



# U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## Mission

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

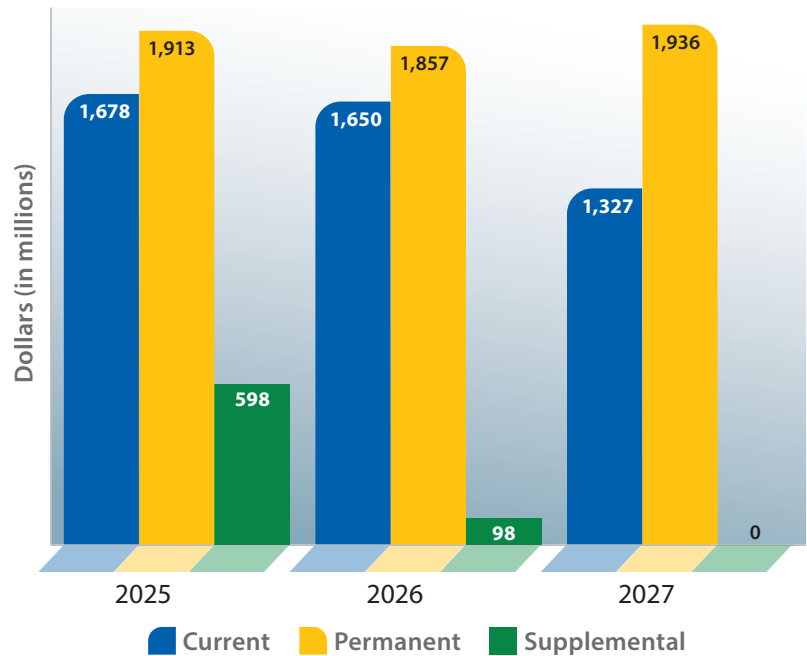
## Budget Overview

The 2027 budget request for FWS is \$1.3 billion. In total, FWS estimates the budget request will support 6,295 full-time equivalents (FTE). The budget includes resources and authorities to transfer the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Office of Protected Resources and associated Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) implementation responsibilities into FWS, which will streamline permitting activities and ensure consistency in ESA and MMPA implementation across the Federal Government. This consolidation will improve the efficiency of implementing the ESA by having a single agency review projects impacting endangered species, rather than two that have to then coordinate their reviews. With this proposal, FWS would take over the workload of listing, delisting, and consulting on projects impacting endangered species and have sufficient funding to maintain marine mammal stock assessments.

## Resource Management

The 2027 budget provides \$1.3 billion for Resource Management. One of the keys to unleashing American energy

## FWS Funding



is effective and efficient implementation of the ESA. The 2027 budget increases funding to reduce environmental review timeframes for energy projects under the ESA.

The National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) is among the world's most significant land and water systems that are managed for the benefit of fish and wildlife. Since 1903, the NWRS has provided habitats to benefit wildlife and unparalleled outdoor experiences for all Americans. The 2027 budget includes funding for visitor services throughout the NWRS to better support gateway communities; ensure continued implementation of Secretary's Order 3435, *Implementation of the Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences Act*; facilitate high-quality recreational opportunities; and coordinate with Friends Groups and volunteers.

To provide safety and security for the visiting public and FWS staff, the budget supports Federal Wildlife Officers who

## U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Facts



- FWS originated in 1871 to determine why fisheries were declining off our country's coasts and inland waters and how to fix the problem.
- FWS manages more than 96 million acres of land and approximately 760 million acres of submerged land in the National Wildlife Refuge System, composed of 573 national wildlife refuges, 8 national monuments, and thousands of small wetlands.
- FWS manages 71 hatcheries as part of the National Fish Hatchery System, a global leader in conservation aquaculture that raises and distributes more than 200 million individual fish and other aquatic animals each year to enhance State and tribally managed recreational fisheries, fulfill Tribal trust responsibilities, recover threatened and endangered species, and prevent at-risk species from becoming endangered.

are also routinely involved with local and other Federal law enforcement agencies in cooperative efforts to combat drug trafficking, address border security issues, and aid in other security challenges. The 2027 budget includes funding for refuge law enforcement to support the retention of workforce gains, salary increases, and officer-related field support realized in previous years. FWS will continue to enforce wildlife laws and stop illicit trade in wildlife and wildlife products. The 2027 budget also eliminates many programs that spend

American tax dollars on foreign species in different countries rather than focusing limited resources on America's native endangered species first.

Although FWS is responsible for conserving natural resources across broad landscapes, its work to conserve natural resources is aided by partnerships with States, Tribes, and private landowners. These intergovernmental funding efforts will be complemented by FWS investments in partnerships with private landowners. FWS works



FWS biologist looks towards mountains in the background at the National Elk Refuge, WY.

FWS Photo.

with landowners to preserve working landscapes for the benefit of plants, wildlife, agriculture, ranching, timber, and other traditional land uses.

### Construction

The 2027 budget provides \$13.7 million for construction to maintain FWS's infrastructure to help millions of visitors experience our national treasures and to support American jobs at our refuges.

### North American Wetlands Conservation Fund

The 2027 budget provides \$10.0 million for the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund to continue cost-shared partnership projects for wetlands conservation supporting outdoor recreation.

### Fixed Costs

Fixed costs are fully funded.

## SUMMARY OF BUREAU APPROPRIATIONS <sup>1/</sup>

(dollar amounts in thousands)

### Comparison of 2027 Request with 2026 Enacted

|  | 2026 Enacted |                  | 2027 Request |                  | Change      |                 |
|--|--------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|-------------|-----------------|
|  | FTE          | Amount           | FTE          | Amount           | FTE         | Amount          |
| <b>Current</b>   |              |                  |              |                  |             |                 |
| Resource Management .....                              | 5,065        | 1,549,060        | 4,839        | 1,303,574        | -226        | -245,486        |
| Construction .....                                     | 37           | 14,709           | 37           | 13,705           | 0           | -1,004          |
| National Wildlife Refuge Fund .....                    | 0            | 13,228           | 0            | 0                | 0           | -13,228         |
| Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund ..... | 7            | 22,202           | 0            | 0                | -7          | -22,202         |
| North American Wetlands Conservation Fund .....        | 8            | 49,000           | 8            | 10,000           | 0           | -39,000         |
| Multinational Species Conservation Fund .....          | 4            | 21,000           | 0            | 0                | -4          | -21,000         |
| Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation .....          | 1            | 5,000            | 0            | 0                | -1          | -5,000          |
| State Wildlife Grants .....                            | 19           | 73,812           | 0            | 0                | -19         | -73,812         |
| Subtotal, Current .....                                | 5,141        | 1,748,011        | 4,884        | 1,327,279        | -257        | -420,732        |
| <b>Permanent</b>                                       |              |                  |              |                  |             |                 |
| Land Acquisition .....                                 | 89           | 108,912          | 89           | 120,452          | 0           | +11,540         |
| National Wildlife Refuge Fund .....                    | 3            | 8,035            | 3            | 8,000            | 0           | -35             |
| Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration .....              | 46           | 964,164          | 46           | 1,019,369        | 0           | +55,205         |
| Sport Fish Restoration .....                           | 42           | 547,244          | 42           | 554,143          | 0           | +6,899          |
| Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund ..... | 0            | 127,856          | 0            | 132,902          | 0           | +5,046          |
| North American Wetlands Conservation Fund .....        | 0            | 141              | 1            | 141              | +1          | 0               |
| Migratory Bird Conservation Account .....              | 73           | 84,872           | 70           | 84,500           | -3          | -372            |
| Recreation Enhancement Fee Program, FWS .....          | 27           | 7,000            | 27           | 7,000            | 0           | 0               |
| Miscellaneous Permanent Appropriations .....           | 4            | 4,150            | 4            | 4,150            | 0           | 0               |
| Contributed Funds .....                                | 15           | 5,000            | 15           | 5,000            | 0           | 0               |
| Coastal Impact Assistance .....                        | 1            | 0                | 1            | 0                | 0           | 0               |
| Subtotal, Permanent .....                              | 300          | 1,857,374        | 298          | 1,935,657        | -2          | +78,283         |
| <b>Reimbursable, Allocation, and Other</b>             |              |                  |              |                  |             |                 |
| Allocation .....                                       | 428          | 0                | 203          | 0                | -225        | 0               |
| Reimbursable .....                                     | 910          | 0                | 910          | 0                | 0           | 0               |
| Subtotal, Reimbursable, Allocation, and Other .....    | 1,338        | 0                | 1,113        | 0                | -225        | 0               |
| <b>TOTAL, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE .....</b>     | <b>6,779</b> | <b>3,605,385</b> | <b>6,295</b> | <b>3,262,936</b> | <b>-484</b> | <b>-342,449</b> |

<sup>1/</sup> Current funding amounts include supplemental appropriations and transfers. For further details, see Highlights of Budget Changes tables for each account.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET CHANGES

By Appropriation Activity/Subactivity  
(dollar amounts in thousands)

### APPROPRIATION: Resource Management

|   | 2025 Actual | 2026 Enacted | 2027 Request | Change   |
|---|-------------|--------------|--------------|----------|
| <b>Ecological Services</b>                      |             |              |              |          |
| Listing .....                                   | 22,000      | 14,000       | 7,352        | -6,648   |
| Planning and Consultation .....                 | 125,191     | 116,485      | 106,915      | -9,570   |
| Conservation and Restoration .....              | 37,821      | 36,822       | 28,498       | -8,324   |
| Recovery .....                                  | 105,522     | 110,223      | 107,195      | -3,028   |
| Marine Functions .....                          | 0           | 0            | 178,000      | +178,000 |
| Subtotal, Ecological Services .....             | 290,534     | 277,530      | 427,960      | +150,430 |
| <b>Habitat Conservation</b>                     |             |              |              |          |
| Partners for Fish and Wildlife .....            | 59,000      | 56,760       | 54,316       | -2,444   |
| Coastal Programs .....                          | 13,000      | 13,000       | 12,599       | -401     |
| Subtotal, Habitat Conservation .....            | 72,000      | 69,760       | 66,915       | -2,845   |
| <b>National Wildlife Refuge System</b>          |             |              |              |          |
| Wildlife and Habitat Management .....           | 255,457     | 254,735      | 185,330      | -69,405  |
| Visitor Services .....                          | 76,100      | 74,500       | 67,469       | -7,031   |
| Refuge Law Enforcement .....                    | 49,500      | 46,500       | 49,479       | +2,979   |
| Conservation Planning .....                     | 2,800       | 2,300        | 1,498        | -802     |
| Refuge Maintenance .....                        | 144,000     | 144,000      | 113,212      | -30,788  |
| Subtotal, National Wildlife Refuge System ..... | 527,857     | 522,035      | 416,988      | -105,047 |
| <b>Conservation and Enforcement</b>             |             |              |              |          |
| Migratory Bird Management .....                 | 53,212      | 51,356       | 39,993       | -11,363  |
| Law Enforcement .....                           | 91,859      | 91,859       | 75,449       | -16,410  |
| International Affairs .....                     | 27,593      | 28,593       | 20,519       | -8,074   |
| Subtotal, Conservation and Enforcement .....    | 172,664     | 171,808      | 135,961      | -35,847  |
| <b>Fish and Aquatic Conservation</b>            |             |              |              |          |
| National Fish Hatchery Operations .....         | 75,502      | 79,005       | 62,331       | -16,674  |
| Maintenance and Equipment .....                 | 25,100      | 24,550       | 20,591       | -3,959   |
| Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation .....  | 122,414     | 122,220      | 71,669       | -50,551  |
| Subtotal, Fish and Aquatic Conservation .....   | 223,016     | 225,775      | 154,591      | -71,184  |
| <b>Science Applications</b>                     |             |              |              |          |
| Science Partnerships .....                      | 24,931      | 21,931       | 0            | -21,931  |
| Service Science .....                           | 8,850       | 8,850        | 0            | -8,850   |
| Subtotal, Science Applications .....            | 33,781      | 30,781       | 0            | -30,781  |
| <b>General Operations</b>                       |             |              |              |          |
| Central Office Operations .....                 | 33,284      | 22,657       | 18,491       | -4,166   |
| Management and Administration .....             | 44,166      | 36,983       | 18,493       | -18,490  |
| Aviation Management .....                       | 3,296       | 3,296        | 3,295        | -1       |
| Servicewide Bill Paying .....                   | 45,300      | 41,275       | 42,888       | +1,613   |
| National Fish and Wildlife Foundation .....     | 1,955       | 5,500        | 3,000        | -2,500   |
| National Conservation Training Center .....     | 27,500      | 25,000       | 14,992       | -10,008  |
| Subtotal, General Operations .....              | 155,501     | 134,711      | 101,159      | -33,552  |

**APPROPRIATION: Resource Management** *(continued)*

|  | 2025 Actual | 2026 Enacted | 2027 Request | Change   |
|--|-------------|--------------|--------------|----------|
| Stewardship Priorities (Congressionally Directed Spending) ..... | 0           | 19,115       | 0            | -19,115  |
| SUBTOTAL APPROPRIATION .....                                     | 1,475,353   | 1,451,515    | 1,303,574    | -147,941 |
| Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58) .....       | 91,000      | 91,000       | 0            | -91,000  |
| Transfer from USFS (P.L. 117-58) .....                           | 7,000       | 7,000        | 0            | -7,000   |
| Transfer to OIG (P.L. 117-58) .....                              | -455        | -455         | 0            | +455     |
| TOTAL APPROPRIATION .....  | 1,572,898   | 1,549,060    | 1,303,574    | -245,486 |

**APPROPRIATION: Construction**

|   | 2025 Actual | 2026 Enacted | 2027 Request | Change |
|---|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------|
| Nationwide Engineering Services                 |             |              |              |        |
| Core Engineering Services .....                 | 4,901       | 4,901        | 4,897        | -4     |
| Environmental Compliance .....                  | 624         | 624          | 624          | 0      |
| Waste Prevention and Recycling .....            | 63          | 63           | 63           | 0      |
| Subtotal, Nationwide Engineering Services ..... | 5,588       | 5,588        | 5,584        | -4     |
| Dam, Bridge, and Seismic Safety                 |             |              |              |        |
| Bridge Safety Inspections .....                 | 1,239       | 1,239        | 1,239        | 0      |
| Dam Safety Inspections .....                    | 1,113       | 1,113        | 1,113        | 0      |
| Seismic Safety .....                            | 75          | 75           | 75           | 0      |
| Subtotal, Dam, Bridge, and Seismic Safety ..... | 2,427       | 2,427        | 2,427        | 0      |
| Line Item Construction Projects .....           | 11,265      | 6,694        | 5,694        | -1,000 |
| SUBTOTAL APPROPRIATION .....                    | 19,280      | 14,709       | 13,705       | -1,004 |
| American Relief Act (P.L. 118-158) .....        | 500,000     | 0            | 0            | 0      |
| TOTAL APPROPRIATION .....                       | 519,280     | 14,709       | 13,705       | -1,004 |

**APPROPRIATION: National Wildlife Refuge Fund**

|                           | 2025 Actual | 2026 Enacted | 2027 Request | Change  |
|---------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------|
| TOTAL APPROPRIATION ..... | 13,228      | 13,228       | 0            | -13,228 |

**APPROPRIATION: Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund**

|   | 2025 Actual | 2026 Enacted | 2027 Request | Change  |
|---|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------|
| Grants and Administration                         |             |              |              |         |
| Conservation Grants .....                         | 13,300      | 11,930       | 0            | -11,930 |
| Habitat Conservation Plan Assistance Grants ..... | 7,000       | 7,680        | 0            | -7,680  |
| Administration .....                              | 2,700       | 2,592        | 0            | -2,592  |
| TOTAL APPROPRIATION .....                         | 23,000      | 22,202       | 0            | -22,202 |

**APPROPRIATION: North American Wetlands Conservation Fund**

|                           | 2025 Actual | 2026 Enacted | 2027 Request | Change  |
|---------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------|
| TOTAL APPROPRIATION ..... | 49,000      | 49,000       | 10,000       | -39,000 |

**APPROPRIATION: Multinational Species Conservation Fund**

|  | 2025 Actual | 2026 Enacted | 2027 Request | Change  |
|--|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------|
| African Elephant Conservation Fund .....     | 4,682       | 4,796        | 0            | -4,796  |
| Asian Elephant Conservation Fund .....       | 2,945       | 3,017        | 0            | -3,017  |
| Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund ..... | 6,236       | 6,388        | 0            | -6,388  |
| Great Ape Conservation Fund .....            | 3,711       | 3,802        | 0            | -3,802  |
| Marine Turtle Conservation Fund .....        | 2,926       | 2,997        | 0            | -2,997  |
| TOTAL APPROPRIATION .....                    | 20,500      | 21,000       | 0            | -21,000 |

**APPROPRIATION: Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund**

|                           | 2025 Actual | 2026 Enacted | 2027 Request | Change |
|---------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------|
| TOTAL APPROPRIATION ..... | 5,000       | 5,000        | 0            | -5,000 |

**APPROPRIATION: State Wildlife Grants**

|   | 2025 Actual | 2026 Enacted | 2027 Request | Change  |
|---|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------|
| State Wildlife Grants (Formula) .....     | 59,000      | 60,000       | 0            | -60,000 |
| State Wildlife Grants (Competitive) ..... | 7,284       | 7,612        | 0            | -7,612  |
| Tribal Wildlife Grants .....              | 6,100       | 6,200        | 0            | -6,200  |
| TOTAL APPROPRIATION .....                 | 72,384      | 73,812       | 0            | -73,812 |