$60,157,000 and 702 FTE, a program change of +\$12,847,000 and +51 FTE from the 2021 Enacted.

Joint Administrative Operations (+\$6,697,000/+40 FTE) — The Assistant Director for Management and Administration (M&A) leads the Joint Administrative Operations (JAO), a national organization that provides standardized administrative support services for the Service. Increases for M&A/JAO will support expedited services by our human resources, contracting and safety divisions, to allow for timelier provision of assistance to programs. Providing personnel to programs through the HR function, and letting contracts for priority conservation projects through the acquisition program contribute directly to meeting the Service's mission. With the growth of Service function and responsibilities over the years, the administrative functions have lagged behind, causing backlogs in contracting, hiring and other functions essential to mission success. This increase recognizes that the Service needs the behind the scenes support of staff in these essential functions to effectively deliver conservation, customer service, and collaboration with partners around the country. The substantial increases in the Service's request this year will require almost 1,000 staff to be hired, a significantly greater amount to be awarded in grants, and increases in construction and maintenance funds to be awarded to contractors. To successfully achieve the Administration goals to address climate change and create good-paying jobs in conservation, accompanying increases to necessary administrative functions are also requested. With additional resources across the Service, ensuring there is adequate support to meet mission needs is critical and will ensure success in delivering the Administration's priorities.

Information Resources and Technology Management (+\$6,000,000/ +10 FTE) — Scientific information management, whether of data collected from environmental sensors, generated through analysis of genomes, multiple layers of geospatial data, or Internet of Things devices, all rely on hardware, software, and networks that enable scientists, analysts, and supporting personnel to communicate effectively with each other and with external data and computational resources.

IRTM has identified additional staff requirements to assist the Service's mission staff in gathering the right data so that it is discoverable, documented, accessible, and secure. Enabling proper data management helps ensure the Service delivers meaningful contributions to climate change research, mitigation, and adaptation strategies; assists with prioritizing measuring success of the 30 by 30 initiative; and maintains balance

between conservation and economic development on the lands we steward for the public. Our ability to provide the best scientific information, along with recommendations for critical conservation decisions, rests on the quality and availability of Service data. In our vision for data management, we committed to developing and procuring the necessary capabilities, technology, and equipment to ensure Service data can be used and retained to make effective and transparent decisions.

The Service seeks to better align IT and data operations and analysis with overarching climate and conservation goals. The Service is taking an integrated approach to strengthening capacity that supports these program goals. This strategy is designed with multiple tiers: obtaining additional geospatial datasets, analytical tools, and expertise to enable development of an integrated national lands dataset; strengthening the analytical infrastructure through greater access to cloud-based scientific computing, storage, workflow, and computational tools; and enhancing data management capabilities to assist staff in gathering the right data so that it is discoverable, documented, accessible, and secure. This integrated approach is designed to ensure that data, analytical tools, and staff expertise support priority initiatives with accessible, transparent, and repeatable processes that are timely and relevant for enabling program priorities.

Zero Emission Vehicle Fleet Conversions (+\$150,000 / +1 FTE)-- The 2022 budget includes funding to convert approximately one third of the Service's sedan fleet to zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) and provide approximately 130 charging stations and hydrogen fueling stations to support those vehicles and future ZEVs. This conversion will immediately reduce the Interior's contributions to greenhouse gas emissions and dependence upon hydrocarbons. The investment in infrastructure will support these new vehicles and ensure charging infrastructure is available for subsequent ZEVs. This project is being coordinated across Interior and with other agencies to maximize utility of charging and hydrogen fueling stations in areas where multiple agencies operate. The funding also supports a small planning and coordination function to effectively deploy the fleet and charging infrastructure. Funding in this subactivity would fund a position to support ZEV Charging and Infrastructure Management Integration.

Program Overview

Joint Administrative Operations

The JAO provides administrative support to Service programs, providing services essential to achieving conservation outcomes on the ground. JAO includes Budget and Performance, which formulates, justifies, coordinates and executes the over \$3.6 billion budget for the Service. Acquisition Management covers contracting, personal property and fleet and space management. Economics, Analytics, and Risk Management coordinates OIG/GAO audits, Federal Register notices, and information collection; enterprise risk management; economic analysis; and enterprise analytics. Finance covers travel and charge card oversight; payments & collections; financial statements and real property. The Human Resources function covers hiring, compensation and benefits, employee relations, and personnel security. The Safety Office covers safety and occupational health, workers compensation and tort claims.

Information Resources and Technology Management

The IRTM is responsible for the development of policy and Service-wide guidance on information management and information technology practices impacting a myriad of business management and operational activities within the Service; and for directing, formulating, and managing Service-wide Information Management and Technology functions and resources that enable the Service to achieve its mission.

The IRTM is led by an Assistant Director that also serves as the Bureau Associate Chief Information (ACIO) and represents the Service as an active member of the DOI Chief Information Officer's Information Management and Technology Leadership Team. The components of IRTM include Operations, Policy and Planning, Freedom of Information Act, Data Management, and Cybersecurity and Privacy. These

components encompass the full spectrum of information management and technology services to include customer support, infrastructure management, requirements processing, governance, strategic planning, geospatial services, application development and records management. The ACIO also manages the IT Investment Portfolio on behalf of the Service, manages IT acquisitions, and ensures compliance with the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA).

2022 Program Activities

- Provide human resources support for headquarters and regional offices.
- Provide safety and occupational health support for the entire Service.
- Coordinate budget formulation, presentation, and execution.
- Provide finance, acquisition, and contracting management.
- Provide IT leadership, resources, and support for Headquarters and the regions.
- Coordinate IT policy development, capital planning, records management, and FOIA responsibilities.
- Maintain effective cybersecurity operations, risk management, and compliance.
- Provide management of IT operations throughout the Service.

Activity: General Operations

Subactivity: Servicewide Bill Paying

		2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022			Change from 2021 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Servicewide Bill	(\$000)	35,770	35,748	+416	0	+8,503	44,667	+8,919
Paying	FTE	20	2	0	0	0	2	0

Summary of 2022 Program Changes Servicewide Bill Paying

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Working Capital Fund	+2,303	0
• Communications, Information Technology and Security	+5,200	0
• Miscellaneous Reimbursable Support Agreements	+566	0
• Workers Compensation	+280	0
• Unemployment Compensation	+154	0
Program Changes	+8,503	0

Justification of 2022 Program Changes

The 2022 budget request for Servicewide Bill Paying is \$44,667,000 and 2 FTE, a program change of +\$8,503,000 and 0 FTE from the 2021 Enacted.

Communications, Information Technology and Security (+\$5,200,000 / 0 FTE)—As a geographically distributed organization of over 600 networked locations, FWS relies heavily on a dependable, secure, and a flexible network to ensure robust agency communications and that data-intensive program requirements are supported by state-of-the-art data transfer, cloud computing, and storage technologies. This investment includes funding to meet increased demands for network bandwidth to support operational activities and program efficiency while serving as a catalyst for collection, storage, analysis, transfer, and archiving of mission-critical scientific data. By leveraging cloud computing, FWS can better support diverse scientific computing, storage, workflow, analytical, and data sharing requirements of scientific and administrative activities. Such capabilities directly support program requirements noted above through enhanced capabilities for Geospatial data creation, acquisition, and analysis that is a critical component of the FWS mission.

For communications demands beyond the networked infrastructure, modernization of key components of critical land mobile radio services communications infrastructure is needed to meet program demands for dependable communications systems. These investments will enhance the radio coverage, communications reliability, and safety for natural resources, law enforcement, and wildland fire personnel.

Cybersecurity funding will enhance FWS capabilities for network security detection and monitoring systems and strengthen the ability to respond to network activity. This investment will advance the capability of FWS to proactively catch initial intrusions rather than allow them to fester and grow in capability on our systems over months without being noticed. This increase in capability will reduce risk for all of our systems and increase the ability of IRTM to offer unique services our customers need without greatly increasing risk due to lack of resources to support unique needs. Specifically, this will allow FWS to increase monitoring, threat hunting, system documentation and risk management capability while also adding additional security protection capabilities to our systems. Adding these capabilities for improved network visibility and ability to detect and respond to malicious actors will provide necessary capacity to detect and respond to potential actions by well-funded threat actors.

Working Capital Fund (+\$2,303,000 / 0 FTE) - This funding accounts for differences between FY 2021 appropriations and actual requirements to ensure the Service can fund necessary expenses without program funding assessments.

Miscellaneous Reimbursable Support Agreements (+\$566,000 / 0 FTE)—This increase provides full funding for other RSAs to support the Employee Assistance Program, administration of the Flexible Spending Plan, and storage services provided by the National Archives and Records Administration.

Worker's Compensation (+\$280,000 / 0 FTE) – This funding accounts for differences between FY 2021 appropriations and actual requirements to ensure the Service can fund necessary expenses without program funding assessments.

Unemployment Compensation (+\$154,000 / 0 FTE) - This funding accounts for differences between FY 2021 appropriations and actual requirements to ensure the Service can fund necessary expenses without program funding assessments.

Program Overview

The Servicewide Bill Paying subactivity covers bills received by the Service for charges by the Department or other outside entities. These are fixed costs that the Service must cover.

Communications, Information Technology, and Security

Expenses in this category include payments for domestic and international network services; costs associated with land, wireless, radio, and satellite communications; Certification and Accreditation (C&A) costs for IT systems; providing security for IT systems; and improving compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements.

DOI Working Capital Fund (WCF)

The Department of the Interior provides centralized administrative and business services and systems to Interior bureaus and offices and to other customers. The Service request includes funding for its portion of the WCF bill.

Servicewide Workers' Compensation and Unemployment Compensation Costs

Workers' compensation includes costs of compensating injured employees and dependents of employees who suffer accidental deaths while on duty. Unemployment compensation costs represent the estimated annual costs of paying unemployment compensation claims.

Postage

Expenses in this category include contract charges for intra-agency and Departmental courier and mailroom services.

Printing

Despite having reduced printing costs through the use of electronic media over printed publications, the Service still incurs costs for printing copies of certain documents, such as the Code of Federal Regulations, Congressional Bills and Hearings, Federal Register indexes and related documents, and all employee products produced by the Office of Personnel Management which must remain available as hard copies.

Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks (AS-FWP)

The Service contributes funding to cover costs of salary, benefits, and travel for certain personnel under the Assistant Secretary for activities directly related to the Service.

Reimbursable Support Agreements

Expenses in this category relate to support services provided by the Department and external agencies. Examples include the Employee Assistance Program, administration of the Flexible Spending Plan, and storage services provided by the National Archives and Records Administration.

Memberships

This funds the Service's memberships and participation in professional, scientific, conservation, and other organizations that share the Service's priorities.

2022 Program Activities

- Provide IT leadership, resources, and to support FWS program priorities
- Maintain effective cybersecurity operations, risk management, and compliance.
- Provide effective and efficient management of IT operations throughout the Service.
- Support worker's compensation and unemployment compensation payments.
- Manage payments for DOI Working Capital Fund and other DOI bills.

Activity: General Operations
Subactivity: Aviation Management

		2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022			Change from 2021 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Aviation (\$000)		3,237	3,237	+18	0	0	3,255	+18
Management FTE		5	5	0	0	0	5	0

Program Overview

The safety and training oversight of the Fish and Wildlife Service's fleet of planes and pilots is the responsibility of the National Aviation Management Branch, previously managed within the Migratory Bird program. The Assistant Director of the Migratory Bird Program serves the agency's Aviation Executive overseeing this Branch and represents the Service as a voting member of the DOI's Executive Aviation Committee, which is responsible for developing the aviation policy. Additionally, the Branch is responsible for the Service's Aviation Fire program, Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) program development within DOI, and the Service's Emergency Management for aviation incidents.

The Branch administers all Service aircraft acquisitions and vendor contracts. The Service has identified and is implementing six priorities that will immediately improve the Service's Aviation Enterprise: Automated Flight Following, Crew Resource Management, Improved Pilot Training Program, Standardized Risk Assessment Processes, Aviation Management Communications, and a Kodiak Aircraft Training Plan.

2022 Program Activities

Aviation Management – The 2022 request for the Service-wide Aviation Management Program supports the Service's continued efforts to improve aviation safety, training for pilots and aerial observers, and provide critical oversight of aviation operations at the national level. Funding enables Service Fleet Pilots to transport staff and materials to remote sites in the National Wildlife Refuge System, conduct biological monitoring and surveys critical to informing conservation efforts, and participate in prescribed fires that help prevent or mitigate wildland fires on Federal land. The Aviation Management Program is also the Service's lead on developing policy and procedures on the use of UAS.

Activity: General Operations
Subactivity: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

		2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021			Change from 2020 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	(\$000)	7,022	7,022	0	0	+2,000	9,022	+2,000
	FTE	1	1	0	0	0	1	0

Summary of 2022 Program Changes for National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	+2,000	0
Program Changes	+2,000	0

Justification of 2022 Program Changes

The 2022 budget request for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is \$9,022,000 and 1 FTE, a program change of +\$2,000,000 and 0 FTE from the 2021 Enacted.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (+\$2,000,000/ +0 FTE)—The requested funding will provide additional competitive grants to State, local, non-profit, and private organizations. NFWF will use this funding to leverage additional resources from corporations, foundations, and conservation partners. The funds will be invested in outcome-focused grant programs guided by conservation business plans developed in partnership with the Service. These projects will be focused on conservation efforts supporting the America the Beautiful Initiative.

Program Overview

The NFWF runs a competitive challenge grant program with a statutory non-Federal matching requirement of 1:1 for all federally-appropriated dollars that NFWF awards. In recent years NFWF has averaged a 3:1 match. All grantee matching funds are non-Federal funds provided in cash or as in-kind services. NFWF uses the funding to leverage additional commitments of resources from corporations, foundations, and conservation partners. The funds are invested through outcome-focused grant programs guided by conservation business plans developed in partnership with the Service. Individual projects are reviewed by diverse outside reviewers (e.g., Federal, State, non-profit, educational and private sector), NFWF, and the Service.

2022 Program Activities

- Provide funding to State, local, non-profit, and private organizations for conservation and management of fish, wildlife, and plant resources through the grant process.

Activity: General Operations**Subactivity: National Conservation Training Center**

		2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022			Change from 2021 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
National Conservation Training Center	(\$000)	26,014	26,014	+441	0	+4,000	30,455	+4,441
	FTE	100	100	0		+6	106	+6

Summary of 2022 Program Changes for National Conservation Training Center

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• NCTC Operations	+2,000	+4
• NCTC Annual Maintenance	+2,000	+2
Program Changes	4,000	+6

Justification of 2022 Program Changes

The 2022 budget request for the National Conservation Training Center is \$30,455,000 and 106 FTE, a program change of +\$4,441,000 and 6 FTE from the 2021 Enacted.

Operations – Youth and Careers in Nature (+\$2,000,000/+4 FTE)—This funding will allow the Service to continue to provide training opportunities to internal as well as external partner audiences. NCTC will expand the infrastructure necessary to implement the Civilian Climate Corps (CCC) and the Indian Youth Service Corps (IYSC) training programs. Staffing, direct partnership support, as well as, reporting and tracking systems will be developed. The CCC and IYSC will leverage existing partnerships and be coordinated at the highest level to build back communities better by providing participants with a livable wage and practice targeted recruitment strategies to advance racial equality to build the next generation of conservation stewards.

Annual Maintenance (+\$2,000,000/+2 FTE) —The request will allow the Service to maintain and expand day-to-day operational maintenance at the 533-acre campus. Funding would allow the NCTC to implement a life-cycle maintenance strategy to eliminate the maintenance project backlog, increase the level of preventive and restorative maintenance work, and allow for important upgrades to campus energy, mechanical, control systems and classroom technology on our 400,000 square foot campus.

Program Overview

Opened in 1997 and located on 533 acres along the Potomac River in Shepherdstown, WV, NCTC is the Service's primary training facility. In addition to training Service employees, NCTC provides training on a reimbursable basis to conservation professionals from DOI, other Federal, State, and local governments, not-for-profit conservation organizations, private landowners and the business community. In this way, NCTC programs expand their reach and impact to help Service professionals build collaborative partnerships for conservation.

NCTC will deliver approximately 180 annual onsite training sessions and provide over 1,500 on-line courses and training modules to employees. NCTC supports the FWS with approximately 1,500 inter-library loan requests and over 300,000 scientific journal searches. NCTC also preserves the history and heritage of the Service by collecting, interpreting, and disseminating the history of the Service and

American conservation. The NCTC Museum and Archives helps the public, researchers, and professional conservationists to better understand the rich history of American wildlife conservation by managing over 500,000 objects. NCTC serves as a place where the Service and our partners come together to help solve the urgent conservation challenges facing our Nation.

NCTC is currently working both internally and with State, Federal, and NGO partners to provide training opportunities such as the Director's Fellows Program, which sponsored 112 students in 2020 and is preparing for 130 in 2021, and the Native Youth Community Adaption and Leadership Congress. The Service is committed to developing and providing science-based curriculum in support of a diverse and inclusive workforce that supports our conservation mission, addresses climate change, and supports cultural differences, generational changes, and racial equity.

2022 Program Activities

- Provides training opportunities for the Service, DOI and other Federal and non-Federal partners in conservation policies and regulations, applied landscape conservation, climate science, leadership and management, partnerships and communications.
- Advances climate change partnerships, recruitment strategies, training programs, and career pathways to green jobs.
- Provides leadership development and training in Diversity and Inclusion in support of cultural differences, generational changes, and racial equity.

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CONSTRUCTION

Appropriations Language

For construction, improvement, acquisition, or removal of buildings and other facilities required in the conservation, management, investigation, protection, and utilization of fish and wildlife resources, and the acquisition of lands and interests therein; [~~\$18,193,000~~]~~\$39,620,000~~, to remain available until expended. (Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2021.)

Applicable Laws, Acts, and Orders

The Service has the legal mandate and responsibility to ensure its inventory of assets, facilities, and infrastructure is safe and adequate to accomplish its conservation mission and that operations are conducted in compliance with applicable regulations. More than 19 laws, statutes, and executive orders govern what the Construction program must do with the funding it receives from Congress. Governing authorities are discussed below.

Refuge Recreation Act (16 U.S.C. 460k-460k-4). Authorizes development of fish and wildlife areas for recreational use, including land acquisition and facilities construction and management.

National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee). Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to award contracts for the provision of public accommodations of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 715-715d, 715e, 715f-715r). Provides for land acquisition, construction, maintenance, development, and administration for migratory bird reservations.

Fish and Wildlife Act (16 U.S.C. 742a-742f). Authorizes the development, management, advancement, conservation, and protection of fish and wildlife resources, including the acquisition and development of existing facilities.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 9601-9675). Authorizes Federal agencies to conduct cleanup and/or recover costs associated with releases of hazardous substances on or from land under our jurisdiction, custody, or control.

Federal Facilities Compliance Act (42 U.S.C. 6961). Requires Federal agencies to comply with Federal, State, and local solid and hazardous waste laws in the same manner as any private party.

Pollution Prevention Act, (42 U.S.C. 13101, 13101 note, 13102-13109), as amended by P.L. 101-508. Requires pollution that cannot be prevented at the source to be recycled in an environmentally sound manner and disposal as a last resort.

Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act (42 U.S.C. 7701 -7706). Establishes an earthquake hazards reduction program.

National Dam Safety Program Act (33 U.S.C. 467). Provides for Federal agencies to implement the Federal Guidelines for Dam Safety, which established management practices for dam safety at all Federal agencies.

National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8152-8259). Establishes an energy management program in the Federal government and directs Federal agencies to perform energy surveys and implement energy conservation opportunities to reduce consumption of nonrenewable energy resources in buildings, vehicles, equipment, and general operations.

Energy Policy Act (EPAAct) (P.L. 109-58). Extends previous Congressional direction to Federal facility managers with even greater goals of energy efficiency improvements in existing and new facilities, mandates increased use of renewable energy sources, sustainable building design and construction, metering of all Federal buildings, and procurement of Energy Star equipment. This legislation contains energy efficiency tax credits and new ways to retain energy savings.

Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) (P.L. 110-140). Intends to move the United States toward greater energy independence and security; increase production of clean renewable fuels; protect consumers; increase the efficiency of products, buildings, and vehicles; promote research on and deploy greenhouse gas capture and storage options; and improve the energy performance of the Federal Government.

(16 U.S.C. 695k-695r). Provides for limitations on reduction of areas by diking or other construction in California and Oregon in the case of migratory waterfowl and other refuges, as well as other construction provisions.

(16 U.S.C. 760-760-12). Provides for the construction, equipping, maintenance, and operation of several named fish hatcheries.

(23 U.S.C. 144 and 151). Requires bridges on public highways and roads to be inspected.

Executive Orders

Presidential Memorandum of October 4, 1979. Directs all Federal agencies to adopt and implement the Federal Guidelines for Dam Safety as prepared by the Federal Coordinating Council for Science, Engineering, and Technology. (Secretary of the Interior Order No. 3048, implements and assigns responsibility for a Department-wide dam safety program in accordance with the President's memorandum.)

Executive Order 12088, Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards (October 13, 1978). Requires agencies to ensure that facilities comply with applicable pollution control standards; ensure that sufficient funds for environmental compliance are requested in their budgets; and include pollution control projects in an annual pollution abatement budget plan.

Executive Order 13717, Establishing a Federal Earthquake Risk Management Standard (February 2016). Updates performance goals to strengthen the security and resilience of the Nation against earthquakes, to promote public safety, economic strength, and national security. New

Implementation Guidelines (January 2017) provide Federal agencies with clarifying guidance for implementing Executive Order 13717.

Executive Order 13834, Efficient Federal Operations (May 17, 2018). This EO was revoked by *Executive Order on Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis* (January 20, 2021), except for sections 6, 7, and 11, which address the roles and responsibilities of the Chief Sustainability Officer.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Construction Justification of Fixed Costs and Internal Realignments <i>(Dollars In Thousands)</i>		
Fixed Cost Changes and Projections	2021 Total or Change	2021 to 2022 Change
Change in Number of Paid Days This column reflects changes in pay associated with the change in the number of paid days between 2021 and 2022, which is the same number of paid days in both 2021 and 2022.	-27	+0
Pay Raise The President's Budget for FY2022 includes one quarter of a planned 1% pay raise and three quarters of a planned 2.7% for 2022.	+107	+125
Employer Share of Federal Employee Retirement System The change reflects a 1.1% (and 1.8% for Law Enforcement) increase in the employer contribution to the Federal Employee Retirement System.	+65	+44
Internal Realignments and Non-Policy/Program Changes (Net-Zero)	2022 (+/-)	
Line-Item Construction This moves funds from Deferred Maintenance Projects to Line-Item Construction as some deferred maintenance is now being funded through the Great American Outdoors Act. The mandatory funding that is being directed towards deferred maintenance allows the service to spend its discretionary funding towards new construction projects.	+5,000	
Deferred Maintenance Projects This moves funds from Deferred Maintenance Projects to Line-Item Construction as some deferred maintenance is now being funded through the Great American Outdoors Act. The mandatory funding that is being directed towards deferred maintenance allows the service to spend its discretionary funding towards new construction projects.	-5,000	

Appropriation: Construction

		2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022				Change from 2021 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfer s (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Nationwide Engineering Services	(\$000) FTE	5,368 42	5,368 48	+169 0	0 0	0 0	5,537 48	+169 0
Dam, Bridge, and Seismic Safety	(\$000)	1,232	2,427	0	0	0	2,427	0
Line-Item Construction Projects	(\$000)	23,104	10,398	0	0	+21,258	31,656	+21,258
Total, Construction	(\$000)	29,704	18,193	+169	0	+21,258	39,620	+21,427
Total, Construction	FTE	42	48	0	0	0	48	0

Summary of 2022 Program Changes for Construction

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Zero Emission Vehicle Charging Stations	+10,000	0
• Line-Item Construction Projects	+11,258	0
Program Changes	+21,258	0

Program Overview

The Service’s Construction program delivers high quality, timely, cost-effective and code-compliant construction projects in support of the operations and maintenance of Service facilities. Construction funding supports engineering and technical program management for the Service’s entire inventory of assets, including 568 National Wildlife Refuges, 70 National Fish Hatcheries and one historic fish hatchery, and 51 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices. The Service’s infrastructure projects increase the resiliency in facilities and operations, by pursuing energy efficiencies or alternative energy in new construction and rehabilitations, using American made materials. The Construction program delivers exceptional engineering design and construction, facility maintenance, and regulatory compliance to provide these benefits and deliver the Service mission to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The program accomplishes its mission in accordance with more than 19 applicable laws, statutes, and executive orders, in addition to Departmental and Service priorities.

Program Elements

The Construction appropriations consists of the following activities and program elements:

- Nationwide Engineering Services (NES) – This activity manages the numerous construction and maintenance projects undertaken each year; protects employees, visitors, and volunteers by ensuring operations comply with safety and environmental laws and regulations; supports access to Service lands; and guides energy conservation.
- Dam, Bridge, and Seismic Safety – This activity supports the safety and security of the Service’s dams, bridges, and buildings. This primarily is accomplished for the most critical

structures through inspections, assessments, and monitoring. Many of the functions carried out in this activity are prescribed by law. Rehabilitation, repair, and mitigation to help assure public safety, and contribute to recreational and other public access, are accomplished through Line-Item construction.

- Line-Item Construction – This activity contains the specific construction projects requesting funding in a given year. These projects reconstruct, repair, rehabilitate, and replace existing buildings or other structures/facilities, including dams and bridges. New buildings and structures/facilities also may be included. Funding may be used for project-specific planning, design, and construction management; construction, demolition, site work, and land acquisition; and the purchase of associated furniture, fixtures, and equipment. Completed individual projects from Line-Item Construction with authority remaining may transfer unspent balances of less than \$1,000,000 for unforeseen reconstruction, replacement, or repair of facilities or equipment damaged or destroyed by storms, floods, fires, and similarly unanticipated events.

Appropriation: Construction
Activity: Nationwide Engineering Services

		2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022			Change from 2021 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Nationwide (\$000)		5,368	5,368	+169	0	0	5,537	+169
Engineering Services FTE		42	48	0	0	0	48	0

Program Overview

The Nationwide Engineering Services activity supports implementation of safe construction and maintenance projects, regardless of funding source, and provides guidance to comply with environmental and energy laws. The three program elements that comprise this activity are discussed below.

Core Engineering Services – Funding in this program element provides technical oversight for construction and maintenance projects throughout the Service, regardless of funding source. Engineers provide technical expertise and assistance to the field for the entire construction life cycle for Line-Item projects, Deferred Maintenance, and Federal Highways projects. Accomplishing these varied projects requires Headquarters policy development, budget formulation and execution, coordination for efficiency, and national technical consistency, as well as day-to-day supervision and technical guidance from regional managers.

Environmental Compliance – This program supports resource stewardship and protects the health and safety of employees, visitors, and volunteers. On-site environmental compliance audits help ensure safe drinking water, acceptable wastewater discharge to rivers and streams and proper management of hazardous waste and hazardous materials. The program provides oversight, technical assistance, and training for more than 700 field stations to help ensure compliance with complex environmental laws and regulations at federal, state, local, and tribal levels. The program also provides project oversight and technical assistance for the clean-up of large-scale environmental contamination of air, water and soil pollution that may adversely affect human health and the environment. Recently completed clean-ups demonstrate the positive impact on wildlife and benefit to the local community associated with beneficial reuse of formerly contaminated areas.

Waste Prevention, Recycling and Environmental Management Systems –This program element supports implementation of Service-wide sustainable practices to help facilities minimize energy and water use, improve efficiencies in program areas such as fleet management and pollution prevention, and adopt sustainable work practices into the Service’s day-to-day operations, and reduce the use of toxic/hazardous chemicals and materials.

Proposed Program Changes

The 2022 budget request for the Nationwide Engineering Services activity is \$5,537,000 and 48 FTE, level with the 2021 Enacted.

Appropriation: Construction
Activity: Dam, Bridge, and Seismic Safety

		2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022				Change from 2021(+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Dam Safety and Security	(\$000)	695	1,113	0	0	0	1,113	0
Bridge Safety	(\$000)	462	1,239	0	0	0	1,239	0
Seismic Safety	(\$000)	75	75	0		0	75	0
Total, Dam, Bridge, and Seismic Safety	(\$000) FTE	1,232 0	2,427 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	2,427 0	0 0

Program Overview

The Dam, Bridge, and Seismic Safety activity provides information needed for engineers to assess the safety and security of the Service’s dams, bridges, and buildings. The three program elements that comprise this activity are discussed below.

Dam Safety and Security – This program element supports the safety and security of 18 high hazard dams, part of the Service’s inventory of 300 dams. Located on refuges and hatcheries for the purpose of resource or facility management, these dams provide vital benefits such as recreation, habitat, flood risk reduction, irrigation, wetland creation, water supply for hatcheries, nesting habitat for waterfowl, and fishing. Funding supports the most critical activities to ensure existing dams are maintained, identified for rehabilitation, and properly operated to protect human life, property, and the valuable natural resources on Service lands.

The Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) provide site-specific guidance for on-site detection and mitigation of conditions that may cause dam failures and communication protocols for notifying and evacuating downstream populations. Periodic Safety Evaluation of Existing Dams (SEED) inspections identify dam deficiencies at the earliest stages that when addressed, may stave off more serious repairs, consequences, or interventions, and avoid increasing the maintenance backlog.

SEED inspections include performing and reassessing hazard classifications, which are based upon estimates of loss of life and property damage should a dam fail. This program element also funds engineering analyses of the response and safety impacts of a dam because of increased magnitude of flood and earthquake predictions. The Service uses the hazard classification, a risk assessment, and the overall condition of the dam to identify and prioritize dam repair and rehabilitation projects.

Management of major rehabilitation or construction work is accomplished under the supervision of the Service’s Dam Safety Officer. Consistent with practice from past years, unobligated funds from dam safety projects may be used to address ongoing Dam Safety and Security needs (e.g.,

additional SEED inspections, minor dam safety repairs, low hazard dam inspections) or used for emergency construction projects. The inspection of low hazard dams is the lowest priority, though conducting these inspections would help ensure compliance with state dam safety programs.

Bridge Safety – This funding supports work to improve the safety and integrity of the Service’s approximately 700 bridges that serve essential administrative functions or provide primary public access. The Service accomplishes this work through the application of technically current design guidelines and a comprehensive inspection, appraisal, and inventory program. Bridge inspections are conducted at time intervals required by statute. During bridge inspections, Service staff determine and verify safe load-carrying capacity; identify and recommend mitigation of unsafe conditions; and identify maintenance, rehabilitation, or reconstruction needs. Similar to dam safety projects, funding for bridge safety projects are requested as part of the Line-Item Construction activity.

During FY 2022, the Bridge Safety Program will pursue completion of bridge inspections required by law. The inspections will prioritize in the following order: public use bridges in less than satisfactory condition; non-public use bridges in less than satisfactory condition; public use bridges in satisfactory condition or better; and non-public use bridges in satisfactory condition or better. Consideration also will be given, on a case-by-case basis, to approximately 30 bridges recommended for scour inspection, as a result of a 2015 Program Review recommendation.

By prioritizing inspections as described, the Service will maximize staff and public safety and access. Safety remains the top priority for the Service; if safe conditions cannot be verified, the Service will remove a bridge from service to preserve safety.

Seismic Safety – This program element funds planning and analysis of the seismic safety of the Service’s approximately 6,500 buildings. The work fulfills the requirements of Executive Order 13717 (Establishing a Federal Earthquake Risk Management Standard, February 2016) and allows the Service to identify buildings that present a substantial risk to the safety of Service personnel, volunteers, and visitors in the event of a significant earthquake. Program staff screen Service-owned buildings to identify those that are *exceptionally high risk* (EHR). Any building found to meet EHR criteria undergoes a rigorous engineering analysis, which includes development of a cost estimate to mitigate seismic deficiencies. Engineering analysis and mitigation projects are funded via the Line-Item Construction activity.

Justification of 2022 Program Changes

The 2022 budget request for the Dam, Bridge, and Seismic Safety activity is \$2,427,000 and 0 FTE, level with the 2021 Enacted.

Appropriation: Construction
Activity: Line-Item Construction

		2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022			Change from 2021 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfer s (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Line-Item Construction	(\$000)	23,104	10,398	0	0	+21,258	31,656	+21,258
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Summary of 2022 Program Changes for Construction

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Zero Emission Vehicle Charging Stations	+10,000	0
• Line-Item Construction Projects	+11,258	0
Program Changes	+21,258	0

Program Overview

The Service is requesting a total of \$31,656,000 for 11 projects in FY 2022. A list of the proposed Line-Item projects for FY 2022 is provided below. A Project Data Sheet (PDS) for each project is included and provides key information about the project description, justification, cost, and schedule. Additionally, after the individual PDSs, a Summary PDS for FYs 2022-2026 presents the Service's five-year construction plan and reflects funding directed to the most critical needs (i.e., health, safety, natural resources, and access). The Service selects and ranks projects in accordance with Department of Interior and Service guidance and priorities.

Justification of 2022 Program Changes

The 2022 budget request for the Line-Item Construction activity is \$31,656,000 and 0 FTE, an increase in \$21,258,000 from the FY 2021 enacted. On December 27, 2020, the president signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. Division DD of the law contains the Montana Water Rights Protection Act, Section 12, which restored the National Bison Range (NBR) to federal trust ownership for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT). The Service has continued management responsibilities within Western Montana and will need to replace facilities and equipment transitioned to CSKT, requiring an additional \$11,533,000 in Construction activity for FY 2022.

Zero Emission Vehicle Charging Stations (+\$10,000,000/+0 FTE)

The 2022 budget includes funding to convert approximately one third of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's sedan fleet to zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) and provide approximately 130 charging stations and hydrogen fueling stations to support those vehicles and future ZEVs. This conversion will immediately reduce the Interior's contributions to greenhouse gas emissions and dependence upon hydrocarbons. The investment in infrastructure will support these new vehicles and ensure charging infrastructure is available for subsequent ZEVs. This project is being coordinated across Interior and with other agencies to maximize utility of charging and hydrogen fueling stations in areas where multiple agencies operate. The funding also supports a small planning and

coordination function to effectively deploy the fleet and charging infrastructure. Funding in the Construction appropriation will support charging station infrastructure.

Line-Item Construction (+\$11,258,000/+0 FTE)

At the requested funding level, the Service will fund the projects shown in the project list below.

2022 Construction Project Listing by Program					
DOI Rank Score	Interior Region	Station	State	Project Title/Description	Request (\$000)
National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS)					
90	California-Great Basin	Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR	CA	Flood Protection Levee Rehabilitation Phase IV of IV (South Bay Levee Restoration)	1,200
56	North Atlantic-Appalachian	Montezuma NWR Cortland ES	NY	Remove and Replace Headquarters/Visitor Center, Co-locate with Ecological Services	3,160
60	Missouri Basin	North West Montana Complex	MT	Replace Operational Infrastructure to Support Field Stations Currently Supported at the National Bison Range	11,533
Subtotal, NWRS					15,893
National Fish Hatchery System (NFHS)					
70	Lower Colorado Basin	Alchesay NFH	AZ	Alchesay Effluent Treatment System	1,012
55	Lower Colorado Basin	Alchesay NFH	AZ	Alchesay Tank House Replacement	1,400
42	Great Lakes	Iron River NFH	WI	Demolish Dilapidated Milking Barn	30
70	Columbia-Pacific Northwest	Makah NFH	WA	Replace Diversion Dam and Fish Barrier Phase II	2,521
Subtotal, NFHS					4,963
Other					
70	Headquarters	Branch of Dam Safety	N/A	Nationwide Seismic Safety Investigations Phase III of V	200
40	Headquarters	Information Resources & Technology Management	N/A	Nationwide Radio Site Safety Investigations Phase V of V	250
70	Headquarters	Resident Agent in Charge	AK	Rehabilitate Office and Replace Fuel Storage Tank	350
70	Headquarters	Nationwide	N/A	Construct EV Charging Stations	10,000
Subtotal, Other					10,800
TOTAL, CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS					\$31,656

Notes: p = planning, d = design, ic = initiate construction, cc = complete construction

**U.S Fish and Wildlife Service
Project Data Sheet**

Total Project Score/Ranking: 90
 Planned Funding FY 2022 \$1,200,000
 Funding Source: CONSTRUCT

Project Identification

Project Title: South Bay Levee Restoration, Phase IV of V
 Project No: 2017291191
 Unit/Facility Name: Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR
 Region: PACIFIC SOUTHWEST
 Congressional District: 13
 State: CA
 IR: 10 CALIFORNIA GREAT BASIN

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	Description	API:	FCI-Before:
40162300	10000810	LEVEE ALVISO EXTERIOR PONDS A9 TO A17	100	.08

Project Description (PD):

Fish year round or hunt for Canada geese at a national wildlife refuge that serves one of the largest urban communities in the United States. The refuge welcomes more than 750,000 people each year and offers a range of wildlife recreation that serves families with young children as well as first-time recreationists, veterans, people with disabilities and the full array of citizens in this bustling community. Equally important, the refuge’s Mountain View and Aviso Ponds provide critical flood protection for Silicon Valley businesses and the 4.6 million people across the South Bay who call this community home. These funds will be leveraged by partnering with the other federal agencies, local communities, businesses and non-profit organizations to address the full \$55,000,000 in Deferred Maintenance needed for levees and water control structures across the refuge.

Phases:

- (2018) Phase I, South Bay Levee Restoration, at \$5,130,000;
- (2019) Phase II, South Bay Levee Restoration, at \$7,125,000;
- (2020) Phase III, South Bay Levee Restoration, at \$5,875,000;
- (2022) Phase IV, South Bay Levee Restoration, at \$1,200,000;
- (2025) Phase V, South Bay Levee Restoration, at \$6,900,000.

Phased Project? Y Number of Phases 5

Scope of Benefits (SB):

The project supports the South San Francisco Bay Ecosystem, Tidal Marsh Ecosystem Recovery Plan and will help ensure the safety of the local communities, as well as supporting the success of the local businesses, industries and economy.

Investment Strategy (IS):

The project has \$2 million in non-federal matching funds, and this funding is expected to enable our partners to continue to expand these public-private partnerships.

Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):

Failure to act would result in further deterioration of the levee system, which could lead to levee breaches and flooding of adjacent infrastructure and communities. The levees provide a level of flood protection for vulnerable communities including many tech industry businesses adjacent to the Refuge. Failure of the levee system would also reduce or close waterfowl hunting and other recreational opportunities currently offered due to unsafe conditions.

Ranking Categories:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Score</u>
FCI Rating:	N/A	.08
API Rating:	N/A	TBD
API/FCI Score:	40%	30
SB Score:	20%	20
IS Score:	20%	20
CFA Score:	20%	20
Total Score:	(100%)	90

**U.S Fish and Wildlife Service
Project Data Sheet**

Total Project Score/Ranking: 70
 Planned Funding FY 2022 \$2,521,000
 Funding Source: CONSTRUCT

Project Identification

Project Title: Replace Diversion Dam and Fish Barrier Phase II [ic]
 Project No: 2015259217
 Unit/Facility Name: Makah NFH
 Region: PACIFIC
 Congressional District: 06
 State: WA
 IR: 9 COLUMBIA-PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	Description	API:	FCI-Before:
40500100	10067303	FISH SCREEN, AUC FISH BARRIER	100	

Project Description (PD):

This is a phased project at Makah NFH for planning, design, permitting, construction of a fish passage system, and repairs to the damaged dam skirt of the existing barrier. The existing diversion dam and electric fish barrier is starting to deteriorate and is considered unsafe. The diversion dam has deteriorated and has loose boards/parts that can be washed away if large debris comes down river. The project will repair the dam, modify the existing fish ladder and modify river bank lines, and in the final phase will construct a new barrier. The new barrier will be a physical barrier and will eliminate the use of electricity. Modification of the ladder includes extending the entrance further out into the Tsoo-Yes River. The current ladder entrance location does not allow for good fish attraction and can result in poor adult returns into the hatchery. Funding received in FY14 for the project was insufficient to cover the full scope of project requirements.

Deficiencies noted and confirmed on FY18 CCA INCA WO 2018317235.

Value Engineering:

In accordance with Attachment-G requirements for Value Engineering (VE and in conformance with DOI AAAP-004 Implementing OMB Circular A131, Value Engineering, VE is required for all construction, repair, and rehabilitation projects with an initial estimated cost over \$1 million. Engineering will be consulted to ensure completion of this work is accomplished within required timetables. For phased projects, VE will be accomplished during the planning/design phase.

Phase 1 [p/d/ic]: Plan Year:2014, Plan Cost:\$ 1,706,000 WO# 2015259217: Phase 2 [ic]: Plan Year:2022, Plan Cost:\$ 2,521,000 WO# 2015259576, WO# 2019323843

Phased Project? Number of Phases 2

Scope of Benefits (SB):

Makah National Fish Hatchery raises salmon and steelhead for release into rivers. The hatchery works cooperatively with the Makah Nation and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to ensure a balanced and sustainable harvest of these fish.

Investment Strategy (IS):

O&M costs of the existing asset are minimal since the large concrete structure requires little maintenance. The current condition of the concrete structure requires repair/replacement to ensure structural stability. The new barrier will be a physical barrier and will not use electricity. Some operational maintenance will be required to ensure large debris does not get caught on the barrier.

Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):

This project will eliminate a major safety finding by decommissioning the hanging probe electric weir. If the current dam or electric barrier fails, fish may bypass the hatchery and result in a broodstock failure for the program.

Ranking Categories:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Score</u>
FCI Rating:	N/A	
API Rating:	N/A	TBD
API/FCI Score:	40%	30
SB Score:	20%	20
IS Score:	20%	0
CFA Score:	20%	20
Total Score:	(100%)	70

**U.S Fish and Wildlife Service
Project Data Sheet**

Total Project Score/Ranking: 70
 Planned Funding FY 2022 \$1,012,000
 Funding Source: CONSTRUCT

Project Identification

Project Title: Install Effluent Treatment System [cc]
 Project No: 2017297462
 Unit/Facility Name: Alchesay NFH
 Region: SOUTHWEST
 Congressional District: 06
 State: AZ
 IR: 8 LOWER COLORADO BASIN

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	Description	API:	FCI-Before:
	22212	Alchesay NFH	100	

Project Description (PD):

The current production system is comprised of 20 raceways and 4 ponds, which were constructed in the 1950s and early 1960s. Effluent waters from the raceways are discharged via Pond 1, which functions as a settling basin, to the North Fork White River. There is no facility to treat effluent water from the ponds. This project will evaluate the effectiveness of Pond 1 and design a facility to treat the effluent water from the ponds. The design phase was funded in 2019, work order 2012214999. This is the construction phase. The effluent treatment system is needed to meet the EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System requirements. The receiving water is used for domestic consumption by the White Mountain Apache Tribe. The pumping station is located only 1.47 miles from the hatchery.

Phased Project? Y Number of Phases

Scope of Benefits (SB):

Alchesay NFH provides eight to ten inch rainbow, brown, and brook trout to 19 reservations in Arizona and New Mexico for the Tribal Trust recreational fish stocking program. Benefits of the program include increased fishing opportunities and large economic gains: over 193,000 angling days; angling-related retail sale of \$12.4 million; 233 jobs with total income of \$5.7 million; and aggregate tax revenue of \$1.75 million (USFWS Division of Economics, 2006).

Investment Strategy (IS):

A passive treatment will be the intended solution so the O&M costs will be minimal.

Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):

The current production system is comprised of 20 raceways and 5 ponds, which were constructed in the 1950s and early 1960s. There is no facility to treat the effluent water from the raceways and ponds. Fish are fed between 75,000 to 100,000 pounds of fish food each year at Alchesay NFH. Approximately 22,500 to 30,000 pounds of feces will end up in the North Fork White River.

Ranking Categories:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Score</u>
FCI Rating:	N/A	
API Rating:	N/A	TBD
API/FCI Score:	40%	30
SB Score:	20%	20
IS Score:	20%	0
CFA Score:	20%	20
Total Score:	(100%)	70

**U.S Fish and Wildlife Service
Project Data Sheet**

Total Project Score/Ranking: 55
 Planned Funding FY 2022 \$1,400,000
 Funding Source: CONSTRUCT

Project Identification

Project Title: Replace Tank House [p/d/cc]
 Project No: 2020333283
 Unit/Facility Name: Alchesay NFH
 Region: SOUTHWEST
 Congressional: 06
 District:
 State: AZ
 IR: 8 LOWER COLORADO BASIN

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	Description	API:	FCI-Before:
35500100	10008725	BLDG FISH PROD TANK HOUSE--1,385 S.F.	100	

Project Description (PD):

The tank House is a 1,385 S.F. fish hatchery building containing 12 concrete tanks and the Loach Minnow refuge. The purpose of this building is twofold: 1) incubate trout eggs and conduct early rearing, and 2) provide a refuge for Loach Minnow. However, water quality problems have prevented the station from utilizing this building. There are two water quality problems: 1) heavy sediment loading in the water supply during spring thaw and summer monsoon season suffocates the eggs and kills fry (young fish), 2) water temperature can be as high as 70°F, which is the lethal temperature for trout species.

This project will replace the existing hatchery building with a 4,000 S.F. building that will be equipped with a water reuse system and circular tanks. INCA WO:2017291498

Phased Project? N Number of Phases 0

Scope of Benefits (SB):

Williams Creek NFH, as part of the Alchesay-Williams Creek NFH Complex, provides four species of Trout for the 19 Native American tribes of Arizona and New Mexico. Over 1 million fish, weighing more than 100,000 pounds, are provided annually.

Investment Strategy (IS):

The water reuse system includes pumps, ultraviolet disinfection systems and other equipment that will consume power. Therefore, the O&M cost will increase.

Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):

Operation of the Williams Creek NFH will continue to be difficult with low spring flows. Williams Creek NFH will not have the capability to provide a refuge for the wild Apache Trout when natural disaster (fire) affects their habitat.

Ranking Categories:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Score</u>
FCI Rating:	N/A	.07
API Rating:	N/A	TBD
API/FCI Score:	40%	30
SB Score:	20%	20
IS Score:	20%	-5
CFA Score:	20%	10
Total Score:	(100%)	55

**U.S Fish and Wildlife Service
Project Data Sheet**

Total Project Score/Ranking: 60
 Planned Funding FY 2022 \$11,533,000
 Funding Source: CONSTRUCT

Project Identification

Project Title: Construct replacement facilities for NBR within Western Montana Complex
 Project No: 2021356697
 Unit/Facility Name: Western Montana NWR Complex
 Region: MOUNTAIN PRAIRIE
 Congressional District: 00
 State: MT
 IR: 5 MISSOURI BASIN

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	Description	API:	FCI-Before:
	69013	Western Montana NWR Complex		

Project Description (PD):

On December 27, 2020, the President signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. Division DD of the law contains the Montana Water Rights Protection Act, Section 12, which restored the National Bison Range (NBR) to federal trust ownership for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT). The law establishes a two-year period during which the Bison Range will transition to full Tribal management; however, Tribal Council has set a goal of full management by January 2022. Once the transition is complete, the NBR will no longer be managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). FWS will continue to have management responsibilities within Western Montana and will need to replace select facilities and equipment transitioned to CSKT.

NBR is currently managed as part of the Western Montana National Wildlife Refuge Complex. This complex oversees five national wildlife refuges (NWR), three wetland management districts (WMD), 38 waterfowl production areas (WPA), and three conservation areas. NBR staff are responsible for operations and management of not only the NBR, but three additional refuges (Ninepipe, Pablo, and Swan River), nine WPAs (Kicking Horse, Crow, Anderson, Duck Haven, Ereaux, Johnson, Montgomery, Sandsmark, and Herak), one WMD (Northwest Montana) and one conservation area (Swan River) in Northwest Montana. Easement oversight includes working with over 100 landowners to oversee thousands of easements acres; this does not include the newly authorized Lost Trail Conservation Area, which would potentially add 100,000 acres of additional easements once established.

To continue to fulfill the long-term management responsibilities in Northwest Montana, the FWS will need to maintain staff in the area. Since NBR real property facilities, equipment and supplies will no longer be available, replacement facilities are needed to replace the existing base operations. The region will construct a new headquarters facility, including an office and shop to accommodate 5 full time employees and 3 seasonals. This large construction/acquisition could be completed in phases, with the first priorities to include site investigations, planning and A/E design services to prepare plans.

Phased Project? N Number of Phases 0

Scope of Benefits (SB):

Supports Build Back Better Jobs and Economic Recovery Plan by procuring competitively and will provide opportunities for local and/or regional contractors to participate. Prioritizes Climate Resilient Infrastructure by incorporating energy efficient design to improve efficiency, performance, and reduction of the footprint of the Refuge Complex. Conserves or Protects Against Threats to Resources by the transfer of the National Bison Range to the CSKT tribes. Utilizes Clean Energy, new buildings will be designed to maximize clean energy usage. Benefits Underserved or At-Risk Communities - The areas around this Refuge Complex are rural in nature. Where possible, materials, supplies, and equipment rentals will all benefit the local economy and the populations nearby with increased recreational, educational, and sportsman access.

Investment Strategy (IS):

Long term O&M strategy for the Western Montana Complex is to construct new office, shop, bunkhouse and 1 residence to accommodate current budgeted positions and seasonal staff. The National Bison Range currently has over 40,000 sq. ft. of building space. Newly constructed space is proposed to be approximately 14,000 sq ft. O&M will decrease as a function of significantly less infrastructure to maintain.

Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):

NBR staff are responsible for operations and management of not only the NBR, but three additional refuges (Ninepipe, Pablo, and Swan River), nine WPAs (Kicking Horse, Crow, Anderson, Duck Haven, Ereaux, Johnson, Montgomery, Sandsmark, and Herak), one WMDs (Northwest Montana) and one conservation areas (Swan River)in Northwest Montana. Easement oversight includes working with over 100 landowners to oversee thousands of easements acres. Without this project, FWS will be unable to continue to fulfill long-term management responsibilities in NW Montana.

Ranking Categories:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Score</u>
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FCI Rating:	N/A	
API Rating:	N/A	TBD
API/FCI Score:	40%	
SB Score:	20%	20
IS Score:	20%	20
CFA Score:	20%	20
Total Score:	(100%)	60

Combined ranking factors = (.040 x API/FCI score) + (.020 x SB score) + (0.20 x IS score) + (0.20 x CFA score)

Capital Asset Planning

Capital Plan Business Case Required: No

VE Study: Scheduled TBD Completed TBD

Project Costs and Status

Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Dollars in thousands</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Maintenance/Repair Work:	\$0	0
Capital Improvement Work:	\$11,533	100
Total:	\$11,533	100

Project Funding History (entire project):

<u>History</u>	<u>Dollars in thousands</u>
Funded to Date:	\$0
FY2022-CONSTRUCTFunding (this PDS):	\$11,533
FY2022-FLREA/FLTP/Donation, etc. Funding:	\$0
FY2022-FLREA/FLTP/Donation, etc. Funding:	\$0
Future Funding to Complete Project:	\$5,388
Total:	\$16,921

Class of Estimate: A,B,C, D C

Estimate Escalated to FY:

Planning and Design Funds:

Planning Funds Received in FY	\$0
Design Funds Received in FY	\$0

*These amounts for planning and design are included in the total formulated to the FY2022 budget on this project data sheet.

Major Milestones

Construction Award/Start

- Scheduled: 1/22
- Actual: TBD

Project Complete:

- Scheduled: 04/24
- Actual: TBD

Project Data Sheet

Prepared/Last Updated:	04/21
DOI Approved:	No

Annual Operations & Maintenance Costs \$

Current:	0
Projected:	0
Net Change:	0

**U.S Fish and Wildlife Service
Project Data Sheet**

Total Project Score/Ranking: 70
 Planned Funding FY 2022 \$200,000
 Funding Source: CONSTRUCT

Project Identification

Project Title: Nationwide Seismic Safety Investigations 2022
 Project No: 2017293674
 Unit/Facility Name: Dam Bridge and Seismic Safety Branch
 Region: HEADQUARTERS
 Congressional District: ALL
 State: ALL
 IR: HQ

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	Description	API:	FCI-Before:
	98510	Dam Bridge and Seismic Safety Branch	100	

Project Description (PD):

These funds will be used to perform seismic engineering evaluations of select Service buildings. Preliminary screening level assessments have identified over 50 Service building as having significant seismic risks of collapse. More detailed investigations, beyond the screening level, are necessary and the engineering evaluations are the next required analysis to confirm the seismic hazard and to propose potential mitigation options based on the analysis. The engineering evaluations may also provide technical evidence, not available through the simplified screening process that the seismic risk is low and no mitigation efforts are required. This project supports necessary and continuing efforts to identify Service buildings that are at risk of collapse due to an earthquake and to provide mitigation options and preliminary cost estimates to reduce the risk to acceptable levels.

Phased Project? N Number of Phases 0

Scope of Benefits (SB):

This project supports necessary efforts to identify buildings that are at risk of collapse due to an earthquake and identify mitigation options and preliminary cost estimates to reduce the risk. The project supports Service policy 363 FW 1 and Executive Order 13717 ("Establishing a Federal Earthquake Risk Management Standard") by conducting evaluations and recommending investment options that seek to enhance resilience by reducing risk to the lives of building occupants and improving continued performance of essential functions following future earthquakes.

Investment Strategy (IS):

The project will evaluate risk from earthquakes and identify retrofit strategies that will result in earthquake-resistant buildings that withstand small earthquakes with reduced damage.

Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):

The project will evaluate risk from earthquakes and identify retrofit strategies that will result in earthquake-resistant buildings that withstand small earthquakes with reduced damage.

Ranking Categories:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Score</u>
FCI Rating:	N/A	
API Rating:	N/A	TBD
API/FCI Score:	40%	30
SB Score:	20%	20
IS Score:	20%	0
CFA Score:	20%	20
Total Score:	(100%)	70

**U.S Fish and Wildlife Service
Project Data Sheet**

Total Project Score/Ranking: 40
 Planned Funding FY 2022 \$250,000
 Funding Source: CONSTRUCT

Project Identification

Project Title: Nationwide Radio Tower Safety Investigations Phase V of V
 Project No: 2016278920
 Unit/Facility Name: Assistant Director-Information Resources and Technology Management
 Region: Nationwide
 Congressional District: All
 State: All
 IR: 1 NORTH ATLANTIC-APPALACHIAN

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	Description	API:	FCI-Before:
	90200	Assistant Director-Information Resources and Technology Management		

Project Description (PD):

These funds will be used to perform required radio tower evaluations of USFWS buildings per DOI policy. Preliminary screening has identified over 150 USFWS owned and leased radio system that lack sufficient initial safety and structural inspection. Detailed investigations are necessary and the engineering evaluations are the next required analysis to confirm the systems are safe for operational use, develop a comprehensive maintenance and repair plan and to expand options for shared use of USFWS and other federal agency or bureau tower sites. The engineering evaluations will provide technical evidence to determine risk, mitigation efforts are required and locations where towers should be removed from operations and demolished.

Phased Project? Y Number of Phases 5

Scope of Benefits (SB):

The project supports Department strategic goal 4.1 (Protect Lives, Resources, and Property) by identifying radio facilities conditions, risks, mitigation options, and preliminary cost estimates to reduce the risk or remove the systems from operations.

Investment Strategy (IS):

The project will evaluate risk and identify retrofit strategies that will result in expanded opportunities to share radio related facilities. It will not change annual operations and maintenance costs or leverage non-DOI resources.

Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):

The USFWS has not yet evaluated radio facilities as required by DOI policy, leaving unknown levels of risk associated with current operations. Failure to fulfill our responsibilities could endanger the life and health of USFWS employees and visitors.

Ranking Categories:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Score</u>
FCI Rating:	N/A	
API Rating:	N/A	TBD
API/FCI Score:	40%	
SB Score:	20%	20
IS Score:	20%	0
CFA Score:	20%	20
Total Score:	(100%)	40

**U.S Fish and Wildlife Service
Project Data Sheet**

Total Project Score/Ranking: 70
 Planned Funding FY 2022 \$350,000
 Funding Source: CONSTRUCT

Project Identification

Project Title: Rehabilitate AK RAC Office and Replace Fuel Stg Tank
 Project No: 2020335166
 Unit/Facility Name: Resident Agent in Charge-Fairbanks, Alaska
 Region: HEADQUARTERS
 Congressional: 00
 District:
 State: AK
 IR: HQ

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	Description	API:	FCI-Before:
35100000	10035726	LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICE, WOOD FRAME & CONCRETE BLOCK (OLD RPI NUMBER 2)	100	0

Project Description (PD):

Rehabilitate the Fairbanks Resident Agent in Charge (RAC) Office to ensure safety of employees and better use of the available space. Redesign the downstairs area to provide new conference room, open office space, finish exterior walls including insulation, new carpeting downstairs, and install egress lighting and fire extinguishers. Replace 2 Hanging Unit Heaters with fin tubes and provide new electrical connections and communications wiring for conference room and open office space. Replace all T12 lighting with LEDs throughout the building. In addition, replace the 500 gallon fuel storage tank. The estimated cost for this rehabilitation work is \$350,000. Some of the major costs associated with this project are:

- Interior redesign \$180,000
 - Replace 2 Hanging Unit Heaters \$25,000
 - New Wiring \$15,000
 - LED Lighting \$30,000
 - Fuel storage tank \$50,000
- Phased Project? N Number of Phases 0

Scope of Benefits (SB):

Project aligns with Service's mission of conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish, wildlife, and plants, and with the USFWS Office of Law Enforcement's strategic goals of protecting the nation's fish, wildlife, and plants from unlawful exploitation, industrial hazards, habitat loss, and illegal import and export

Investment Strategy (IS):

Project does not reduce the operations and maintenance of this building. The upgrades will improve the usefulness of the existing square feet.

Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):

This office is in need of being brought to current Life Safety codes. Failure to complete this work in a timely manner puts the employees assigned to this office and any evidence that might be stored here in danger.

Ranking Categories:

Category	Percentage	Score
FCI Rating:	N/A	0
API Rating:	N/A	TBD
API/FCI Score:	40%	30
SB Score:	20%	10
IS Score:	20%	10
CFA Score:	20%	20
Total Score:	(100%)	70

**U.S Fish and Wildlife Service
Project Data Sheet**

Total Project Score/Ranking: 70
 Planned Funding FY 2022 | \$10,000,000
 Funding Source: CONSTRUCT

Project Identification

Project Title: Install EV Chargers at Service Duty Stations
 Project No: 2021366770
 Unit/Facility Name: Infrastructure Management Division
 Region: HEADQUARTERS
 Congressional District: XX
 State: VA
 IR:

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	Description	API:	FCI-Before:
	93230	Infrastructure Management Division	100	

Project Description (PD):

The National EV Charger Program will support the development and installation of EV chargers across Service duty stations. This project will aim to install EV charging stations for both visitors to utilized as they visit public FWS areas and for charging FWS electric fleet vehicles. The project budget will assist Service duty stations with the cost associated for development and installation of Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE). Installing EV chargers at selected Service duty stations will expand the national alternative fuels and charging network, in both urban and rural settings, while achieving FWS and federal sustainability goals.

Phased Project? N Number of Phases 0

Scope of Benefits (SB):

Service duty stations that have been selected to receive EV chargers will work to leverage local incentive and grant programs offer by utilities, state government and EV charger supplying companies. Reduction of costs associated with the development and installation of the EV chargers will assist additional Service duty stations to implement EV charger programs. Fee collection from public use of the EV chargers will support ongoing network and maintenance costs, while charging EV fleet vehicles at Service duty stations will have per/mile cost savings compared to traditional gasoline prices.

Investment Strategy (IS):

The current financial climate for installing EVs is favorable, as there exist many grants and incentives that Service duty stations are eligible to apply.

Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):

The current financial climate for installing EVs is favorable, as there exist many grants and incentives that Service duty stations are eligible to apply. Not being an early adaptor, Service duty stations will lose out on cost savings from these programs. The Service will miss out on being sustainability leader within the federal government in this area, will not achieve sustainability goals drafted by the FWS Climate Change Workgroup, and miss out potential, or receive negative, publicity from lack of climate change action.

Ranking Categories:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Score</u>
FCI Rating:	N/A	
API Rating:	N/A	TBD

API/FCI Score:	40%	30
SB Score:	20%	20
IS Score:	20%	20
CFA Score:	20%	0
Total Score:	(100%)	70

Combined ranking factors = (.040 x API/FCI score) + (.020 x SB score) + (0.20 x IS score) + (0.20 x CFA score)

Capital Asset Planning

Capital Plan Business Case Required: No

VE Study: Scheduled TBD Completed TBD

Project Costs and Status

Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Dollars in thousands</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Maintenance/Repair Work:	\$0	0
Capital Improvement Work:	\$0	0
Total:	\$0	0

Project Funding History (entire project):

<u>History</u>	<u>Dollars in thousands</u>
Funded to Date:	\$0
FY2022-CONSTRUCTFunding (this PDS):	\$10,000,000
FY2022-FLREA/FLTP/Donation, etcFunding:	\$0
FY2022-FLREA/FLTP/Donation, etcFunding:	\$0
Future Funding to Complete Project:	\$0
Total:	\$10,000,000

Class of Estimate: A,B,C, D C

Estimate Escalated to FY:

Planning and Design Funds:

Planning Funds Received in FY	\$0
Design Funds Received in FY	\$0

*These amounts for planning and design are included in the total formulated to the FY2022 budget on this project data sheet.

Major Milestones

Construction Award/Start

- Scheduled: 1/22
- Actual: TBD

Project Complete:

- Scheduled: 04/24
- Actual: TBD

Project Data Sheet

Prepared/Last Updated:	05/21
DOI Approved:	No

Annual Operations & Maintenance Costs \$

Current:	0
Projected:	0
Net Change:	0

**U.S Fish and Wildlife Service
Project Data Sheet**

Total Project Score/Ranking: 56
 Planned Funding FY 2022 \$3,160,000
 Funding Source: CONSTRUCT

Project Identification

Project Title: Remove, Replace Headquarters/Visitor Center and Co-Locate with Ecological Services
 Project No: 2020339917
 Unit/Facility Name: Montezuma NWR
 Region: NORTHEAST
 Congressional District: 27
 State: NY
 IR: 1 NORTH ATLANTIC-APPALACHIAN

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	Description	API:	FCI-Before:
35100000	10022587	BLDG MULTI-PURPOSE, BLDG OFFICE REFUGE HEADQUARTER	80	0.95

Project Description (PD):

This project consists of the demolition of 3 existing buildings (6,810sf) at Montezuma NWR and vacating 13,176sf of GSA leased office space, costing approximately \$225,000 annually, for Ecological Services -Cortland to consolidate into one multi-program Admin/Visitor Facility. This single phase project will be funded by two sources, the 5,550sf Montezuma NWR Admin/Visitor Component will be funded by GAOA and the 5,750 Ecological Services Administrative and Technical Support Addition will be funded through a construction appropriation along with office space for one OLE employee. Demolition of old facilities and vacating leased space will total 19,986sf, the new co-located multi-program facility will be 11,300sf (a 44% SF reduction). The new facility will improve accommodations for use by the public, including space for welcoming and orienting visitors, space conducive to conduct environmental education, storage space for refuge and ES operations, as well as allow for significant cross programmatic work/science between programs (NWRS, OLE, ES). The design will use the standards in the Service's "Space Management Handbook," dated September 2012, and will not exceed 180 usable square feet (USF) per person. This replacement building will accommodate 35 FTEs including part time staff and volunteers. The new facility will be highly energy efficient, improve public safety, and be fully ADA compliant. Project funds coming to NWRS from GAOA, FHWA (\$500,000) as well as DM and a MAT Team initiative. With the preferred Design/Build approach in FY2022/2023, the Construction Funding request for the ES-Cortland portion of the co-location is \$3,160,000.

Phased Project? N Number of Phases

Scope of Benefits (SB):

This project supports GPRA goals by ensuring refuge infrastructure is adequate and in good condition to support the mission of the USFWS. The project supports Station Goals 4 (visitation) and 6 (partnerships) in the approved CCP. We also: Restore & Protect High Visitation / Public Use Facilities, get out of GSA leased space and co-locate with other FWS programs.

Investment Strategy (IS):

The existing Visitor Center O&M is \$17,369 and the Office O&M is \$9,719.43. The total existing O&M is \$27,088.48. By combining the building we anticipate a reduced O&M to \$25,530.00. Improving the visitor center by increasing its size to meet fire code would actually make the building more efficient. We also: Reduce or Eliminate Deferred Maintenance, Reduce Annual Operating Costs, Modernize Infrastructure, Improve ADA Accessibility Furthermore, we save \$225,000 annually in GSA rental space costs.

Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):

Failure to act would result in a phases construction approach. Potentially being 35% more expensive to build at a later date.

Ranking Categories:

Category	Percentage	Score
FCI Rating:	N/A	0.99
API Rating:	N/A	80
API/FCI Score:	40%	16
SB Score:	20%	10
IS Score:	20%	10
CFA Score:	20%	20
Total Score:	(100%)	56

**U.S Fish and Wildlife Service
Project Data Sheet**

Total Project Score/Ranking: 42
 Planned Funding FY 2022 \$30,000
 Funding Source: CONSTRUCT

Project Identification

Project Title: Demolish Dilapidated Milking Barn
 Project No: 20131067
 Unit/Facility Name: Iron River NFH
 Region: MIDWEST
 Congressional District: 07
 State: WI
 IR: 3 GREAT LAKES

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	Description	API:	FCI-Before:
35800500	10011040	BLDG STABLE, REMOVE BLDG STABLE, BARN BY RESIDENCE	0	.04

Project Description (PD):

Per FY 2012 & 2017 Comprehensive Condition Assessment, Removal, demolition of dilapidated milking barn located next to residence #25 on the Davies Tract. The barn is structurally unsound and poses a safety hazard. Removal of the barn is part of the ongoing process of cleaning up old building sites left from original land acquisition. Demolition of this asset will insure that there will be no future safety issues. The site will be restored to native habitat once the barn is demolished.
 A new CCA conducted on 2017-07-28 by Forest

Phased Project? N Number of Phases

Scope of Benefits (SB):

We would like to remove this asset by FY2019. Demo of this structure will reduce the total FRPP by 1,576 sq. ft. As the barn ages, safety concerns increase. The structure is not mission critical nor of any historical significance.

Investment Strategy (IS):

Maintenance on this building is not cost effective. The structure needs to be demolished. Maintenance Current CRV as of 6/29/2017 is \$193,385 Current RS Means estimate is \$30,000 2017 CCA follow-up WO # 2017297398.

Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):

The barn is structurally unsound and poses a safety hazard. Removal of the barn is part of the ongoing process of cleaning up old building sites left from original land acquisition. Demolition of this asset will insure that there will be no future safety issues. The site will be restored to native habitat once the barn is demolished.

Ranking Categories:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Score</u>
FCI Rating:	N/A	.04
API Rating:	N/A	TBD
API/FCI Score:	40%	2
SB Score:	20%	10
IS Score:	20%	10
CFA Score:	20%	20
Total Score:	(100%)	42

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Construction FIVE YEAR PLAN -- FY 2022-2026**

Plan Fund Year	Priority	Facility or Unit Name	Project Title	State	Cong. District	DOI Score	Project Cost Information (\$000)					Remaining to be Funded	Future Years of Funding	Change in Annual O&M (actual \$/yr)
							Total Project	Funded to Date	Budget Year Funding					
									DM	CI	Total			
2022	1	Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR	Flood Protection Levee Rehabilitation Phase IV of IV (South Bay Levee Restoration)	CA	15	90	\$19,400	\$18,200	\$1,200	\$0	\$1,200	\$0		\$0
2022	2	Makah NFH	Replace Diversion Dam and Fish Barrier Phase II	WA	06	70	\$4,227	\$1,706	\$2,521	\$0	\$2,521	\$0		\$0
2022	3	Alchesay NFH	Alchesay Effluent Treatment System	AZ	06	70	\$1,162	\$150	\$0	\$1,012	\$1,012	\$0		
2022	4	Branch of Dam Safety	Nationwide Seismic Safety Investigations Phase III of V	*	*	70	\$1,000	\$400	\$200	\$0	\$200	\$400	2023-2024	\$0
2022	5	Information Resources & Technology Management	Nationwide Radio Site Safety Investigations Phase V of V	*	*	70	\$1,250	\$1,000	\$250	\$0	\$250	\$0		\$0
2022	6	Resident Agent in Charge	Rehabilitate Office and Replace Fuel Storage Tank	AK	AL	70	\$350	\$0	\$200	\$150	\$350	\$0		\$0
2022	7	Nationwide	Construct EV Charging Stations	*	*	70	\$10,000	\$0			\$10,000			
2022	8	North West Montana Complex	Replace Operational Infrastructure to Support Field Stations Currently Supported at the National Bison Range	MT	AL	60	\$11,533	\$0	\$0	\$11,533	\$11,533	\$0		\$0
2022	9	Montezuma NWR Cortland ES	Remove and Replace Headquarters/Visitor Center, Co-locate with Ecological Services	NY	27	56	\$3,160	\$0	\$0	\$3,160	\$3,160	\$0		\$0
2022	10	Alchesay NFH	Alchesay Tank House Replacement	AZ	06	55	\$1,400	\$0	\$0	\$1,400	\$1,400	\$0		\$3,041
2022	11	Iron River NFH	Demolish Dilapidated Milking Barn	WI	07	42	\$30	\$0	\$30	\$0	\$30	\$0		-\$5,364
Total for Fiscal Year 2022											\$31,656			

p = Planning
d = Design
ic = Initial construction
cc = Complete construction
* = Located in multiple Congressional Districts that are to be determined.

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Construction FIVE YEAR PLAN -- FY 2022-2026**

Plan Fund Year	Priority	Facility or Unit Name	Project Title	State	Cong. District	DOI Score	Project Cost Information (\$000)					Remaining to be Funded	Future Years of Funding	Change in Annual O&M (actual \$/yr)
							Total Project	Funded to Date	Budget Year Funding					
									DM	CI	Total			
2023	12	Forsythe NWR	Co-Location of ES	NJ	02	100	\$5,326	\$0			\$5,326	\$0		\$0
2023	13	Bears Bluff NFH	Replace and Relocate Laboratory [cc]	SC	06	90	\$2,404	\$1,000	\$1,404	\$0	\$1,404	\$0		\$0
2023	14	Baldhill Dam NFH	Rehabilitate Ponds Kettles and Drainage (Ponds 1 to 10) [cc]	ND	AL	90	\$3,625	\$0	\$3,625	\$0	\$3,625	\$0		\$1,365
2023	15	National Eagle and Wildlife Property Repository	Repair Eagle Repository building exterior and replace employee parking	CO	07	80	\$620	\$0			\$620	\$0		
2023	16	Yukon Delta NWR	Remediate and Demolish Bureau of Indian Affairs Infrastructure Phase III of VI	AK	AL	70	\$30,000	\$780	\$3,335	\$0	\$3,335	\$25,885	2026	
2023	17	Information Resources & Technology Management	Nationwide Radio Site Safety Investigations	*	*	70	\$1,000	\$0	\$250	\$0	\$250	\$750		
2023	18	Branch of Dam Safety	Nationwide Seismic Safety Investigations and Mitigation Phase IV of V	*	*	70	\$1,000	\$600	\$200	\$0	\$200	\$200	2024	\$0
2023	19	Nationwide	Construct EV Charging Stations	*	*	70	\$10,000	\$0			\$10,000			
2023	20	Ridgefield NWR	Replace Buildings Phase II of II - Construct Community Nature Center and Public Recreational Facilities Phase II [cc]	WA	03	51	\$6,225	\$0	\$0	\$6,225	\$6,225	\$0		
2023	21	Richard Cronin National Salmon Station	Construct Cooperative Research Lab Building - [p/d/cc]	MA	1	42	\$671	\$0	\$500	\$0	\$671	\$0		
Total for Fiscal Year 2023											\$31,656			

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**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Construction FIVE YEAR PLAN -- FY 2022-2026**

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

C-29

Plan Fund Year	Priority	Facility or Unit Name	Project Title	State	Cong. District	DOI Score	Project Cost Information (\$000)					Remaining to be Funded	Future Years of Funding	Change in Annual O&M (actual \$/yr)
							Total Project	Funded to Date	Budget Year Funding					
									DM	CI	Total			
2024	22	Coastal Delaware Complex	Construct Public Use Infrastructure with Trail Connections to the Local Community	DE	AL	100	\$2,181	\$0	\$2,181	\$0	\$2,181	\$0		
2024	23	National Black-Footed Ferret Conservation Center	Expand Operational and Rearing Facility Infrastructure.	CO	04	90	\$3,495	\$0	\$0	\$3,495	\$3,495	\$0		
2024	24	Bavin Forensic Lab	HVAC Replacements and Energy Conservation Upgrades (Solar, EV Stations)	OR	02	70	\$650	\$0			\$650	\$0		
2024	25	Branch of Dam Safety	Nationwide Seismic Safety Investigations and Mitigation Phase V of V	*	*	70	\$1,000	\$800	\$200	\$0	\$200	\$0		\$0
2024	26	Information Resources & Technology Management	Nationwide Radio Site Safety Investigations	*	*	70	\$1,250	\$1,000	\$250	\$0	\$250	\$0		
2024	27	Information Resources & Technology Management	Nationwide Radio Site Safety Remediation	*	*	70	\$1,600	\$0	\$400	\$0	\$400	\$1,200		
2024	28	D.D. Eisenhower NFH	Fish Rearing Infrastructure Upgrades [p,d,ic]	VT	AL	70	\$5,717	\$0	\$15	\$1,205	\$1,079	\$4,638		\$0
2024	29	Erwin NFH	Construct Buikding Over Lower Raceways	TN	01	70	\$2,250	\$0	\$445	\$1,805	\$2,250	\$0		
2024	30	Nationwide	Construct EV Charging Stations	*	*	70	\$10,000	\$0			\$10,000			
2024	31	Jordon River NFH	Construct 5-Bay Vehicle Storage Building	MI	1	62	\$750	\$0	\$0	\$750	\$750	\$0		
2024	32	Pendills Creek NFH	Construct 5-Bay Vehicle Storage Building	MI	1	62	\$750	\$0	\$0	\$750	\$750	\$0		
2024	33	Toppenish, Turnbull, and Willapa NWRS	Removal and Abatement of excess buildings	*	*	60	\$523	\$0	\$523	\$0	\$523	\$0		
2024	34	Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge	Remediate Habitat Infrastructure and Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure	UT	1	52	\$15,400	\$0	\$4,393	\$3,500	\$7,893	\$7,507		
2024	35	Patuxent Research Refuge	Demolition of Misc Refuge Buildings	MD	05	50	\$625	\$0	\$625	\$0	\$625	\$0		
2024	36	Long Island NWR	Demolition of Misc Refuge Buildings	NY	12	50	\$610	\$0	\$610	\$0	\$610	\$0		
Total for Fiscal Year 2024											\$31,656			

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FY 2022 BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

CONSTRUCTION

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Construction FIVE YEAR PLAN -- FY 2022-2026**

Plan Fund Year	Priority	Facility or Unit Name	Project Title	State	Cong. District	DOI Score	Project Cost Information (\$000)					Remaining to be Funded	Future Years of Funding	Change in Annual O&M (actual S/vr)
							Total Project	Funded to Date	Budget Year Funding					
									DM	CI	Total			
2025	37	Patuxent NWR	Chesapeake Bay colocation ES/LE/FWCO	MD	05	90	\$4,848	\$0			\$4,848	\$0		
2025	38	D.D. Eisenhower NFH	Fish Rearing Infrastructure Upgrades [c]	VT	AL	70	\$5,717	\$1,079	\$15	\$1,205	\$1,311	\$3,327		\$0
2025	39	Information Resources & Technology Management	Nationwide Radio Site Safety Investigations Phase V of V	*	*	70	\$1,250	\$1,000	\$250	\$0	\$250	\$0		
2025	40	Information Resources & Technology Management	Nationwide Radio Site Safety Remediation	*	*	70	\$1,600	\$400			\$400	\$800		
2025	41	Abernathy FTC	Construction of Fish & Egg Isolation/Quarantine Building	WA	02	70	\$1,800	\$0	\$1,000	\$800	\$1,800	\$0		\$0
2025	42	Nationwide	Construct EV Charging Stations	*	*	70	\$10,000	\$0			\$10,000			
2025	43	North Attleboro NFH	Construct New Equipment and Vehicle Storage Building	MA	04	62	\$1,250	\$0	\$938	\$312	\$1,250	\$0		
2025	44	Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge	Remediate Habitat Infrastructure and Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure	UT	1	52	\$15,400	\$7,893	\$4,665	\$2,842	\$7,507	\$0		
2025	45	Midway Atoll NWR	Replace Sewage Treatment System	MQ		40	\$5,600	\$0			\$4,290	\$1,310		
Total for Fiscal Year 2025											\$31,656			

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ic = Initial construction
cc = Complete construction
* = Located in multiple Congressional Districts that are to be determined.

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Construction FIVE YEAR PLAN -- FY 2022-2026**

Plan Fund Year	Priority	Facility or Unit Name	Project Title	State	Cong. District	DOI Score	Project Cost Information (\$000)				Remaining to be Funded	Future Years of Funding	Change in Annual O&M (actual \$/yr)	
							Total Project	Funded to Date	Budget Year Funding					
									DM	CI				Total
2026	46	Sherburne NWR	Replace Office and Visitor Center	MN	6	80	\$7,900			\$7,900	\$7,900	\$0		
2026	47	D.D. Eisenhower NFH	Fish Rearing Infrastructure Upgrades [cc]	VT	AL	70	\$5,717	\$2,390	\$15	\$1,205	\$3,327	\$0		\$0
2026	48	Yukon Delta NWR	Remediate and Demolish Bureau of Indian Affairs Infrastructure Phase IV of VI	AK	AL	70	\$30,000	\$4,115	\$7,779	\$0	\$7,779	\$18,106		
2026	49	Information Resources & Technology Management	Nationwide Radio Site Safety Investigations Phase V of V	*	*	70	\$1,250	\$1,000	\$250	\$0	\$250	\$0		
2026	50	Information Resources & Technology Management	Nationwide Radio Site Safety Remediation	*	*	70	\$1,600	\$800			\$400	\$400		
2026	51	Nationwide	Construct EV Charging Stations	*	*	70	\$10,000	\$0			\$10,000	\$0		
2026	52	Norfolk NFH	Construct Intake Water Treatment System [p,d,ic]	AR	03	65	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0		\$2,000
Total for Fiscal Year 2026											\$31,656			

p = Planning
d = Design
ic = Initial construction
cc = Complete construction
* = Located in multiple Congressional Districts that are to be determined.

LAND ACQUISITION

Appropriations Language

This account does not require appropriation language due to permanent appropriation authorized by the Great American Outdoors Act, P.L. 116-152 (GAOA). However, Section 200303(c)(1) of GAOA includes a statutory requirement for the Department to submit a proposed allocation of Land and Water Conservation Fund funding to Congress as part of the annual budget process.

Authorizing Statutes

***The Fish and Wildlife Act**, as amended (16 U.S.C. 742a-742j). Authorizes acquisition of additions to the National Wildlife Refuge System for the development, management, advancement, conservation, and protection of fish and wildlife resources by purchase or exchange of land and water or interests therein.*

***Refuge Recreation Act**, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460-460k-4). Authorizes acquisition of areas that are adjacent to or within existing fish and wildlife Conservation Areas administered by the Department of the Interior, and suitable for (1) incidental fish and wildlife-oriented recreation development, (2) the protection of natural resources, (3) the conservation of listed, threatened, or endangered species, or (4) carrying out two or more of the above.*

***Land and Water Conservation Fund Act**, as amended (16 U.S.C. 4601-4608). Authorizes appropriations to the Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire land for National Wildlife Refuges as otherwise authorized by law.*

***National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act** (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee). Establishes overall policy guidance, places restrictions on the transfer, exchange, or other disposal of refuge lands, and authorizes the Secretary to accept donations of land.*

***Endangered Species Act**, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1534-1544). Authorizes the acquisition of land, waters, or interests therein for the conservation of fish, wildlife, and plants, including those that are listed as endangered or threatened species, with Land and Water Conservation Fund Act appropriations.*

***Emergency Wetlands Resources Act** (P.L. 99-645; 100 Stat. 3582). Authorizes the purchase of wetlands, or interests in wetlands, consistent with the wetlands priority conservation plan established under the Act.*

***Highlands Conservation Act** (P.L. 108-421). Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to work in partnership with the Secretary of Agriculture to provide financial assistance to the Highlands States to preserve and protect high priority conservation land in the Highland region.*

***John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act** (P.L. 116-9). Permanently authorization the Land and Water Conservation Fund.*

***The Great American Outdoors Act, National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund** (P.L. 116-152). Provides a permanent appropriation of \$900,000,000 per year from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The LWCF funds the four main Federal land acquisition programs (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management) and provides grants to State and local governments to acquire land for recreation and conservation. Funding is subject to Congressional*

allocation; the Act also mandated that account allocations and detailed project information be proposed by the Administration each year through the President's annual budget submission, and that such allocations, following review by the House and Senate Appropriations Committees may be modified through an alternate allocation.

Appropriation: Land Acquisition

LWCF category/budget activity	2020 Actual ¹	2021 Enacted ²	2022 Request				Change from 2021 (+/-)	
			Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request ²		
Federal Land Acquisition								
Land Acquisition Management	(\$000)	13,000	17,000	0	0	+1,028	18,028	+1,028
Land Protection Planning	(\$000)	465	465	0	0	+28	493	+28
Exchanges	(\$000)	1,500	1,500	0	0	+91	1,591	+91
Inholdings, Emergencies, and Hardships	(\$000)	6,500	12,500	0	0	-1,365	11,135	-1,365
Recreational Access	(\$000)	8,000	15,500	0	0	-124	15,376	-124
Line-Item Projects	(\$000)	31,250	54,875	0	0	-1,783	53,092	-1,783
Subtotal, Federal Land Acquisition	(\$000)	60,715	101,840	0	0	-2,125	99,715	-2,125
Grants to States								
Highlands Conservation Act	(\$000)	10,000	10,000	0	0	0	10,000	0
Total, Land Acquisition	(\$000)	70,715	111,840	0	0	-2,125	109,715	-2,125
	FTE	68	70			0	70	0

¹ LWCF funding in FY 2020 was provided as discretionary funding through the annual appropriations process.

² Starting in FY 2021, LWCF funding became available as mandatory funding. FY 2021 LWCF funding was not subject to sequester due to the timing of when the Great American Outdoors Act was enacted. All FY 2022 LWCF funding is subject to a sequestration reduction of -5.7% which by law, is applied during the year of execution uniformly across all programs.

Program Overview

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was established by Congress in 1964 to support the protection of Federal public lands and waters – including national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, and public lands recreation areas – and to provide recreation opportunities to all Americans. The LWCF also provides for grants to State and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities.

Through a variety of programs, LWCF supports our nationwide legacy of high-quality recreation and conservation areas. The Fund invests earnings from offshore oil and gas leasing to help strengthen communities, preserve our history and protect our national endowment of lands and waters. Every State and county in the Nation has benefited from the LWCF since its establishment.

In 2020, Congress enacted the Great American Outdoors Act, P.L. 116-152 (GAOA) which amended the LWCF authorization (54 U.S.C 200303). This historic legislation ensures the Nation’s commitment to conservation and recreation endures for future generations. GAOA guarantees that full funding, \$900 million a year, is permanently available for LWCF conservation and recreation programs reauthorized by the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act. The Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006, P.L. 109-432 makes additional amounts available from the LWCF for State grants.

The Department of the Interior is responsible for administering and implementing these important programs, in concert with the U.S. Forest Service. The LWCF, as amended by GAOA, requires the President's annual budget submission to Congress to include a proposed allocation of LWCF funding by account, program and project for consideration as part of the annual budget process. In FY 2022, mandatory LWCF funding is subject to a sequestration reduction of -5.7%. The sequestration reduction will be applied uniformly across all programs and activities when funds are available for execution.

The Land Acquisition appropriation includes the Service's Federal land acquisition program, the Highlands Conservation Act grants to States program, and portions of the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund program (described in the CESCOF chapter).

**Appropriation: Land Acquisition
LWCF Category: Federal Land Acquisition**

LWCF category/budget activity	2020 Actual ¹	2021 Enacted ²	2022 Request				Change from 2021 (+/-)
			Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request ²	
Land Acquisition Management (\$000)	13,000	17,000	0	0	+1,028	18,028	+1,028
Land Protection Planning (\$000)	465	465	0	0	+28	493	+28
Exchanges (\$000)	1,500	1,500	0	0	+91	1,591	+91
Inholdings, Emergencies, and Hardships (\$000)	6,500	12,500	0	0	-1,365	11,135	-1,365
Recreational Access (\$000)	8,000	15,500	0	0	-124	15,376	-124
Line-Item Projects (\$000)	31,250	54,875	0	0	-1,783	53,092	-1,783
Total, Federal Land Acquisition³ (\$000)	60,715	101,840	0	0	-2,125	99,715	-2,125
FTE	63	68			0	68	0

¹ LWCF funding in FY 2020 was provided as discretionary funding through the annual appropriations process.

² Starting in FY 2021, LWCF funding became available as mandatory funding. FY 2021 LWCF funding was not subject to sequester due to the timing of when the Great American Outdoors Act was enacted. All FY 2022 LWCF funding is subject to a sequestration reduction of -5.7% which by law, is applied during the year of execution uniformly across all programs.

³ In FY 2020, the Highlands Conservation Act was appropriated within Federal land acquisition; however, for ease of presentation in this Chapter it is shown broken out separately as Grants to States. See the next section for more details.

Summary of 2022 Program Changes for (Federal) Land Acquisition

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Land Acquisition Management	+1,028	0
• Land Protection Planning	+28	0
• Exchanges	+91	0
• Inholdings, Emergencies, and Hardships	-1,365	0
• Recreational Access	-124	0
• Land Acquisition Projects	-1,783	0
Program Changes	-2,125	0

Program Overview

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was established by Congress in 1964 to fulfill a bipartisan commitment to safeguard our natural areas, water resources, and cultural heritage, and to provide recreation opportunities to all Americans. In 1972, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) authorized using LWCF funding for the acquisition of land, waters, or interests therein for the conservation of fish, wildlife, and plants, including those that are listed as endangered or threatened species. Acquired lands and waters become part of the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) or National Fish Hatchery System (NFHS). When acquired in fee title, these lands and waters provide the public opportunities to hunt, fish, observe and photograph wildlife, and enjoy environmental education and interpretation. The Service purchases the minimum interest in land that is necessary to meet the Service’s conservation mission. Therefore, if conservation easements will meet biological objectives, then typically the Service will pursue those rather than buying the land in fee.

Each new refuge in the National Wildlife Refuge System is strategically planned to give migrating birds safe havens on their journeys, provide fish with clean waters, and ensure that our children and grandchildren have wild places to explore. The Service's Strategic Growth Policy directs the Service to focus on acquiring lands and waters that support three conservation priorities: 1) Recovery of threatened and endangered species; 2) Implementing the North American Waterfowl Management Plan; and 3) Conserving migratory birds of conservation concern. These priorities are consistent with the objectives of the Administration's 30 by 30 initiative and will allow the Service to contribute towards the goal of protecting 30% of land and waters by 2030.

Using these three priorities, a Service interdisciplinary team developed the Targeted Resource Acquisition Comparison Tool (TRACT). The TRACT provides a biological, spatially explicit, science-based, transparent process for evaluating proposed Refuge System land acquisitions based on each of these three conservation priorities. The TRACT does not assign weights to the three priorities and does not produce a single numerical ranking that combines all of the Service's priorities. The TRACT's rankings are instead intended to provide decision makers with an objective analysis that is grounded in the best available science; it is a decision support tool to inform the decision maker, but does not make the decision. Consideration is also given to how an acquisition supports DOI and Service goals and priorities to provide connectivity for wildlife corridors and habitat, especially for climate change mitigation and adaptation and to increase public access, especially for underserved areas that would benefit from increased access to the outdoors.

The Service acquires land and interests in land from willing sellers only. For every project for which the Service requests LWCF funding, the Service has an approved Land Protection Plan (LPP) and has completed the required National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process. The LPP and NEPA processes include opportunities for public input from local communities, businesses, landowners, non-governmental organizations, local governments, and other interested parties.

Land Acquisition Management

This activity supports efforts directly related to the acquisition of lands within approved acquisition boundaries of the NWRS. The funding supports all costs for staff and the administration, implementation, coordination, and evaluation of the Service's Federal land acquisition program in our Headquarters, Regional, and field offices. The land acquisition staff maintains the maps and property records for Service-managed lands, and prepares right-of-way permits for oil, gas, and other pipelines, electrical transmission lines, and other infrastructure. This budget activity also includes



In 2020, The Conservation Fund donated to the Service a 66-acre inholding of Deep Fork NWR, Oklahoma. This acquisition allows easier public access to the Deep Fork River as well as previously inaccessible portions of the Refuge. Frequent flooding results in superb conditions for waterfowl traversing the Central Flyway including mallards, blue-winged teal, northern shovelers, pintails and resident wood ducks. FWS Photo.

approximately \$2 million for the land acquisition program's share of Service-wide infrastructure needs and assessments, including leased space and information technology investments. Land acquisition management also funds contracts for boundary surveys, title work, and appraisals when the specific project

appropriation is insufficient to fund these costs in addition to land costs and costs for legal support for title reviews and approvals.

Land acquisition staff provides specialized support for several realty-based functions, including:

- Working with willing sellers, from initial explanations of Federal acquisition options to the final acquisition, including processing and accepting donations.
- Preparing right-of-way permits for oil and gas and other pipelines, electrical transmission lines, telecommunications, and other infrastructure that crosses Service-managed lands.
- Developing and maintaining spatial and other tools that inform the decision-making process.
- Working collaboratively with States, local governments, landowners, non-governmental organizations, and other land management agencies to acquire land for wildlife corridors and public recreation.
- Creating, maintaining, and updating geospatial data, and property records for Service-managed lands. This information supports the Service's GIS/mapping capacity for land use and the Service's contributions to the Protected Areas Database of the United States (PAD-US), which is a single, continuously updated geospatial database/official national inventory of Federal and State protected areas. PAD-US includes all conservation areas managed by Federal and State agencies; conservation areas owned by nonprofits; and private lands protected by conservation easements. PAD-US serves many users, and is developed through partnerships with States, Federal agencies, and non-profit organizations.
- Preparing responses to information requests from a variety of sources.

Land Protection Planning

This activity supports National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements for land acquisition projects and the development of Land Protection Plans (LPPs), a key function in implementing the Service's Strategic Growth Policy. The LPP process does not necessarily result in recommending the fee acquisition of land; often acquisition of conservation easements can accomplish fish and wildlife habitat conservation goals effectively and at a lower cost.

The LPP process begins when refuge field stations, local governments, and other conservation partners suggest areas for the protection of endangered species, migratory birds and other important fish, wildlife, and plant species. If there is enough local support and interest, the Service may start the process for developing an LPP. In some cases, LPPs will be prepared to establish new refuges or, more likely, to expand existing refuges to address the needs of fish, wildlife, and plant communities. Specific activities include gathering background data; coordinating with State and local entities; involving the public; analyzing ecological, legal, and financial issues; and printing and distributing draft and final plan documents. By using conservation planning aids such as models of species-habitat interaction, climate science and other decision support tools, Service staff can prioritize conservation and/or management actions needed to support or attain sustainable fish and wildlife populations at desired levels. Coordinating local actions with State and regional conservation goals improves the success of conserving large, connected natural areas. By working together, the Service and our conservation partners can accomplish much more than by working as separate entities.

The Planning program is complemented by the Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife program, through which the Service works with hundreds of private landowners annually on habitat restoration and enhancement projects on private lands. These projects connect and extend high-quality habitats, including big game corridors; restore landscapes; and sustain high priority species populations.

Exchanges

Land exchanges provide unique opportunities to work in partnership with other Federal agencies and State and local governments, private landowners and organizations, and local and national conservation groups

and are pursued when the exchange is a net benefit for the Service. Land exchange projects leverage the collective expertise of these partners to conserve critical habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife, decrease habitat fragmentation, and provide the public with access to natural areas to hunt, fish, photograph, and observe wildlife, and enjoy environmental education and interpretation. Exchanges are a win-win alternative that helps the Service to meet conservation goals while allowing the Service to be a good neighbor to local landowners. However, they are more labor and cost intensive since the Service has to do two sets of all required evaluations (two appraisals, two title opinions, two contaminant surveys, and other standard realty work) for the out-going exchange lands and the incoming exchange lands.

Below is the most up to date list of all the potential land exchange projects. These projects total at least 7,785 acres, and the Service estimates that \$1,500,000 will be needed for acquisition-related management costs to complete all of them, including salaries, appraisals, title work, contaminant surveys, and other expenses. Exchanges may involve on-going expenditures over a period of years.

Potential Land Exchange Projects

State	Potential Exchanges	Acres to be Acquired	Management Costs
Alaska	Future Exchanges Plan	TBD	\$220,000
Alaska	Togiak NWR - Saguyak	120	\$30,000
Arizona	Havasu NWR	10	\$10,000
Arizona	Kofa NWR (various)	372	\$85,000
Arkansas	Felsenthal NWR	2,168	\$35,000
California	Bitter Creek NWR	TBD	\$40,000
California	Sacramento River NWR	20	\$20,000
Colorado	Arapaho NWR	280	\$25,000
Georgia	Harris Neck NWR	50	\$25,000
Idaho	Grays Lake NWR	815	\$40,000
Illinois	Cypress Creek NWR	75	\$5,000
Indiana	Patoka River NWR	80	\$18,000
Louisiana	Delta NWR	359	\$25,000
Louisiana	Lake Ophelia NWR - FSA Tract	854	\$26,000
Massachusetts	Parker River NWR	150	\$25,000
Michigan	Detroit River IWR	10	\$3,000
Minnesota	Beltrami WMA (LUP)	544	\$14,000
Minnesota	Big Stone County WPA	53	\$18,000
Minnesota	Glacial Ridge NWR	200	\$14,000
Minnesota	Minnesota Valley NWR	5	\$18,000
Minnesota	Sherburne NWR	5	\$3,000
Minnesota	Stearns County WPA	22	\$9,000
Missouri	Middle Mississippi NWR	108	\$3,000
Montana	Various Montana WPAs and WMDs	40	\$50,000
Nevada	Stillwater NWR	70	\$30,000
New Hampshire	Umbagog NWR	2	\$15,000
New Jersey	EB Forsythe NWR	26	\$35,000
North Carolina	Currituck NWR	1	\$25,000
North Dakota	Audubon WMD	55	\$25,000
North Dakota	Various North Dakota WPA's & WMA's	500	\$225,000
Oregon	Bandon Marsh NWR	1	\$5,000

State	Potential Exchanges	Acres to be Acquired	Management Costs
Oregon	Cold Springs NWR	14	\$40,000
South Dakota	Various South Dakota WPA's & WMD's	500	\$225,000
Texas	Laguna Atascosa NWR	95	\$35,000
Texas	Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR	100	\$25,000
Texas	Trinity NWR	4	\$5,000
Vermont	Missisquoi NWR	7	\$20,000
Washington	McNary NWR	2	\$5,000
Washington	Steigerwald Lake NWR	16	\$10,000
Wisconsin	Necedah WMA	40	\$3,000
Wisconsin	Necedah WMA - FSA Tract	5	\$18,000
Wisconsin	Upper MS River NW&FR - WI DOT	5	\$3,000
Wisconsin	Whittlesey Creek NWR	2	\$3,000
Total Exchange Acres and Management Costs		7,785.00	\$1,513,000

Inholdings, Emergencies, and Hardships

The Service uses funding in this activity to expedite purchases of tracts of land from willing sellers for three categories: inholdings, emergencies, and hardships. The Service defines any land within an approved acquisition boundary as an inholding. The Service frequently uses funding for inholdings to purchase lands that connect with private or State conserved lands, to create larger contiguous blocks of protected wildlife habitat, and to expand public recreational opportunities. The Service also uses funding for inholdings to acquire small tracts of land when doing so will improve refuge management effectiveness or efficiency, eliminate a costly management problem, or provide or expand public access to existing refuge lands for hunting, fishing, and other compatible wildlife-dependent recreation. An emergency that may be best addressed with land acquisition from a willing seller could be a proposed development or a conversion to other uses that would result in the permanent loss of wildlife habitat or detrimental impacts to the refuge. Funding is also used to purchase lands when the owner is experiencing financial hardship and must quickly sell his or her land that is within an approved refuge acquisition boundary. This funding allows the Service to capitalize on emergent once-in-a-generation opportunities to conserve fish and wildlife habitat and to be a good neighbor to local landowners.

Use of Residual LWCF Funds

Federal land acquisition projects sometimes have small amounts of funds remaining after land has been acquired. These residual funds are insufficient to acquire additional land. The Service reallocates residual project funds of less than \$50,000 to the Inholdings / Emergencies and Hardships line item to be used to protect other lands that do not have project funding. This shift enables the Service to acquire valuable wildlife habitat within approved refuge acquisition boundaries that becomes available for acquisition between appropriations cycles.

In 2020, the Service used Recreational Access funding to acquire a 223-acre tract of tallgrass prairie habitat for Port Louisa NWR, Iowa. The tract provides opportunities for wildlife-dependent public recreation such as hunting, fishing, trapping, birdwatching, canoeing, and hiking, and improves access for similar activities on adjacent Iowa Department of Natural Resources lands. FWS Photo.



Recreational Access

This activity provides funding for acquisition of small parcels of land to conserve important wildlife habitats that provide public recreational opportunities, including hunting and fishing. Refuges that have willing sellers may request funds to acquire lands to provide public access for wildlife-dependent recreation, such as hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation.

Line-Item Projects

This activity funds individual land acquisition projects. Each year the Service acquires land or interests in land (water rights) in fee title or conservation easement through LWCF. The acquired lands provide habitat for wildlife and often enhance resource management capability. Fee title acquisitions generate economic benefits for local communities and provide the public with opportunities to hunt, fish, observe and photograph wildlife, and enjoy environmental education and interpretation.

Recent acquisition highlights include:

Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge, California

The Service acquired three separate properties totaling 114 acres for Humboldt Bay NWR. Acquisition provides permanent protection of ocean front and associated dunes, an egret and heron rookery, and riparian wetland habitat. In addition, the Refuge is able to expand public wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities, such as hiking and wildlife viewing. The properties provide habitat for a variety of birds and wildlife, including threatened or endangered species such as the yellow-billed cuckoo. The Service's ability to manage the flow and level of water on one property allows the Service to mitigate flooding of private lands adjacent to the Refuge.



The Service acquired 107 acres of oceanfront property Humboldt Bay NWR, California, expanding public recreational opportunities. USFWS Photo.

Little River National Wildlife Refuge, Oklahoma

In November 2019, the Service, in cooperation with The Conservation Fund, acquired a 160-acre tract in the southeast corner of Oklahoma. Completely surrounded on all four sides by Little River NWR, the land is now protected from development and is officially part of the Refuge. The land will be available for activities including big and small game hunting, bird watching, and hiking. Because the property includes a major access road to the Refuge, users are able to explore nearly 1,000 acres of Refuge lands that were previously inaccessible.

Rappahannock River Valley NWR, Virginia

In 2019, the Service acquired a 252-acre tract for Rappahannock River Valley NWR. Acquisition allows for protection of the viewshed of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail for boaters and canoers. The acquisition includes Fones Cliff (pictured), which is well known for nesting bald eagles and is the site of documented interaction between John Smith's party and the Rappahannock Tribe.



Fones Cliff. USFWS Photo.

Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, Georgia

The Service acquired a 673.73-acre tract for Bond Swamp NWR. This acquisition protects wetlands and associated uplands along Stone Creek and the Ocmulgee River floodplain. The tract is readily accessible with one and a half miles of county road frontage and one half mile of river frontage. The additional lands are open for birding and hiking along an existing walking trail, improving access to other parts of the Refuge. The Service is working with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to construct a new boat ramp on this property, which would provide additional access to the Ocmulgee River and expand public kayaking and boating opportunities through the center of the Refuge.

Justification of 2022 Program Changes

The 2022 budget request for Land Acquisition is \$99,715,000 and 68 FTE, a net program change of -\$2,125,000 and 0 FTE from the 2021 Enacted.

Land Acquisition Management (+\$1,028,000/+0 FTE)

The acquisition management funding supports all costs for staff and the administration, implementation, coordination, and evaluation of the Service's Federal land acquisition program. This change reflects funding that will be sequestered; the remaining funding will allow the Service to continue operations at the FY 2021 level, including working with willing sellers and conservation partners to facilitate land acquisition projects.

Land Protection Planning (+\$28,000/+0 FTE)

The land protection planning funding supports National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements for land acquisition projects and the development of Land Protection Plans (LPPs). This change reflects funding that will be sequestered; the remaining funding will allow the Service to continue operations at the FY 2021 level.

Exchanges (+\$91,000/+0 FTE)

Land exchanges provide unique opportunities to work in partnership with private landowners and organizations, local and national conservation groups, and other Federal agencies and State and local governments. Exchanges are an important alternative to buying land since very often landowners do not want to leave an area; exchanges are a win-win alternative that helps the Service align resource goals and decrease operations and management costs while also meeting the needs of private landowners. This change reflects funding that will be sequestered; the remaining funding will allow the Service to continue operations at the FY 2021 level.

Inholdings, Emergencies, and Hardships (-\$1,365,000/-0 FTE)

The Service is requesting \$11,135,000 for the inholdings, emergencies, and hardships program, which will be reduced by a 5.7% sequestration. This funding will allow the Service to continue capitalizing on emergent opportunities to conserve habitat for the enjoyment of the American public. This funding is only used for actual land purchases, including contract appraisals and other related costs.

Recreational Access (-\$124,000/-0 FTE)

The Service is requesting \$15,376,000 for the recreational access program, which will be reduced by a 5.7% sequestration. This funding will allow the Service to continue capitalizing on acquiring lands to provide public access for wildlife-dependent recreation, such as hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation. This funding is only used for actual land purchase, including contract appraisals and other related costs.

Line-Item Land Acquisition Projects (-\$1,783,000/+0 FTE)

The Service is requesting \$53,092,000 for line-item projects. The project list (below) includes \$3,026,000 in funding that will be sequestered; the remaining funding will allow the Service to fund 20 acquisition projects across the Nation.

Line-Item Projects for FY 2022

The Service uses several tools, including conservation design, to implement its 2014 Strategic Growth Policy. Conservation design combines geospatial data with biological information and models to create maps and other tools that evaluate the refuge's habitat potential to support a fish, wildlife, or plant populations. The Service also works collaboratively with conservation partners to determine the kind, quality, and configuration of the needed habitat. With these tools and data, the Service can determine the current habitat capability and what is needed to achieve specific biological objectives or outcomes.

The land acquisition projects proposed for the FY 2022 Budget reflect additional important factors, including contribution of leveraged funds, conservation partner participation, and urgency of project completion to protect natural areas from development or other incompatible uses. The proposed projects support the Service's mission-oriented priorities.

The list below is the current set of land acquisition proposals, in priority order, that has been vetted and approved by Service and Departmental leadership to meet the high priority programmatic needs of the Service.

FY 2022 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service GAOA LWCF Project List

Priority	Project	State(s)	Funding (\$ in 000s)	Acres
1	Silvio O. Conte NFWR	CT/MA/NH/VT	\$5,000	2,685
2	Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR	TX	\$3,000	1,148
3	Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR	IA/MN	\$500	120
4	Laguna Atascosa NWR	TX	\$4,000	2,000
5	St. Marks NWR	FL	\$2,000	1,818
6	Sacramento River NWR	CA	\$1,000	500
7	Upper Mississippi River NFWR	IA/IL/MN/WI	\$1,500	500
8	Great Thicket NWR	CT/MA/ME/ NH/ NY/RI	\$2,500	500
9	Hackmatack NWR	IL/WI	\$750	200
10	Ankeny NWR	OR	\$1,500	225
11	William L. Finley NWR	OR	\$1,000	98
12	Patoka River NWR	IN	\$1,000	200
13	Middle Mississippi River NWR	IL/MO	\$1,000	500
14	San Joaquin River NWR	CA	\$2,500	160
15	Lower Rio Grande NWR	TX	\$1,000	357
16	Cache River NWR	AR	\$1,000	285
17	Rappahannock River Valley NWR	VA	\$2,000	500
18	Bear River Watershed CA	ID/UT/WY	\$2,316	2,980
19	Felsenthal NWR	AR	\$4,500	2,850
20	Montana CAs and NWRs	MT	\$12,000	18,000
	Sequestration (5.7% of each project)		\$3,026	
Total FY 2022 Line-Item Projects			\$53,092	35,626

LWCF Category: Grants to States
Activity: Highlands Conservation Act

LWCF category/budget activity	2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022 Request				Change from 2021 (+/-)
			Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Grants to States							
Highlands Conservation Act¹	10,000	10,000	0	0	0	10,000	0
<i>FTE</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>			<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>

1 In FY 2020, the Highlands Conservation Act was appropriated within Federal land acquisition; however, for ease of presentation in this Chapter it is shown broken out separately as Grants to States.

The Highlands Conservation Act (H.R. 1964, 2004; 16 U.S.C. 3901) (HCA) authorizes a grant program to 4 States (Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania) to acquire land and protect natural resources in the 3.4 million acre Highlands Region, a biologically diverse landscape distinguished by Appalachian ridges, hills, and plateaus that provides nature-oriented recreational opportunities for millions of people living in or visiting the Northeast.

The Service is the lead agency for administering [the HCA Grant Program](#), in coordination with the U.S. Forest Service, and provides administration and oversight of the program. The Service works closely with the four Highlands States to identify priority areas for State land acquisition to meet State and Federal conservation goals.

Under the FWS’s coordination, the HCA grant program has leveraged non-Federal funds at a 2:1 ratio, doubling the minimum 1:1 amount required by law. Since passage of the HCA in 2004, 10,281 acres of land have been protected under the program. Projects support key conservation objectives outlined in the law such as clean drinking water, healthy forests, thriving wildlife populations, productive agriculture, and abundant recreational opportunities.

HCA-funded land acquisition projects are meeting the priorities of the Service and the Administration. The HCA grant program is conserving outdoor recreational areas to encourage a connection between people and the outdoors. One in nine Americans lives within a two-hour drive of the outstanding outdoor recreational opportunities provided by the Highlands region. The HCA grant program is protecting strategically important natural areas that sustain a diversity of fish and wildlife species. Priority at-risk species benefiting from HCA land conservation include the [bog turtle](#), [northern long-eared bat](#), [brook floater mussel](#), [New England cottontail](#), and [others](#).

Investment in the HCA program supports the goals set forth by the Administration in the Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad to conserve 30% of land and water within the United States by 2030. The following are two examples of recent HCA-funded acquisitions:

On November 30, 2020, the State of New York Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (NY Parks) completed the purchase of 116 acres to expand the 21,935-acre Sterling Forest, a State park described by NY Parks as a “nearly pristine natural refuge amidst one of the Nation’s most densely populated areas, a remarkable piece of woodland, a watershed for millions, and a tremendous outdoor recreation area.” This acquisition creates new public access to Sterling Forest and protects habitat for timber rattlesnake, a State-listed threatened species, as well as potential habitat for the federally-listed northern long-eared bat.



On December 7, 2020, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection acquired a Conservation Easement on 107 acres that included the northern ridge and northwestern face of Coltsfoot Mountain and over 800 linear feet of Furnace Brook, an important tributary of the Housatonic River. The property shares almost a mile of common boundary with Wyantnock State Forest and abuts Cornwall Conservation Trust conservation land. This important headwaters land is in a large unbroken forest block (over 4,000 acres) in the CT-MA-NY region of

western New England, with habitat that can support federally-listed northern long-eared bat and small whorled pogonia. The property, pictured here, will provide a new access point to the regional Mohawk Trail. *(photo credit: Harry White)*

Justification of 2022 Program Changes

The 2022 budget request for Highlands is \$10,000,000 and 1 FTE, level with the 2021 Enacted.

COOPERATIVE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND

Appropriations Language

For expenses necessary to carry out section 6 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1535), [\$43,340,000] \$42,702,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$23,702,000 is to be derived from the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund; and of which [\$19,638,000] \$19,000,000 is to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. [Of the unobligated balances made available under this heading, \$12,500,000 is permanently rescinded from projects or from other grant programs with an unobligated carry over balance: Provided, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.]

(Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2021.)

Authorizing Statutes

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). Prohibits the import, export, or taking of fish and wildlife and plants that are listed as threatened or endangered species; provides for adding species to and removing them from the list of threatened and endangered species, and for preparing and implementing plans for their recovery; provides for interagency cooperation to avoid take of listed species and for issuing permits for otherwise prohibited activities; and implements the provisions of the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna* (CITES). Authorization of Appropriations: Expired September 30, 1992.

Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460l). Authorizes appropriations to the Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire land for national wildlife refuges as otherwise authorized by law. Authorization of Appropriations: Expires September 30, 2015.

Great American Outdoors Act (54 U.S.C. 2003). Establishes the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund to support deferred maintenance projects on Federal lands; requires deposits equal to 50% of all Federal revenues from the development of oil, gas, coal, or alternative or renewable energy on Federal lands and waters for fiscal years 2021-2025; and makes funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) permanent. The President shall annually report to Congress specified details regarding the allocation of funds to the LWCF. Congress may provide for alternate allocations using specified procedures.

Appropriation: Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

		2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022			Change from 2021 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Conservation Grants (\$000)		13,000	13,000	0	0	0	13,000	0
Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants (\$000)		8,000	8,000	0	0	0	8,000	0
Species Recovery Land Acquisition (\$000)		11,162	0	0	0	0	0	0
HCP Land Acquisition Grants to States (\$000)		19,638	19,638	0	0	-638	19,000	-638
Administration (\$000)		2,702	2,702	0	0	0	2,702	0
Total Current Year Appropriated Funds	<i>FTE</i>	54,502	43,340	0	0	0	42,702	0
Land and Water Conservation Fund – Species Recovery Land Acquisition (Mandatory)* (\$000)		0	11,162	0	0	0	11,162	0
Total Current Year (CESCF + LWCF)	(\$000)	54,502	54,502	0	0	0	53,864	0
Rescission/ Cancellation of Balances (\$000)		-18,771	-12,500	0	0	0	0	0
Total Current Year and Prior Year	<i>FTE</i>	35,731	42,002	0	0	0	53,864	0
Mandatory – Unavailable Receipts** (\$000)		66,170	74,803	0	0	0	80,214	0

* FY 2022 Species Recovery Land Acquisition funding is subject to a sequestration reduction of -5.7% which by law, is applied during the year of execution uniformly across all programs.

**Amounts shown reflect an annual deposit of an amount equal to 5 percent of total Federal Aid/Sport Fish and Lacey Act violation collections above \$500,000 into this Special Fund. The Special Fund amounts are not available in the fiscal year in which they are collected but are available for subsequent appropriation to the CESCF.

Summary of 2022 Program Changes for Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• HCP Land Acquisition Grants	-638	0
Program Changes	-638	0

Program Overview

The Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (CESCF; Section 6 of the ESA), administered by the Service's Ecological Services program, provides grant funding to States and territories for species and habitat conservation actions on non-Federal lands, including habitat acquisition, conservation planning, habitat restoration, status surveys, captive propagation and reintroduction, research, and education. These

actions further the Administration's goal for conserving lands and waters by protecting biodiversity, slowing extinction rates and facilitating local and State conservation and restoration efforts in close coordination with private landowners and local communities. These actions are critical to achieving the President's goal of conserving 30% of America's lands and waters by 2030 while recognizing local, State and Tribal priorities.

The Service implements the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended. The key purposes of the Act are to provide a means for conserving the ecosystems upon which endangered and threatened (federally-listed) species depend and to provide a program for the conservation of such species. The two primary goals are: 1) recovering federally-listed species, and 2) preventing the need to list species-at-risk. The Service's approach to achieving these goals is through minimizing or abating threats to the species. These threats are categorized under the ESA as the following five factors:

- The present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of a listed species' habitat or range;
- Overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes;
- Disease or predation;
- The inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; and
- Other natural or manmade factors affecting a species' continued existence.

As many listed species depend on habitat found on State and private lands, grant assistance through the CESCOF program is crucial to conserving federally-listed species. States and territories have been extremely effective in garnering participation by private landowners, Tribes and diverse stakeholders. These funds also provide the flexibility to prioritize equity and environmental justice so that the Nation can address the disproportionate impact of habitat loss.

Section 6 grants assist States and territories build partnerships that achieve meaningful on-the-ground conservation that will further climate change objectives through leveraging natural climate solutions into project designs. Land acquisition grants address land-based threats by funding land purchases to preserve key habitats. Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance grants assist in abating threats by protecting habitat and preventing the decline of sensitive species. This action often precludes the need for listing a species under the ESA. Habitat Conservation Plans are pro-active landscape-level planning instruments that result in private land development planning and species ecosystem conservation.

In order to receive funds under the CESCOF program, States and territories must contribute 25 percent of the estimated costs of approved projects, or 10 percent when two or more States or Territories implement a joint project. The balance of the estimated cost is reimbursed through these grants. To ensure that States and territories are able to effectively carry out endangered species conservation through this program, a State or territory must enter into a cooperative agreement with the Service to receive grants. All 50 States currently have cooperative agreements for animals, and 44 States have cooperative agreements for plants. All but one of the territories have cooperative agreements for both animals and plants.

Traditional Conservation Grants

Conservation Grants provide financial assistance to States and territories to implement conservation projects for listed, candidate species, and at-risk species. The Service makes a regional allocation of these funds based on the number of species covered under cooperative agreements within each Service region. Each Region then solicits proposals and selects projects based on species and habitat conservation benefits and other factors. States receive Conservation Grants funding to implement recovery actions for listed

species, implement conservation measures for candidate species, and perform research and monitoring critical to conservation of at-risk species.

Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants

The Habitat Conservation Planning (HCP) Assistance Grant program provides funding to States to support the development of new HCPs and renewal or amendment of existing HCPs. Funding support preparations of environmental compliance review documents, to include National Environmental Policy Act and National Historic Preservation Act. In addition, funding supports the development and planning of HCP activities (i.e., document preparation, public outreach, baseline species surveys, habitat assessments, and inventories). By developing regional, multi-species HCPs, local governments and planning jurisdictions incorporate species conservation into local land use plans, thereby streamlining the project approval process.

Recovery Land Acquisition Grants

Loss of habitat is the primary threat to most listed species. Land acquisition is often the most effective and efficient means of safeguarding habitats essential for recovery of listed species from land use changes that impair or destroy key habitat values. Land acquisition is costly, and neither the Service nor States and territories individually have all the resources necessary to acquire habitats essential for recovery of listed species. Recovery Land Acquisition Grants are matched by States and non-Federal entities to acquire these habitats from willing sellers.

Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition Grants

The conservation benefits provided by HCPs can be greatly increased by protecting important habitat areas associated with HCPs. HCP Land Acquisition Grants are used by States and non-Federal entities to acquire habitats from willing sellers and are meant to complement, not replace, the mitigation responsibilities of HCP permittees. States and territories receive grants for land acquisitions associated with approved HCPs because of their authorities and close working relationships with local governments and private landowners.

Administration

Federal grant management and administrative oversight are necessary to ensure compliance with program requirements and purposes. The funding requested for Administration allows the Service to carry out these responsibilities

2022 Program Activities

Traditional Conservation Grants

The Service published a request for proposals in November 2020 and anticipates making award announcements in the summer of fiscal year 2021. With the requested program funding, the Service expects to make a similar number of awards as will be funded in FY 2021 (assuming the average grant amount is constant with that of FY 2020).

The Service awarded 234 Traditional Conservation Grants in FY 2020. Each project includes Federal funds provided through the CESCOF program, but in all cases funds were leveraged by State, county, city, or private matching funds. Some examples include:

- ✓ Captive Rearing of Oregon Silverspot Butterflies to Enhance Cascade Head and Rock Creek Populations, Oregon, \$92,733
- ✓ Marbled Murrelet At-Sea Survey, Washington, \$50,000
- ✓ Habitat Assessment, Monitoring, and Landowner Outreach for Texas Golden-Gladdess and White Bladderpod, Texas, \$99,292
- ✓ Reintroduction of Captive-Bred Palos Verdes Blue Butterfly, California, \$72,679
- ✓ Conservation of Texas Hornshell Host Fishes, New Mexico, \$47,331

Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants

The Service published a request for proposals on January 8, 2021 that closed on March 9, 2021; we anticipate making award announcements in the summer of fiscal year 2021. With the requested program funding, the Service expects to make a similar number of awards as will be funded in FY 2021 (assuming the average grant amount of \$780,000 is constant with that of FY 2020).

The Service awarded 13 Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants in FY 2020. Examples are listed below. Each project includes the Federal funds provided through the CESCOF program, but in all cases these funds were leveraged by State, county, city, or private matching funds. (Please see <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/index.html> for more information.)

- Guam Island-wide Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance (Island-wide, Guam) \$999,100. Threats to Guam's listed species from habitat loss and degradation are expected to increase substantially as the island's human population begins to dramatically increase in the coming years. The Department of the Navy plans to relocate approximately 5,000 U.S. Marines and 1,300 dependents from Japan to the Territory between 2020 and 2025. Cumulative impacts to listed species are expected as a result of the economic development necessary to service the influx of military and civilian personnel and their dependents. This grant will support the initiation of the Guam Island-Wide HCP, which is necessary to obtain a permit from the Service under Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA for the incidental take of listed species during this period of economic growth. The HCP will be the first of its kind on Guam, and the first of its kind anywhere in the Mariana Islands. The HCP will cover most of Guam's non-Federal land and 17 listed species including those endemic to the island such as the Mariana eight-spot butterfly, fragile tree snail, and Mariana fruit bat. This island-wide HCP will serve as a model of comprehensive conservation throughout the Mariana Islands.
- Missouri Statewide Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance (Statewide, Missouri) \$358,163. The Missouri Department of Conservation will utilize grant funds to complete the development of a multiple-species HCP to support Statewide forestland management actions and operations. The proposed HCP will cover 42 million acres of public and private land for the purposes of landscape restoration, habitat improvement, and public access. The forest products industry contributes approximately \$9.7 billion to Missouri's economy, and supports over 44,200 jobs that generate over \$2.1 billion in salaries and over \$91.5 million in State sales tax revenue annually. Forest management practices are also integral to maintaining habitat conditions necessary to conserve and recover Missouri's populations of cave-hibernating bats. This HCP will implement negotiated minimization and mitigation strategies for the potential incidental take of five species of cave-hibernating bats, including the federally listed Indiana, gray, and northern long-eared bat as well as the little brown and tri-colored bat, both of which are currently being considered

for Federal listing under the ESA, while allowing the State to meet their management objectives and responsibilities.

Recovery Land Acquisition Grants

The Service published a request for proposals on January 8, 2021 that closed on April 9, 2021; we anticipate making award announcements in the summer of fiscal year 2021. With the requested program funding derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Service expects to make a similar number of awards as will be funded in FY 2021 (assuming the average grant amount of \$1.67 million is constant with that of FY 2020).

The Service awarded 14 Recovery Land Acquisition Grants in FY 2020. Examples are listed below. Each project includes the Federal funds provided through the CESCOF program, but in all cases these funds were leveraged by State, county, city, or private matching funds.

(Please see <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/index.html> for more information.)

- Bog Turtle Recovery Land Acquisition: Beaver Run (Sussex County, New Jersey) \$201,300. This grant will support the fee title acquisition and permanent protection of approximately 25 acres of occupied bog turtle habitat along a tributary of the Wallkill River. A primary objective in the Bog Turtle Recovery plan is providing long-term site protection for the species. The Wallkill drainage is in the Hudson/Housatonic Bog Turtle Recovery Unit and supports the largest number of high-density bog turtle populations in NJ. The action plan for the Unit specifically identifies protection of sites through acquisition and easements as key to securing bog turtle populations and meeting subunit and recovery plan goals. In addition to supporting recovery goals for bog turtles, acquisition of the property is also likely to provide habitat for other listed species, such as Indiana and Northern long-eared bats, and at-risk species such as wood turtles, spotted turtles, little brown bats, tricolored bats, and monarch butterflies.
- Atlantic salmon and the Narraguagus – Spring River Forest Recovery Land Acquisition (Hancock County, Maine) \$900,000. This grant will support the fee title acquisition and permanent protection of 13,799 acres of land. These lands will substantially expand the amount of permanently conserved Atlantic salmon rearing and spawning habitat to the Spring River Preserve. The property includes nearly 60 miles of shoreline and riparian buffer habitat. It is located within the Downeast Coastal Salmon Habitat Recovery Unit and contributes to the first two categories of recovery actions identified in the Recovery Plan for the species: Habitat Connectivity and Freshwater Conservation, thereby contributing to accomplishment of the goal of downlisting the Atlantic salmon. The wetlands protected by the acquisition will also benefit other aquatic species such as brook trout (including sea-run brook trout), American eel, alewife, blueback herring, shad, and sea lamprey. In addition, the project will benefit the threatened Northern long-eared bat, and at-risk species including tri-colored bats, little brown bats, wood turtles, monarch butterflies, and yellow banded bumble bees.

Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition Grants

The Service published a request for proposals on January 8, 2021 that closed on April 9, 2021; we anticipate making award announcements in the summer of fiscal year 2021. With the requested program funding derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Service expects to make a similar number of

awards as will be funded in FY 2021 (assuming the average grant amount of \$4.5 million is constant with that of FY 2020).

The Service awarded 11 HCP Land Acquisition Grants in FY 2020. Examples are listed below. Each project includes the Federal funds provided through the CESCOF program, but in all cases these funds were leveraged by State, county, city, or private matching funds.

(Please see <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/index.html> for more information.)

- Washington County - Desert Tortoise Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition (Washington County, Utah) \$3,795,000. This grant will support the fee title acquisition and permanent protection of 113.52 acres of habitat for the desert tortoise in the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve in southwestern Utah. Acquisition of these lands is essential in preserving the integrity of the reserve as these unburned parcels provide critical refugia for desert tortoises and seed sources for restoration of other areas of the reserve impacted by wildfires due to cheat grass invasions. Protecting this habitat will greatly complement the Washington County HCP and the work of many partners in establishing and managing the reserve for endangered species conservation.
- Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition (Riverside County, California) \$3,700,000. This grant supports the fee title acquisition and permanent protection of 114.37 acres adjacent to the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area. These lands will complement and enhance the Coachella Valley Multiple Species HCP / Natural Communities Conservation Plan Reserve System by conserving core habitat for federally listed endangered peninsular bighorn sheep and threatened desert tortoise. Acquisition of this property was determined to be a priority acquisition based on its biological value, vulnerability to development, and proximity to existing public, Tribal, and conservation lands.



An FY 2020 grant to the State of California enabled the acquisition and permanent protection of 114.37 acres of core habitat for the federally listed endangered peninsular bighorn sheep in Riverside County.

Proposed Program Changes

The 2022 budget request for Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund is \$42,702,000 and 9 FTE, a program change of -\$638,000 and -0 FTE from the FY 2021 Enacted.

Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition Grants (-\$638,000/ 0 FTE)

This decrease is proposed in order to fund more pressing priorities elsewhere in the budget. While this proposal will result in reduced grant funding for projects, there will be no significant impact on conservation outcomes as a result of this slight decrease.

The National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund (LRF)

Appropriations Language

The National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund (LRF) account does not require appropriations language because there is permanent authority, established August 4, 2020 (P.L. 116-152), to use the receipts in the account in the fiscal year following their collection.

Applicable Laws, Acts, and Orders

Great American Outdoors Act of 2020, now referred to as The Great American Outdoors Act, P.L. 116-152 (GAOA), provided a trust-based vehicle for applying a significant portion of revenues and receipts from energy development on Federal lands and waters to the reduce the deferred maintenance (DM) backlog for specific Department of the Interior (Department) Bureaus, as well as the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service. The legislation also authorizes permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at \$900 million per fiscal year.

Projects funded and delivered under GAOA funding fall under the Construction and Deferred Maintenance guidelines. The Service has the legal mandate and responsibility to ensure its inventory of assets, facilities, and infrastructure is safe and adequate to accomplish its conservation mission and that operations are conducted in compliance with applicable regulations. More than 19 laws, statutes, and executive orders govern what the Construction program must do with the funding it receives from Congress. Governing authorities are discussed below.

Refuge Recreation Act (16 U.S.C. 460k-460k-4). Authorizes development of fish and wildlife areas for recreational use, including land acquisition and facilities construction and management.

National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee). Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to award contracts for the provision of public accommodations of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 715-715d, 715e, 715f-715r). Provides for land acquisition, construction, maintenance, development, and administration for migratory bird reservations.

Fish and Wildlife Act (16 U.S.C. 742a-742f). Authorizes the development, management, advancement, conservation, and protection of fish and wildlife resources, including the acquisition and development of existing facilities.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 9601-9675). Authorizes Federal agencies to conduct cleanup and/or recover costs associated with hazardous materials removal, remediation, cleanup, or containment activities from responsible parties.

Federal Facilities Compliance Act (42 U.S.C. 6961). Requires Federal agencies to comply with Federal, State, and local solid and hazardous waste laws in the same manner as any private party.

Pollution Prevention Act, (42 U.S.C. 13101, 13101 note, 13102-13109), as amended by P.L. 101-508. Requires pollution that cannot be prevented at the source to be recycled in an environmentally sound manner and disposal as a last resort.

Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act (42 U.S.C. 7701 -7706). Establishes an earthquake hazards reduction program.

National Dam Safety Program Act (33 U.S.C. 467). Provides for Federal agencies to implement the Federal Guidelines for Dam Safety, which established management practices for dam safety at all Federal agencies.

National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8152-8259). Establishes an energy management program in the Federal government and directs Federal agencies to perform energy surveys and implement energy conservation opportunities to reduce consumption of nonrenewable energy resources in buildings, vehicles, equipment, and general operations.

Energy Policy Act (EPAct) (P.L. 109-58). Extends previous Congressional direction to Federal facility managers with even greater goals of energy efficiency improvements in existing and new facilities, mandates increased use of renewable energy sources, sustainable building design and construction, metering of all Federal buildings, and procurement of Energy Star equipment. This legislation contains energy efficiency tax credits and new ways to retain energy savings.

Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) (P.L. 110-140). Intends to move the United States toward greater energy independence and security; increase production of clean renewable fuels; protect consumers; increase the efficiency of products, buildings, and vehicles; promote research on and deploy greenhouse gas capture and storage options; and improve the energy performance of the Federal Government.

(16 U.S.C. 695k-695r). Provides for limitations on reduction of areas by diking or other construction in California and Oregon in the case of migratory waterfowl and other refuges, as well as other construction provisions.

(16 U.S.C. 760-760-12). Provides for the construction, equipping, maintenance, and operation of several named fish hatcheries.

(23 U.S.C. 144 and 151). Requires bridges on public highways and roads to be inspected.

Executive Orders

Presidential Memorandum of October 4, 1979 directs all Federal agencies to adopt and implement the Federal Guidelines for Dam Safety as prepared by the Federal Coordinating Council for Science, Engineering, and Technology (Secretary of the Interior Order No. 3048, implements and assigns responsibility for a Department-wide dam safety program in accordance with the President's memorandum).

Executive Order 12088, Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards (October 13, 1978). Requires agencies to ensure that facilities comply with applicable pollution control standards; ensure that sufficient funds for environmental compliance are requested in their budgets; and include pollution control projects in an annual pollution abatement budget plan.

Executive Order 13717, Establishing a Federal Earthquake Risk Management Standard (February 2016). Updates performance goals to strengthen the security and resilience of the Nation against earthquakes, to promote public safety, economic strength, and national security. Implementation Guidelines (January 2017) provide Federal agencies with clarifying guidance for implementing Executive Order 13717.

Appropriation: Great American Outdoors Act – NPLLRF

		2020 Actual	2021 Estimate	2022				Change from 2021 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Estimate	
Obligation Authority for Deferred Maintenance Reduction	(\$000)	0	95,000	0	0	-5,415	89,585	-5,415
TOTAL, Great American Outdoors Act	(\$000)	0	95,000*	0	0	-5,415	89,585	-5,415
	<i>FTE</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>+61</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>+61</i>

*The amount presented in 2022 has had the sequestration amount removed in accordance with Sec. 251A of the BBDECA, 2 U.S.C 901a.

FY 2022 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Allocation Summary Table	
<i>(Dollars in Thousands)</i>	
Budget Authority/Activity	Amount
FY 2022 Allocation (estimate)	95,000
FY 2022 Sequestration (estimate)	-5,415
FY 2022 Proposed Projects	89,585
Total Available/Unallocated (estimate)	0

Program Overview

The Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) is historic legislation that combines a financial commitment to conservation and recreation for future generations with a significant investment in the facilities needed to carry out Interior's important mission, including the care and maintenance of America's national treasures. This investment provides an unprecedented opportunity to reduce the Department of the Interior's deferred maintenance backlog and restore deteriorating assets. To do so effectively requires investment prioritization and a sound program execution and management strategy.

The Department of the Interior is responsible for administering and implementing GAOA's National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund (LRF) program, which is shared with the U.S. Forest Service. For fiscal years 2021 through 2025, Congress authorized up to \$1.9 billion annually to be deposited in the LRF Fund for projects that reduce deferred maintenance. The annual deposit is equal to 50 percent of energy development revenues from oil, gas, coal, alternative, or renewable energy on Federal land and water credited, covered, or deposited as miscellaneous receipts under Federal law in the preceding fiscal year. Of the annual funding, 70 percent is allocated to the National Park Service, 5 percent is allocated to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 5 percent is allocated to the Bureau of Land Management, 5 percent is allocated to the Bureau of Indian Education, and the remaining 15 percent is allocated to the U.S. Forest Service within the Department of Agriculture.

This funding provides an opportunity to strategically address DM backlog projects at high-priority National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) locations. The assets of the NWRS comprise a taxpayer investment of \$38.6 billion dollars in 37,282 assets. Of these assets, approximately 44% of the infrastructure inventory is 40 years old or older and many have identified, but unfunded, DM work orders to address the deficiencies.

The purpose of this GAOA program, as administered through the NWRS has the following goals.

- Retain, restore, and enhance sportsperson access and outdoors recreation;
- Leverage DM and Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP) funding sources with construction appropriations, grants, and partnerships for maximum impact;
- Strategically focus the funding on Urban Refuges and the top 10% most visited field stations, which support 80% of the public use and have more than one-third of the total DM backlog, to improve access to underrepresented communities;
- Complete 20-30 large projects utilizing all fund sources, including 10 to 20 partially or fully funded by GAOA, and reduce the rate of DM backlog growth from 1.2% to 0.75% annually;
- Complete proactive life-cycle investments to prevent DM, maximizing the return on the American taxpayers' investment; and
- Implement a surge workforce of Maintenance Action Teams (MATs) to provide an in-house delivery and training mechanism for Wage Grade employees.

Types of Deferred Maintenance Retirement Projects – All 50 States, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands have the option of submitting project proposals for GAOA funding based on Regional prioritization and alignment with broader strategic investment initiatives. The following are typical activities that would retire existing Deferred Maintenance needs.

- Rehabilitation or replacement of public use facilities such as boat ramps, access roads, and campgrounds.
- Rehabilitation of levees and water control structures for both resiliency and operational purposes.
- Rehabilitation or replacement of significantly deteriorated buildings and offices.
- Demolition of unused buildings and structures.

This program is specific to the National Wildlife Refuge System and the administrative needs for implementation. Other Bureau Divisions are ineligible for project funding from this source.

Matching Requirements – There are no strict matching requirements for correlating funds to be obligated with the GAOA projects. However, the Service is stressing the strategic leveraging of other fund sources to be applied with the GAOA funds to realize the maximum in economies of scale for project completion. Other fund sources could include Federal Lands Transportation Plan funds, Deferred Maintenance Allocations, and other types of appropriate funding sources.

Obligation Requirements – The GAOA funds are not an appropriated fund source and are not subject to time constraints for obligation. The Service will continue to emphasize the priority of the GAOA program with internal metrics.

2021 Program Performance

The Seney National Wildlife Refuge located in the upper-peninsula of Michigan features a very popular Auto Tour Route which is used by most of the Refuge's 95,000 annual visitors. This seven-mile Auto Tour Route takes visitors through wetlands, forests, and numerous pools with observation decks that provide a unique opportunity for the visiting public to view, photograph, and observe the waterfowl. Visitors can access these same sites by foot, by bicycle, or by car. Funding provided through the GAOA program will enable effective rehabilitation of the road surface, bridges, and signage that are part of the Tour Route.



Figure 1. Seney NWR Auto Tour Bridge

Similarly, the Service has many field stations that have been working from older facilities that are no longer energy efficient and for which the cost to maintain has outpaced their useful life. The Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge, located just 60 miles west of highly-urban area of Houston, Texas has such facilities. Funding from the GAOA program will afford Refuge personnel and contractors the means to accomplish the demolition of older or unnecessary infrastructure and replace those facilities with a functional and effective Visitor Contact Area and appropriate administrative space.



Figure 2. Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR

NWRS Wage Grade maintenance workers are critical to accomplish smaller-scale DM activities. Through the GAOA program, the NWRS will establish a surge workforce of Wage Grade personnel throughout the country to execute rehabilitation, demolition, and other low-risk construction activities. They will use the existing NWRS inventory of heavy equipment, tools, and equipment.



Figure 3. Typical Picture of Levee Rehabilitation

For FY 2022, the Service will continue to prioritize Deferred Maintenance retirement projects within the NWRS that are consistent with the *National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) Deferred Maintenance and Transportation Allocation and Strategic Investment Strategy*, Departmental guidance, and Presidential Administration initiatives.

Project List

Consistent with Congressional direction, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service submits the following LRF projects as part of the FY 2022 Budget process. Detailed project data sheets will be submitted separately for each identified project. The project lists below have been thoroughly considered and vetted and are considered ready for implementation in FY 2022. The Department will keep Congress informed should the circumstances of a specific project change during the course of the FY 2022 Budget process.

The FY 2022 project list below assumes the full \$1.9 billion allowable for deposit into the Legacy Restoration Fund is realized. Because determination of the deposit relies on the amount of qualifying energy revenue collected in the prior year, the actual amount available for FY 2022 projects will not be finalized until the start of FY 2022. Projects listed below are ranked and prioritized. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will select and implement projects based on the prioritized list below until the LRF allocation is exhausted net of the mandatory funding sequester (5.7% of funding). Projects not funded with the FY 2022 allocation may be considered for FY 2023 implementation.

FY 2022 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service GAOA LRF Project List

Unique ID	Priority	Station or Unit Name	Project/Activity Title	State	Cong. District	Funding Estimate	Estimated DM Addressed
F001	1	National Wildlife Refuges	Salary Funding for National Maintenance Action Team (MAT) Strike Forces, Year 2	MULTIPLE	MULTIPLE	8,000	139,104
F007	2	Dale Bumpers White River NWR	Modernize Multiple Outdoor Recreational Access Facilities and Transportation Assets, Phase II - Construction	AR	AR01	7,900	10,362
F009	3	Izembek NWR	Modernize Facilities and Repair Seismic Issues, Phase II - Construction	AK	AKAL	6,650	5,187
F010	4	National Wildlife Refuges	Salary Funding for Civilian Climate Conservation Corps Workforce, Year 1	MULTIPLE	MULTIPLE	2,000	16,000
F011	5	Coastal Delaware NWR Complex	Eliminate DM Backlog at Prime Hook NWR and Bombay Hook NWR	DE	DEAL	4,800	5,000
F012	6	Kenai NWR	Modernize Outdoor Recreational Facilities and Address Public Safety Issues	AK	AKAL	13,540	14,000
F013	7	Montezuma NWR	Consolidate and Modernize Public Use Facilities and Improve Recreational Access	NY	NY27	5,151	3,800
F014	8	Lake Andes NWR	Improve Resilience and Modernize Flood Damaged Buildings & Recreational Assets	SD	SDAL	6,800	6,200
F015	9	Bosque del Apache NWR	Consolidate and Modernize Public Use Facilities and Improve Recreational Access	NM	NM02	15,407	15,000
F016	10	San Luis NWR	Modernize Infrastructure to Improve Waterfowl Hunting Areas and Improve Recreational Access	CA	CA16	6,500	4,875
F017	11	Buenos Aires NWR	Consolidate and Modernize Public Use Facilities and Improve Recreational Access, Phase I	AZ	AZ02	10,149	12,300
			Program Administration (Indirect Costs)			2,688	
			Proportional Allocation of Sequestration			5,415	
Total						95,000	231,828

Note: See project data sheets for detailed project descriptions.

Note: Estimated DM Addressed for F001 and F010 are a program duration total and not a single year total.

NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION FUND

Appropriations Language

For expenses necessary to carry out the provisions of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4401 et seq.), \$46,500,000 to remain available until expended.

(Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2021)

Authorizing Statutes

North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989, (16 U.S.C. 4401-4414). Section 4406 of the Act (NAWCA) authorizes fines, penalties, and forfeitures from violations of the *Migratory Bird Treaty Act* to be made available for wetlands conservation projects. Section 4407 authorizes interest on excise taxes for hunting equipment deposited for wetlands conservation grants and costs for administering this grant program. Such amounts have been permanently appropriated as provided in Public Law 103-138. The Act authorizes appropriations to be used to encourage partnerships among public agencies and other interests to protect, enhance, restore, and manage wetland ecosystems and other habitats for migratory birds and other fish and wildlife; to maintain current or improved distributions of migratory bird populations; and to sustain an abundance of waterfowl and other migratory birds consistent with goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and international obligations.

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act, (16 U.S.C. 3951-3956). Establishes the National Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Program within the Sport Fish Restoration Account for projects authorized by NAWCA in coastal States.

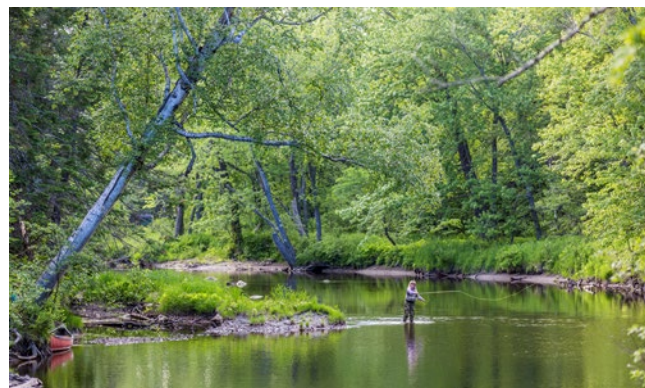
Aquatic Resources Trust Fund, (26 U.S.C. 9504). Authorizes appropriations from the Sport Fish Restoration Account to carry out the *Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act*.

Appropriation: North American Wetlands Conservation Fund
Activity: North American Wetlands Conservation Fund

		2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022			Change From 2021 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
<u>Appropriations:</u>								
North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	(\$000)	46,000	46,500	0	0	0	46,500	0
<u>Receipts (Mandatory):</u>								
Migratory Bird Treaty Act Fines	(\$000)	170	243	0	0	-149	94	-149
Total, North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	(\$000)	46,170	46,743	0	0	-149	46,594	-143
	<i>FTE</i>	7	6	0	0	0	6	0

* The amounts presented in all years include the sequestration in accordance with Sec. 251A of the BBDECA, 2 U.S.C 901a. In addition, the amounts in 2020, 2021, and 2022 include amounts previously sequestered which are now available in accordance with said Act.

Program Overview



Angler fly-fishing at the Pleasant River in the Pleasant River Headwaters Forest. Credit: Jerry Monkman

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) is considered by many to be the most important piece of legislation and funding mechanism to conserve wetlands in the U.S. today. As the only Federal grant program dedicated to the conservation of wetland habitats for migratory birds, NAWCA has protected more than 32 million acres of wetlands in over 3,000 projects on the ground, engaging 6,300 partners across all 50 States plus the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Mexico and Canada. There is no doubt that this grant program has significantly benefited waterfowl conservation in many ways and is one of the primary reasons that wetland-dependent species are considered to be doing so

well.

From the boreal forest of Canada, to the Mississippi delta, to the mangroves of Mexico, NAWCA grants have supported collaborative partnerships and projects that protect, enhance, and restore significant habitat for wetland-dependent birds and other wildlife. These grants also sustain hunting and fishing by increasing both the quality and quantity of opportunities for outdoor recreation; promote flood control, recharge groundwater stores, and improve water quality for local communities; support the recovery of endangered and threatened species; and help implement the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and other national and international bird conservation plans.

Investing in Partnerships

Since its inception, thousands of public-private partnerships have leveraged NAWCA funding to protect and improve the health and integrity of wetland-associated landscapes across North America. NAWCA grants routinely leverage over twice the legally required 1:1 non-Federal matching ratio. Once approved to receive NAWCA grant funding, grantees begin an active partnership with the Service for the duration of the project to safeguard the program’s integrity and ensure success. Consistent and thorough monitoring helps identify areas where partners might need additional technical assistance; enables evaluation of grantee performance and regulatory compliance; and allows the Service to address any errors, irregularities, or issues of noncompliance.

NAWCA GRANT PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS 1991-2020

Country	Protected Acres	Enhanced, Restored, and Created Acres	Number of Projects
Canada	15,015,647	3,393,552*	576
Mexico	2,440,538	1,790,413	333
U.S.	5,065,927	4,597,836	2,141
All Countries	22,522,112	9,781,801	3,050

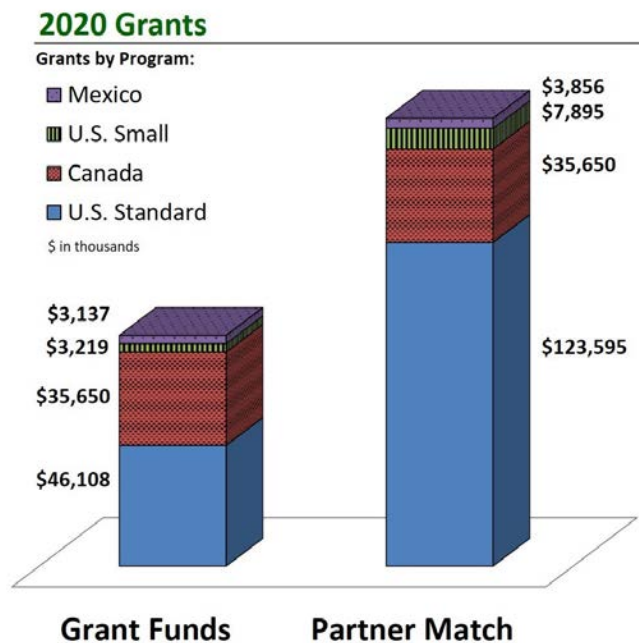
Acres represent total proposed acres approved for funding in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico from FY 1991 through FY 2020. Some acres are included in both “Protected” and “Enhanced, Restored, and Created” due to multiple activities occurring on the same properties. Additionally, some protection is not perpetual. Therefore, the two categories should not be added to demonstrate total acres affected over the life of the program.

* This figure includes 413,910 acres of moist soil management completed prior to 1998.

Supporting Administration and Agency Priorities

NAWCA is a critical funding source for migratory bird habitat conservation, but the program’s influence is much broader.

- Habitats conserved by NAWCA projects provide critical stopping points for birds to rest and eat as they migrate and are increasingly important as birds and other wildlife shift their ranges in response to climate change. The protected and restored wetlands in these projects provide important flood protection benefits and ground water recharge, improving community resilience to increased extreme weather events while also sequestering carbon. Conserving wetland habitat also contributes to the 30 by 30 goal



of conserving at least 30% of U.S. land and ocean by 2030, protecting biodiversity and mitigating climate change impacts.

- NAWCA projects often complement other Service conservation efforts through the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Endangered Species Act, national wildlife refuges, and other programs. The NAWCA grant program also complements and enhances actions of other agencies including the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, and Department of Defense.
- NAWCA projects connect both rural and urban communities with nature by funding projects that enrich and increase outdoor recreational opportunities such as hiking, bird-watching, hunting, and fishing.
- NAWCA grants produce local jobs in communities where habitat is conserved—for businesses directly involved in the conservation, as well as for those that benefit from the resulting habitat (e.g., conservation tourism, hospitality, etc.).
- NAWCA projects provide opportunities for local communities and individuals to contribute, as matching partners, in wetland conservation who otherwise might not be able to or likely to participate in broader conservation efforts.

2022 Program Activities

The 2022 budget will:

- Process and issue NAWCA grants that support wetland habitat conservation for migratory birds and other ecosystem benefits.

Proposed Program Changes

The 2022 budget request for North American Wetlands Conservation Fund is \$46,500,000 and 6 FTE, equal to the 2021 Enacted.

Mandatory Receipts – Receipts are derived from court-imposed fines for violations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and vary greatly from year to year. The FY 2022 estimate is \$94,000 for this account.



*View of Silver Lake in the Pleasant River Headwaters Forest, Maine Woods.
Credit: Isaac Crabtree*

MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND

Appropriations Language

For expenses necessary to carry out the African Elephant Conservation Act of 1988 (16 U.S.C. 4201 et seq.), the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 4261 et seq.), the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), and the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 (16 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.), \$18,000,000, to remain available until expended.

(Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2021.)

Authorizing Statutes

African Elephant Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 4201-4203, 4211-4214, 4221-4225, 4241-4246, 1538). Authorizes funding for approved projects for research, conservation, management, and protection of African elephants and their habitats, and combating ivory trafficking. The Act authorizes prohibitions against the sale, importation, and exportation of illegally obtained ivory derived from African elephants. Authorization of Appropriations: Reauthorized through 2023.

Asian Elephant Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 4261-4266, 1538). Authorizes financial assistance for the conservation and protection of wild Asian elephants and their habitats. Authorization of Appropriations: Reauthorized through 2023.

Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 5301-5306, 1538). Authorizes funding to assist in the conservation of rhinoceroses and tigers in Asia and Africa, and combating trafficking of parts. Prohibits the sale, importation, and exportation of products derived from any species of rhinoceros or tiger. Authorization of Appropriations: Reauthorized through 2023.

Great Ape Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 6301-6305, 1538). Authorizes financial assistance for the conservation of great apes within their ranges in Africa and Asia. Authorization of Appropriations: Reauthorized through 2023.

Marine Turtle Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 6601-6607). Authorizes financial assistance for the conservation of marine turtles, freshwater turtles, tortoises, and the habitats of marine turtles and tortoises in foreign countries and territories of the United States as amended (S. 47—205), and addresses other threats to the survival of marine turtles, freshwater turtles, and tortoises, including habitat loss, poaching of turtles or their eggs, and wildlife trafficking. Authorization of Appropriations: Reauthorized through 2023.

Multinational Species Conservation Fund Semipostal Stamp Act, (39 U.S.C. 416 note) as amended. Requires the United States Postal Service to issue and sell a Multinational Species Conservation Fund Semipostal Stamp. In FY 2021, appropriations language specified that the Postal Service may not destroy, and shall continue to offer for sale, any copies of the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal

Stamp, as authorized under the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-241). The proceeds from stamp sales are divided equally among the existing Multinational Species Conservation Funds and are used to help fund priority activities supported by those Funds. By law, the proceeds cannot affect or influence the disposition of discretionary appropriations.

Appropriation: Multinational Species Conservation Fund

		2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022			Change From 2021 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
African Elephant Conservation Fund	(\$000)	3,450	4,140	0	0	0	4,140	0
Asian Elephant Conservation Fund	(\$000)	2,110	2,530	0	0	0	2,530	0
Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund	(\$000)	4,650	5,580	0	0	0	5,580	0
Great Ape Conservation Fund	(\$000)	2,700	3,240	0	0	0	3,240	0
Marine Turtle Conservation Fund	(\$000)	2,090	2,510	0	0	0	2,510	0
Total, Multinational Species Conservation Fund	(\$000)	15,000	18,000	0	0	0	18,000	0
	<i>FTE</i>	4	4	0	0	0	4	0

Program Mission

To provide technical and financial assistance to local communities, wildlife authorities, and non-governmental organizations in developing countries for on-the-ground conservation work to protect elephants, rhinoceroses, tigers, great apes, marine turtles and freshwater turtles and tortoises.

Program Overview

Elephants, rhinoceroses, tigers, great apes, and marine turtles, freshwater turtles, and tortoises are among the world's most recognized and beloved animals. Yet, these iconic species face severe threats and some even teeter on the brink of extinction due to habitat loss and degradation, climate change, poaching, wildlife trafficking, and disease. Key populations of these species are found in developing countries where these threats are compounded by political instability, expanding human populations, and a severe lack of funding and capacity for conservation. Although long-term results are not yet known, the disease, economic, and security implications of the COVID-19 pandemic are expected to have a strongly negative impact on these at-risk species. From 2020 onwards, increases in poaching, hunting, and habitat loss are expected due to the pandemic, while significant reductions in tourist and donor revenue are reducing the ability to effectively manage protected areas and wildlife.

The Multinational Species Conservation Funds (MSCFs) were authorized through five Congressional Acts to provide critical technical and financial assistance to local communities, government agencies, and non-government organizations working to protect and safeguard the future of wildlife. Through this support, the Service assists foreign countries to manage their wildlife populations and attract substantial leveraged funding, while also building considerable good will toward the United States. From 2015 to 2019, the MSCFs provided more than \$53.8 million in appropriated funds through grants and cooperative agreements for on-the-ground conservation and leveraged nearly \$112 million in additional funds. Since their inception, the MSCFs have engaged nearly 600 domestic and foreign partners in over 54 countries. The provision of

financial assistance to protect these priority species helps to ensure their survival for the benefit of the American people and others around the world.

MSCF project selection is highly competitive and enables the Service to provide direct assistance to key wildlife populations and the most urgently needed activities. Priority activities include establishing protected areas; monitoring wildlife populations; combating poaching and wildlife trafficking; reducing consumer demand for illegal wildlife products; mitigating human-wildlife conflict; and providing vital infrastructure, training, and equipment to effectively manage protected areas and wildlife populations. Several of the species covered by the MSCFs, including rhinoceroses, tigers, and African elephants, are under unprecedented pressure due to habitat loss, poaching, and trafficking. These programs provide emergency support to ensure effective and strategic responses.



Forest elephant at Mbeli Bai, Republic of the Congo. Credit: Dirck Byler/USFWS

African Elephant Conservation Fund

The African elephant was recently re-classified by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), with the forest elephant now listed as Critically Endangered and the savanna elephant as Endangered. The African elephant population has declined by approximately 110,000 since 2006, and the continent-wide estimate for the two species combined has been revised downward to 415,000 elephants.¹

The African Elephant Conservation Fund provides critical support to curb this poaching epidemic; to combat trafficking of ivory, elephant meat, and other illegal elephant products; and to reduce the demand for these products. In recent years, these funds supported

essential frontline protection in elephant habitat in West, Central, East, and Southern Africa; sponsored technological innovations to better detect and intercept ivory in transit and to more reliably and economically identify the geographic origin of confiscated ivory samples; bolstered efforts to reduce human-elephant conflict; and supported the installation of modern management systems for seized ivory in range countries.

¹ International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) 2016 African Elephant Status Report: <https://www.iucn.org/news/species/201609/poaching-behind-worst-african-elephant-losses-25-years-%E2%80%93-iucn-report>



Asian elephants. Credit: Li Zhang/Beijing Normal University

Asian Elephant Conservation Fund

Large herds of elephants once roamed freely throughout Asia's forests and grasslands. Today, wild population estimates range from 45,671- 49,028², with continued declines caused primarily by habitat loss and fragmentation, human-elephant conflict, and poaching. The Asian Elephant Conservation Fund is a key source of global funding for the conservation of Asian elephants, with funded activities addressing the major threats to wild Asian elephant populations within range countries. Program activities include law enforcement training, population monitoring,

public education campaigns via radio and television, research on population dynamics, human-elephant conflict mitigation, strengthening efforts to combat wildlife trafficking, improving wildlife veterinary capacity, and promotion of land-use planning.



Indian one-horned rhino. Credit: Cory Brown/USFWS

Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund

Rhinoceros poaching represents a significant threat to the species. In South Africa, which is where the vast majority of African rhinos are found, poaching numbers increased from 13 animals in 2007 to more than 1,000 poached per year between 2013 and 2017. In 2018 and 2019, poaching numbers declined but still approximately two rhinos were killed illegally per day. In 2020, the last year for which data are available, 435 rhinos were poached in South Africa.³ Over the last year, African rhinos have faced new security threats as economic support

from tourism income has suffered due to COVID-19. In Asia, the status of both rhinos and tigers is also bleak. In the last 100 years, Asia's wild tiger populations have been reduced by 97 percent due to poaching, habitat loss, and human-wildlife conflict. The Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund, which supports conservation in both Asia and Africa, has been essential in responding to the poaching and trafficking crisis while also addressing other critical threats facing rhinos and tigers. Program activities aim to protect existing rhino and tiger populations; to restore animals to their original habitat; and to combat trafficking of tiger skins, bones, live animals, and rhino horn and other rhino products.

² IUCN Asian Elephant SSG (2020): *The Asian Elephants*, accessed on 06/02/2021 <https://www.asesg.org/PDFfiles/The%20Asian%20Elephants%20new.pdf>

³ Save the Rhino International, Poaching Statistics: <https://www.savetherhino.org/rhino-info/poaching-stats/>

Great Ape Conservation Fund

The great apes, highly intelligent beings and humans' closest living relatives, are under extreme threat. Their slow rate of reproduction makes their populations less resilient to losses, and all are at risk of extinction. The Great Ape Conservation Fund supports efforts to conserve all apes, including chimpanzees, gorillas, and bonobos in Africa and orangutans and gibbons in Asia. The Fund supports combating poaching and trafficking in great apes, enhancing habitat protection, establishing protected areas, strengthening ape range countries' capacity to address conservation threats, and creating long-term buy-in and stewardship for great ape conservation among local communities.



Orangutan with infant. Credit: Cory Brown/USFWS



This Kemp's ridley arribada is a testament to the successful binational effort between U.S. and Mexico over several decades to bring this species back from the brink of extinction after the population had crashed to only 850 nests on Mexico's main nesting beaches. Credit: Gladys Porter Zoo

Marine Turtle Conservation Fund

The Marine Turtle Conservation Program annually funds about 50 marine turtle conservation projects in over 35 countries conserving the most important and critically endangered nesting populations in the world. Most projects are community-based or work closely with local or indigenous communities to promote habitat and species conservation and bolster livelihoods. One of the program's strengths is the long-term, consistent funding it provides for conservation and scientific and technical support, while promoting constructive engagement with national governments for marine turtle protection. With funding from the Marine Turtle Conservation Act, in FY 2021 the

Service will launch a competitive financial assistance program to conserve freshwater turtles and tortoises.



Save Vanishing Species semipostal stamp

Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp

The Save Vanishing Species semipostal stamp was first issued in September 2011 to raise public awareness and garner support for critically important global conservation work. The stamp provides the public an easy and inexpensive way to help contribute to the conservation of tigers, rhinos, elephants, great apes, and marine turtles around the world. Featuring the image of an Amur tiger cub, the stamp sells just slightly above the cost of first-class postage with proceeds directed to the MSCFs. Since issuance, approximately 55 million stamps were sold, raising more than \$6.1 million in direct funding for international wildlife conservation.

Working with Local Communities towards Species Recovery

One example of the successful approach of the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund is in Cape Verde, where since 2009 the program has helped conserve the second largest loggerhead nesting population in the world. The program supported the formation of the Cape Verde Sea Turtle Partnership, which facilitates collaboration among local organizations and Cape Verdean authorities. Projects encompass the most important loggerhead nesting beaches on the islands of Boa Vista, Sal, and Maio, which harbor about 95 percent of nesting within Cape Verde. Prior to initiation of these projects, up to 40 percent of loggerhead females were killed on the nesting beaches each year, which has now been reduced to less than five percent. With over 200,000 nests recorded in 2020, the population is recovering with continued conservation programs on the nesting beaches.



Hawksbill sea turtle. Credit: Willyam Bradbury

Another success story is the Sea Turtle Conservancy's hawksbill project in Bocas del Toro Province of Panama in collaboration with the Ngabe indigenous communities on Chiriqui and surrounding beaches. Chiriqui Beach historically hosted the largest hawksbill nesting population within the Caribbean before being decimated by exploitation for its shell and the booming tortoiseshell market in Japan in the 1970s and 1980s. At the beginning of the project in 2003, fewer than 400 nests were recorded on Chiriqui Beach. After years of sustained conservation efforts, over 1,800 hawksbill nests were recorded in 2018. While far from recovered to historic nesting levels achieved in the 1960's, nesting trends are positive and the population is steadily recovering.

Species Funds Prevent and Reduce Zoonotic Disease

Researchers with the Wildlife Conservation Society supported by the Great Ape Conservation Fund sample a carcass while monitoring for Ebola. Photo: Wildlife Conservation Society.

The MSCFs play a critical role in supporting intact, resilient ecosystems that buffer both humans and wildlife from the spillover and spread of zoonotic disease. Grants support project partners in Africa, Eurasia, and Latin America working on the ground to implement conservation actions that also reduce disease transmission, such as by maintaining healthy wildlife populations and connected habitats, reducing the unsustainable commercial bushmeat trade, and carrying out research and monitoring to better understand and mitigate the spread of emerging diseases. For example, the Great Ape Conservation Fund has supported applied research on the Ebola virus in the Republic of Congo, in response to the 2013 and 2016 outbreaks, by examining animal reservoirs, routes of virus spillover to other species, and virus impacts on great apes and other wildlife. This work has also provided direct benefits to people, through exploring potential mitigation measures for local communities, carrying out virus surveillance efforts including community monitoring for Ebola-related wildlife mortality, and building in-country diagnostic capacity.

2022 Program Activities

The 2022 budget will:

- Support the Service's work with partners around the world to improve the conservation of elephants; rhinoceroses; tigers; great apes; and marine turtles, tortoises, and freshwater turtles and their habitats through technical and financial assistance programs.
- Work with grantees to support continuation of projects in the face of unexpected challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Support healthy wildlife populations and habitats, which in turn support healthy human communities, by protecting healthy, resilient ecosystems that are less vulnerable to disease outbreaks and potential spillover to people and livestock.
- Protect intact habitats and protected areas that are not only key wildlife strongholds but also serve the critical function of staving off the negative impacts of climate change at both the local and global scale by conserving vital ecosystem services and some of the worlds' most valuable carbon sinks.
- Invest in protected areas and landscapes where local communities and stakeholders are vested, engaged, and benefit from protection status.
- Support capacity to effectively protect wildlife and their habitat through the development of effective governance systems and responsible enforcement of the law across the full chain of illegal offtake.

Proposed Program Changes

The 2022 budget request for the Multinational Species Conservation Fund is \$18,000,000 and 4 FTE, equal to the 2021 Enacted.

NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION FUND

Appropriations Language

For expenses necessary to carry out the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.), [\$4,910,000] \$7,910,000 to remain available until expended.

(Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2021)

Authorizing Statute

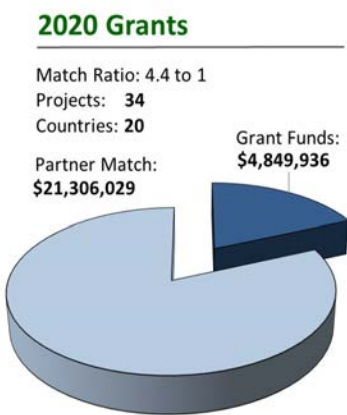
Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Improvement Act of 2006, (16 U.S.C. 6101-6109). For expenses necessary to carry out the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Improvement Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.). Authorizes a competitive grants program for the conservation of Neotropical migratory birds in the United States, Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

Appropriation: Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund

		2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022				Change From 2021 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund	(\$000)	4,910	4,910	0	0	+3,000	7,910	+3,000
	FTE	1	1	0	0	0	1	0

Program Mission

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA or the Act) program provides matching grants to partners throughout the Western Hemisphere to promote the conservation of Neotropical migratory birds in the United States, Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean.



Program Overview

The impacts of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act are internationally renowned. Since the first projects were funded in 2002, 628 grants have been awarded, totaling nearly \$75 million and leveraging over \$287 million in matching contributions. These projects benefit almost all 386 bird species that breed in the continental United States or Canada and spend the winter in Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, or South America. These grants stimulate intercontinental bird conservation initiatives by funding critical habitat protection efforts, research and monitoring, and outreach and education programs, which help maintain the ecological and economic balance of birds throughout the Americas.

the remaining funds available for projects in the United States. In Latin America and the Caribbean, where resources for migratory bird conservation are scarce, NMBCA funds act as a catalyst by providing critical resources for partners working to conserve bird species on their migrating and wintering grounds. NMBCA grants require a partner-to-grant dollar match of 3-to-1. NMBCA grants are highly competitive, with demand for projects greatly exceeding available funds. In fiscal year 2021, applicants requested nearly \$9 million in funding for NMBCA projects.

By law, at least 75 percent of the NMBCA funds available each year must go to projects in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Canada, with



5th grade students in Montserrat on a birdwatching field trip with NMBCA partner BirdsCaribbean. Credit: Stephen Mendes

Supporting Administration and Agency Priorities

The Neotropical Migratory Bird grant program supports the Administration’s and Department’s priorities, as well as international initiatives to improve resilience to climate change, engage people in conservation, benefit underserved communities and economies, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- NMBCA projects will contribute to the Administration’s 30x30 climate initiative by focusing one-quarter of its funding to conserving habitat within the U.S.; the remaining 75 percent of NMBCA funding will contribute to global bird population targets. Additionally, selection criteria will favor proposals that include climate change components (e.g., building resiliency and adaptation; conserving or restoring habitat that provides connectivity or refugia).
- Working in partnership and energizing local, on-the-ground conservation efforts are cornerstones of NMBCA projects. This investment builds conservation capacity in local organizations, fosters international goodwill toward the United States, and connects diverse communities and cultures to birds and nature wherever they live.
- Migratory birds conserved under NMBCA generate revenue and jobs for industry and local economies. In 2016, 45 million Americans considered themselves to be bird watchers, and collectively spent billions of dollars on equipment, supplies, and travel related to this activity. NMBCA projects demonstrate that conservation investments abroad directly benefit Americans at home.
- NMBCA projects may help mitigate conditions that lead to pandemics like COVID-19. Habitat loss and habitat fragmentation increase the likelihood of zoonotic spillover events by increasing the contact between people and wildlife. These fragmented edge habitats can also attract populations of species such as bats and increase human-wildlife interaction. NMBCA projects help restore habitat, and also support communities adjacent to these habitats by enhancing livelihoods and improving food and water security. This, in turn, helps reduce wildlife exploitation and conditions conducive to pandemics.

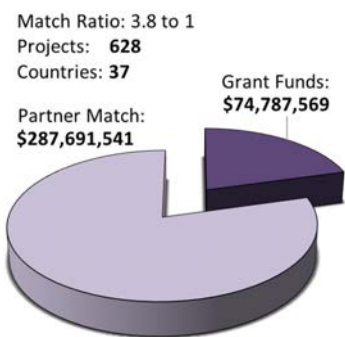
NMBCA Project Highlights

With the 75 percent of grant funding available for all Neotropical migratory bird species and broader conservation efforts, the NMBCA continues to be a catalyst for conservation, supporting organizations working to address threats in areas important to migratory birds. NMBCA grants support a full range of conservation activities needed to protect and conserve Neotropical migratory bird populations.

Recent year examples of completed NMBCA projects include:

- *U.S.-Mexico Grassland Bird Conservation, XIV* – A US-Mexico Chihuahua grassland project expanded work with landowners to add 10,000 acres of grassland habitat to their Sustainable Grazing Network (SGN) of 400,000 acres, which will sustain and increase local populations of Sprague’s Pipit and Baird’s Sparrow that winter on these sites. Monitoring data since 2014 show a 15 percent increase in Sprague’s Pipit populations on SGN lands, roughly doubling in density. This evidence indicates investment in this region is paying off, and that there may be capacity to support greater numbers of these species than previously known.

Program Impacts Since 2002



- *Reforestation Critical Wintering Habitat VII* – This coalition of partners in Peru and Ecuador improved 1,246 acres of habitat for migratory birds through the planting of 158,754 native trees and shade coffee shrubs; protected 9 acres through land acquisition at Tapichalaca Reserve in Ecuador and improved its conservation management; advanced and built capacity for community-based conservation zoning for 53,000 acres in northern Peru; and hosted a best practices exchange for reforestation and community engagement in Peru for all project partners. The project benefits the Cerulean Warbler, Canada Warbler, Olive-sided Flycatcher and an additional 20 Neotropical migratory bird species.



*The Long-billed Curlew uses habitat protected in the Maverick Ranch Easement project.
Credit: Ingrid Taylor*

- *JE Canyon Ranch Easement* – The Colorado Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust permanently protected nearly 50,000 acres of shortgrass prairie grassland habitat and riparian areas. The acquisition includes provisions that allow rotational and sustainable grazing because some Neotropical migratory bird species require disturbed grasslands to thrive. In this way the project balances the needs of ranchers and birds alike. Several species of Neotropical migratory birds including Long-billed Curlew, Brewer’s Sparrow, Cassin’s Sparrow, and Lark Bunting extensively use this property.

2022 Program Activities

The 2022 budget will:

- Process and issue NMBCA grants that support the conservation of Neotropical migratory birds in the United States, Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

Proposed Program Changes

The 2022 budget request for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund is \$7,910,000 and 1 FTE, a net program change of +\$3,000,000 and +0 FTE from the 2021 Enacted.

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (+\$3,000,000/ +0 FTE) – On average, \$1 million of NMBCA grant dollars leverages at least a 3-to-1 ratio of matching contributions, supports 5-7 projects, and improves 150,000 acres of habitat. The proposed funding increase would likely generate nearly \$12 million in matching funds and result in 15-21 additional projects throughout the Western Hemisphere that will benefit more than 400,000 acres of habitat that migratory birds depend upon for their survival.



*Young girls in Montserrat participate in a beach clean-up event with NMBCA partner BirdsCaribbean.
Credit: Stephen Mendes*

STATE AND TRIBAL WILDLIFE GRANT PROGRAM

Appropriations Language

For wildlife conservation grants to States and to the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and Indian tribes under the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, for the development and implementation of programs for the benefit of wildlife and their habitat, including species that are not hunted or fished, [\$72,362,000]\$82,362,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amount provided herein, [\$6,000,000]\$8,000,000 is for a competitive grant program for Indian tribes not subject to the remaining provisions of this appropriation: *Provided further*, That [\$7,362,000]\$10,362,000 is for a competitive grant program to implement approved plans for States, territories, and other jurisdictions and at the discretion of affected States, the regional Associations of fish and wildlife agencies, not subject to the remaining provisions of this appropriation: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall, after deducting [\$13,362,000]\$18,362,000 and administrative expenses, apportion the amount provided herein in the following manner: (1) to the District of Columbia and to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, each a sum equal to not more than one-half of 1 percent thereof; and (2) to Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, each a sum equal to not more than one-fourth of 1 percent thereof: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Interior shall apportion the remaining amount in the following manner: (1) one-third of which is based on the ratio to which the land area of such State bears to the total land area of all such States; and (2) two-thirds of which is based on the ratio to which the population of such State bears to the total population of all such States: *Provided further*, That the amounts apportioned under this paragraph shall be adjusted equitably so that no State shall be apportioned a sum which is less than 1 percent of the amount available for apportionment under this paragraph for any fiscal year or more than 5 percent of such amount: *Provided further*, That the Federal share of planning grants shall not exceed [75] 90 percent of the total costs of such projects and the Federal share of implementation grants shall not exceed [65] 90 percent of the total costs of such projects: *Provided further*, That the non-Federal share of such projects may not be derived from Federal grant programs: *Provided further*, That any amount apportioned in [2021]2022 to any State, territory, or other jurisdiction that remains unobligated as of September 30, [2022]2023, shall be reapportioned, together with funds appropriated in [2023]2024, in the manner provided herein. (*Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2021.*)

Justification of Language Change

Change: Increasing to 90 percent the total Federal share of projects from 75 percent and 65 percent respectively for planning and implementation grants.

The Service recommends a decrease in the minimum required match for State Wildlife Grants for FY 2022. The decrease from 25 percent to 10 percent (for planning projects) and from 35 percent to 10 percent (for implementation projects) is necessary as States are facing unprecedented budget challenges due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Association of Fish and Wildlife

Agencies and individual States have noted that with the current trajectory of financial hardships, State agencies will not be able to meet the required match for these grants, which may result in a loss of jobs and reductions in programs, services, and important species and habitat management activities.

Authorizing Statute

Endangered Species Act (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544). Prohibits the import, export, or taking of fish and wildlife and plants that are listed as threatened or endangered species; provides for adding species to or removing them from the list of threatened and endangered species, and for preparing and implementing plans for their recovery; provides for interagency cooperation to avoid take of listed species and for issuing permits for otherwise prohibited activities; provides for cooperation with States, including authorization of financial assistance; and implements the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).

Fish and Wildlife Act (16 U.S.C. 742(a)-742j). Establishes a comprehensive national fish and wildlife policy and authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to take steps required for the development, management, advancement, conservation, and protection of fisheries resources and wildlife resources through research, acquisition of refuge lands, development of existing facilities, and other means.

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661-666(e)). The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to provide assistance to, and cooperate with, Federal, State, and public or private agencies and organizations in the development, protection, rearing, and stocking of all species of wildlife, resources thereof, and their habitat, in controlling losses of the same from disease or other causes, in minimizing damages from overabundant species, and in providing public shooting and fishing areas, including easements across public lands for access thereto.

Appropriation: State and Tribal Wildlife Grants

		2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022				Change From 2021 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
State Wildlife Grants (Formula)	(\$000)	55,000	59,000	0	0	+5,000	64,000	+5,000
State Wildlife Grants (Competitive)	(\$000)	7,362	7,362	0	0	+3,000	10,362	+3,000
Tribal Wildlife Grants	(\$000)	5,209	6,000	0	0	+2,000	8,000	+2,000
Total, State and Tribal Wildlife Grants	(\$000)	67,571	72,362	0	0	+10,000	82,362	+10,000
	FTE	15	17	0	0	+1	18	+1

Summary of 2022 Program Changes for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• State Wildlife Grants (Formula)	+5,000	+0
• State Wildlife Grants (Competitive)	+3,000	+0
• Tribal Wildlife Grants	+2,000	+1
Program Changes	+10,000	+1

Program Overview

The State and Tribal Wildlife Grant (STWG) Program provides Federal grant funds to States, the District of Columbia, Commonwealths, and Territories (States), and to federally-recognized Tribes, to develop and implement programs for the benefit of fish and wildlife and their habitats, including species that are not hunted or fished. The Program was first funded through the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY 2002 (Public Law 107-63).



The District of Columbia's Fisheries and Wildlife Division has implemented a variety of projects since 2012 to benefit river otters in the Anacostia River watershed, with support from the SWG Program. Photo: USFWS



Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks uses SWG Program funding to restore populations of trumpeter swans. Photo: USFWS

The State Wildlife Grant (SWG) Program, including the formula and competitive subprograms, is the primary Federal funding source for States seeking to implement proactive conservation actions that target many of America's most celebrated wildlife species. The SWG Program is unique in that it helps to conserve our Nation's wildlife heritage before species decline to levels that require listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). It is also unique in its foundation of partnership with State fish and wildlife agencies, which are responsible for selecting and adding "Species of Greatest Conservation Need" to their

Wildlife Action Plans (Plans). When a State fish and wildlife agency identifies and adds a species to a Plan, the agency is eligible to receive SWG Program funding to conserve and recover them. Often through preventative measures, such as captive rearing and release, the SWG Program helps to prevent imperiled species from becoming listed under the ESA. Many other States also choose to dedicate SWG Program funds to help de-list and down-list threatened or endangered species.

The SWG Program leverages additional matching resources provided by State fish and wildlife agencies and their many conservation partners. Working with interested stakeholders, these grantee agencies translate State-identified conservation needs into practical actions and on-the-ground results. The SWG Program has played a crucial and indispensable role in reducing or preventing Service listings involving species such as the Boreal toad, the White-tailed prairie dog, Kirtland's warbler, and many others.

Some recent SWG Program success stories include:



Dr. Joel Sauder of Idaho Fish and Game conducts vital sign monitoring of Fisher while attaching a satellite-based radio collar. Photo: Chris Claire

Fisher: SWG Program funding helped catalyze a multi-year, multi-organization effort to better understand the habitat needs of Fishers in north-central Idaho. Prior to this work, the Fisher had received little conservation attention and its low densities and presumed association with mature and old-growth forest types meant there was high probability of future petitions for listing under the ESA. To proactively address this knowledge gap, Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG) initiated a project to better understand the distribution and habitat requirements of the species. This project generated Fisher habitat preference information that contributed to the Service's "Not Warranted" finding for the Fisher's Northern Rocky Mountain Distinct Population Segment. As a result, the state of Idaho retained management authority for the species, thereby helping to preserve timber-based jobs and

benefiting local economies of north-central Idaho.

Brook floater: SWG Program funding was awarded in 2016 to the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and several other partnering States in the Northeast for Brook Floater conservation. The primary objective of this regional effort was to begin developing a range-wide strategic conservation and restoration plan for this imperiled freshwater mussel species. The SWG Program supported formation of the Brook Floater Working Group, a group of researchers and conservation practitioners engaged in collaborative problem solving to conserve the species. Data, analyses, and contributions from this project and others funded through the SWG Program were used in the Service's Species Status Assessment (SSA) and final "Not Warranted" decision in 2019.



Brook floater, a freshwater mussel native to the eastern United States, was petitioned for Federal listing in 2010. Due in large part to efforts of multiple States to conserve and restore the species, the Service determined in 2019 that it is not warranted for listing under the ESA. Photo: USFWS

Collaborative efforts of the Group and partner States were noted in the SSA as a contributing factor to the likely persistence of the species.

Table 1. Sample of species conserved with SWG Program funding that were later found Not Warranted for Federal listing or were federally de-listed due to recovery (2015-2019). For more information on conservation activities conducted by State fish and wildlife agency grantees, see the [State and Tribal Wildlife Grant Program 20th Anniversary report](#)¹

SPECIES	STATE(S)	STATUS	YEAR	REPORT PAGE
Sierra Nevada red fox	CA	Not warranted	2015	127
Greater sage-grouse	CA, CO, ID, MT, OR, SD, WA	Not warranted	2015	109
New England cottontail rabbit	CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI	Not warranted	2015	n/a
Arkansas darter	AR, CO, KS, OK	Not warranted	2016	157
Louisiana black bear	LA	De-listed - recovery	2016	59
Fisher – N. Rocky Mtn. DPS	ID, other western states	Not warranted	2017	137
Boreal toad	UT, CO	Not warranted	2017	148
White-tailed prairie dog	CO, UT, WY	Not warranted	2017	151
Brook floater	MA, ME, NH, NC, NY, VA	Not warranted	2019	9
Yellow-banded bumble bee	ME, other northeastern states	Not warranted	2019	19
California spotted owl	CA, NV	Not warranted	2019	141
Kirtland’s warbler	MI, MN	De-listed - recovery	2019	97

The Tribal Wildlife Grants (TWG) Program supports federally-recognized Tribes in the development and implementation of conservation programs for the benefit of wildlife and their habitats, including species of Tribal cultural or traditional importance. By helping reduce threats to populations of fish, birds, mammals, invertebrates and other species, the TWG Program directly benefits many Tribes whose members depend on such species for subsistence, cultural uses, and livelihoods. Tribes use certain species as traditional food sources, and species of cultural importance are a necessary component of Tribal sovereignty. Recipient Tribes may also voluntarily dedicate TWG Program funds to conservation efforts that help protect and recover ESA-listed threatened and endangered species.

Using a multi-partner approach that often involves inter-Tribal organizations, State and Federal agencies, and volunteers, Tribes often use TWG Program funds as seed money to launch key programs, facilities, and partnerships that continue to deliver results. TWG Program funds also are used to develop the capacity of Tribal natural resources agencies to address species conservation.



Eastern Brook Trout is important to Tribes including the Seneca Nation whose members depend on it and other species for subsistence harvesting. Photo: USFWS

Some recent TWG Program success stories include:

Aquatic Species Habitat Improvement: The Seneca Nation of Indians of New York used support from the Tribal Wildlife Grants Program to conduct long-term fish and wildlife habitat improvement on Tribal lands, including conservation focused on Blanding’s turtle, Eastern brook trout, and Eastern hellbender. Funding was used to build a Tribal fish hatchery as well as a

¹ <https://www.fws.gov/wsfrprograms/Subpages/GrantPrograms/SWG/stwg2020report.pdf>

Blanding's turtle rearing facility. These facilities, and the Nation's educational outreach activities, help provide long-term benefits to Tribal lands and families through species conservation and restoration.



Two male Bighorn Sheep exhibit typical breeding season behaviors. Photo: USFWS

Bighorn Sheep Restoration: A project implemented by the Pyramid Lake Paiute of Nevada included translocation of bighorn sheep to the Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation. Tribal staff also monitored and documented ungulate distribution, density and health in accordance with standardized procedures. The Tribe established regulations and ordinances for ungulate management and protection in order to ensure bighorn sheep thrive and grow on Tribal lands.

2022 Program Activities

The 2022 budget will:

- Administer financial assistance to States, awarding formula-based and nationally-competitive grant funds to their fish and wildlife or other natural resource agencies. These grantee agencies continue to coordinate effectively with the Service and other Federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, universities, private landowners, and industry representatives in revising, updating, and implementing the Plans. Involving many stakeholders with different perspectives helps ensure that the Plans are strategic, thoroughly vetted, and leveraged with resources from many partners. Implementation activities include a wide range of strategies from research and monitoring to direct species and habitat management. As many States begin making key improvements to their Plans in preparation for the Service's FY 2025 revision deadline, they are increasingly incorporating climate science to address changing habitat conditions and extreme weather events. In FY 2022, the Service will implement a nationally-competitive grant program that encourages additional investments that advance the Administration's goals to improve habitat adaptation and resiliency as the climate changes. This includes supporting the 30 by 30 initiative. Summaries of all of the States' Plans are provided in the State and Tribal Wildlife Grant Program 20th Anniversary report².
- Make strategic investments focused on at-risk species that have the potential to be listed under the ESA. Between 2001 and 2015, States played an important role in helping to preclude listing of 19 candidate species and in helping de-list or down-list seven threatened and endangered species using SWG

GEORGIA WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN SUMMARY

Georgia's Wildlife Action Plan was revised in 2015. The plan identifies 640 Species of Greatest Conservation Need associated with calcareous flatwoods, mountain bogs, granite outcrops, longleaf pine savannas, caves, maritime forests, and other habitats. Key threats to species include habitat loss and fragmentation, altered hydrology, invasive species, and altered fire regimes. Priority conservation actions identified in the plan include increased monitoring and surveys, habitat restoration, rare species recovery, environmental education, and outreach to private landowners. Over 100 conservation partners and many members of the public participated in the development and review of the plan.

² <https://www.fws.gov/wsfrprograms/Subpages/GrantPrograms/SWG/stwg2020report.pdf>

Program funds. The Service provides incentives to encourage State fish and wildlife agencies to focus efforts on ESA candidate or listed species, when doing so is consistent with priorities expressed in States' Plans.

- Continue supporting States' efforts to conserve species at range-wide or landscape scales. For several years, Northeastern States have pooled a portion of their formula grants program funding to be used in major initiatives to conserve and protect species that occur across the region. Pooled funds were used by collaborating States to meet habitat and population goals for the New England cottontail rabbit, contributing to a finding of "Not Warranted" for listing under the ESA in 2015. Priorities for FY 2021 and 2022 include conservation of at-risk turtles and pollinators that occur throughout the Northeast. Similar efforts to identify and collaboratively conserve Species of Greatest Conservation Need across State lines are also now underway in the Southeast and the Midwest.
- Administer financial assistance through the nationally-competitive Tribal Wildlife Grants (TWG) Program. TWG Program funding has proven critical in helping increase Tribal staff capacity to manage fish and wildlife populations and their habitats on Tribal lands. In FY 2022, TWG Program funds will target the protection and enhancement of populations of species that are used for subsistence, cultural, and ceremonial purposes by Tribal members. Additionally, funded projects will advance Administration priorities and goals by: strengthening the government-to-government relationships with Tribes through conservation partnerships; improving fish and wildlife habitat adaptation and resiliency in a changing climate; supporting the Administration's 30 by 30 conservation and restoration efforts; and providing Tribes the ability to address environmental justice issues that have disproportionately and cumulatively harmed or impacted fish and wildlife of cultural and traditional importance.

Proposed Program Changes

The 2022 budget request for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants is \$82,362,000 and 18 FTE, a program change of +\$10,000,000 and +1 FTE from the 2021 Enacted.

State Wildlife Grants (Formula) (+\$5,000,000/ +0 FTE) – The increase will result in completion of an estimated 75 new projects targeting at-risk species identified in States' Plans. These projects will implement monitoring and assessment activities on public and private lands that help States and the Service obtain species information for the SSAs that may support de-listing and down-listing actions, or findings of "Not Warranted" for listing under the ESA. A portion of the increase will be used for direct management activities such as captive rearing and release, habitat management and improvement, and actions to study and manage wildlife diseases. Based on published Department of Interior data showing that about 17 jobs are supported by each \$1 million in Federal funding awarded through the STWG Program, the increase will result in the creation of approximately 85 jobs.

State Wildlife Grants (Competitive) (+\$3,000,000/ +0 FTE) – The increase will result in the completion of an estimated 15 new projects targeting range-wide at-risk species conservation initiatives. These projects involve a wide array of partners who contribute to landscape-scale conservation including nonprofit organizations, university faculty, private landowners, and other State and Federal agencies. The increase will result in the creation of approximately 51 good-paying American jobs in habitat conservation and restoration to improve resiliency to a changing climate. The increase will also promote innovation and information sharing through special grants for enhancing States' Plans, which States must revise and update

by 2025. These special awards, offered through the Competitive SWG Program, seek to promote and enable large-scale species conservation initiatives through cooperation among multiple States.

Tribal Wildlife Grants (+\$2,000,000/ +1 FTE) – The request will result in at least 30 new projects designed to help protect biodiversity on Tribal lands through conservation and restoration of culturally significant species and their habitats. The increase provides resources to support Tribes in their key role with States, Federal agencies, and private entities in helping recover species listed or candidates for listing under the ESA. The increase will result in the creation of approximately 34 jobs, provide employment opportunities for Tribal members, and help build needed capacity for adapting to climate-related impacts on Tribal lands. A portion of the increase will be retained at the national level to establish an FTE at the Headquarters Office to conduct full-time grants management work assisting with Headquarters and Regional Office TWG reporting and management needs.

Table 2
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
ESTIMATED APPORTIONMENT OF STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020
CFDA: 15.634

STATE	State Wildlife - 5620 (65/35 Match)
ALABAMA	\$807,854
ALASKA	\$2,627,994
AMERICAN SAMOA	\$131,400
ARIZONA	\$1,323,052
ARKANSAS	\$609,932
CALIFORNIA	\$2,627,994
COLORADO	\$1,118,940
CONNECTICUT	\$525,599
DELAWARE	\$525,599
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	\$262,799
FLORIDA	\$2,394,482
GEORGIA	\$1,389,138
GUAM	\$131,400
HAWAII	\$525,599
IDAHO	\$625,441
ILLINOIS	\$1,722,356
INDIANA	\$912,134
IOWA	\$641,086
KANSAS	\$760,474
KENTUCKY	\$698,072
LOUISIANA	\$759,325
MAINE	\$525,599
MARYLAND	\$694,520
MASSACHUSETTS	\$768,183
MICHIGAN	\$1,408,700
MINNESOTA	\$1,042,655
MISSISSIPPI	\$585,918
MISSOURI	\$1,038,868

STATE	State Wildlife - 5620 (65/35 Match)
MONTANA	\$905,065
N. MARIANA ISLANDS	\$131,400
NEBRASKA	\$620,360
NEVADA	\$896,742
NEW HAMPSHIRE	\$525,599
NEW JERSEY	\$1,013,439
NEW MEXICO	\$885,510
NEW YORK	\$2,406,590
NORTH CAROLINA	\$1,338,470
NORTH DAKOTA	\$525,599
OHIO	\$1,498,189
OKLAHOMA	\$792,712
OREGON	\$948,489
PENNSYLVANIA	\$1,648,479
PUERTO RICO	\$262,799
RHODE ISLAND	\$525,599
SOUTH CAROLINA	\$679,423
SOUTH DAKOTA	\$525,599
TENNESSEE	\$929,160
TEXAS	\$2,627,994
UTAH	\$764,789
VERMONT	\$525,599
VIRGIN ISLANDS	\$131,400
VIRGINIA	\$1,104,561
WASHINGTON	\$1,111,817
WEST VIRGINIA	\$525,599
WISCONSIN	\$932,164
WYOMING	\$591,616
TOTAL	\$52,559,875³

³ This table factors in amounts removed for administration and includes reverted funds from prior years.

Table 3
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
ESTIMATED APPORTIONMENT OF STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021
CFDA: 15.634

STATE	State Wildlife - 5620 (65/35 Match)
ALABAMA	\$852,983
ALASKA	\$2,774,801
AMERICAN SAMOA	\$138,740
ARIZONA	\$1,396,962
ARKANSAS	\$644,004
CALIFORNIA	\$2,774,801
COLORADO	\$1,181,447
CONNECTICUT	\$554,960
DELAWARE	\$554,960
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	\$277,480
FLORIDA	\$2,528,244
GEORGIA	\$1,466,739
GUAM	\$138,740
HAWAII	\$554,960
IDAHO	\$660,380
ILLINOIS	\$1,818,572
INDIANA	\$963,088
IOWA	\$676,899
KANSAS	\$802,956
KENTUCKY	\$737,068
LOUISIANA	\$801,743
MAINE	\$554,960
MARYLAND	\$733,317
MASSACHUSETTS	\$811,096
MICHIGAN	\$1,487,394
MINNESOTA	\$1,100,901
MISSISSIPPI	\$618,649
MISSOURI	\$1,096,902

STATE	State Wildlife - 5620 (65/35 Match)
MONTANA	\$955,624
N. MARIANA ISLANDS	\$138,740
NEBRASKA	\$655,016
NEVADA	\$946,836
NEW HAMPSHIRE	\$554,960
NEW JERSEY	\$1,070,052
NEW MEXICO	\$934,984
NEW YORK	\$2,541,029
NORTH CAROLINA	\$1,413,241
NORTH DAKOTA	\$554,960
OHIO	\$1,581,884
OKLAHOMA	\$836,995
OREGON	\$1,001,474
PENNSYLVANIA	\$1,740,567
PUERTO RICO	\$277,480
RHODE ISLAND	\$554,960
SOUTH CAROLINA	\$717,378
SOUTH DAKOTA	\$554,960
TENNESSEE	\$981,066
TEXAS	\$2,774,801
UTAH	\$807,513
VERMONT	\$554,960
VIRGIN ISLANDS	\$138,740
VIRGINIA	\$1,166,265
WASHINGTON	\$1,173,926
WEST VIRGINIA	\$554,960
WISCONSIN	\$984,238
WYOMING	\$624,666
TOTAL	\$55,496,021⁴

⁴ This table factors in amounts removed for administration and includes reverted funds from prior years.

Table 4
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
ESTIMATED APPORTIONMENT OF STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022
CFDA: 15.634

STATE	State Wildlife - 5620 (90/10 Match)
ALABAMA	\$983,690
ALASKA	\$3,200,000
AMERICAN SAMOA	\$160,000
ARIZONA	\$1,611,027
ARKANSAS	\$742,689
CALIFORNIA	\$3,200,000
COLORADO	\$1,362,487
CONNECTICUT	\$640,000
DELAWARE	\$640,000
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	\$320,000
FLORIDA	\$2,915,662
GEORGIA	\$1,691,496
GUAM	\$160,000
HAWAII	\$640,000
IDAHO	\$761,574
ILLINOIS	\$2,097,243
INDIANA	\$1,110,668
IOWA	\$780,624
KANSAS	\$925,997
KENTUCKY	\$850,013
LOUISIANA	\$924,599
MAINE	\$640,000
MARYLAND	\$845,688
MASSACHUSETTS	\$935,385
MICHIGAN	\$1,715,317
MINNESOTA	\$1,269,598
MISSISSIPPI	\$713,449
MISSOURI	\$1,264,987

STATE	State Wildlife - 5620 (65/35 Match)
MONTANA	\$1,102,060
N. MARIANA ISLANDS	\$160,000
NEBRASKA	\$755,387
NEVADA	\$1,091,926
NEW HAMPSHIRE	\$640,000
NEW JERSEY	\$1,234,022
NEW MEXICO	\$1,078,255
NEW YORK	\$2,930,405
NORTH CAROLINA	\$1,629,800
NORTH DAKOTA	\$640,000
OHIO	\$1,824,283
OKLAHOMA	\$965,253
OREGON	\$1,154,936
PENNSYLVANIA	\$2,007,285
PUERTO RICO	\$320,000
RHODE ISLAND	\$640,000
SOUTH CAROLINA	\$827,306
SOUTH DAKOTA	\$640,000
TENNESSEE	\$1,131,400
TEXAS	\$3,200,000
UTAH	\$931,252
VERMONT	\$640,000
VIRGIN ISLANDS	\$160,000
VIRGINIA	\$1,344,979
WASHINGTON	\$1,353,813
WEST VIRGINIA	\$640,000
WISCONSIN	\$1,135,058
WYOMING	\$720,387
TOTAL	\$64,000,000

DINGELL-JOHNSON

SPORT FISH RESTORATION

Appropriation Language

The Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration account does not require appropriations language because there is permanent authority, established August 31, 1951 (65 Stat. 262), to use the receipts deposited into the Trust Fund in the fiscal year following their collection.

Applicable Statutes

The Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act of 1950, now referred to as the *Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act* (16 U.S.C. 777 et seq.), as amended by the Deficit Reduction and Control Act of 1984 (P.L. 98-369), the *Surface Transportation and Uniform Relocation Act of 1987* (P.L. 100-17), the *Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1987* (P.L. 100-448), the *Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century* (P.L. 105-178), the *Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000* (P.L. 106-408), the *Surface Transportation Act of 2003* (P.L. 108-88), SAFETEA-LU, and the *Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act* (P.L. 114-94) which expires in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, authorizes assistance to the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands, and the territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands (States) to carry out projects to restore, enhance, and manage sport fishery resources. In addition to sport fishery projects, these acts allow for the development and maintenance of boating access facilities and aquatic education programs.

The Appropriations Act of August 31, 1951 (P.L. 82-136, 65 Stat. 262) authorizes receipts from excise taxes on fishing equipment to be deposited into the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, established as a permanent, indefinite appropriation. Receipts and interest distributed to the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund are available for use and distribution by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to States in the fiscal year following collection.

The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 3951 et. seq.) provides for three Federal grant programs for the acquisition, restoration, management, and enhancement of coastal wetlands in coastal States. A coastal State means a State of the United States, bordering on the Atlantic, Pacific, or Arctic Oceans, the Gulf of Mexico, Long Island Sound, or one or more of the Great Lakes, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands, the territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the trust territories of the Pacific Islands. The Service administers two of the three grant programs that this Act provides funding for, including the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program and the North American Wetlands Conservation Grant Program. The latter program receives funds from other sources, as well as from the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Program. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers administers the third grant program that receives funding because of this Act. It also requires the Service to update and digitize wetlands maps in Texas and assess the status, condition, and trends of wetlands in Texas, and provides permanent authorization for coastal wetlands conservation grants and North American Wetlands Conservation

projects. The *Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act* (P.L. 114-94), authorizes funding for the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act through FY 2021.

The Clean Vessel Act of 1992 (16 U.S.C. 777c) Section 5604 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide grants to the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands, and the territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands for the construction, renovation, operation, and maintenance of sewage pumpout stations and dump stations, as well as for educational programs designed to inform boaters about the importance of proper disposal of their onboard sewage. Section 5604 also amended the *Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act* to provide for the transfer of funds out of the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund for use by the Secretary of Homeland Security (U.S. Coast Guard) to fund State recreational boating safety programs. The *Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act* (P.L. 114-94) authorizes funding for the Clean Vessel Act of 1992 and boating infrastructure improvement through Fiscal Year 2021.

The Sportfishing and Boating Safety Act of 1998 (16 U.S.C. 777c-777g) authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to develop national outreach plans to promote safe fishing and boating, and to promote conservation of aquatic resources through grants and contracts with States and private entities. The Act contains provisions for transferring funds to the U.S. Coast Guard for State recreational boating safety programs. In addition, it authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide funds to the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands, and the territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands to construct, renovate, and maintain tie-up facilities with features for transient boaters in vessels 26 feet or more in length, and to produce and distribute information and educational materials under the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program. The *Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act* (P.L. 114-94) authorizes funding for boating infrastructure improvement through FY 2021.

The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-408) amends the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act. It authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide funding under the Multistate Conservation Grant Program for wildlife and sport fish restoration projects identified as priority projects by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. These high priority projects address problems affecting States on a regional or national basis. It also provides \$200,000 each to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, and the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission; and \$400,000 to the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council. The Act provides 12 allowable cost categories for administration of the Act.

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users of August 10, 2005 (P.L. 109-59) made several changes to the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act. SAFETEA-LU changed the distribution of Sport Fish Restoration receipts from amounts primarily specified in law to a percentage-based distribution. The Act extends program authorizations for the Clean Vessel Act Program, the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program, and the National Outreach and Communications Program through FY 2009, and it extends the authority to use Sport Fish Restoration receipts for the U.S. Coast Guard's State Recreational Boating Safety Program through FY 2009. The Act authorizes the expenditure of remaining balances in the old Boat Safety Account through FY 2010, for Sport Fish Restoration and State recreational boating safety programs and redirected 4.8 cents per gallon

of certain fuels from the general account of the Treasury to the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund.

The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act (P.L. 114-94, December 4, 2015) changes several sections of the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act. It amends Sections 3 and 4 of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 777b and 16 U.S.C. 777c), changing the funding distribution percentages and extends funding authorizations for Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act, Boating Infrastructure Improvement (combining funding for the Clean Vessel Act of 1992 and the Boating Infrastructure Grant Programs), and the National Outreach and Communications program through FY 2021.

Appropriation: Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration

		2020 Actual	2021 Estimate	2022			Budget Estimate	Change From 2021 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
Payments to States	(\$000)	368,209	413,437	0	0	-12,460	400,977	-12,460
Administration	(\$000)	11,669	11,821	0	0	+142	11,963	+142
Clean Vessel	(\$000)	12,798	14,357	0	0	-430	13,927	-430
Boating Infrastructure Grant Program	(\$000)	12,797	14,358	0	0	-430	13,298	-430
National Outreach	(\$000)	12,798	14,357	0	0	-430	13,297	-430
Multistate Conservation Grant Program	(\$000)	3,009	3,006	0	0	-6	3,000	-6
Coastal Wetlands	(\$000)	17,924	20,107	0	0	-602	19,505	-602
Fishery Commissions	(\$000)	803	801	0	0	-1	800	-1
Sport Fishing & Boating Partnership Council	(\$000)	401	401	0	0	-1	400	-1
Subtotal	(\$000)	440,408	492,645	0	0	-14,218	478,427	-14,218
	<i>FTE</i>	49	49	0	0	0	49	0
North American Wetlands	(\$000)	17,924	20,107	0	0	-602	19,505	-602
	<i>FTE</i>	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
TOTAL, Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration	(\$000)	458,332	512,752	0	0	-14,820	497,932	-14,820
	<i>FTE</i>	50	50	0	0	0	50	0

The 2020, 2021, and 2022 amounts include sequestration in accordance with section 251A of the BBDECA, 2 U.S.C. 901a. In addition, the amounts in 2020, 2021, and 2022 include amounts previously sequestered, which are now available in accordance with said Act.

Program Description

The Sport Fish Restoration Program provides Federal aid to State fish, wildlife, and boating agencies for the management and restoration of fish having material value in connection with sport or recreation. Since 1950, this stable source of funding has been critical to the recovery of many of the Nation's sport fish species and has provided over \$10.1 billion. The Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act programs have expanded over time through a series of Congressional actions and now encompass several grant programs that address increased conservation and recreation needs of States, the District of Columbia, Commonwealths, and territorial governments. Partner agencies, within set program boundaries, determine the best use of these Federal funds to meet these needs. The various programs enhance the Nation's sport fish resources in both fresh and salt waters. They also provide funding for projects that improve and manage aquatic habitats, protect, and conserve coastal wetlands, and provide important infrastructure for recreational boaters. Through administering these programs, the Service helps to create and maintain strong conservation stewardship by supporting local communities in sustainably utilizing natural resources.

The economic impacts of boating and sport fishing in the United States are considerable. According to the *2016 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation*, 35.8 million people participated in fishing and generated over \$46.1 billion in retail sales. According to the American Sportfishing Association's 2018 report *Sportfishing in America: An Economic Force for Conservation*, anglers supported over 800,000 jobs in 2016.

The Sport Fish Restoration Program funds many important projects across the United States including:



Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout stocking in New Mexico. Photo credit: New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

New Mexico funds Rio Grande cutthroat trout management and stocking. In some locations, the stocking efforts require trout to be carried on horseback and backpacks to stock the watershed. This sport fish species is important for anglers, so expanding their distribution is important for increasing recreational angler opportunities.

Arkansas funded the Dry Run Creek Enhancement project, which was a partnership project completed with donations for match from non-government organizations as well as individuals in the community. Dry Run Creek is a popular destination. Bank stabilization and habitat improvement were needed on the creek due to erosion created by human foot traffic and flooding. This project also enhanced the quality of the trout fishing experience for youth and physically challenged anglers who visit this popular stream.



Dry Run Creek Enhancement. Photo credit: Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

California's Heritage and Wild Trout Program manages and conserves wild trout resources across California and increases public awareness about the beauty, diversity, historical significance, and special values of California's native trout and their habitats. The effort builds public support, increases public involvement in native trout restoration efforts, promotes collaborative efforts, and diversifies opportunities to fish, observe, and enjoy native trout in their historic habitats.

The District of Columbia funded the Market Docks BIG project, located at the Wharf Marina along the Washington Channel. It consists of concrete floating docks for transient recreational vessels ranging in length from 26 to 90 feet, in a combination of slips and side tie berths. Shore power and water are available at each slip and a portion of the side tie berths. It provides 54 berths (slips and side-tie) that are designated for eligible transient boats for recreational boaters.

Budget Estimate

The FY 2022 budget estimate for the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act programs is \$497,931,901 and 50 FTE. The estimate is based on current law projections provided by the Department of the Treasury's Office of the Tax Analysis.

Table 1

**U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
ESTIMATED APPORTIONMENT OF DINGELL-JOHNSON
SPORT FISH RESTORATION FUNDS***

<u>STATE</u>	<u>FY 2020</u>	<u>FY 2021</u>	<u>FY 2022</u>
ALABAMA	6,265,821	6,876,759	6,650,001
ALASKA	18,486,258	20,713,023	20,048,857
AMERICAN SAMOA	1,232,417	1,380,868	1,336,591
ARIZONA	7,585,390	8,428,319	8,154,750
ARKANSAS	5,402,877	6,377,623	6,191,205
CALIFORNIA	17,703,209	19,692,341	19,054,897
COLORADO	9,968,319	11,130,006	10,769,870
CONNECTICUT	3,697,251	4,142,605	4,009,772
DELAWARE	3,697,251	4,142,605	4,009,772
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	1,232,417	1,380,868	1,336,591
FLORIDA	12,949,384	14,804,230	14,347,316
GEORGIA	8,556,437	11,063,586	10,789,426
GUAM	1,232,417	1,380,868	1,336,591
HAWAII	3,697,251	4,142,605	4,009,772
IDAHO	6,812,860	7,703,022	7,460,709
ILLINOIS	6,864,057	7,231,848	6,975,500
INDIANA	4,949,917	5,351,752	5,170,220
IOWA	4,830,208	5,148,139	4,969,364
KANSAS	5,097,399	5,822,258	5,642,130
KENTUCKY	5,458,137	5,748,364	5,545,322
LOUISIANA	7,079,688	8,083,096	7,833,334
MAINE	3,697,251	4,162,560	4,030,153
MARYLAND	3,697,251	4,142,605	4,009,772
MASSACHUSETTS	3,697,251	4,142,605	4,009,772
MICHIGAN	11,455,775	12,630,365	12,215,318
MINNESOTA	13,330,473	14,695,058	14,212,244
MISSISSIPPI	4,138,531	4,564,700	4,414,957
MISSOURI	8,094,466	8,762,279	8,466,351
MONTANA	8,958,521	9,959,246	9,636,568
N. MARIANA ISLANDS	1,232,417	1,380,868	1,336,591
NEBRASKA	4,797,046	5,267,292	5,092,888
NEVADA	5,266,576	6,160,653	5,977,108
NEW HAMPSHIRE	3,697,251	4,142,605	4,009,772
NEW JERSEY	3,697,251	4,142,605	4,009,772
NEW MEXICO	6,694,815	7,336,472	7,092,516
NEW YORK	8,201,051	9,160,366	8,865,837
NORTH CAROLINA	11,146,945	12,875,953	12,484,748
NORTH DAKOTA	4,347,341	4,837,532	4,680,774
OHIO	7,465,712	8,136,605	7,864,621

<u>STATE</u>	<u>FY 2020</u>	<u>FY 2021</u>	<u>FY 2022</u>
OKLAHOMA	8,236,479	8,601,647	8,292,254
OREGON	7,777,008	9,266,667	8,971,690
PENNSYLVANIA	8,916,666	9,631,906	9,305,450
PUERTO RICO	3,697,251	4,142,605	4,009,772
RHODE ISLAND	3,697,251	4,142,605	4,009,772
SOUTH CAROLINA	4,863,676	5,667,212	5,497,841
SOUTH DAKOTA	4,741,945	5,241,066	5,069,523
TENNESSEE	7,524,049	8,481,435	8,213,418
TEXAS	18,486,258	20,713,023	20,048,857
UTAH	6,826,986	7,665,878	7,421,470
VERMONT	3,697,251	4,142,605	4,009,772
VIRGIN ISLANDS	1,232,417	1,380,868	1,336,591
VIRGINIA	5,352,890	6,041,015	5,850,243
WASHINGTON	7,234,683	8,580,979	8,331,065
WEST VIRGINIA	3,697,251	4,142,605	4,009,772
WISCONSIN	11,719,682	12,818,692	12,393,050
WYOMING	5,608,532	6,354,490	6,154,851
TOTAL	369,725,164	414,260,452	400,977,143

*This table includes reverted funds and sequester returns from prior years.

Table 2

FY 2020 Clean Vessel Act Grant Program Awards*

State	Coastal or Inland	Federal Share
Alabama	Coastal	\$ 216,818.00
Alabama	Inland	\$ 90,041.00
Alaska	Coastal	\$ 39,000.00
Arizona	Inland	\$ 600,013.00
Arkansas	Inland	\$ 1,436,486.10
California	Coastal	\$ 1,057,500.00
California	Inland	\$ 1,270,250.00
Connecticut	Coastal	\$ 1,467,538.00
Connecticut	Inland	\$ 57,037.00
Florida	Coastal	\$ 1,480,274.00
Florida	Coastal	\$ 832,565.00
Georgia	Coastal	\$ 264,920.00
Illinois	Inland	\$ 99,179.38
Maine	Coastal	\$ 480,435.00
Massachusetts	Coastal	\$ 1,097,040.00
Minnesota	Inland	\$ 225,000.00
Mississippi	Coastal	\$ 103,747.50
Mississippi	Inland	\$ 61,198.20
New Hampshire	Coastal	\$ 93,558.00
New Hampshire	Inland	\$ 54,333.00
New Jersey	Coastal	\$ 1,061,067.00
New York	Coastal	\$ 526,716.00
New York	Inland	\$ 84,502.00
North Carolina	Coastal	\$ 120,000.00
North Carolina	Inland	\$ 451,952.25
Ohio	Coastal	\$ 475,814.38
Oklahoma	Inland	\$ 239,085.00
Oregon	Coastal	\$ 571,250.00
Oregon	Inland	\$ 722,500.00
South Carolina	Coastal	\$ 899,631.00
South Carolina	Inland	\$ 158,726.00
Texas	Inland	\$ 348,750.00
Washington	Coastal	\$ 1,490,500.00
Washington	Inland	\$ 1,093,000.00
Totals		\$ 19,270,426.81

*This table includes carryover and sequester returns from prior years.

Table 3

FY 2020 Boating Infrastructure Grant Program – Tier 1 Awards*

State/Territory	Federal Share
Arizona	\$ 200,000.00
Arkansas	\$ 197,792.50
California	\$ 199,999.50
Georgia	\$ 174,693.00
Louisiana	\$ 200,000.00
Maine	\$ 198,696.00
Michigan	\$ 200,000.00
New Hampshire	\$ 186,803.00
New Jersey	\$ 200,000.00
New York	\$ 200,000.00
Ohio	\$ 100,000.00
Oregon	\$ 200,000.00
Rhode Island	\$ 113,498.03
South Carolina	\$ 32,112.00
Tennessee	\$ 200,000.00
Utah	\$ 200,000.00
Vermont	\$ 36,412.00
Virginia	\$ 97,472.80
Washington	\$ 200,000.00
Totals	\$ 3,137,478.83

*This table includes carryover and sequester returns from prior years.

Table 4

FY 2020 Boating Infrastructure Grant Program – Tier 2 Awards*

State	Project Title	Federal Share
California	Oceanside Harbor	\$ 691,711.50
California	San Mateo Harbor	\$ 341,762.00
Florida	Dinner Key Marina	\$ 432,336.00
Florida	Marineland Marina	\$ 631,437.76
Florida	Pensacola Shipyard Marina	\$ 258,198.00
Georgia	Savannah Boathouse	\$ 633,127.00
Louisiana	Marina del Ray	\$ 1,407,846.00
Maine	Great Island Boatyard	\$ 392,632.00
New Jersey	Lincoln Harbor	\$ 1,500,000.00
North Carolina	Homer Smith Marina	\$ 496,809.00
Rhode Island	Bristol Marina	\$ 623,729.31
South Carolina	Charleston Harbor Resort	\$ 1,500,000.00
Washington	Port of Poulsbo	\$ 1,499,822.00
		\$ 10,409,410.57

* This table includes carryover and sequester returns from prior years.

Table 5

FY 2020 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program Awards*

Project	State	Total Project Cost
Thousand Acre Marsh - Phase 4 Shilling Property	DE	\$ 602,000.00
Childs River Restoration Project	MA	\$ 1,192,682.00
Mill Brook Bogs Restoration Project	MA	\$ 1,335,000.00
Delaware Bayshore Wetlands Protection Project 2	NJ	\$ 1,428,571.43
Wetland Restoration at Fireplace Neck Marsh	NY	\$ 810,000.00
Black Point Acquisition in Camden County	GA	\$ 3,300,000.00
Cumberland River Easement in Camden County	GA	\$ 1,580,000.00
Samworth WMA Wetlands Restoration	SC	\$ 1,417,879.00
Abbaye Peninsula Coastal Wetland Conservation	MI	\$ 1,488,125.00
The 6th Addition to the Coastal Heritage Preserve	TX	\$ 1,333,335.00
Schicke Point Wetland Protection and Restoration	TX	\$ 1,243,540.00
Discovery Bay Land Acquisitions Phase 1	WA	\$ 1,179,108.00
Drayton Harbor and California Creek Estuary	WA	\$ 1,378,000.00
Lower Eld Inlet Acquisition Phase 3	WA	\$ 503,125.00
Lower Henderson Inlet Habitat Acquisition Phase 2	WA	\$ 814,000.00
Misery Point Habitat Acquisition	WA	\$ 1,665,000.00
Stillaguamish Tidal Wetland Land Acquisition	WA	\$ 2,330,000.00
Tarboo Creek Wetlands Conservation	WA	\$ 720,000.00
Los Osos Creek Wetland Restoration - Phase 2	CA	\$ 609,215.00
Lower Walnut Creek Habitat Restoration – North Beach	CA	\$ 1,500,000.00
Mill Bend Conservation Project	CA	\$ 2,158,296.00
Ocean Ranch Restoration Project - Phase 1	CA	\$ 1,532,271.00
Total		\$ 30,120,959.43

*This table includes carryover and sequester returns from prior years.

Table 6
FY 2020 North American Wetlands Conservation Act
Coastal Grant Awards

State	Project	Amount
FL	GULF COAST WATERSHEDS CONSERVATION I	\$1,000,000.00
GA	SOUTH ATLANTIC BASINS: LOWER PEE DEE TO OKEFENOKEE II	\$1,000,000.00
HI	KAWAINUI MARSH ENHANCEMENT	\$100,000.00
LA	CREOLE MARSH II	\$998,021.00
LA	MARSH ISLAND MARSH ENHANCEMENT II	\$1,000,000.00
LA	MISSISSIPPI RIVER BIRD'S FOOT DELTA RESTORATION	\$1,000,000.00
LA	SOUTH LOUISIANA WATERFOWL HABITAT CONSERVATION II	\$1,000,000.00
MA	CUTTYPUNK ISLAND	\$100,000.00
ME	MAINE WETLANDS CONSERVATION INITIATIVE II	\$1,000,000.00
ME	MAINE WETLANDS CONSERVATION INITIATIVE - DOWNEAST COASTAL WATERSHEDS	\$1,000,000.00
ME	DOWNEAST RIVERS & WETLANDS	\$100,000.00
MI	ANCHOR BAY WOODS PRESERVE II	\$100,000.00
NC	EMBAYED RIVERS INITIATIVE III	\$1,000,000.00
NC,SC	CAROLINA WETLANDS INITIATIVE IX	\$1,000,000.00
NJ	SOUTH BRANCH RANCOCAS CREEK	\$100,000.00
NY	VLY CREEK MARSH - HELDERBERG MOUNTAINS	\$100,000.00
NY	CORNWALL JEFFERSON WETLAND & HABITAT RESTORATION	\$100,000.00
OH	CONNEAUT COASTAL WETLANDS	\$100,000.00
OH	ASHCROFT WOODS IV	\$100,000.00
OH	BRIDGE CREEK WETLANDS	\$100,000.00
PR	RESTORATION OF WETLANDS IN PUERTO RICO	\$100,000.00
SC	RESILIENT CAROLINA WETLANDS & RIVERS I	\$600,000.00
SC	RESILIENT CAROLINA WETLANDS & RIVERS I	\$400,000.00
TX	JEFFERSON COUNTY WETLANDS IMPROVEMENT II	\$1,000,000.00
TX	TEXAS BAYS, WETLANDS & PRAIRIES II	\$1,000,000.00
TX	TEXAS CHENIER PLAIN IV	\$999,692.00
TX	ANAHUAC NWR WETLANDS	\$91,700.00
WI	EASTERN WISCONSIN GREAT LAKES FOCUS AREA	\$950,000.00
	Total	\$16,139,413.00

PITTMAN-ROBERTSON

WILDLIFE RESTORATION

Appropriations Language

The Wildlife Restoration Account does not require appropriations language because there is permanent authority, established September 6, 1950 (64 Stat. 693), to use the receipts in the account in the fiscal year following their collection.

Authorizing Statutes

Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937, now referred to as *The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act*, as amended (16 U.S.C. 669-669k) provides Federal assistance to the 50 States, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands (States) for projects to restore, enhance, and manage wildlife resources, and to conduct State hunter education programs. The Act authorizes the collection of receipts for permanent-indefinite appropriation to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for use in the fiscal year following collection. Funds not used by the States within two years revert to the Service for carrying out the provisions of the *Migratory Bird Conservation Act*. The *Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act* also requires the Secretary of the Treasury to invest the portion of the fund not required for current year spending in interest-bearing obligations. The interest must be used for the North American Wetlands Conservations Act.

The Appropriations Act of August 31, 1951 (P.L. 82-136, 64 Stat. 693) authorizes receipts from excise taxes on selected hunting and sporting equipment to be deposited in the Wildlife Restoration Account as a permanent, indefinite appropriation. Receipts and interest distributed to the Wildlife Restoration Account are made available for use by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the fiscal year following collection.

The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-408) amends the *Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act* and authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide funding under the Multistate Conservation Grant Program for wildlife and sport fish restoration projects identified as priority projects by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. These high priority projects address problems affecting States on a regional or national basis. It also authorizes a Bow Hunter Education and Safety Program that provides grants to States.

North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989 (16 U.S.C. 4407) amends the *Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act* and requires the Secretary of the Treasury to invest the portion of the Wildlife Restoration Account not required for current year spending in interest-bearing obligations to be available for States to implement wetlands conservation projects.

Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act of 2019 (Pub. L. 116-17) amends the *Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act* (16 U.S.C. 669) to define a public target range and offers States alternatives for funding specific activities related to public target ranges under the Basic Hunter Education subprogram (BHE), the Enhanced Hunter Education Program (EHE), and the Wildlife Restoration Program (WR).

Modernizing the Pittman-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow's Needs Act of 2019 (Public Law 116-94) amends the *Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act* (16 U.S.C. 669) to make hunter recruitment and recreational-shooter recruitment (as defined at 16 U.S.C. 669(a)(3)) an eligible activity with funds from both the Basic Hunter Education subaccount (5221) and the Enhanced Hunter Education subaccount (5230). It also removed the prohibition of public relations, and the requirement that the operation and maintenance of public target ranges using Basic Hunter Education funds be tied to a hunter safety program.

The America's Conservation Enhancement (ACE) Act (Public Law 116-188), included a provision that amended the *Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act* (16 U.S.C. 669) to allow the use of value of any land owned by a Land Grant University as an in-kind match for cost-sharing requirements under the Act.

Appropriation: Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration

		2020 Actual	2021 Estimate	2022			Change From 2021 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Estimate
Payments to States	(\$000)	592,178	670,007	0	0	+125,655	795,662	+125,655
Hunter Education and Safety Grants	(\$000)	8,024	8,016	0	0	-16	8,000	-16
Multistate Conservation Grants	(\$000)	7,714	8,016	0	0	-16	8,000	-16
Administration	(\$000)	11,669	11,821	0	0	+142	11,963	+142
Subtotal	(\$000)	619,585	697,860	0	0	+125,765	823,625	+125,765
	FTE	53	53	0	0	0	53	0
Interest - NAWCF	(\$000)	51,739	28,229	0	0	-5,395	22,834	-5,395
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL, Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration	(\$000)	671,324	726,089	0	0	+120,370	846,459	+120,370
	FTE	53	53	0	0	0	53	0

The 2020, 2021, and 2022 amounts include sequestration in accordance with section 251A of the BBDECA, 2 U.S.C. 901a. In addition, the amounts in 2020, 2021, and 2022 include amounts previously sequestered, which are now available in accordance with said Act.

Program Description

In 1937, Congress passed the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act, authorizing the appropriation of funds from an excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition to the Secretary of the Interior for apportionment to States on a formula basis. It provided a much-needed, stable source of funding for wildlife conservation programs across the country and today is considered by many to be the single most productive wildlife undertaking on record. Interestingly enough, the legislation’s most vocal supporters were sportsmen and hunters – the very group that would be most affected by the tax. Many hunters made it clear they willingly would accept a permanent tax if it meant the government would use the funds to work with the States to ensure the sustainability of popular game animals. The accompanying Service-administered grant programs, including the Section 4(c) Hunter Education and Safety Program (Basic Hunter Education) and the Section 10 Enhanced Firearm and Bow Hunter Education and Safety Program (Enhanced Hunter Education), are key components of the Nation’s cooperative conservation efforts for wildlife and their habitats. Through administering these programs, the Service helps to create and maintain strong conservation stewardship, supporting local communities in sustainably utilizing



*Crescent Shores property acquisition for wildlife conservation and recreation activities
Photo: California Department of Fish and Wildlife*

natural resources. Since 1937, the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Program has contributed over \$12.8 billion to restore, conserve, manage, and enhance wild bird and mammal populations, acquire and manage wildlife habitats, provide public uses that benefit from wildlife resources, educate hunters on conservation ethics and safety, and construct, operate, and manage recreational firearm shooting and archery ranges.

The economic impacts of hunting and recreational shooting in the United States are considerable. The Service's 2016 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation estimates the total number of hunters in the United States to be 11.5 million, and total hunting expenditures to be \$26.2 billion. An estimated total of 32 million people went target shooting with firearms, and 12.4 million engaged in archery activities. According to the 2018 National Shooting Sports Foundation's report, *Hunting in America: An Economic Force for Conservation*, hunter spending generates \$185 million per day for the United States economy, and supports as many as 525,000 jobs. The 2018 National Shooting Sports Foundation's report, *Target Shooting in America: An Economic Force for Conservation*, reports that target shooters spent \$16.9 billion in 2016 on equipment and travel, and supported 329,000 jobs.

The Wildlife Restoration Program funds many important projects across the United States including:

California acquired the 328-acre Crescent Shores property along the west bank of the Colorado River. There are many recreational and conservation benefits to this property including: increased opportunities for hunting and wildlife viewing; protection of unique wildlife habitats and natural communities threatened by agriculture and development; protection of migratory corridors and expanded areas that will be needed in the future to allow wildlife species to adapt to climate change; permanent protection of wildlife habitat; and improved access to wildland areas for educational opportunities and programs.

North Dakota used funds to make improvements to the Lewis and Clark shooting range. Due to the loss of hunting areas, there has been an increased interest in shooting sports and overall promotion of shooting activity. The area has seen recent population growth, and there is a need for enhancements and upgrades for safety, security, and efficiency. Providing more opportunity for recreational shooting benefits hunters and shooters. This range is open to the public free of charge.

Connecticut used funds to collect information about black bear populations and inform Statewide management plans, make decisions about habitat available for bears, make recommendations on bear population levels, and monitor the harvest of bears through regulated hunting seasons. Due to Connecticut's proximity to many firearms manufacturers who pay the excise tax that funds the Wildlife Restoration program, the State also provides field tours to industry representatives to illustrate the importance of these conservation funds for wildlife research and conservation, and strengthen the longstanding partnership between Federal and State fish and wildlife agencies and industry. For more information about the Partner with a Payer program, visit <https://www.fws.gov/northeast/wsfr/partner-with-a-payer.html>.



Staff from the National Shooting Sports Foundation met with Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff to learn about Connecticut's black bear monitoring project.

Nevada used funds for sage grouse conservation. This project aspires to facilitate conservation efforts to help recover the species, so that listing under the Endangered Species Act is not needed. Sage grouse populations in Nevada, and throughout their range in the west, have displayed a significant downward trend in both numbers and distribution. Sage grouse habitat losses have paralleled the trends in populations. This conservation effort has led to critical scientific research, data, and strategically planned approach through partnerships that have collectively enhanced 70,000 acres of sage grouse habitat.

Budget Estimate

The FY 2022 budget estimate for the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Program is \$846,459,365 and 53 FTE. The estimate is based on current law projections provided by the Department of the Treasury's Office of Tax Analysis.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE				
ESTIMATED APPORTIONMENT OF PITTMAN-ROBERTSON				
WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021				
	WILDLIFE	HUNTER EDUCATION		
	FUNDS-5220	SEC 4(c)	ENHANCED	
STATE	CFDA:	CFDA:	CFDA:	TOTAL
	15.611	15.611	15.626	
ALABAMA	\$11,900,818	\$3,049,239	\$181,917	\$15,131,974
ALASKA	\$26,824,430	\$1,343,618	\$80,160	\$28,248,208
AMERICAN SAMOA	\$894,148	\$223,936	\$13,360	\$1,131,444
ARIZONA	\$14,594,885	\$4,030,855	\$240,480	\$18,866,220
ARKANSAS	\$10,125,351	\$1,343,618	\$80,160	\$11,549,129
CALIFORNIA	\$17,672,042	\$4,030,855	\$240,480	\$21,943,377
COLORADO	\$13,665,211	\$3,208,383	\$191,412	\$17,065,006
CONNECTICUT	\$2,682,443	\$2,280,100	\$136,031	\$5,098,574
DELAWARE	\$2,682,443	\$1,343,618	\$80,160	\$4,106,221
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FLORIDA	\$8,103,752	\$4,030,855	\$240,480	\$12,375,087
GEORGIA	\$16,895,828	\$4,030,855	\$240,480	\$21,167,163
GUAM	\$894,148	\$223,936	\$13,360	\$1,131,444
HAWAII	\$2,682,443	\$1,343,618	\$80,160	\$4,106,221
IDAHO	\$11,627,852	\$1,343,618	\$80,160	\$13,051,630
ILLINOIS	\$9,611,044	\$4,030,855	\$240,480	\$13,882,379
INDIANA	\$7,202,296	\$4,030,855	\$240,480	\$11,473,631
IOWA	\$8,289,570	\$1,343,618	\$80,160	\$9,713,348
KANSAS	\$11,284,976	\$1,343,618	\$80,160	\$12,708,754
KENTUCKY	\$8,716,496	\$2,768,305	\$165,157	\$11,649,958
LOUISIANA	\$11,045,757	\$2,892,071	\$172,541	\$14,110,369
MAINE	\$6,088,974	\$1,343,618	\$80,160	\$7,512,752
MARYLAND	\$2,820,575	\$3,683,244	\$219,742	\$6,723,561
MASSACHUSETTS	\$2,682,443	\$4,030,855	\$240,480	\$6,953,778
MICHIGAN	\$15,605,450	\$4,030,855	\$240,480	\$19,876,785
MINNESOTA	\$16,148,685	\$3,383,646	\$201,867	\$19,734,198
MISSISSIPPI	\$8,525,642	\$1,343,618	\$80,160	\$9,949,420
MISSOURI	\$13,721,795	\$3,820,640	\$227,939	\$17,770,374
MONTANA	\$16,038,169	\$1,343,618	\$80,160	\$17,461,947
N. MARIANA ISLANDS	\$894,148	\$223,936	\$13,360	\$1,131,444

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE				
ESTIMATED APPORTIONMENT OF PITTMAN-ROBERTSON				
WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021				
	WILDLIFE	HUNTER EDUCATION		
	FUNDS-5220	SEC 4(c)	ENHANCED	
		FUNDS-5210	FUNDS-5230	
<u>STATE</u>	<u>CFDA:</u>	<u>CFDA:</u>	<u>CFDA:</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	15.611	15.611	15.626	
NEBRASKA	\$9,501,238	\$1,343,618	\$80,160	\$10,925,016
NEVADA	\$10,753,191	\$1,343,618	\$80,160	\$12,176,969
NEW HAMPSHIRE	\$2,682,443	\$1,343,618	\$80,160	\$4,106,221
NEW JERSEY	\$2,682,443	\$4,030,855	\$240,480	\$6,953,778
NEW MEXICO	\$12,048,007	\$1,343,618	\$80,160	\$13,471,785
NEW YORK	\$13,281,284	\$4,030,855	\$240,480	\$17,552,619
NORTH CAROLINA	\$14,538,222	\$4,030,855	\$240,480	\$18,809,557
NORTH DAKOTA	\$8,185,609	\$1,343,618	\$80,160	\$9,609,387
OHIO	\$9,235,351	\$4,030,855	\$240,480	\$13,506,686
OKLAHOMA	\$14,426,097	\$2,393,178	\$142,777	\$16,962,052
OREGON	\$13,600,980	\$2,444,037	\$145,811	\$16,190,828
PENNSYLVANIA	\$19,504,739	\$4,030,855	\$240,480	\$23,776,074
PUERTO RICO	\$2,682,443	\$223,936	\$13,360	\$2,919,739
RHODE ISLAND	\$2,682,443	\$1,343,618	\$80,160	\$4,106,221
SOUTH CAROLINA	\$6,059,551	\$2,950,757	\$176,039	\$9,186,347
SOUTH DAKOTA	\$10,024,556	\$1,343,618	\$80,160	\$11,448,334
TENNESSEE	\$15,068,232	\$4,030,855	\$240,480	\$19,339,567
TEXAS	\$26,824,430	\$4,030,855	\$240,480	\$31,095,765
UTAH	\$11,289,040	\$1,343,618	\$80,160	\$12,712,818
VERMONT	\$2,682,443	\$1,343,618	\$80,160	\$4,106,221
VIRGIN ISLANDS	\$894,148	\$223,936	\$13,360	\$1,131,444
VIRGINIA	\$7,657,461	\$4,030,855	\$240,480	\$11,928,796
WASHINGTON	\$8,581,538	\$4,030,855	\$240,480	\$12,852,873
WEST VIRGINIA	\$5,451,634	\$1,343,618	\$80,160	\$6,875,412
WISCONSIN	\$15,803,235	\$3,628,020	\$216,447	\$19,647,702
WYOMING	\$10,454,064	\$1,343,618	\$80,160	\$11,877,842
TOTAL	\$536,516,636	\$134,361,813	\$8,016,000	\$678,894,449

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE				
ESTIMATED APPORTIONMENT OF PITTMAN-ROBERTSON				
WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022				
	WILDLIFE	HUNTER EDUCATION		
	FUNDS-5220	SEC 4(c)	ENHANCED	
		FUNDS-5210	FUNDS-5230	
<u>STATE</u>	<u>CFDA:</u>	<u>CFDA:</u>	<u>CFDA:</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	15.611	15.611	15.626	
ALABAMA	\$13,859,264	\$3,823,495	\$181,554	\$17,864,313
ALASKA	\$31,359,214	\$1,684,786	\$80,000	\$33,124,000
AMERICAN SAMOA	\$1,045,307	\$280,797	\$13,333	\$1,339,437
ARIZONA	\$17,058,119	\$5,054,357	\$240,000	\$22,352,476
ARKANSAS	\$11,885,305	\$1,684,786	\$80,000	\$13,650,091
CALIFORNIA	\$20,652,943	\$5,054,357	\$240,000	\$25,947,300
COLORADO	\$15,974,890	\$4,023,045	\$191,029	\$20,188,964
CONNECTICUT	\$3,135,921	\$2,859,056	\$135,759	\$6,130,736
DELAWARE	\$3,135,921	\$1,684,786	\$80,000	\$4,900,707
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FLORIDA	\$9,474,465	\$5,054,357	\$240,000	\$14,768,822
GEORGIA	\$19,847,608	\$5,054,357	\$240,000	\$25,141,965
GUAM	\$1,045,307	\$280,797	\$13,333	\$1,339,437
HAWAII	\$3,135,921	\$1,684,786	\$80,000	\$4,900,707
IDAHO	\$13,545,856	\$1,684,786	\$80,000	\$15,310,642
ILLINOIS	\$11,230,563	\$5,054,357	\$240,000	\$16,524,920
INDIANA	\$8,415,343	\$5,054,357	\$240,000	\$13,709,700
IOWA	\$9,685,668	\$1,684,786	\$80,000	\$11,450,454
KANSAS	\$13,207,242	\$1,684,786	\$80,000	\$14,972,028
KENTUCKY	\$10,173,578	\$3,471,224	\$164,828	\$13,809,630
LOUISIANA	\$12,939,130	\$3,626,416	\$172,196	\$16,737,742
MAINE	\$7,164,183	\$1,684,786	\$80,000	\$8,928,969
MARYLAND	\$3,294,249	\$4,618,482	\$219,303	\$8,132,034
MASSACHUSETTS	\$3,135,921	\$5,054,357	\$240,000	\$8,430,278
MICHIGAN	\$18,216,780	\$5,054,357	\$240,000	\$23,511,137
MINNESOTA	\$18,870,859	\$4,242,811	\$201,465	\$23,315,135
MISSISSIPPI	\$9,948,365	\$1,684,786	\$80,000	\$11,713,151
MISSOURI	\$16,025,820	\$4,790,770	\$227,484	\$21,044,074
MONTANA	\$18,746,311	\$1,684,786	\$80,000	\$20,511,097
N. MARIANA ISLANDS	\$1,045,307	\$280,797	\$13,333	\$1,339,437

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE				
ESTIMATED APPORTIONMENT OF PITTMAN-ROBERTSON				
WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022				
	WILDLIFE	HUNTER EDUCATION		
	FUNDS-5220	SEC 4(c)	ENHANCED	
		FUNDS-5210	FUNDS-5230	
<u>STATE</u>	<u>CFDA:</u>	<u>CFDA:</u>	<u>CFDA:</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	15.611	15.611	15.626	
NEBRASKA	\$11,103,865	\$1,684,786	\$80,000	\$12,868,651
NEVADA	\$12,590,561	\$1,684,786	\$80,000	\$14,355,347
NEW HAMPSHIRE	\$3,135,921	\$1,684,786	\$80,000	\$4,900,707
NEW JERSEY	\$3,135,921	\$5,054,357	\$240,000	\$8,430,278
NEW MEXICO	\$14,084,842	\$1,684,786	\$80,000	\$15,849,628
NEW YORK	\$15,517,434	\$5,054,357	\$240,000	\$20,811,791
NORTH CAROLINA	\$16,997,749	\$5,054,357	\$240,000	\$22,292,106
NORTH DAKOTA	\$9,573,366	\$1,684,786	\$80,000	\$11,338,152
OHIO	\$10,779,753	\$5,054,357	\$240,000	\$16,074,110
OKLAHOMA	\$16,816,233	\$3,000,845	\$142,492	\$19,959,570
OREGON	\$15,900,127	\$3,064,621	\$145,520	\$19,110,268
PENNSYLVANIA	\$22,811,820	\$5,054,357	\$240,000	\$28,106,177
PUERTO RICO	\$3,135,921	\$280,797	\$13,333	\$3,430,051
RHODE ISLAND	\$3,135,921	\$1,684,786	\$80,000	\$4,900,707
SOUTH CAROLINA	\$7,109,907	\$3,700,001	\$175,690	\$10,985,598
SOUTH DAKOTA	\$11,719,117	\$1,684,786	\$80,000	\$13,483,903
TENNESSEE	\$17,621,857	\$5,054,357	\$240,000	\$22,916,214
TEXAS	\$31,359,214	\$5,054,357	\$240,000	\$36,653,571
UTAH	\$13,196,912	\$1,684,786	\$80,000	\$14,961,698
VERMONT	\$3,135,921	\$1,684,786	\$80,000	\$4,900,707
VIRGIN ISLANDS	\$1,045,307	\$280,797	\$13,333	\$1,339,437
VIRGINIA	\$8,943,650	\$5,054,357	\$240,000	\$14,238,007
WASHINGTON	\$10,028,600	\$5,054,357	\$240,000	\$15,322,957
WEST VIRGINIA	\$6,367,444	\$1,684,786	\$80,000	\$8,132,230
WISCONSIN	\$18,457,028	\$4,549,236	\$216,015	\$23,222,279
WYOMING	\$12,224,543	\$1,684,786	\$80,000	\$13,989,329
TOTAL	\$627,184,294	\$168,478,562	\$8,000,000	\$803,662,856

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Migratory Bird Conservation Account

Appropriations Language

This activity does not require appropriations language, except for advances, which are not requested, as there is permanent authority as provided in the 81st Congress, Second Session—Chapter 896, Interior Appropriations Act, 1951, September 6, 1951 (64 Stat. 697) to use the receipts.

Authorizing Statutes

The Migratory Bird Conservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 715-715d, 715e, 715f-715r), established the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (MBCC) to approve migratory bird areas that the Secretary of the Interior recommends for acquisition. The Act also authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to acquire MBCC-approved migratory bird areas.

The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 718a-718k), requires all waterfowl hunters 16 years of age or older to possess a Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, commonly known as a Duck Stamp, while waterfowl hunting. Funds from the sale of Duck Stamps are deposited in a special treasury account known as the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (MBCF) established by this Act. The Act also authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to use funds from the MBCF to acquire waterfowl production areas. The 2014 amendment to the Act (Pub. L. 113-264) increased the price of the Federal Duck Stamp from \$15 to \$25, with the \$10 increase dedicated to the acquisition of conservation easements.

The Wetlands Loan Act, (16 U.S.C. 715k-3 - 715k-5), requires the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Service Director, to obtain the approval of the State's Governor or the appropriate State agency to acquire land in the State with MBCF monies. The Act also authorized the appropriation of advances of up to \$200,000,000 to accelerate acquisition of migratory waterfowl habitat. From 1963 to 1988, \$197,439,000 was appropriated under this authority.

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee), requires payment of fair market value for any right-of-way granted over, across, through, or under National Wildlife Refuge System lands. These payments are deposited into the MBCF.

The Emergency Wetlands Resources Act, as amended (P. L. 99-645; 100 Stat. 3582), provides for: (1) an amount equal to the amount of all import duties collected on arms and ammunition to be paid quarterly into the MBCF, and (2) removal of the repayment provision of the Wetlands Loan Act (P. L. 87-383).

Appropriation: Migratory Bird Conservation Account

		2020 Actual	2021 Estimate	2022			Change from 2021 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Land Acquisition: Fee, Easements, and Leases (\$000)		84,973	77,064	0	0	-664	76,400	-664
U.S. Postal Service Duck Stamp Printing and Sales Costs (\$000)		454	600	0	0	0	600	0
Total, Migratory Bird Conservation Account	(\$000)	85,427	77,664	0	0	-664	77,000	-664
	FTE	74	74	0	0	0	74	0

*The amounts presented include sequestration in accordance with section 251(a) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act, 2 U.S.C. 901(a). In addition, the amounts include previously sequestered funding, which are now available in accordance with said Act.

Program Overview

The Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (MBCF) allows the Service to acquire important waterfowl habitat within units of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The Service pursues MBCF acquisition of lands, waters, or interests in land or water, including fee title, easements, and leases, from willing sellers, when necessary to prevent the loss of important waterfowl habitat. We leverage the best waterfowl science available, and the expertise of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) community, including Migratory Bird Joint Venture (JV) step-down plans, Migratory Bird Program and JV staff expert opinion, and input from State wildlife agencies, to identify important areas to acquire. Areas acquired become units of the National Wildlife Refuge System and provide compatible wildlife-dependent educational and recreational opportunities that contribute to NAWMP goals. The goals of this program are consistent with the objectives of the Administration's 30 by 30 initiative, including public access, habitat connectivity, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.



Proceeds from the Federal Duck Stamp fund MBCF. The 2020-2021 stamp features a painting of black-bellied whistling-duck pair by Eddie LeRoy.

The *Migratory Bird Conservation Act* established the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (MBCC), which oversees MBCF expenditures. The MBCC is chaired by the Secretary and includes four members of Congress. During its 92-year history, the MBCC has approved acquisition of key wetland habitats to sustain migratory bird populations, while establishing or enhancing many of our Nation's most popular destinations for public waterfowl hunting and bird watching. Since 1929, the MBCC has approved proposals to establish or expand more than 255 national wildlife refuges using the MBCF. By protecting more wetlands, these refuges also improve water quality and groundwater recharge, and moderate flooding events.

All proposed MBCF land acquisitions for national wildlife refuges must be approved by the MBCC, and the MBCC only considers such proposals in a State after:

- The State's legislature has consented by law to acquisition by the United States (16 U.S.C. 715f);
- The Secretary, acting through the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has consulted with the affected county or other unit of local government and with the State's Governor or the appropriate State agency, about the proposed land acquisition (16 U.S.C. 715c); and

- The State’s Governor or his/her designee has approved the acquisition (16 U.S.C. 715k-5). Additionally, the State official that administers the State’s game laws, or his/her representative, serves as an ex officio member of the MBCC and considers and votes on all proposed acquisitions in their State.

There are two major sources of funds deposited into the MBCF account. The best-known source is the revenue received from the sale of Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps, commonly known as Duck Stamps, as provided for under the *Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act of March 18, 1934, as amended*. The other major funding source is import duties collected on arms and ammunition, as provided for under the *Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986*. The MBCF is further supplemented by payments for rights-of-way granted across refuge lands, and any proceeds from refuge land disposals or State-reverted Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration funds.

Delivering Conservation for Migratory Birds

Since its creation, the MBCF has contributed significantly to the successful conservation of wetland-dependent migratory birds and continues to support habitat conservation for waterfowl and other birds, including coastlines, grasslands, and forests. From 1935 to 2020, the Service expended more than \$1.7 billion from the MBCF to purchase 3.1 million acres in fee title and 2.9 million acres in conservation easements. Example of recent MBCC-approved land acquisition project is below:

- Acquisition of a 9,276-acre property at the Felsenthal NWR near El Dorado, Arkansas. The property consists of bottomland hardwood forest cypress and tupelo swamps that support thousands of wintering waterfowl. Management of the property will focus on protecting habitats for waterfowl, wading birds, neo-tropical migrants, and other wildlife that depend on bottomland hardwood forest, streamside, and riverine habitats, and providing public opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation, including hunting and fishing.
- Acquisition of 3,361 acres at the Laguna Atascosa NWR, in Cameron and Willacy counties, Texas. The property is primarily cropland with areas of native coastal habitat. An oxbow lake meanders throughout much of the property, and associated wetland areas provide habitat for waterfowl and upland game birds. The property includes 1,000 acre-feet of Class A and 1,250 acre-feet of Class B adjudicated water rights, which the Service will use to help restore 900 acres of wetlands. The acquisition is another step toward creation of a corridor linking the Refuge’s main unit with its Bahia Grande unit, which will include a biking and hiking “through trail.” The Service plans to manage the property as habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds, and for compatible, wildlife-dependent public recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, and environmental education.
- Acquisition of a 772-acre property at the Waccamaw NWR, South Carolina. The property consists of tidal bottomland hardwood forest and tidal freshwater managed wetlands, ephemeral creeks, tidal lakes, and sloughs that are interspersed with upland river bluffs. The acquisition will provide connectivity between the mainland and the Refuge’s Sandy Island Unit, and facilitate restoration of waterfowl habitat within this unit, benefiting mallards, gadwalls, green-winged teal, and wood ducks. The property also has road access, and the acquisition will improve public access to adjacent Refuge lands that currently have limited access. Public access will include



An afternoon rise of gadwall and widgeon leaving the targeted property to roost on the Sandy Island Unit of the Waccamaw NWR.

Photo by Phil Wilkenson.

opportunities for hunting, fishing, environmental education, interpretation, and other wildlife-dependent recreation.

- Acquisition of 62 acres at the Salmon River Division of Silvio O. Conte NFWR in Connecticut. The property is bisected by Pine Brook, a tributary to the Salmon River, and contains extensive shrub and emergent wetlands that provide habitat for migratory waterfowl and other migratory birds. The Service will manage the property to protect and enhance habitat for waterfowl, particularly American black ducks and wood ducks, wading birds, and other migratory birds. The acquired lands will provide compatible public wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities including hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation.

Budget Estimate

The 2022 budget estimate for the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund is \$77,000,000 and 74 FTE.

Federal Lands Recreation Fee Program

Appropriations Language

The budget includes a General Provision that proposes to reauthorize the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act until October 1, 2023. The Act is set to expire on October 1, 2022.

Authorizing Statutes

Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801-6814). The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) provides the authority to establish, modify, charge, and collect recreation fees at Federal recreation land and waters. The Act seeks to improve recreational facilities and visitor opportunities and services on Federal recreational lands by reinvesting receipts from fair and consistent recreational fees and pass sales. The budget includes a General Provision to reauthorize the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, which will expire on October 1, 2022.

These specified allowable purposes for the expenditure of FLREA funds include terms that are broad and have commonly understood, or ordinary, meanings. They include:

- Repair: Which generally means to fix or mend a thing suffering from damage or a fault; make good by fixing or repairing it; put right;
- Maintenance: Which generally means the process of maintaining or preserving someone or something, or the state of being maintained; the process of keeping something in good condition;
- Facility Enhancement (related directly to visitor enjoyment): This is generally understood to be an intensification, increase, or further improvement of the quality or value of a facility;
- Visitor Access: Which generally means approaching or entering a place; the right or opportunity to use or benefit from something; the condition of being able to be reached or obtained;
- Health: Which generally means the state of being free from illness or injury;
- Safety: Which generally means the condition of being protected from or unlikely to cause danger, risk, or injury;
- Interpretation: Which is generally understood to be the action of explaining the meaning of something; an explanation or way of explaining;
- Visitor Information: Which is generally understood to be providing visitors with facts about something or someone related to the visit;
- Visitor Service: Which is generally understood to be the action of helping or doing work for someone; assistance or advice given to a visitor;
- Signs: Which is generally understood to mean a notice that is publicly displayed giving information or instructions in a written or symbolic form; and
- Law enforcement related to public use and recreation.

Appropriation: Federal Lands Recreation Fee Program

		2020 Actual	2021 Estimate	2022			Change from 2021 Estimate (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)*	Budget Estimate	
Federal Lands Recreation Fee (\$000)		5,745	5,802	0	-2	5,800	-2
Program FTE		25	30	0	0	30	0

*The amounts presented in 2020, 2021, and 2022 includes the sequestration in accordance with Sec. 251A of the BBDECA, 2 U.S.C 901a. In addition, the amounts in 2020, 2021, and 2022 include amounts previously sequestered, which are now available in accordance with said Act.

Program Mission

The intent of the Federal Lands Recreation Fee Program is to provide an additional revenue source for “repair, maintenance, and facility enhancement related directly to visitor enjoyment, visitor access, and health and safety; interpretation, visitor information, visitor service, visitor needs assessments, and signs; habitat restoration directly related to wildlife-dependent recreation that is limited to hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, or photography; law enforcement related to public use and recreation; direct operating or capital costs associated with the Recreation Fee Program; and a fee management agreement established under section 6(a) or a visitor reservation service.” [FLREA, 16 U.S.C. 6803(c)].

Program Overview

The Recreation Fee Program allows the collection of entrance, expanded amenity, and special recreation permit fees on Federal lands and waters managed by the Department of the Interior, such as National Wildlife Refuges. The Service returns at least 80 percent of the collections to the specific refuge site of collection to offset program costs and enhance visitor facilities and programs. The Service has 177 approved Recreation Fee Program sites. An additional 23 National Fish Hatchery, Ecological Service offices, or other refuge sites also sell the National Parks & Federal Recreational Lands Annual Pass to improve pass availability for the public in certain regions. The Service’s Recreation Fee Program expects to collect approximately \$5,802,000 in FY 2021 and \$5,800,000 in FY 2022 under FLREA authority. If needed, the Service may exercise the Secretary’s statutory authority to use fees collected pursuant to the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) to pay for basic visitor services and related expenses, such as salary costs, in a manner consistent with the law.



At Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge in Indiana, over 150 people participate in the annual youth hunt. Recreation fees from the hunt help fund the operations of the hunt program.

Budget Estimate

The 2022 budget estimate for the Federal Lands Recreation Fee Program is \$5,800,000 and 30 FTE.

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NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FUND

Appropriations Language

The budget proposes to eliminate discretionary funding for this program. Therefore, appropriations language is not necessary.

Authorizing Statutes

Refuge Revenue Sharing Act (16 U.S.C. 715s). Authorizes payments to be made to offset tax losses to counties in which Service fee and withdrawn public domain lands are located.

Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) Sections 1002 and 1008 (16 U.S.C. 3142 and 3148). Address the procedures for permitting oil and gas leases on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coastal plain (Section 1002) and other non-North Slope Federal lands in Alaska (Section 1008).

Appropriation: National Wildlife Refuge Fund

		2020 Actual	2021 Estimate	2022 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2022 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2022 Program Changes (+/-)	2022 Budget Request	2022 Change from 2021 (+/-)
Appropriations	(\$000)	13,228	13,228	0	0	-13,228	0	-13,228
Receipts*	(\$000)	6,916	7,948	0	0	+52	8,000	+52
Total, National Wildlife Refuge Fund	(\$000)	21,144	21,176	0	0	-13,176	8,000	-13,176
	FTE	3	4	0	0	0	6	2

*The amount presented in 2020, 2021, and 2022 includes the sequestration in accordance with Sec. 251(a) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act, 2 U.S.C 901(a). In addition, the amounts in 2020, 2021, and 2022 include amounts previously sequestered, which are now available in accordance with said Act.

Program Overview

The purpose of the Refuge Revenue Sharing Act is to share revenues derived from refuge lands with counties and other units of local government to compensate for lost tax revenues from Federal land acquisitions. The Act authorizes revenues and direct appropriations to be deposited into a special fund, the National Wildlife Refuge Fund (NWRF), and used for payments to counties in which lands are acquired in fee (fee land) or reserved from the public domain (reserved land) and managed by the Service for fish and wildlife purposes, minus any associated costs. These revenues are typically between \$6-\$8 million each year, and are derived from the sale or disposition of products (e.g., timber and gravel); other privileges (e.g., rights-of-way and grazing permits); and/or leases for public accommodations or facilities (e.g., oil and gas exploration and development) incidental to, and not in conflict with, refuge purposes.

The Act authorizes payments for Service-managed fee lands based on a formula that entitles counties to whichever is the highest of the following amounts: 1) 25 percent of the net receipts; 2) 3/4 of 1 percent of the fair market value of the land; or 3) 75 cents per acre.



The Service thins pines to improve forest health for the benefit of red-cockaded woodpeckers and other species. Proceeds from logging operations are deposited into the National Wildlife Refuge Fund to be distributed to counties and other forms of local government.

Photo by: Carl Shmidt.

The refuge revenue sharing payments made on lands reserved from the public domain and administered by the Service are always 25 percent of the net receipts collected from the reserved land in the county. If no receipts are collected, there is no revenue sharing payment. However, the Department of the Interior makes Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) (31 U.S.C. 6901-6907) on all public domain lands, including Service-reserved lands. The Service reports to the Department annually on all Service reserved land acres and the revenue sharing amounts already paid on those acres. The Department then calculates the PILT amounts, subtracts the amounts the Service has already paid, and makes the PILT payments to the local governments.

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) addresses procedures for oil and gas leasing on non-

North Slope Federal lands in Alaska and for transportation and utility systems in and across the Alaska conservation system units. Applicants pay the costs to process applications or administer permits relating to utility and transportation systems or seismic exploration. These payments directly reimburse the Service for its management costs.

Justification of 2022 Program Changes

Discretionary Appropriations (-\$13,228,000/ +0 FTE)

The Service is not requesting funding for the discretionary portion of the National Wildlife Refuge Fund. This Fund was intended to compensate communities for lost tax revenue from Federal land acquisitions, but does not take into account the economic benefits refuges provide to communities.

Mandatory Receipts: The 2022 estimate for National Wildlife Refuge Fund revenue is \$8,000,000 with revenue producing activities. The table below shows how the Service derives the funding amount available for payments to counties and other units of local government.

National Wildlife Refuge Fund Estimates for Payments to Counties(Dollars in Thousands)

Category/Element	2020 Actual	2021 Estimate	2022 Estimate	Program Change (+/-)
Receipts and Expenses				
• Receipts Collected	6,840	8,000	8,000	0
• Sequestration	-404	-456	-456	+0
• Recoveries	0	50	50	0
• Expenses for Sales	-2,441	-2,624	-2,624	0
• ANILCA Expenses	0	-60	-60	0
• Estimated User-Pay Cost Share	-72	-56	-56	0
Net Receipts -- Available during the following year	3,923	4,854	4,854	+0
Payments to Counties				
• Receipts Available - collected previous year		3,923	4,854	+931
• Sequestration Restored		404	456	+52
• Rounding		1	0	-1
• Appropriations		13,228	0	-13,228
Total Available for Payments to Counties		17,556	5,310	-12,246

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Contributed Funds

Appropriations Language

Activities funded from this account do not require appropriation language since there is permanent authority to use the receipts.

Authorizing Statutes

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661-668). This Act authorized the Secretary of the Interior to accept donations of land and contributed funds in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 743b-7421). This Act authorizes loans for commercial fishing vessels; investigations of fish and wildlife resources; and cooperation with other agencies. The Service is also authorized to accept donations of real and personal property. P.L. 105-242 amended this Act to authorize cooperative agreements with nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, or State and local governments to construct, operate, maintain, or improve refuge facilities and services, and to promote volunteer outreach and education programs. Funds contributed by partners from sales and gifts must be deposited in a separate account in the Department of the Treasury.

Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (16 U.S.C. 4601-1h). This Act authorizes donations of fund, property, and personal services or facilities for the purposes of the Act.

National Wildlife Refuge System Volunteer and Community Partnership Act (16 U.S.C. 742). Authorizes cooperative agreements with nonprofit partner organizations, academic institutions, or State and local governments to construct, operate, maintain, or improve refuge facilities and services, and to promote volunteer, outreach, and education programs.

National Fish Hatchery System Volunteer Act (120 STAT 2058-2061). Authorizes cooperative agreements with nonprofit partner organizations, academic institutions, or State and local governments to promote the stewardship of resources through biological monitoring or research; to construct, operate, maintain, or improve hatchery facilities, habitat and services, and to promote volunteer, outreach, and education programs.

Appropriation: Contributed Funds

		2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2021				Change from 2022 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Estimate	
Contributed Funds	(\$000)	6,219	5,000	0	0	0	5,000	0
	<i>FTE</i>	15	18	0	0	0	18	0

Program Overview

The Service accepts unsolicited contributions from other governments, private organizations, and individuals. Once collected, the funds are used to support a variety of fish and wildlife conservation projects that contribute to fulfillment of the Department of the Interior's goals and the Service's mission.

Contributions are difficult to forecast accurately due to external events. In recent years, annual contributions have ranged from approximately \$3.7 million in FY 2014 to \$6.2 million in FY 2020.

2022 Program Performance

The Service uses contributed funds to address its highest priority needs in concert with other types of funding. The funds in 2022 will be used for projects similar to those planned and completed in previous fiscal years. For example, the Service used contributed funds for the following activities in 2020:

Ecological Services (Alaska): Funds provided by The Conservation Fund (TCF) to the Service were used for multiple restoration projects. For example, funds were used to replace failing culverts under Chena Spur Road and construct a weir structure to redirect flow, improve fish passage, and restore Cripple Creek near downtown Fairbanks to its historic channel. Replacement of the failing culvert at Chena Spur Road will open approximately 7 miles of stream as well as 3,169 acres of riparian wetlands of the upper Cripple Creek's natural channel benefiting the natural rearing habitat for chub, grayling, Chinook salmon, chum salmon, burbot, longnose sucker and sculpin. In another project, TCF funds were utilized to eradicate, control and prevent the spread of known infestations of the invasive aquatic weed Elodea, and restore aquatic resources in the Yukon River Basin. The planned restoration activities will eradicate Elodea in 230 surface acres of clearwater stream habitat on Totchaket Slough and approximately 40 surface acres of Chena Lake. Eradication of Elodea in these waterways will once again provide for rearing and spawning habitat for Chinook salmon, chum salmon, grayling and whitefish.

National Wildlife Refuge System:

Missouri Grasslands for Monarchs Project: This project was completed in three phases with distinct accomplishments for monarch habitat conservation. Each project included restoring both migrating and breeding habitat beginning with 293 acres on Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in association with newly restored wetland habitat. Loess Bluffs NWR hired one 2-year term position to work with volunteers in collecting native seeds, then distributing the seeds for restoration of habitat on a 40-acre tract on the refuge. Finally, the Missouri Private Lands Office worked with our conservation partners to help 58 landowners with additional cost-share to restore and enhance diverse habitat for monarchs and pollinators within 1,066 acres of private land on the Missouri flyway in Missouri, with the commitment to maintain

that habitat for 10 years through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. Funds were also used to tag monarchs and educate the public on the importance of pollinators reaching over 36,000 citizens.



1 - Monarch tagging with local students (credit FWS)

2 - Monarchs on native forbs during fall migration in native prairie habitat (credit FWS)

Bridging the Gap with Native Communities: Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge coordinates and collaborates directly with over 50 Alaska Native villages each year. Funds targeted to “Bridging the Gap Between Native Communities” in FY 2020 were used to support the Refuge Information Technician (RIT) program. This program strives to improve communications between the Refuge and numerous Yupik, Chupik, and Athabascan communities within and around the Refuge by hiring locally from within these communities. As National Wildlife Refuge System employees, RITs coordinate government-to-government Tribal consultations, translate between English and the respective Alaska Native languages, foster stronger relationships between the Refuge and villages, and serve as liaisons with Tribal governments. Funds were used to fund RIT travel to reach more villages on behalf of the Refuge, attend the Elder and Youth conference to further relationships across the State of Alaska, and to purchase safety equipment allowing the RITs to travel between communities on snow machines during the winter.

Budget Estimate

The 2022 budget estimate for Contributed Funds is \$5,000,000 and 18 FTE.

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MISCELLANEOUS PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS

Appropriations Language

Activities funded from these mandatory spending accounts do not require appropriation language since they were authorized in previous years.

Authorizing Statutes

Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, as amended, (P.L. 98-473, section 320; 98 Stat. 1874). Provides that all rents and charges collected for quarters of agencies funded by the Act shall be deposited and remain available until expended for the maintenance and operation of quarters of that agency.

Flood Control Act, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 460d). Provides that receipts collected from the sales of timber and crops produced on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers land leased by another Federal agency for natural resources conservation may be used to cover expenses of producing these products and for managing the land for natural resource purposes.

Truckee-Carson Pyramid Lake Water Rights Settlement Act, (P.L. 101-618, section 206(f)), as amended by Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY 1998, (P.L. 105-277). Authorizes certain revenues and donations from non-Federal entities to be deposited into the Lahontan Valley and Pyramid Lake Fish and Wildlife Fund to support restoration and enhancement of wetlands in the Lahontan Valley and to restore and protect the Pyramid Lake fishery, including the recovery of two endangered or threatened species of fish. Payments to the Bureau of Reclamation for storage in Northern Nevada's Washoe Project that exceed the operation and maintenance costs of Stampede Reservoir are deposited into the Fund and are available without further appropriation, starting in FY 1996. Beginning in FY 1998, P.L. 105-277 provides that receipts from the sales of certain lands by the Secretary of the Interior are to be deposited into the Lahontan Valley and Pyramid Lake Fish and Wildlife Fund.

Commercial Filming Fee, (P.L. 113-287). This law authorizes a fee system for commercial filming activities on Service land and to use the fees for expenditure by the Secretary, without further appropriation.

Community Partnership Enhancement Act of 1998, (16 U.S.C.742f). This Act authorizes the cooperative agreements with nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, or State and local governments to construct, operate, maintain, or improve refuge facilities and services, and to promote volunteer outreach and education programs.

Appropriation: Miscellaneous Permanent Appropriations

		2020 Actual	2021 Estimate	2022			Budget Request	Change from 2021 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
Operations and Maintenance of Quarters	(\$000)	3,273	3,400	0	0	0	3,400	0
	FTE	2	4	0	0	0	4	0
Proceeds from Sales	(\$000)	146	275	0	0	0	275	0
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lahontan Valley & Pyramid Lake Fish and Wildlife Fund	(\$000)	336	500	0	0	0	500	0
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Film and Photography Fee Program	(\$000)	0	75	0	0	0	75	0
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Community Partnership Enhancement	(\$000)	0	100	0	0	0	100	0
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total, Miscellaneous Permanent Appropriations	(\$000)	3,755	4,350	0	0	0	4,350	0
	FTE	2	4	0	0	0	4	0

Program Overview

Operations and Maintenance of Quarters

The Operations and Maintenance of Quarters (Quarters) Account uses receipts from the rental of Service-owned quarters to pay for maintenance of those quarters. Certain circumstances, including a lack of off-site residences and site isolation, require Service personnel to occupy government-owned quarters. Such work includes protecting fish hatchery stock (e.g. maintaining water flow to fish rearing ponds during freezing temperatures), monitoring water management facilities, ensuring the health and welfare of visitors, responding to fires and floods, and protecting government property.

Proceeds From Sales, Water Resources Development Projects

As described in 16 U.S.C. 460(d), receipts collected from the sale of timber and crops from National Wildlife Refuge System lands leased or licensed from the Department of the Army may be used to pay the costs of production of the timber and crops and for managing wildlife habitat. Twenty-three National Wildlife Refuges were established as overlay projects on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers land, and they are administered in accordance with cooperative agreements. The agreements provide that timber and grain may be harvested and sold with the receipts returned for development, conservation, maintenance, and utilization of such lands. The Service has used these funds in the past for soil amendments; road construction and repairs; and ditch and fence construction and maintenance. These expenses cannot exceed the receipt amounts deposited as proceeds from sales.

Lahontan Valley and Pyramid Lake Fish and Wildlife Fund

Pursuant to the Truckee-Carson Pyramid Lake Water Rights Settlement Act of 1990, the Lahontan Valley and Pyramid Lake Fish and Wildlife Fund receives revenues and donations from non-Federal parties to

support the restoration and enhancement of wetlands in the Lahontan Valley and to restore and protect the Pyramid Lake fishery. Payments received from the Bureau of Reclamation's Washoe and Truckee Storage Projects in excess of operation and maintenance costs for Stampede Reservoir are available without further appropriation, as are donations made for express purposes and State cost-sharing funds. In addition, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to deposit proceeds from the sale of certain lands and interests in lands into the Fund. Land sales proceeds are used primarily to pay annual water delivery costs for Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge, Northern Nevada's premier waterfowl hunting destination and part of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network.

Film and Photography Fee Program

Congress provided authority for the Service to require permits and establish reasonable fees for commercial filming activities and certain still photography activities under Service jurisdiction. It requires all four bureaus involved—the Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Forest Service—to develop and implement a consistent fee schedule. To date, the four bureaus have revised the draft fee schedule after a public comment period. The final fee schedule is awaiting publication. Once finalized, all costs recovered under this Act shall be available for expenditures by the Secretary of the Interior, without further appropriation, at the site where collected, and shall remain available until expended.

Community Partnership Enhancement

The Community Partnership fund was established to encourage volunteer programs, donations, and other contributions by persons or organizations for the benefit of a particular National Wildlife Refuge or complex. The partnership between a refuge or complex and non-Federal organizations may promote public awareness of the resources of the National Wildlife Refuge System and public participation in the conservation of resources. Partnerships may be in the form of a non-profit organization (as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code), academic institution, or State or local government agency to carry out projects or programs for a refuge or refuge complex. Funds may be used to promote education and the conservation of fish, wildlife, plants, and cultural and historical resources on a refuge or refuge complex.

2022 Budget Estimate

The 2022 budget estimate for Miscellaneous Permanent Appropriations is \$4,350,000 and 4 FTE.

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Administrative Provisions

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service may carry out the operations of Service programs by direct expenditure, contracts, grants, cooperative agreements and reimbursable agreements with public and private entities. Appropriations and funds available to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall be available for repair of damage to public roads within and adjacent to reservation areas caused by operations of the Service; options for the purchase of land at not to exceed one dollar for each option; facilities incident to such public recreational uses on conservation areas as are consistent with their primary purpose; and the maintenance and improvement of aquaria, buildings, and other facilities under the jurisdiction of the Service and to which the United States has title, and which are used pursuant to law in connection with management, and investigation of fish and wildlife resources: *Provided*, That notwithstanding 44 U.S.C. 501, the Service may, under cooperative cost sharing and partnership arrangements authorized by law, procure printing services from cooperators in connection with jointly produced publications for which the cooperators share at least one-half the cost of printing either in cash or services and the Service determines the cooperator is capable of meeting accepted quality standards: *Provided further*, That the Service may accept donated aircraft as replacements for existing aircraft: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may recover costs for response, assessment, and damages to National Wildlife Refuge System resources from the actions of private parties, or for costs as otherwise provided by Federal, State, or local law, regulation, or court order as a result of the destruction, loss of, or injury to any living or non-living National Wildlife Refuge System resource: *Provided further*, That the damages described in the previous proviso shall include the following: compensation for the cost of replacing, restoring or acquiring the equivalent of the damaged National Wildlife Refuge System resource; and either the value of any significant loss of use of a National Wildlife Refuge System resource pending its restoration, replacement or acquisition of an equivalent resource or the value of the National Wildlife Refuge System resource in the event the resource cannot be replaced, restored or an equivalent acquired: *Provided further*, That any instrumentality, including but not limited to a vessel, vehicle, aircraft, or other equipment or mechanism that destroys, causes the loss of, or injures any living or non-living National Wildlife Refuge System resource or which causes the Secretary to undertake actions to prevent, minimize, or abate destruction, loss of, injury, or risk to such resource shall be liable in rem to the United States for response costs and damages resulting from such destruction, loss, injury, or risk to the same extent as a person is liable: *Provided further*, That in addition to any other authority to accept donations, the Secretary may accept donations of money or services to meet expected, immediate, or ongoing response costs and damages; response and assessment costs and damages recovered by the Secretary and donations received under this provision shall be available to the Secretary, without further appropriation, and shall remain available until expended, for damage assessments conducted, or for restoration and replacement of National Wildlife Refuge System resources, and shall be managed under the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Fund as per 43 U.S.C. 1474b-1: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, all fees collected for non-toxic shot review and approval shall be deposited under the heading “United States Fish and Wildlife Service—Resource Management” and shall be available to the Secretary, without further appropriation, to be used for expenses of processing of such non-toxic shot type or coating applications and revising regulations as necessary, and shall remain available until expended: [Provided further, That obligated balances of funding originally made available under section 7060(c)(2)(B) of division K of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141) and transferred to the Fish and Wildlife Service to combat the transnational threat of wildlife poaching and trafficking in the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment shall be distributed to recipients that were awarded grants not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.]

(Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2021.)

Justification of Language Change

Deletion of the following wording: Provided further, That obligated balances of funding originally made available under section 7060(c)(2)(B) of division K of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141) and transferred to the Fish and Wildlife Service to combat the transnational threat of wildlife poaching and trafficking in the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment shall be distributed to recipients that were awarded grants not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

This language is not necessary to retain, as the specific funding mentioned has been awarded.

Addition of the following wording:

Provided further, That the Secretary may recover costs for response, assessment, and damages to National Wildlife Refuge System resources from the actions of private parties, or for costs as otherwise provided by Federal, State, or local law, regulation, or court order as a result of the destruction, loss of, or injury to any living or non-living National Wildlife Refuge System resource: Provided further, That the damages described in the previous proviso shall include the following: compensation for the cost of replacing, restoring or acquiring the equivalent of the damaged National Wildlife Refuge System resource; and either the value of any significant loss of use of a National Wildlife Refuge System resource pending its restoration, replacement or acquisition of an equivalent resource or the value of the National Wildlife Refuge System resource in the event the resource cannot be replaced, restored or an equivalent acquired: Provided further, That any instrumentality, including but not limited to a vessel, vehicle, aircraft, or other equipment or mechanism that destroys, causes the loss of, or injures any living or non-living National Wildlife Refuge System resource or which causes the Secretary to undertake actions to prevent, minimize, or abate destruction, loss of, injury, or risk to such resource shall be liable in rem to the United States for response costs and damages resulting from such destruction, loss, injury, or risk to the same extent as a person is liable: Provided further, That in addition to any other authority to accept donations, the Secretary may accept donations of money or services to meet expected, immediate, or ongoing response costs and damages; response and assessment costs and damages recovered by the Secretary and donations received under this provision shall be available to the Secretary, without further appropriation, and shall remain available until expended, for damage assessments conducted, or for restoration and replacement of National Wildlife Refuge System resources, and shall be managed under the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Fund as per 43 U.S.C. 1474b–1:

This change adds language to provide the Service with the authority, similar to that of the National Park Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to seek compensation from responsible parties whose unauthorized actions injure or destroy National Wildlife Refuge System resources. Under current law, when Service resources are injured or destroyed, the costs of repair and restoration falls upon the appropriated budget for the affected field station or office. This is the case even when parties are ordered to pay restitution. Competing priorities can leave damaged Refuge System resources languishing until Congress appropriates funds to address the injury. This delay may result in more intensive injuries, higher costs of future redress of the injury, and long-term degradation of publicly-owned resources.

This provision would allow persons responsible for harm—not taxpayers—to pay for any injury they cause. Unlike some other land management agencies, the Service only has criminal penalties (fines) for those injuries occurring on Service property. In most cases, the injuries far exceed any fines recovered by the U.S. Government. With this authority, the recovery of damages for injury to Refuge System resources would be used to reimburse assessment costs; prevent or minimize the risk of loss; monitor ongoing effects, and/or use those funds to restore, replace, or acquire resources equivalent to those injured or destroyed.

Significant examples suitable for damage recovery under this provision include a case of cutting the boundary fence at the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico where multiple sets of tire tracks were found indicating trespass by motor vehicle to the Refuge and damaging fragile desert habitat. The St. Mark's National Wildlife Refuge in Florida experienced damage to an entrance gate and its locking mechanism and the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico reported government signs that had been vandalized by spray paint rendering them unreadable.

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Section 403 Compliance

Purpose: To fulfill legislative requirements for disclosure of program assessments used to support Government-wide, departmental, or agency initiatives or general operations. Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260):

SEC. 403. The amount and basis of estimated overhead charges, deductions, reserves or holdbacks, including working capital fund and cost pool charges, from programs, projects, activities and subactivities to support government-wide, departmental, agency, or bureau administrative functions or headquarters, regional, or central operations shall be presented in annual budget justifications and subject to approval by the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Changes to such estimates shall be presented to the Committees on Appropriations for approval.

Pursuant to the *Section 403* directive, the Service fully discloses its administrative costs as follows:

NATIONAL COMMON PROGRAM SERVICES: With the Administrative reorganization, the Service has consolidated all regional shared costs and national shared costs into a common program services charge. These charges account for specific administrative services for facilities management, procurement, human resources, financial and other services. With the JAO reorganization, the Service has striven to keep these assessments at prior levels.

NON-RESOURCE MANAGEMENT USER-PAY COST SHARE: Non-Resource Management Programs continue to pay annually for the administrative services they consume. The funding received from Non-Resource Management Programs supplements central, regional and Servicewide support operations. Specifically, the Non-Resource Management Programs pay for their actual use of communication services and Workers' Compensation. Other costs, such as Washington and Regional office administration and Service-wide costs, such as Unemployment Compensation are measured through FTE usage.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION: The Service has historically paid workers' compensation costs centrally through the Servicewide bill paying account. As a result, programs were not aware of the costs that result from employee injuries. Since FY 2015, workers' compensation costs have been charged to the applicable programs. The Service made this change to address an audit finding and provide incentive for programs to participate in the Department's Return to Work initiative.

ENTERPRISE-WIDE SERVICES: In order to provide the necessary level of funding for Enterprise-wide and Working Capital Fund Direct Bill services, the Service assesses its resource management programs for costs that can be directly tracked back to users. This includes software licenses, cell phone costs, personnel system costs, employee badges and the like.

RESERVES: The Service Director may manage a deferred allocation fund of up to one-half of one percent of the current year Resource Management appropriation for each subactivity in excess of three million dollars. These management reserve funds are used for unanticipated requirements and are applied consistently with the original appropriation.

The Service strictly adheres to the policy that Congressional priorities must be funded in their entirety and are not subject to the deferred allocation or user-pay cost share.

Below shows administrative cost estimates for Fiscal Years 2021 and 2022:

	Fiscal Year 2021
External Administrative Costs	
WCF Centralized Billings	\$24,578,400
WCF Direct Billings/Fee for Service	\$15,783,300
Program Assessments	
Holdbacks, Reserves, and Deductions	\$3,763,904
Bureau Administrative Costs	
National Common Program Services	\$26,410,949
Non-Resource Management User-Pay Cost Share	\$8,918,421
Workers' Compensation	\$4,257,000
Enterprise-Wide Services	\$38,020,865

	Fiscal Year 2022
External Administrative Costs	
WCF Centralized Billings	\$25,339,000
WCF Direct Billings/Fee for Service	\$15,374,100
Program Assessments	
Holdbacks, Reserves, and Deductions	\$6,500,000
Bureau Administrative Costs/Central and Regional Operations	
National Common Program Services	\$31,998,399
Non-Resource Management User-Pay Cost Share	\$9,142,421
Workers' Compensation	\$4,592,000
Enterprise-Wide Services	\$56,740,530

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

**Employee Count by Grade
(Total Employment)**

	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Enacted	FY 2022 Estimate
Executive Level V	1	1	1
SES	24	24	24
Subtotal	25	25	25
SL - 00	0	1	1
ST - 00	0	0	0
Subtotal	0	1	1
GS/GM -15	126	113	116
GS/GM -14	540	525	540
GS/GM -13	1,396	1,395	1,494
GS -12	1,647	1,675	1,750
GS -11	1,525	1,535	1,625
GS -10	9	8	8
GS - 9	943	985	1,065
GS - 8	110	100	110
GS - 7	601	575	775
GS - 6	216	210	240
GS - 5	466	515	665
GS - 4	123	164	195
GS - 3	63	75	95
GS - 2	5	15	15
GS - 1	0	2	2
Subtotal	7,770	7,892	8,695
Other Pay Schedule Systems	592	659	818
Total employment (actuals & estimates)	8,387	8,577	9,539

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Allocations Received from Other Accounts						
Department Program	FY 2020 Actual		FY 2021 Estimate		FY 2022 Estimate	
	Budget Authority	Outlays	Budget Authority	Outlays	Budget Authority	Outlays
Department of Agriculture:						
Forest Pest Management	0	176,000	187,000	130,900	200,000	196,100
Department of the Interior:						
<i>Office of Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration</i>						
Damage Assessment 8300	1,670,300	1,325,407	2,500,000	2,251,090	2,500,000	2,500,000
Restoration 9800	35,484,842	20,534,171	40,000,000	38,645,453	50,000,000	47,000,000
<i>Office of Wildland Fire Coordination</i>						
Wildland Fire Management	78,832,722	72,670,100	85,000,000	83,149,816	85,000,000	85,000,000
<i>Office of the Secretary, DOI</i>						
Disaster Relief - Hurricane Sandy	0	3,838,034	0	1,500,000	0	1,500,000
National Parks and Public Lands Management Act	0	0	95,000,000	66,500,000	89,585,000	91,209,500
Salaries and Expenses, CARES Act	3,585,000	959,538	40,860,500	29,677,850	0	12,258,150
<i>Bureau of Land Management</i>						
Central Hazardous Materials Fund	1,636,773	2,197,161	4,167,657	3,408,392	4,167,657	4,167,657
So. Nevada Public Lands Management	2,532,962	966,552	590,166	1,173,005	590,166	590,166
Energy Act - Permit Improvement	1,590,000	1,532,325	670,000	946,000	670,000	670,000
Department of Transportation:						
Federal Highway Administration-Discretionary 0500	2,697,980	1,331,471	0	809,394	0	557,114
Federal Highway Administration- Mandatory 8083	11,978,026	12,048,218	12,396,017	12,270,620	12,396,017	12,396,017
TOTAL	140,008,604	117,578,977	281,371,340	240,462,519	245,108,840	258,044,704