



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Mission

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is to work with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

Budget Overview

The 2026 Budget request for FWS is \$1.1 billion. The Budget also includes a legislative proposal that will allocate funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to address deferred maintenance needs.

Resource Management

The 2026 Budget provides \$1.1 billion for Resource Management. One of the keys to unleashing American energy is effective and efficient implementation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Budget increases funding for species recovery activities, including delisting species under the ESA. In addition, the Budget proposes to merge the National Marine Fisheries Service's Office of Protected Resources and associated ESA and Marine Mammal Protection Act implementation responsibilities into FWS, which will reduce redundancies and streamline permitting activities.

The National Wildlife Refuge System is among the world's most significant land and water systems that are managed for the benefit of fish and wildlife. Since 1903, the National Wildlife Refuge System has provided habitat to benefit wildlife and unparalleled outdoor



Great blue heron is one of many species that benefit from FWS work.

FWS Photo.

experiences for all Americans. The 2026 Budget continues wildlife conservation activities and emphasizes a commitment to access for sportsmen and sportswomen.

To provide safety and security for the visiting public and FWS staff, the Budget supports Federal Wildlife Officers that are also 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 aid in other security challenges. FWS will continue to enforce wildlife laws, combat wildlife trafficking, and stop illicit trade in wildlife and wildlife products. The Budget will also transfer funding responsibility for international species conservation work back to other countries, reserving limited resources for domestic species.

Although FWS is responsible for conserving trust resources across broad landscapes, its work to conserve natural resources is impossible without partnerships with States, Tribes, and private landowners. In recognition of this, the 2026 Budget will



- FWS originated in 1871 to study and recommend solutions to a decline in food fish.
- FWS manages more than 96 million acres of land and nearly 856 million acres of submerged land in the National Wildlife Refuge System, comprising 572 national wildlife refuges, 8 national monuments, and thousands of small wetlands.

eliminate grants to States and Tribes that come with strings attached on the types of species they should conserve. These eliminations will be complemented by FWS investments in partnerships with private landowners. FWS works with landowners to preserve working landscapes for the benefit of plants, wildlife, and agriculture, ranching, timber, and other traditional land uses.

Construction

The 2026 Budget provides \$13.7 million for construction to maintain FWS's infrastructure to

help millions of visitors experience our national treasures, provide water to the West, and support American jobs.

Workforce Restructure

The 2026 Budget supports the Administration's priority to streamline government and will continue efforts to unify and optimize administrative services across the Department to increase effectiveness and efficiency for the benefit of American taxpayers.



Hunting, fishing, and other wildlife-related recreation in the United States contributes to the Nation's economy.

FWS Photo.

SUMMARY OF BUREAU APPROPRIATIONS

(dollar amounts in thousands)

Comparison of 2026 Request with 2025 CR

	2025 CR ^{1/}	2026 Request
Current, without Supplementals		
Resource Management	1,475,353	1,125,570
Construction	19,280	13,709
National Wildlife Refuge Fund	13,228	0
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund	23,000	0
North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	49,000	0
Multinational Species Conservation Fund	20,500	0
Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund	5,000	0
State and Tribal Wildlife Grants	72,384	0
Total, Current, without Supplementals	1,677,745	1,139,279
Current, 2026 Supplementals		
Resource Management		
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58)		91,000
Transfer to OIG (P.L. 117-58)		-455
Total, Current, 2026 Supplementals		90,545
Permanent, 2026 LWCF		
Land Acquisition and Deferred Maintenance		38,060
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund		40,162
Total, Permanent, 2026 LWCF		78,222

^{1/} Resource levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET CHANGES

By Appropriation Activity/Subactivity

APPROPRIATION: Resource Management

	2024 Actual	2025 Notional ^{1/}	2026 Request
Ecological Services			
Listing	22,000	22,000	7,375
Planning and Consultation	118,191	125,191	95,126
Conservation and Restoration	37,571	37,821	28,586
Recovery	110,522	105,522	120,522
Subtotal, Ecological Services	[288,284]	290,534	251,609
Habitat Conservation	[72,000]	72,000	68,836
National Wildlife Refuge System	[527,035]	527,857	412,135
Conservation and Enforcement	[173,664]	172,664	137,975
Fish and Aquatic Conservation	[226,793]	223,016	152,015
Science Applications	[33,781]	33,781	0
General Operations	[153,796]	155,501	103,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	1,520,273	1,475,353	1,125,570

^{1/} Resource levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

APPROPRIATION: Construction

	2024 Actual	2025 Notional ^{1/}	2026 Request
Nationwide Engineering Services	5,588	5,588	5,588
Dam, Bridge, and Seismic Safety	2,427	2,427	2,427
Line-Item Construction Projects	11,265	11,265	5,694
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	19,280	19,280	13,709

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APPROPRIATION: National Wildlife Refuge Fund

	2024 Actual	2025 Notional ^{1/}	2026 Request
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	13,228	13,228	0

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APPROPRIATION: Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

	2024 Actual	2025 Notional ^{1/}	2026 Request
Grants and Administration	23,000	23,000	0
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	23,000	23,000	0

^{1/} Resource levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

APPROPRIATION: North American Wetlands Conservation Fund

	2024 Actual	2025 Notional ^{1/}	2026 Request
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	49,000	49,000	0

^{1/} Resource levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

APPROPRIATION: Multinational Species Conservation Fund

	2024 Actual	2025 Notional ^{1/}	2026 Request
African Elephant Conservation Fund	4,682	4,682	0
Asian Elephant Conservation Fund	2,945	2,945	0
Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund	6,236	6,236	0
Great Ape Conservation Fund	3,711	3,711	0
Marine Turtle Conservation Fund	2,926	2,926	0
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	20,500	20,500	0

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APPROPRIATION: Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund

	2024 Actual	2025 Notional ^{1/}	2026 Request
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	5,000	5,000	0

^{1/} Resource levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

APPROPRIATION: State and Tribal Wildlife Grants

	2024 Actual	2025 Notional ^{1/}	2026 Request
State Wildlife Grants (Formula)	59,000	59,000	0
State Wildlife Grants (Competitive)	7,284	7,284	0
Tribal Wildlife Grants	6,100	6,100	0
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	72,384	72,384	0

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