

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

and Performance Information
Fiscal Year 2015

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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

Fiscal Year 2015 President’s Budget

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Executive Summary

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. The Service is 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.

The Service believes connecting Americans directly with the Nation's wildlife heritage is a priority. To accomplish this, the Service will make wildlife refuges more welcoming to new audiences, offer new hunting and fishing programs, and provide quality opportunities for schools, civic organizations, and individuals to share their passion for the natural environment through wildlife-dependent recreation programs.

The most recent National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, published in 2012, indicated that 90.1 million Americans, 38 percent of the U.S. population 16 years old and older, enjoyed some form of fishing, hunting or wildlife-associated recreation. The report also noted that outdoor recreation is a huge contributor to our nation's economy with expenditures of \$145 billion. Since the 2006 survey, overall participation trends were up by approximately 4 percent. More than 44 million Americans six years of age and older enjoy fishing every year, and an average angler spends \$1,046 every year on the sport.

Many recreational anglers and boaters are aware that their participation plays a vital role in sustaining resources and promoting safe and responsible use of our nation's waters. On average, 83 percent of State fish and wildlife agencies' total freshwater fisheries/aquatic resource management budget is supported by fishing license sales and Sport Fish Restoration funds. These funds are derived from motorboat fuel taxes and a special excise tax on fishing tackle and equipment. Sport Fish Restoration funds also support boater education and safety programs around the country.

In FY 2013, wildlife-dependent recreation visits to national wildlife refuges also increased by approximately 1 percent as compared to FY 2012. Refuge System visitors participated in a variety of recreation opportunities, including wildlife observation and photography, fishing, interpretive and education programs, and hunting. The most popular visitor activities were use of our trails, wildlife auto routes, and wildlife observation programs. The Refuge System's national survey of visitors on 80 refuges, published in FY 2012, indicated that visitors overwhelmingly enjoyed their outdoor recreation pursuits on refuges with a satisfaction rating at 90 percent. The latest Banking on Nature report, published in 2013, indicated that the Refuge System was an economic engine for local communities, generating support for 37,000 jobs and \$2.4 billion in visitor expenditures.

Bird watching is also an important focus for refuge visitation. Of all the wildlife in the United States, birds attract the biggest following. According to the Service's most recent *National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation*, about 18 million people a year take trips to see wild birds. National wildlife refuges are bird magnets; many protect important bird habitat along the country's major flyways. For a jaw-dropping natural spectacle, it's hard to beat a bird festival. The Refuge System has over 20 major bird festivals each year, in many parts of the country, often coinciding with spring or fall migrations.

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

Wildlife trafficking has emerged as an international crisis, imperiling both conservation and global security. The poaching of African elephants and rhinos for ivory and horn stands at unprecedented levels, and illegal trade is undermining the conservation of scores of other species. Between 2002 -2011, the total population of forest elephants plummeted by an estimated 62 percent across Central Africa. Elephant massacres have taken place in Chad, Cameroon and the Central African Republic in the past year. Well-armed and organized criminal enterprises have taken advantage of insufficient protection capacity in remote areas.

The Service has a long history of both investigating wildlife trafficking and supporting conservation efforts on the ground in Africa and across the globe. The agency has marshaled its expertise and experience to respond to the crisis that now threatens species and national security. The Service's enforcement officers and conservation specialists have taken -- and will continue to take -- concrete action to stop the slaughter, disrupt the trafficking, and put rhinos, elephants, and other species at risk on the road to recovery.

Recently, the United States destroyed its six-ton stock of confiscated ivory last year to send a clear message that the Nation will not tolerate wildlife crime that threatens to wipe out the African elephant and a host of other species worldwide. Secretary Jewell stated, "We will continue to work aggressively with the Department of Justice and law enforcement agencies around the world to investigate, arrest, and prosecute criminals who traffic in ivory. We encourage other nations to join us in destroying confiscated ivory stockpiles and taking other actions to combat wildlife crime." As a result of this action, other nations (including China) have been prompted to follow the United States' lead.

The Service has developed a four-pronged approach to combat wildlife trafficking and make a difference for species and people worldwide. This approach includes:

- Law enforcement to target and stop illicit trade;
- Working to ensure sustainable legal trade through the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);
- Reducing demand for illegal products in consumer countries through communications and public affairs strategies; and,
- Providing technical assistance and grants to build local enforcement capabilities.

FWS special agents are prioritizing efforts to detect and disrupt this black market trade. An excellent illustration of the success of this approach is Operation Crash, an ongoing nationwide investigation of rhino horn trafficking. Through this effort the Service has broken up two major smuggling rings and secured the felony prosecutions of 15 defendants, including operatives working out of China and Hong Kong. Other investigations are exposing trafficking in such contraband as elephant ivory, endangered fish, and protected corals.

The agency has also strengthened its smuggling interdiction efforts at the Nation's ports of entry by adding trained wildlife detector dogs to its frontline force. Additional efforts include assigning the first wildlife special agent/international attaché to Southeast Asia, and providing investigative training from FWS experts to twice as many wildlife officers in Africa.

The Service's Organization

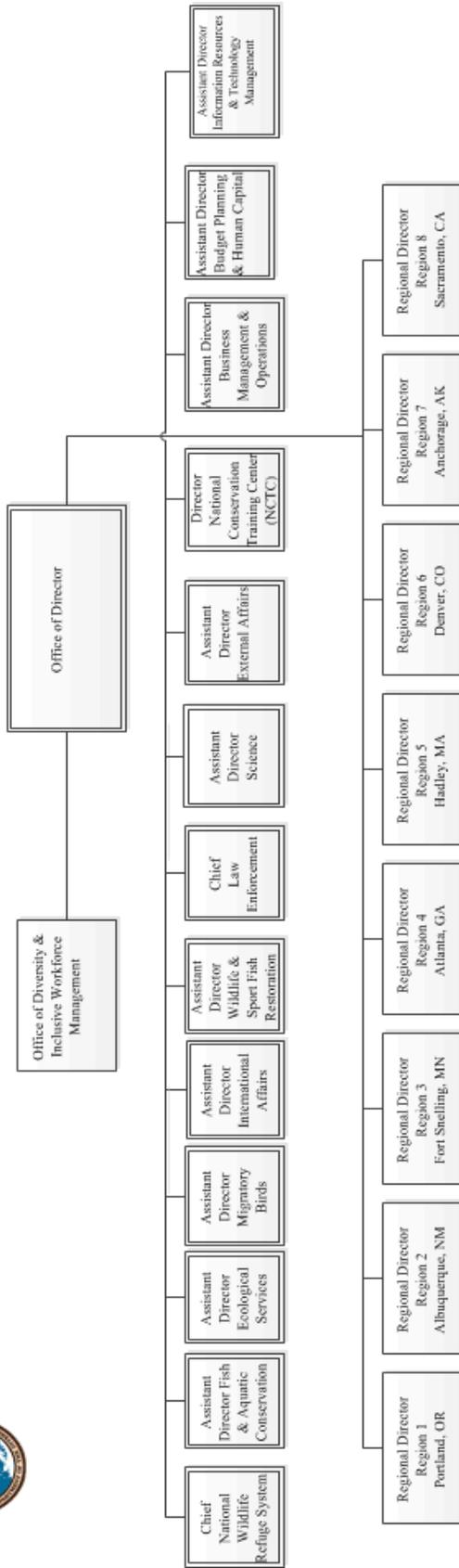
The Service has headquarters in Washington, D.C. and Arlington, Virginia, with eight regional offices and over 700 field stations. These include 562 units of the National Wildlife Refuge System; 6 National Monuments; 80 Ecological Services Field Stations; 72 National Fish Hatcheries; one historical National Fish Hatchery (D.C. Booth in South Dakota); nine Fish Health Centers; six Fish Technology Centers; and waterfowl production areas in 206 counties managed within 38 Wetland Management Districts and 50 Coordination Areas, all-encompassing more than 150 million acres of land and waters. The Service works with diverse partners, 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. Headquarter-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



Overview of FY 2015 Budget Request

Budget Authority	FY 2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015 Budget Request	*Change from 2014 (+/-)
Discretionary	1,382,405	1,427,367	1,477,553	+50,186
Mandatory	1,124,147	1,363,046	1,342,091	(20,955)
Cancellation of Balances			(1,351)	(1,351)
Total \$\$\$	2,506,552	2,790,413	2,818,293	+27,880
Discretionary	7,317	7,382	7,493	+111
Mandatory	249	252	308	+56
Transfers/Alloc.	1,591	1,573	1,585	+12
TOTAL FTE	9,157	9,207	9,386	+179

Does not include \$64.6 M supplemental in FY 2013 for Hurricane Sandy Relief.

Does not include transfer in FY 2013 of \$8.6 M from State Dept/USAID - Congo

Overview

The 2015 President's budget request for the FWS totals \$2.8 billion, including current appropriations of \$1.5 billion. The discretionary request is an increase of \$48.8 million compared to the 2014 enacted level including the cancellation of \$1.4 million of unobligated prior year balances. The budget also includes \$1.3 billion available under permanent appropriations, most of which will be provided directly to States for fish and wildlife restoration and conservation. The FWS estimates staffing will equal 9,386 full time equivalents (FTE) in 2015, an increase of 179 FTE from the 2014 level.

This budget funds Departmental initiatives and Service priorities, including the America's Great Outdoors, New Energy Frontier, Youth in the Great Outdoors, Cooperative Recovery, and investments in Landscape Level Understanding.

America's Great Outdoors Initiative –

America's Great Outdoors fosters the intrinsic link between healthy economies and healthy landscapes to increase tourism and outdoor recreation in balance with preservation and conservation. This initiative features collaborative and community-driven efforts and outcome-focused investments focused on preserving and enhancing rural landscapes, urban parks and rivers, important ecosystems, cultural resources, and wildlife habitat. These activities incorporate the best available science, a landscape-level understanding, and stakeholder input to identify and share conservation priorities. The President's budget for the Service proposes \$1.6 billion in current and mandatory funding, an increase of \$250 million for AGO related activities. This increase includes \$1.3 billion for Resource Management operations, an increase of \$71.7 million over the 2014 level.

A critical component of America's Great Outdoors is the National Wildlife Refuge System. The Refuge System delivers conservation on a landscape level, including improving water quality, helping to mitigate flooding and providing important habitat for the survival and protection of endangered species. The Refuge System also offers recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing and enjoying wildlife.

The Service also partners with States, Tribes, conservation groups, and others to encourage conservation. The Ecological Services program works with private landowners and others to protect and restore habitat for listed and candidate species under the Endangered Species Act. The Fisheries program carries out its aquatic resources conservation work through a nationwide network of over 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 annual outdoor and classroom events and opportunities to view wildlife and enjoy nature. All FWS programs help to reconnect youth and their families to our Nation's natural resource heritage.

With 80 percent of the U.S. population currently residing in urban communities, helping urban dwellers rediscover their pleasure in the outdoors is a priority for the Service. The refuge system is well positioned to offer rewarding and convenient outdoor adventures to an increasingly urban society. 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. Through the Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership initiative, the Service will focus on inviting city dwellers to enjoy the outdoors by creating stepping stones of engagement for new audiences to connect them with outdoor experiences that build on one another, both on wildlife refuges and partner's lands. This focus helps to ensure future generations appreciate and conserve natural resources and preserve places that benefit the health of the Nation's youth as they enjoy and experience nature.

The 2015 budget includes increases for programs funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a vital component of the America's Great Outdoors initiative. The 2015 budget includes \$168.8 million for Federal land acquisition, which includes \$55.0 million in current funding and \$113.8 million in permanent funding, an increase of \$114.4 million above the 2014 enacted level. The 2015 Federal Land Acquisition program builds on efforts started in 2011 to strategically invest in interagency landscape-scale conservation projects while continuing to meet agency-specific programmatic needs. The Department of the Interior and U.S. Forest Service collaborate extensively to achieve the highest priority conservation goals through more effectively coordinating land acquisitions with local community partners. In addition, the budget requests funding from the LWCF for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund including \$50.0 million in current appropriations and an additional \$50.0 million in mandatory funding.

The budget requests \$87.8 million for grant programs administered by FWS that support America's Great Outdoors goals.

Powering Our Future – Through early planning, thoughtful mitigation, and the application of sound science, Interior is working to ensure the Administration's "all-of-the-above" energy strategy includes not only traditional sources, but also the further development of new, cleaner resources to help mitigate the causes of climate change. The budget proposes \$16.7 million, an increase of \$2.5 million, for activities associated with energy development, including a program increase of \$1.1 million for the Ecological Services Planning and Consultation program to support approvals of renewable energy projects. An increase of \$1.4 million is proposed to analyze potential impacts of energy transmission in the American West and to identify strategies to mitigate negative impacts. The budget maintains funding for migratory bird conservation to help address the impact of development, particularly wind projects on wildlife and wildlife habitat.

Engaging the Next Generation – The budget includes \$13.5 million, an increase of \$2.5 million, for activities related to youth employment, educational, and training opportunities for children and young people. This increase includes \$2.5 million, for expanded youth programs and partnerships, including funding for the proposed 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC), an outcome of the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative. The 21CSC is a bold national effort to put young Americans to work protecting, restoring and enhancing public and tribal lands and waters as well as natural, cultural, and historical resources and treasures. The 21CSC will provide service, training, education and employment opportunities for thousands of young Americans and veterans, including low income and disadvantaged youth. With 80 percent of the U.S. population currently residing in urban communities, the challenge to connect people with our natural resources has become even more complex. Young adults

and children everywhere have different perceptions, values, and relationships with land and wildlife compared to previous generations. To ensure that future generations appreciate and conserve our natural resources, the Department of Interior strives to engage these audiences in meaningful, collaborative ways that build sustainable, broad-based support for the conservation of fish, wildlife, and habitat.

Landscape Level Understanding - The budget request includes \$65.8 million, an increase of \$7.7 million above the 2014 level, for landscape level science and conservation. This increase will support Landscape Conservation Cooperatives and science within the Service to more effectively conserve populations of fish, wildlife and plants at landscape scales. Funding will allow the Service through its' 22 Landscape Conservation Cooperatives to work with States and partners to determine population and habitat goals for a set of species that best represent ecological characteristics of the larger landscapes. From a common understanding of shared goals, multiple Service programs, supported by partners, can better collaborate to make more effective and efficient conservation decisions in light of the challenges and opportunities we face. With these goals in mind, partners can identify where and how they will take action, within their own authorities and organizational priorities, to best contribute to the larger conservation effort. Fish, wildlife, and plant resources are an integral feature of 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 landscapes provide to Americans every day.

Cooperative Recovery – Approximately 380 species listed as threatened or endangered are found in or around units of the Refuge System. Human demands on the environment combined with environmental stressors including drought, sea-level rise, and extreme weather events are creating an urgent need for conservation. Only through cooperative efforts can the Nation successfully recover its most imperiled species. In FY 2015 the Service requests a total of \$7.7 million, an increase of \$1.8 million over the enacted level, for cooperative recovery. This increase will support the Service's cross-programmatic partnership approach for planning, restoration, and management actions to address threats to endangered species in areas of strategic importance for the conservation of listed species. The focus will be on implementing recovery actions for species near delisting or reclassification from endangered to threatened and actions that are urgently needed for critically endangered species. The Service will combine resources from ES with those of the National Wildlife Refuge System, the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, the Fisheries Program, the Science Program and the Migratory Bird Program to identify and implement the highest priority recovery projects for endangered species on national wildlife refuges and in surrounding areas.

Projects funded in 2013 focused on implementing recovery actions for 27 federally-listed plant and 17 federally-listed animal species. One example is the Willamette Valley Multi-species Cooperative Recovery initiative where recovery actions were implemented on National Wildlife Refuges and surrounding private lands to benefit three federally listed threatened and endangered species. With an increasing human footprint, conversion of native habitats, the introduction of invasive species, and competing demands for resources, the Willamette Valley has become an area of intense conservation focus. Through collaboration with other project partners, on-the-ground recovery actions through Cooperative Recovery have been successfully implemented, accelerating the recovery for the Oregon chub and allowing the Service to recently submit a delisting package. In addition, with help from Cooperative Recovery, the Fender's blue butterfly and Bradshaw's desert parsley are on schedule to be downlisted from endangered to threatened within three years.

Additional Increases and Initiatives

Wildlife Trafficking - Wildlife trafficking has emerged as an international crisis, imperiling both conservation and global security. The poaching of African elephants and rhinos for ivory and horn stands at unprecedented levels, and illegal trade is undermining the conservation of scores of other species. The

Service is requesting increases for its Law Enforcement and International Affairs programs to fund additional wildlife trafficking actions.

Law Enforcement – The budget provides \$66.7 million for the law enforcement program to investigate wildlife crimes and enforce the laws that govern the Nation’s wildlife trade, a program increase of \$2.0 million over the 2014 level. The request includes a program increase of \$500,000 to combat expanding illegal wildlife trafficking and support conservation efforts on the ground in Africa and across the globe and \$1.2 million that will be used to expand the capability that evidence collected through wildlife forensics will provide needed evidence for investigating and prosecuting criminal activity. A program increase of \$247,000 is also requested to support FWS special agents.

International Affairs - The budget request includes a total of \$14.6 million, a program increase of \$1.0 million over the 2014 level. A successful effort to combat wildlife trafficking cannot solely rely on investigating and prosecuting criminal activity, but must also reduce market demand for wildlife products. Increased funding will support efforts to combat wildlife trafficking and 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 flagship species such as tigers, elephants, and rhinos.

Ecological Services – Planning and Consultation. In addition to the Energy increases, the Service is requesting an additional \$5 million for planning and consultation to support economic recovery and job creation in the United States. Timely evaluations of proposed infrastructure, real estate and other development projects, assisting permitting agencies, issuing permits for these projects under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), Endangered Species Act (ESA) and other Federal laws contributes to job creation and economic growth.

Growth in business investment and consumer spending will likely translate to more demand for infrastructure, housing, and commercial construction resulting in more requests for permits that recognize compliance with environmental laws. New housing construction requires revisiting land use planning and technical assistance with siting determinations in order to minimize impacts on listed species. Economic recovery also generates demand for supporting infrastructure such as roads, water supply control and flood protection. To support this predicted growth, the Service needs to restore and build additional capacity to provide technical assistance and environmental reviews in a timely and sustainable manner. This funding increase will be used to balance staffing requirements with demand for environmental reviews which will allow the Service to expedite project reviews.

Conservation and Recovery. The Service is requesting an additional \$8.9 million for Conservation and Recovery. Stakeholders such as other Federal agencies, States, landowners, and communities are engaged in or impacted by the requirements of the ESA to support recovery and achieve delisting. Once a species is removed from the list of threatened or endangered species under the ESA, the restrictions of the Act no longer apply. As stakeholders would like to see species recovered and delisted as soon as possible, a portion of this increase will address the backlog of approximately 60 species that have been identified for delisting or downlisting based upon recent five-year reviews.

At the same time, the level of interest in pre-listing conservation has never been higher. For example, within a decade, the Southeast Region alone must determine the status of more than 450 fish, wildlife and plant species under the ESA. Of the 289 aquatic species occurring in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia that must be evaluated, 198 of them are prevalent local species. As such, the Service’s Southeast Region launched an intensive effort three years ago to identify priority areas and work hand-in-hand with 15 States and Federal agencies to conserve at-risk species before listing is needed. The effort has now been

expanded and includes industry (e.g., electric and timber companies), non-government organizations, and other entities within the landscape. A portion of this increase will provide resources to develop and implement similar conservation strategies for candidate or other at-risk species in coordination with the States.

Sage Grouse Initiative – The Service is requesting an additional \$4.0 million, about doubling our current effort, for conservation of the sage grouse. Sage grouse and its habitat extend across 11 states, and the conservation of this species will impact the future of conservation in the American West. Conservation is the key to conserving the United States’ largest ecosystem, will safeguard many other plants and animals, and will help ensure the future of working landscapes in the West. The effort to adjust land management regimes and encourage conservation is at a critical juncture and the Service’s investment is central to sustaining efforts for the entire sage-steppe.

National Wildlife Refuge System – Funding for the operation and maintenance of the national wildlife refuge system is requested at \$476.4 million, a program increase of \$1.8 million above the 2014 level. The request includes program increases of \$2.0 million for Challenge Cost Share partnerships and \$649,000 for refuge law enforcement activities to protect wildlife, habitat, Federal property and the safety of refuge visitors

Fisheries and Aquatic Conservation – The budget requests additional funding of \$4.4 million for efforts to control the spread of Asian Carp. Asian carp are a voracious and prolific fish, which can devastate important fisheries across entire watersheds by destroying habitat, consuming the food of native fish, and over-populating the area. This funding increase will allow the Service to focus on limiting the spread of these invasive fish in major watersheds that are highly likely to have habitat suitable for self-sustaining populations of Asian carp, such as the Great Lakes, Missouri, Ohio, Upper Mississippi River, and other high priority watersheds. The budget funds the National Fish Hatchery System at \$1.7 million above the 2014 Enacted.

In 2012, the Service assembled a team of experts from across the country to conduct a comprehensive review of the 70 active propagation hatcheries. The purpose of this review was to position hatcheries to meet current and future aquatic resource needs of the United States, identify the highest priority production species for the Service, and make informed decisions about how best to operate the hatchery system moving forward into the future in an era of changing budgets. The Service is using this report to engage partners and stakeholders, including State fish and wildlife agencies, Tribes, and local non-profits, in a discussion on major findings and recommendations. We will consider this input along with anticipated operating costs for existing propagation programs, the Report’s findings and recommendations, and other factors to determine how to further streamline our operations. The Service will look at lower priority propagation programs identified in the Report and may reduce them on an individual basis after evaluating the impacts of those programs.

Fixed Costs – Fixed costs increases of \$6.5 million over the 2014 level are fully funded.

Budget Restructuring - The Service is proposing to restructure the budget for ecological services to improve efficiency and enhance coordination across programs and with external partners for the conservation of imperiled species. The proposal presents the budget according to Listing, Conservation and Restoration, and Planning and Consultation functions. The Habitat Conservation activity will now only contain the Partners for Fish and Wildlife and Coastal Programs subactivities and Marine Mammals formerly in the Fish and Aquatic Conservation activity is now incorporated into Ecological Services, Conservation and Restoration.

President's Management Agenda - The Department of the Interior supports the President's Management Agenda to cut waste and implement a government that is more responsive and open. The Service's budget supports the Department's plan to build upon the Accountable Government Initiative through a set of integrated enterprise reforms designed to support collaborative, evidence-based resource management decisions; efficient Information Technology (IT) Transformation; optimized programs, business processes, and facilities; and a network of innovative cost controlling measures that leverage strategic workforce alignment to realize an effective 21st Century Interior organization.

IT Transformation - The FY 2015 President's Budget Request includes \$490,000 for the Service's participation in the Department's IT Transformation efforts through the Department's Working Capital Fund. These funds will support IT Transformation project-level planning and coordination and the implementation of enterprise IT services.

Indirect Cost Negotiations- The 2015 budget includes an increase of \$255,000 for reviews of indirect cost rate proposals conducted by the Office of Indirect Services at the request of the Service. The Office of Indirect Cost Services negotiates indirect cost rates with non-Federal entities doing business with the Department, for example, tribal governments, State and local governments, Insular governments, and nonprofit organizations. In 2015, this activity will be supported directly by bureau payment for services rather than as a direct appropriation in the Office of the Secretary.

Legislative Proposals

The President's Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative — Complementing the President's 2015 Budget Request is a separate Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative which shows how additional investments in 2015 can spur economic progress, promote opportunity, and strengthen national security. The Administration proposes a balanced package of spending cuts and tax loophole closers to fully offset the cost of these pro-growth investments. The Initiative proposes additional investment relevant to the Fish and Wildlife Service as noted below.

- **Centennial Land Management Investment Fund** — As part of the President's Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative and a permanent legislative proposal, the Fish and Wildlife Service will have the opportunity to compete for **conservation and infrastructure project funding** included within the Centennial initiative. The Centennial initiative supporting the 100th Anniversary of the National Park Service features a competitive opportunity for the public lands management bureaus within Interior and the U.S. Forest Service to address conservation and infrastructure project needs. The program will be managed within Interior's Office of the Secretary in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture with clearly defined project criteria. The Administration proposes \$100.0 million as part of the Opportunity, Growth and Security Initiative and a separate legislative proposal of \$100.0 million a year for three years. The Service also has an upcoming centennial – the signing of the Migratory Bird Treaty, our nation's first international wildlife conservation treaty and the foundation of the Service's ongoing efforts to protect migratory birds and their habitats. The treaty laid the groundwork for bird conservation activities, such as reducing the take of protected species, funding the acquisition of bird habitat, and developing international plans for the conservation and management of migratory birds.
- A proposed \$140.0 million investment in Interior's **research and development** activities is also part of the President's Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative. This investment reflects the President's ongoing commitment to strengthen America's competitiveness through scientific discovery and innovation, and the Department of the Interior's capacity to use science to inform decision making to support sustainable stewardship. Through this Initiative, research and development will focus on outcomes, investing particularly in the development of decision-ready tools and information managers can use in the stewardship of natural resources. The Service has

identified \$20 million in research and development to support scientific objectives in energy and mineral development; climate resilience; landscape scale ecosystem management, restoration and protection; and species protection and health through the President's Initiative investment. For example, wildlife health issues such as brucellosis, chronic wasting disease, and white-nose syndrome can drive species populations to levels that imperil both their continued healthy existence as well as the other species that depend upon them for proper ecosystem functionality.

- The Initiative also includes a proposal to establish a **Climate Resilience Fund** to help communities across the country better prepare for existing and future threats exacerbated by climate change. Work in the Service's Refuge Inventory and Monitoring Program, for example, will address critical information needs to plan and evaluate the effectiveness of conservation strategies implemented by the Service and conservation partners. These data collection efforts are essential in the face of accelerating climate change and growing threats from other environmental stressors.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) - The Department of the Interior will submit a legislative proposal to permanently authorize annual funding, without further appropriation or fiscal year limitation for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Starting in 2016, \$900 million annually in permanent funds would be available. During the transition to full permanent funding in 2015, the budget proposes \$900 million in total LWCF funding, comprised of \$550 million permanent funds and \$350 million discretionary funds. The amounts requested include the authorized levels for the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture. The proposal includes \$55.0 million in current funding and \$113.8 million in proposed mandatory funding for the Service. The budget provides an overall increase of \$114.4 million above the 2014 level to strategically invest in interagency landscape-scale conservation projects while continuing to meet agency-specific programmatic needs.

National Wildlife Refuge Damage Cost Recovery - 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 who injure or destroy National Wildlife Refuge System or other Service resources. Under this authority, damages 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. When Service resources are currently injured or destroyed, the costs for repair and restoration fall upon the appropriated budget for the affected Refuge, often at the expense of other Refuge programs. Competing priorities can leave Service resources languishing until the refuge obtains appropriations from Congress to address the injury. This may result in more intensive injuries, higher costs, and long-term degradation of publicly-owned Service resources. The public expects that Refuge resources – and the broad range of activities they support – will be available for future generations. It follows that persons responsible for harm -- not taxpayers – should pay for any injury they cause.

Nontoxic Shot Cost Recovery – New language would provide that all fees collected for nontoxic shot review and approval are available, without further appropriation, to be used for expenses of processing applications and revising regulations.

Duck Stamp Legislative Proposal – The budget includes a proposal to increase the cost of a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp to \$25.00 per year, beginning in 2015, from its current cost of \$15.00. With the additional receipts, the Department anticipates acquisition of approximately 7,000 additional acres in fee simple and approximately 10,000 additional conservation easement acres in 2015 to benefit waterfowl habitat. The legislation also proposes the price of a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp can be increased after 2015 by the Secretary with approval of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission.

U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE								
MAJOR ACCOUNT SUMMARY OF FISCAL YEAR 2015								
Account		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015				Change from 2014 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-) 1/	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
<u>Current Appropriations</u>								
Resource Management 1/	\$000	1,149,803	1,188,339	+6,284	-465	+65,842	1,260,000	+71,661
	FTE	7,113	7,188		0	+112	7,300	+112
Construction	\$000	18,098	15,722	+72	0	-107	15,687	-35
	FTE	70	62	0	0	0	62	0
Land Acquisition 1/ 2/	\$000	51,775	54,422	+98	+465	+15	55,000	+578
	FTE	90	89	0	+0	0	89	+0
National Wildlife Refuge Fund	\$000	13,228	13,228	0	0	-13,228	0	-13,228
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	\$000	33,640	34,145	0	0	+0	34,145	+0
	FTE	6	6	0	0	0	6	+0
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund	\$000	45,187	50,095	0	0	-95	50,000	-95
	FTE	13	13	0	0	+2	15	+2
Multinational Species Conservation Fund	\$000	8,971	9,061	0	0	+0	9,061	+0
	FTE	4	4	0	0	0	4	0
Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation	\$000	3,588	3,660	0	0	0	3,660	0
	FTE	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
State and Tribal Wildlife Grants	\$000	58,115	58,695	0	0	-8,695	50,000	-8,695
	FTE	19	19	0	0	-3	16	-3
Cancellation of LIP Balances - FY 2015	\$000					-1,327	-1,327	-1,327
	FTE	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cancellation of PSG Balances - FY 2015	\$000					-24	-24	-24
TOTAL, Current Appropriations with cancellations	\$000	1,382,405	1,427,367	+6,454	0	+42,381	1,476,202	+48,835
	FTE	7,317	7,382	0	0	+111	7,493	+111
1/ FY15 proposed transfer of Refuge Land Protection Planning to Land Acquisition account.								
2/ FY13 Land Acquisition does not reflect transfer of \$985,462 to Wildland Fire for emergency suppression activities								

Construction does not include \$64.6 M supplemental in FY13 for Hurricane Sandy Relief.

Resource Management does not include transfer in FY13 of \$8,596,144 from State Dept/USAID - Congo

U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE								
MAJOR ACCOUNT SUMMARY OF FISCAL YEAR 2015 REQUEST								
Account		FY 2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015			Budget Request	Change from 2014 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
Permanent and Trust Accounts								
Federal Lands Recreational Enhancement Act	\$000	4,963	5,079	0	0	+21	5,100	21
	FTE	23	23	0	0	0	23	0
Land Acquisition - FY 2015	\$000	0	0	0	0	+113,772	113,772	+113,772
	FTE	0	0	0	0	40	40	40
Migratory Bird Conservation Account	\$000	64,960	55,830	0	0	14,570	70,400	+14,570
	FTE	66	66	0	0	+10	76	+10
National Wildlife Refuge Fund	\$000	7,950	7,851	0	0	149	8,000	+149
	FTE	9	9	0	0	0	9	+0
North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	\$000	475	19,056	0	0	+1,644	20,700	+1,644
	FTE	0	4	0	0	0	4	0
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund Payment to Special Fund	\$000	62,636	72,058	0	0	-11,520	60,538	-11,520
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund Legislative Proposal FY 15	\$000	0	0	0	0	+50,000	50,000	+50,000
	FTE	0	0	0	0	+6	6	+6
Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration	\$000	439,066	406,812	0	0	+22,490	429,302	+22,490
	FTE	64	58	0	0	0	58	0
Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration	\$000	534,169	789,575	0	0	-212,081	577,494	-212,081
	FTE	51	57	0	0	0	57	0
Miscellaneous Permanent Appropriations	\$000	4,880	3,785	0	0	0	3,785	+0
	FTE	6	6	0	0	0	6	0
Contributed Funds	\$000	5,048	3,000	0	0	0	3,000	+0
	FTE	18	18	0	0	+0	18	+0
Coastal Impact Assistance Program	\$000	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0
	FTE	12	11	0	0	+0	11	+0
Subtotal, Permanent Appropriations	\$000	1,124,147	1,363,046	0	0	-20,955	1,342,091	-20,955
	FTE	249	252	0	0	+56	308	+56
Reimbursements and Allocations from others								
Reimbursable (1900 series)	FTE	793	777			+0	777	+0
Offsetting Collections 1800 series	FTE	198	198			+0	198	+0
Offsetting Collections 4000 series	FTE	32	32			+0	32	+0
Wild land Fire Management	FTE	443	441			+12	453	+12
Southern Nevada Lands	FTE	15	15			+0	15	+0
Federal Aid - Highway	FTE	15	15			+0	15	+0
NRDAR	FTE	78	78			+0	78	+0
Central HAZMAT	FTE	7	7			+0	7	+0
Forest Pest	FTE	1	1			+0	1	+0
Energy Act - Permit Processing	FTE	9	9			+0	9	+0
Subtotal, Other		1,591	1,573	0	0	+12	1,585	+12
TOTAL FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE	\$000	2,506,552	2,790,413	+6,454	0	+21,426	2,818,293	+27,880
	FTE	9,157	9,207	0	0	+179	9,386	+179

Agency Priority Goals

Youth Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources Agency Priority Goal

Priority Goal: By September 30, 2015, the Department of the Interior will provide 40,000 work and training opportunities over two fiscal years (FY 2014 and FY 2015) for individuals age 15 to 25 to support the mission of the Department.

Bureau Contribution

Workforce planning studies suggest that the bureaus are now competing for candidates who bring new competencies to the U.S. workforce. The Service will continue to ensure that talented and capable young people are ready to enter public service as natural resource professionals.

The Service has worked with the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) to introduce young Americans to conservation opportunities at National Fish Hatcheries, National Wildlife Refuges, and Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices across the country since inception of the program in 1970. The Service will continue hiring youth as resources permit to provide a quality, cost-effective outdoor work experience to a diverse pool of our Nation's youth. The Service's hires will continue to contribute to the Priority Goal's objective to employ youth in the conservation mission of the Department.

Implementation Strategy

The Service's **National Wildlife Refuge System** will continue existing proven programs using creative approaches to offer public service opportunities. National wildlife refuges offer employment, education, and recreation opportunities that connect youth with the outdoors. These youth programs also provide opportunities to educate youth about career opportunities and promote public service as part of a life-long commitment to natural resource conservation. Programs are managed through mentoring and partnerships with Friends organizations, volunteers, educational institutions, and local conservation organizations.

The **Fisheries Program** will also continue supporting the Secretary's initiative to engage youth in the great outdoors by emphasizing new and creative ways to get the Nation's youth out into nature, specifically underrepresented groups such as those in urban environments, minorities, and women. The Service's Pathways program, rural and Tribal Youth Conservation Corps programs, and the Biologist-in-Training Program complement these early learning experiences to mold future conservation stewards and advance youth into careers in conservation and natural resources management.

Support continues for the **National Conservation Training Center (NCTC)** which will continue to provide programmatic coordination and collaboration to increase the capacity of bureaus' conservation professionals to educate and train youth, and to provide natural resource career awareness, and provide professional development. NCTC is developing and implementing cutting-edge, electronic collaboration tools for sharing resources, targeting specific audiences, networking, and an interactive Youth Portal website to facilitate communication. This work enables participants to effectively share success stories, learn from other's best practices, and develop new tools to attract youth to careers in the natural resource community. NCTC will hold classroom training, workshops, and "community of practice" sessions to bring the best practices to Departmental professionals for engagement of youth in nature. The program will also build competencies to engage youth through new media and social networking tools. The NCTC will also engage youth interested in natural resource careers so they can gain necessary knowledge and

skills to qualify for Departmental positions. The NCTC works with learning institutions at the elementary, middle and high schools and at the college level to meet this goal.

Performance Metrics

Youth Stewardship of Natural & Cultural Resources Agency Priority Goal (APG)

Performance Goal	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Plan	2015 PB
Number of youth (ages 15-25) employed	3,125	3,197	3,125	2,103	2,001	2,150
Comments:	In FY 2013, resource constraints on FWS and its partners led to a significant drop in the number of youth hired.					
Comments:	FWS will continue to hire youth as resources permit. At the request level, FWS will try to increase the number of youth employed.					
Contributing Programs:	Most Service programs, especially NWRS, Hatcheries					

Renewable Energy Resource Development Agency Priority Goal

Priority Goal: By September 30, 2015, increase approved capacity authorized for renewable (solar, wind, and geothermal) energy resources affecting Department of the Interior managed lands, while ensuring full environmental review, to at least 16,500 Megawatts (since 2009).

Bureau Contribution

As the Nation seeks to address economic, environmental, and National security challenges related to energy supply, securing diverse energy sources to support a growing economy and protect our national interests has become a priority for the Nation. Through responsible development of federally-managed resources, the Department of the Interior (DOI) can play a central role in moving the Nation toward a clean energy economy. The transition to a renewable and emission-free energy infrastructure places demands on the Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure that new technologies and energy projects have minimal impact on fish and wildlife resources. While generally regarded as clean energy, renewable energy projects, including wind, solar, wave, and geothermal, often require large geographic areas to be commercially viable. These facilities and accompanying transmission infrastructure pose complex conservation issues on a landscape-level for migratory birds, fish, and other wildlife.

Energy development is a strategic priority for the Service as the Nation seeks to address economic, environmental, and national security challenges related to energy. These activities have a direct impact on fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats and have the potential to affect public recreational opportunities and experiences on national wildlife refuges. The Service’s ability to conduct consultations and planning activities are critical to ensuring that the Nation can expand the production of renewable energy without compromising environmental values.

Implementation Strategy

The **Ecological Services Planning and Consultation** component will provide expert technical assistance and conservation recommendations to facilitate the siting, construction, and operation of a broad and

growing spectrum of energy and transmission projects in order to avoid or mitigate significant impacts to fish and wildlife and their habitats. Program field biologists will effectively participate in additional landscape-level habitat conservation efforts with the States, industry and other conservation stakeholders to protect and conserve key fish and wildlife habitats as the Nation charts a course towards a clean energy future. The goal is to participate early to develop resource protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures that will reduce risks to fish and wildlife and conserve essential habitat.

The Department of Energy, State fish & game agencies, tribal agencies, Bureau of Land Management, and State energy commissions have expressed a need for expedited multispecies conservation strategies accompanied by appropriate permits to comply with the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Service biologists will work on developing these conservation strategies to provide for effective protection and conservation of natural resources while allowing solar and other qualified renewable energy development in a manner that avoids, minimizes, or mitigates environmental impacts. To complete these plans, biologists and energy specialists must develop, collect process and interpret geographic, biological, land use, and other environmental data for the entire plan area. Multiple stakeholder meetings and reviews will be necessary during plan development to ensure the resulting plan is consensus based to the extent feasible/ implementable. This effort will require intense, focused, and dedicated attention from consultation staff for renewable projects for the foreseeable future.

Performance Metrics

The Fish and Wildlife Service has identified a set of internal measures and milestones to monitor and track achievement of the Priority Goals. However, because the Service provides a “supporting role” for this priority goal none of its internal measures are reported to Performance.gov.

Climate Change Adaptation Agency Priority Goal

Priority Goal: By September 30, 2015, the Department of the Interior will demonstrate maturing implementation of climate change adaptation as scored when implementing strategies in its Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan.

Bureau Contribution

Recognizing that adaptation actions are as varied as each bureau, and that outcomes won't likely be realized on the Priority Goal two-year timeframe, the Department has created a Priority Goal that demonstrates DOI climate change adaptation planning and process development. These activities can be tracked to demonstrate progress toward an enhanced ability to improve adaptation planning and create better processes to guide departmental operations.

The new goal will employ a scoring system reflecting the degree of progress of the Department (and its bureaus) in addressing the climate change adaptation strategies in the DOI Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan (SSPP).

The Fish and Wildlife Service has defined and will track progress of at least one activity that it will pursue in implementing each of the five climate change adaptation strategies identified in the SSPP. Progress will be reviewed through the DOI Quarterly Status Reviews. The reviews will evaluate the incremental level of accomplishment achieved either in development of a policy or process; or through the quantity of individuals affected, deliverables, or completion of projects.

Implementation Strategy

The Fish and Wildlife Service will track progress for at least one activity in each of the five strategy elements as indicators of its efforts to improve its adaptation planning and process development for Climate Change. The five strategy elements are:

- Mainstream and integrate climate change adaptation into both agency-wide and regional planning efforts, in coordination with other Federal agencies as well as State and local partners, Tribal governments and private stakeholders
- Ensure agency principals demonstrate commitment to adaptation efforts through internal communications and policies
- Ensure workforce protocols and policies reflect projected human health and safety impacts of climate change
- Design and construct new or modify/manage existing agency facilities and/or infrastructure with consideration for the potential impacts of projected climate change
- Update agency external programs and policies (including grants, loans, technical assistance, etc.) to incentivize planning for and addressing the impacts of climate change

Performance Metrics

The Fish and Wildlife Service has identified a set of draft activities that will track progress toward the strategy elements of the Climate Change Adaptation goal. These activities are only a small portion of the Department's reporting to Performance.gov.

Strategic Objective Performance Summary

Mission Area 1: Celebrating and Enhancing America's Great Outdoors

Goal #1: Protect America's Landscapes

Strategy #1: Improve land and water health by managing the wetlands, uplands, and riparian areas that comprise our national parks, wildlife refuges, and BLM lands.

Strategy #2: Sustain fish, wildlife, and plant species by protecting and recovering the Nation's fish and wildlife in cooperation with partners, including States.

Bureau Contribution

The Service met or exceeded six of its eight FY 2013 targets for Strategy #1: improve land and water health performance metrics, contributing to the Department meeting its metrics for FY 2013 in this strategic objective.

The Service met or exceeded all six of its FY 2013 targets for Strategy #2: sustain fish, wildlife, and plant species performance metrics, contributing to the Department's meeting or exceeding all metrics for FY 2013 in this strategic objective.

The FY 2015 request supports the National Wildlife Refuge System which administers 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 for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans. National Wildlife Refuges manage a full range of habitat types – wetlands; prairies; coastal and marine areas; temperate, tundra and boreal forests. Managing these habitats is a complex web of activities such as controlling or eradicating invasive species, using fire in a prescribed manner, assuring adequate water resources, and assessing external threats like development or contamination. Wildlife refuges are home to more than 700 species of birds, 220 species of mammals, 250 reptile and amphibian species, and more than 200 species of fish.

The FY 2015 request will maintain the Service's support for work with partners on private, State, and other Federal lands to conserve and restore habitat for fish and wildlife and plant species. For example, the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program has grown into a large and diversified habitat restoration program assisting thousands of private landowners across the Nation, and the Coastal Program provides incentives for voluntary protection of threatened, endangered and other species on private and public lands alike. The North American Wetlands Conservation Act provides matching grants to organizations and individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetlands conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico for the benefit of wetlands-associated migratory birds and other wildlife.

The Service continues to lead the Department in the establishment and growth of a network of 22 Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) to provide the science and technical expertise needed to support conservation planning at landscape scales – beyond the reach or resources of any one organization. LCCs also promote collaboration among their members in defining shared conservation goals.

As the principal Federal partner responsible for administering the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Service takes the lead in recovering and conserving our Nation's imperiled species by fostering partnerships, employing scientific excellence, and developing a workforce of conservation leaders. The

FY 2015 request will increase funding for the Service to work in partnership with others, on two major goals, 1) Protect endangered and threatened species, and then pursue their recovery; and 2) Conserve candidate species and species-at-risk so that listing under the ESA is not necessary. These goals are achieved through the following activities: candidate conservation; consultations; grants; habitat conservation plans; international activities; listing and critical habitat; recovery; and working with Tribes.

There are almost 400 aquatic species—fishes, mussels, plants—in the United States that need attention. Many fishes offer great sporting opportunities, or are species that feed people. The FWS Fisheries Program works at the intersection of fisheries science and management, developing and using the latest techniques to conserve America's fisheries. Fisheries science is an integrative approach to understanding the biology, ecology, and economics of a fishery with the goal of sustainable management. The Service analyzes and approves new drugs and chemicals for aquatic species; monitors population levels and responses to environmental changes; maps habitat usage; identifies pathogens and diseases; breeds and grows fish; and evaluates population structure using genetics. The Service applies scientific data to focus conservation activities on high-priority species and habitats to protect and maintain stable populations and healthy habitats, and restore degraded habitats and depleted populations.

Funding in FY 2015 will also enable the Service to maintain efforts to oversee its legal mandate and trust responsibility to maintain healthy migratory bird populations for the benefit of the American public. More than 25 laws, treaties, and conventions authorize the Service to conserve more than 1,000 species of migratory birds and their habitats. Primary among these mandates is the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918, which establishes Federal responsibility for protecting and managing migratory birds. It also implements four international treaties affecting migratory birds common to the United States, Canada, Mexico, Japan and Russia. Management activities include establishing hunting seasons, bag limits, and other regulations and issuing permits to possess or use migratory birds. Other important laws that directly and significantly impact program activities include the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and the North American Wetlands Conservation and Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Acts, which promote habitat and bird conservation across North America and throughout the western hemisphere.

The 2015 request will enhance the ability of the Service's International Affairs Program to engage in domestic and international efforts to protect, restore, and enhance the world's diverse wildlife and their habitats with a focus on species of international concern. The Service has international responsibilities under numerous domestic laws, international treaties, and other multilateral agreements, such as the Multinational Species Conservation Acts, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Western Hemisphere Convention, the Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee, the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Lacey Act, the Wild Bird Conservation Act, and the Ramsar Wetlands Convention.

Implementation Strategy

The Service will continue its efforts in improving land and water health and sustaining fish, wildlife and plant species at similar levels in FY 2015 compared to FY 2013. The response by species to changes in habitat (or other stressors on their health and sustainability) can take years before it can be measured and therefore, measures related to overall status of species tend to move slowly across the years. Also, note that, especially on projects conducted with partners on private lands, results can vary widely from year to year based on the makeup of projects and the partnerships in effect in that time span. The Annual Performance and Plan and Report (APP&R) contains details on some of the variability of specific measures.)

More details on specific actions are included in other parts of this budget request and in the Department of the Interior's Annual Performance and Plan and Report (APP&R) that accompanies the FY 2015 Budget request and are not repeated here in an effort to reduce redundancy.

Performance Metrics

The Service contributes to eight DOI Strategic Plan measures in Strategy #1: Improve land and water health and six DOI Strategic Plan measures in Strategy #2: Sustain fish, wildlife, and plant species.

The related performance measures (including data) are included in the Department of the Interior's Annual Performance and Plan and Report (APP&R) that accompanies the FY 2015 Budget request and are not repeated here in an effort to reduce redundancy.

Goal #2: Protect America's Cultural and Heritage Resources

Strategy #1: Protect and maintain the Nation's most important historic areas and structures, archaeological sites, and museum collections.

Bureau Contribution

The Service met or exceeded its three FY 2013 targets for cultural and heritage resources performance metrics, contributing to the Department exceeding all metrics for FY 2013 in this strategic objective.

The Refuges program is the Service's primary organization responsible for identifying, protecting, and sharing cultural resources. The three primary goals are to (1) evaluate, through a systematic, open-minded study by archeologists, historians, and other specialists to locate resources and to discover or substantiate their significance. (2) provide considerable thought to the problem of simultaneously protecting resources and making them available to the public, and (3) implement essential and appropriate treatment programs and protective measures. The FY 2015 request will maintain efforts to protect these resources at levels similar to FY 2013.

Established in 1896, D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives, formerly Spearfish National Fish Hatchery, is one of the oldest operating hatcheries in the country. Still rearing trout for the Black Hills through a cooperative effort with the State, the hatchery is also a museum and archive that serves to protect and preserve our nation's fishery records and artifacts for educational, research, and historic purposes. With over 155,000 visitors and 14,000 volunteer hours annually, the facility also strives to provide interpretive and educational programs for the public.

The NCTC Museum and Archives houses films, photos, and documents chronicling the rich heritage of wildlife conservation. A changing museum and state of the art research archive help the public, researchers and professional conservationists better understand the rich history of American wildlife conservation.

Implementation Strategy

FWS will continue its cultural and heritage resource efforts at similar levels in FY 2015, compared to FY 2013. More details on specific actions are included in other parts of this budget request and in the Department of the Interior's Annual Performance and Plan and Report (APP&R) that accompanies the FY 2015 Budget request and are not repeated here in an effort to reduce redundancy.

Performance Metrics

FWS contributes to three DOI Strategic Plan measures in this strategic objective.

The related performance measures (including data) are included in the Department of the Interior's Annual Performance and Plan and Report (APP&R) that accompanies the FY 2015 Budget request and are not repeated here in an effort to reduce redundancy.

Goal #3: Provide Recreation and Visitor Experience

Strategy #1: Enhance the enjoyment and appreciation of our natural and cultural heritage by creating opportunities for play, enlightenment, and inspiration.

Bureau Contribution

The FWS met its FY 2013 target for visitor satisfaction. A new visitor survey, conducted at selected, representative National Wildlife Refuge locations during FY 2013 showed increased visitor satisfaction over previous years. This updated result helped the Department also meet its overall goal for visitor satisfaction.

The 1997 National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act provides direction to the Refuges program to provide "...compatible wildlife-dependent recreational uses involving hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, environmental education and interpretation as priority public uses of the Refuge System." In addition, many of the Service's 72 fish hatcheries also provide opportunities for the public to visit and learn more about aquatic wildlife, fish, and fish hatcheries, as well as take advantage of recreational activities on hatchery grounds. The FY 2015 request will enable the FWS to increase opportunities for play, enlightenment, and inspiration at National Wildlife Refuges and National Fish Hatcheries at levels similar to FY 2013.

Implementation Strategy

FWS will continue its visitor service programs at similar levels in FY 2015, compared to FY 2013, and expects to maintain its current high level of visitor satisfaction (90%). More details on specific actions are included in other parts of this budget request and in the Department of the Interior's Annual Performance and Plan and Report (APP&R) that accompanies the FY 2015 Budget request and are not repeated here in an effort to reduce redundancy.

Performance Metrics

FWS contributes to one DOI Strategic Plan measure in this strategic objective.

The related performance measure (including data) are included in the Department of the Interior's Annual Performance and Plan and Report (APP&R) that accompanies the FY 2015 Budget request and are not repeated here in an effort to reduce redundancy.

Administrative Provisions

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: 1) compensation for the cost of replacing, restoring or acquiring the equivalent of the damaged National Wildlife Refuge System resource; and 2) 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 3) 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, 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 who injure or destroy National Wildlife Refuge System or other Service resources. Under this authority, damages 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. When Service resources are currently injured or destroyed, the costs for repair and restoration fall upon the appropriated budget for the affected Refuge, often at the expense of other Refuge programs. Competing priorities can leave Service resources languishing until the refuge obtains appropriations from Congress to address the injury. This may result in more intensive injuries, higher costs, and long-term degradation of publicly-owned Service resources. The public expects that Refuge resources – and the broad range of activities they support – will be available for future generations. It follows that persons responsible for harm -- not taxpayers -- should pay for any injury they cause. In 2010, Refuges reported under the Annual Uniform Crime Report, 39 cases of arson and 2,300 vandalism offenses. Monetary losses from these cases totaled \$1.1 million dollars. Other reported offenses often lead to resource injury and number in the thousands, including off-road vehicle use, trespass, and other natural resources violations. Specific examples suitable for damage recovery under this provision include a case of illegally creating roads through Sequoyah Refuge (OK) including burning acreage and damming a creek; grounding of a ship on coral reefs at Northwest Hawaiian Islands Refuge; and abandonment of property on numerous refuges.

Addition of the following wording:

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.

Under the regulations at 50 CFR 20.134, the Service must approve new nontoxic shot types and shot coatings for use in waterfowl and coot hunting. If approved, a new shot type or coating is then added to the list at 20.21(j).

The Service has reviewed about one application for a new shot type or coating per year, on average over the last 15 years. Each application has cost staff time for review and most have cost staff time for the USGS toxicologist who provides expert advice on applications. In addition, the Service has absorbed the costs of the associated Federal Register publications. The review and publication expenses have been over \$20,000 for each application.

OMB Circular A-25 directs government agencies to recoup the costs of providing services to the public. The Service can't plan for nontoxic shot applications because they are submitted at the discretion of the applicants and vary annually, ranging from none to several. The Service is requesting the authority to use the new fees to cover the costs for the approvals.

Expired Authorization Citation

Bureau/Office Name	Fish and Wildlife Service
Program Name	Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp ¹
Citation	H.R. 1454, P.L. 111-241
Title of Legislation	Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp Act of 2010
Last Year of Authorization	FY 2013
BY Budget Request (\$000)	None
Explanation of Authorization Requirement for BY	None
Program Description	Requires the U.S. Postal Service to issue and sell, at a premium, a semi postal stamp in which proceeds from the sale would be transferred to the Service's Multinational Species Conservation Funds.

1. Non-Resource Management Program Account

Expiring Authorization Citation

Bureau/Office Name	Fish and Wildlife Service
Program Name	National Volunteer Coordination Program
Citation	HR 4973, P.L. 111-357
Title of Legislation	National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Improvement Act of 2010
Last Year of Authorization	FY 2014
BY Budget Request (\$000)	None
Explanation of Authorization Requirement for BY	None
Program Description	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.

Expiring Authorization Citation

Bureau/Office Name	Fish and Wildlife Service
Program Name	Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration ¹
Citation	MAP-21 P.L. 112-141
Title of Legislation	Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21 st Century Act
Last Year of Authorization	FY 2014
BY Budget Request (\$000)	None
Explanation of Authorization Requirement for BY	None
Program Description	MAP-21 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 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.

1. Non-Resource Management Program Account

Expiring Authorization Citation

Bureau/Office Name	Fish and Wildlife Service
Program Name	Recreation Fees ¹
Citation	16 U.S.C 6801-6814
Title of Legislation	Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA)
Last Year of Authorization	FY 2014
BY Budget Request (\$000)	None
Explanation of Authorization Requirement for BY	None
Program Description	The FLREA provides the authority to establish, modify, charge, and collect recreation fees at Federal recreation land and waters over 10 years. 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.

1. Non-Resource Management Program Account

Expiring Authorization Citation

Bureau/Office Name	Fish and Wildlife Service
Program Name	Sikes Act, as amended
Citation	16 U.S.C. 670(a)-670(f)
Title of Legislation	Sikes Act
Last Year of Authorization	FY 2014
BY Budget Request (\$000)	None
Explanation of Authorization Requirement for BY	None
Program Description	Authorizes the Secretary 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.

Programs Requested for Elimination

Bureau/Office Name	Fish and Wildlife Service
Program Name	National Wildlife Refuge Fund
Citation	16 U.S.C. 715s
Title of Legislation	Refuge Revenue Sharing Act ¹
Last Year of Authorization	Authorized
BY Budget Request (\$000)	None
Explanation of Authorization Requirement for BY	None
Program Description	Authorizes payments to be made to offset tax loses to counties in which Service fees and withdrawn public domain lands are located.

1. Non-Resource Management Program Account

Mandatory Budget and Offsetting Collections Proposal

Reference	2015 Legislative Proposal
Migratory Bird Conservation Account – See Migratory Bird Conservation Account section	Increase the sales price for Duck Stamps from \$15 to \$25 beginning in 2015. The anticipated increase in sales receipts for FY 2015 would be approximately \$14 million.

Legislative Proposal

Concurrent with this budget request the Administration is proposing to amend the *Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act*, to increase the sales price for Duck Stamps from \$15 to \$25 beginning in 2015. Increasing the cost of Duck Stamps in 2015 will bring the annual estimate for the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (MBCF) to approximately \$70.4 million. If the price of the Duck Stamp were to increase to \$25, the Service could acquire approximately 7,000 additional waterfowl habitat acres in fee and approximately 10,000 additional conservation easement acres annually. After 2015, the legislation also proposes that the price of the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp can be increased by the Secretary of the Interior, with the approval of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission.

Budget At-A-Glance

2015 Budget At A Glance						
(Dollars in Thousands)						
	2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	Fixed Costs	Internal Transfers	Program Changes	2015 President's Budget
Appropriation: RESOURCE MANAGEMENT						
ECOLOGICAL SERVICES (Proposed Structure)						
LISTING	[19,576]	[20,515]	157	20,515	2,107	22,779
Listing					2,107	
PLANNING AND CONSULTATION	[92,296]	[96,336]	823	96,336	8,014	105,173
Everglades					195	
Renewable Energy					1,134	
Environmental Contaminants					1,155	
General Program Activities					5,530	
CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION	[103,432]	[105,079]	710	105,079	18,464	124,253
Cooperative Recovery					1,527	
Ecosystem Restoration - Bay Delta					1,100	
Wolf Livestock Demonstration Program					(1,000)	
Sage Grouse Initiative					4,000	
Environmental Contaminants					2,000	
Marine Mammals					479	
National Wetlands Inventory					1,400	
General Program Activities					8,958	
ECOLOGICAL SERVICES TOTAL	[215,304]	[221,930]	1,690	221,930	28,585	252,205
HABITAT CONSERVATION (proposed structure)						
PARTNERS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE	[51,776]	[51,776]	290	51,776	0	52,066
COASTAL PROGRAMS	[13,184]	[13,184]	82	13,184	0	13,266
HABITAT CONSERVATION TOTAL	[64,960]	[64,960]	372	64,960	0	65,332
ECOLOGICAL SERVICES (old structure)						
ENDANGERED SPECIES						
Candidate Conservation	10,654	11,530	0	-11,530	0	0
Listing	19,576	20,515	0	-20,515	0	0
Consultation/HCP	57,467	61,550	0	-61,550	0	0
Recovery	75,947	76,916	0	-76,916	0	0
Endangered Species Subactivity Total	163,644	170,511	0	-170,511	0	0
HABITAT CONSERVATION						
Partners for Fish and Wildlife	51,776	51,776	0	-51,776	0	0
Conservation Planning Assistance	32,051	32,014	0	-32,014	0	0
Coastal Programs	13,184	13,184	0	-13,184	0	0
National Wetlands Inventory	4,399	4,361	0	-4,361	0	0
Habitat Conservation Subactivity Total	101,410	101,335	0	-101,335	0	0
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINANTS	9,686	9,557	0	-9,557	0	0
ECOLOGICAL SERVICES TOTAL (old structure)	274,740	281,403	0	-281,403	0	0

2015 Budget At A Glance						
(Dollars in Thousands)						
	2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	Fixed Costs	Internal Transfers	Program Changes	2015 President's Budget
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM						
WILDLIFE AND HABITAT MANAGEMENT						
Refuge Wildlife & Habitat Management	210,902	229,843	1,447	0	1,151	232,441
Challenge Cost Sharing Partnerships					2,000	
General Program Activities					-849	
Refuge Visitor Services	69,015	70,319	549	0	0	70,868
Refuge Law Enforcement	35,650	37,554	260	0	649	38,463
General Program Activities					649	
Refuge Conservation Planning	9,348	2,988	85	-465	0	2,608
Refuge Maintenance	127,668	131,498	522	0	0	132,020
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM TOTAL	452,583	472,202	2,863	-465	1,800	476,400
CONSERVATION AND ENFORCEMENT (new name FY15)						
MIGRATORY BIRD MANAGEMENT						
Conservation and Monitoring	27,690	29,427	192	0	166	29,785
Cooperative Recovery					300	
Monitoring					-134	
Avian Health and Disease	1,737	0	0	0	0	0
Permits	3,346	3,346	29	0	0	3,375
Duck Stamp Office	556	556	5	0	0	561
North American Waterfowl Management Plan	13,139	13,139	62	0	0	13,201
Migratory Bird Management Total	46,468	46,468	288	0	166	46,922
LAW ENFORCEMENT						
Law Enforcement Operations	56,932	63,365	468	0	1,994	65,827
Wildlife Trafficking					500	
Forensics Lab - Expand technical expertise					1,247	
General Program Activities					247	
Equipment Replacement	910	910	0	0	0	910
Law Enforcement Total	57,842	64,275	468	0	1,994	66,737
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS						
International Conservation	5,898	6,683	34	0	500	7,217
Wildlife Trafficking					500	
International Wildlife Trade	6,248	6,823	59	0	500	7,382
Wildlife Trafficking					500	
International Affairs Total	12,146	13,506	93	0	1,000	14,599
SCIENCE SUPPORT (moved to new activity FY15)						
Adaptive Science	[12,116]	10,767	0	-10,767	0	0
Service Science	[8,027]	6,468	0	-6,468	0	0
Science Support Total	[20,143]	17,235	0	-17,235	0	0
CONSERVATION AND ENFORCEMENT TOTAL	116,456	141,484	849	-17,235	3,160	128,258

2015 Budget At A Glance						
<i>(Dollars in Thousands)</i>						
	2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	Fixed Costs	Internal Transfers	Program Changes	2015 President's Budget
FISH AND AQUATIC CONSERVATION						
National Fish Hatchery Operations	45,011	46,528	375	0	1,714	48,617
General Program Activities					1,714	
Maintenance and Equipment	15,857	16,055	0	0	1,865	17,920
Annual Maintenance					539	
Deferred Maintenance					1,326	
Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation						
Habitat Assessment and Restoration	23,636	26,158	114	0	790	27,062
Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement					610	
Tribal Consultation					180	
Population Assessment and Cooperative Mgmt.	30,103	30,890	311	0	-379	30,822
General Program Activities					-379	
Aquatic Invasive Species	9,630	10,201	42	0	4,255	14,498
Control and Management					-145	
Asian Carp					4,400	
Marine Mammals	5,524	5,487	0	-5,487	0	0
Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation Subtotal	68,893	72,736	467	-5,487	4,666	72,382
FISH AND AQUATIC CONSERVATION TOTAL	129,761	135,319	842	-5,487	8,245	138,919
COOPERATIVE LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION						
Cooperative Landscape Conservation	15,416	14,416	91	0	3,199	17,706
General Program Activities					3,199	
Adaptive Science (Moved to Science Support FY14)	20,143	0	0	0	0	0
COOPERATIVE LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION TOTAL	35,559	14,416	91	0	3,199	17,706
SCIENCE SUPPORT (new activity FY15)						
Adaptive Science	[12,116]	[10,767]	17	10,767	4,365	15,149
Biological Carbon Sequestration					500	
General Program Activities					3,865	
Service Science	[8,027]	[6,468]	14	6,468	10,003	16,485
Biological Carbon Sequestration					500	
Energy Transmission Corridors					1,400	
General Program Activities					8,103	
SCIENCE SUPPORT TOTAL	[20,143]	[17,235]	31	17,235	14,368	31,634
GENERAL OPERATIONS						
Central Office Operations	39,875	40,186	386	0	707	41,279
General Program Activities					707	
Regional Office Operations	37,912	37,912	468	0	2,918	41,298
Servicewide Bill Paying	33,930	36,430	-1,458	0	255	35,227
Working Capital Fund					255	
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation	7,022	7,022	0	0	0	7,022
National Conservation Training Center	21,965	21,965	150	0	2,605	24,720
Youth Programs and Partnerships					2,500	
Annual Maintenance					105	
GENERAL OPERATIONS TOTAL	140,704	143,515	-454	0	6,485	149,546
TOTAL - RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	1,149,803	1,188,339	6,284	-465	65,842	1,260,000

2015 Budget At A Glance						
(Dollars in Thousands)						
	2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	Fixed Costs	Internal Transfers	Program Changes	2015 President's Budget
Appropriation: CONSTRUCTION						
Nationwide Engineering Services	8,596	7,209	72	-120	0	7,161
Dam, Bridge and Seismic Safety (new name FY15)	1,751	1,852	0	120	0	1,972
Line Item Construction	7,751	6,661	0	0	-107	6,554
TOTAL - CONSTRUCTION	18,098	15,722	72	0	-107	15,687
Appropriation: LAND ACQUISITION						
Land Acquisition Management	12,865	10,500	98	0	2,015	12,613
Land Protection Planning	0	0	0	465	0	465
Exchanges	2,365	1,500	0	0	0	1,500
Inholdings, Emergencies and Hardships	4,257	7,351	0	0	-2,000	5,351
Highlands Conservation Act	123	0	0	0	0	0
Land Acquisition	32,165	35,071	0	0	0	35,071
TOTAL - LAND ACQUISITION	51,775	54,422	98	465	15	55,000
Appropriation: NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FUND	13,228	13,228	0	0	-13,228	0
Appropriation: COOPERATIVE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND	45,187	50,095	0	0	-95	50,000
Appropriation: NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION FUND	33,640	34,145	0	0	0	34,145
Appropriation: MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND	8,971	9,061	0	0	0	9,061
Appropriation: NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION FUND	3,588	3,660	0	0	0	3,660
Appropriation: STATE & TRIBAL WILDLIFE GRANTS	58,115	58,695	0	0	-8,695	50,000
TOTAL, FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE	1,382,405	1,427,367	6,454	0	43,732	1,477,553
Cancellation of Prior Year Balances						
Appropriation: Landowner Incentive Program					(1,327)	(1,327)
Appropriation: Private Stewardship Grant Program					(24)	(24)
TOTAL FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (w/ cancellations)	1,382,405	1,427,367	6,454	0	42,381	1,476,202

FY 2015 Summary of Fixed Cost Changes by Appropriation

(Dollars in Thousands)

Fixed Cost Component	Resource			TOTAL
	Management	Construction	Land Acq.	
Pay Raise	6,743	64	88	6,895
Federal Employees Health Insurance	499	5	7	511
Departmental Working Capital Fund	-953			-953
Workers' Compensation Payments	-580			-580
Unemployment Compensation Payments	25			25
GSA and non-GSA Space Rental Payments	550	3	3	556
TOTAL, Fixed Costs	6,284	72	98	6,454

Resource Management

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, [\$1,188,339,000]\$1,260,000,000, to remain available until September 30 [2015]2016, except as otherwise provided herein: Provided, That not to exceed [\$20,515,000]\$22,779,000 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)), of which not to exceed [\$4,605,000]\$4,633,000 shall be used for any activity regarding the designation of critical habitat, pursuant to subsection (a)(3), excluding litigation support, for species listed pursuant to subsection (a)(1) prior to October 1, 2012; of which not to exceed [\$1,501,000]\$1,505,000 shall be used for any activity regarding petitions to list species that are indigenous to the United States pursuant to subsections (b)(3)(A) and (b)(3)(B); and, of which not to exceed [\$1,504,000]\$1,513,000 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) for species that are not indigenous to the United States. (*Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2014.*)

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. Authorization of Appropriations: Expired.

Agricultural Credit Act of 1987, (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 of 1980, (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). Provided 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 of 1978, (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 of 1979, as amended, (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. Authorization of Appropriations: Expired.

Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act, as amended, (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 (ASMFC), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Every two years, NMFS and the FWS are required to produce an Atlantic Striped Bass Biennial Report to Congress on the status and health of Atlantic Coast Striped Bass Stocks. The most recent report delivered to Congress was the 2007 Biennial Report to Congress. Expired

Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, as amended, (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.

Chehalis River Basin Fishery Resources Study and Restoration Act of 1990, (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 of 1982, 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 5 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. Authorization of Appropriations: Expired.

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act of 1990, (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. Authorization of Appropriations: Expired.

Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, (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). Expired.

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

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, as amended, (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 of 2000, (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. Expired.

Electronic Duck Stamp Act, (16 U.S.C. 718 note). Established a pilot program that authorized up to 15 states to issue electronic Duck stamps for three years. Expired.

Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986, as amended, (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 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 of 1973, as amended, (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 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. Expired.

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 Power Act, (161 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), as amended, (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, 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.

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 2901-2911). Directs the Secretary 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. Authorization of Appropriations: Expired.

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended, (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 of 2000, (16 U.S.C. 777 note; Public Law 106-502). Congress reauthorized the Fisheries 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. Authorization of Appropriations: Expires September 30, 2015.

Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976, (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 of 1985, as amended, (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 of 2000, (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. Authorization of Appropriations: Expired.

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

Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 2006, (P.L. 109-326). On October 12, 2006, President Bush signed the bill into law. The measure was first enacted in 1990 and reauthorized in 1998. 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 Great Lakes basin. Authorization of Appropriations: Expired.

Great Lakes Fishery Act of 1956, (16 U.S.C. 931-939). Implements the Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries between the United States and Canada, and authorizes the Secretary and the Service to undertake lamprey control and other measures related to the Convention.

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. Authorization of Appropriations: Expired.

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. Authorization of Appropriations: Expired.

Lacey Act Amendments of 1981, (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. 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.

Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 1801-1882). Provides a framework for managing fisheries within the Exclusive Economic Zone and through eight Regional Fishery Management Councils. Establishes the Service as a nonvoting member of the Councils.

Marine Mammal Protection Act, (16 U.S.C. 1361-1407). Established 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. Expired.

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

Marine Turtle Conservation Act,(16 U.S.C. 6601-6607). Established 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. Expired.

Migratory Bird Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 715-715d). Authorizes the Secretary 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, as amended (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 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, as amended, (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. Except as allowed by implementing regulations, this Act makes it unlawful to pursue, hunt, kill, capture, possess, buy, sell, purchase, or barter any migratory bird, including the feathers or other parts, nests, eggs, or migratory bird products.

National Aquaculture Development Act, (16 U.S.C. 2801-2810). Established 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. Expired.

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, (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. Permanent authority.

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

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, (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 of 1966, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.). Provides authority, guidelines and directives for the Service to improve the National Wildlife Refuge System; administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and restoration of fish, wildlife and plant resources and habitat; ensure the biological integrity, diversity, and environmental health of refuges is maintained; define compatible wildlife-dependent recreation as appropriate general public use of refuges; establish hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education as priority uses; establish a formal process for determining compatible uses of refuges; and provide for public involvement in developing comprehensive conservation plans for refuges.

The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, (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.

National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Improvement Act of 2010, (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. Authorization of Appropriations expires September 30, 2014.

The National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Act of 2000, (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.

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 2000, (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. Expired.

New England Fishery Resources Restoration Act of 1990, (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 of 1990, as amended by the National Invasive species Act of 1996, (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. Expired.

North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989, (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. Authorization of Appropriations: Expired.

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. Expired.

Oil Pollution Act of 1990, (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. Authorization of Appropriations: Expired.

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.

Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978, (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 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 Public Law 92-534, approved October 23, 1972, (86 Stat. 1063) authorized 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, as amended, (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. Authorization of Appropriations: Expired.

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, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 670a-670o). Authorizes the Secretary 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. Authorization of Appropriations: September 30, 2014.

Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, (30 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.). Authorizes the Secretary 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 of 1976, (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 of 1992, (16 U.S.C. 4901-4916). Requires that all trade in wild bird 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. Authorization of Appropriations: Expired.

Youth Conservation Corps Act of 1972, (16 USC 1701-1706) as amended by P.L. 93-408, September 3, 1974, to expand and make 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 EOs 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 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.

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>														
Activity and Subactivity	2013 Actual		2014 Enacted		Fixed Costs & Related		Internal Transfers		Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request		Change from 2014	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Ecological Services proposed structure (FY 15)														
Listing	[134]	[19,576]	[141]	[20,515]	0	+157	+141	+20,515	+10	+2,107	151	22,779	+151	+22,779
Planning and Consultation	[711]	[92,296]	[746]	[96,336]	0	+823	+752	+96,336	+10	+8,014	762	105,173	+762	+105,173
Conservation and Restoration	[645]	[103,432]	[658]	[105,079]	0	+710	+652	+105,079	+66	+18,464	718	124,253	+718	+124,253
Subtotal, Ecological Services (new FY15)	[1,490]	[215,304]	[1,545]	[221,930]	0	+1,690	+1,545	+221,930	+86	+28,585	1,631	252,205	+1,631	+252,205
Habitat Conservation (proposed structure in FY 15)														
Partners for Fish and Wildlife Coastal Programs	263	[51,776]	[263]	[51,776]	0	+290	+263	+51,776	0	0	263	52,066	+263	+52,066
	71	[13,184]	[71]	[13,184]	0	+82	+71	+13,184	0	0	71	13,266	+71	+13,266
Subtotal, Habitat Conservation (new activity in FY15)	334	0	0	0	0	+372	+334	+64,960	0	0	334	65,332	+334	+65,332
Endangered Species old structure (prior to FY15)														
Endangered Species														
Candidate Conservation Listing	82	10,654	89	11,530	0	0	-89	-11,530	0	0	0	0	-89	-11,530
Consultation/HCP Recovery	134	19,576	141	20,515	0	0	-141	-20,515	0	0	0	0	-141	-20,515
	466	57,467	501	61,550	0	0	-501	-61,550	0	0	0	0	-501	-61,550
	456	75,947	463	76,916	0	0	-463	-76,916	0	0	0	0	-463	-76,916
Subtotal, Endangered Species (old structure)	1,138	163,644	1,194	170,511	0	0	-1,194	-170,511	0	0	0	0	-1,194	-170,511
Habitat Conservation														
Partners for Fish and Wildlife Conservation Planning Assistance	263	51,776	263	51,776	0	0	-263	-51,776	0	0	0	0	-263	-51,776
Coastal Programs	229	32,051	229	32,014	0	0	-229	-32,014	0	0	0	0	-229	-32,014
National Wetlands Inventory	71	13,184	71	13,184	0	0	-71	-13,184	0	0	0	0	-71	-13,184
	19	4,399	19	4,361	0	0	-19	-4,361	0	0	0	0	-19	-4,361
Subtotal, Habitat Conservation (old structure)	582	101,410	582	101,335	0	0	-582	-101,335	0	0	0	0	-582	-101,335
Environmental Contaminants	75	9,666	74	9,557	0	0	-74	-9,557	0	0	0	0	-74	-9,557
Subtotal, Ecological Services (old structure)	1,795	274,740	1,850	281,403	0	0	-1,850	-281,403	0	0	0	0	-1,850	-281,403
National Wildlife Refuge System 1/	3,020	452,583	3,036	472,202	0	+2,863	0	-465	0	+1,800	3,036	476,400	0	+4,198
Conservation and Enforcement (new name FY 15)														
Migratory Bird Management	244	46,468	244	46,468	0	+288	0	0	0	+166	244	46,922	0	+454
Law Enforcement	291	57,842	301	64,275	0	+468	0	0	+7	+1,994	308	66,737	+7	+2,462
International Affairs	76	12,146	76	13,506	0	+93	0	0	+4	+1,000	80	14,599	+4	+1,093
Science Support	0	0	19	17,235	0	0	-19	-17,235	0	0	0	0	-19	-17,235
Subtotal, Conservation and Enforcement	611	116,456	640	141,484	0	+849	-19	-17,235	+11	+3,160	632	128,258	-8	-13,226

Summary of Requirements Appropriation: Resource Management <i>(Dollars in Thousands)</i>														
Activity and Subactivity	2013 Actual		2014 Enacted		Fixed Costs & Related		Internal Transfers		Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request		Change from 2014	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Fish and Aquatic Conservation														
National Fish Hatchery Operations	329	45,011	325	46,528	0	+375	0	0	0	+1,714	325	48,617	0	+2,089
Maintenance and Equipment	83	15,857	82	16,055	0	0	0	0	0	+1,865	82	17,920	0	+1,865
Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation / 2	330	68,893	330	72,736	0	+467	-29	-5,487	+6	+4,666	307	72,382	-23	-354
Subtotal, Fish and Aquatic Conservation	742	129,761	737	135,319	0	+842	-29	-5,487	+6	+8,245	714	138,919	-23	+3,600
Cooperative Landscape Conservation (new name FY 14)														
Landscape Conservation Cooperatives	71	15,416	71	14,416	0	+91	0	0	+3	+3,199	74	17,706	+3	+3,290
Adaptive Science	20	12,116	[19]	[17,235]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal, Cooperative Landscape Conservation	91	27,532	71	14,416	0	+91	0	0	+3	+3,199	74	17,706	+3	+3,290
Science Support (FY14 subactivity becomes new activity FY15)														
Adaptive Science	0	0	0	0	0	+17	+10	+10,767	0	+4,365	10	15,149	+10	+15,149
Service Science	0	0	0	0	0	+14	+9	+6,468	+6	+10,003	15	16,485	+15	+16,485
Subtotal, Science Support	0	0	0	0	0	+31	+19	+17,235	6	+14,368	25	31,634	+25	+31,634
General Operations														
Central Office Operations	284	39,875	284	40,186	0	+386	0	0	0	+707	284	41,279	0	+1,093
Regional Office Operations	411	37,912	411	37,912	0	+468	0	0	0	+2,918	411	41,298	0	+3,386
Service-wide Bill Paying	25	33,930	25	36,430	0	-1,458	0	0	0	+255	25	35,227	0	-1,203
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	0	7,022	0	7,022	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7,022	0	0
National Conservation Training Center	134	21,965	134	21,965	0	+150	0	0	0	+2,605	134	24,720	0	+2,755
Subtotal, General Operations	854	140,704	854	143,515	0	-454	0	0	0	+6,485	854	149,546	0	+6,031
Total, Resource Management	7,113	1,141,776	7,188	1,188,339	0	+6,284	0	-465	+112	+65,842	7,300	1,260,000	+112	+71,661

1/ In FY 15, the Service proposes to move Land Protection Planning activities, including \$465,000 to the Land Acquisition account.
 2/ In FY 15, the Service proposes to move Marine Mammals \$5,487,000 and 29 FTE to Ecological Services.

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

Fixed Cost Changes and Projections	2014 Total or Change	2014 to 2015 Change
Pay Raise	+4,985	+6,743
The change reflects the salary impact of 1% pay raise for 2014 and the proposed pay raise of 1% for 2015.		
Employer Share of Federal Health Benefit Plans	+371	+499
The change reflects expected increases in employer's share of Federal Health Benefit Plans.		
Departmental Working Capital Fund	+1,117	-953
The change reflects expected changes in the charges for centrally billed Department services and other services through the Working Capital Fund. These charges are displayed in the Budget Justification for Department Management.		
Worker's Compensation Payments	-211	-580
The adjustment is for changes in the costs of compensating injured employees and dependents of employees who suffer accidental deaths while on duty. Costs for the BY 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.		
Unemployment Compensation Payments	+31	+25
The adjustment is for 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.		
Rental Payments	-1,114	+550
The adjustment is for changes in the costs payable to General Services Administration (GSA) and others resulting from changes in rates 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.		

Internal Realignments and Non-Policy/Program Changes (Net-Zero)	2015 (+/-)
Ecological Services, Habitat Conservation, Fish and Aquatic Conservation	
<p>As a result of the Fish and Aquatic Conservation operations study, responsibility for the Habitat Conservation subactivity has been split between Endangered Species and Refuges. In addition, Marine Mammals responsibility was moved from Fish and Aquatic Resources to the Endangered Species program. The Service would like to realign the budget structure to reflect this change with moving two program components to a new Habitat Conservation activity and restructuring the remaining Ecological Services components and Marine Mammals to just three subactivities. The Service feels that this would provide Regions and Field Offices with more flexibility to address Service priorities such as energy, on-the-ground recovery, proactive candidate conservation, landscape level planning and strategic habitat conservation and surrogate species support.</p>	
Habitat Conservation \ Partners for Fish and Wildlife	+51,776
Ecological Services \Habitat Conservation \ Partners for Fish and Wildlife	-51,776
Habitat Conservation \ Coastal Programs	+13,184
Ecological Services \Habitat Conservation \ Coastal Programs	-13,184
Ecological Services \ Listing	+20,515
Ecological Services \ Endangered Species \ Listing	-20,515
Ecological Services \ Planning and Consultation	+96,336
Ecological Services \ Conservation and Restoration	+105,079
Ecological Services \ Endangered Species \ Candidate Conservation	-11,530
Ecological Services \ Endangered Species \ Consultation	-61,550
Ecological Services \ Endangered Species \ Recovery	-76,916
Ecological Services \Habitat Conservation \ Conservation Planning Assistan	-32,014
Ecological Services \Habitat Conservation \ National Wetlands Inventory	-4,361
Ecological Services \Environmental Contaminants	-9,557
Fish and Aquatic Conservation \Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation \Marine Mammals	-5,487
Science Support	
<p>In the 2014 President's Budget, the Service proposed a new Science Support subactivity to separate the Agency's science activities from Cooperative Landscape Conservation. Further considerations within the Service have created the recommendation to create a new Science activity, but keep the activities managed by the Assistant Director for Science grouped together. (In recognition of this change, the Conservation, Enforcement, and Science activity would be renamed the Conservation and Enforcement activity.)</p>	
Science Support \ Adaptive Science	+10,767
Science Support \ Service Science	+6,468
Conservation, Enforcement, and Science \ Science Support \ Adaptive Scienc	-10,767
Conservation, Enforcement, and Science \ Science Support \ Service Science	-6,468
Land Protection Planning	-465
<p>The National Wildlife Refuge System's Land Protection Planning Program directly supports the Land Acquisition program. The Service will transfer funding from the Resource Management Appropriation to the Land Acquisition Appropriation to better align the purpose of this program.</p>	

Standard Form 300 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT			
Program and Financing (in million of dollars)	2013	2014	2015
Identification Code 010-18-1611	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Obligations by program activity:			
0001 Ecological Services	283	278	254
0002 National Wildlife Refuge System	457	479	476
0003 Migratory Bird Management, Law Enforcement and International Affairs	158	0	0
0004 Conservation and Enforcement	0	167	149
0005 Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation	130	139	140
0006 Habitat Conservation	0	0	60
0007 Cooperative Landscape Conservation	33	20	17
0008 General Administration	146	149	150
0009 Science Support	0	0	30
0799 Total direct obligations	1,207	1,232	1,276
0801 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative	40	45	45
0802 Reimbursable program activity all other	224	200	200
0899 Total reimbursable obligations	264	245	245
0900 Total new obligations	1,471	1,477	1,521
Budgetary Resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	232	238	220
1021 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	24	20	20
1050 Unobligated balance (total)	256	258	240
Budget Authority:			
Appropriations, discretionary:			
1100 Appropriation	1,214	1,188	1,260
1121 Appropriations transferred from other accts [72-1021]	8	0	0
1130 Appropriations permanently reduced	-64	0	0
1160 Appropriation, discretionary (total)	1,158	1,188	1,260
Spending authority from offsetting collections, discretionary:			
1700 Collected	260	250	250
1701 Change in uncollected payments, Federal sources	36	0	0
1702 Offsetting collections (previously unavailable)	0	1	0
1723 New and/or unobligated balance of spending authority from offsetting collections temporarily reduced	-1	0	0
1750 Spending auth from offsetting collections, disc (total)	295	251	250
1900 Budget authority (total)	1,453	1,439	1,510
1930 Total budgetary resources available	1,709	1,697	1,750
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	238	220	229

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT			
Program and Financing (in million of dollars)	2013	2014	2015
Identification Code 010-18-1611	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	585	547	446
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	1,471	1,477	1,521
3011 Obligations incurred, expired accounts	5	0	0
3020 Outlays (gross)	-1,479	-1,558	-1,601
3040 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations, unexpired	-24	-20	-20
3041 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations, expired	-11	0	0
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	547	446	346
Uncollected payments:			
3060 Uncollected pymts, Fed sources, brought forward, Oct 1	-353	-333	-333
3070 Change in uncollected pymts, Fed sources, unexpired	-36	0	0
3071 Change in uncollected pymts, Fed sources, expired	56	0	0
3090 Uncollected pymts, Fed sources, end of year	-333	-333	-333
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	232	214	113
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	214	113	13
Budget authority and outlays, net:			
Discretionary:			
4000 Budget authority, gross	1,453	1,439	1,510
Outlays, gross:			
4010 Outlays from new discretionary authority	920	1,151	1,208
4011 Outlays from discretionary balances	559	407	393
4020 Outlays, gross (total)	1,479	1,558	1,601
Offsets against gross budget authority and outlays:			
Offsetting collections (collected) from:			
4030 Federal sources	-262	-195	-195
4033 Non-Federal sources	-54	-55	-55
4040 Offsets against gross budget authority and outlays (total)	-316	-250	-250
4050 Change in uncollected pymts, Fed sources, unexpired	-36	0	0
4052 Offsetting collections credited to expired accounts	56	0	0
4060 Additional offsets against budget authority only (total)	20	0	0
4070 Budget authority, net (discretionary)	1,157	1,189	1,260
4080 Outlays, net (discretionary)	1,163	1,308	1,351
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	1,157	1,189	1,260
4190 Outlays, net (total)	1,163	1,308	1,351

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT			
Program and Financing (in million of dollars)	2013	2014	2015
Identification Code 010-18-1611	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
Personnel compensation:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	522	532	545
11.3 Other than full-time permanent	28	28	28
11.5 Other personnel compensation	18	18	18
11.8 Special personal services payments	1	1	1
11.9 Total personnel compensation	569	579	592
12.1 Civilian personnel benefits	193	197	201
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons	21	29	29
22.0 Transportation of things	7	7	7
23.1 Rental payments to GSA	60	61	61
23.2 Rental payments to others	2	2	2
23.3 Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges	22	22	22
24.0 Printing and reproduction	5	3	3
25.1 Advisory and assistance services	11	3	2
25.2 Other services from non-Federal sources	60	60	62
25.3 Other goods and services from Federal sources	30	30	32
25.4 Operation and maintenance of facilities	15	15	18
25.5 Research and development contracts	1	0	0
25.7 Operation and maintenance of equipment	12	12	14
26.0 Supplies and materials	47	47	47
31.0 Equipment	29	29	30
32.0 Land and structures	17	17	18
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	105	119	136
91.0 Unvouchered	1	0	0
99.0 Direct obligations	1,207	1,232	1,276
99.0 Reimbursable obligations	264	245	245
99.9 Total new obligations	1,471	1,477	1,521
Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	7,343	7,418	7,530
2001 Reimbursable civilian full-time equivalent employment	793	777	777
3001 Allocation account civilian full-time equivalent employment	568	566	578

Ecological Services

Activity: Ecological Services

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015			Budget Request	Change from 2014 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
Proposed Structure								
Activity: Ecological Services								
Listing	(\$000)	0	0	+157	+20,515	+2,107	22,779	+22,779
	FTE	0	0	0	+141	+10	151	+151
Planning and Consultation	(\$000)	0	0	+823	+96,336	+8,014	105,173	+105,173
	FTE	0	0	0	+746	+16	762	+762
Conservation and Restoration	(\$000)	0	0	+710	+105,079	+18,464	124,253	+124,253
	FTE	0	0	0	+658	+60	718	+718
Old Structure								
Activity: Ecological Services, Subactivity: Endangered Species								
Candidate Conservation	(\$000)	10,654	11,530	0	-11,530	0	0	-11,530
	FTE	82	89	0	-89	0	0	-89
Listing	(\$000)	19,576	20,515	0	-20,515	0	0	-20,515
	FTE	134	141	0	-141	0	0	-141
Consultation/HCP	(\$000)	57,467	61,550	0	-61,550	0	0	-61,550
	FTE	466	501	0	-501	0	0	-501
Recovery	(\$000)	75,947	76,916	0	-76,916	0	0	-76,916
	FTE	456	463	0	-463	0	0	-463
Activity: Ecological Services, Subactivity, Habitat Conservation								
Habitat Conservation*	(\$000)	101,410	101,335	0	-101,335	0	0	-101,335
	FTE	582	582	0	-582	0	0	-582
Activity: Ecological Services, Subactivity, Environmental Contaminants								
Environmental Contaminants	(\$000)	9,686	9,557	0	-9,557	0	0	-9,557
	FTE	75	74	0	-74	0	0	-74
Total, Ecological Services	(\$000)	274,740	281,403	+1,690	-59,473	+28,585	252,205	-29,198
	FTE	1,795	1,850	0	-305	+86	1,631	-219

*The old Habitat Conservation subactivity within Ecological Services was comprised of Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Conservation Planning Assistance, Coastal Programs, National Wetlands Inventory. In FY 2015, the Partners for Fish and Wildlife and the Coastal Programs will move into a new activity, Habitat Conservation.

In 2015 funding in the amount of \$5,487,000 and 29 FTE for Marine Mammals moves from Fish and Aquatic Conservation.

Budget Structure Change

In FY 2015, the Service proposes to consolidate the budget structure for Ecological Services into three subactivities: Listing; Planning and Consultation; and Conservation and Restoration. This consolidation includes moving Marine Mammals from Fish and Aquatic Conservation to Ecological Services. The Service’s Partners for Fish and Wildlife and the Coastal programs are moved into a new activity, Habitat Conservation, and will be managed administratively by the National Wildlife Refuge Program.

The current Ecological Services budget structure no longer matches our on-the-ground business model, and has become an impediment to directing funding to our highest priorities. The proposed restructuring from eight subactivities to three subactivities reflects the integrated core functions of the program, and the deployment of staff in Ecological Services field offices. This structure allows for flexibility to direct resources in support of conservation, and allows one funding source to follow a single activity, whether it involves candidate or listed species, or consultation or pre-consultation on a particular project. This realignment reduces extra oversight and administrative accounting now needed to support the variety of

field office operations funded through the eight current subactivities. More information on the proposed restructuring is provided in the individual subactivity sections.

Old Structure-Multiple Activities/Subactivities	New Structure- One Activity/Three Subactivities Ecological Services (ES)		
	Listing	Planning and Consultation	Conservation and Restoration
Endangered Species			
Candidate Conservation			Candidate Conservation
Listing	Listing		
Consultation/HCPs		Consultation/HCPs	
Recovery			Recovery
Habitat Conservation*			
Conservation Planning Assistance		Conservation Planning Assistance	
National Wetlands Inventory (includes Coastal Barrier Resources Act)			National Wetlands Inventory Coastal Barrier Resources Act
Environmental Contaminants		Environmental Contaminants	Environmental Contaminants
Fish and Aquatic Conservation			
Marine Mammals			Marine Mammals

*Partners for Fish and Wildlife and Coastal programs are in a new Habitat Conservation activity in 2015

Program Overview

Ecological Services' Vision

Ecological Services achieves conservation of Service trust resources, focusing on imperiled species, through and with others.

Ecological Services is the organizational unit of the Service that works closely with external partners and agencies for the conservation of natural resources across the landscape. By providing technical support and expertise, the Service promotes conservation of fish, wildlife and plant species and habitats across large natural areas with varied land uses. Operating under authorities such as the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Emergency Wetlands Resources Act, Coastal Barrier Resources Act, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), and multiple Executive Orders, the Service identifies potential impacts, provide technical solutions, and raises environmental awareness.

Since enactment of the ESA in 1973, the Service has demonstrated a clear record of success in preventing the extinction of hundreds of species across the Nation and achieving recovery of many others. Despite this progress, the complexity and scale of today's conservation problems require all of the Service's energy and new ways of thinking to protect and preserve the rich diversity of fish, wildlife, and plant resources that symbolize America's wealth, heritage and, promise. By minimizing or removing threats, which may include supporting species' capacity to respond adequately or increasing their resilience to changing conditions, a species may be conserved, eliminating the need for protection under the ESA. Engaging stakeholders and partners and using available technological tools and resources are an essential ingredient for solving these conservation challenges.

What We Do

The **Listing** program uses the best scientific information available to identify foreign and domestic plant and animal species that are in danger of extinction and need protection under the ESA. This determination includes information crucial for recovery planning and implementation, and 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 program informs and streamlines environmental review and Conservation and Restoration activities. In many ways, the Listing process sets the stage for recovery needs and objectives, which facilitates early response and implementation.

The **Planning and Consultation** program combines ESA Consultations and Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs), Conservation Planning Assistance, and a share of Environmental Contaminants resources to provide coordinated environmental reviews of key projects and planning efforts. In the field, these programs work together to provide technical assistance and environmental review of discrete projects, as well as those which must be analyzed at landscape scales on both public and private lands. Integrating planning and consultation together better supports our efforts to plan and mitigate on scales large enough to best support conservation of species. Furthermore, these programs provide investment of decision support tools that create transparency and more regulatory certainty for action agencies, project applicants and landowners, supporting a key Secretarial goal and effort of Executive Order 13604, Improving Performance of Federal Permitting and Review of Infrastructure Projects. .



Osprey nest near wind farm.

Economy recovery brings housing and business growth accompanied by demand for new infrastructure and community development that could impact wildlife and habitat. In our view, grouping resources by similarity of functions and staff expertise best facilitates economic growth while proactively protecting trust resources. Federal agencies, private developers and other stakeholders all benefit by having "one voice" representing the Service.

The **Conservation and Restoration** program focuses on achieving conservation on the ground for federal trust species, especially listed, proposed, and candidate species, and their associated habitats. Consolidating the resources of the Candidate Conservation, Endangered Species Recovery, National Wetlands Inventory, Coastal Barrier Resources Act, Marine Mammals, and much of the Environmental Contaminants improves recovery coordination and emphasis on landscape planning design, implementation, and monitoring and will achieve better conservation outcomes for Service trust species and their habitats.

The recovery of listed species is one of the Service's highest priorities. Bringing the program areas focused on conservation and recovery together builds synergy and combines tools to prevent further declines to marine mammals, ESA listed species and other species at risk. Developing data support systems and linking the various species datasets together, provides quicker and easier information management tools to inform decisions and promotes actions with the least disturbance on protected species. When evaluating site and project designs, geospatial and analytical support tools such as the National Wetlands Inventory and the Coastal Barrier Resources Act maps inform the Service and our partners about the impacts on the landscape.

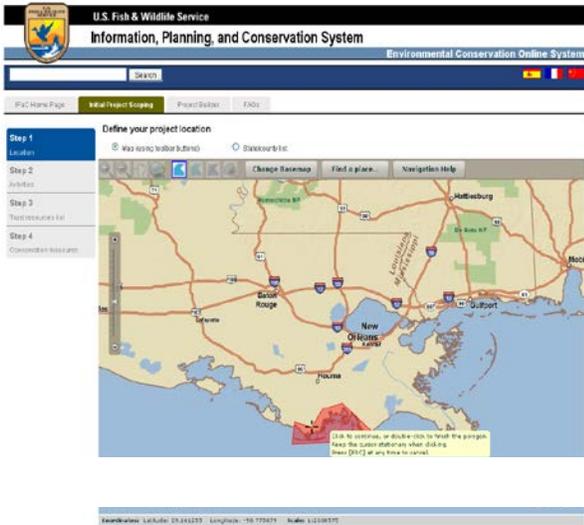
Adding Natural Resources Damage Assessment and Restoration activities to Conservation and Restoration improves coordination, pre-planning, and technical assistance to our partners while looking for opportunities to restore and enhance areas containing a diverse number of species before they are lost. Our ecotoxicology staff provides key technical evaluations about the impacts of site selection and project designs on fish and wildlife resources. The Environmental Contaminants network is a community of practice within the Service whereby technical experts utilize their specific expertise to support field offices and regions across the country. Conservation and Restoration provides resources to field office supervisors to investigate the highest priority landscape and/or species conservation needs and identify environmentally sound solutions.

Facilitating Conservation through Decision Support Tools

Geospatial analysis and planning are essential parts of high quality conservation planning and delivery. The Service has developed technical standards for mapping and monitoring the Nation's wetland habitats and is the primary Federal agency monitoring and reporting changes over time. Through the National Wetland Inventory (NWI), the Service provides seamless geospatial data that show wetlands and adjacent deep-water habitats. NWI information is used to promote public awareness and education through a series of status and trend reports for Congress that highlight local and regional wetland changes over time. The Service's Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) program determines whether properties are located "in" or "out" of the Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS), consults with Federal agencies regarding infrastructure projects proposed within CBRS, and prepares modernized maps of the CBRS. CBRA conserves coastal habitats by restricting Federal funding that encourages new development and prohibiting the sale of federally-backed flood insurance for most structures located within these storm-prone and low-lying coastal ecosystems. The Program saves millions in taxpayer dollars and reduces the intensity of development in hurricane-prone and biologically-sensitive areas that provide essential spawning, nesting, nursery, and feeding habitat for many threatened and endangered species.

Ecological Services has consolidated most of its monitoring and information collection applications under the Environmental Conservation Online System (ECOS). ECOS is a gateway website that provides access to Service data systems such as endangered species, fisheries, environmental contaminants and habitat conservation as well as other government data sources. This central point of access allows the Service to move from a database approach of information management to a knowledge management system allowing us to create new knowledge from the data and make more informed management decisions that result in better conservation outcomes. Through ECOS, the public can also access these numerous Service databases.

An example of a tool the Service is continuing to refine for knowledge based decision support is the Information, Planning, and Conservation system (IPaC). IPaC provides access to habitat and species data allow project applicants and Service staff to make better informed decisions earlier in the design process when it is easier to make modification with minimum disruption of project goals. Utilizing a centralized source of information on all Service trust resources, project applicants can proactively minimize environmental conflict, and Service staff can more efficiently screen out projects that will not affect ESA listed species or designated critical habitat. The expanded capabilities IPaC provides helps to expedite or



complete the requirements of environmental reviews such as section 7 consultation. Through IPaC, Federal agencies can better integrate section 7 consultation with their other environmental review processes, including NEPA. Utilizing IPaC also provides better coordination of the Service’s multiple conservation statutes with the goals of Strategic Habitat Conservation and supports Executive Order 13604, Improving Performance of Federal Permitting and Review of Infrastructure Projects (March 22, 2012).

Delisting and reclassification are the long term results of recovery success for the Ecological Services (ES) Program. Complementing the ES Program, the **Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (CESCF)** provides grant funding to States and

Territories for species and habitat conservation actions on non-federal lands and for States to assist with monitoring and basic research on listed and candidate species. Habitat loss is one of the most significant threats for many listed and candidate species with the majority of these species habitat found on State and private lands. Grant assistance available under CESCF for land acquisition related to HCPs or recovery needs is crucial to listed species conservation and recovery and assists with candidate species conservation. States and Territories have been extremely effective in building partnerships with private landowners that achieve meaningful on-the-ground conservation to address or minimize threats. In addition, periodic reviews of information concerning in conservation grants on a species' status, ensures species are properly classified, recovery funds are appropriately prioritized, and recovery plan recommendations remain up to date.

Moving Forward

The Service strives for continual improvement in its analytical and administrative tools by finding efficiencies and looking for opportunities to collaborate to achieve conservation in partnership with others. Committed to excellence in carrying out the Service’s responsibilities under the ESA, MMPA, FWCA, and other laws and authorities, the ES Program promotes information management so decisions are based on sound science and the best available information. The following conservation outcomes are integrated as the Program designs, plans, and implements conservation delivery on the ground:

- Preventing imperiled species and their habitats from becoming more imperiled;
- Recovering endangered and threatened species and their habitats; and
- Protecting other vulnerable trust resources established as high priority by the Service.

Four guiding principles for conducting activities are:

- Ensure integration and, when needed, transformation, of Service processes to implement efficiencies;
- Encourage collaboration to achieve conservation in partnership with others;
- Promote information management as a tool so decisions are based on sound science and the best available information; and
- Instill leadership excellence in Service managers and staff.

In FY 2015, ongoing efforts to improve Service policies and administrative processes will continue. Consistent with Executive Order 13563, “Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review” and the

Service's vision for landscape conservation, design, and implementation, the Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will continue to issue proposed and final rules to improve administration of the ESA (see sidebar). Regulatory improvements reduce burdens, redundancy, and conflicts between conservation and other land use and at the same time promote predictability, certainty, and innovation. The Service's combined efforts will accelerate recovery of imperiled species (endangered, threatened, candidate species, and species-at-risk), enhance on-the-ground conservation delivery, and better engage the resources and expertise of partners to meet the goals of the ESA and the Nation.

Similarly, under Executive Order 13571, Streamlining Service Delivery and Improving Customer Service, the Service is working with individuals and private and Governmental entities to apply best practices to deliver services better, faster and if possible, at a lower cost. For example, the Service provides technical assistance to industry, Federal agencies, private developers and the public to facilitate conservation and consultation to minimize impacts on trust species such as those protected by the ESA, MMPA, MBTA, and other similar species conservation laws. Engaging with developers earlier in the pre-permitting stage and streamlining the review process are examples of how the Service is improving customer service for energy development projects. At the same time, Service staff and programs build trust and cooperation under the FWCA and other similar coordination laws to ensure that project design and siting minimizes significant harm or loss of trust species. By providing a suite of technological tools and resources to inform and assist with these processes, the Service is saving taxpayers money by ensuring that projects can be built with minimal environmental interruptions.

Improved rules to make regulations more effective and less burdensome in concert with Executive Order 13563, Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review, include:

- *Proposed rule: Amending Incidental Take regulations, 78 FR 54437 (September 4, 2013)*
- *Final rule: Revisions to the Regulations of Impact Analyses of Critical Habitat, 78 FR 53058 (August 28, 2013)*
- *Proposed rule: Draft Policy on Interpretation of the Phrase "Significant Portion of Its Range" in the Endangered Species Act's Definitions of "Endangered Species" and "Threatened Species" 76 FR 76987 (December 9, 2011)*

Activity: Ecological Services
Subactivity: Listing

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015				Change from 2014 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Critical Habitat	(\$000)	0	0	+28	+4,605	0	4,633	+4,633
	FTE	0	0	0	+41	0	41	+41
Listing	(\$000)	0	0	+116	+12,905	+2,107	15,128	+15,128
	FTE	0	0	0	+88	+10	98	+98
Foreign Listing	(\$000)	0	0	+9	+1,504	0	1,513	+1,513
	FTE	0	0	0	+6	0	6	+6
Petitions	(\$000)	0	0	+4	+1,501	0	1,505	+1,505
	FTE	0	0	0	+6	0	6	+6
Total, Listing	(\$000)	0	0	+157	+20,515	+2,107	22,779	+22,779
	FTE	0	0	0	+141	+10	151	+151

Summary of 2015 Program Changes for Listing

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Listing	+2,107	+10
Program Changes	+2,107	+10

Justification of Changes

The 2015 budget request for Listing is \$22,779,000 and 151 FTE, a net program change of +\$2,107,000 and +10 FTE from the 2014 Enacted.

Listing (+\$2,107,000/+10 FTE)

The Service continues to seek balance across the various components of the listing program. Our workplan was developed to make steady progress on the backlog of listing work that currently exists and move beyond it within a number of years. Beyond the workplan, we also have obligations to address the status of candidate species not covered under current settlement agreements for listing determination, respond to petitions, and designate critical habitat where prudent and determinable, all using the best available science, meeting statutory deadlines, and involving robust public engagement. As of February 2014, the Service has a backlog of 578 90-day and 12-month petition findings, and 30 species identified as candidate species since the Multi-District Litigation settlement agreements. The Service has completed 164 listing determinations since 2011, will complete 36 determinations in FY 2014, and plans to complete another 20 determinations in FY15. The funding increase in Listing will allow the Service to publish approximately six additional proposed listing rules with critical habitat for high priority candidate species and complete 15 petition findings in FY 2015.

Program Overview

Congress, on behalf of the American people, passed the ESA to prevent extinctions facing many species of fish, wildlife and plants. The purpose of the ESA is to conserve endangered and threatened species and the ecosystems on which they depend which are key components of America’s heritage. 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. Listing 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),

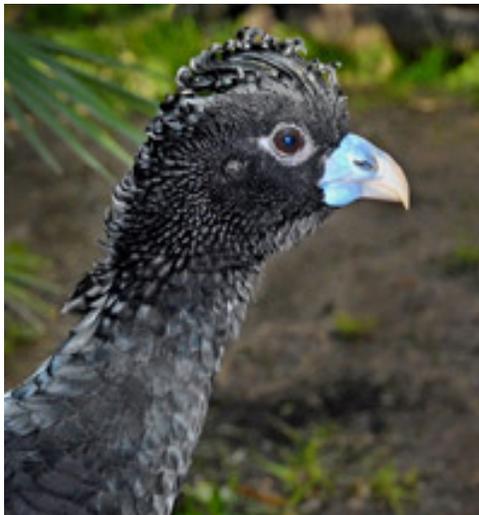
and designating critical habitat as required under the ESA, focuses resources and efforts by the Service and its partners on recovering the species.

The Service 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 conducts the listing process for species it identifies as needing the protections of the ESA, candidate species, or species for which it determines listing is warranted upon review of public petitions. The Service also receives petitions for amendments to critical habitat and other actions. Under the ESA, when the Service receives a petition it must respond within set timeframes.

Listing determinations, critical habitat designations, and their associated processes 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. Using the best scientific and commercial data available, the listing rule provides information on the species (taxonomy, historic and current range, population information, habitat requirements, etc.), an analysis of the threats faced by the species, designation of critical habitat if appropriate, examples of available conservation measures, and a preview of actions that would be prohibited if the species were to be listed. 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.



The Service listed the blue billed curassow (pictured) along with three other Columbian and one Ecuadorian bird species as endangered on October 28, 2013. Credit: LA Zoo and Botanical Gardens

While the Service works to accomplish many of the pending actions related to listing foreign species, it believes there is a higher conservation benefit in listing domestic species. The broad range of management tools for domestic species include recovery planning and implementation under 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/treaties such as the MMPA or MBTA. In contrast, foreign species’ management tools are limited to trade restrictions through section 10 and/or CITES trade prohibitions, education and public awareness, and grant monies. Direct recovery actions are also 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.

2015 Program Performance

The Service anticipates the following accomplishments and activities:

Critical Habitat for Already Listed Species

The Service anticipates publishing seven final critical habitat rules (for eight species) and two proposed critical habitat rule revisions (for two species) in FY 2015.

Listing Determinations for U.S. Species*

During FY 2015, the Service projects the following determinations:

- 20 Final listing/critical habitat determinations for 31 species.
- 25 Proposed listing/critical habitat determinations for 37 species.
- Emergency listings as necessary.

Petition Findings*

The Service intends to address five petition findings, 90-day and 12-month, for five species in FY 2015 with current resources.

Listing Determinations for Foreign Species

During FY 2015, the Service projects completion of the following determinations for foreign species:

- Two final listing determinations for two species.
- Five 12-month petition findings for 15 species.

*Note: Assumes petition sub-cap continues in FY 2015.

Ecological Services - Listing Performance Change

Performance Goal	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Plan	2015 PB	Change from 2014 Plan to 2015 PB	Program Change Occurring in Out-years
7.32.1 % of final listing determinations promulgated in a timely manner	20% (1 of 5)	0% (0 of 9)	5% (2 of 38)	8% (8 of 95)	89% (41 of 46)	94% (31 of 33)	5%	n/a
7.32.2 % of petition findings made within one fiscal year of petition receipt	12% (9 of 77)	17% (13 of 77)	11% (14 of 131)	6% (6 of 95)	0% (0 of 13)	28% (7 of 25)	28%	n/a
7.32.3 % of critical habitat rules promulgated in a timely manner	57% (4 of 7)	23% (3 of 13)	3% (4 of 145)	6% (9 of 153)	13% (21 of 158)	100% (7 of 7)	87%	n/a
Comments	Prior year rules included critical habitat designations for many Hawaiian species. The Service is also working towards designating critical habitat concurrent with listing and thus reported under 7.32.1.							

Activity: Ecological Services
Subactivity: Planning and Consultation

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015				Change from 2014 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Planning and Consultation	(\$000) FTE	0 0	0 0	+823 0	+96,336 +746	+8,014 +16	105,173 762	+105,173 +762

Summary of 2015 Program Changes for Planning and Consultations

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Planning and Consultation Activities	+5,530	+7
• Consultations for Renewable Energy	+1,134	+4
• Environmental Contaminants	+1,155	+4
• Everglades	+195	+1
Program Changes	+8,014	+16

Justification of 2015 Program Changes

The 2015 budget request for Planning and Consultation is \$105,173,000 and 762 FTE, a net program change of +\$8,014,000 and +16 FTE from the 2014 Enacted.

Planning and Consultation Activities (+5,530,000/+7 FTE)

The Service is instrumental in supporting economic recovery and job creation in the United States. Timely evaluations of proposed infrastructure, real estate and other development projects, assisting permitting agencies, issuing permits for these projects under the MBTA, ESA and other Federal laws contributes to job creation and economic growth. Conversely, without adequate funding and staff to carry out our environmental review and permitting responsibilities, projects cannot proceed on schedule and economic recovery can be impeded.

Growth in business investment and consumer spending will likely translate to more demand for infrastructure, housing, and commercial construction resulting in more requests for permits that recognize compliance with environmental laws. New housing construction requires revisiting land use planning and technical assistance with siting determinations in order to minimize impacts on listed species. Economic recovery also generates demand for supporting infrastructure such as roads, water supply control and flood protection. To support this predicted growth, the Service needs to restore and build additional capacity to provide technical assistance and environmental reviews in a timely and sustainable manner. This funding increase will be used to restore staffing reductions in environmental reviews which will allow the Service to better expedite project reviews.

Decision support tools that facilitate environmental reviews will be increasingly necessary as requests for species lists, siting decisions, and other technical assistance requests increase. Therefore, a portion of this funding will be dedicated to further refining IPaC. IPaC provides access to habitat and species data allow project applicants and Service staff to make better informed decisions earlier in the design process when it is easier to make modification with minimum disruption of project goals. Utilizing a centralized source of information on all Service trust resources, project applicants can proactively minimize environmental conflict, and Service staff can more efficiently screen out projects that will not affect ESA listed species or designated critical habitat. The expanded capabilities IPaC provides helps to expedite or complete the

requirements of environmental reviews such as section 7 consultation. The Service has already seen efficiencies due to the automated delivery of listed species lists resulting in a savings of 743 labor hours saved or 4.6 FTE in one month alone.

Through IPaC, Federal agencies can better integrate section 7 consultation with their other environmental review processes, including NEPA. Utilizing IPaC also provides better coordination of the Service's multiple conservation statutes with the goals of Strategic Habitat Conservation and supports Executive Order 13604, Improving Performance of Federal Permitting and Review of Infrastructure Projects. With funding provided in FY15, the IPaC system will provide action agencies with the ability to submit requests for consultation and receive Service consultation documents online, as well as provide the Service and the action agencies with a tool to collect project specific reporting and monitoring information.

Consultations for Renewable Energy Projects (+\$1,134,000/+4 FTE)

As the economy improves, the Service faces an increased workload for expeditious processing of permits for new renewable and traditional energy facilities. This funding will ensure energy projects are planned, developed, operated, permitted, and monitored in ways that are compatible with conservation of Federal trust resources. Developing domestic energy resources and the corresponding transmission capabilities requires effective coordination with permitting entities and appropriate environmental review of transmission rights-of-way applications and facilities sites. It also requires a balanced and mindful approach that addresses the impacts of development on land, wildlife, and water resources. The Department of Energy, State Fish and Game agencies, Bureau of Land Management, State Energy Commissions, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, have expressed a need for expedited multi-species conservation strategies accompanied by appropriate permits to comply with ESA. The additional resources will provide better customer service to the energy industry including:

- Increased technical assistance;
- More timely responses;
- Environmentally sound solutions to energy project-wildlife/habitat conflicts; and,
- Well-coordinated project reviews, working with Federal agency priorities.

The construction and operation of these energy projects provide important economic benefits to the small communities where they are located.

Environmental Contaminants (+\$1,155,000/+4 FTE)

The Service has been working closely with the Environmental Protection Agency and the NMFS to establish a process for national consultations related to pesticide registrations. This increase supports the timely technical assistance and consultation process agreed upon and supported by the findings of the National Research Council in 2013. Active engagement by the Service will ensure ESA compliance for pesticides early in the registration process, minimize the threat of lawsuits, and provide more certainty and guidance to applicants to allow chemicals to continue to be available for production of food and fiber in this country. Environmental contaminant specialists also support the Service's planning and consultation processes by analyzing complex biological and habitat data to assess contaminant exposure of a proposed project on wildlife. This technical assistance utilizes environmental risk assessment and the development of wildlife criteria for contaminant exposure. Many species being considered for listing under ESA have a paucity of biological and habitat data, including the effects of ecotoxins on their life cycle and habitat. Without these risk assessments, the Service's ability to effectively manage the application of pesticides on refuges or antibiotics in fish hatcheries is limited. Using probabilistic risk assessment, which applies a more statistically rigorous process making the results more scientifically robust and more accurate, the Service will start to develop wildlife criteria for exposure to contaminants focusing on surrogate species and regional priority species. The criteria will greatly improve our ability to monitor our trust resources and determine effects from contaminants.

Everglades (+\$195,000/+1 FTE)

Funding will be used to support planning and consultation efforts for conserving threatened and endangered species found only in the Everglades. Recovery of the Cape Sable seaside sparrow, a highly imperiled species found only in Everglades National Park, is essential in order to implement the Central Everglades Planning Project, a \$2.8 billion project critical for Everglades restoration. The Everglade snail kite, another highly imperiled species found only in the Everglades ecosystem, is also dependent on proper functioning of the Everglades. Sea-level rise threatens to further diminish these species' remaining habitat.

Program Overview

Within Planning and Consultation, the **Conservation Planning Assistance** component provides a field-based, landscape-level approach that works collaboratively with industry, agencies, Tribes, and other stakeholders to balance conservation and development needs. Service biologists work 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 has extensive knowledge and uses that background to bring a true “One Service,” integrated presence to the negotiation table. By engaging in the process early, Service recommendations save taxpayers money by preventing the need to list animals as endangered or threatened, streamlines the permitting process, reduces paperwork, and ensures that development projects can be built with minimal environmental interruptions. Advanced biological planning and conservation design also assists communities and industry in adapting to environmental change.

The **ESA Consultation** component element delivers a collaborative process between the Service and its partners, including other Federal agencies, States, Tribes, non-governmental organizations, industry, academia, private landowners, and other Service programs to identify opportunities to balance adverse impacts of development actions with conservation actions that address threats and move species towards recovery. Section 10 Habitat Conservation Planning develops **Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs)** and their associated Incidental Take Permits. Through HCPs, the Service facilitates private lands development with proactive species and ecosystem landscape conservation planning that addresses threats and fulfills species recovery needs. Research conducted by recovery partners using scientific permits issued under Section 10 is also vital to species' recovery. This research often provides current information about threats and their associated impacts on a listed species.

The environmental review functions constitute a significant workload for the Service. The Service is continuously looking for efficiencies to improve our processes. In the face of increasingly complex environmental changes and their potential effects on imperiled species and/or their habitats, the Service must have readily available tools to plan and implement conservation on large natural areas while ensuring that listed species with very restricted ranges are managed appropriately. In response, the Service is further developing the IPaC decision support system, a conservation planning tool for streamlining the environmental review process. IPaC provides the Service and project proponents interactive, online tools to spatially link data for quick analyses of resource threats and determine the effectiveness of various conservation actions (<http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>). This function allows for rapid identification of potential projects that will not affect specific categories of natural resources and expedites completion of requirements involving ESA Section 7 consultations, Section 10 HCPs, and other environmental review processes.

The environmental contaminants (EC) community of practice within the Planning and Consultation Program is dedicated to protecting fish, wildlife and their habitats from the harmful effects of pollutants. Service trust resources are affected by thousands of chemicals in the environment, such as pesticides, personal care products, pharmaceuticals, nanoparticles, endocrine disrupters, PCBs, dioxins, mercury, selenium, cyanide, ammonia, oil, and the combined effects of these pollutants. The Service uses its

technical expertise to collaborate with many internal and external partners and work within Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) to evaluate the impacts of contaminants on fish, wildlife and plants. These activities are conducted under the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Section 7 of the ESA, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), and the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

Water Quality and Pesticides Consultations

The Service works closely with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on water quality criteria and pesticide registrations. In FY 2015, work continues on completing water quality consultations on national aquatic life criteria. In FY 2015, the Service will continue to develop and implement scientifically rigorous protocols for national consultations with EPA to protect threatened and endangered species by determining safe levels of pesticide exposures. Determining safe levels of exposure to pesticides for listed species will greatly improve how the Service conducts Section 7 consultations on pesticide registrations. 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 to allow those chemicals to continue to be available for production of food and fiber in this country.

New Energy Frontier

One of Secretary Jewell's priorities is Powering the Future, which will ensure we are able to provide energy for America. The Service is working with industry to help ensure the nation's domestic energy resources are developed and delivered in an environmentally compatible way. The unparalleled drive toward clean and renewable domestic energy has increased emphasis on expanding and accelerating hydroelectric, solar, geothermal, wind-power, tidal, and hydrokinetic energy projects along with increasing output from traditional energy sources while minimizing the impact on conservation resources. Consequently, the Service is increasingly engaged in extensive coordination with other Department of the Interior bureaus, Federal agencies, States, and Tribes early in the process to ensure conservation of trust resources as the nation expands transmission infrastructure and energy production from all energy sources.

- **Hydroelectric power:** During the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensing and relicensing process, Service biologists work with industry to minimize aquatic and terrestrial impacts and implement effective mitigation. Conservation measures recommended by Service biologists include prescriptions for fish passage, in-stream flows, and habitat acquisition and restoration. The typical 50-year duration of FERC licenses ensures these recommendations promote enduring fish and wildlife conservation benefits.
- **Wind power:** Since 2003, the Service has implemented voluntary guidelines to avoid or minimize the impacts of wind turbines on wildlife and their habitat. Service collaboration with the Federal Advisory Committee (FAC) established by the Secretary of the Interior successfully developed final Land-based Wind Energy Guidelines in March 2012. Training and webinars were conducted in 2013 to support implementation of these guidelines and are continuing through 2014.
- **Solar power:** The Southwest has abundant solar energy resources as well as critical habitat for fish and wildlife. The Service's work with project proponents, States, and cooperating Federal agencies continues to intensify as a result of the Administration's initiatives to identify environmentally-appropriate Federal and Interior-managed lands for utility-scale solar energy development. Specifically, the Service worked with the joint Department of Energy and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) to analyze the potential effects of commercial solar energy development on



Wind farm.

nearly 22 million acres of BLM land in six southwestern States which resulted in a final PEIS Record of Decision that avoids or excludes environmentally sensitive fish and wildlife resources, enabling more efficient project siting and Federal approvals. As resources allow, the Service participates in the review of active solar project applications with BLM, States, and other conservation stakeholders.

- ***Oil and gas siting:*** The Service continues to work closely with States, Federal agencies, and energy developers to minimize the impacts of increased production of oil and gas throughout the Western States. The Service has developed siting tools, such as the Landscape-scale Energy Action Plan (LEAP) decision support tool to provide project applicants with information early in the planning process to guide project siting away from potential conflict with trust resources.
- ***Other energy technologies:*** The Service is increasingly engaged in the environmental review of innovative energy facilities that use wave energy, river flow (non-dam), and tidal flow to generate power. The Service works closely with the Federal and State conservation agencies to advance environmentally-sound projects and technologies that minimize adverse impacts to fish and wildlife.

2015 Program Performance

The Service anticipates the following accomplishments and activities:

- Continue to work with all Federal and other customers under multiple authorities to design projects that will have sustainable environmental outcomes. In FY 2015, the Service anticipates completing an additional 395 renewable energy technical assistance requests as compared to FY 2013, and an additional 2,186 requests for technical assistance, informal and formal section 7 consultations, and planning assistance requests.
- Continue to refine and expand the internet-based IPaC system that can be used to obtain information regarding all Service trust resources, internally screen out projects that will not affect ESA listed species or designated critical habitat, complete or expedite the requirements of section 7 consultation, better integrate section 7 consultation with action agencies' other environmental review processes, including NEPA, and better coordinate the Service's various programs toward unified objectives in accordance with the goals of the Strategic Habitat Conservation initiative and facilitating the implementation of Executive Order 13604 on Improving Performance of Federal Permitting and Review of Infrastructure Projects (March 22, 2012).
- Revise the Service's 1981 Mitigation Policy to integrate all authorities that allow the Service to recommend or require mitigation of impacts to trust resources, or other resources listed in statute, during development processes. Revisions will incorporate contemporary mitigation practices and emphasize the Service's interests in pursuing mitigation relevant on a landscape scale.
- Ensure that Service regulations, policies, and guidance effectively address the conservation challenges of today by carrying out a public participation process that engages a broad spectrum of interests affected by or concerned with the ESA. The Service, in partnership with the National Marine Fisheries Service, is focused on: 1) developing a regulatory definition for "destruction or adverse modification" of critical habitat that will guide consultations on projects affecting listed species, and explains the relationship of this threshold to that established by the definition of "jeopardizing the continued existence" of a species; 2) revising and updating the existing regulation governing incidental take of protected species to improve implementation and clarify criteria for incidental take permits; and 3) identifying incentives to encourage greater participation in Habitat Conservation Plans and other tools and reduce the transaction time and costs of participation in these programs.

- Work cooperatively with EPA, NMFS, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to implement the findings of the NRC’s study considering scientific and technical issues surrounding the ESA responsibilities of EPA, NMFS and the Service related to the use of pesticides and actualize an inter-agency process for section 7 consultations required for pesticide registration.

Ecological Services - Planning and Consultation Performance Change

Performance Goal	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Plan	2015 PB	Change from 2014 Plan to 2015 PB	Program Change Occurring in Out-years
4.7.5 % of requests for technical assistance completed	90% (25,958 of 28,996)	90% (23,404 of 25,873)	92% (22,625 of 24,576)	90% (18,762 of 20,852)	83% (8,820 of 10,686)	91% (9,682 of 10,686)	8% (10%)	n/a
CSF 4.8 Number of large-scale landscape planning and/or programmatic approaches in progress or completed	1,122	944	774	558	238	261	23 (10%)	n/a
7.31.1 % of formal/informal "other non-resource-use specific" consultations addressed in a timely manner	87% (8,399 of 9,723)	85% (7,827 of 9,188)	84% (8,028 of 9,590)	85% (7,390 of 8,680)	74% (3,640 of 4,951)	90% (4,860 of 5,401)	16%	n/a
7.31.2 # contaminant actions on Section 7 Consultations	404	446	399	470	231	312	81 (35%)	n/a
14.1.2 % of formal/informal energy (non-hydropower) consultation addressed in a timely manner	78% (1,122 of 1,433)	72% (1,073 of 1,488)	83% (1,203 of 1,454)	87% (1,263 of 1,454)	73% (704 of 970)	80% (1,044 of 1,300)	8%	n/a
14.1.5 % of energy activities (non-hydropower) streamlined through early involvement	36% (1,140 of 3,167)	41% (1,238 of 3,027)	40% (1,021 of 2,565)	44% (1,002 of 2,257)	48% (500 of 1,038)	53% (555 of 1,038)	5%	n/a
14.3.2 % of formal/informal water consultations addressed in a timely manner	86% (663 of 770)	84% (547 of 652)	90% (668 of 745)	84% (580 of 687)	73% (263 of 361)	85% (308 of 361)	12%	n/a
Comments	For all measures above: Increased performance reflects funding increase requested for pesticide consultations.							

Activity: Ecological Services
Subactivity: Conservation and Restoration

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015			Change from 2014 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Conservation (\$000)		0	0	+710	+105,079	+18,464	124,253	+124,253
and Restoration FTE		0	0	0	+658	+60	718	+718

Summary of 2015 Program Changes for Conservation and Restoration

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Conservation and Restoration Activities	+8,958	+25
• Sage Grouse Initiative	+4,000	+20
• Environmental Contaminants	+2,000	+10
• Cooperative Recovery	+1,527	0
• National Wetlands Inventory	+1,400	+2
• Ecosystem Restoration—Bay Delta	+1,100	+3
• Marine Mammals	+479	0
• Wolf Livestock Loss Demonstration Program	-1,000	0
Program Changes	+18,464	+60

Justification of 2015 Program Changes

The 2015 budget request for Conservation and Restoration is \$124,253,000 and 718 FTE, a net program change of +\$18,464,000 and +60 FTE from the 2014 Enacted.

Conservation and Restoration Activities (+\$8,958,000/+25 FTE)

Stakeholders such as other Federal agencies, States, landowners, and communities are engaged in or impacted by the requirements of the ESA to support recovery and achieve delisting. Once a species is removed from the list of threatened or endangered species under the ESA, the restrictions of the Act no longer apply. As stakeholders would like to see species recovered and delisted as soon as possible, this increase will address the backlog of approximately 60 species that have been identified for potential delisting or downlisting based upon recent 5 year reviews. Delisting or downlisting not only carries with it decreased regulatory protection, it also demonstrates the efficacy of the Act, shows the success of partners, and provides certainty to landowners about the benefits of contributing to recovery. Success breeds success, and the Service anticipates that progress in moving species away from extinction, stabilizing other species, and recognizing success when delisting or downlisting criteria is met will increase interest and engagement by all parties and lead to more leveraging of resources to achieve conservation and recovery of listed species. Funding will support building partnerships to help the Service implement 824 recovery actions (including habitat restoration, captive propagation, and reintroduction) for all listed species and conduct 1,109 contaminant actions that benefit FWS species and habitats to achieve restoration objectives. In addition funding will support the development or completion of recovery plans for the 141 species listed as endangered or threatened since 2011, to guide the Service and other stakeholders in the conservation of the species.

At the same time, the level of interest in pre-listing conservation has never been higher. For example, within a decade, the Southeast Region alone must determine the status of more than 450 fish, wildlife and plant species under the ESA. Of the 289 aquatic species occurring in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia that must be evaluated, 198 of them are restricted to small areas. As such, the Service’s Southeast Region

launched an intensive effort 3 years ago to identify priority areas and work hand-in-hand with 15 States and Federal agencies to conserve these at-risk species before listing is needed. The effort has now been expanded and includes industry (e.g., electric and timber companies), non-government organizations, and other entities within the landscape. A portion of this increase will provide resources to develop and implement conservation strategies for candidate or other at-risk species in coordination with the States. The funding will also be used to evaluate the success of conservation measures through Working Lands for Wildlife and other prelisting conservation efforts.

Sage Grouse Initiative (+\$4,000,000/+ 20 FTE)

Sage grouse and its habitat extend across 11 States which require a collaborative conservation effort that is unprecedented in geographic scope and magnitude. To achieve sustainable conservation success for the sage-steppe ecosystem on which sage grouse depend, the Service has identified priorities needs for basic scientific expertise, technical assistance for on the ground support, and internal and external coordination and partnership building with western States, the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and other partners actively invested in conservation of sage grouse. Success requires constant communication and constant planning and adaptive management to ensure long-term conservation. Technical assistance is needed to support the status review process, stakeholder engagement, and review, analysis, and document preparation. Further, there is an unmet demand for Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances. The Service needs additional staff to meet this need. For example, there is a draft Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for ranching activities in Wyoming and other similar efforts occurring in Oregon. The Service needs staff to work closely with landowners considering enrollment in these programs as well as develop other agreements with energy and mining interests across the range of the species. Without this additional capacity, the Service may miss a critical opportunity to enroll large blocks of privately-owned habitat in conservation programs for the sage grouse and associated species. Further, the Service must continue to work with Federal and State partners to implement important on-the-ground conservation efforts. The additional resources in this request will provide a workforce to expand the range-wide coordination efforts, ensuring that individual efforts are coordinated, consistent, and sufficient to address the threats to the species. To achieve conservation success for the sage grouse and sage steppe ecosystem on which it depends, the Service must dedicate long-term resources to bring all elements of strategic habitat conservation to play as the plans are implemented, the results monitored, and the actions adapted.

Environmental Contaminants (+\$2,000,000/+10 FTE)

This increase will be targeted to increasing capability in spill response and restoration of trust resources damaged by contaminant releases. Service technical expertise in ecotoxins is necessary to inform, plan, and restore landscapes important to Service trust species. Ecotoxin expertise is critical for addressing the cleanup efforts from unexpected contaminant spills, as well as coordination of restoration activities with large ecosystem and species recovery in mind. The Deepwater Horizon spill illustrated the need for trained Service experts to be available to monitor and assess contaminant spills rapidly and establish a coordinated response between State and Federal agencies early in the spill cleanup efforts. In addition, funds will be available for analytical analysis of pre- and post-restoration of NRDA sites. The Service will utilize existing technical expertise to support the planning and implementation of restoration as well as the application of environmental risk assessment and wildlife criteria for contaminant exposure for trust species, focusing on surrogate species and regional priority species. The criteria will greatly improve our ability to monitor our trust resources and determine effects from contaminants.

Cooperative Recovery Initiative (+\$1,527,000/+0 FTE)

This increase will support a cross-programmatic partnership approach to complete planning, restoration, and management actions addressing current threats to endangered species in areas of strategic importance for the conservation of listed species. The focus will be on implementing recovery actions that can move the dial for species, such as for species near delisting or reclassification from endangered to threatened or

actions that are urgently needed to help sustain critically endangered species threatened by extinction. The Service will utilize resources from ES, the National Wildlife Refuge System, the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, the Fisheries Program, the Science Program, and the Migratory Bird Program to identify and implement the highest priority recovery projects for endangered species on national wildlife refuges and in surrounding areas. Performance measures are being identified for selected projects, and it is anticipated this funding will support approximately 10 recovery actions.

National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) (+\$1,400,000/+2 FTE)

With this funding, the Service will continue to work closely with the States to make existing wetlands and surface waters geospatial data available to the public. Specifically, as data become available from the States and other partners, the Service will provide quality assurance and quality control of the data and provide the information through the online national wetlands geospatial data layer. Funds will also be targeted towards expanding geospatial capability for supporting species conservation consistent with regional and national priorities. Increasingly, landscape level analysis for long-range planning and resource management hinges on the availability and utility of large geospatial datasets at the regional or national level. Landscape-level approaches to management hold the promise of a broader-based and more consistent consideration of both development and conservation, as opposed to the current piecemeal approaches. A concerted effort to produce national geospatial datasets is needed to move toward system-focused actions for resource assessment. The Service needs additional internet-based tools and systems for sharing trusted geospatial data to provide landscape-level views of resources for use by the public, government agencies and partner organizations. Crucial geospatial layers such as wetlands and water resource data provide decision makers and users from Federal and State governments, local communities, businesses, industry, and the individual land owners with reliable information to make wise decisions.

Ecosystem Restoration—Bay Delta (+\$1,100,000/+3 FTE)

This increase will allow the Service to assess the success of Delta habitat restoration efforts, including habitat restoration efforts for delta smelt throughout its entire range, and contribute to studies of delta smelt ecology and management strategies to improve abundance. This work is critical for the Service to understand and plan for the effects of climate change and as support for the Service's partnership with State and Federal agencies and stakeholder groups with interests in Bay Delta management and water supply. This work will support efforts to strategically conserve habitat and assure a healthy and sustainable watershed that can also support the water needs of California.

Marine Mammals (+\$479,000/+0 FTE)

With the requested increase, the Service will enhance our capability to address health and stranding issues and protective measures, support research and monitoring efforts, and expand public outreach and awareness. Funds will be used to support the synthesis of existing field and lab data sets for sea otters in California, in order to develop an integrated population model for use in adaptive management. Additional funds will be used to support outreach efforts to educate kayakers on the impact of repeated behavioral disturbance of southern sea otters and ways to avoid it.

In Alaska, funds will be used to increase outreach efforts to develop a stranding network, additional signage for use by stranding volunteers, and other needed equipment and supplies. For Pacific walrus, additional funds could be used to support monitoring the Chukchi Sea area Pacific walrus haulouts and provide dedicated coastal surveys, as well as collection of stranding data. Increased funding is also needed to support efforts for polar bear awareness and safety activities being conducted in partnership with our local stakeholders in Alaska.

Wolf Livestock Loss Demonstration Program (-\$1,000,000/+0 FTE)

In FY 2014, Congress provided \$1,000,000 to fund a demonstration program that gives grants to States and Tribes for livestock producers conducting proactive, non-lethal activities to reduce the risk of

livestock loss due to predation by wolves and to compensate livestock producers, as appropriate, for livestock losses due to such predation. The Service proposes to discontinue funding this in FY 2015 in order to fund higher priority conservation activities elsewhere in the budget request.

Program Overview

The Conservation and Restoration Program subactivity provides national leadership and guidance in the planning and implementation of restoration and conservation actions on the ground to support imperiled species and their habitats. Conservation and Restoration includes management of the Coastal Barrier Resources System and implementation of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act; recovery activities which develop regulatory action on species which qualify for delisting (removing a species from protection under the ESA) or downlisting (reclassifying a species from Endangered to Threatened), and processes delisting and downlisting petitions. This subactivity also includes candidate conservation actions aimed at reducing or eliminating threats to candidate or species-at-risk so listing under the ESA is not necessary; environmental response and restoration activities that focus on spill response issues and support NRDA assessment and restoration activities; marine mammal conservation under the Marine Mammal Protection Act; and NWI geospatial mapping and technical assistance on wetlands and other habitats, and maintaining the national wetlands data layer of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) which uses this information to make resource management decisions at all levels of government.

Coastal Barrier Resources Act

The Service's Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) program determines whether properties are located "in" or "out" of the Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS), consults with Federal agencies regarding infrastructure projects proposed within the CBRS, and prepares modernized maps of the System. CBRA conserves coastal habitats by restricting Federal funding that encourages new development and prohibits the sale of federally-backed flood insurance for most structures that would be inappropriately located within the CBRS. The Program saves millions in taxpayer dollars, reduces the intensity of development in hurricane-prone and biologically sensitive areas, and preserves essential spawning, nesting, nursery, and feeding habitat for many threatened and endangered species.

Ensuring that CBRS maps are updated, usable, and accurately depict CBRS boundaries are important goals of the CBRA Program. The Service is committed to modernizing the CBRS maps as much as resources allow using digital technology to improve access to information, increase efficiency for infrastructure project planning, and increase accuracy and timeliness in determining whether individual properties are located within the CBRS. Additionally, modernized maps will help conserve natural resources and save taxpayer dollars by ensuring that Federal funding for development activities is not provided in error within the CBRS.

In FY15, the Service, through an interagency partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), is conducting a digital conversion of the CBRS maps that is anticipated to be completed by 2016. The digital conversion effort will: (1) ensure the CBRS boundaries depicted on FEMA's Flood Insurance Rate Maps are the same as the boundaries depicted on the Service's official CBRS maps; (2) fulfill the Service's responsibility under CBRA to update the CBRS maps at least once every five years to account for natural changes such as erosion and accretion (Section 3 of P.L. 101-591); and (3) replace the CBRS maps at a lower cost and in a more timely manner than comprehensive map modernization (Section 4 of P.L. 109-226).

The Coastal Barrier Resources Reauthorization Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-226) directs the Service to produce comprehensively revised maps for the entire CBRS. Since 1999, the Service has produced comprehensively revised maps for approximately 12% of the CBRS. As comprehensive map modernization is time and resource intensive, the Service currently has a backlog to review and prepare

revised maps for approximately 50 units. Funding through the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 provided \$5,000,000 to comprehensively modernize maps for eight northeastern States by 2017 which will facilitate review and compliance with CBRS boundaries by affected landowners and Federal partners.

Cooperative Recovery Initiative

In FY 2015, the Service will continue to support a cross-programmatic partnership approach to complete planning, restoration, and management actions addressing current threats to endangered species in areas of strategic importance for conservation of listed species. The focus will be on implementing recovery actions for species on national wildlife refuges and in surrounding ecosystems that are near delisting or reclassification from endangered to threatened or actions urgently needed for critically endangered species. ES resources are combined with those of the National Wildlife Refuge System, the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, the Fisheries Program, the Science Program, and the Migratory Bird Program to identify and implement the highest priority recovery projects that meet the criteria. Each project includes a monitoring component.

Environmental Contaminants Restoration of Trust Resources

Service biologists are key members of the DOI NRDAR program, whose mission is to restore natural resources injured by oil spills or hazardous substance releases into the environment. The Service provides leadership in the development of DOI Program guidance and participates in all damage assessment cases funded by the Departmental Program. In cooperation with State, tribal and Federal co-trustees, Service staff investigates injuries that result from the release of hazardous material and oil spills and applies their unique technical expertise to reduce the impact on natural resources and to restore injured resources. Service staff determines the extent of injury, plays a key role in settlement negotiations with responsible parties, and works with interested local, State, and national groups to complete projects that restore fish, wildlife, and habitat.

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. These prominent species occupy



Pacific walrus.

the upper trophic levels of the world’s oceans and coastal waters and provide valuable insight into the health and vitality of these global ecosystems. These species are significant functioning elements in each of their unique ecosystems and serve as sentinels that can provide key understanding of the effects of a variety of environmental impacts on these ecosystems. Through regular monitoring, the Service can 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 the implementation of the MMPA and achieve its goal of Optimum Sustainable Population for marine mammal stocks. To achieve that goal, the Service is involved in cooperative studies to understand population trends of marine mammals in Alaska, Florida, Puerto Rico, and along the Pacific Coast; aerial surveys to monitor population distribution, abundance, status, and trends and to track changes in baseline information to help us better understand the effects of sea ice retreat, particularly on ice-dependent marine mammals such as polar bears and walrus; coordination with the oil and gas industry to gain information on the location and frequency of sightings for polar bears and walrus as well as identifying the location and use of polar bear dens; and cooperative efforts with Alaskan Native subsistence hunters. These efforts also provide key information that informs the focus and efforts of Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs).

In FY 2015, the Service will continue to work with partners to sustain efforts to survey and assess population statuses 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 mammals protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). Collaborating with Russia and Canada, the Service will manage polar bear and Pacific walrus populations and support existing international agreements. The Service will continue implementing regulations associated with oil and gas industry activities to minimize potential impacts and address other sources for incidental take authorizations

National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

The Service is the principal Federal agency monitoring and reporting changes to the Nation's wetlands. Through the NWI the Service maintains a series of maps to show wetlands and adjacent deep-water habitats. Every decade, the Service reports to Congress on the status and trends of wetlands. Periodically, NWI prepares reports that are available to the public on specific wetlands status and trends; in 2013, the Service, in cooperation with NMFS, published the *Status and Trends of Wetlands in the Coastal Watersheds of the Conterminous United States 2004 to 2009* report (<http://www.fws.gov/wetlands>). The Service works closely with States and other partners to update the wetlands maps. Information produced by NWI has promoted public awareness and educational efforts regarding wetland types, distribution, and ecological importance, and ultimately saved wetland habitat used by migratory waterfowl, endangered species, fisheries, and other aquatic organisms. This work has direct implications for Strategic Habitat Conservation and LCC planning efforts.

NWI developed the National Wetlands Classification and National Wetlands Mapping Standards and provides online Wetland Mapping training to assist cooperators and data contributors in successfully submitting standards-compliant wetlands geospatial data to the National Wetlands Inventory. This information becomes part of the NWI-managed Wetlands Layer of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) and is used extensively to make resource management decisions at the Federal, State, tribal, territorial, and local government levels and the private sector. Through NSDI, the Service complies with the direction in OMB Circular A-16 (Revised) and supports the E-Government initiative, Data.gov and Geo.data.gov, and serves as an important data component to the DOI Geospatial Blueprint.

In FY 2015, the Service will continue to evolve and engage the geospatial community in using the lessons learned and success of the NWI inventory towards assisting with answering some of the agency's most critical decisions. For example, geospatial mapping of sage brush ecosystems and sources of stressors is aiding decision making associated with sage grouse and other species dependent on sage brush habitat. Geospatial data layering and reports provide key tools to inform biologists and decision makers about key locational information to then inform siting decisions, project planning impacts, alternatives for minimizing impacts of development on the affected ecosystem, and adaptive management and

performance reporting. Through the conservation and recovery focus, the Service is working to bring all of its tools and systems to facilitate resource management decisions on the ground.

Candidate Conservation

The Candidate Conservation program focuses on two primary activities: species assessment and facilitating voluntary conservation efforts for species under consideration for listing under the ESA. The Candidate Conservation program uses all available information to conduct a scientifically rigorous assessment process that identifies species that warrant listing. The most recent Candidate Notice of Review (78 Federal Register 226, November 22, 2013) identified 146 species as candidates for listing (a reduction of 46 species from 2012).

The Candidate Conservation program also provides technical assistance for developing Candidate Conservation Agreements (CCA) and Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAA), and facilitates voluntary conservation efforts by private landowners, States, Tribes, Territories, Federal agencies, and partners for priority candidate and other species-at-risk for which potential listing is a concern, such as greater sage-grouse. The program also supports and monitors the implementation of partnership-based conservation agreements and activities by the Service, other DOI bureaus and Federal agencies, States (e.g., through State Wildlife Action Plans), Tribes, and other partners and stakeholders. One example is the partnership with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to implement Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW). Through the voluntary, incentive-based WLFW effort, NRCS and Service programs provide landowners with technical and financial assistance to achieve specific conservation goals for candidate and listed species.

For candidate species, the program 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 species-at-risk. A recent example of the effectiveness of this approach is the commitment by Alcoa Power Generating Inc. to conserve the Yadkin River goldenrod, in its entire range along the Yadkin River in North Carolina, through a candidate conservation agreement. Alcoa's continuing implementation of the CCA fully addresses threats by controlling invasive exotic vegetation and implementing a propagation and population expansion program and includes regular monitoring and reporting. As a result of this comprehensive agreement, the goldenrod was removed from the candidate list.

Endangered Species Recovery

Coordinating, developing, implementing, and managing all of the recovery tools and partner activities in a cohesive and effective manner for species' recovery requires significant commitment and resources. The Recovery program plays a vital role in leading or guiding the recovery planning process, while facilitating, supporting, and monitoring the implementation of recovery actions by the Service, other DOI bureaus, Federal agencies, States, and other partners and stakeholders.

The Recovery program uses the inherent flexibility in the implementation of the ESA whenever it is advantageous, feasible, and practical. Recently the existing regulations governing the nonessential experimental population of the Mexican wolf were proposed for revision under section 10(j) of the ESA. 10(j) rules provide for flexibility in management by considering the population as threatened, regardless of its status elsewhere in its range, and allowing the development of a special rule to provide flexibility in management of the species. In this case, in order to improve implementation and conservation, proposed revisions include expanding the area in which captive raised wolves can be released and the area into which wolves can disperse.

Other successful and flexible conservation tools include Safe Harbor agreements and recovery management agreements. Safe Harbor Agreements build positive relationships with landowners to preserve needed habitat. Recovery management agreements implement actions that manage remaining threats so that a species may be delisted and transferred to the management authority of another appropriate agency, such as a State partner.

The goal of the Recovery program is to minimize or remove the threats that led to the species listing and to work toward delisting or reclassifying the species from endangered to threatened. This step requires decades of constant monitoring, adaptive management, and holistic planning, together with close coordination and technical leadership from Service partners to assist in these recovery efforts.

2015 Program Performance

Highlights of 2015 include:

- Building partnerships to help the Service implement 824 recovery actions (including habitat restoration, captive propagation, and reintroduction) for all listed species and conduct 1,109 contaminant actions that benefit FWS species and habitats to achieve restoration objectives.
- Addressing the backlog of approximately 60 species that have been identified for potential delisting or downlisting under the ESA based upon recent 5 year reviews, while pursuing delisting of four species presently recognized as recovered..
- Facilitating voluntary conservation efforts by private landowners, States, Tribes, Territories, Federal agencies (especially the Natural Resource Conservation Service in administering the Working Lands for Wildlife program), and partners for priority candidate and other species-at-risk for which potential listing is a concern such as greater sage-grouse.
- Completing the comprehensive map modernization under CBRA for CBRS boundaries in the State of Maryland and continuing with comprehensive map modernization for the other seven northeastern States affected by Hurricane Sandy.
- Recognize the achievement of a 100% wetland data layer for the lower 48 States available in the National Wetlands Inventory online database, and work with partners to add updated wetlands data as the data becomes available.
- Providing new wetlands reports and tools such as the Surface Waters and Wetlands Inventory along with other tools and reports that expand efforts to share information, resources and expertise, and coordinate conservation work by enhancing geospatial tools and decision support systems that benefit species conservation.
- Updating stock assessments for three marine mammal populations.

Ecological Services - Conservation and Restoration Performance Change

Performance Goal	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Plan	2015 PB	Change from 2014 Plan to 2015 PB	Program Change Occurring in Out-years
2.9.5 # contaminant actions (e.g., spill drills & responses, investigations, cleanup, assessments, technical assistance, & Clean Water Act activities) benefiting FWS lands	1,764	1,006	1,725	1,579	1,121	1,536	415 (37%)	n/a
Comments	Increased performance reflects funding increase for environmental contaminants support.							
4.1.11 Cumulative % of acres with digital data available	63.92% (1,486 of 2,324)	66.95% (1,556 of 2,325)	73.29% (1,704 of 2,324)	85.20% (1,980 of 2,324)	100% (1,941 of 1,941)	100% (1,941 of 1,941)	0%	n/a
Comments	By FY15, all of the lower 48 States will have digitized maps of wetland data.							
4.8.5 # contaminant actions benefiting other Federal/ State/ Local agencies and/or partners	2,746	5,272	6,027	6,070	1,670	2,288	618 (37%)	n/a
Comments	Increased performance reflects funding increase for environmental contaminants support.							
6.1.8 # contaminant actions (e.g., spill drills & responses, investigations, cleanup, assessments, technical assistance, & Clean Water Act activities) benefiting migratory birds	5,945	2,149	3,086	2,922	1,879	2,574	695 (37%)	n/a
Comments	Increased performance reflects funding increase for environmental contaminants support.							
7.19.5 # contaminant actions (e.g., spill drills & responses, investigations, cleanup, assessments, technical assistance, & Clean Water Act activities) benefiting listed species	4,674	1,420	1,916	1,845	1,118	1,532	414 (37%)	n/a
Comments	Increased performance reflects funding increase for environmental contaminants support.							
7.20.1 % of delisted species due to recovery (total)	32% (13 of 40)	44% (18 of 41)	46% (19 of 41)	48% (21 of 44)	50% (23 of 46)	54% (27 of 50)	4%	n/a
Comments	Increased performance reflects funding increase in general program activities							
7.30.8 Percent of threatened and endangered species recovery actions implemented (GPRA)	n/a	62.8% (24,072 of 38,316)	73.3% (24,625 of 33,616)	68.1% (24,285 of 35,678)	68.0% (24,401 of 35,878)	70.3% (25,225 of 35,878)	2.3%	n/a
Comments	Increased performance reflects funding increase in general program activities							

Ecological Services - Conservation and Restoration Performance Change

Performance Goal	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Plan	2015 PB	Change from 2014 Plan to 2015 PB	Program Change Occurring in Out-years
7.31.2 # contaminant actions on Section 7 Consultations	404	446	399	470	231	312	81 (35%)	n/a
Comments	Increased performance reflects funding increase for environmental contaminants support.							
8.3.5 % of candidate species where listing is unnecessary as a result of conservation actions, including actions taken through agreements	(0 of 232)	0% (1 of 247)	1% (3 of 246)	3% (5 of 188)	3% (4 of 143)	3% (4 of 146)	0%	n/a
Comments	It is difficult to determine at this time how many candidate species will not be listed due to conservation actions.							
9.1.5 # of current marine mammal stock assessments	9	8	8	9	6	9	3 (50%)	n/a
Comments	Increased performance reflects funding increase for marine mammals							
9.1.6 % of populations managed or influenced by the Marine Mammal Program for which current population trend is known	70% (7 of 10)	70% (7 of 10)	60% (6 of 10)	60% (6 of 10)	57% (4 of 7)	60% (6 of 10)	3% (5%)	n/a
Comments	Increased performance reflects funding increase for marine mammals							

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Habitat Conservation

Activity: Habitat Conservation

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015			Change from 2014 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Proposed Structure:								
Activity: Habitat Conservation								
Partners for Fish and Wildlife	(\$000) FTE	[51,776] [263]	[51,776] [263]	+290 0	+51,776 +263	0 0	52,066 263	+290 +263
Coastal Program	(\$000) FTE	[13,184] [71]	[13,184] [71]	+82 0	+13,184 +71	0 0	13,266 71	+82 +71
Old Structure:								
Activity: Ecological Services, Subactivity: Habitat Conservation								
Partners for Fish and Wildlife	(\$000) FTE	51,776 263	51,776 263	0 0	-51,776 -263	0 0	0 0	[-51,776] [-263]
Conservation Planning Assistance	(\$000) FTE	32,051 229	32,014 229	0 0	-32,014 -229	0 0	0 0	-32,014 -229
Coastal Program	(\$000) FTE	13,184 71	13,184 71	0 0	-13,184 -71	0 0	0 0	[-13,184] [-71]
National Wetlands Inventory	(\$000) FTE	4,399 19	4,361 19	0 0	-4,361 -19	0 0	0 0	-4,361 -19
Total, Habitat Conservation	(\$000) FTE	101,410 582	101,335 582	+372 0	-36,375 -248	0 0	65,332 334	-36,003 -248

As a result of reviews of the Ecological Services and Fish and Aquatic Resources programs completed in 2013, the Service is proposing budget structure changes to improve delivery of conservation programs. The Service proposes to incorporate Conservation Planning Assistance and National Wetlands Inventory into the new budget structure described within the Ecological Services section. The Service also proposes to elevate the Habitat Conservation budget subactivity to an activity to better reflect current operations and management.

Program Overview

The Fish and Wildlife Service promotes the protection, conservation, and restoration of the Nation’s fish and wildlife resources through its Habitat Conservation programs. These cooperative 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 partners’ resources in support of Federal and local conservation strategies on public and private lands to conserve America’s great outdoors, and address conservation challenges like climate adaptation and habitat fragmentation. Using Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) principles, the Service targets resources within geographic focus areas to achieve landscape-level habitat conservation benefits and have a positive impact on species populations.

The primary habitat conservation tools the Programs use are:

- Leveraging the Service’s technical and financial resources to effect a greater impact on habitat restoration, protection, and conservation through strong partnerships;

- Providing technical and financial assistance to partners to protect, restore, and enhance priority habitats; and,
- Addressing the Service’s ecological data needs and reporting requirements through the development of resource databases.



*The Service works with landowners and partners to conserve habitat.
Above left: A biologist works with a landowner in Michigan.
Above right: Working with partners to preserve habitat in Nebraska.
Below: A project to protect boreal toad habitat in Utah.*



Activity: Habitat Conservation
Subactivity: Partners for Fish and Wildlife

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015				Change from 2014 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Partners for Fish and Wildlife	(\$000) FTE	[51,776] [263]	[51,776] [263]	+290 0	+51,776 +263	0 0	52,066 263	+290 +263

Justification of 2015 Program Changes

The 2015 budget request for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program is \$52,066,000 and 263 FTE, with no program change from the 2014 Enacted.

Program Overview

The PFW Program is a voluntary, citizen-and community-based stewardship program for fish and wildlife conservation on private land. Based on the premise that fish and wildlife conservation is a responsibility shared by citizens and government and that collaboration is a value-added component of on-the-ground delivery, the Service works with private landowners, other government agencies, Tribes and other partners to support Federal and local conservation strategies. Private land is critically important to the successful management of Federal Trust Species and fulfilling the mission of the Service. With private land ownership comprising nearly 70% of all holdings in the United States these properties are pivotal to the success of large conservation undertakings. Three-quarters of the wetlands remaining in the United States are privately owned. Wetlands are vital to both wildlife and people. Millions of birds, mammals, and other animals depend on wetlands for food, spawning, and nursery areas. Nearly one-third of America’s endangered and threatened plants and animals need wetlands for survival. Wetlands also benefit people by providing natural flood water storage, recreational opportunities, recharging ground water supplies, filtering pollutants, and providing irrigation water.

The success of this program lies not only in its ability to effectively implement habitat restoration projects, but also in its ability to build trust and credibility with landowners and partners. The key is partnerships, achieved with a field staff of approximately 260 highly trained professionals assisting landowners to execute cooperative agreements with the Service and building one-on-one relationships which provide information and resources in a timely manner, leverage financial and technical assistance, and help implement cost efficient and effective projects in all 50 States and U.S. Territories.

The Service uses science-based management practices to restore and enhance wildlife habitat, create corridors and connectivity on the regional landscape, and engage youth in wildlife education and restoration activities, which not only helps protect our wildlife, lands, and waters for future generations, but also supports the Department’s America’s Great Outdoors initiative. Partnerships are extremely varied and so are contributions, but whatever form the relationship takes, the basic ideals of the program are steadfast and the end-product is stronger when performed hand-in-hand.

The PFW Program vision is: *“...to efficiently achieve voluntary habitat restoration on private lands, through financial and technical assistance, for the benefit of Federal trust species.”*

This vision is the guiding principle in reaching the program’s ultimate outcome of increasing the number of self-sustaining populations of priority species. An important conservation delivery tool, the PFW Program is engaged in cross-programmatic biological planning and conservation design to identify priority species habitat restoration targets across the landscape to increase or sustain species populations.

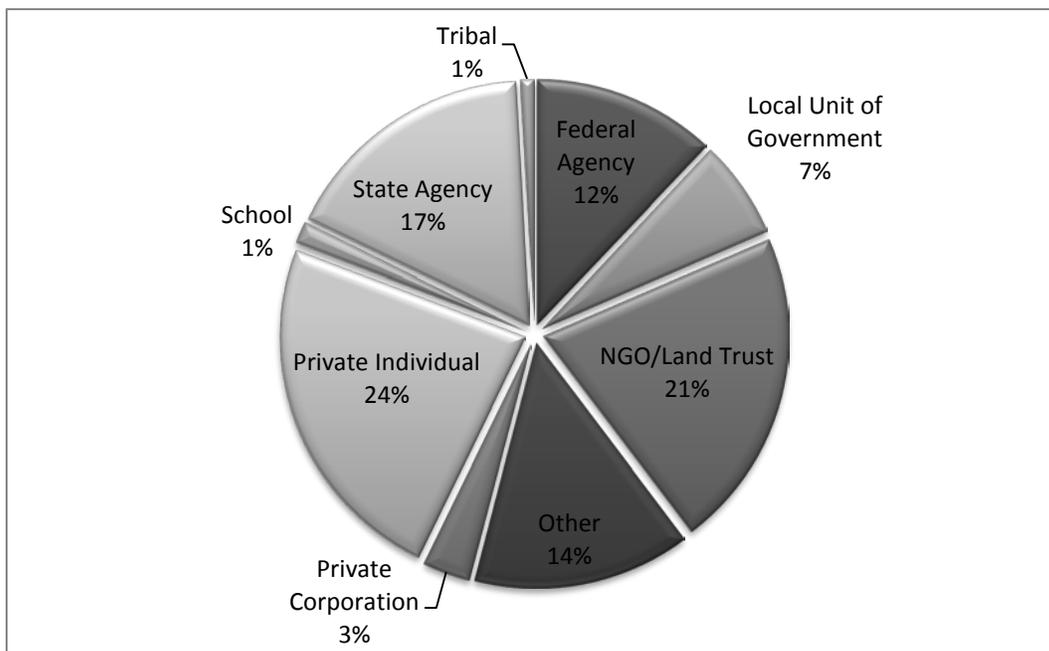
The resulting Partners’ projects reduce the threats to fish and wildlife habitat and enhance ecosystem and population resiliency to predicted changes. Increased integration of the PFW Program expertise will improve the Service’s efficiency and effectiveness in completing projects with private landowners that can preempt the need to list species under the Endangered Species Act. This effort fits well within the Service’s Strategic Habitat Conservation framework.

Use of Cost and Performance Information

The PFW Program continues to achieve results via performance-based management.

- The PFW Program operates under a 5-year Strategic Plan developed with stakeholder input. This plan defines outcome-oriented priorities, goals and performance targets that contribute to the long-term outcome-oriented performance goals of Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, and Fisheries programs.
- Annual project selection strategically directs Program resources to sites within priority geographic focus areas.
- In an effort to improve information sharing, the PFW Program continues to fine-tune its web-based accomplishment reporting system (Habitat Information Tracking System) by enhancing its Geographic Information capabilities and including financial information on projects.
- The PFW Program allocates base dollars through a national performance-based allocation methodology that takes into account the Region’s past performance, potential benefits to Federal trust species and habitat conservation opportunities in each Region.

The PFW Program’s strong partnerships help leverage Program dollars at a ratio of 4:1 or greater, and has led to the voluntary restoration of more than 3,736,336 acres of upland habitat and 1,172,872 acres of wetlands on private land, since its inception in 1987. These acres, along with 11,971 miles of enhanced stream habitat, provide valuable habitat for Federal trust species. The following chart illustrates the variety of partners who help achieve habitat and restoration on private lands.



The PFW Program resources are targeted to high-value “geographic focus areas,” developed in coordination with other Service Programs and partner agencies and as identified in the PFW Program 5-year Strategic Plan. This Plan guides the Program towards: (1) clearly defined national and regional habitat goals, (2) improved accountability for Federal dollars expended in support of these goals, (3) enhanced communication to achieve greater responsiveness to local plans and conservation priorities, and (4) an expanded commitment to serving additional partners. The Service also continues to concentrate its delivery on scientifically-supported, collaboratively-established focus areas.

Many of the selected projects represent a key component of a strategic, on-the-ground response, addressing the threats to fish and wildlife habitat, and enhancing ecosystem and population resiliency to predicted changes. The Secretary has challenged the Department to work with partners to elevate the Nation’s understanding of our resources at a landscape-level. As the conservation challenges of the 21st Century are more complex than ever before, these projects are designed to help achieve population and habitat objectives established at the landscape scale for species and habitats the Service considers most vulnerable and sensitive to habitat fragmentation, while addressing wetland loss, invasive species, sea-level rise, and climate change.

“By maintaining land in private ownership and thus on the local tax roles, programs like Partners also do much to support cash-poor rural counties”. – California Waterfowl Association

Voluntary landowner agreements under this program strengthen the role of citizens in the public/private natural resource conservation partnership. Bringing together people with a common interest in conservation allows for the leveraging of unique expertise and experience and combining skill-sets makes the projects stronger due to the varied input.

Service staff serve as a bridge to owners of land adjacent to National Wildlife Refuges, to complement activities on refuge lands, contribute to the resolution of environmental issues associated with off-refuge practices, and promote wildlife corridors outside refuge boundaries. These efforts maintain and enhance hunting and fishing traditions for current and future citizens by conserving wildlife and their habitats, especially in areas of increased recreation, resource extraction, and development pressures.

2015 Program Performance

A 5-year Strategic Plan that identifies priority habitat restoration activities within geographic focus areas guides the PFW Program. A majority of PFW Program funds go directly to project delivery and to support technical assistance. Funds invested in habitat conservation projects on private land typically are matched at a ratio of 4:1 or greater.

In FY 2015, the PFW Program will continue to support habitat restoration efforts to benefit Federal trust species with a focus on increasing the percent of self-sustaining Federal trust species populations (e.g., gopher tortoise, sage grouse, New England cottontail) in priority focus areas. The PFW Program will use the requested Adaptive Habitat Management dollars to focus efforts on population and habitat objectives established at landscape scales for species the Service considers most vulnerable and sensitive to climate change, such as the whooping crane.

At the requested funding level, the PFW Program will restore or enhance:

- 32,823 acres of priority wetlands,
- 200,829 acres of priority grassland and upland habitat, and
- 590 miles of degraded stream and riparian habitat that will benefit high-priority fish and wildlife resources dependent on private lands.

Representative projects that were funded with FY2013 funds and highlight Service and Secretarial priorities include:

32nd Street Canyon Restoration Project, *Enhancing urban youth programs and increasing landscape-level planning*, San Diego, California



In the heart of urban San Diego lies a network of 15 to 20 canyons ranging from 5 to 50 acres that flow into the San Diego Bay. Due to the steep banks these areas were left natural as the city urbanized and developed around them. Located in close proximity to several refuges, including the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge and the Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge, the 32nd Street Canyon serves as a natural wildlife corridor in the mix of urban development. In partnership with the City of San Diego, NRCS, NFWF, local businesses, and private donors, this project restored and enhanced upland vegetation in 32nd Street Canyon by removing invasive species and planting native coastal sage scrub species, creating improved and diverse habitats for migratory birds, including the federally threatened coastal California gnatcatcher.

This restoration project also provided the opportunity to engage students, volunteers, local residents, and City of San Diego staff. This project improved the safety of the area by removing over grown vegetation which acted as a “screen” where crimes had occurred in the years prior to the project. Annually, the restoration site is used as an outdoor education site for hundreds of urban youth from diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds. The Service was instrumental in locating new funding sources, providing input on educational material, and leading the education excursions for student groups in the canyon. Participants involved with this project were able to increase their understanding of the importance of different plant communities and endangered species habitat.

Coaster Brook Trout Restoration, *Enhancing youth programs & increasing landscape-level planning*, Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Ashland, Wisconsin



At Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Refuge staff worked cooperatively with the PFW Program to leverage project budgets, skills and expertise throughout the watershed to restore populations of coaster brook trout. This restoration work was guided by a landscape-scale plan, cooperatively developed by Service staff, State and local management agencies, Federal and Provincial agencies in Canada and other non-profits like Trout Unlimited, all working toward the goal of restoring Coaster brook trout in Lake Superior. This project utilized the skills of the Whittlesey Creek NWR Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), a group of 16 youth who provided tremendous help with installing woody debris and log jams in Whittlesey Creek, habitats vital to the early life history of coaster brook trout. The Whittlesey Creek YCC program provides gainful employment experience, educational opportunities and team building skills to young people through participation in habitat restoration projects.

Willamette Valley Multispecies Cooperative Recovery Initiative Project, Celebrating America's Great Outdoors & landscape-level planning, Willamette Valley, Oregon

The Willamette Valley is an America's Great Outdoors landscape that connects Service priorities, wildlife refuges, and private landowners. This collaborative effort addressed key factors in species recovery on a landscape scale, such as the need for habitat connectivity on Refuge lands and in adjacent and nearby private lands. By restoring habitat and augmenting target species populations, this project will result in the down-listing of the endangered Fender's blue butterfly and Bradshaw's lomatium and delisting of the threatened Oregon chub. The CRI funds accelerated the recovery timeline to meet goals within three years while working with private landowners beyond the refuge boundaries.



Truckee River Invasive Removal and Streambank Stabilization, Strengthening Tribal Nations and Landscape-level Planning, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Partnership, Nixon, Nevada



The PFW Program in Nevada is a partner of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Environmental Division, who plays a large role in conservation of fish and wildlife species along the lower Truckee River in western Nevada. This site, located on the Pyramid Lake Paiute Indian Reservation, is a key spawning site for the endangered cui-ui (a sucker fish found only in Pyramid Lake, Nevada) and threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout in addition to a variety of migratory waterfowl species. The PFW Program provided financial assistance to the Tribe. These funds were used to create nine seasonal jobs for Tribal members who ran the on-site operation to remove

60 acres of invasive tamarisk and tall whitetop trees, and stabilize the stream banks, along the Truckee River. Many tribal members live on lands along the river and rely upon stable soils and thriving vegetation communities in order to maintain feed production for livestock. As a result of this successful project and partnership, the Service and Tribe continue to work together to identify further opportunities to benefit habitat for fish and wildlife, as well as maintain agricultural lands, along the Truckee River.

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Combined Performance Change and Overview

Performance Goal	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Plan	2015 PB	Change from 2014 Plan to 2015 PB	Program Change Occurring in Out-years
3.1.1 # of non-FWS riparian (stream/shoreline) miles restored, including through partnerships (includes miles treated for invasives & now restored) - PFW - annual (GPRA)	538	502	306	253	176	590	414 (235%)	n/a
4.1.1 # of wetlands acres enhanced/restored through voluntary partnerships (includes acres treated for invasives & now restored) - PFW - annual (GPRA)	49,315	43,613	38,840	33,827	16,759	32,823	16,064 (96%)	n/a
4.2.1 # of non-FWS upland acres enhanced/restored through voluntary partnerships (includes acres treated for invasives & now restored) - PFW - annual (GPRA)	235,983	184,781	134,720	247,093	106,704	200,829	94,125 (88%)	n/a
CL.4.1.1 Number of non-FWS riparian (stream/shoreline) miles restored to address climate issues, including miles restored through partnerships (includes miles treated for invasives & now restored)	62	157	57	64	30	64	34	n/a
CL.4.1.2 Number of wetlands acres enhanced/restored to address climate issues through voluntary partnerships (includes acres treated for invasives & now restored)	3,234	9,543	4,321	3,691	2,074	3,543	1,469 (-71%)	n/a

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Combined Performance Change and Overview

Performance Goal	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Plan	2015 PB	Change from 2014 Plan to 2015 PB	Program Change Occurring in Out-years
CL.4.1.3 Number of non-FWS uplands acres enhanced/restored to address climate issues through voluntary partnerships (includes acres treated for invasives & now restored)	9,905	101,231	18,027	20,521	18,005	21,679	3,674 (20%)	n/a
Comments	For all measures above: Past performance provides no assurances of future performance. Future performance may vary materially from prior periods due to a number of risk factors including weather and the voluntary involvement of landowners and other cooperators.							

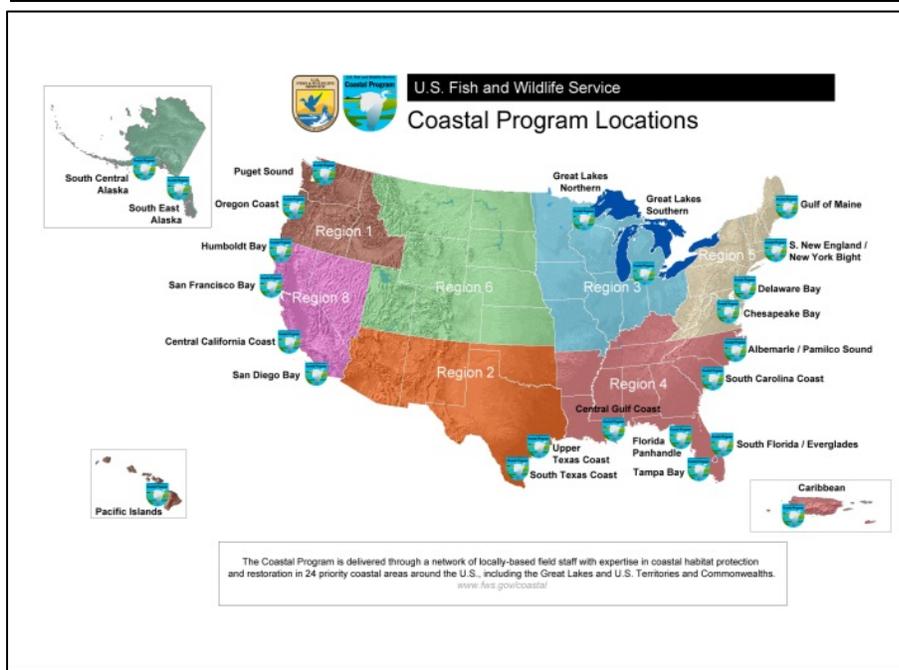
Activity: Habitat Conservation
Subactivity: Coastal Program

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015				Change from 2014 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Coastal Program	(\$000)	[13,184]	[13,184]	+82	+13,184	0	13,266	+82
	FTE	[71]	[71]	0	+71	0	71	+71

Justification of 2015 Program Changes

The 2015 budget request for the Coastal Program is \$13,266,000 and 71 FTE, with no program change from the 2014 Enacted.

Program Overview



Since 1985, the Coastal Program has conserved our Nation’s treasured coastal resources by providing technical and financial assistance to implement habitat restoration and protection projects on public and private lands in 24 priority coastal ecosystems, including areas in the Great Lakes and U.S. Territories. Through the Coastal Program, the Service promotes voluntary habitat conservation that benefits coastal-dependent Federal trust species, including threatened and endangered

species, migratory birds, inter-jurisdictional fish, certain marine mammals, and species of international concern. Achieving this goal requires collaboration with other Service programs, Federal, State and local agencies, tribal governments and native corporations, non-governmental organizations, universities, industry, and private landowners. The Program’s ability to work on both private and public lands provides a unique opportunity that helps the Service deliver landscape conservation, maintain habitat connectivity and continuity, and connect and engage conservation partners with the Service’s priorities and objectives.

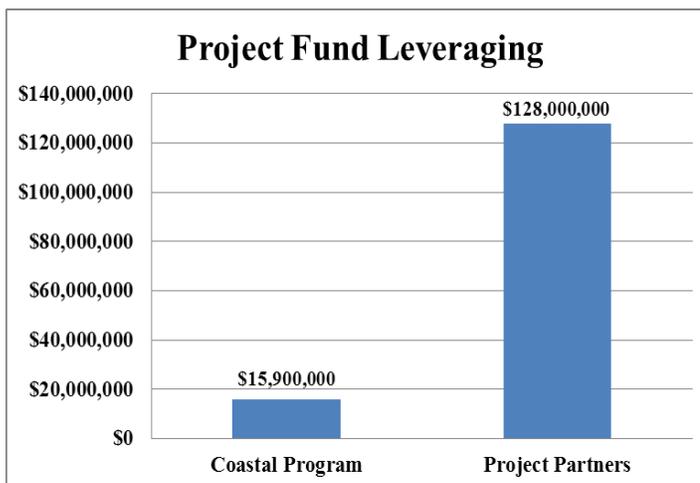
Coastal Program projects support the recovery of threatened and endangered species, migratory bird conservation initiatives/plans, and State comprehensive wildlife conservation strategies, with a primary focus on increasing the number of self-sustaining Federal trust species and precluding the need to list species under the Endangered Species Act. Research indicates that trust species use protected and restored high-quality habitats. Therefore, the Program is implemented through regional strategic plans that ensure that our technical and financial resources are directed to projects that directly benefit trust species conservation. These strategic plans are developed in collaboration with other Service programs

and conservation partners, and incorporate the goals of both regional and national conservation plans (e.g., National Wildlife Refuge comprehensive conservation plans, endangered species recovery plans, and migratory bird joint venture implementation plans). As a result, since 1984, Program staff and conservation partners have protected over two million acres of priority coastal habitat and have restored over 482,000 acres of critical wetland and upland habitat and 2,160 miles of stream habitat. From FY 02-13, the Program worked with thousands of partners to deliver 2,976 habitat conservation projects, designed specifically to benefit Federal trust species.

The Coastal Program is delivered through locally-based field staff with the technical expertise to implement habitat conservation projects that are ecologically-sound and cost-effective. The field staff possess a first-hand knowledge of the local environment, potential partners, political and economic issues, and other challenges to habitat conservation. This knowledge and expertise enables the Service to develop long-term partnerships that deliver landscape-scale conservation efficiently and effectively.

The Service now administers the Coastal Program through an even closer collaboration with the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS). Recently, the National Wildlife Refuge System Chief assumed administration of the Coastal Program enabling more efficient and effective landscape conservation on and off the Service’s 188 coastal wildlife refuges.

During FY 2002-2013 the Coastal Program completed 111 projects on National Wildlife Refuges, which improved more than 25,113 acres of wetland and upland habitat. These efforts allow the American public to experience fish, wildlife, plants, and their ecosystems in one of the world’s largest system of conserved lands and waters.



The Coastal Program also works closely with Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs). Secretary Jewell has challenged the Department to work with partners to elevate the Nation’s

understanding of our resources on a landscape level. The Service has taken the lead to bring Federal agencies together with partners to undertake this task through the LCCs. One of the strengths of the Service is our technical expertise in planning and delivering conservation. By working with the LCCs, coastal habitat conservation can be implemented under the framework of landscape-scale planning in the 24 coastal ecosystems where the Program works. This planning helps connect important habitat areas for the Service’s priority species and enlarge the benefits of conservation actions. For example, the Program compliments conservation activities on Refuges by delivering habitat improvement projects on adjacent non-federal lands.

The Coastal Program provides the Service with the opportunity to leverage its partners’ technical and financial resources to maximize habitat conservation and benefits to Federal trust species. On average, the Program leverages at least eight non-federal dollars for every Federal dollar spent, with some leveraging ratios as high as 10:1. The Coastal program stimulates local economies by supporting jobs necessary to deliver habitat conservation projects, including environmental consultants, engineers, construction workers, surveyors, assessors, and nursery and landscape workers. These jobs also generate indirect economic activities that benefit local hotels, restaurants, stores and gas stations. The Coastal Program

estimates that the average project supports 60 jobs and stimulates 40 businesses. Service staff also provides additional capability and capacity building to conservation partners.

The Coastal Program is engaged in supporting numerous Service and Department of the Interior (Department) initiatives and priorities, including:

Increasing landscape-level planning

The Coastal Program's partnership network provides a framework to conduct landscape-scale conservation planning and to implement these plans by delivering on-the-ground coastal habitat conservation. LCCs and partners are seeking to promote ecosystem adaptation and to help coastal communities cope with the effects of sea-level rise and flooding, habitat fragmentation, and eutrophication. To accomplish these goals, restoration projects are designed to mitigate the effects of sea-level rise, protect coastal habitats, reduce habitat fragmentation, and sequester carbon through wetland restoration. In support of strategic habitat conservation, the Program also requires the development of monitoring strategies that enable field staff to document biological outcomes and conduct adaptive management.

Carbon captured by oceans and coastal ecosystems, called blue carbon, is important for mitigating the impacts of a changing climate and an important focus for the Service is determining how to protect these valuable ecosystems from being degraded and destroyed. The Coastal Program is working with researchers from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and universities on National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) lands in the Albermarle Sound watershed in northeastern North Carolina and southeastern Virginia to increase the resiliency of 100,000 acres of peatlands by restoring the hydrology of these carbon-rich wetlands. Peatland forests provide critical habitat for migratory waterfowl and other birds, including the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker, but they are also recognized for their tremendous carbon sequestration potential. Projects at Pocosin Lakes NWR, Great Dismal Swamp NWR, and Alligator River NWR are looking at how higher water tables limit oxidation and enable peats to accumulate, whether water-control structures can reduce the risk of ground fires in peatland habitat, and different strategies to increase the resiliency of peatlands to sea-level rise. The Program is also partnering with conservation groups and the National Oceanographic Atmospheric Administration to support three blue carbon workshops in 2014. The workshops will be conducted in the Pacific Northwest and the southeast. These workshops are designed for decision-makers, scientists, and land managers, and will provide training in land-use planning and habitat conservation for carbon sequestration.

Celebrating America's Great Outdoors (AGO)

The AGO initiative seeks to empower all Americans to share in the responsibility to conserve, restore and provide better access to our lands and waters to leave a healthy, vibrant outdoor legacy for generations to come. The Coastal Program supports AGO by providing technical and financial support to priority projects identified by the Department while considering cultural and economic benefits and integrating public access and recreational opportunities into project planning. Lasting conservation solutions should be community-driven, and the Program delivers on AGO's goal to make the Federal government a better partner to tribal and State agencies, non-governmental organizations, universities, corporations, and local communities.

Enhancing youth programs

Through the Service's Schoolyard Habitat Program, habitat improvement projects are implemented on school campuses and function as outdoor classrooms. Schoolyard habitat projects are integrated into the school's curriculum and designed to encourage long-term stewardship. The Schoolyard Habitat Program is an excellent opportunity to engage urban,



suburban, and rural communities and students. Typical habitats created through this program include wetlands, meadows, and forests, which address multiple environmental and educational concepts that benefit students and faculty alike. Program projects frequently incorporate opportunities for student volunteers to do planting, remove invasive species to improve or restore a habitat, or help create a living shoreline. Coastal Program staff also provide classroom and field instruction to students of all ages, on topics ranging from habitat conservation to stream assessments and restoration.

Urban conservation

The Service recognizes the importance of engaging urban communities in habitat conservation. To help with this stewardship effort, the Service conducts conservation projects in urban areas that benefit fish and migratory birds and the surrounding communities. In California, the Service partnered with the Port of San Diego and other agencies and conservation organizations to restore 300 acres of wetlands and salt marsh in the in South San Diego Bay. The project received a 2013 Coastal America Partnership Award. The Program also supported habitat improvement projects at the 6,000-acre Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, which includes restoration of sturgeon spawning reefs in the Detroit River. Beyond the benefits to fish and wildlife, these projects provide for public recreation opportunities and green space, and help to connect urban populations with nature.



Ocean conservation

The Coastal Program is the Service-lead for coordinating with the Department on implementation of the National Ocean Policy. Program staff represent the Service on the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force and helps implement the National Coral Reef Action Strategy. We work with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Land Trust Alliance to lead the Coastal Conservation Network, which provides resources to communities for mitigating the impacts of climate change and sea-level rise. The Coastal Program also provides staff-support to the Director as chair of the Estuary Habitat Restoration Program Council, which implements the Estuary Restoration Act (ERA). Through a national strategy, ERA promotes Federal agency coordination to a establish public-private partnerships to conduct estuary restoration.



Coastal Program Project Examples:

South San Diego Bay Restoration and Enhancement Project, San Diego County, California

South San Diego Bay has been designated a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network Site and a Globally Important Bird Area. The Coastal Program worked with the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge, California Coastal Conservancy, and Port of San Diego to plan and implement the South San Diego Bay Restoration and Enhancement Project. Since 2008, Coastal Program staff have been working with partners to acquire grants, design restoration projects, and implement projects. Coastal Program staff have significantly contributed to the restoration of 300 acres of shallow, subtidal and intertidal habitats that provide benefits for more than 90 species of migratory and coastal dependent birds. Habitat restoration also improved water



quality, and nesting and foraging habitat for birds and fish. The project empowered communities through stewardship events and stimulated the local economy by supporting 72 jobs.

Stockton Island Sandscape, Stockton Island, Wisconsin

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore is a diverse collection of sandscapes and coastal features in the Great Lakes, including the Stockton Island tombolo. The tombolo contains a complex association of rare habitats, including lake dune, Great Lakes barren, dry boreal forest, northern dry-mesic forest, and interdunal wetland. The diverse habitats support very high concentrations of rare plants, including



Michaux's sedge and English sundew. In addition, the tombolo's extensive beaches provide nesting habitat for the federally-listed endangered piping plover. The tombolo was being impacted by an increasing number of recreational trails. Coastal Program staff worked closely with the National Park Service to design and install floating boardwalks, which direct visitors around sensitive plant communities. Program biologists also assisted with design and implementation of a ten-acre dune restoration, which stopped shoreline erosion by using native plants specifically adapted for the Lake Superior climate.

Kenai River Restoration and Protection Project, Kenai, Alaska

The Kenai River project is identified as a priority in the America's Great Outdoors 50 State Report. Since the early 1980s, a partnership of Federal and State agencies, Tribes, and conservation organizations has worked to protect and restore important habitat in the 2,200-sq. mile Kenai watershed. This collaborative project supports the conservation and sustainability of fish and wildlife resources, which are the lifeblood of the Kenai Peninsula Borough economy, by providing technical and financial assistance to implement numerous riparian habitat and fish passage barrier removal projects, and to protect over 6,500 acres of important habitat for chinook, coho and sockeye salmon and many migratory bird species. The project also provides access for recreation and engages youth as environmental stewards through a stream watch program.



Coastal Programs - Program Overview Table

Performance Goal	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Plan	2015 PB	Change from 2014 Plan to 2015 PB	Program Change Occuring in Out-years
3.1.2 # of non-FWS riparian (stream/shoreline) miles restored, including through partnerships - CoastProg - annual (GPRA)	46	196	268	24	7	15	7.8 (106.9%)	n/a
3.2.1 # of non-FWS riparian (stream/shoreline) miles protected through voluntary partnerships - annual (GPRA)	31	59	56	47	7	16	9.1 (131.2%)	n/a
4.3.1 # of non-FWS coastal/marine wetlands acres enhanced/restored through voluntary partnerships (includes acres treated for invasives & now restored) - annual (GPRA)	10,384	13,921	7,617	34,204	4,363	4,014	-349.0 (-8.0%)	n/a
4.3.2 # of non-FWS coastal/marine upland acres enhanced/restored through voluntary partnerships (includes acres treated for invasives & now restored) - annual (GPRA)	10,427	14,012	12,022	13,127	7,683	4,868	-2,815.5 (-36.6%)	n/a
4.6.1 # of non-FWS coastal/marine wetlands acres protected through voluntary partnerships - annual (GPRA)	17,711	18,551	6,851	3,062	515	5,210	4,694.7 (911.0%)	n/a
4.6.2 # of non-FWS coastal/marine upland acres protected through voluntary partnerships - annual (GPRA)	15,301	9,084	14,742	11,574	640	2,648	2,008.2 (313.9%)	n/a

Coastal Programs - Program Overview Table

Performance Goal	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Plan	2015 PB	Change from 2014 Plan to 2015 PB	Program Change Occuring in Out-years
5.1.17 # of fish barriers removed or installed - Coastal	28	35	45	19	17	23	6 (35.3%)	n/a
Comments	For all measures above: Past performance provides no assurances of future performance. Future performance may vary materially from prior periods due to a number of risk factors including weather and the voluntary involvement of landowners and other cooperators.							

National Wildlife Refuge System

Activity: National Wildlife Refuge System

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015			Budget Request	Change From 2014 Enacted (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
Wildlife and Habitat Management	(\$000) <i>FTE</i>	210,902 1,467	229,843 1,505	+1,447 0	0 0	+1,151 0	232,441 1,505	+2,598 0
Refuge Visitor Services	(\$000) <i>FTE</i>	69,015 589	70,319 599	+549 0	0 0	0 0	70,868 599	+549 0
Refuge Law Enforcement	(\$000) <i>FTE</i>	35,650 248	37,554 256	+260 0	0 0	+649 0	38,463 256	+909 0
Conservation Planning	(\$000) <i>FTE</i>	9,348 76	2,988 12	+85 0	-465 0	0 0	2,608 12	-380 0
Refuge Operations	(\$000) <i>FTE</i>	324,915 2,380	340,704 2,372	+2,341 0	-465 0	+1,800 0	344,380 2,372	+3,676 0
Refuge Maintenance	(\$000) <i>FTE</i>	127,668 640	131,498 664	+522 0	0 0	0 0	132,020 664	+522 0
Total, National Wildlife Refuge System	(\$000) <i>FTE</i>	452,583 3,020	472,202 3,036	+2,863 0	-465 0	+1,800 0	476,400 3,036	+4,198 0

Program Overview

The Service's National Wildlife Refuge System (Refuge System) embodies our Nation's commitment to conserving wildlife populations and biological diversity for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans. The Refuge System comprises approximately 150 million acres of land and waters, with refuges in all U.S. States and Territories around the world. These lands and waters, including 54 million acres within five Marine National Monuments, provide habitat for thousands of species of wildlife and plants, sanctuary for hundreds of threatened and endangered species, and secure spawning areas for economically and recreationally important native fish. The 562 refuges range from the half-acre Mille Lacs National Wildlife Refuge, encompassing two rocky islands in Minnesota's Lake District, to the vast Arctic National Wildlife Refuge spanning 19.6 million acres of boreal forest, tundra, and estuary in Alaska. The Refuge System also encompasses 4.2 million acres managed under easement, agreement, or lease, including waterfowl production areas in 209 counties within 38 wetland management districts and 50 wildlife coordination areas. Whether forest or prairie, desert or coral reef, tundra or marsh, the Refuge System literally spans the globe in order to protect our Nation's wildlife and plants, and the habitats on which they depend.

While the benefit of refuges to wildlife is obvious and undeniable, refuges also play crucial roles in serving human communities. Through efforts to conserve migratory birds, protect endangered species, restore and manage habitats, and combat invasive species, the Refuge System provides major societal benefits through ecosystem services such as improving air and water quality, reducing erosion, improving soil health and groundwater retention, reducing coastal impacts from hurricanes, sequestering carbon, and storing excess water during storms or spring snow melts. These economic and other benefits of refuges are increasingly valuable in light of ongoing worldwide challenges associated with climate change.

Refuges attract visitors who come to hunt, fish, observe, and photograph wildlife. These visitors are a significant boon to local economies. According to *The Department of the Interior Economic Report FY2012* issued July 29, 2013, “Recreation on Interior lands can contribute to the surrounding regional economies through visitor expenditures and the indirect and induced economic effects that result.” [p. 11] Visitation to Fish and Wildlife Service units has increased from 38 million in FY 2002 to 47 million in FY 2012. The report states that contributions from FWS recreation include approximately, \$2.5 billion in economic value added; \$4.5 billion in estimated economic contribution; and 37,000 in estimated jobs supported [p. 12].



Last Lake on Sheenjek River, Arctic Refuge/ Steve Hilebrand/USFWS

The *2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation* describes the magnitude of spending by outdoor sportspersons on public and private lands across the United States. Expenditures by the 90.1 million hunters, anglers and wildlife-recreationists were \$145 billion in 2011. This equates to about 1 percent of gross domestic product. Participation in fishing, hunting, and wildlife-related recreation has increased from about 77 million in 1996 to about 90 million in 2011, a 17 percent increase. Expenditures (in constant dollars) have increased by about 13 percent over the same period. [*The Department of the Interior Economic Report FY 2012*, p. 12]

An additional benefit to landowners and residents in communities near refuges is the positive impact proximity to refuges and their open-space amenities has on property values. As confirmed by *Amenity Values of Proximity to National Wildlife Refuges* prepared by the Center for Environmental and Resource Economic Policy at North Carolina State University in April 2012, property values surrounding refuges are higher than equivalent properties elsewhere.

The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 provided the Refuge System with a clear, comprehensive mission “...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 for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.**” The Refuge System fulfills this mission by focusing its efforts in five primary areas: Wildlife and Habitat Management, Visitor Services, Refuge Law Enforcement, Conservation Planning,

and Refuge Maintenance. Through these programs, the Refuge System monitors, restores, and protects wildlife, fish, plants and habitat; maintains facilities; supports wildlife-dependent recreation; and conducts other activities to achieve strategic goals. Collaboration within the Service and with other Federal agencies and partners is necessary to conduct the vital conservation projects to achieve these goals. An illustration of this effort is the Service's work with U.S. Geological Survey and other partners to develop best methods to conduct ongoing biological monitoring of wildlife populations and habitat to improve management of refuge resources.

Refuges are laboratories for partnership and adaptive management; pioneering new concepts in landscape conservation. The Refuge System has unique authorities and flexible programs that can deliver landscape level conservation while simultaneously providing compatible outdoor recreation. Millions of acres of refuge lands are owned outright and managed as core habitat for fish and wildlife. In addition, to meet the challenge of conserving highly mobile fish and wildlife populations, the Refuge System also uses easements and partnership programs that protect important habitat features on working private land. Conservation in the future must include the important roles of working ranches, farms and forests, as well as privately owned recreational properties with conservation provisions that can link and buffer protected areas. For example, the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program works to accomplish its goals by helping to restore high-priority habitats on private lands and perpetually protecting them with conservation easements. This model effectively links the purpose of the Partners program with the needs of landowners and priorities of the Refuge System.

The President's America's Great Outdoors (AGO) initiative is a grassroots approach to protecting our lands and waters, and achieving lasting conservation of the outdoor spaces that power our nation's economy, shape our culture, and build our outdoor traditions. AGO seeks to reconnect all Americans – citizens of all ages; community groups and other nonprofit organizations; the private sector; and local, State, and tribal governments – to the outdoors and to empower them to share in the responsibility to conserve, restore, and provide better access to lands and waters to leave a healthy, vibrant outdoor legacy for generations to come. In an increasingly urban world, refuges offer Americans priceless opportunities to experience the beauty of the natural environment and connect with nature.



Seal Beach NWR, CA

By protecting wetlands, grasslands, forests and other natural habitats, refuges provide essential and irreplaceable benefits such as clean air and water, reduced erosion and flooding, improved soil quality, habitat for pollinators, and other ecological services to the surrounding landscape. Additionally, refuges provide economic incentives and advantage to those communities in close proximity to them. Refuges provide recreational opportunities, such as hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing and photography which create jobs and provide quality of life benefits to local residents as well as non-resident visitors.

National Wildlife Refuge System Combined Performance Change and Overview

Performance Measure	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Plan	2015 PB	Change from 2014 Plan to 2015 PB	Program Change Occurring in Out-years
1.2.1 # of NWRS riparian (stream/shoreline) miles achieving desired conditions (GPRA)	310,003	310,009	309,979	310,318	310,324	310,324	0	n/a
2.0.1 # of NWRS wetland, upland, and coastal/marine acres achieving desired condition (GPRA)	138,479,026	140,205,769	140,232,660	140,741,380	140,232,307	140,267,093	34,786	n/a
CSF 11.1 Percent of baseline acres infested with invasive plant species that are controlled (GPRA)	6% (140,935 of 2,508,387)	4% (95,621 of 2,442,235)	4% (94,868 of 2,409,758)	2% (57,032 of 2,558,619)	3% (68,203 of 2,399,819)	3% (68,203 of 2,399,819)	0%	n/a
CSF 12.1 Percent of invasive animal species populations that are controlled (GPRA)	7% (285 of 3,844)	8% (292 of 3,849)	16% (297 of 1,847)	8% (154 of 1,900)	9% (161 of 1,701)	9% (161 of 1,701)	0%	n/a
CSF 13.1 Percent of archaeological sites and historic structures on FWS inventory in good condition	20% (3,335 of 16,812)	18% (3,033 of 16,923)	19% (3,267 of 17,185)	22% (3,783 of 17,444)	22% (3,791 of 17,464)	22% (3,791 of 17,444)	0%	n/a
CSF 13.2 Percent of collections in DOI inventory in good condition (GPRA)	35.4% (689 of 1,947)	35.6% (693 of 1,948)	35.8% (704 of 1,966)	35.8% (706 of 1,971)	35.9% (709 of 1,976)	36.0% (709 of 1,971)	0.1%	n/a
15.2.2 % of NWRs/WMDs that have quality hunting programs, where hunting is compatible	75% (291 of 388)	81% (295 of 366)	80% (292 of 365)	82% (297 of 364)	81% (294 of 364)	81% (295 of 364)	0%	n/a
15.2.4 % of NWRs/WMDs that have quality fishing programs, where fishing is compatible	59% (216 of 368)	64% (218 of 341)	64% (221 of 345)	74% (224 of 303)	75% (226 of 303)	75% (226 of 303)	0%	n/a

National Wildlife Refuge System Combined Performance Change and Overview

Performance Measure	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Plan	2015 PB	Change from 2014 Plan to 2015 PB	Program Change Occurring in Out-years
15.2.6 % of NWRs/WMDs that have quality wildlife observation programs, where wildlife observation is compatible	73% (353 of 486)	77% (361 of 468)	78% (363 of 466)	78% (367 of 470)	79% (369 of 468)	79% (369 of 470)	0%	n/a
15.2.8 % of NWRs/WMDs that have quality environmental education programs, where interpretation is compatible	58% (278 of 483)	75% (292 of 389)	76% (301 of 394)	74% (292 of 392)	75% (290 of 387)	74% (292 of 392)	0%	n/a
15.2.10 % of NWRs/WMDs with quality interpretative programs that adequately interpret key resources and issues, where interpretation is compatible	63% (309 of 490)	73% (318 of 437)	73% (320 of 437)	72% (311 of 434)	73% (312 of 430)	72% (312 of 434)	-1%	n/a
15.2.23 Total # of visitors to NWRS - annual	44,482,399	45,733,179	47,059,171	47,465,286	45,140,522	47,465,286	2,324,764 (5.2%)	n/a
52.1.1 # of volunteer hours are annually contributed to NWRS	1,449,707	1,505,114	1,594,235	1,462,025	1,221,675	1,462,025	240,350 (19.7%)	n/a

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

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015			Change From 2014 Enacted (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Wildlife and Habitat	(\$000)	210,902	229,843	+1,447	0	+1,151	232,441	+2,598
Management	FTE	1,467	1,505	0	0	0	1,505	0

Summary of 2015 Program Changes for Wildlife and Habitat Management

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Challenge Cost Sharing Partnerships	+2,000	0
• General Program Activities	-849	0
Program Changes	+1,151	0

Justification of 2015 Program

The 2015 budget request for the Wildlife and Habitat Management (WHM) program is \$232,441,000 and 1,505 FTE, a net program change of +\$1,151,000 and +0 FTE from the 2014 Enacted.

Challenge Cost Sharing Partnerships (+\$2,000,000/+0 FTE)

The requested funding will reestablish the Wildlife and Habitat Management Challenge Cost Share (CCS) program which leverages Service funding to complete a variety of small-scale projects with partners to improve habitat or manage wildlife populations. The CCS program has been on hiatus for several years while the Service developed improvements based on recommendations from Office of the Inspector General. The Service plans to reestablish this valuable program by requiring accurate reporting of CCS program accomplishments and expenditures and performance of periodic management control reviews to ensure that field stations have complied with all existing policies and procedures. This funding will be focused on projects such as seabird nesting habitat improvements, bottomland forest and canebrake management, wetland and sagebrush restoration, and invasive species control.

General Program Activities (-\$849,000/+0 FTE)

A reduction of \$849,000 would hinder the Services ability to manage invasive species. Early Detection and Rapid Response is the best way to identify and control invasive species before they get established, and often become impossible to eradicate. Invasive species, such as Asian carp, constrictor snakes, brown tree snakes and cheat grass have permanently altered the assemblage of species in habitats they have infested. Reducing our ability to identify a problem early, and deploy our strike teams to control the problem could lead to other infestations of highly problematic non-native species.

Program Overview

The Wildlife and Habitat Management (WHM) 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 the spread of invasive species; air quality monitoring; 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 providing scientific information needed to inform management decisions, and for the Refuge System to achieve its mission at local, landscape, and national levels.

The Refuge System includes 562 national wildlife refuges and 38 wetland management districts totaling more than 150 million acres. Refuges are home to more than 700 species of migratory birds, 220 species of mammals, 250 species of reptiles and amphibians, and more than 1,000 species of fish, and offers protection to more than 380 threatened or endangered plants or animals. Fifty-nine national wildlife refuges have been created specifically to help federally threatened or endangered species. The Service also manages lands and waters with special designations for their unique values, including 75 wilderness areas, 1,086 miles of refuge rivers within the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, tens of millions of acres of marine managed areas, and six National Monuments, including five Marine National Monuments.

With its refuges, the Service conserves and maintains key habitats across broad landscapes spanning all four North American migratory bird flyways, provides protected areas across the entire range of some listed species, and conserves expansive marine and Arctic ecosystems. Managing extensive wetland impoundments requires water management facilities, such as dikes, levees, pumps, spillways, and water level control structures. Water resources are vitally important to wildlife and their habitats, making water rights protection and adjudication an ever-increasing endeavor as demand for water grows. Management actions for wildlife populations include reintroducing imperiled species, erecting nest structures, controlling predators, banding or radio tracking wildlife, and inventorying and monitoring species and habitats, and many other techniques.

The Service programs work together to maintain the biological integrity, diversity, and ecological health of the Refuge System and other Service resources. Collaboration among Service programs provides opportunities to leverage resources to maintain and enhance populations of migratory birds, fish and endangered species.

The Service also works closely with State fish and wildlife agencies, recognizing the shared authority and responsibility for managing fish and wildlife on national wildlife refuges. This Federal-State partnership, grounded in mutual respect, is essential to effective conservation work.

Relevant habitat conservation design and delivery also requires effective coordination and collaboration with partners and other stakeholders in the landscapes in which the refuge exists, including adjacent landowners, community volunteers, non-governmental organizations, States, and other Federal agencies. Meaningful engagement with partners and other stakeholders at landscape scales adds to the effective conservation achievements of the Service and allows individual refuges to respond more effectively to climate change and other environmental challenges.

Comprehensive wildlife and habitat management demands the integration of scientific information from several disciplines, including understanding ecological processes and coordinating system monitoring. Equally important is an intimate understanding of the social and economic drivers of these systems that impact and are impacted by management decisions and can facilitate or impede implementation success. Service strategic habitat conservation planning, design, and delivery efforts are affected by the demographic, societal, and cultural changes of population growth and urbanization as well as people's attitudes and values toward wildlife. Consideration of these factors contributes to the success of the Service's mission to protect wildlife and their habitats.

Programs funded by the Wildlife and Habitat subactivity include:

Inventory and Monitoring

The Service embraces a scientific, landscape-level approach to conserving, managing and restoring refuge lands and waters, and works to protect conservation benefits beyond its boundaries. Inventory and monitoring (I&M) of biological resources, ecological processes, components of the physical environment,

as well as human interactions with these resources are a necessary component of successful conservation delivery.

The I&M program provides information critical to implementing the Service's Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) model and adaptive management philosophy, where planning, management actions and monitoring those actions create an iterative process of increasing efficiency. I&M efforts are coordinated nationally through the Natural Resource Program Center to ensure relevance at multiple scales and see that data collection, analysis, and storage are consistent with the highest standards of scientific conduct. The program establishes baselines with standardized protocols that are key to understanding how an ecosystem is changing. It also provides the infrastructure necessary to build a landscape level understanding and deliver landscape-level conservation

Successful conservation design and delivery at the landscape scale in the face of climate change requires coordinated efforts, both internally and externally. The I&M Program works directly with the National Park Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and other Federal and State partners to integrate systems across the Federal government and minimize duplication of effort. Additionally, the I&M initiative directly supports Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) -- partnerships to inform efficient conservation delivery and expenditure of funds -- and ensures that survey design, data storage, analysis, and reporting are consistent with the Service policy.

The I&M initiative provides the framework and infrastructure necessary to support the data sharing that is integral to maintaining these broad collaborative efforts. A robust information management system will result in widespread efficiencies within the Service, Department, and across partnerships. Modular components provide intuitive data storage and retrieval, and connect across the Service and DOI to maximize the utility of the information while minimizing duplication. At the same time, the I&M initiative provides the scientific underpinnings necessary to ensure the use of consistent and scientifically rigorous protocols to assess the status of refuge lands, waters, and biota that we are charged to conserve. We continue to streamline and enhance the Service's scientific capacity through integrating scientific protocols with other agencies, states, and the scientific communities.

Cooperative Recovery Initiative (CRI)

This initiative uses a cross-programmatic approach to allow the Service to more efficiently restore and recover federally listed species on national wildlife refuges and surrounding lands. Additionally, CRI provides opportunities for focused, large-scale conservation efforts that typically have few venues for funding. This funding leverages resources towards our highest priority endangered species needs. The Service combines resources of the National Wildlife Refuge System, Endangered Species program, Partners for Fish and Wildlife program, National Fish Hatchery program, Science program, and the Migratory Bird program through a streamlined, national proposal-driven process to identify and implement projects with the highest likelihood of success. Successful proposals: 1) implement urgently needed actions for critically endangered species at risk of imminent extinction without intervention; or 2) implement recovery actions for species near delisting or reclassification from endangered to threatened. Projects take actions that will significantly improve the status of one or more listed species. CRI projects are intended to be on-the-ground activities where meaningful progress can be shown within a short timeframe, but are also planned within the larger context of Service landscape conservation priorities. Examples of FY 2013 CRI projects include:

- Multi-species project in the Willamette Valley that addresses Service priorities and key factors for recovery, such as habitat connectivity between Refuge land, adjacent private land and public/private partnership lands in the vicinity. The goal is down-listing the endangered Fender's Blue Butterfly and Bradshaw's Lomatium and delisting the threatened Oregon Chub, accelerating the recovery timeline for species in this priority region.

- Preventing the extinction of 27 Hawaiian plants through protection, propagation and outplanting.
- Returning the Big River endangered freshwater mussels to Ohio River Islands NWR which requires collaboration spanning three Regions and 300 miles of river.
- Restoring wetlands habitat for the endangered whooping crane in the rainwater basin which connects to other Service recovery efforts and benefits a number of waterfowl species.

Landscape Conservation Design

Consistent with *Conserving the Future: Wildlife Refuges and the Next Generation*, the Service is preparing the Refuge System to confront challenges posed by climate change, invasive species and habitat fragmentation. This requires understanding and incorporation of environmental drivers, such as climate change and urbanization, into the process. To be successful, these issues must be addressed collaboratively. Landscape conservation design creates a framework by linking refuge planning and management actions to create functional landscapes. In collaboration with the conservation community, design development looks at current and future conditions (biological and socioeconomic) and determines where on the landscape to focus conservation delivery (i.e. where can we be most successful meeting our priorities). On many wildlife refuges, targeted restoration is necessary to bring altered landscapes back into balance. These restoration efforts can create landscape-level habitats or habitat complexes capable of supporting viable populations of target species; be resilient to short-term climate fluctuations and long-term climate change; restore as many ecosystem processes as possible; integrate partnerships with other agencies, groups and private landowners; and integrate with future acquisition efforts.

Landscape conservation design is a long-term conservation process, and flexibility and adaptive management are keys to its success. To that end, refuges are key partners in Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs), which are public-private partnerships that provide support for conservation planning, implementation, and evaluation at landscape scales. LCCs are generating tools, methods, and data that managers need to carry out conservation using the Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) approach. They also promote collaboration among their members in defining shared conservation goals. Refuge participation in LCCs helps leverage resources and ensures that we have the input of our partners when developing conservation plans.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

The Refuge IPM Program assesses effects of approximately 2500 proposed pesticide uses annually for control of invasive and/or pest species. Methods are chosen from a full suite of integrated pest management techniques, to provide the least risk to human and wildlife safety and the environment while still achieving the level of control necessary for success. For example, dune restoration using hand removal of invasive European beachgrass was fully successful without using pesticides. This effort protected native pollinators and plants from potential non-target effects of pesticides. Across the country, the IPM Program engages with Service and other partner pollinator champions to ensure conditions improve for native pollinators by using robust IPM strategies to lessen the non-target impacts to flora and fauna.



Physical removal of invasive plants was a successful option for dune restoration. (photo top)

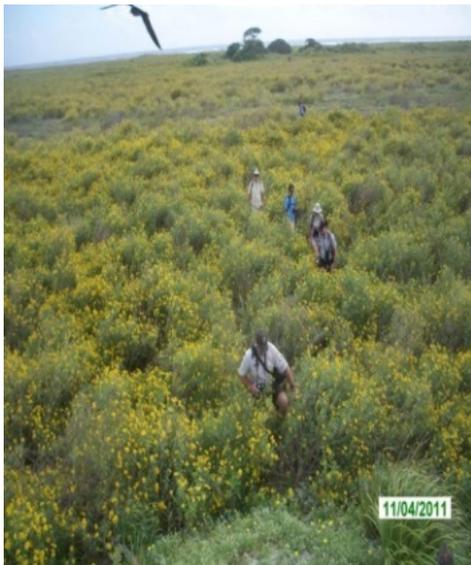


Following the principles of Integrated Pest Management, predator-proof fencing provides successful resource protection and the fewest non-target effects. (photo bottom)

Invasive Species Management

Invasive species are the most frequently mentioned threat in the NWRS Threats and Conflicts database. Invasive species management activities are critical to preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species, and controlling or eradicating invasive species where they are established. Treatment methods can include mechanical removal, pesticides or alternative management regimes. Early detection and rapid response regarding emerging invasive species populations limits their establishment or range expansion, and prevents the need for more costly ongoing treatments often required once invasive species are established. In addition, climate change is projected to exacerbate infestations; making early detection and rapid response even more critical. Funds are used to inventory, map, monitor, treat, control, and eradicate invasive species from refuge lands in order to protect and restore native ecosystems.

Invasive species continue to alter wildlife habitat and pose challenges to the management of refuge lands. FY 2013 data indicates approximately 2.4 million acres of refuge lands are infested with invasive plants. In FY 2013, the Refuge System treated only approximately 199,000 of these acres. Refuge management is frequently overwhelmed by battling invasive species, leaving little funding for native habitat protection or enhancement. Federally-listed threatened and endangered species are experiencing more direct impacts from exotic invasions.



*Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge is on target to eradicate the invasive plant golden crown beard (*Verbesina encelioides*) from Eastern Island. Left photo shows much of Eastern Island infested with *Verbesina* in November 2011. By June 2013 (photo on right), *Verbesina* was controlled on 93 percent of the island helping to restore the function of the atoll ecosystem and providing quality nesting habitat for hundreds of thousands of albatrosses, other seabirds, and endangered Laysan ducks.*

Marine Monuments

The five Marine Monuments in the Refuge System consist of 54 million acres of submerged land, constitute one-third of the Refuge System, and are the most unspoiled tropical ecosystems under U.S. purview. These monuments are some of our Nation's last frontiers for wildlife conservation and scientific exploration. Spanning an area larger than the continental United States, and covering more than 20 islands, atolls, and reefs scattered across five time zones around the tropical Pacific, these areas are experiencing the direct effects of global climate change impacts. Meeting their respective missions will provide diverse options for sustaining resilient ecosystems and helping to maintain biodiversity and environmental health across the Pacific.

Refuge System Clean-up Program

Multiple contaminant cleanup projects are currently occurring on Refuge lands and regularly scheduled internal compliance audits ensure that refuges are in compliance with numerous EPA-enforced regulations. Cleanup projects range from small-scale removal of contaminated soil around refuge buildings resulting from fuel oil spills to complete restoration of old lead-shot contaminated firing ranges.



Spill at Lostwood NWR awaiting cleanup..

As an example, increased oil and gas development, especially in the Bakken shale oil, in North Dakota and northeastern Montana has resulted in crude oil and oilfield brine spills on refuge System fee-interest lands as well as on conservation easements. Brine spills are difficult to cleanup and restoration of the affected sites is difficult if the brine reaches shallow groundwater and wetlands. Brine kills vegetation and results in long-term damage to soils. Refuge System staff work with State regulatory agencies and the oil industry to ensure NWRS lands are restored and industry implements Best Management Practices to prevent or minimize impacts from oil and oilfield brine spills.

Refuge Energy Program

Powering the Future, providing energy for America, is a Secretarial and Administration priority. The Refuge System Energy Program is responsible for interpreting and developing relevant statutes, regulations and policies related to energy development (i.e., oil and gas); provides guidance to the field to reduce energy impacts on Refuge Lands; develops and maintains spatial databases that track the amount of energy development on refuges (e.g., number and type of wells, miles of pipelines); administers the Refuge System's Oil and Gas Course, website, and SharePoint sites; and works with internal and external partners to communicate the Service's role in energy development.

Refuges are experiencing an unprecedented level of energy development due to technological advances in accessing formations that were previously uneconomical to develop (e.g., the Marcellus shale in the eastern U.S., and the Bakken shale in North Dakota and Montana). Refuges that lie above these formations are consequently being impacted. The Energy program works with Service staff and partners to avoid or minimize, where possible, adverse impacts to wildlife and their habitat, including direct and indirect mortality, leakage and migration of contaminants, habitat alteration or destruction, and degradation of air and water quality.

Wilderness Areas

The 1964 Wilderness Act established the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS) to ensure that future generations could continue to experience wild and natural places. Today the System includes more than 109 million acres, of which 20.7 million acres (19 percent of the entire NWPS) are within 65 national wildlife refuges and one fish hatchery.

The Wilderness Act defines wilderness as a place that is, untrammeled, undeveloped, and natural, and that offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. This definition encompasses a variety of ecosystems including extensive forests, coastal wetlands, and untamed deserts.

Wilderness areas represent some of the finest opportunities to enjoy America's Great Outdoors. Wilderness visitors may hunt, fish, and observe and photograph wildlife, if these activities are non-

motorized and compatible with the refuge's primary mission of wildlife conservation. Many other types of compatible recreational uses, such as cross-country skiing, canoeing, kayaking, and hiking may also be enjoyed in some wilderness areas.

As we continue to work with partners to design resilient landscapes, relatively untouched wilderness lands and waters can fulfill important roles as wildlife corridors and as baseline representations of healthy ecosystems against which we can measure change in other refuge lands and waters.



2014 marks the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Wilderness Act. The Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge Wilderness areas provide wildlife habitat and outstanding opportunities for compatible recreation.

2015 Program Performance

The 2015 budget request would build upon the landscape-scale, long-term, inventory and monitoring program the Service began in 2010. Inventory and monitoring data contribute critical information for planning and management decisions. At the requested funding level the Service would be able to complete an additional 175 inventory and monitoring surveys; a critical first step for the Service to more effectively manage habitats for wildlife and plant species. In FY2015, the Service plans to implement approximately 2,000 threatened and endangered species recovery actions; 1,200 population management actions, and 1,800 research studies.

With the requested funding, the Service intends to restore more than 72,000 upland, wetland, and open water acres. The Service also plans to treat more than 200,000 acres infested with non-native, invasive plants. These activities not only benefit wildlife and habitat, but also support high-quality, wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities for more than 47 million annual visitors.

In addition to less intensive wildlife and habitat management practices, the Service would continue traditional management activities, such as water level manipulation, prescriptive grazing, and selective timber harvesting. In FY 2015, the Service expects to actively manage about 3.5 million acres of habitat. Invasive species management includes the continuing operation of five Invasive Species Strike Teams operating across the country and focusing on early detection and rapid response to recently established infestations.

Activity: National Wildlife Refuge System

Subactivity: Visitor Services

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015			Change From 2014 Enacted (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Visitor Services	(\$000)	69,015	70,319	+549	0	0	70,868	+549
	FTE	589	599	0	0	0	599	0

Justification of 2015 Program Changes

The 2015 budget request for the Visitor Services program is \$70,868,000 and 599 FTE, with no net program change from the 2014 Enacted.

Program Overview

The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (Improvement Act) clarified that providing wildlife-dependent recreation is a prominent and important goal for the Refuge System. The Improvement Act recognizes the importance of a close connection between wildlife resources, the American character, and the need to conserve wildlife for future generations of Americans. The Refuge System Visitor Services program supports these priorities while providing cultural resource protection and interpretation, an accessibility program, volunteers and Friends programs, special use permits, recreation fees, concessions management, and opportunities that connect youth with the outdoors. These connections foster understanding and appreciation of the need to conserve America’s natural resources. Youth employment programs educate youth about career opportunities and promote public service as part of a life-long commitment to natural resource conservation. In accordance with authorizing legislation and policies, the Refuge System protects 89 resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places, 10 of which have been designated National Historic Landmarks, including two World War II battlefields (Attu and Midway) and historic lighthouses.

Visitor Services programs build an appreciation for wildlife and wild lands, encouraging people to become conservation stewards. In FY 2013, more than 47 million Refuge System visitors took advantage of outstanding Service recreation programs including more than 2,700 special events. Visitors included nearly 2.5 million hunters and approximately 7 million anglers. Roughly 31 million people visited refuges to observe wildlife from the Service’s network of trails, auto tour routes, observation towers, decks, and platforms, and 7.7 million visitors came to photograph wildlife. More than 2.5 million people participated in an interpretive program, and more than 750,000 visitors participated in Service environmental education programs. Thousands of young Americans were provided job opportunities and career-building experiences. The psychological, ecological and economic amenities that nature provides are a boon for Americans from all walks of life.

Visitor Services provides many opportunities for compatible wildlife-dependent recreation (wildlife observation, hunting, fishing, nature photography, environmental education, and interpretation). These activities are evaluated by visitor satisfaction surveys to ensure that they continue to be quality experiences for the public to enjoy America’s wild lands, fish, wildlife, and plants. When those recreational activities are managed according to the principles of sound fish and wildlife management and administration on national wildlife refuges, they stimulate a conservation ethic within the public. A peer-reviewed national survey released May 15, 2013 indicated that on average, 90 percent of refuge visitors gave high marks to all facets of their experiences. The survey was commissioned by the U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service and designed, conducted, and analyzed by researchers with the US Geological Survey. Results from over 10,000 respondents indicate:

- 91% are highly satisfied with recreational activities and opportunities;
- 89% are highly satisfied with information and education about the refuge;
- 91% are highly satisfied with services provided by refuge employees or volunteers; and
- 91% are highly satisfied with the refuge’s job of conserving fish, wildlife, and their habitats.

Wildlife observation, bird watching, photography, hiking, and auto-tour-route use were among the visitors’ most popular refuge activities.

The Service creates quality experiences for the American public through access to knowledgeable staff, as well as through interpretive signs and brochures, while supplying safe and accessible facilities. The program also manages recreation fees in a manner that provides the government with a fair return on investments and visitors with exceptional value for fees paid.

Hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreation activities contribute an estimated \$730 billion to the U.S. economy each year, and one in twenty U.S. jobs are in the recreation economy. Therefore, the Service has a direct impact on the local economies of communities where refuges are located. Recreational visits to refuges generate substantial retail expenditures in the local area, for gas, lodging, meals, and other purchases. Maintaining a healthy visitor program at national wildlife refuges is vital to the economic well-being of communities all across the nation.

Economic Impacts

FWS Refuge Lands

- 47 million people visited,
- generating \$2.5 billion of sales in regional economies,
- supporting 37,000 jobs
- generating \$342.9 million in tax revenue at the local, county, State and Federal level
- total economic contribution of \$4.5 billion.

	Jobs	Output	Job Income	Tax Revenue
Banking On Nature Report	35,058	\$2,411,627,000	\$792,725,0000	\$342,900,000
Each \$1 million of Refuge System budget represents	71	\$4,901,681	\$1,611,230	\$696,951
Each 1% change in Refuge System visitation represents	351	\$24,116,270	\$7,927,250	\$3,429,000

Based on the Banking on Nature Report for 2011 published 2013

Visitor Services program elements include:

Refuge Visitor Services

This element includes the salary and base funding that supports recreational activities, with priority given to wildlife-dependent recreation as required by the Improvement Act. The Service provides wildlife-dependent recreation that is compatible with the purposes for which a particular refuge was established. Non-wildlife-dependent recreation (e.g. swimming, horseback riding) is considered to be a lower priority and must be determined to be both appropriate and compatible with the mission of the NWRS and purpose or purposes of the individual refuge. Interpretive programs include activities such as guided

tours, school programs, and educational workshops. Environmental education involves structured classroom or outdoor activities that help provide awareness and direct connections with wildlife and natural resource issues. Teacher workshops, which are particularly effective at reaching local school districts, provide a service that teachers can use in developing course materials and instruction for their students. Service cultural resource specialists also review projects funded or permitted by the Service for compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The NHPA regulatory reviews may include field surveys, archaeological investigations, site evaluations and mitigation.

Visitor Facility Enhancements

The visitor facility enhancements element provides for the development, rehabilitation, and construction of facilities such as parking areas at trailheads, wildlife observation platforms, kiosks, and other projects that are necessary for interpretation and environmental education on refuges. Small scale visitor facilities on refuges are overall very limited and are inadequate to provide for a quality visitor experience at many refuges. In an effort to get more people out on the ground to experience refuges first-hand, in FY 2003 the Refuge System began to construct kiosks and other modest visitor facilities designed to provide greater access for wildlife-dependent recreation on refuges and to help interpret refuge resources. As a result the Refuge System has since built hundreds of visitor facilities, such as boardwalks, boating ramps, fishing piers, hunting blinds, and trails, all across the country. Since most refuges do not charge an entry fee, most visitor facility enhancements are available free of charge to both local residents as well as out-of-town refuge visitors.



Visitor Facility Enhancements include structures such as this accessible boardwalk at Silvio O. Conte NWR.

Visitor Orientation

The Service clearly identifies all wildlife refuges that are open to the public, ensures that visitors understand how Refuges conserve and manage habitat and natural resources, and provides visitors with the information and tools to help them enjoy their visits to refuges. Welcoming and orienting visitors provides a unique brand identity that helps the public understand the unique role in conservation and recreation for which the Service is responsible. This identity recognition can be heightened through clear and accurate signage, brochures, interpretive materials, uniforms, adequate and accessible recreational facilities, and knowledgeable staff or volunteers available to answer questions and describe the role of an individual refuge within the context of the Service's mission.

Quality Wildlife-dependent Recreation

Wildlife-dependent recreation also addresses the concern of childhood obesity and the health benefits associated with getting children and families outdoors. The American people, especially children, spend less time playing outdoors than any previous generation. Recent research shows that our nation's children are suffering from too much time inside. *Connecting Today's Kids with Nature*, a report published by the National Wildlife Federation, states, "Today's kids spend six and a half hours a day 'plugged into' electronic media. Research shows that children are spending half as much time outside as they did 20 years ago. Meanwhile, the childhood obesity rate has more than doubled and the adolescent obesity rate has tripled. Doctors warn that, for the first time in American history, life expectancy may actually decrease because of the health impacts of the current childhood obesity epidemic. In his 2005 book, *Last*

Child in the Woods, Richard Louv described this American trend as a ‘nature deficit’’. [p. 7] The report adds, “Research shows that children who play outside play more creatively; have lower stress levels; have more active imaginations; become fitter and leaner; develop stronger immune systems; and have greater respect for themselves, for others, and for the environment.” [p. 10] Engagement in outdoor activities on refuges such as canoeing, hiking, walking on trails, and participating in outdoor environmental education programs provides the opportunity for Americans to reverse this trend.

Quality Wildlife-Dependent Education and Interpretation

Quality environmental education and interpretation programs engage the public in, and increase community support for, the conservation mission of the Service: making fish, wildlife, plants, and wildlife habitat relevant, meaningful, and accessible to the American public.

More than 750,000 students and teachers annually visit national wildlife refuges, which provide substantial environmental education programs to introduce young people to the precepts of natural resource conservation. According to the National Wildlife Federation’s report, *Connecting Today’s Kids with Nature*, “there are many academic benefits to environmental education, including higher test scores in math, reading, and language arts. Studies show that integrated environmental education programs also increase children’s critical thinking skills, self-confidence, and academic motivation.” [p.3] In addition, interpretive programs on wildlife refuges are designed to facilitate meaningful and memorable visitor experiences and encourage stewardship of the wildlife and habitat of the visited refuge and the Refuge System as a national network of conservation lands. Through the use of interpretation, the Service can create a personal, emotional connection with visitors.

Birding

Quality birding is an outgrowth of the Service’s national and international role in conserving quality habitat. In fact, one-third of all Important Bird Areas (IBA) in the United States are located on National Wildlife Refuges (American Bird Conservancy, Random House, 2003), illustrating the key role that refuges play in attracting birds and bird enthusiasts (Banking on Nature, 2013, p. 353). The National Wildlife Refuge System Birding Initiative continues to expand in scope and popularity among refuges in every region. Birding programs and festivals generate significant revenue and create jobs for local economies. As reported in *Banking on Nature*, final demand associated with visits primarily for birding totaled \$257 million which generated \$73.9 million in job income and 3,296 jobs.

In partnership with Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and several retail companies, the Birder-friendly Refuge System Incentives Program was launched in 2010 to share existing, successful birding program elements among field stations, and improve recreation opportunities for visitors who connect to nature and conservation through bird watching. More than 500 sets of binoculars, 100 spotting scopes, hundreds of backpack kits and GPS units, and thousands of field guides to loan to visitors and school groups were distributed to 100 Refuge System units through this initiative.



Above: Boy with a frog at Big Muddy NWR.
Below: Youth observe wildlife at Sabine NWR, photo by Steve Hilebrand/USFWS;



Birds and birding programs have also been catalysts for offering more citizen science opportunities on refuges. Public monitoring programs such as The Big Sit! and Christmas Bird Count for Kids, targeted at families and youth, are increasing in quality and quantity annually.



Birdwatching at Calusa NWR



Binocular Boot Camp at Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, UT



A 16 inch gun barrel from the USS Missouri now rests on footings left over from WWII costal defense activities on what is now Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge. The gun reflects the Refuge's unique historic role in the area.

Preserving World War II history at Eastern Shore of Virginia NWR

In May 2013 a 16 inch gun barrel from the Battleship Missouri, which was secured from the US Navy nearly a year earlier by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, was transported and installed at Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge. Established in 1984, the Refuge's history stretches back at least to the 1600s. The coast it now protects was itself an anchor for the protection of the surrounding communities both in World War I and II. Concrete bunkers and other structures along with first 5 inch guns and later 16 inch gun emplacements fortified the area for the role it would play in costal defense. Now a sanctuary of costal habitat, the sense of history at the Refuge was not lost on its visitor service staff that developed the idea of returning a wartime relic of the area's recent past, this time not for defense, but rather as an attraction to those visitors interested in learning more about the Refuge's history. Refuges can and should use their unique histories to help attract new kinds of visitors. These visitors, though attracted by history, will be available and open to learning about conservation and efforts to protect the natural habitat.

Cultural and Historic Resources

The Service ensures that significant cultural, archaeological, and historic resources are protected, experienced by visitors, and interpreted in accordance with authorizing legislation and policies. The Service protects many significant cultural and archaeological sites including 89 resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places, ten of which have been designated National Historic Landmarks. Among other sites, these Landmarks include two World War II battlefields (Attu and Midway) and historic lighthouses. The Refuge System has identified more than 20,000 archaeological and historical sites within its borders to date, with more yet to be discovered. The Service has approximately 4.2 million objects in its collection which is maintained in Service facilities or on loan to more than 200 non-Federal repositories, such as qualified museums and academic institutions, for scientific study, public viewing, and long-term care.

Urban Refuges Initiative

Recently the National Wildlife Refuge System staff noted that the Service needs to become more effective in engaging surrounding urban communities to help connect the American youth to the natural world. The Service articulated this vision in *Conserving the Future: Wildlife Refuges and the Next Generation*: “While there are several national wildlife refuges close to large cities, most refuges are in the wilder corners of America, beyond easy reach for most people living in our largest metropolitan areas. Though some cities are now expanding into the countryside – changing once ‘rural refuges’ into ‘urban refuges’ – it is not likely that many new national wildlife refuges will be established near our largest cities. To help an urban America continue to benefit from its wildlife heritage, we propose an urban refuge initiative that relies more on partnerships and collaboration than on the traditional refuge establishments.” The National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) sponsored the first-ever Urban Academy for FWS staff and partners in September, 2013. The purpose was to train staff on cultural diversity, how to overcome barriers to outdoor recreation, and create partnerships that engage new audiences in order to foster a new conservation constituency. NCTC offers a number of training courses related to the urban refuges initiative including five courses in Youth Outdoor Skills, 18 courses in Environmental Education, and four courses in Youth Leadership and Supervision, and will continue to develop additional training opportunities as needed. NCTC is also leading the Youth Coordination Team which provides employment programs and activities for youth aged 15-25. Key youth programs include the Youth Conservation Corps, Pathways, and youth employed through partnerships. The Service has already taken positive steps toward achieving this vision, for example, at the recently opened Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge near Chicago.

Urban Refuges: An Essential Focus for the Future

“We must ensure that public lands and their stories are relevant to “all Americans, not just a subset of Americans, and it begins right here and doing the job here at Interior and setting the right example”. Sally Jewel, Secretary of the Interior

There are 3.5 million people living within 30 miles of the new Hackmatack NWR on the outskirts of Chicago. Wildlife is resilient, and being near a large city hasn’t diminished the value of this land—in fact, its value will be magnified many times over through education and understanding of the many people who will pass through it. Over time, voluntary donations and acquisitions of land will link and expand existing conservation areas to benefit migratory birds and endangered species, all while connecting a new generation of urban and suburban residents to the wonders of nature.



Volunteers and Community Partnerships

This element encompasses activities directed by the Volunteer and Community Partnership Enhancement Act of 1998. Service volunteers facilitate recreation activities, habitat restoration, maintenance, administrative activities, and many other tasks. In FY 2013, the Service benefitted from the hard work and commitment of more than 38,600 volunteers to the Refuge System who contributed nearly 1.5 million hours of volunteer service. These volunteers contributed approximately \$32 million in work, and logged in the hours equivalent to 703 FTE's. In fact, volunteers contribute nearly 20 percent of the work hours performed on refuges and approximately 200 non-profit Friends organizations, serving more than 300 refuges, are critical to building effective community partnerships, leveraging resources, and serving as conservation ambassadors in their communities.

In return, the Service continues to support volunteers and Friends groups through on-site training, mentoring, workshops, and awards. New efforts are also underway to build a suite of citizen science programs for participation by Friends organizations, volunteers, and visitors. These programs offer volunteers and visitors new, meaningful opportunities to contribute data that can help the Service understand the impacts and consequences of climate change on refuges and adjacent landscapes.

Youth in Natural Resources

The Service is building upon existing, proven programs with new and creative approaches to offer public service opportunities, support science based education and outdoor learning laboratories, and engage young Americans in wildlife-dependent recreation such as hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, and wildlife photography. Hundreds of national wildlife refuges connect youth with the outdoors through career and public service opportunities, including term and seasonal jobs on national wildlife refuges, and education programs that foster an understanding and appreciation of the need to conserve America's natural resources. These programs are managed through mentoring and partnerships with Friends organizations, volunteers, educational institutions, and local conservation organizations.

The Service also works in partnership with both citizen science programs and nongovernmental organizations with missions to reach diverse audiences. These efforts not only provide job opportunities for youth from diverse backgrounds, but are also helping to heighten scientific knowledge and awareness of the importance of natural resource protection in a diverse audience.

In addition to Environmental Education and Wildlife-Dependent Recreation previously discussed, youth also benefit from:

- Youth Conservation Corps-opportunities for young adults from varied backgrounds to work together on conservation projects, and learn about potential career opportunities.
- Volunteer and Community Service Programs-Service volunteers work with school and youth groups and support organizations, such as the Scouts. Volunteers often serve as role models and mentors.
- Student Conservation Association (SCA)-developing conservation and community leaders through conservation internships and summer trail crew opportunities that support the Service's mission.
- Career Pathways- Students or recent graduates can begin their careers in the Federal government by choosing the path that best describes their academic status:
 - Internship Program: This program is for current students enrolled in a wide variety of educational institutions from high school to graduate level, with paid opportunities to work in agencies and explore Federal careers while still in school.

- Recent Graduates Program: This program is for individuals who have recently graduated from qualifying educational institutions or programs and seek a dynamic, career development program with training and mentorship. To be eligible, applicants must apply within two years of degree or certificate completion (except for veterans precluded from doing so due to their military service obligation, who will have up to six years to apply).
- Presidential Management Fellows Program: For more than three decades, the Presidential Management Fellows Program has been the Federal government's premier leadership development program for advanced degree candidates. This program is now for individuals who have received a qualifying advanced degree within the preceding two years.



Youth volunteer releases a duck after bird banding.

2015 Program Performance

The 2015 budget request would allow the Service to continue to welcome more than 47 million visitors to enjoy hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, and educational or interpretive programs. Funding will be used to develop visitor programs, materials, and services that improve upon visitor satisfaction rates, which are currently at 90 percent and strive to connect to new audiences. In FY2015, the Service expects to host more than 2,700 special events with approximately 725,000 participants. Some visitors participate in more than one activity per visit, but the Service expects to host approximately 2.5 million hunting visits; 7 million fishing visits; 31 million wildlife observation visits; 16 million hiking visits; 11 million wildlife auto tour visits; 8 million photography visits; 3 million boating/canoe/kayak visits; 1 million bicycle visits; and 1 million visits for environmental education programs.

Service staff aim to train and supervise more than 38,000 volunteers who contribute nearly 1.5 million hours to conservation and recreation programs for refuges. The Service will continue to support training programs for volunteer coordinators and provide support for refuges working with Friends organizations. In addition, the Service will provide support for the many Friends groups across the country that help each refuge meet its mission.

Activity: National Wildlife Refuge System
Subactivity: Refuge Law Enforcement

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015				Change From 2014 Enacted (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Refuge Law Enforcement	(\$000)	35,650	37,554	+260	0	+649	38,463	+909
	FTE	248	256	0	0	0	256	0

Summary of 2015 Program Changes for Refuge Law Enforcement

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Refuge Law Enforcement Activities	+649	0
Program Changes	+649	+0

Justification of 2015 Program Changes

The 2015 budget request for the Refuge Law Enforcement program is \$38,463,000 and 256 FTE, a net program change of \$649,000 and +0 FTE from the 2014 Enacted.

Refuge Law Enforcement Activities (+\$649,000/+0 FTE)

These funds will purchase much needed communications equipment, facilitate contracts and mutual-aid agreements and provide infrastructure support to enhance the ability of Federal Wildlife Officers to communicate with other law enforcement agencies when patrolling, verifying information on criminal suspects, and summoning aid under emergency circumstances. This increase will help meet a critical need to purchase additional communications equipment and will improve resource and visitor protection across the National Wildlife Refuge System in addition to improving safety, enhancing cooperation, and increasing efficiency of service with other Federal, State, local and tribal agencies.

Program Overview

The Refuge System employs a professional cadre of law enforcement officers dedicated to natural resource protection and public safety. The Refuge Law Enforcement subactivity funds training, equipment and management of the System's full-time officers, collateral duty officers, and associated Regional and Headquarters management support staffs. Federal wildlife officers also contribute to community policing, environmental education and outreach, protection of native subsistence rights, as well as other activities supporting the Service's conservation mission. Federal wildlife officers are routinely involved with the greater law enforcement community in cooperative efforts to combat the nation's drug problems, addressing border security issues, and other pressing challenges.

Federal wildlife officers protect the security and safety of more than 47 million refuge visitors, Service employees and volunteers, government property, and wildlife populations and habitats. In 2012, Refuge Law Enforcement documented more than 50,000 law enforcement incidents on wildlife refuges, including more than 5,900 hunting contacts; 4,099 fishing contacts; 319 endangered species issues; 877 easement violations, and 50 Archeological Resource Protection Act cases. Refuge Law Enforcement responded to 232 medical situations and conducted 267 search and rescue missions. Refuge Law Enforcement also participated in more than 22,000 educational encounters. Since January of 2013, the Refuge Law Enforcement program has responded to over 430 Serious Incidents. This is an increase of over 33 percent in one year.

Refuge Law Enforcement supports a broad spectrum of Service programs by enforcing conservation laws established to protect the fish, wildlife, cultural and archaeological resources the Service manages in trust for the American people. Refuge Law Enforcement also participates in educating the public about the Service mission, providing safety and security for the visiting public, and assisting local communities with law enforcement and natural disaster recovery.

While the Service continues to improve its law enforcement operations through the hiring and training of full-time officers, dual-function officers continue to play a critical role in meeting law enforcement needs. Dual-function officers dedicate 25 to 50 percent of their time to law enforcement activities and spend the balance of their time on traditional conservation and wildlife dependent recreation programs. The Service began to reduce dependency on dual function officers in 2002 to improve effectiveness and efficiency of refuge law enforcement operations. Since 2002, the Service has lost 382 dual-function officers through retirement, relinquishment of commissions, etc. As the Service loses dual-function officers, full-time officers need to be added, which will allow current dual-function officers to focus on their primary duties. The Service also relies on partnerships through Memorandums of Understanding with local, county, State, and other Federal agencies for mutual law enforcement assistance for the purpose of protecting lives, property, and resources.

The Service is experiencing an increase in violent crime against persons and a decrease in detection of natural resource crimes due to a lack of field officers. The Service has 361 Federal Wildlife Officers to patrol the 150 million acre Refuge System. A 2005 analysis by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) detailed the urgent need for more law enforcement (LE) officers in the Refuge System to respond to drug production and smuggling, wildlife poaching, illegal border activity, assaults and a variety of natural resource violations. IACP recommended that 845 full-time Federal wildlife officers were necessary to adequately protect visitors and natural resources. Visitation to national wildlife refuges has increased by 27 percent since 2005, and the lack of officers directly affects the Refuge System's law enforcement operational capacity to deter, detect, record, and address both violent crimes and natural resource crimes which are essential to our refuge system mission and priorities.

The Service has also instituted a Zone System to provide critical law enforcement planning, deployment, and support to multiple wildlife refuges with maximum efficiency through experienced officers. A Federal wildlife Zone Officer provides refuges within his or her designated zone with technical assistance on law enforcement, institutes reliable record keeping and defensible reviews, enhances training, and promotes communication and coordination with other law enforcement agencies.

The Service remains concerned about the current situation on the southwest border, and directed a significant portion of previous funding increases to regions with refuges located along the border. These management



Refuge Law Enforcement works with State Wildlife Officers to protect the public and wildlife.

increases continue to enhance the law enforcement programs within the regions, including all officers along the southwest border.

Highlighted Activities:

This program element includes funding for the Refuge Law Enforcement Program and the Service's Emergency Management Program. Included under the funding are emergency managers, Federal wildlife zone officers, regional refuge law enforcement chiefs, field officers, training, equipment, and supplies. Officers play an integral part of the Department-wide strategy of drug interdiction and marijuana eradication on public lands. The Service applies various operational activities to combat illegal marijuana cultivation on refuge lands such as aircraft usage, training, equipment, and any associated environmental clean-up activities.

Emergency Management

In addition to the already described Refuge Law Enforcement, this subactivity also funds 2 dedicated full-time Emergency Management and Security staff at Service Headquarters. The Emergency Management and Security program functions by reaching out to subject matter experts to serve as a catalyst to support document and policy development, and operations during catastrophic events. We currently utilize the following groups and individuals to support our programs:

- Emergency Management Coordination Group ;
- Designated Regional Emergency Managers for all eight regions;
- Continuity of Operations Team; and
- Security Advisory Team

Policy has been developed for Continuity of Operations, Emergency Management Coordination and Physical Security. Operational plans have been developed for Continuity of Operations, All-Hazard Response and Employee Accountability. Recent ICS response coordination includes, Hurricane/Super Storm Sandy (2013), Hurricane Irene (2011), Hurricane Ike (2008), Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill (multiple years), and Severe flooding in the Central and Western US states (multiple years).

Incident Management Analysis Reporting System (IMARS)

The Refuge Law Enforcement program is working with the DOI to develop and implement the Department-wide Incident Management Analysis Reporting system (IMARS). The program will document all law enforcement related incidents occurring on refuges, and will be accessible at all levels of the organization. It will track not only different types of crimes, but also locations which will allow us to be proactive in crime prevention. This information is necessary to prioritize law enforcement officer needs and to deploy officers where they are needed in emergencies.

2015 Program Performance

The Division of Refuge Law Enforcement would continue to pursue its goal of protecting human lives, wildlife, and Service properties. The FY 2015 budget request would support 256 FTE within the Law Enforcement program. These officers would provide for the security and safety of more than 47 million refuge visitors and employees, government property, and the wildlife and habitats the Refuge System strives to protect. Federal wildlife officers anticipate documenting more than 50,000 offenses/incidents including natural, cultural, archaeological, and heritage resource crimes and violent crimes such as drug abuse, burglary, assaults, and murders.

The FY2015 request also includes funding to purchase much needed communications equipment, facilitate contracts and mutual-aid agreements and provide infrastructure support to enhance the ability of Federal Wildlife Officers to communicate with other law enforcement agencies when patrolling, verifying information on criminal suspects, and summoning aid under emergency circumstances.

The budget request includes \$564,000 for implementation and maintenance of the Incident Management, Analysis, and Reporting System (IMARS). Several years in the making, IMARS will allow for more effective law enforcement through more accurate data reporting, tracking of trends, and information sharing. Refuge Law Enforcement would continue to help monitor approximately 33,200 conservation easement contracts with non-federal landowners, with a goal of ensuring that the terms are met on at least 95 percent of the contracts.



Refuge System Federal Wildlife Officers participate in numerous community outreach events to help connect children and nature.

Activity: National Wildlife Refuge System
Subactivity: Conservation Planning

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015			Budget Request	Change from 2014 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
Refuge Planning	(\$000)	5,262	2,523	+85	0	0	2,608	+85
Land Protection Planning	(\$000)	3,204	465	0	-465	0	0	-465
Comprehensive Conservation Plans	(\$000)	882	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Conservation Planning	(\$000) <i>FTE</i>	9,348 76	2,988 12	+85 0	-465 0	0 0	2,608 12	-380 0

Justification of 2015 Program Changes

The 2015 budget request for the Conservation Planning program is \$2,608,000 and 12 FTE, with no net program change from the 2014 Enacted.

Program Overview

Through solid planning and conservation design, this program enables the Service to successfully implement conservation efforts on the ground. Planning contributes to informed decision making that recognizes the interests of everyone, while never losing sight of the mission and goals of the Service. Our planning ensures a transparent public process that guides on-the-ground stewardship of threatened and endangered species, migratory birds, inter-jurisdictional fish, and other species of special concern to the American people. Service conservation plans incorporate the best available science and encourage collaboration with partners. Conservation plans also explore ways to increase recreational opportunities, working closely with regional recreation, trails and transportation planners to leverage resources that make refuges more accessible to the public. To be effective, conservation plans must be written so those who read them clearly understand what is expected and are inspired to take action to become a part of the Service’s conservation legacy.

The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 requires all Refuge System units to prepare and implement Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) every fifteen years. Refuges also develop documents such as Habitat Management Plans and Visitor Services Plans that “step down” CCP guidance and provide specificity needed to inform local conservation action.

Consistent with *Conserving the Future: Wildlife Refuges and the Next Generation*, the Service recognizes the economic challenges confronting the nation along with changing demographics and urbanization. The Refuge System is also preparing to confront conservation challenges posed by issues such as climate change, invasive species and habitat fragmentation. The next generation of conservation plans shifts the Service’s focus beyond refuge boundaries and links refuge planning and management actions to the larger landscape. This will require a greater understanding and incorporation of environmental drivers, such as climate change and urbanization, into the planning process.

The planning program serves a leadership role in biological planning and conservation design to support the Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) framework and Adaptive Management efforts. Refuge planning

works closely with all Service programs such as Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Endangered Species, Fisheries, and the Office of the Science Advisor , Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, States, and stakeholders to identify priority species, develop measurable biological/conservation (e.g., population) objectives, and deliver habitat conservation through a landscape level approach.

Highlighted Activities:

Refuge Planning

Refuge management plans, such as Habitat Management and Visitor Services plans, are developed for individual refuges by conservation planners and refuge personnel with extensive input from the public, States, Tribes, and other partners. Effective refuge planning requires integration of multiple data points. For example, targeted restoration is necessary in many wildlife refuges to bring altered landscapes back into balance. Restoration efforts should create landscape-level habitats or habitat complexes



Refuge management plans are developed for individual refuges by conservation planners and refuge personnel with extensive input from the public, States, Tribes, and other partners.

capable of supporting viable populations of target species; be resilient to short-term climate fluctuations and long-term climate change; restore as many ecosystem processes as possible on the landscape; integrate partnerships with other agencies, groups and private landowners; and integrate with future acquisition efforts. This subactivity supports funding for these plans, as well as for geographic information system capability and other related support tools.

Comprehensive Conservation Plans

The Service uses Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) development as the primary method to conduct citizen-centered government. Developing these long-term plans relies on public participation and input. Local communities, State conservation agencies, and other partners help guide refuge management through the development of each CCP. Diverse private organizations, such as the National Rifle Association, Defenders of Wildlife, and many others, also participate in the CCP planning process to complete projects.

CCPs ensure that each refuge unit is comprehensively managed to fulfill the purpose(s) for which it was established. Developing a CCP facilitates decision making regarding issues such as allowable wildlife-dependent recreation, the construction of facilities, and the development of biological programs. The process of completing a CCP also helps refuge managers address any conflicting uses that may exist or be proposed. Once a refuge finishes its CCP, it may develop subsequent step-down management plans to meet the CCP's goals and objectives. Issues addressed by these step-down management plans include habitat management, visitor services, fire management, wildlife inventorying and monitoring, and wilderness management plans. Completed CCPs allow refuge managers to implement resource management actions that support State Wildlife Action Plans, improving the condition of habitats at a landscape scale and benefiting wildlife. Refuge personnel also have the ability to improve and increase

wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities which are critical to connecting people, particularly children, with nature.

The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (Improvement Act) was passed into law on October 9, 1997. The Improvement Act mandated that the Service complete a CCP for every unit of the Refuge System within 15 years (by October 9, 2012). There were 551 units of the refuge system, including wetland management districts, at the time of the passage of the Act. Since then, Congress mandated that the Service also complete CCPs for three newly established field stations before the 2012 deadline. Thus, 554 field stations required completed CCPs by October 9, 2012. In addition, the Improvement Act requires that a CCP be developed for every new unit that is created (within 15 years of its creation) and that every CCP must be revised every 15 years (or more often if conditions warrant).

The current status is:

CCPs for 36 units were completed in FY 2013.

As of February 11, 2014, CCPs for 488 of the 554 required units (88%) had been completed.

CCP development is underway for the remaining 66 units.

CCPs for 22 of the 488 completed units are currently being revised, while another previously completed CCP was revised in 2011. In addition, the Service has completed CCPs for 10 units and is developing CCPs for 13 units that were created after the Improvement Act (not included in the 554). Therefore, the total number of CCPs completed since 1997 is actually 499 (488 +1 revision + 10 CCPs for new units).

2015 Program Performance

In FY2015, the Conservation Planning program will continue to serve a leadership role in biological planning and conservation design to support the Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) framework and Adaptive Management efforts for the Service. Conservation Planning will continue to work closely with all Service programs, LCCs, States, and stakeholders to identify priority species, develop measurable biological (e.g., population) objectives, and deliver habitat conservation through a landscape level approach. The program will continue close coordination with Service programs such as Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Endangered Species, Fisheries, and the Office of the Science Advisor, for the stewardship of threatened and endangered species, migratory birds, and inter-jurisdictional fish. Conservation Planning will continue to work with the Service's Inventory and Monitoring efforts to both inform what data collection efforts are the highest priorities and also to adapt our conservation delivery actions in an iterative manner as the monitoring data dictates. Conservation Planning will continue to incorporate the best available science, encourage collaboration with partners, and explore ways to increase recreational opportunities by working closely with regional recreation, trails and transportation planners to leverage resources that make Service lands more accessible to the public.

Activity: National Wildlife Refuge System
Subactivity: Refuge Maintenance

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015			Change From 2014 Enacted (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfer s (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Maintenance Support	(\$000)	49,688	51,055	+522	0	0	51,577	+522
Youth Conservation Corps	(\$000)	606	649	0	0	0	649	0
Annual Maintenance	(\$000)	25,696	26,350	0	0	0	26,350	0
Small Equipment and Fleet Management	(\$000)	5,572	5,572	0	0	0	5,572	0
Heavy Equipment Management	(\$000)	5,388	5,388	0	0	0	5,388	0
Deferred Maintenance	(\$000)	35,354	37,120	0	0	0	37,120	0
Deferred Maintenance WO/RO Support	(\$000)	5,364	5,364	0	0	0	5,364	0
Total, Refuge Maintenance	(\$000)	127,688	131,498	+522	0	0	131,498	+522
	FTE	640	664	0	0	0	664	0

Justification of 2015 Program Changes

The 2015 budget request for the Refuge Maintenance program is \$132,020,000 and 664 FTE, with no net program change from the 2014 Enacted.

Program Overview

The Refuge Maintenance Program supports a complex infrastructure including habitat management; visitor, administrative, and maintenance facilities; and a fleet of vehicles and heavy equipment necessary to conduct wildlife and habitat management activities. A critical function of this program is providing access to Refuge System lands in support of wildlife and habitat management programs and enabling more than 47 million annual visitors to enjoy our nation's diverse fish and wildlife heritage. Refuge maintenance staff actively manage about 3.5 million acres of wildlife habitat each year and more than \$29 billion in assets such as roads and critical resource management equipment.

Properly maintained facility and equipment assets enable the Service to accomplish habitat management, refuge operations, visitor services goals, and fulfill its conservation mission. There is a direct link between adequate maintenance funding and healthy wildlife habitats and populations. Mowing fields, removing unwanted woody vegetation from wetland impoundments and controlling invasive plants and animals are examples of annual maintenance activities which restore the quality of wildlife habitat and maintain wildlife populations. Preventive maintenance, results in fewer breakdowns and helps achieve the expected life of facilities and equipment. Without sufficient maintenance, much needed wildlife management facilities, such as water control structures for wetlands or breeding facilities for endangered species, would not operate properly; office and maintenance buildings needed to conduct core refuge operations would not be functional; and roads, trails and other facilities would be inadequate to allow access for either management purposes or visitation by the public.

Highlighted Activities:

Facilities Management

According to the *Sustainable Building Technical Manual*, over a 30 year period initial building costs amount to only about one-third of a building’s total operations and maintenance costs. Ongoing maintenance of visitor facilities is vital to enabling a positive experience for more than 47 million annual visitors. As of September 30, 2013, refuge maintenance staffs maintain 12,672 roads, bridges and trails; 5,345 buildings; 7,882 water management structures; and 7,548 other structures such as visitor facility enhancements (hunting blinds, fishing piers, docks, observation decks, information kiosks). The overall facility infrastructure is valued at more than \$29 billion as indicated in the following table.

Constructed Real Property Summary Accumulated for National as of September 30, 2013

Real Property Grouping	Total No. Assets Owned or Managed	No. Assets Over 50 Years Old	Current Replacement Value (\$ millions)	No Assets with Deferred Maintenance	Total Deferred Maintenance (\$ millions)	Overall Condition
Buildings	5,345	1,700	3,172	1,816	315	.10
Dams	235	148	1,310	161	216	.16
Levees	3,233	906	6,459	752	166	.03
Non Public Use Roads	3,784	1,074	4,466	1,205	290	.06
Non Public Use Trails	222	52	35	9	3	.09
Other Structures	7,548	2,653	3,787	4,672	112	.03
Other WCS	4,414	717	3,114	715	89	.03
Public Use Roads	7,648	1,351	6,752	1,815	535	.08
Public Use Trails	1,018	104	201	216	21	.10
Totals	33,447	8,705	29,296	11,361	1,747	.06

Note: Overall Condition rating is based on the Facility Condition Index (FCI) which is a measure of the ratio of the repair costs to the current replacement cost of each asset. An FCI of > 0.15 (15% of the value of the asset) is considered Unacceptable by Department of Interior standards.

Nationwide portfolio of Refuge System constructed facility assets as of September 30, 2013

Asset Groupings	Asset Count		Replacement Value		Deferred Maintenance	
	Number	% of Total	\$ millions	% of Total	\$ millions	% of Total
Buildings (admin, visitor, housing, maintenance, storage, etc.)	5,345	16%	3,172	11%	315	18%
Water Management Structures	7,882	24%	10,883	37%	343	20%
Roads Bridges and Trails	12,672	38%	12,444	42%	849	49%
Other Structures (visitor facilities, radio systems, fencing, others)	7,548	23%	2,797	10%	240	14%
Total	33,447	100%	29,296	100%	1,747	100%

Refinements in Deferred Maintenance Cost Estimating Practices Bringing Backlog Down

The NWRS constructed facility infrastructure as of the beginning of FY 14 consisted of over 33,000 individual assets collectively valued at \$29.3 billion and having a Deferred Maintenance (DM) backlog of \$1.75 billion. In 2012, Service leadership concluded that condition assessment practices and policies in place at that time were unintentionally producing higher than appropriate DM cost estimates for some types of constructed real property. DM estimates for our extensive inventory of gravel and native surface roads are a major contributor to this challenge. In response, the FWS is refining its practices and procedures to improve consistency of DM cost estimates and their use in budget planning. Significant reductions in the DM backlog are resulting from this effort as indicated by the official DM backlog being reduced from \$2.4 billion at the beginning of FY 2013 to \$1.75 billion at the beginning of FY 2014. A five-year history of the DM backlog by four major categories of assets based on information in the current Federal Real Property Profile (FRPP) is in the table below.

Category	NWRS Deferred Maintenance (beginning of FY)(\$ millions)				
	FY 10	FY 11	FY 12	FY 13	FY 14
Buildings	393	399	408	349	315
Water Management	403	448	409	404	343
Roads/Bridges/Trails	1,510	1,577	1,430	1,356	849
Other Structures	405	282	297	289	240
Total	2,711	2,706	2,544	2,398	1,747

The Service uses a strategic, portfolio based approach to manage these assets in a manner that informs decision making and maximizes efficient and effective mission delivery with an emphasis on prioritizing mission critical assets and assuring long-term protection of investments through long-term life cycle management. Using principles outlined in Executive Order 13327, Federal Real Property Asset Management, the Department’s Capital Asset and Investment Control policy, and the Department’s guidance for deferred maintenance and capital improvement plans, the Refuge System is managing its portfolio of facility and mobile equipment assets to:

- account for what it owns;
- determine the costs to operate and maintain each individual asset;
- track the condition of assets and the associated costs to correct deficiencies;
- plan and prioritize budgets to most effectively meet mission needs;
- understand and plan life cycle costs for both existing and proposed new assets;
- dispose of any extraneous assets; and
- strive for environmentally friendly and sustainable business practices by seeking to reduce energy use and applying renewable energy strategies.

In managing available resources in the most cost effective manner the Service is taking the following actions:

For constructed facility assets:

- Focusing available resources on the highest priority needs in 5 year plans;
- Strengthening the Service’s use of mission dependency identification to assure that the most critical facility assets receive priority funding;
- Applying standard facility design components to reduce the costs of project design;
- Minimizing facility development in accomplishing mission goals;
- Managing and replacing assets taking into account life-cycle management needs;

- Applying energy conservation and renewable energy options to lower long-term operating costs; and
- Working with volunteers and partners to maximize the conservation benefits of facility assets.

Equipment and Vehicle Fleet Management

In addition to managing an extensive facility infrastructure with 33,447 assets, the Service owns and maintains a variety of traditional and specialized mobile equipment items necessary to achieve its strategic goals. Most of the 5,298 vehicles used on refuges are four wheel drive trucks and utility vehicles used by refuge staff and volunteers for firefighting, wildlife and habitat surveys, transporting equipment and tools to remote sites, law enforcement, and other volunteer tasks. Much of the vehicle use is on gravel roads; extensive off-road use is also required. Agricultural, earthmoving, and construction equipment are used to maintain wetland impoundments and roads; enhance areas for wildlife habitat; control invasive plants; and maintain and construct modest visitor facilities such as boardwalks, observation platforms, tour routes, and nature trails. Smaller, specialized equipment such as all-terrain vehicles, aircrafts, boats, small tractors and snowmobiles are needed to access remote or rugged areas. As of April, 2013, the small equipment fleet consists of about 9,300 items valued at \$140 million, and the heavy equipment fleet consists of 1,909 items valued at \$232 million.

To apply available resources in the most cost effective manner the Service is taking the following actions

For mobile equipment assets:

- Reducing petroleum consumption for vehicles
- Increasing use of alternate fuel vehicles
- Using equipment sharing across multiple locations where feasible
- Using equipment rental when more cost-effective than ownership
- Providing reliable transportation and equipment to the full range of permanent and temporary staff as well as volunteers and cooperators
- Providing safety training to maximize safe operation



Most vehicles used on refuges are four wheel drive trucks and utility vehicles used by refuge staff and volunteers for firefighting, wildlife and habitat surveys, transporting equipment and tools to remote sites, law enforcement, and other volunteer tasks. The truck pictured at left is a fire truck used at Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in Virginia and North Carolina.

Energy Management

Energy conservation, reduction of energy costs, and application of renewable energy sources is a current priority associated with management of Service facility assets. Approximately \$8,000,000 was devoted to renewable energy measures in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). As deferred maintenance projects are completed, sustainable energy measures are incorporated to reduce annual Operations and Maintenance costs and to help reduce dependence upon petroleum based energy. These efforts also reduce the Service's carbon footprint in accordance with goals established in the Service's January 2011 Carbon Mitigation Report. In response to Executive Order 13423, Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management, and the Service goal of becoming a Carbon neutral agency, the Service is assessing its energy use and opportunities for investments to boost energy efficiency and implement renewable energy sources in many of its locations. Energy audits will help identify needed actions and performance measurements such as return on investment, reduce O&M costs, and reduce energy intensity as measured in BTU's/Gross Square foot. The identified needed actions will help the Service prioritize the actions it will take.

Managing Service Assets

The Service is using financial and performance data to improve its management of facility infrastructure and its mobile equipment fleet. The Service asset management plan aids in management of assets, based

on workload drivers including General Services Administration useful life standards, geographic location, utilization patterns, and generally accepted asset management principles.

The Service considers costs and benefits when allocating maintenance funding for these assets. The Service Asset and Maintenance Management System (SAMMS) identifies assets that can most effectively be maintained by simultaneously applying an Asset Priority Index (API) and a Facility Condition Index (FCI). Using the FCI, which is a measure of the ratio of the repair cost to the current replacement cost for each asset, in combination with the Asset Priority Index (API), which indicates the relative importance of an asset to accomplishing its mission, provides valuable information to prioritize the use of maintenance funding. With this information, scoring mechanisms are applied that consider critical health and safety, enabling managers to see where they should apply funding to most efficiently manage the entire asset portfolio. This insight into asset management enables managers to make better cost/benefit decisions about related matters like lease space and new construction projects. The Service is using SAMMS as the system of record to document assessments, facility maintenance histories, and maintenance schedules to improve its overall FCI and to reduce out year project costs.

Regular condition assessments of assets and their contribution to the Service mission assure that information used to allocate funding will contribute to effective asset management. By completing assessments for all facilities, the Service improved its ability to provide maintenance, repair, and, where required, replacement costs with greater accuracy. Annual Operations and Maintenance (O&M) cost data for each asset has been collected since 2005 in the Federal Real Property Profile. Collecting this data has helped the Service identify opportunities for energy efficiency, disposal of unneeded assets, replacement, and other cost saving measures. Asset managers are also identifying opportunities to employ energy conservation and renewable energy strategies within the Refuge System. Energy conservation and renewable energy opportunities are a regular part of planning and completing deferred maintenance projects.

Refuge Maintenance Support

Refuge Maintenance Support includes salaries and associated funding for maintenance staff at refuge field stations. Maintenance staffs maintain functional facilities and reliable equipment, and perform habitat management. Ongoing maintenance of visitor facilities including roads, trails, and a variety of small facilities provide visitors with appropriate access to refuge lands and ensure a positive visitor experience.

Annual Maintenance and Youth Conservation Corps

Annual maintenance encompasses all ongoing non-staff expenditures needed to keep the Service's facility portfolio and mobile equipment fleet functioning for its intended purpose. Annual maintenance includes: 1) utilities, custodial care, and snow removal for offices, administrative, and visitor center buildings; 2) repairing system failures in the year they occur; and 3) preventive and cyclic maintenance. Preventive maintenance-- including scheduled servicing, repairs, and parts replacement-- results in fewer breakdowns and is necessary to achieve the expected life of facilities and equipment. Cyclic maintenance is preventive maintenance scheduled in periods greater than one year. Annual maintenance addresses problems cost-effectively, before they grow in expense. The Youth Conservation Corps, a temporary employment program for high school youth, is included under this category since much of their work supports annual maintenance.

Small Equipment and Fleet Management

The Small Equipment and Fleet Management program facilitates the acquisition, repair, and disposal of equipment valued from \$5,000 to over \$25,000 including passenger vehicles and pickup trucks. It also includes a rental and leasing program that provides a cost-effective alternative to purchasing equipment,

particularly for short-term needs to complete vital projects, while limiting the maintenance cost of the equipment fleet.

As it is difficult to access off-road areas, including remote and rough terrain and all types of water bodies, the Service requires a variety of vehicles and equipment to meet mission needs and environmental mandates. This includes about 9,300 small equipment items including all-terrain vehicles, boats and motors, pumps, generators, trailers, agricultural implements, and similar equipment. Most of the 5,298 refuge vehicles are used for firefighting, wildlife and habitat surveys, transporting equipment to remote work sites, and transporting volunteers. About 1,600 units of agricultural equipment are used to manage habitats, maintain roads and levees and preclude growth of undesirable vegetation.

Federal mandates require all Federal agencies to reduce petroleum fuel use by two percent per year, as compared to their levels in 2005, through the year 2020, thereby reducing petroleum fuel use by 30 percent. Petroleum fuel reduction mandates, more than any other factor, will drive fleet management practices through 2020. Therefore, the Service is attempting to replace older, inefficient vehicles, with more fuel efficient models. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding from the General Services Administration made it possible for the Service to replace more than 400 of its vehicles in 2009. Combined with normal vehicle acquisitions, the Service replaced 10 percent of its fleet which was the largest single vehicle acquisition and replacement year ever for the Service. As a result, the Service’s petroleum fuel use decreased by approximately 185,000 gallons per year.

Inventory of Refuge System Small Equipment and Vehicles as of January 1, 2013

Small Equipment and Vehicles	Total Units	Original Cost (millions)	Current Replacement Cost (millions)	Average Year of Purchase	# Units Exceeding Useful Life	% Units Exceeding Useful Life
Ag/Construction	1,610	\$21.2	\$23.3	1995	775	48%
Implements/ Attachments/Trailers	4,039	\$35.5	\$44.7	2001	1,645	40%
Off Road Utility Vehicles	2,345	\$19.4	\$23.7	2002	1,013	43%
Pumps / Power Units	331	\$5.4	\$6.9	1993	177	53%
Boats	970	\$33.7	\$41.5	1989	204	21%
Vehicles – Passenger	303	8.7	9.3	2008	80	26%
Vehicles – Trucks & Tractors	5,288	177.5	201.0	2006	2,708	51%
Total	14,886	\$301.4	\$357.9		6,602	

Heavy Equipment Management

Heavy equipment management includes acquisition, repair, and disposal of heavy equipment which is any equipment item exceeding \$25,000 in replacement cost, excluding passenger vehicles and light trucks. This program element also includes a rental and leasing program to provide a cost-effective alternative to purchasing new equipment. Equipment rental allows completion of vital projects while limiting the size and cost of the heavy equipment fleet. Heavy Equipment Management funds optimize the management of equipment to meet mission needs, environmental mandates, and serve as an example for the efficient use of public assets.

The Service owns 1,909 heavy equipment assets with a combined replacement value of about \$148 million. The Service depends on reliable heavy equipment since 3.5 million acres are managed each year through water control, tillage, mowing, invasive species control, or farming for habitat management,

wildfire prevention, and other goals. Providing access to refuge lands and facilities by maintaining a variety of access roads is vital to all aspects of conservation land management. Visitor programs rely on heavy equipment for maintenance of roads, trails, boat ramps, and facilities, as well as enhancing habitat for wildlife in particular areas.

Heavy Equipment Inventory as of January 1, 2013

Heavy Equipment	Total Units	Original Cost (millions)	Current Replacement Costs (millions)	Average Year of Purchase	# Units Exceeding Useful Life	% Units Exceeding Useful Life
Bulldozers	345	\$37.1	\$54.5	1997	150	43%
Backhoes	309	\$18.7	\$30.1	2000	99	32%
Cranes	18	\$1.6	\$2.1	1986	12	67%
Excavators	159	\$21.6	\$34.1	2002	39	24%
4WD Loaders	174	\$13.7	\$26.1	1999	50	28%
Graders	234	\$23.5	\$46.8	1995	91	38%
Compact Track Loader	157	\$8.0	\$8.2	2000	18	11%
Skid Steer	119	\$3.5	\$4.3	1999	19	16%
Specialty Wheeled	43	\$2.3	\$3.1	1990	30	69%
Specialty Tracked	122	\$11.8	\$14.9	1992	46	37%
Forklifts	255	\$6.5	\$8.1	1993	160	62%
Total	1,909	\$148.3	\$232.3		706	



Properly maintained facility and equipment assets enable the Service to accomplish habitat management, refuge operations, visitor services goals, and fulfill its conservation mission. There is a direct link between adequate maintenance funding and healthy wildlife habitats and populations. Mowing fields, removing unwanted woody vegetation from wetland impoundments and controlling invasive plants and animals are examples of annual maintenance activities which restore the quality of wildlife habitat and maintain wildlife populations

Deferred Maintenance Projects

Deferred Maintenance projects include repair, rehabilitation, disposal, and replacement of facilities. Only those projects that have already been delayed beyond their scheduled maintenance or replacement date are included in Deferred Maintenance. The Service maintains an inventory of Deferred Maintenance and capital improvement needs for all field stations consistent with Federal Accounting Standards. Available funds are directed to the highest priority projects based upon Facility Condition Index (FCI), a ratio of repair cost to replacement cost, and Asset Priority Index (API), an indicator of individual assets' contribution to the refuge system mission, in accordance with the DOI guidance on Deferred Maintenance and capital improvement plans. Ranking scores are currently derived from ten DOI-wide priority ranking factors. The Deferred Maintenance category funds both Service engineers and temporary staff working on Deferred Maintenance projects.

In the past, the Refuge Roads program provided \$29,000,000 per year from the Federal Highway Administration to assist in maintaining refuge public use roads (defined as public roads, bridges, and parking areas). The new Transportation authorization replaces the Refuge Roads Program with the Fish and Wildlife Service Transportation Program, and makes National Fish Hatchery public use roads eligible for funding. The new authorization level is \$30,000,000 million per year.



The Fish and Wildlife Service Transportation Program provides funding to maintain public use roads, bridges, and parking areas. The photo at left shows a road destroyed by flooding at Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Missouri. Photo Credit: Steve Hilebrand, USFWS

Deferred Maintenance Backlog Reported in CFO Audit (Actual Dollars)

End of Fiscal Year	DM Backlog	Increase/Decrease
2002	1,300,000,000	NA
2003	1,180,000,000	-120,000,000
2004	1,510,500,000	330,500,000
2005	2,040,500,000	530,000,000
2006	1,530,773,712	-509,726,288
2007	2,482,588,534	951,814,822
2008	2,495,752,018	13,163,484
2009	2,710,782,879	215,030,861
2010	2,706,402,236	-4,380,643
2011	2,544,517,841	-161,884,395
2012	2,397,390,016	-147,127,825
2013	1,747,543,528	-649,846,488

The Refuge System was able to decrease the deferred maintenance backlog by approximately \$650 million during FY2013 by continuing to refine its condition assessment process, using maintenance action teams, actively pursuing local partnerships, carefully prioritizing budgets, and disposing of unneeded assets.

Regional and Central Support

The regional and central office support element includes management and coordination of the facility and equipment maintenance and improvement effort at the regional and national level. Primary support activities include:

- Management and technical support for implementing SAMMS, the corporate data system of record. Costs include maintaining and refining software, managing databases and servers, providing support via a help desk, and training personnel to use the software.
- Completing condition assessments of 20 percent of capitalized facilities at field stations each year to ensure that real property data is accurate and complete. This program supports decision making for facility management, and provides technical support and short term assistance for deferred maintenance projects.
- Developing and implementing 5-year maintenance plans, including coordinating and reporting on project completions.

- Planning and implementing major maintenance and capital improvement efforts including development of budget plans, monitoring annual O&M costs, executing deferred maintenance projects and related costs, coordinating energy conservation initiatives, prioritizing needs across multiple field locations, responding to major health and safety issues, and identifying and disposing of assets that are not mission-dependent.
- Managing a heavy equipment program including operator safety training, budget planning, consolidated purchasing of replacement equipment, and coordination of equipment rental.

2015 Program Performance

The 2015 budget request would support maintenance staffing for field stations, as well as provide annual preventive maintenance, including funds for supplies, materials, and contracts. These funds will allow the Service to repair facilities and equipment, and perform regular annual maintenance on schedule.

The budget would also support replacement of mobile equipment assets and allow initiation of approximately 150 deferred maintenance projects which would improve the condition of Service assets as measured by the FCI. These funds would allow the Service to fund projects to repair facilities and equipment within the year in which deficiencies occur and perform cyclical maintenance on schedule, ensuring that cyclic projects do not become deferred maintenance.

The Service would use its ongoing condition assessment program to focus maintenance activities on highest priority needs. By completing an assessment of all facilities every five years, the Service improves its ability to apply maintenance, repair, and where required, replacement funds with greater accuracy. Under this subactivity, the Service would also continue use of the SAMMS database to reduce these costs through improved management.

The Service would continue to use maintenance funding to support refuge operations. The facilities and equipment utilized on refuges contribute to wildlife and habitat management goals, and help maintain the vast majority of Service acreage in desirable condition. Maintenance funding would also support Visitor Services by enabling visitors to access refuge lands and ensuring the safety of visitors using observation decks, trails, hunting blinds, fishing piers, and more. These facilities would help provide more than 47 million visitors with high quality, wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities.

The Service recently completed a \$150,000 rehabilitation project of the administrative headquarters at Piedmont NWR, restoring the structure, and replacing ten windows to reduce energy consumption. The restroom components were also replaced to meet the strict standards of the American with Disabilities Act of 1990 for public visitation.

The budget will continue to fund ongoing habitat management operations comparable to a recent \$181,000 project at Savannah NWR to replace a water control structure within the 130 acre impoundment. This structure manages water levels to optimize waterfowl and wading bird management and fulfills the purpose of this refuge through actively managing wetlands throughout the impoundment system.

Migratory Bird Management

Activity: Conservation and Enforcement
Subactivity: Migratory Bird Management

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015				Change from 2014 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Conservation and Monitoring	(\$000) FTE	27,690 143	29,427 151	+192 0	0 0	+166 0	29,785 151	+358 0
Avian Health and Disease	(\$000) FTE	1,737 8	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Permits	(\$000) FTE	3,346 34	3,346 34	+29 0	0 0	0 0	3,375 34	+29 0
Federal Duck Stamp	(\$000) FTE	556 4	556 4	+5 0	0 0	0 0	561 4	+5 0
North American Waterfowl Management/Joint Ventures	(\$000) FTE	13,139 55	13,139 55	+62 0	0 0	0 0	13,201 55	+62 0
Total, Migratory Bird Management	(\$000) FTE	46,468 244	46,468 244	+288 0	0 0	+166 0	46,922 244	+454 0

Program Overview

The Service has a legal mandate and trust responsibility to maintain healthy migratory bird populations for the benefit of the American public. More than 25 laws, treaties, and conventions authorize the Service to conserve more than 1,000 species of migratory birds and their habitats. Primary among these mandates is the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918, which establishes Federal responsibility for protecting and managing migratory birds. It also implements four international treaties affecting migratory birds common to the United States, Canada, Mexico, Japan and Russia. In 2016, the Service and our partners will celebrate the centennial of the signing of the first of these international treaties which recognized the joint responsibility of nations to conserve the migratory birds they share, and still guides those efforts today.



“Colorful Feeder” is an example of the enjoyment birds bring to backyards and residents across North America.

Photo credit: Jeff Kock

Because the MBTA prevents unregulated take of migratory birds, their parts, nests, eggs and other products, it underlies much of the Migratory Bird Program’s conservation planning and many of its management activities, including establishing hunting seasons, bag limits, and other regulations and issuing permits to possess or use 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), which provides additional protection for those birds, and the North American Wetlands Conservation and Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Acts, which promote habitat and bird conservation across North America and throughout the western hemisphere.

The Division of Migratory Bird Management, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Regional Migratory Bird offices, Joint Ventures, the Duck Stamp Office and the FWS Office of Aviation Management make up the Service’s Migratory Bird Program. These units work together, and with other Service programs,

Federal and State agencies, Tribes, and nongovernmental partners to increase the effectiveness of migratory bird conservation efforts on the landscape. For example, through the Service's Cooperative Recovery Initiative and the new Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) surrogate species approach, the Migratory Bird Program will contribute survey data to provide accurate, comprehensive status and trend information to help implement this agency wide long-term conservation mission.

Using sound science and collaborative partnerships, the Service works to increase the number of migratory bird populations that are healthy and sustainable, prevent bird populations from declining and requiring further protection under the Endangered Species Act, and conserve habitats necessary to support these populations for future generations. To accomplish these objectives, staff routinely:

- Develop and implement surveys and other monitoring and assessment activities to determine the status of numerous migratory bird populations;
- Formulate regulations and administer permits for activities such as hunting, scientific research, rehabilitation of injured birds, education, taxidermy, and control of overabundant species;
- Manage grants across the Western Hemisphere that implement on-the-ground habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement and other conservation activities for the benefit of migratory birds;
- Implement strategic management planning, action, and evaluation to increase the effectiveness of migratory bird conservation at regional, national, and international landscape scales;
- Integrate climate change adaptation strategies into all aspects of our policies, planning, programs and operations;
- Develop and implement scientifically based management strategies to improve the population status of focal species populations;
- Coordinate efforts to promote environmentally responsible renewable energy development and reduce bird mortalities resulting from fisheries by-catch, pesticides, collisions with communication towers, wind turbines, transmission lines, and buildings, as well as other human-related causes;
- Participate in international treaty negotiations related to migratory birds;
- Reach out to a diverse constituency that pursues, enjoys, observes, and studies migratory birds and encourage public involvement in bird conservation activities such as International Migratory Day, the Federal Duck Stamp program, the Junior Duck Stamp program, Urban Bird Conservation Treaties, and managed harvest opportunities;
- Develop and maintain collaborative partnerships with Federal, State, and municipal agencies and non-government organizations to further migratory bird conservation, education, and quality outdoor recreational opportunities; and
- Support international partners to expand and manage shared migratory bird resources through continental-scale projects and programs.



Falconer showing an interested youngster a captive-reared peregrine falcon. Photo by: George T. Allen, USFWS

Migratory Bird Management Combined Performance Change and Overview

Performance Goal	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Plan	2015 PB	Change from 2014 Plan to 2015 PB	Program Change Occurring in Out-years
CSF 6.1 Percent of all migratory bird species that are at healthy and sustainable levels (GPRA)	72.0% (725 of 1,007)	72.1% (726 of 1,007)	72.1% (726 of 1,007)	72.1% (726 of 1,007)	72.8% (747 of 1,026)	72.8% (747 of 1,026)	0%	n/a
Comments:	During FY 2014, the List of Migratory Birds published in the Code of Federal Regulations (50 CFR 10.13) was updated. The change reflects an update of best scientific understanding and taxonomic organization of bird species and is used to determine how many species are defined as "migratory birds" under the MBTA and this measure.							
6.1.6 # of management actions taken that annually address Birds of Mgmt Concern, excluding focal species actions	282	244	233	204	196	188	-8 (-4%)	n/a
Comments	With relatively flat funding, FWS anticipates the number of individual management actions addressing Birds of Management Concern will be reduced.							
CSF 15.7 Percent of migratory bird species that may be harvested for sport hunting or falconry (according to the migratory bird treaties) for which harvest is authorized by regulation	36.9% (73 of 198)	36.9% (73 of 198)	36.9% (73 of 198)	36.9% (73 of 198)	36.9% (73 of 198)	36.9% (73 of 198)	0%	0.0%
15.7.2.1 # of management actions completed	183	180	174	162	178	162	-16 (-9%)	0
15.7.2.2 # of management actions necessary	188	183	176	163	178	162	-16 (-9%)	0
Comments	With relatively flat funding, we anticipate the number of individual management actions that support sport hunting or falconry will be reduced.							

Subactivity: Migratory Bird Management
Program Element: Conservation and Monitoring

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015			Change from 2014 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Conservation and Monitoring	(\$000) FTE	27,690 143	29,427 151	+192 0	+166 0	29,785 151	+358 0

Summary of 2015 Program Changes for Migratory Bird Conservation and Monitoring

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Cooperative Recovery	+300	0
• Monitoring	-134	0
Program Changes	+166	0

Justification of 2015 Program Changes

The 2015 budget request for Conservation and Monitoring is \$29,785,000 and 151 FTE, a net program change of +\$166,000 and 0 FTE from the 2014 Enacted.

Cooperative Recovery (+\$300,000/+0 FTE)

This funding will support a cross-programmatic partnership approach to complete planning, restoration, and management actions addressing current threats to endangered species in areas of strategic importance for the conservation of listed species. The focus will be on implementing recovery actions for species near delisting or reclassification from endangered to threatened, and actions that are urgently needed for critically endangered species. The Migratory Bird Program will participate in this Cooperative Recovery Initiative by combining our resources with those of the National Wildlife Refuge System, the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, the Fisheries Program, the Science Program and the Ecological Services Program through a national, proposal-driven process to identify and implement the highest priority projects. Performance measures are being identified for selected projects; the Service anticipates being able to support approximately 6 recovery actions with this contribution.

Monitoring (-\$134,000/+0 FTE)

The Service proposes to redirect this funding to higher priority conservation activities.

Program Overview

Conservation, monitoring, and assessment are the integral activities that define the Service's key role in addressing treaty mandates for migratory birds. Monitoring is a basic component of the Service's trust responsibility for North America's migratory birds and the Service is a world-renowned leader in this effort. Monitoring is essential to inform 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, including focal species. 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 the required information to assess landscape-level impacts of energy and other development activities on migratory bird populations.

Each year, the Service conducts extensive waterfowl population and habitat surveys across North America and produces the *Waterfowl Status Report* documenting population status and trend information for ducks and geese. The Service uses this waterfowl monitoring data in an Adaptive Resource Management framework to set and evaluate hunting seasons in the United States. This iterative process ensures migratory bird regulations are commensurate with population status; maximizing recreational opportunity while ensuring long-term sustainable migratory bird populations. The Service and our partners also periodically conduct extensive surveys of several nongame Focal Species, including Reddish Egret, King Rail and Black-capped Petrel to provide comprehensive status information necessary to understand population responses to management actions and environmental variations.

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. These conservation partners rely heavily on the results of annual assessments to inform their migratory bird management and budgeting decisions within their jurisdictions. Survey data are essential for identifying and prioritizing management actions, research needs and providing a scientific, informed basis for effective long-term migratory bird conservation and management on a national and international scale. Many of the Service's migratory bird databases are shared via the Migratory Bird Data Center at <https://migbirdapps.fws.gov>. In addition, many of the Service's Population Status report and result of other Assessments can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/NewsPublicationsReports.html>



Every summer the FWS and State partners capture and band wood ducks to obtain data that informs the establishment of harvest regulations. Left photo by: Randy Wilson, USFWS; right photo: USFWS



Although many entities support or are involved in activities related to bird conservation, the Service's Migratory Bird Program is the only entity, public or private, with the specific responsibility to address the range-wide spectrum of issues, problems, and interests related to migratory bird protection, conservation, and management. To accomplish such a significant task, the Migratory Bird Program coordinates and supports a number of multi-partner conservation efforts. Through Executive Order 13186 - *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, the Service promotes the Federal stewardship of migratory birds by partnering with other Federal agencies through Memoranda of Understanding. In 2013, the Department of Energy (DOE) renewed and revitalized its MOU with the Service, continuing this cooperative relationship that strives to improve bird conservation opportunities. This updated MOU provides more specific information and guidance to DOE about how to reduce impacts to birds and their resources. Nearing completion are MOUs with the Office of Surface Mining, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Defense and the Environmental Protection Agency. In addition, the Migratory Bird Program coordinates the efforts of a large number of national and international governmental and private partners by leading established shorebird, waterbird, and landbird conservation initiatives.

In 2013 regional and national migratory bird program staff led the development of tactical, flyway-scale implementation strategies to reverse declines and maintain populations of shorebirds and their habitats along the Pacific and Atlantic coasts of the Western Hemisphere. These business strategies differ from standard conservation plans by focusing on a set of well-developed actions that link funding to specific, measurable conservation outcomes, rather than producing long lists of possible actions, some of which may not be clearly defined. These flyway-scale plans, which address shorebirds throughout their annual cycle, will be used to leverage private and public funds and to ensure conservation investments are directed toward the highest priority action in the most appropriate places throughout the hemisphere. A broad perspective from everywhere migratory birds travel is needed to ensure conservation investments made in one part of the range are not offset by conservation losses elsewhere.



The irruption of snowy owls during the winter of 2013/2014, such as this one in Arlington, VA (near Reagan National Airport), attracted broad public interest. Photo by: Alicia King, USFWS.

**Subactivity: Migratory Bird Management
Program Element: Permits**

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015			Change from 2014 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Permits	(\$000)	3,346	3,346	+29	0	3,375	+29
	FTE	34	34	0	0	34	0

Justification of 2015 Program Changes

The 2015 budget request for the Permits Program is \$3,375,000 and 34 FTE, with no net program change from the 2014 Enacted.

Program Overview

Under the authorities of the *Migratory Bird Treaty Act* (16 U.S.C. 703-712, MBTA), the Service is responsible for regulating activities associated with migratory birds. The *Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act* (16 U.S.C. 668, BGEPA) provides additional protections to Bald Eagles and Golden Eagles. The MBTA and the BGEPA are the primary acts that address conservation of migratory birds and only allow their taking, killing, possession, or sale, with authorization, done generally by permit. Take and possession of migratory birds for purposes other than hunting are administered through the permitting system at 50 CFR parts 21 and 22.

The mission of the Migratory Bird Permits Program is to promote long-term sustainability of migratory bird populations while providing opportunities for the public to study, use, and enjoy migratory birds consistent with the provisions of the MBTA and the BGEPA. Regulations authorizing take and possession of migratory birds focus on a number of activities including: scientific study, depredation control, falconry, raptor propagation, rehabilitation of injured birds, educational use, taxidermy, waterfowl sale, and Native American religious use of eagles. The permits are administered by the eight Regional Migratory Bird Permit Offices, which process more than 15,000 applications annually. Native American eagle feather possession permits are valid indefinitely; most other permits are valid for 1 to 5 years. Beginning in January, 2014, permits for the incidental take of eagles associated with otherwise lawful activities may be authorized for a duration of up to 30 years. A condition of the permit is the submission of annual mortality information. Based on that information, the Service will work with permittees to ensure there are proper protections in place for eagles. Revisions of regulations permitting take of golden and bald eagles allow the Service to help facilitate sustainable renewable energy development, supporting the Secretary’s priority to power the future. The Service finalized MBTA guidance in 2012 and BGEPA guidance in 2013 to enable permit applicants to assess and minimize the potential impact of projects on eagles and other migratory birds.

The Division of Migratory Bird Management develops policy and regulations at the Headquarters level. Sound science is a fundamental component of migratory bird permit policies and decisions. Computer technologies, such as the Service’s Permits Issuance and Tracking System (SPITS), provide a tool for issuing permits and help monitor cumulative impacts to migratory bird populations. Policy and regulation development focuses on clarifying and streamlining regulatory requirements and on related issues, such as providing Native Americans opportunities to exercise their religious traditions.

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

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015			Change from 2014 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Federal Duck Stamp	(\$000)	556	556	+5	0	561	+5
	FTE	4	4	0	0	4	0

Justification of 2015 Program Changes

The 2014 budget request for the Federal Duck Stamp Program is \$561,000 and 4 FTE, with no net program change from the 2014 Enacted.

Program Overview

The Federal Duck Stamp program, an internationally recognized and emulated program, supports conservation of important 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 (U.S.C. 718-718j, 48 Stat. 452 amended March 16, 1934) requires waterfowl hunters 16 years of age or older to possess a valid Federal Duck Stamp when hunting. Many non-hunters also buy Federal Duck Stamps to support wetland habitat conservation, as 98% of these funds are used to purchase wetland habitat.



The 2013-2014 Duck Stamp

In 2013, Duck Stamps sales totaled more than \$25 million. Since 1934 the stamps have raised almost \$900 million for the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, enabling the protection of more than 5.6 million acres of prime waterfowl habitat. Lands acquired with Duck Stamp dollars also provide Americans with opportunities to enjoy the outdoors by engaging in activities such as hunting, fishing, hiking and wildlife watching, key components of the Administration's America's Great Outdoors Initiative.

The Administration's FY 2015 budget request proposes to increase the price of the Federal Duck Stamp from \$15 to \$25. Since the last price increase in 1991, land prices have increased, but the buying power of the Duck Stamp has not kept pace. If the price of the Duck Stamp were to increase to \$25, the Service could acquire approximately 7,000 additional waterfowl habitat acres in fee and approximately 10,000 additional conservation easement acres annually.

The 2013-2014 Duck Stamp features California artist Robert Steiner's painting of a common goldeneye. The issuance of the 2013 stamp also marks the sixth year the Service continued to sell Duck Stamps in eight participating States through the Electronic Duck Stamp (E-Stamp) pilot. The E-Stamp program is a valuable customer service tool, making Duck Stamps available in a quick and convenient manner. The acceptance of this initiative has been clearly demonstrated by the growth in E-Stamp sales from 58,000 in the pilot's first year (2007) to more than 400,000 in 2012. The sales period is July through June. As of December 2013, sales of the 2013-2014 E-Stamp exceeded 480,000. In 2014, the Service will expand the

e-stamp program by adding 15 additional States in the next three years. This expansion will further improve the ability to meet customer’s needs in a fast, convenient manner.



The Junior Duck Stamp curriculum is designed to spark youth interest in habitat conservation through science, art, math and technology. Left photo credit: Adrian Binns, used with permission.

Right photo credit: Art Needleman, USFWS



Below, the Minnesota state contest, Credit: Mara Koenig, USFWS

Since 1989, the Junior Duck Stamp Program has provided an art and science-based environmental education curriculum to help teach wildlife conservation to American schoolchildren. As our nation’s population has become more urban, children are increasingly disconnected from, and uninterested in, the outdoors and the natural world, a cultural phenomenon termed “nature deficit disorder.” The Junior Duck Stamp Program promotes an increased appreciation for the outdoors and fosters environmental stewardship amongst youngsters, while providing educators with tools to teach about nature and encouraging conservation activities. Annual program participation ranges from approximately 25,000 to 30,000 students.



In FY 2012, the Service introduced an updated Junior Duck Stamp curriculum. This new curriculum includes state-of-the-art technology, social networking tools, and current scientific information (for example, the impacts of rising sea levels on coastal wetland habitats). Additionally, it is designed to be multi-culturally relevant and incorporates information about careers in nature and conservation. It also maintains its heritage with the opportunity for students to submit artwork for inclusion in their State’s Junior Duck Stamp art competition. In 2013 at the National Junior Duck Stamp art contest, South Dakota native Madison Grimm’s painting of a canvasback duck took top honors from the 50 State winners.



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

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015				Change from 2014 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
North American Waterfowl Management/Joint Ventures	(\$000)	13,139	13,139	+62	0	0	13,201	+62
	FTE	55	55	0	0	0	55	0

Justification of 2015 Program Changes

The 2015 budget request for the North American Waterfowl Management Plan / Joint Ventures Program is \$13,201,000 and 55 FTE, with no net program change from the 2014 Enacted.

Program Overview

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP or Plan) is an international accord signed by the U.S. and Canada in 1986 and by Mexico in 1994. Addressing waterfowl management across North America, the NAWMP has for 27 years helped to sustain abundant waterfowl populations by conserving landscapes through partnerships guided by sound science.

The 2012 revision of the Plan recognized the need to engage an expanding community of waterfowl resource users and supporters, including both hunters and the non-hunting public. The revised Plan seeks to engage people who are committed to conservation and value waterfowl and their habitats as essential characteristics of the North American landscape. It seeks to increase

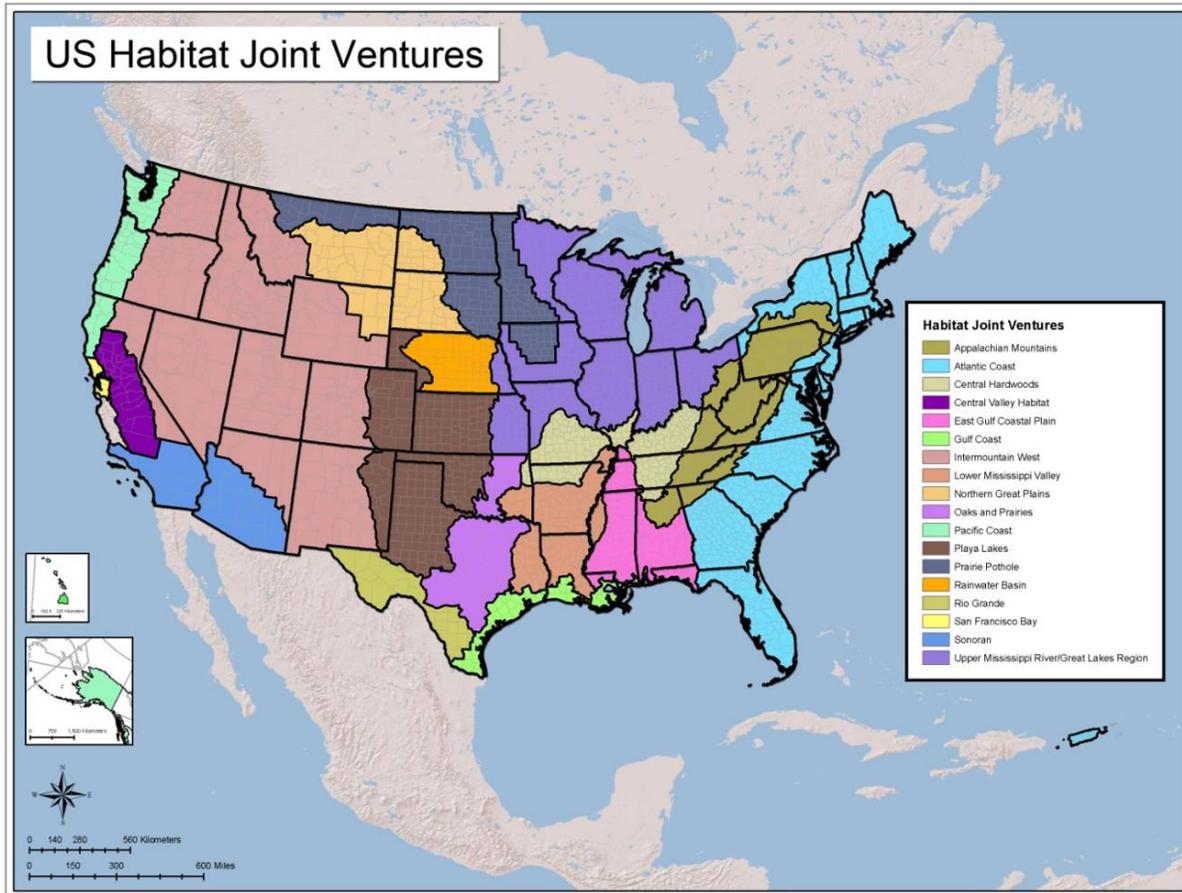
public awareness and understanding that waterfowl provide not only environmental and ecological, but also numerous economic benefits. For example, according to the *2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation*, migratory birds such as geese, ducks, and doves, attracted 2.6 million hunters who spent 23 million days hunting and \$1.8 billion on hunting related expenditures.

The habitat goals of the Plan are primarily implemented by Migratory Bird Joint Ventures (JV)—regional, self-directed partnerships involving Federal, State, and local governments, corporations, individuals, and non-government conservation groups. Eighteen U.S. habitat-based JVs and three species-specific JVs address local, regional, and continental goals for sustaining migratory bird populations by building landscape-level conservation plans and developing targeted habitat projects. By catalyzing partnerships to conserve habitat, JVs also support community-level efforts to conserve outdoor spaces and provide recreational opportunities that are helping to reconnect Americans to the outdoors.



Restored wetlands provide critical stopover and wintering habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds in the Gulf Coast Joint Venture.
 Credit: Ken Kriese, USFWS

JVs are active partners in the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC), contributing their 27 years of experience with partnership development, landscape-scale conservation planning, and habitat delivery for migratory birds to the collective science and capacity of the LCCs. LCCs in turn address JV priority



science needs. For example, with leadership, technical expertise and funding support from the Gulf Coastal Plains & Ozarks LCC, a forest characterization database first envisioned more than a decade ago by the Lower Mississippi Valley JV is now on its way to becoming a reality. This project will coordinate multiple partners’ existing data collection efforts to allow a landscape-level assessment that is directly relevant to conservation delivery - in this case, improved forest management with recommended forest treatments that will achieve optimal conditions for wildlife.

Service participation in the NAWMP and in JVs occurs under several authorities and accords: 1) The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712) authorizes appropriations to accomplish the purposes of the migratory bird conventions with Canada, Mexico, Japan, and Russia; 2) The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4401-4412) states that protecting migratory birds and their habitat requires the coordinated action of governments, private organizations, landowners, and other citizens, and specifically cites the NAWMP as a key implementation framework; and 3) The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 2901-2911) authorizes financial and technical assistance to the States for the developing, revising, and implementing conservation plans and programs for nongame fish and wildlife.

Using the Strategic Habitat Conservation framework, based on the principles of adaptive management, JVs set and achieve habitat conservation objectives at multiple scales. JVs employ the best available scientific information, to predict how bird populations will respond to habitat conservation and other management activities, and then develop conservation plans for those populations. This framework is particularly well suited to strategically address the problems migratory birds face on their breeding, migration, and wintering grounds.

JVs use the products of this biological planning -- often maps or models -- to design landscape-level conservation strategies that can prioritize and direct habitat management resources where they will have greatest effect and lowest relative cost. This strategy enables JV partners to focus conservation programs on the highest priority areas and maintain resources at the level needed to sustain healthy populations of migratory birds, while considering a changing climate, social changes, the effects of land use decisions, and fiscal constraints.

Law Enforcement

Activity: Conservation and Enforcement
Subactivity: Law Enforcement

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015			Budget Request	Change from 2014 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
Operations	(\$000)	56,932	63,365	+468	0	+1,994	65,827	+2,462
Equipment Replacement	(\$000)	910	910	0	0	0	910	0
Total, Law Enforcement	(\$000) FTE	57,842 291	64,275 301	+468 0	0 0	+1,994 +7	66,737 308	+2,462 +7

Summary of 2015 Program Changes for Law Enforcement

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Expand Forensics Capability	+1,247	+5
• Wildlife Trafficking	+500	+2
• General Program Activities	+247	0
Program Changes	+1,994	+7

Justification of 2015 Program Changes

The 2015 budget request for the Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) is \$66,737,000 and 308 FTE, which is a net program change of +\$1,994,000 and +7 FTE from the FY 2014 Enacted.

Expand Forensics Capability (+\$1,247,000/+5 FTE)

To best respond to the global wildlife trafficking crisis and work to implement the National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking, the Service is requesting additional funding for forensic capacity at the Service’s National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory (Lab). The ability to scientifically identify the species source of mammal, bird, plant and reptile wildlife parts and products is one of the most frequently utilized capabilities of the Lab by Service special agents, wildlife inspectors, and Justice Department prosecutors, and is the Lab’s area of expertise most difficult to replace. Conclusive evidence of criminal activity in wildlife investigation often hinges on the investigators’ and prosecutors’ ability to establish definitively exactly where in the world specific animal or animal parts originated. The Lab currently has only three scientists in the Morphology Section to analyze bird, reptile, and mammal cases and unfilled capacity issues in other Sections of the Lab.

The requested increase will help the Lab expand research involving genetic markers and isotope analysis, making it easier to determine the origin or geographic source of illicit wildlife material, particularly for species threatened by current patterns of illegal trade. Wildlife populations have identifiable genetic profiles which results in specific isotopic signatures that reflect a specific geographic location. As a result, for example, this expanded research data will help 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 will aid efforts to stem the killings and prosecute criminals. The requested increase will fund the research needed to build the critical databases to support OLE’s wildlife crime investigations and protect these iconic animals and others imperiled by trade.

The recent retirements of highly skilled forensic morphologists has impeded the Service’s ability to analyze mammals and birds using morphology and DNA. The 2014 DOI Risk Assessment Report

highlighted a critical risk element for the Service was its inability to replace staff in the Morphology Section. Entry-level candidates with specific morphological education and experience need to be hired and develop on the job over three to five years to qualify as a morphological wildlife parts-and-products analyst and to testify in Federal, State, and international courts. Consequently, the Lab needs to begin training a second generation of forensic morphologists as soon as possible before additional retirements make it extremely difficult, if not impossible, to train a new candidate over the typical multi-year period. The requested funding will also enable the Service to fill vacant Lab positions and continue working on the forensic science needed to put traffickers and poachers away.

Wildlife Trafficking (+\$500,000/+2 FTE)

Wildlife trafficking is a concern of the Service, Department, and the Administration. With poaching reaching unprecedented levels, these additional funds will support the Executive Order on combating wildlife trafficking, and help implement the Administration's new inter-agency National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking. Specifically, the Service will add two additional agents to its Special Investigations Unit (SIU), a small but elite national investigative team of six agents that has typically taken on one complex wildlife trafficking case at a time. With two additional agents, SIU can undertake a nationally coordinated large scale investigation of elephant ivory trafficking in addition to continued work on Operation Crash, a broad-reaching and successful investigation of rhino horn trafficking involving the U.S., South Africa, China and other countries. With the increase, the SIU will be able to better provide the needed national and international coordination of regional investigations of ivory trafficking to intercept and trace the original inbound illegal ivory shipments and expose domestic smuggling networks that are tapping U.S. ivory stocks for Asian markets.



In November 2013 the Service destroyed roughly six tons of illegal elephant ivory that the Office of Law Enforcement had seized over the years.

General Program Activities (+\$247,000/+0 FTE)

This increase will modestly supplement existing operating funds that allow Service special agents to investigate wildlife trafficking and other wildlife crimes. This money will partially compensate for the impact of rising costs on the Service's ability to cover the costs of conducting criminal investigations.

Program Overview

Under the provisions of the Lacey Act (16 U.S.C. 3771-3778), the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544), and other U.S. wildlife conservation laws, the OLE protects fish, wildlife, and plant resources by investigating wildlife crimes, including commercial exploitation, habitat destruction, and

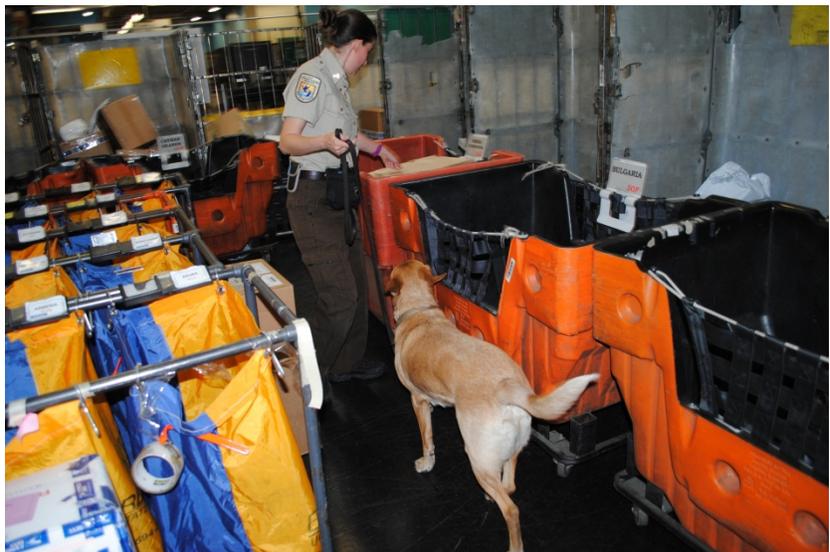
industrial hazards, and monitoring the Nation's wildlife trade to intercept smuggling and facilitate legal commerce. Effective enforcement of the Nation's wildlife laws is essential to the Service's conservation mission; helps the U.S. combat wildlife trafficking that represents a threat to U.S. and foreign species and global security; and supports the Department's goal of protecting and enhancing America's Great Outdoors.

Service special agents, wildlife inspectors, and forensic scientists help recover endangered species, conserve migratory birds, restore fisheries, combat invasive species, safeguard wildlife habitat, and promote international wildlife conservation. They play a critical role on a global basis in holding the line for species now on the brink of extinction because of the accelerating black market wildlife trade. Service efforts that protect wildlife resources and support strategic habitat conservation are also vital in the face of such ongoing threats as climate change and habitat loss. These threats make wildlife populations even more vulnerable to such crimes as poaching, black market trafficking, and industrial take.

Combating Illegal Global Wildlife Trafficking

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.

The Department of the Interior is among the leading Agencies addressing the requirements of an Executive Order issued to combat wildlife trafficking. To help meet this responsibility, the Service is building upon its proven track record. The Service's investigation of wildlife trafficking and assistance to international counterparts disrupts highly organized smuggling networks trafficking wildlife across 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 blitzes 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. Special agents and wildlife inspectors enforce prohibitions on the importation and interstate transport of injurious wildlife.



A Service law enforcement officer and canine inspect shipments in Chicago.

Additionally, the Service provides subject matter expertise and related support to U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) as that agency works to develop import regulations to implement the 2008 amendments to the Lacey Act, for timber and wood products protected under the conservation laws of other countries.

To make a greater impact, the Service began a special agent attaché program with the FY 2014 Omnibus with the goal of hiring and placing five special agents stationed overseas to investigate international wildlife trafficking. This program will work to address 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/or provide technical assistance in customs monitoring. One special agent has already been hired and is stationed at the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok. The Service will work with the Department of State to select specific locations for four other agent attaches; the probable geographic distribution would be two in sub-Saharan Africa, one in South America, and an additional agent in Asia.

Protecting our Nation's Species

Service 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 illegally profiteering from trade in American wildlife and plants, as well as addressing other potentially devastating threats to wildlife, including habitat destruction, environmental contaminants, and industrial hazards. Service special agents provide enforcement assistance to support the strategic habitat conservation efforts of the Department's Landscape Conservation Cooperatives; help negotiate and enforce Habitat Conservation Plans under the Endangered Species Act; 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.

Facilitating Legal Wildlife Trade

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. Service 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.

Management Excellence

The Service's success in stemming illegal global wildlife trafficking, protecting the Nation's wildlife, and facilitating legal wildlife trade depends on how well it uses its resources to meet these goals. OLE maintains ongoing strategic planning and performance management; is implementing comprehensive workforce plans; and is working to strengthen the career development and professional integrity of its workforce. The Service also leverages technology to support its investigative and inspection efforts and works to reduce the impact of its operations and facilities on global climate change.

2015 Program Performance

In FY 2015, the Law Enforcement program will begin to fully utilize its network of special agent/international attachés and build on past successes in combating global wildlife trafficking. Investigations will prioritize crimes that jeopardize wild populations of protected species nationally and around the world that are being devastated by poaching, black market trafficking, and transnational profiteering.

In FY 2013 and FY 2014, the Service continued its highly successful long-term investigation, called Operation Crash, of rhino horn trafficking and effectively pursued cases that documented and disrupted illegal trade in elephant ivory, coral, endangered fish, narwhal and walrus ivory, native sharks, and other U.S. marine resources. During this time, Law Enforcement created a professional wildlife detector dog

program, stationing four wildlife inspector/canine detection teams at critical ports of entry to improve the interception of smuggled wildlife. The program also increased its efforts to build wildlife law enforcement capacity in critical regions, including sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia, and provided investigative and technical assistance to authorities in such countries as Togo and the Philippines.

Most of the FY 2015 Law Enforcement Operations requested increase will go to strengthening forensic capabilities needed to address wildlife trafficking, including illegal timbering, and expanding the capacity of the Special Investigations Unit so that it can maximize the scope and effectiveness of Service efforts to respond to the elephant poaching crisis and shutdown trafficking in elephant ivory. This funding, in concert with full implementation of the agent/attaché program, will increase Service investigations involving species that are subject to illegal trade.



As part of Operation Crash, the Service has seized illegal rhino parts and decorative items and continues efforts to stem the poaching of these endangered animals.

Law Enforcement Combined Performance Change and Overview

Performance Goal	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Plan	2015 PB	Change from 2014 Plan to 2015 PB	Program Change Occurring in Out-years
Comments	Applies to all measures below: Although difficult to predict due to reactive nature of law enforcement, minimal overall changes projected in FY 2014. Increases in investigations involving threatened and endangered or foreign species anticipated due to increased emphasis placed on wildlife trafficking.							
6.5.1 # of individuals and businesses conducting illegal activities involving migratory birds	2,739	2,596	2,510	1,824	1,640	1,640	0	n/a
6.5.4 % of investigations involving migratory birds	9.0% (1,267 of 14,000)	9.8% (1,175 of 12,013)	9.5% (1,147 of 12,034)	9.0% (935 of 10,422)	8.9% (840 of 9,400)	8.8% (840 of 9,500)	-0.1%	n/a
6.5.4.1 # of migratory bird investigations	1,267	1,175	1,147	935	840	840	0	n/a
7.33.1 # of individuals and businesses conducting illegal activities involving T&E species	3,261	2,941	2,853	2,535	2,280	2,390	110 (4.8%)	n/a

Law Enforcement Combined Performance Change and Overview

Performance Goal	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Plan	2015 PB	Change from 2014 Plan to 2015 PB	Program Change Occurring in Out-years
7.33.4 % of total investigations related to T&E species	17% (2,330 of 14,000)	18% (2,116 of 12,013)	18% (2,152 of 12,034)	18% (1,852 of 10,422)	18% (1,650 of 9,400)	18% (1,750 of 9,500)	1% (4.9%)	n/a
7.33.4.1 # of T&E investigations	2,330	2,116	2,152	1,852	1,650	1,750	100 (6.1%)	n/a
10.4.1 # of individuals and businesses conducting illegal activities involving foreign species	8,758	8,237	8,473	7,521	6,725	6,835	110 (1.6%)	n/a
10.4.4 % of investigations involving foreign species	65.6% (9,180 of 14,000)	72.2% (8,671 of 12,013)	71.6% (8,620 of 12,034)	73.2% (7,624 of 10,422)	72.3% (6,800 of 9,400)	72.6% (6,900 of 9,500)	0.3%	n/a
10.4.4.1 # of investigations involving foreign species	9,180	8,671	8,620	7,624	6,800	6,900	100 (1.5%)	n/a
10.4.4.2 total # of investigations	14,000	12,013	12,034	10,422	9,400	9,500	100 (1.1%)	n/a
10.4.5 % of wildlife shipments containing foreign species	84% (155,270 of 185,000)	89% (146,901 of 164,485)	88% (162,805 of 185,002)	87% (157,065 of 180,368)	87% (152,000 of 175,000)	87% (152,000 of 175,000)	0%	n/a
10.4.5.1 # of wildlife shipments containing foreign species	155,270	146,901	162,805	157,065	152,000	152,000	0	n/a
10.4.5.2 total # of wildlife shipments	185,000	164,485	185,002	180,368	175,000	175,000	0	n/a

International Affairs

Activity: Conservation and Enforcement
Subactivity: International Affairs

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015			Change from 2014 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
International Conservation	(\$000)	5,898	6,683	+34	0	+500	7,217	+534
International Wildlife Trade	(\$000)	6,248	6,823	+59	0	+500	7,382	+559
Total, International Affairs	(\$000) <i>FTE</i>	12,146 76	13,506 76	+93 0	0 0	+1,000 +4	14,599 80	+1,093 +4

Summary of 2015 Program Changes for International Affairs

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• International Conservation: Wildlife Trafficking	+500	+2
• International Wildlife Trade: Wildlife Trafficking	+500	+2
Program Changes	+1,000	+4

Justification of 2015 Program Changes

The 2015 budget request for the International Affairs is \$14,599,000 and 80 FTE, a net program increase of \$1,000,000 and +4 FTE from the FY 2014 Enacted.

International Conservation: Wildlife Trafficking (+\$500,000/+2 FTE)

Escalating poaching and increased trafficking threaten wildlife species around the globe, including African elephants and rhinos. Successfully addressing this crisis requires actions in both the source countries and in the countries where demand for wildlife products drives poaching and illegal trade. A portion of this funding will be dedicated to working with key countries, such as Vietnam, China, Malaysia, and the Philippines where demand for illegal wildlife products is high, to mobilize their private sectors in support of demand reduction campaigns. The Service believes there are numerous potential new partners in the private sectors of these countries with whom we can work to substantially change local attitudes and behaviors to dramatically reduce demand. The remaining funds will be used to enable the implementation of one pilot project at a major elephant reserve to adapt drug interdiction techniques to combatting wildlife trafficking. Technologies proven successful for drug interdiction will be adapted to conditions in Africa and installed to enable local wildlife managers and law enforcement personnel to detect poachers, intervene before wildlife is killed, and gather information to disable transport networks.

International Wildlife Trade: Wildlife Trafficking (+\$500,000/+2 FTE)

Strong governance and effective implementation of international treaty obligations, in particular the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), will play a key role in curbing wildlife trafficking and supporting wildlife conservation. Equally important, U.S. consumers need to be aware of the laws that regulate wildlife trade and the plight of wild animal and plant species threatened by illegal and unsustainable trade in order to reduce demand. This funding will support the effective implementation of ivory trade action plans and other time-bound country-specific actions agreed to at the 16th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, and by enabling the Service to develop and implement a comprehensive outreach and education strategy targeting U.S. consumers of illegally traded wildlife. The Service will provide technical expertise and, where appropriate, financial assistance to the CITES Secretariat and other entities and work in cooperation with

other partners that are well-positioned to play a critical role in supplier, consumer, and transit countries involved in wildlife trafficking.

Program Overview

The Service's International Affairs Program (IA) engages in domestic and international efforts to protect, restore, and enhance the world's diverse wildlife and their habitats with a focus on species of international concern. The Service has international responsibilities under numerous domestic laws, international treaties, and other multilateral agreements, such as the Multinational Species Conservation Acts, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Western Hemisphere Convention, the Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee, the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Lacey Act, the Wild Bird Conservation Act, and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention). The Service works with private citizens, local communities, federal and state agencies, foreign governments, U.S. and international non-governmental organizations, scientific and conservation organizations, industry groups, and other interested parties to ensure effective implementation of treaties and laws, and the global conservation of species.

Global issues such as rampant poaching for ivory and rhino horn, climate change, wildlife disease, and illegal and unsustainable trade are increasingly important factors to consider in wildlife conservation. The program not only safe-guards native species from the potential negative impacts of international trade, but it also improves the capacity of other countries to address conservation problems affecting the health and viability of species that are important to the U.S. economy and have intrinsic value to the American public.

Through a science-based approach, the Service works to conserve living resources around the world by working to safeguard nature and ensure sustainable international wildlife trade. There are two functions within IA that promote conservation across the globe in order to conserve the planet's biodiversity. The Division of International Conservation implements the Wildlife Without Borders (WWB) program and its signature initiatives through Species, Regional, and Global grant and technical assistance programs. The International Wildlife Trade function provides oversight of domestic laws and international treaties that promote the long-term conservation of plant and animal species, including more than 1,100 U.S. native plant and animal species, by making sure that international trade and other activities do not threaten their survival in the wild. The complex conservation issues facing the species under the Service's purview requires a two-pronged strategy. For example, the Service addresses the illegal trade and poaching of elephants and rhinos through on-the-ground efforts to protect species in their habitats and international governmental policy negotiations to improve treaty compliance and reduce consumer demand. This complements activities of the Service's Office of Law Enforcement that enforces and investigates violations of wildlife laws.



Rhinos and elephants are particularly at risk from wildlife trafficking. Credit: Yathin S Krishnappa.

Building Capacity and Partnerships with a Focus on Innovation

The need for international collaboration has never been greater as species survival depends on the health of habitats which extend beyond political boundaries. The Service's landscape level approach addresses this conservation challenge by focusing on species that depend on those landscapes and working to maintain the diversity of life within those landscapes. Wildlife trafficking, the poaching of protected

species and the illegal trade in wildlife and their derivative parts and products, is another example of the critical need for partnerships and international cooperation.

In 2013, in an effort to stem this escalating crisis, the President issued Executive Order 13648 to combat wildlife trafficking. As a part of implementing the Executive Order, the Service led the effort to establish the Advisory Council on Wildlife Trafficking. The Advisory Council serves in a critical liaison role to work out solutions to reduce demand for endangered wildlife products and curb trafficking of such goods. In addition, the Executive Order established the Presidential Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking, which is responsible for preparing a draft National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking. On February 11, 2014 the White House announced the National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking. The Strategy will strengthen U.S. leadership on addressing the serious and urgent conservation and global security threat posed by illegal trade in wildlife. In addition, the White House announced that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will implement several measures to impose a near complete ban on commercial trade of elephant ivory and rhino horn, which will enhance our efforts to protect these iconic species by prohibiting the import, export, or resale within the United States of elephant ivory and rhino horn except in a very limited number of circumstances. Taken together, these actions will help ensure that the United States is not contributing to poaching of elephants and other endangered species and illegal trade in elephant ivory and other wildlife parts and products.

Unique partnerships are a key aspect of the Service's international program, with the goal of building coalitions of support and leveraging resources for maximum impact. The Service has joined forces with Major League Baseball's Detroit Tigers to educate millions of fans on the plight of this endangered mascot in the wild and raise much needed funds to save the species. To commence the partnership, the Detroit Tigers donated \$26,000 to the WWB tiger conservation program. The Detroit Tigers has also made the WWB program the beneficiary of their *Pennies for Paws* program, a coin collection campaign at Comerica Park, their home stadium. We plan to expand these public-private partnerships and look for opportunities with other private organizations, including some of the many college sports teams that use tigers as mascots, which may engage younger demographics in the broader wildlife conservation movement.



The Detroit Tigers present a donation to support tiger conservation.

In addition, the Service will focus its efforts on the successful implementation of the recent shark and ray listings through our partnerships with National Marine Fisheries Service and the CITES Secretariat. Besides conserving those species, efforts will contribute to the future of all marine species conservation in the CITES, and will further strengthen our collaboration and partnerships in Latin America, Europe, West Africa and Asia. In addition, we will continue to work with partners in West Africa and Central America on important wildlife trade issues and provide assistance with CITES implementation.

Species and Habitat Conservation Across Landscapes

The Service implements innovative conservation projects around the globe by assisting partner organizations through financial assistance programs. Thousands of species throughout the world are currently facing the threat of extinction due to heavy poaching, illegal wildlife trade, human-wildlife conflict, disease, and disappearing habitats. Fish, wildlife, and plants and the habitats they depend on are dynamic; responding to ecological events and processes occurring at multiple scales, ranging from more local to global. The better we understand how species respond to changes at these various scales, the

better we can conserve landscapes capable of supporting self-sustaining populations now and in the future.

The Service promotes, facilitates, and supports vital conservation efforts across the globe in order to preserve the planet's rich diversity of wildlife for all the citizens of Earth and for generations to come. Some examples of grant assistance include:

- The creation and protection of a large continuous conservation area in Peru to help the survival of the San Martin titi monkey.
- Building an isolated frog propagation facility or a "Noah's Ark" in Ecuador to protect the Spotted Harlequin frog.
- Increasing sustainable economic activities for rural communities and reducing dependence on forests critical to the cotton-top tamarin in Colombia.
- Expanding community awareness in the Caribbean through an innovative radio campaign supporting habitat protection for Caribbean birds and conducting workshops for indigenous communities in Guatemala on wildlife conservation and subsistence hunting.
- Educating and training communities of the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve in Mexico to adopt sustainable productive practices and recover the degraded ecosystems of the area.
- Coordinating a visit of Chinese scientists and conservation leaders to Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery, where they learned new conservation methods, including how the Service raises and stocks juvenile Atlantic salmon for certain Maine waters where it is endangered.
- Working with Gabon's National Parks Agency, ANPN, to conserve Gabon's wildlife by transforming ANPN into a premier African parks agency with adaptive capacity within five years.



*A Cotton-top tamarin (Saguinus oedipus) in Colombia.
Credit: Chase Pickering*



A Chinese delegation visits Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery in Maine.

5 - Year Project Funding Summary (2008 - 2012)

Grant Program	Number of Grants Awarded	Number of Countries Supported	Service Contributions	Matching Contributions
Africa	7	2	\$ 2,992,420	\$ 3,044,139
Eurasia ¹	5	1	\$ 597,000	\$ -
Western Hemisphere	26	7	\$ 1,568,828	\$ 2,737,836
Critically Endangered Animals Cons. Fund	12	10	\$ 294,254	\$ 422,650
Amphibians in Decline Fund	31	5	\$ 121,093	\$ 263,840

¹ Actual number of grants issued by the Service 2008-2012. Each grant has historically been subdivided into smaller grants by the Grantee.

The Service's responsibility to protect species from over-utilization for trade has provided the opportunity to develop both regulatory and non-regulatory approaches to conserving those species, including

measures to be implemented by other U.S. Federal and non-federal partners. This approach has benefited more than 1,100 native species such as:

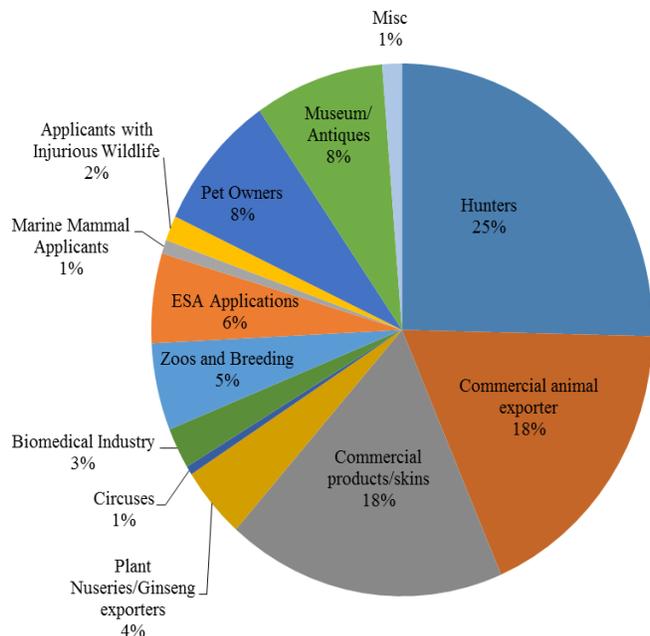
- Over half of the world’s population of freshwater turtles is at risk of extinction. International trade in turtles is most common in Asia for the pet trade, food consumption, or traditional medicines. This demand is putting pressure on turtle populations in the United States, and has led to a growing concern about the long-term survival of these species. In 2014 and 2015, the Service will implement CITES Appendix-III listings for four native turtle species, including the common snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*), the Florida softshell turtle (*Apalone ferox*), the smooth softshell turtle (*Apalone mutica*), and the spiny softshell turtle (*Apalone spinifera*). This action will enable the Service to better monitor international trade.
- The North American paddlefish is highly prized for its roe (eggs). Paddlefish are found in 22 States that are part of the Mississippi River basin, including the Missouri River into Montana, the Ohio River and their major tributaries. The Service has focused on improving the conservation of the species, including development of basin-wide management recommendations. In 2015, the Service will continue to work with partners with the aim of achieving the management of paddlefish at sustainable levels across its range and ensuring that caviar exports are not detrimental to the species’ survival.
- Wild American ginseng roots have been highly sought after for international trade due to their medicinal properties and are vulnerable to overexploitation. The Service has been working collaboratively with various partners to improve the conservation and management of the species to ensure sustainability. In 2015, the Service will spearhead development and implementation of management recommendations based on the results of recent genetic studies to ensure that stewardship activities provide the maximum benefit to the long-term survival of wild ginseng. The Service will also expand outreach efforts to reduce poaching and illegal harvest of wild ginseng to ensure that exports of roots are not detrimental to the survival of the species.



Paddlefish
Credit: Todd Stailey/ Tennessee Aquarium

Conserve Species and Habitats Through International Agreements

The Service has nearly 40 years of implementing CITES – the only international treaty designed specifically to conserve certain animal and plant species that are now, or may become, threatened with extinction due to trade. CITES is one of the most effective forces in the world today for conservation of fauna and flora, both in halting the trade in species threatened with extinction and in fostering sustainable use of other vulnerable species. The Service also implements domestic laws, such as the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), Lacey Act, Wild Bird Conservation Act (WBCA), African Elephant Conservation Act, and Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act, to regulate the trade and movement of species of both national and international concern. The United States is one of the world’s largest importers and exporters of wildlife and wildlife



products, and plays a significant role in the global wildlife trade, currently valued in billions of dollars annually. In response to ever-increasing pressures of wildlife trade and habitat loss affecting species worldwide, the Service makes critical decisions on the status of species, on wildlife trade policy, and on individual imports and exports through its permit program. An efficient, responsive permits system to regulate this trade is critical to ensure international trade in listed wildlife and plants is legal, and will not adversely affect the biological status of the species in the wild.

The Service has approximately 5,200 different applicants (see pie chart on Page IA-5 for breakdown of applicant types) and issues over 20,000 permits annually to engage in a wide variety of wildlife trade activities. The Service uses the best available biological information to make findings on whether the import or export of CITES-listed species may be detrimental to their survival, or whether the trade will not jeopardize the existence and enhance the survival of ESA-listed species. Decisions on whether to issue permits frequently must be made in close consultation with foreign CITES authorities, the States, other Federal agencies, the CITES Secretariat, other relevant experts, and applicants.

In addition, the Service compiles and maintains trade records for U.S. imports and exports. In conjunction with reports from other CITES parties, this data is used to monitor trade levels, determine trends over time, and to help ensure that trade in plants and animals is sustainable.

CITES is only one of several legal and regulatory mechanisms used to ensure the conservation of species of global significance. The Service continues to play an active role in U.S. efforts to negotiate and implement free trade agreements, including the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, Trans-Pacific Partnership, and Peru Trade Promotion Agreement, and uses the Pelly Amendment to the Fishermen's Protective Act to ensure that other countries are not engaging in trade that undermines the effectiveness of CITES. By certifying these countries and taking firm actions to encourage conservation, the Service will ensure that CITES remains an effective and valuable tool to combat illegal and unsustainable trade.

Motivate Conservation Actions by Raising Awareness and Support

By utilizing different forms of social media and adapting to new technologies, the Service has focused additional resources on outreach. This effort increases awareness about the status of wildlife and wildlife habitat, and what the Service is doing internationally through grants and technical expertise to demonstrate conservation leadership and protect endangered species of global importance. The Service also informs the public about legal protections that exist for species and how to avoid potential violations of the law by clarifying which activities may require a permit.

In 2011, the Service partnered with NGOs and the private sector to raise broad public awareness of endangered species by introducing the *Save Vanishing Species Stamp*. Proceeds from the stamp are used directly to fund conservation programs across the globe. As of November 2013, the United States Postal Service (USPS) sold more than 24,989,000 *Save Vanishing Species* stamps providing \$2.52 million toward conserving Asian and African elephants, rhinoceros, tigers and apes. The National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking recommends Congress direct the USPS to continue sale of the stamp, allowing the public an opportunity to engage in this worldwide effort.



As a result of Executive Order 13648 to combat wildlife trafficking, the Service answered the President's call to action by destroying nearly six tons of confiscated elephant ivory, sending a clear message to poachers and smugglers that the United States will not tolerate wildlife trafficking. Along with the Office of Law Enforcement and the External Affairs program, IA played an integral role in the development, management and execution of the ivory crush event. The event garnered an extremely high level of international media attention, and nearly every major national and international news outlet covered the story. The word also spread on social media as #IvoryCrush trended #1 on Twitter in the United States, the United Kingdom, South Africa, and Canada, resulting in more than 87.7 million media impressions. The Service will capitalize on the momentum of the ivory crush by engaging with journalists, celebrities, conservation organizations, and other partners to raise awareness about illegal wildlife trade.



The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service destroyed six tons of ivory to send a clear message to poachers and smugglers that we will not tolerate wildlife trafficking.

2015 Program Performance

Much of the world's trade in wild animal and plant species – both legal and illegal – is driven by U.S. consumers or passes through U.S. ports on the way to other nations. Executive Order 13648 states that “the United States shall seek to reduce the demand for illegally traded wildlife, both at home and abroad, while allowing legal and legitimate commerce involving wildlife.” A highly orchestrated, coordinated outreach, communications and public awareness campaign can help reduce demand. As the implementing agency for both domestic and international wildlife trade laws, the Service, and specifically IA, will play an integral and leading role in any domestic consumer demand-reduction communications and outreach campaign that results from this Executive Order.

In addition to combating illegal trade, the Service is tasked with facilitating legal and sustainable trade. To that end, the Service will continue to work with importers and exporters of wildlife products to ensure compliance with the law and educate them on the permitting process. The Service will also engage with specific industry and interest groups, including musical instrument manufacturers, musicians, veterinarians, fishermen, pet owners, hunters, captive breeders, and animal welfare and environmental nongovernmental organizations.

The Service recognizes the importance of engaging with the public on digital platforms and will continue to develop, accelerate, and enhance communications in this area. The Service will also continue outreach campaigns to inform and educate the public about Service grant funding and projects across the globe. The Service will also work with partners and key stakeholder groups to ensure Service initiatives have a strong communications, outreach and educational component to raise awareness of Service conservation efforts and their importance, not just to local communities, but to the entire world.

International Affairs Combined Performance Change and Overview

Performance Goal	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Plan	2015 PB	Change from 2014 Plan to 2015 PB	Program Change Occurring in Out-years
10.1.1 Number of international species of management concern whose status has been improved in cooperation with affected countries (GPRA)	49	56	36	36	36	36	0	n/a
10.1.2 Influence the conservation of X species through activities that promote and sustain species of international concern relative to the provisions of the Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere. (GPRA)	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	n/a
10.1.4 Influence the conservation of X species through activities that promote and sustain species of international concern relative to the provisions of the U.S. - Russia Agreement in the Field of Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources. (GPRA)	1	3	1	1	1	1	0	0
10.1.5 Influence the conservation of X species through activities that promote and sustain species of international concern relative to the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. (GPRA)	33	41	33	33	33	33	0	n/a

International Affairs Combined Performance Change and Overview

Performance Goal	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Plan	2015 PB	Change from 2014 Plan to 2015 PB	Program Change Occurring in Out-years
10.1.6 Influence the conservation of X species through activities that promote and sustain species of international concern relative to the provisions of the Endangered Species Act. (GPRA)	11	10	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
CSF 10.2 Influence the conservation of X species of international concern through the wildlife trade permitting program (GPRA)	179	195	179	179	179	179	0	n/a
10.2.1 Influence the conservation of X species of international concern through the wildlife trade permitting program (GPRA)	179	195	179	179	179	179	0	n/a
10.2.2 Influence the conservation of X species, through wildlife trade permitting activities required for species listed on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. (GPRA)	33	37	33	33	33	33	0	n/a

International Affairs Combined Performance Change and Overview

Performance Goal	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Plan	2015 PB	Change from 2014 Plan to 2015 PB	Program Change Occurring in Out-years
10.2.3 Influence the conservation of X species, through wildlife trade permitting activities required for species listed on App. II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. (GPRA)	110	120	110	110	110	110	0	n/a
10.2.4 Influence the conservation of X species, through wildlife trade permitting activities required for species listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act. (GPRA)	33	35	33	33	33	33	0	n/a
10.2.5 Influence the conservation of X species, through wildlife trade permitting activities required under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. (GPRA)	3	3	3	3	3	3	0	n/a
10.3.1 Facilitate the conservation of X species through federal assistance awards and leveraged funds or in-kind resources. (GPRA)	56	32	32	32	32	32	0	n/a

Fish and Aquatic Conservation

Activity: Fish and Aquatic Conservation

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015			Change From 2014 Enacted (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
National Fish Hatchery Operations	(\$000)	45,011	46,528	+375	0	+1,714	48,617	+2,089
	FTE	329	325	0	0	0	325	0
Maintenance and Equipment	(\$000)	15,857	16,055	0	0	+1,865	17,920	+1,865
	FTE	83	82	0	0	0	82	0
Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation*	(\$000)	68,893	72,736	+467	-5,487	+4,666	72,382	-354
	FTE	330	330	0	-29	+6	307	-23
Total, Fish and Aquatic Conservation	(\$000)	129,761	135,319	+842	-5,487	+8,245	138,919	+3,600
	FTE	742	737	0	-29	+6	714	-23

*Note: In 2015 funding in the amount of \$5,487,000 and 29 FTE for Marine Mammals moves to Ecological Services.

Program Overview

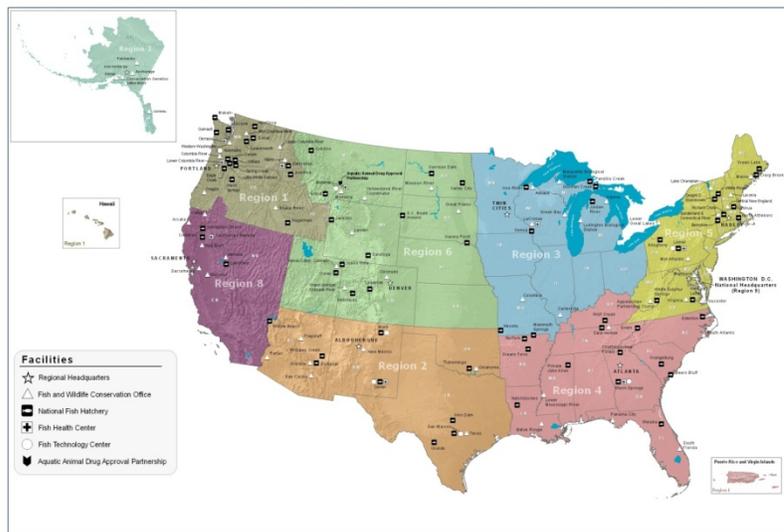
Since 1871, the Fisheries program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been a leader in managing species, conserving habitat, and sustaining the biological health of America’s aquatic resources. Beginning as the U.S. Fish Commission on Fish and Fisheries 140 years ago, the role has evolved from a singular focus on stock assessment and propagation for subsistence and recreational purposes, to one focused on holistically and collaboratively managing populations of fish and other aquatic species, conserving and restoring habitat, managing for threats of invasive species and climate change, and ultimately sustaining the biological health of America’s aquatic resources. These resources are among the world’s richest in abundance and diversity and provide scientific, aesthetic, recreational, commercial, subsistence, cultural, social, and economic benefits to Americans.

Unfortunately many aquatic resources are declining at alarming rates, outpacing the conservation efforts of the Service and its partners. Almost 400 aquatic animal and plant species require special protection in some part of their natural or historic range. These declines are largely caused by habitat loss and the impact of invasive species. Cumulative impacts from climate change on native fish, wildlife, and their habitats are becoming increasingly evident, especially in natural areas that are most sensitive to variations in temperature and hydrology. The growing complexity of resource management in light of these challenges underscores both the importance of national leadership in the management and conservation of our Nation’s fish and aquatic resources, and the need for the Service to conduct a comprehensive review of its propagation hatcheries to be well positioned to address the highest priority aquatic resource needs. Continued protection of these aquatic resources is built on a foundation of sound science, strategic implementation, and broad collaboration and partnerships. The Service is working with other Federal, State, tribal, and non-governmental organizations to identify and address highest-priority conservation actions, with the goals of developing self-sustaining populations of native aquatic species and healthy, intact natural areas.

Approximately 700 employees in the Fish & Aquatic Conservation Program (FAC) are located nationwide in 154 facilities, including 72 National Fish Hatcheries and one historic fish hatchery, 65 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices (including the Alaska Conservation Genetics Laboratory), nine Fish Health Centers (FHCs), six Fish Technology Centers (FTCs), and the Aquatic Animal Drug Approval

Partnership (AADAP) Program. Professional staff serve as stewards of trust aquatic resources within this integrated network of Service locations.

Service staff conduct scientific assessments of the health, status, and trends of populations of priority species; the quantity and ecological function of important aquatic habitat; and the importance of specific pathways for the movement of invasive species and pathogens. They identify and implement cost-effective, on-the-ground habitat restoration projects focused on restoring fish passage and stream/river connectivity. Work at hatcheries focuses on propagating and restoring populations of fish, native mussels, and other aquatic species to stable, healthy populations and recovering or precluding the need for listing under the Endangered Species Act.



Strategic Planning and Priority Activities

The Service uses its strategic planning process to guide yearly program activities. FAC's first strategic plan, "*Conserving America's Fisheries National Fisheries Program Strategic Plan: Fiscal Years 2004 – 2008*" was based upon the "*Fisheries Program Vision for the Future*," a vision document completed in 2003 in consultation with the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council (SFBPC) (a Federal Advisory Committee Act-chartered committee) and other partners. Under this framework, annual activities and operations are categorized within eight focus areas, each with its own associated goals, strategies, and performance targets. These eight focus areas are:

- 1) Partnerships and Accountability
- 2) Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management
- 3) Aquatic Species Conservation and Management
- 4) Cooperation with Native American Tribes
- 5) Recreational Fishing and Public Use
- 6) Leadership in Science and Technology
- 7) Asset Management
- 8) Workforce Management

Since the original vision and strategic plan documents were first developed, both the FAC program and aquatic resource needs have since changed substantially. Accordingly, the SFBPC, in consultation with partners and stakeholders across the Nation, recently updated the FAC Program "Vision" with new recommendations. In early 2014, the Service will begin developing the next FAC strategic plan to guide program strategies, related funding, and resource decision-making for the next five years. The plan will build upon the fundamental tenets of adaptability and forward-thinking of FAC program's operating principles. The development process will include robust dialogues with partners and provide ongoing opportunities for engagement and comment.

The Service implements priority conservation actions using the Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) framework. Based on the model of adaptive management, SHC ensures the inclusion of a monitoring

process for evaluating the long-term effectiveness of conservation and restoration projects, while providing a means for measuring success. FAC conservation efforts are focused on geographic areas and species with the greatest needs. Through biological inventories, assessments, modeling, and conservation strategies, the Service works with partners to better understand and alleviate threats to aquatic resources by strategically improving habitat, restoring the connectivity of the Nation's waterways, and preventing new infestations of aquatic invasive species. The ability to design and implement critical research programs, maintain decision-support systems and databases, and deliver on-the-ground and in-the-water conservation is integral to successful conservation.

To support Secretary Jewell's priority of building a landscape-level understanding of the Nation's resources, the Service is working with partners through Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs). FAC provides aquatic resources support and other expertise to these LCCs, working across geographic and political borders to foster partnerships with States, Tribes, other governments, private organizations, and interested citizens to address landscape-scale stressors including habitat fragmentation, genetic isolation, spread of invasive species, and water scarcity—all of which are magnified by accelerating environmental change.

Economic Benefits

The portfolio of aquatic conservation work and activities conducted by FAC and its partners supports not only healthy ecosystems, but also local and regional economies. Based on an economic study completed by the Service's Division of Economics and published in the report "*Net Worth, The Economic Value of Fisheries Conservation, Fall 2011*," work completed by the Service contributes the following to the American economy:



*The FAC program generates 13.5 million fishing days each year.
Credit: Joe Milmo, USFWS*

- Generates \$3.6 billion in annual contributions to the Nation's economy
- Annually generates \$28 in economic return for each Federal dollar invested
- Generates 13.5 million angler days
- Creates 68,000 jobs in a multitude of businesses
- Returns real benefits back to local economies as a result of program activities, such as:
 - \$554 million in retail sales from recreational angling;
 - \$903 million in industrial output from angling for fish originating in the National Fish Hatchery System;
 - \$256 million in wages/salaries; and
 - \$37 million in Federal tax revenue and \$35 million in local tax revenues from recreational angling.

The positive social and economic impacts of the Service's aquatic resource restoration and recovery activities are of growing importance to communities nationwide, as Americans care deeply about the health and well-being of nature. Angler participation continues to grow as fish populations and habitats are restored, enhanced, and improved, leading to greater angler success and opportunities. This increased participation serves as a primary means of connecting children and adults with natural areas to fish, hunt, view wildlife, and enjoy the outdoors. Fishing is a multi-cultural, multi-generational experience, and is a keystone activity for engagement in conservation.

Youth and Outreach

A core component of fishery conservation is harnessing the power of citizen stewardship of the environment, with a particular emphasis on cultivating and engaging youth. 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. Service programs actively implement the President's America's Great Outdoors (AGO) initiative by working with partners to benefit urban watersheds and underserved Americans.

The Service works with volunteers, partners, and Friends Groups to deliver a wide array of formal and informal conservation education programs. Friends Groups organized to support the Service in the Regions, help coordinate volunteers and businesses in local communities to assist with Service facility operations, special events, and outdoor classrooms for youth. The Service ultimately benefits from the many volunteers coast-to-coast who contribute more than 150,000 hours of their time annually (the equivalent of over 50 FTE). With thousands of outreach and educational events, the Service reaches over one million youth each year. Specifically, messages on conservation and environmental issues are delivered through innovative, science-based, hands on learning, incorporating programs such as Biologist-in-Training, Kids in the Creek, Baby Brookies, and the Salmon Festival.

The Service fully supports the Youth in the Great Outdoors initiative to create a 21st Century Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) to build the next generation of conservation and community leaders through youth employment, exposing youth to conservation careers, and targeting under-represented groups, such as those in urban environments, minorities, and women. The Pathways program, rural and tribal YCC programs, and the Biologist-in-Training Program complement these early learning experiences to steer youth into careers in conservation and natural resources management. In particular, the tribal YCC program provides Native youth the opportunity to not only honor their elders, local traditions and culture, but also to participate in valuable career-enhancing work experiences. Youth gain experience in teamwork, their local natural environment, and conservation practices. Several former YCC participants are now employed by the Service.

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

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015			Change From 2014 Enacted (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
National Fish Hatchery Operations	(\$000)	45,011	46,528	+375	0	+1,714	48,617	+2,089
	FTE	329	325	0	0	0	325	0

Summary of 2015 Program Changes for National Fish Hatchery System Operations

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Fish Hatchery Operations	+1,714	0
Program Changes	+1,714	0

Justification of 2015 Program Changes

The 2015 budget request for the National Fish Hatchery Operations is \$48,617,000 and 325 FTE, a net program change of +\$1,714,000 and +0 FTE from the 2014 Enacted.

Fish Hatchery Operations (+\$1,714,000/+0 FTE)

The Service completed its *National Fish Hatchery System Strategic Hatchery and Workforce Planning Report* (Report) in 2013 and is implementing its recommendations through a phased approach, which includes consultation with States and other partners. With the requested funding increase, the Service anticipates being able to fulfill all high priority propagation including recovery and restoration of imperiled species and fulfilling tribal trust responsibilities. The Service will also continue propagation programs that are reimbursed by other Federal agencies, States, and other partners. Because funding is not sufficient to continue all existing propagation programs at current levels, the Service will need to make modest reductions to bring expenditures in line with appropriations. Lower priority propagation programs identified in the Report may be reduced on an individual basis after evaluating the impacts of those programs.

The Service is using the Report to engage partners and stakeholders, including State fish and wildlife agencies, tribes, and others, in a discussion on its major findings and recommendations. We are seeking their input on how we should operate the National Fish Hatchery System more efficiently and within available resources in the future. Taking into consideration their input, current and anticipated funding levels, the costs to operate our existing propagation programs, and the Report’s findings and recommendations, we will consider how we can further streamline our operations to better reflect the Service’s priorities and bring expenditures in line with available funding.

Program Overview

The National Fish Hatchery System (NFHS) consists of 72 National Fish Hatcheries (NFHs), one historic hatchery, nine FHCs, six FTCs, and the AADAP Program. It operates under the authority of numerous treaties and consent decrees, recovery and restoration plans, and statutes. Its contribution to habitat conservation is multi-faceted and its activities provide some of the scientific basis for recovery and restoration programs inherent in the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (Action Plan) and LCCs. A unique network of highly-skilled scientists work with hundreds of State, tribal, and non-governmental organizations and private citizen partners to deliver conservation of federally-listed and non-listed aquatic species. These conservation efforts include propagation of healthy aquatic species with the correct

genetic strain to help re-establish wild populations; applied research, aquatic animal health diagnostics, and assessment; development of models to better focus management activities in the face of climate change; and development of new aquatic animal drugs. Working closely with partners, the Service also provides recreational opportunities, conservation, and economic benefits to local communities.

The NFHS is a key contributor to the restoration and recovery of federally-listed and non-listed aquatic species with declining populations. With a network of facilities located across the country, hatcheries are well positioned to provide refugia to populations impacted by wildfire, drought, and other conditions expected to become more common with a changing climate. A total of 63 fish species (listed and non-listed) and 31 species from other taxa (amphibians, mollusks, etc.) were propagated and distributed from NFHS facilities in 2013. In 2013, 57 NFHS facilities implemented recovery actions benefitting 88 federally-listed species (64 fish, 15 mollusks, and 9 amphibians and other taxa), as called for in approved Recovery Plans. Activities included the propagation and release of listed species into restored habitat, applied research to improve understanding of the biology and facilitate recovery, and establishment of refugia for listed species facing catastrophic events in the wild. NFHS facilities also implemented restoration activities benefitting 48 non-listed species, as called for in Fisheries Management and other plans, in efforts to avoid further declines and ESA-listings.

The NFHS is critical to supporting Service priorities. Water resources and the land along lakes, rivers, and streams found on NFHS attract many different types of birds and may provide critical stopovers on annual migrations. For instance, stations near the US/Mexico border are especially important because they protect the rivers and streams and the surrounding natural areas that are vital to migrating birds. These sites are often enhanced with the assistance of local communities to attract waterfowl and other species, which provide wildlife viewing opportunities. Additionally, the NFHS works with the National Wildlife Refuge System to survey aquatic animal populations on and near refuge lands, and often provides native and recreational fish for restoration and recovery efforts or recreational angling.

Science and Technology

The Service's FHCs and FTCs provide the scientific foundation for many recovery and restoration programs. Ready access to science and technology support enables aquatic resource managers to work smarter, focus limited resources on effective management strategies, and achieve the Service's aquatic conservation mission. Comprised of six applied research facilities across the Nation, FTCs house laboratories in genetics, ecological physiology, nutrition, and cryopreservation, and provide expertise in biometrics and modeling. FTCs provide ready access to in-house, quick turn-around, applied research tools to solve problems and answer questions in aquatic science and conservation (e.g., modeling to predict how temperature changes associated with climate change impacts survival of various fish strains). The diverse research and analytical capabilities and knowledge gained through FTC studies provides the scientific basis for conducting more focused, efficient, and effective resource management.

Conservation science partnerships are integral to the work of FTCs and their role in implementation of the Service's SHC framework. Working with our partners, FTCs support implementation of SHC by identifying scientifically defensible benchmarks, developing predictive models, and conducting research to test assumptions and evaluate the success of conservation efforts, allowing for adaptive management.

Aquatic Animal Health

As environmental and human-related changes impact the landscape, it creates the opportunity for an increase in the introduction or spread of dangerous aquatic pathogens to our Nation's aquatic species. The Service's aquatic animal health biologists detect and monitor pathogens to provide timely information to help fisheries managers make informed conservation and management decisions and investigate emerging animal health issues, such as threats to the health and well-being of all aquatic species because of global environmental change. The FHCs are a critical component of the Service's aquatic animal health

program and guide the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Through FHCs the Service provides expertise to the State Department in the trade of live fish products and to the American Fisheries Society's Fish Health Section in detecting pathogens and infectious diseases. The FHCs are also important participants in the new National Aquatic Animal Pathogen Testing Network, the preeminent source of information on the status of aquatic animal pathogens in the wild.



Scientists at Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership collect fish tissues for study. Credit: Dave Erdahl/USFWS

The AADAP program was established in 1994 to ensure Service compliance with the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. AADAP works with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and other Federal agencies, Tribes, State agencies, academic institutions, and private partners to obtain FDA approval of drugs needed for use in fish culture and fisheries management.

AADAP's Investigational New Animal Drug (INAD) program provides fish culturists, fish health biologists, and fisheries managers and researchers across the country with legal access to a broad variety of experimental drugs (e.g., therapeutants, spawning hormones, fluorescent marking agents, and sedatives) that are in the approval pipeline. Their research program uses sound science to determine safe and effective treatment protocols for these experimental drugs. For many years, the Service has worked under interagency agreements with the States and other Federal agencies to help recover the costs associated with the aquatic species drug approval process. In addition, the program also benefits from cost-reimbursable dollars generated by the National INAD Program, as well as research grants from other agencies. In FY 2013, working hand-in-hand with many of its partners, the Service increased efforts to make AADAP an even more self-sufficient program. The AADAP program furthered its efforts to obtain funding from research grants and reevaluated INAD fees, unchanged since 1999, to recover a larger percentage of the cost of providing these services.

Recreation

The Service works to restore, enhance, and protect native fish and their habitats, including recreational fish species. Working with State, tribal, non-governmental organizations, and other partners, and operating under approved fishery management plans, the Service restores depleted fish populations and enhances fishing and recreational fishing opportunities. The Service's responsibilities and authorities for native fish and recreational fishing are established in a variety of laws and support the activities of more than 58 million recreational anglers. According to the 2011 peer-reviewed report, *Conserving America's Fisheries, An Assessment of Economic Contributions from Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation*, recreational angling resulting from National Fish Hatchery stocking programs generates 13.5 million

angler-days; \$554 million in retail sales; \$903 million in industrial output; 8,000 jobs; \$256 million in wages/salaries; \$37 million in Federal tax revenues; and \$35 million in local tax revenues.

Conservation Education

NFHs are integral parts of the communities in which they are located. Through the NHFS System Volunteer Act of 2006, FAC offers outdoor classroom opportunities for over one million youth each year that combine educational learning with personal experiences with fish, aquatic species and their habitats, and the cultural and historical resources of these hatchery facilities. Through these outdoor classrooms the Service seeks to improve scientific literacy while promoting conservation of aquatic species and cultural resources through hands-on experiences and opportunities for discovery. The Program also reaches out to families by working in cooperation with volunteers, partners, and Fishery Friends Groups to deliver a wide array of formal and informal conservation education programs both on and off Service properties.

Mitigation

Consistent with the FAC *Strategic Plan* and *Vision for the Future*, and authorized by the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the Service supplies fish for Federal agencies to mitigate the adverse effects of Federal water development projects while focusing on native fish recovery and restoration. To address the future aquatic resource needs of the U.S., the Service must increasingly focus its limited resources on our highest priority production species: recovery of threatened and endangered species, restoration of imperiled species, and fulfillment of tribal trust responsibilities. Mitigation fish production hatcheries will be operated on a user-pay basis. Following direction from Congress and the Office of Management and Budget, the Service announced two years ago that it would no longer fund fish production operations to mitigate for impacts associated with Federal water development projects. Such operations would be dependent on outside funding to fully reimburse the Service for these costs. Over the past several years, the Service has successfully developed agreements with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tennessee Valley Authority, and others to help cover some, but not all, of the costs associated with mitigation fish production. Although this represents a significant step in the right direction, challenges remain, including as we work toward long-term funding agreements with some of our partners.

The Future of the National Fish Hatchery System

The NFHS has struggled with declining funding and significant increases in uncontrollable fixed costs for a number of years. In FY 2012 alone, the NFHS incurred a \$2.1 million shortfall in overall funding. As a result of such fiscal challenges plaguing the NFHS, the Service assembled a national expert review team of Service and FAC leaders in 2012 to conduct a comprehensive review of the 70 propagation hatcheries. The goal of this review is to ensure the Service is well positioned to address the highest priority aquatic resource needs while working within budget limitations. The review team collected and examined detailed information on each of our NFHS propagation programs across all of our production hatcheries.

The *National Fish Hatchery System: Strategic Hatchery and Workforce Planning Report* (Report) outlines the current propagation programs as well as problems associated with sustaining operation of the NFHS in its current configuration, and suggests possible changes to how the system could be managed under several different funding scenarios. The Report evaluates 291 individual propagation programs across the NFHS based on five priorities for fish and aquatic species propagation, including: recovery of species federally-listed as threatened or endangered; restoration of imperiled aquatic species; tribal partnerships and trust responsibilities; other propagation programs for native species; and other propagation programs for non-native species.

The Report now serves as the basis for discussions with stakeholders on how best to operate the system in a more sustainable manner while supporting the highest fish and aquatic conservation priorities.

Implementation of the Report recommendations will be phased and done in consultation with Congress, States, and other partners.

In November 2013, the Service announced that it does not intend to close any of our national fish hatcheries in FY 2014, but warned that closures may be necessary in FY 2015 given fiscal uncertainty and growing operations costs. The Service will use the Report's major findings and recommendations as a guide, rather than a decision document. We will also incorporate input from our partners and stakeholders on the Report and NFHS operations. With both the Report and the input, we will consider how to put the NFHS on a more sound and sustainable financial footing, and position the NFHS to better meet current and future conservation challenges.



Youth Volunteers at a National Fish Hatchery.

National Fish Hatchery System Performance Overview and Change

Performance Goal	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Plan	2015 PB	Change from 2014 Plan to 2015 PB	Program Change Occurring in Out-years
CSF 5.1 Percent of fish species of management concern that are managed to self-sustaining levels, in cooperation with affected States, tribes, and others, as defined in approved management documents (GPRA)	8% (16 of 211)	8% (17 of 213)	17% (39 of 233)	24% (45 of 185)	25% (45 of 183)	25% (45 of 183)	0%	n/a
CSF 5.2 Percent of populations of native aquatic non-T&E species managed or influenced by the Fisheries Program for which current status (e.g., quantity and quality) and trend is known	32% (502 of 1,708)	34% (542 of 1,723)	35% (578 of 1,632)	36% (595 of 1,668)	36% (589 of 1,635)	36% (590 of 1,635)	0%	n/a
CSF 5.3 Percent of tasks implemented, as prescribed in management plans	63% (2,453 of 3,906)	58% (2,525 of 4,384)	56% (2,568 of 4,600)	53% (2,639 of 5,020)	52% (2,600 of 5,030)	47% (3,314 of 7,095)	-5%	n/a
5.5.1 The condition of NFHS mission critical water management assets, as measured by the DOI FCI, is x. (GPRA)	0.098	0.090	0.093	0.077	0.079	0.077	-0.001 (-2%)	n/a

National Fish Hatchery System Performance Overview and Change

Performance Goal	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Plan	2015 PB	Change from 2014 Plan to 2015 PB	Program Change Occurring in Out-years
Comments	Projected funding increase in NFHS maintenance.							
CSF 7.21 Percent of populations of aquatic threatened and endangered species (T&E) that are self-sustaining in the wild	10% (70 of 701)	10% (71 of 689)	11% (80 of 711)	11% (75 of 680)	11% (78 of 698)	11% (78 of 698)	0%	n/a
7.21.5.4 Number of Recovery Plan tasks implemented by the Fisheries Program - NFHS (GPRA)	460	436	419	401	369	400	31 (8%)	n/a
Comments	Estimated NFHS increase in Recovery Plan tasks for FY2015-PB (NFH Operations).							
CSF 13.1 Percent of archaeological sites and historic structures on FWS inventory in good condition	20% (3,335 of 16,812)	18% (3,033 of 16,923)	19% (3,267 of 17,185)	22% (3,783 of 17,444)	22% (3,791 of 17,464)	22% (3,791 of 17,444)	0%	n/a
CSF 13.2 Percent of collections in DOI inventory in good condition (GPRA)	35.4% (689 of 1,947)	35.6% (693 of 1,948)	35.8% (704 of 1,966)	35.8% (706 of 1,971)	35.9% (709 of 1,976)	36.0% (709 of 1,971)	0.1%	n/a
CSF 15.4 Percent of fisheries mitigation tasks implemented as prescribed in approved management plans	96% (73 of 76)	70% (74 of 105)	91% (87 of 96)	74% (93 of 125)	68% (90 of 133)	68% (95 of 140)	0%	n/a

National Fish Hatchery System Performance Overview and Change

Performance Goal	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Plan	2015 PB	Change from 2014 Plan to 2015 PB	Program Change Occurring in Out-years
15.4.8 # of aquatic outreach and education activities and/or events	5,339	4,817	2,909	2,930	1,827	2,000	173 (10%)	n/a
Comments	Estimated NFHS increase for FY2015-PB (NFH Operations).							
15.4.12 Total # of visitors to NFHS facilities	2,107,562	1,735,926	2,236,661	1,469,545	1,161,425	1,200,000	38,575 (3%)	n/a
52.1.2 # of volunteer participation hours are supporting Fisheries objectives for Hatcheries	115,190	110,913	110,835	97,732	72,579	75,000	2,421 (3%)	n/a
52.1.7 % of NFHS with friends groups	42% (31 of 73)	42% (31 of 74)	45% (33 of 74)	46% (33 of 72)	46% (33 of 72)	46% (33 of 72)	0%	n/a
CSF 18.1 Percent of planned tasks implemented for Tribal fish and wildlife conservation as prescribed by Tribal plans or agreements	55% (335 of 608)	63% (349 of 555)	68% (367 of 538)	62% (366 of 586)	56% (330 of 589)	60% (378 of 629)	4%	n/a
18.1.2.1 # of planned tasks implemented for Tribal fish and wildlife conservation as prescribed by Tribal plans or agreements - NFHS	169	188	186	180	170	180	10 (6%)	n/a
Comments	Estimated NFHS increase in Tribal tasks for FY2015-PB (NFH Operations).							

Activity: Fish and Aquatic Conservation
Subactivity: Maintenance and Equipment

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015			Budget Request	Change From 2014 Enacted (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
National Fish Hatchery Maintenance and Equipment	(\$000)	15,374	15,537	0	0	+1,865	17,402	+1,865
	FTE	83	82	0	0	0	82	0
FWCO Maintenance and Equipment	(\$000)	483	518	0	0	0	518	0
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total, Maintenance and Equipment	(\$000)	15,857	16,055	0	0	+1,865	17,920	+1,865
	FTE	83	82	0	0	0	82	0

Summary of 2015 Program Changes for Maintenance and Equipment

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Deferred Maintenance	+1,326	+0
• Annual Maintenance	+539	+0
Program Changes	+1,865	+0

Justification of 2015 Program Changes

The 2015 budget request for Maintenance and Equipment is \$17,920,000 and 82 FTE, a net program change of +\$1,865,000 and +0 FTE from the 2014 Enacted.

Deferred Maintenance (+\$1,326,000/+0 FTE)

The Services uses deferred maintenance funding on constructed assets with projects that are too large and complex to be addressed with Annual Maintenance funding. The requested increase will be applied to mission critical water management assets, and will improve capabilities for production of fish and other aquatic species, improve the condition of those assets, and slow the growth in the deferred maintenance backlog for the current year.

Annual Maintenance (+\$539,000/+0 FTE)

The NFHS is a complex network of field stations that hold, rear, and propagate over 100 species of fish for recovery, restoration, tribal programs, and other purposes. The real property infrastructure of over \$2.2 billion in assets requires constant maintenance to correct issues as they arise. The requested increase will help prevent minor maintenance issues from becoming larger issues and adding to the deferred maintenance backlog.

Program Overview

Properly functioning and adequately maintained equipment and the condition of equipment used in water delivery and outflow and for fish production are all critical in delivering the Service’s mission to restore native aquatic populations to self-sustaining levels and keeping employees and visitors safe. An overall comprehensive, proactive asset management system is essential to ensure adequate water flow and quality to sustain captive aquatic populations to meet recovery, restoration, and tribal trust responsibilities identified in Recovery Plans and Fishery Management Plans.

National Fish Hatchery System Maintenance and Equipment

These 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 the station and regulate the rearing or holding environment of fish and other aquatic species to maximize and optimize survival, especially those involving threatened and endangered species. Three-fourths of the NFHS's \$1.75 billion of real property assets are mission-critical. The Service has developed asset performance measures and a strategy for ensuring its crucial assets remain fully functional. The Department measures real property asset conditions using a Facility Condition Index (FCI), a ratio of repair cost to replacement cost. The Service's current rating is considered "fair."

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. A rigorous Condition Assessment process ensures that repair needs are determined objectively and associated costs are appropriately estimated using industry standards. To ensure critical assets remain in fully operational condition, attention to both annual maintenance (regular repair and servicing) and deferred maintenance (outstanding repair needs of assets) is necessary.

Environmental concerns and energy costs have increased over the past several years, prompting the Service to track energy use by station and to some extent by asset, thus providing the impetus for thorough consideration of what these data indicate. In FY 2013, the NFHS had the following energy uses:

- The NFHS's real property assets constitute 7.6 percent of all Service assets by replacement value, yet account for 37 percent of all Service energy use;
- The average NFHS field station uses 2.3 billion British Thermal Units (BTUs) annually, over three times the 0.7 billion BTU average used by non-NFHS field stations; and
- The highest 27 NFHS energy users account for 75 percent of all NFHS' energy use.

Mitigating increasing energy costs and environmental impacts by utilizing various strategies include:

- The new 24-panel solar hot water heating system at Neosho NFH, MO produces 112 million BTU's of heated water for rearing endangered Pallid Sturgeon.
- The new Administrative Headquarters and Visitors Center at Mammoth Spring NFH, AR was completed in 2013. The energy efficient building was constructed to LEED Silver standards and certification will be sought in the near future.
- Craig Brook NFH, ME saw the completion of a 16kW in-line micro-hydro-turbine in 2013. The estimated reduction in electrical cost is estimated to be \$12,000-\$15,000 per year.

Hatcheries can play an important role in reducing the Service's and the Department's carbon footprint. Service staff are developing energy performance measures reflective of both energy use by station and energy reduction opportunities. Energy consumption can be reduced through building renovations, new

Service Asset & Maintenance Management System (SAMMS)

Under the auspices of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) and DOI standards, the Service has developed an Asset Management Plan that guides program management of its nearly \$2 billion in essential real and personal property inventories, including systematic and objective tracking, evaluation, reporting of asset condition, and prioritization of asset management. Using 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 initiates analyses of annual operating and maintenance expenditures.

technologies, and proper placement and sizing of cost effective renewable energy systems. Annual analysis of the greatest energy-consuming stations, along with metering, will help significantly. Required energy audits every five years have continued to focus our attention on utilizing energy wisely.

The Maintenance Budget includes three components: 1) Annual Maintenance, 2) Deferred Maintenance, and 3) Equipment Repair and Replacement.

Annual Maintenance

Properly managed, annual preventive maintenance is the most logical and cost-effective way to address maintenance issues before they occur. Annual maintenance funds pay salaries of maintenance employees, ensure timely upkeep of hatchery real property and equipment, purchase maintenance-related supplies (e.g., lumber, pipe, paint, tools, filters), and replace small equipment (generally less than \$5,000). Current annual maintenance funding allows priority preventive maintenance needs to be addressed. Through SAMMS and condition assessments, the Service can plan recurring maintenance to enable more proactive asset management, reduce maintenance needs from becoming more costly deferred maintenance deficiencies, and foster successful operations and mission delivery.

Deferred Maintenance

Three-fourths of the NFHS's \$1.75 billion in assets are mission-critical water management assets that are currently in fair condition. Ensuring these properties are fully functional is key to the Service's ability to conserve fish and other aquatic species. Deferred maintenance projects are directed at the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of constructed assets, and target assets used for restoration, recovery, outdoor education, and mitigation. The current focus is on the health and safety of employees and visitors, as well as high-priority mission-critical water management projects that maximize and optimize survivability of the species and populations that are under our care. The NFHS has identified \$177 million in current deferred maintenance needs.

The 5-Year Deferred Maintenance/Construction Plan prioritizes the projects of greatest need, focusing first on human health and safety and then on critical resource protection. The Service has undertaken an intense effort in the field, Regions, and Headquarters to develop and refine this list. Modifications to the list occur through its annual review and update, with the addition of a new fifth year, prior to being submitted to the Congress.

Equipment: Routine Maintenance, Repair, and Replacement

Equipment is essential for proper hatchery operations. Over \$35 million in machinery (fish pumps, tractors, loaders, backhoes, riding mowers), fish transports (trucks, tanks, oxygen containment), standard vehicles (pickups, sedans, vans), and tools (table saws, welders, and hand-held power tools) are maintained. With proper operation by trained and qualified personnel and with scheduled maintenance completed and documented in a timely manner, equipment will remain in a safe, operating condition for the foreseeable future. Proper maintenance of equipment includes both short- and long-term storage.

The NFHS equipment funds pay for maintenance, repair, and replacement of equipment. Replacement generally targets items with a value between \$5,000 and \$30,000, and includes passenger vehicles. More expensive equipment purchases are identified in the Five-Year Deferred Maintenance Plan. To minimize the need to purchase expensive specialized equipment and to maximize efficiency, the NFHS works closely with the National Wildlife Refuge System to accomplish certain projects using Refuge equipment and personnel. If scheduling conflicts arise, specialized equipment can be leased from the private sector and Refuge-based equipment operators are loaned to hatcheries for the duration of the project, saving the Service considerable 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 \$21 million in assets such as boats, vehicles, and sampling equipment. This equipment is 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.

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

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015			Budget Request	Change From 2014 Enacted (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
Habitat Assessment and Restoration	(\$000)	23,636	26,158	+114	0	+790	+27,062	+904
	FTE	112	112	0	0	0	112	0
Population Assessment and Cooperative Management	(\$000)	30,103	30,890	+311	0	-379	30,822	-68
	FTE	151	151	0	0	-3	148	-3
Aquatic Invasive Species	(\$000)	9,630	10,201	+42	0	+4,255	14,498	+4,297
	FTE	38	38	0	0	+9	47	+9
Marine Mammals*	(\$000)	5,524	5,487	0	-5,487	0	0	-5,487
	FTE	29	29	0	-29	0	0	-29
Total, Aquatic Habitat & Species Conservation	(\$000)	68,893	72,736	+467	-5,487	+4,666	72,382	-354
	FTE	330	330	0	-29	+6	307	-23

*Note: In 2015 funding in the amount of \$5,487,000 and 29 FTE for Marine Mammals moves to Ecological Services.

Summary of 2015 Program Changes for Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Asian Carp	+4,400	+9
• Klamath Basin	+610	0
• Tribal Consultation	+180	0
• Aquatic Invasive Species Control and Management	-145	0
• Population Assessment and Cooperative Management, General Program Activities	-379	-3
Program Changes	+4,666	+6

Justification of 2015 Program Changes

The 2015 budget request for Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation is \$72,382,000 and 307 FTE, a net program change of +\$4,666,000 and +6 FTE from the 2014 Enacted.

Asian Carp (+\$4,400,000/+9 FTE)

Building on existing collaborative efforts to address the threat of Asian carp, the Service will dedicate the requested FY 2015 increase of \$4.4 million to support the high-priority activities to prevent the influx of Asian carp to the Great Lakes and address populations in the Mississippi River and its tributaries. This increase will bring the level of Service base appropriations for Asian carp coordinated management to a total of \$7.9 million in FY 2015, allowing the Service to take on a more central role in steering Asian carp efforts. In FY 2014, the Service appropriation for Asian carp is \$3.5 million, which was allocated to the Great Lakes (\$2.9 million) and to areas outside of the Great Lakes, including the upper Mississippi River and Ohio River basins (\$600,000).

The requested FY 2015 increase of \$4.4 million will be used as follows:

- \$2,400,000 will be used for coordinated interagency efforts to protect the Great Lakes watershed from Asian carp. This funding increase will supplant existing short-term reimbursable funding currently provided through the EPA's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). Final allocations of Asian carp funding under GLRI for FY 2014 and 2015 are not yet finalized. Agency allocations for GLRI funding in FY 2015 are draft pending finalization of the new Action Plan for FY 2015-2019, but efforts to protect the Great Lakes from Asian carp will remain a priority of GLRI funds and interagency efforts. As a result of efficiencies and improvements realized in implementing Asian carp detection and control strategies in the Great Lakes watershed, the Service believes that we can now deliver a comparable level of coordinated management effort to address this invasive species with a \$2.4 million increase in FY 2015 for the Great Lakes. Great Lakes funding will support invasion prevention, early detection, and any needed rapid assessment and response actions. Mitigation plans will also be developed.
- \$2,000,000 will be used to augment existing funding and integrated management efforts outside the Great Lakes as described in the *Management and Control Plan for Bighead, Black, Grass, and Silver Carps in the United States* (National Plan). Funds will support integrated early detection surveillance (using both eDNA sampling and traditional fish sampling tools), rapid assessment, rapid response, containment (barrier design and construction), and control (to levels that support native species and habitats). Priorities will be set based on strategies prescribed in the National Plan; and informed by risk assessment of the species, analyses of pathways by which they spread, and geographic location as identified in the National Asian Carp Surveillance Plan.

The total request of \$7.9 million in FY 2015 will provide \$5.3 million (67 percent of funds) to support work in the Great Lakes watershed, and \$2.6 million (33 percent of funds) to support work outside the Great Lakes such as the upper Mississippi River, Missouri River and Ohio River basins, and other high-risk watersheds. This represents a significant investment to areas outside the Great Lakes. Many of the assessment, response, and containment strategies and sampling techniques currently being developed in the Great Lakes for Asian carp detection and prevention will be transferable to areas outside the Great Lakes as well. Funding is allocated across the National Plan goals of early detection, rapid assessment, containment, rapid response, and control, regardless of geographic location.

Klamath Basin (+\$610,000/+0 FTE)

Funds will be directed to Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices (FWCOs) to continue critically needed fisheries and fish habitat monitoring, planning, and habitat restoration programs for listed and native fish. Projects will include fish-related monitoring and modeling (such as fish population, water temperature, hydrology, water quality, fish disease, and stock assessments), fish and watershed habitat planning and restoration projects, and projects to improve instream flows for fish. These offices will continue to produce data, analytical tools, plans, and models that are crucial to improving the health of the Klamath River and its tributaries and provide critical support to agency, tribal, and other parties who have come together to settle long disputed claims in the Klamath Basin.

Demands on Service staff, supported in part by these funds, are anticipated to increase in 2015 due to increasing demands on limited water supplies. This increase will also enhance the Service's ability to restore high-priority stream habitats and recover federally-listed and native fish species in the Klamath system while working with stakeholders to resolve natural resource issues. This funding supports tribal fish and wildlife conservation consultations and updates to status and trend information for aquatic species in the Klamath River Basin

Tribal Consultation (+\$180,000/+0 FTE)

The requested increase will be used for informal tribal consultation and collaboration through FWCOs. Effective collaboration will increase the ability to achieve successful resolution of issues and reduce the need for more formal government to government consultations. The requested increase will allow the Service to expand sustainable conservation across large, connected natural areas.

Tribal lands are essential to conserving wildlife corridors and connectivity and reducing the impacts of invasive species. Integrating strategic habitat conservation into tribal long-range natural resources management by building strong partnerships where tribal lands abut other conservation lands and key fish habitat is important for conservation over the long term.

Across programs and regions, the Service regularly interacts with approximately 370 of the 566 federally recognized Tribes. For example, the Service's trust responsibilities to Alaskan Tribes are fulfilled in large part through FWCOs working with tribal resource agencies to recover fish and aquatic species on 56 million acres of tribal trust lands and 44 million acres of Alaska Native lands. Funding will also support the Service's ability to implement its Native American Policy with respect to conservation of trust resources on tribal lands.

Aquatic Invasive Species Control and Management (-\$145,000/+0 FTE)

The Service will reduce funding for managing invasive species such as Eurasian ruffe, mitten crab, brown tree snake, New Zealand mudsnail, and apple snails. However, it will continue to seek opportunities through its national and regional coordination roles to work proactively with the States and other partners to address highest-risk vectors and pathways of introduction and the spread of these and other invasive species.

Population Assessment and Cooperative Management, General Program Activities (-\$379,000/-3 FTE)

As the principal funding source for the nationwide network of 65 FWCOs coast-to-coast, this reduction will have a moderate impact to the operational capacities at several FWCOs. The reduction will impact the Service's capacity to deliver essential on-the-ground fish and aquatic species conservation in several locations. Despite this decrease, the FWCO budget is modestly supported with increases in other areas, eliminating the need for workforce reductions by shifting the application of human capital to Service fish habitat restoration activities and increasing fish population recovery and management activities on or around Refuges. Working cooperatively across programs and with partners, the Service will focus on delisting threatened and endangered species and enhancing habitat for depleted fish populations. This work will create aquatic refuges for fish and other aquatic species that otherwise would be in peril of decline and ultimately, extinction.

Undisputedly, much of the Service's on-the-ground expertise comes from FWCOs, where over 300 biologists work with other Service programs, States, tribal governments, and partners to recover, restore, and maintain fish and other aquatic species and their habitats. Decreased funding to FWCOs will hamper the Service's mission to:

- Assess condition, status, trends, and management of fish and wildlife populations and habitat at watershed and landscape scales;
- Inform the process of identifying surrogate species;
- Provide real-time status and trends data for populations of aquatic trust species;
- Provide critical data for informing land use decisions (energy, water use, etc); and,
- Prevent, survey, and control aquatic invasive species.

Program Overview

The Service monitors and assesses aquatic populations and their habitats to inform our resource management decisions and yield on-the-ground conservation actions. The Service also plays a lead role in protecting our aquatic resources from destructive species, like Asian carp, that threaten our economy, safety, and the viability of native populations and their habitats. Efforts also continue to monitor for and proactively prevent new invasions.

A 2008 report by a U.S. Geological Survey-led team examined the status of North America's freshwater fishes and documented a substantial decline among 700 fishes.¹ Sea-level rise, temperature elevations, and precipitation changes are devastating the Nation's fisheries. The Service's ability to respond to these impacts is hampered by a severe lack of basic population-level data. Monitoring and assessing fish populations and their habitats are carried out by the Service's 65 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices (FWCOs) and are critical to the Service's success in protecting trust resources. The work of FWCOs is essential to understanding current conditions and stressors; establishing trends and addressing environmental impacts on fisheries; identifying sensitive aquatic ecosystems, key processes, and critical information gaps; and implementing management plans and projects, including projects funded by the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (Action Plan), the National Fish Passage Program (NFPP) and LCCs. These data will provide the Service and its partners with the information necessary to respond to environmental impacts strategically, scientifically, and successfully.

Working in strong collaboration with our partners, the Service is also developing more effective ways to analyze and respond to invasive species. For example, between 2000 and 2006, more than 1.48 billion live animals were imported into the U.S.² While many of these animals pose no threat to the U.S., the fraction that do cost the country tens of billions of dollars each year.³ The Service is taking action to identify harmful species more effectively, both on-the-ground and before they ever arrive at our shores, and take appropriate steps to mitigate their threats.

Habitat Assessment and Restoration Program Overview

As the Service moves toward landscape scale conservation, the network of LCCs and FWCOs has a greater role and responsibility guiding aquatic conservation across the country. The scope of its aquatic conservation program has been broadened to include more habitat management practices in addition to traditional program activities such as fish stocking. FWCOs are responsible for implementing the Action Plan and NFPP, an example of two habitat assessment and restoration programs vital in meeting the Service's legal requirements under statutes such as the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act and the Endangered Species Act. The Service has also increased its capability to assess and restore aquatic habitats in response to partner needs and Congressional direction. Through its network of FWCOs, the Service organizes projects with partners, provides technical expertise, enlists voluntary efforts of landowners and local communities, and delivers cost-shared resources to complete the projects.

Although the Action Plan and the NFPP are the primary tools for project delivery and funding streams available to FWCOs, they also work with LCCs, Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Coastal Program, and other agencies to deliver science and restoration projects. These projects help to address the needs of aquatic species and their habitats at various spatial scales, design and implement restoration strategies

¹ Jelks, H.L., S.J. Walsh, N.M. Burkhead, S. Contreras-Balderas, E. Díaz-Pardo, D.A. Hendrickson, J. Lyons, N.E. Mandrak, F. McCormick, J.S. Nelson, S.P. Platania, B.A. Porter, C.B. Renaud, J. J. Schmitter-Soto, E.B. Taylor, and M.L. Warren, Jr. 2008. Conservation status of imperiled North American freshwater and diadromous fishes. *Fisheries* 33(8):372-407.

² Smith, K.F., M. Behrens, L.M. Schloegel, N. Marano, S. Burgiel, and P. Daszak 2009. Reducing the risks of wildlife trade. *Science* 324(5927): 594 - 595.

³ Pimentel D., R. Zuniga, and D. Morrison. 2005. Update on the environmental and economic costs associated with alien-invasive species in the United States. *Ecological Economics* 52:273-288.

that maximize the likelihood of desired outcomes, and evaluate results in an adaptive management approach.

National Fish Habitat Action Plan

The National Fish Habitat Partnership links thousands of people and organizations across America in a common effort to improve the science and effectiveness of aquatic habitat conservation.



Guided by the Action Plan, the Partnership delivers local fish habitat conservation projects supported by diverse national and regional partners who marshal funds, knowledge, and other resources.

The focus of the Action Plan is fish, but the mission is broader: healthy aquatic ecosystems that improve the economy and quality of life for the American people. Eighteen regional Fish Habitat Partnerships use state-of-the-art science to set priorities that are supported by a broad cross-section of stakeholders. Fish habitat conservation projects enlist landowners, fishing clubs, school groups, and businesses to restore stream banks, plant vegetation, renovate oyster reefs, and generally improve conditions for good fishing.



*Fishing club members plant vegetation in a Texas reservoir.
Credit: Courtesy of Texas Parks & Wildlife Department.*

The Service is a lead Federal partner, working with all 50 States, major Federal agencies, tribal governments, conservation groups, and the sport fishing industry. Service funds support operations of the National Fish Habitat Board and the 18 Fish Habitat Partnerships, all of which have governance structures, strategic plans, scientific capabilities, and a track record of sponsoring projects to protect, restore, or enhance aquatic habitats.

Since 2006, the Service has provided \$22 million of Action Plan funds to support 507 fish habitat conservation projects in 45 States,

leveraging \$58 million in partner contributions. This investment by the Service and its partners supported an estimated 2,115 jobs, generated \$242 million in total sales, \$134 million in value added, and \$96 million in incomes across the U.S. Most of the projects helped species that are vulnerable to the effects of climate change by protecting or improving flow, connectivity, or other physical habitat conditions. Other projects developed monitoring or decision support tools to support biological planning and conservation by partners, including LCCs.

The premise of the Action Plan is that we cannot do everything to conserve aquatic habitats, so we should set priorities and do the work that provides the greatest conservation return for the funds invested. The key to setting smart priorities is scientific knowledge of habitat conditions and causative factors on the landscape. To help prioritize future projects, the Partnership conducted the first national study of fish habitat, published as *Through a Fish's Eye: The Status of Fish Habitats in the United States 2010*. All of the assessment data is available to the public online at www.fishhabitat.org.

Collaboration between LCCs and Fish Habitat Partnerships has grown significantly. Joint projects have gathered and analyzed information on instream flow, landscape level threats to fish habitat, and the efficacy of projects to protect and restore fish habitat. Active collaboration is underway in Alaska, on the Pacific coast, in the lower Mississippi River valley, and throughout the eastern seaboard. Examples include:

- The Southern Instream Flow Network (Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership and South Atlantic LCC): addresses impacts of flow alterations on aquatic resources in the southeast
- Hydrologic data framework (four Alaska Fish Habitat Partnerships and four Alaska LCCs): laying the groundwork for a stream mapping system (NHD+) equivalent to the conterminous 48 States
- Web site hosting and database development (three eastern Fish Habitat Partnerships and the Appalachian LCC): sharing web site hosting and database resources increases efficiency and reduces costs.

Action Plan Objectives	
	1) Achieve measurable conservation results through strategic actions of Fish Habitat Partnerships
	2) Establish a consensus set of national conservation strategies
	3) Broaden the community of support for fish habitat conservation
	4) Fill gaps in the national fish habitat assessment, including socio-economic information
	5) Communicate conservation outcomes, as well as new opportunities and voluntary approaches for conserving fish habitats

The Action Plan was approved in 2006 and is now in its second edition. The Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce as well as State fish and wildlife agency leaders signed the original Action Plan. In 2012, the Secretaries of the Interior, Commerce, and Agriculture signed a Memorandum of Understanding in support of the Action Plan. For the first time in 2012, each agency submitted a report of their accomplishments and progress toward implementing the goals of the NFHAP. The next progress reports will be submitted for 2014 and every other year thereafter.

National Fish Passage Program (NFPP)

Approximately 6 million dams and poorly-designed culverts fragment rivers and watersheds, leading to the degradation of aquatic habitat and loss of natural function and resilience of watersheds across the country. The NFPP works with Federal and State governments, private landowners, Tribes, and community organizations to restore aquatic connectivity by removing or bypassing barriers that fragment the country’s waterways. Projects range in size from large-scale dam removals to the repair or removal of culverts and agricultural water diversions. Since the program’s inception in 1999, cooperative efforts have provided substantial benefits to communities and aquatic systems through restoration of natural flows, reduced sediment inputs, increased community road infrastructure resiliency to flooding events, and restored connectivity, which allows fish to move freely between the habitats needed for survival and reproduction.



A poorly designed culvert blew out because of flooding.

In cooperation with its partners, NFPP has removed or bypassed over 1,345 barriers and reconnected 20,229 miles of river and 155,454 wetland acres. The resulting increase in resilience to environmental pressures and urbanization has benefited more than 90 species of fish and fresh water mussels. The

projects also help communities, where increased rainfall is expected as a result of climate change, to upgrade road crossings to prevent flooding. NFPP projects have also generated an economic value of \$11 billion since the program's inception, creating or maintaining 219,195 jobs and leveraging funds at a greater than 3:1 ratio.

Another important NFPP asset is its comprehensive fish passage engineering and technical assistance capacity. Fish passage engineers and technical specialists ensure that passage projects are strategic and structurally sound, making sure that project restoration goals are achieved and human health and safety



*A Service employee checks recently hatched American Shad at the North Attleboro National Fish Hatchery.
Credit: Catherine J. Hibbard/USFWS.*

benefits are also realized by surrounding communities. The NFPP achieves restoration goals through the use of SHC on a regional scale; incorporating local and landscape level decisions support tools to identify areas of most conservation need for species and determining where fish passage would have the highest net gain effect for those populations of species.

Population Assessment and Cooperative Management

Service assessment activities focus on inventory, monitoring, management, restoration, and maintenance of healthy and diverse aquatic species populations. The Service's FWCs evaluate the causes of species decline, determine the limiting factors for aquatic populations, and implement actions to restore those populations across habitat types and jurisdictional

boundaries. FWCs work with tribal nations and State and Federal natural resource agencies to restore fish and other aquatic populations to self-sustaining levels to preclude listing under the Endangered Species Act. The development and implementation of fisheries management plans for Federal trust species is a core function of FWCs, requiring collection and evaluation of population data. An example of several species currently monitored by the Service's FWCs include: American shad, Atlantic sturgeon, striped bass, brook trout, Pecos bluntnose shiner, and Atlantic salmon.

FWCO expertise and technical assistance is utilized throughout the Service for conducting population surveys on National Wildlife Refuges, leading recovery teams, undertaking population status assessments, and developing and implementing restoration and recovery programs for at risk native fish and mussel species. Additionally, FWCs work with hatcheries to monitor captive propagation programs and with stakeholders to develop management and restoration plans that define the appropriate use of hatchery fish and measure progress toward meeting a plan's objectives. Service personnel provide a critical field presence in the fight against the spread of aquatic nuisance species by reclaiming habitats overrun with non-native species and suppressing invasive species, such as sea lamprey and Asian Carp.

The Service's trust responsibilities to Tribes are fulfilled in large part through the FWCs by working with tribal resource agencies to recover fisheries on 56 million acres of tribal trust lands and 44 million acres of Alaska Native lands. Fish conservation on tribal lands is advanced through cooperative management with the Tribes, specifically in providing them technical assistance.

Alaska Subsistence Management Program

More than 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. Replacing subsistence harvested foods with store-bought food would cost \$270 million⁴ (\$320M adjusted for inflation). The Alaska Fisheries Subsistence Management Program provides a direct benefit to rural subsistence users on more than 237 million acres of Federal lands, encompassing 66 percent of Alaska's lands and 52 percent of Alaska's rivers and lakes.

The Service is the lead Federal agency in administering the 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 ten 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.

Aquatic Invasive Species

Invasive species significantly impact the health of native species and ecosystems and are considered second only to direct habitat destruction in the U.S. as the leading cause of declining fish, wildlife, and habitat. Nearly half of the imperiled species in the U.S. are threatened by invasive species.⁵ Species such as Asian carp, quagga mussels, giant salvinia, lionfish, and brown tree snakes cause tens of billions of dollars of economic and ecological impacts each year in diminished recreational opportunities, agricultural productivity, personal property values, human health, and public utility capacity, and the problem is growing.⁶

While the program would like to be able to address a wide array of these aquatic threats, in recent years funding constraints have led the Service to place a greater focus on the significant harm zebra and quagga mussels and Asian carp will cause if their spread continues. Prevention, control, and management activities for other introduced species have been a lower priority, though the AIS program will continue to work with partners to leverage resources aimed at fighting a variety of invasive species through pathway management.

Operating under the authority of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act (NANPCA), as amended by the National Invasive Species Act, the Service's Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program consists of three components: national coordination, prevention, and control and management. Service personnel offer critical leadership at the national and regional level on interjurisdictional AIS threats and provide a vital regional and field presence on the ground.



*The bottom of a boat encrusted with zebra mussels.
Credit: David Britton/USFWS*

Aquatic Invasive Species are especially troublesome because they are not always readily detected, their pathways are not always obvious, and their impacts to native species and habitats can be difficult to determine. In addition, they are difficult to eradicate once they become established because they can remain persistent and spread widely even after their pathways of introduction are interrupted. In the Great Lakes, where invasive zebra and quagga mussels have been present since the 1980s, new problems

⁴ Fall, J. A., D. Caylor, M. Turek, C. Brown, J. Magdanz, T. Krauthoefer, J. Heltzel, and D. Koster. 2007. Alaska Subsistence Salmon Fisheries 2005 Annual Report. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence Technical Paper No. 318, Juneau, Alaska.

⁵ Wilcove, D.S., Rothstein, D., Bubow, J., Phillips, A., Losos, E., 1998. Quantifying threats to imperiled species in the United States. *Bioscience* 48(8): 607-615.

⁶ Pimentel, D., Lach, L., Zuniga, R., Morrison, D., 2005. Update on the environmental and economic costs associated with alien-invasive species in the U.S. *Ecological Economics* 52:273-288.

continue to be identified. Recent University of Michigan studies document changes due to invasive mussels at every ecological level of the Great Lakes ecosystem.⁷ Without the implementation of prevention and management strategies, Asian carp, nutria, quagga mussels, and other invasive species will continue to establish and spread, with damages accelerating over time. Similarly, proactive prevention efforts targeting introduction and spread before they occur continue to be the most cost effective means to ensure invasive species do not enter the U.S. or spread between states, minimizing the risk of additional impacts to the American people and trust resources.

The National AIS Program has three primary focus areas: national coordination; prevention; and control and management. While the Service has the authority to manage other aquatic species, the funding requests focuses most of the AIS Program's efforts on addressing threats from zebra and quagga mussels, as well as Asian carp.

National Coordination

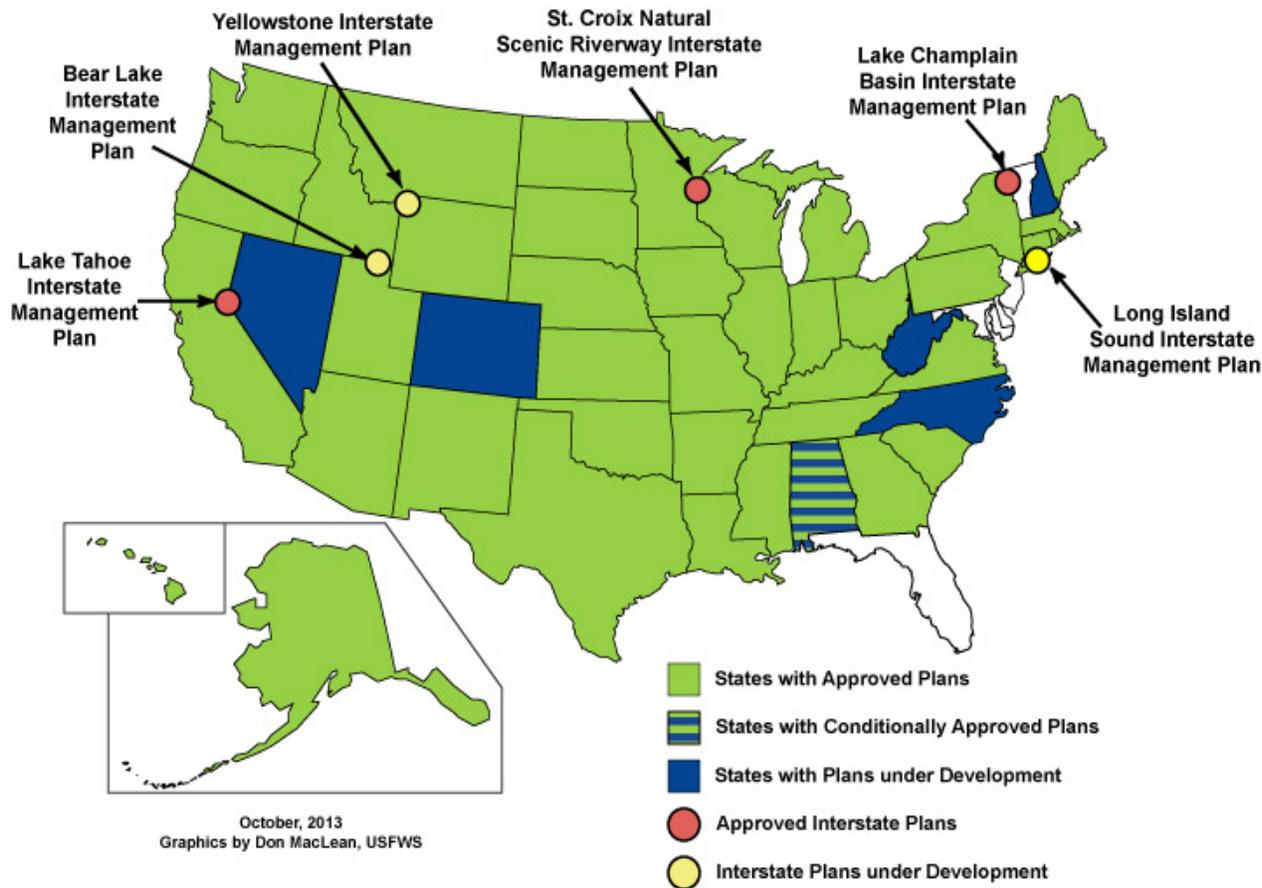
The AIS Program achieves national coordination in part through the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF). The ANSTF, composed of 13 Federal and 13 ex-officio organizations, was established in 1991 under NANPCA. The ANSTF, which the Service co-chairs with NOAA, is the only intergovernmental organization dedicated to preventing and controlling aquatic nuisance species (ANS). The ANSTF provides a national infrastructure and forum for collaborative discussion and decision making with a wide variety of organizations on important ANS issues that can impact prevention, control, and management of ANS at Federal, State, and local levels. For example, the ANSTF is developing guidelines to prevent the spread of AIS through recreational activities and water gardening, and to educate teachers on how to prevent accidental spread of AIS that they might use in the classroom. The Task Force also tackles species-specific issues, such as its development of snakehead and lionfish management plans. The ANSTF also oversees six Regional Panels throughout the country. These Panels are uniquely positioned to coordinate and prioritize regional AIS management issues and to provide crucial recommendations back to the ANSTF.

Another way the Service meets national coordination objectives, as directed under NANPCA, is by supporting the funding and implementation of species control and management plans and 43 State/Interstate ANS Management Plans that address State priorities. For example, California and Nevada are working together through the Lake Tahoe Region AIS Management Plan to target the 20 or more aquatic species in the Lake Tahoe region that cost local residents more than \$20 million each year in lost recreational value, tourism spending, property values, and increased boat/pier maintenance. The State/Interstate ANS Management Plan grant program allows the Service to cost share funding with States and tribal entities for implementation of ANSTF-approved plans. If all 43 eligible plans seek funding in FY15, each State would receive approximately \$23,000. The State AIS programs coordinate with their partners to prevent the introduction and spread of AIS and have planned, directed, and accomplished significant regional- and landscape-level invasive species prevention and management resource outcomes, such as leading changes in behaviors by the public that minimize and reduce AIS threats, inspecting hundreds of thousands of recreational boats, rapidly responding to new infestations, and supporting development of new surveillance and control tools. The cost-share grants between the Service, States, and Tribes allow the 43 State and interstate AIS programs to accomplish far more than the Service could ever accomplish on its own.

⁷ Erickson, J. 2009. Great Lakes: 'Amazing Change'. Michigan Today, 7/21/2009. <http://michigantoday.umich.edu/2009/07/story.php?id=7510&tr=y&auid=5077806>

The ANSTF has approved seven national species control and management plans. These plans provide comprehensive guidance to the Service and its partners as they focus their resources on these specific species. The ANSTF approved the *Quagga-Zebra Mussel Action Plan for Western U.S. Waters (QZAP)*, which was adopted as DOI’s roadmap for addressing the western spread of these invasive mussels. QZAP was developed through the coordinated efforts of numerous Federal, State, and non-governmental organization representatives.

Status of State ANS Management Plans (43 Approved Plans - 40 State, and 3 Interstate)



Prevention

Preventing new introductions is the single most cost-effective strategy, to protect the Nation’s wildlife and their habitats from the threat of invasive species. Without the AIS Program’s leadership in this arena, economic costs to Americans are guaranteed to increase as new introductions occur. The Service has a broad array of pathway management programs that support efforts to prevent introductions, such as public awareness campaigns, risk assessment and risk mitigation tools, and efforts to identify and prevent species introduction into the country or between states. These efforts are carried out at the national, regional, and local levels.

For example, the national “Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!” campaign targets aquatic recreational users and engages with them to become part of the solution by cleaning their equipment every time they leave the water. This



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

behavioral change campaign has broken new ground for the Service because it relies upon partners to help spread the prevention message and actively involves citizens to address this global threat. Currently, at least 1,044 organizations have joined the campaign—including 80 State fish and wildlife, parks and recreation, agriculture, and environmental protection agencies, 260 businesses, and many conservation and watershed protection organizations.

Injurious wildlife are defined under the Lacey Act as species that are injurious or potentially injurious to the interests of human beings, agriculture, horticulture, forestry, wildlife, or wildlife resources of the U.S. Under the auspices of the Lacey Act, the Service seeks to prevent the introduction and spread of new invasive species by regulating the importation and interstate movement of injurious wildlife. The Service does this by evaluating and listing species as injurious through the rulemaking process. By listing aquatic and terrestrial species such as snakehead, Burmese pythons, brushtail possums, walking catfish, and others—more than 200 species in total—the Service plays a key role in promoting the safety and well-being of America's economy and natural resources. The Service, however, recognizes the need to focus our efforts on high-priority species, further improve the listing process, and expedite listing decisions through both improved development of risk assessment and other analysis tools and more efficient administrative action. At the same time, the Service is also actively engaged with industry and other partners to identify and voluntarily restrict the trade of harmful species not yet in commerce. About one-quarter of the AIS Program's prevention budget, or approximately two FTEs and associated operational expenses, is allocated for injurious wildlife actions. Together these efforts manage risks within invasive species pathways and provide a better biosecurity shield that minimizes the likelihood of future damaging and costly invasions.

Control and Management

In FY 2014, quagga and zebra mussels, high priority species for the AIS Program, will continue to be targeted through QZAP activities that leverage resources between Federal, State, local, and NGO partners. Increased efforts will build on the three-pronged approach of containment, prevention, and outreach that has been developed in collaboration with partners. Eradicating existing populations of invasive mussels is not possible with current technologies; therefore, emphasis will be placed on containing the invasion within the Lower Colorado River Basin, the primary source for further invasion in the waters of the western United States. Actions in FY 2014 will minimize the number of trailered boats carrying invasive mussels to other waters by implementing coordinated strategies with partners that promote public compliance, improve communication between partners, educate and assist marina operators and water body managers, and facilitate better law enforcement.

Asian carp also continue to be a high priority for the AIS Program. The spread of Asian carp toward the Great Lakes is one of the most acute threats facing the Great Lakes and their multi-billion dollar fishery. Since 2010, the Administration has aggressively focused on managing the Asian carp invasion from getting into the Great Lakes, but more effort is needed on the upper Mississippi, Ohio, Missouri, and other high-risk river systems as identified in the draft National Asian Carp Surveillance Plan. Base funding in FY 2014 included support for work to prevent the spread of Asian carp in the Great Lakes Basin and tributaries, and upper Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. These funds supported sampling with eDNA and traditional gear as part of a comprehensive surveillance and monitoring program for Asian carp species in the Great Lakes. Funds also supported coordinated early detection and rapid assessment, containment, response, and control outside the Great Lakes in high-risk ecosystems, such as the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, in support of the National Asian Carp Management and Control Plan.



Zebra mussels are prolific breeders and can live for several days out of water.

Credit: David Britton/USFWS

While most of the focus is on Asian carp and zebra and quagga mussels, the Service will seek opportunities to manage other species where practical. While the Service provides some support for AIS control and management through the State and Interstate ANS Management Plans, individual species management plans have also been developed that target specific species that pose the most immediate threat of further spread and damage. These plans are nationally coordinated and developed under the auspices of NANPCA and the ANSTF. The Service continues to provide a leadership role in leveraging funds and bringing partners together. However, limited funding has reduced our ability to address other critical AIS species such as ruffe, mitten crab, brown tree snake, New Zealand mudsnail, and apple snails, as the Service will direct over 65

percent of the AIS Program’s funding toward programs to manage Asian carp and quagga and zebra mussels. The Service will continue to work with the States and other partners to address critical pathways of introduction and spread for other AIS where practical and feasible given available and leveraged resources.

Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation Performance Overview and Change

Performance Goal	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Plan	2015 PB	Change from 2014 Plan to 2015 PB	Program Change Occurring in Out-years
12.2.3 # of aquatic invasive species populations controlled/managed (annually) - FWMA	14	19	19	27	23	21	-2 (-9%)	n/a
Comments	Minus 2 (AIS Control and Management).							
12.2.6 # of activities conducted to support the management/control of aquatic invasive species - FWMA	269	220	261	212	125	253	128 (102%)	n/a
Comments	(+131 for Asian Carp) and (-3 less for FWMA) = net +128							
12.2.7 # of public awareness campaigns conducted and supported re: invasive species	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	n/a
12.2.9 # of risk assessments conducted to evaluate potentially invasive aquatic species - annual	60	235	1,053	291	254	258	4 (2%)	n/a
Comments	(+12 for Asian Carp; -7 for Prevention in AIS) and (-1 less for FWMA) = net +4							

Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation Performance Overview and Change

Performance Goal	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Plan	2015 PB	Change from 2014 Plan to 2015 PB	Program Change Occurring in Out-years
12.2.11 # of surveys conducted for baseline/trend information for aquatic invasive species	457	311	398	342	192	387	195 (102%)	n/a
Comments	(+199 for Asian Carp and -4 for Prevention in AIS) = net +195.							
12.2.12 # of surveys conducted for early detection and rapid response for aquatic invasive species	270	185	254	224	157	218	61 (39%)	n/a
Comments	(+89 for Asian Carp; -25 for Prevention in AIS) and (-3 less for FWMA) = net +61.							
12.2.13 # of state/interstate management plans supported to prevent and control aquatic invasive species (annually)	23	36	38	39	38	44	6 (16%)	n/a
12.2.14 # of partnerships established and maintained for invasive species tasks	469	498	452	468	332	361	29 (9%)	n/a
Comments	AIS = +29 new partnerships for Asian Carp projected increase.							
CSF 5.1 Percent of fish species of management concern that are managed to self-sustaining levels, in cooperation with affected States, tribes, and others, as defined in approved management documents (GPRA)	8% (16 of 211)	8% (17 of 213)	17% (39 of 233)	24% (45 of 185)	25% (45 of 183)	25% (45 of 183)	0%	n/a
5.1.3 # of habitat assessments completed	1,465	1,314	1,310	1,184	694	674	-20 (-3%)	n/a
Comments	Minus 20 fewer habitat assessments for FWMA because of GPA reduction.							
5.1.4 # of miles of instream and shoreline habitat assessed	128,846	6,461	10,278	42,205	3,032	2,952	-80 (-3%)	n/a
Comments	Minus 80 fewer miles for FWMA because of GPA reduction.							
5.1.10 # miles of stream/shoreline restored in U.S.	358	166	133	257	101	91	-10 (-10%)	n/a

Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation Performance Overview and Change

Performance Goal	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Plan	2015 PB	Change from 2014 Plan to 2015 PB	Program Change Occurring in Out-years
Comments	Minus 10 fewer miles for FWMA because of GPA reduction.							
5.1.11 # of fish passage barriers removed or bypassed	170	139	158	162	115	116	1 (1%)	n/a
Comments	Plus 1 more fish passage barrier removed or bypassed for Klamath Basin.							
5.1.12 # of miles reopened to fish passage - FWMA	1,602	1,205	2,032	3,795	1,040	1,044	4	n/a
Comments	Plus 4 more miles reopened for Klamath Basin.							
5.1.13 # of acres reopened to fish passage - FWMA	23,319	36,798	18,552	7,444	4,277	4,277	0	n/a
CSF 5.2 Percent of populations of native aquatic non-T&E species managed or influenced by the Fisheries Program for which current status (e.g., quantity and quality) and trend is known	32% (502 of 1,708)	34% (542 of 1,723)	35% (578 of 1,632)	36% (595 of 1,668)	36% (589 of 1,635)	36% (590 of 1,635)	0%	n/a
5.2.1.7 # of populations of native aquatic non-T&E species managed or influenced by the Fisheries Program for which current status (e.g., quantity and quality) and trend is known - FWMA	481	511	543	561	556	557	1	n/a
Comments	Minimum +1 more for Klamath Basin.							
5.2.4 # assessments completed	2,895	2,909	2,803	2,640	1,422	1,372	-50 (-4%)	n/a
Comments	Minus 50 less population assessments because of FWMA GPA reduction.							
CSF 5.3 Percent of tasks implemented, as prescribed in management plans	63% (2,453 of 3,906)	58% (2,525 of 4,384)	56% (2,568 of 4,600)	53% (2,639 of 5,020)	52% (2,600 of 5,030)	47% (3,314 of 7,095)	-5%	n/a
5.3.1.7 # of tasks implemented, as prescribed in management plans - FWMA	1,870	1,828	2,012	2,049	1,781	1,714	-67 (-4%)	n/a

Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation Performance Overview and Change

Performance Goal	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Plan	2015 PB	Change from 2014 Plan to 2015 PB	Program Change Occurring in Out-years
Comments	Plus 2 FMP tasks for Klamath Basin and plus 1 FMP tasks for Tribal Consultation, but minus 70 less tasks because of FWMA GPA reduction.							
CSF 7.21 Percent of populations of aquatic threatened and endangered species (T&E) that are self-sustaining in the wild	10% (70 of 701)	10% (71 of 689)	11% (80 of 711)	11% (75 of 680)	11% (78 of 698)	11% (78 of 698)	0%	n/a
7.21.3.7 # of aquatic T&E populations for which current biological status and trend is known, due in whole or in part to Fisheries Program involvement - FWMA	158	148	215	244	245	246	1	n/a
Comments	Minimum +1 more for Klamath Basin.							
7.21.5.7 Number of Recovery Plan tasks implemented by the Fisheries Program - FWMA (GPRA)	573	535	517	492	426	418	-8 (-2%)	n/a
Comments	Plus 2 more Recovery Plan tasks for Klamath Basin, but minus 10 fewer tasks for FWMA because of GPA reduction.							
CSF 15.4 Percent of fisheries mitigation tasks implemented as prescribed in approved management plans	96% (73 of 76)	70% (74 of 105)	91% (87 of 96)	74% (93 of 125)	68% (90 of 133)	68% (95 of 140)	0%	n/a
15.4.9 # of aquatic outreach and education activities and/or events	1,150	1,102	1,004	1,015	1,390	1,340	-50 (-4%)	n/a
Comments	Minus 50 fewer because of FWMA GPA reduction.							
52.1.3 # of volunteer participation hours are supporting Fisheries objectives for FWMA	25,374	18,571	14,233	13,151	10,725	10,625	-100 (-1%)	n/a
Comments	Minus 100 fewer hours because of FWMA GPA reduction.							
CSF 18.1 Percent of planned tasks implemented for Tribal fish and wildlife conservation as prescribed by Tribal plans or agreements	55% (335 of 608)	63% (349 of 555)	68% (367 of 538)	62% (366 of 586)	56% (330 of 589)	60% (378 of 629)	4% (7%)	n/a

Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation Performance Overview and Change

Performance Goal	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Plan	2015 PB	Change from 2014 Plan to 2015 PB	Program Change Occurring in Out-years
18.1.3.1 # of planned tasks implemented for Tribal fish and wildlife conservation as prescribed by Tribal plans or agreements - FWMA	230	232	263	260	207	198	-9 (-4%)	n/a
Comments	Plus 1 more for Tribal Consultation, but minus 10 less because of FWMA GPA reduction.							
18.1.6 # of training sessions to support Tribal fish and wildlife conservation - FWMA	115	128	124	94	66	67	1 (2%)	n/a
18.1.9 # of new or modified cooperative agreements with Tribes or IPA Agreements that support Tribal fish and wildlife conservation - FWMA	7	3	5	6	6	8	2 (33%)	n/a
Comments	Plus 2 more for Klamath Basin and plus 1 more for Tribal Consultation, but minus 1 less because of FWMA GPA reduction.							
18.1.12 # of consultations conducted to support Tribal fish and wildlife conservation - FWMA	185	213	257	296	252	254	2 (1%)	n/a
Comments	Plus 2 more for Klamath Basin and plus 1 more for Tribal Consultation, but minus 1 less for FWMA because of GPA reduction.							

Cooperative Landscape Conservation

Activity: Cooperative Landscape Conservation

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015			Change from 2014 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Cooperative Landscape Conservation	(\$000)	15,416	14,416	+91	0	+3,199	17,706	+3,290
	FTE	71	71	0	0	+3	74	0
Adaptive Science	(\$000)	20,143	0	0	0	0	0	0
	FTE	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total, Cooperative Landscape Conservation	(\$000)	35,559	14,416	+91	0	+3,199	17,706	+3,290
	FTE	91	71	0	0	+3	74	0

Note: Adaptive Science funding was shifted to Conservation and Enforcement in 2014.

Summary of 2015 Program Changes for Cooperative Landscape Conservation

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Landscape Conservation Cooperatives	+3,199	+3
Program Changes	+3,199	+3

Justification of Program Changes

The 2015 budget request for Cooperative Landscape Conservation is \$17,706,000 and 74 FTE, a net program change of +\$3,199,000 and +3 FTE from the 2014 Enacted.

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (+\$3,199,000/+3 FTE)

Since FY 2012, the Service has focused funding and support on those Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) that were more mature and best able to deliver priority conservation outcomes as defined by LCC partners, while maintaining others at a reduced level. This funding increase continues the strategy of supporting best performing LCCs, but also seeks to build the larger capacity of the interconnected network by better allowing newer LCCs to strategically engage and collaborate with the diversity of entities that influence landscape conservation decisions. This capacity is needed to develop habitat classifications and maps, regional species and habitat vulnerability assessments, frameworks for modeling landscape change, assessments of regional species of concern and other decision-making tools. These tools collectively support development of conservation “blueprints” for these landscapes that provides broader context for Federal, State and local conservation decisions and actions and provide the information needed to identify and prioritize management issues.

Program Overview

The conservation challenges of the 21st Century are more complex than ever before. In addition to those confronted at the local level, widespread threats such as drought, climate change and large-scale habitat fragmentation are complicating our efforts to plan and conduct conservation. These complex threats don’t just impact isolated places or individual species, but entire landscapes and multiple resources simultaneously. One of Secretary Jewell’s priorities is building a greater understanding of ecological processes at the landscape level and she has challenged the Department to work with partners to elevate this understanding nationally. The Service has taken the lead to bring Federal agencies together with partners to undertake this task through Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs).

The Service has worked with a diverse suite of partners to establish a national network of LCCs. The LCCs, as guided by their steering committees, address a full range of conservation challenges across the

Nation as they work collaboratively with other Federal agencies, State agencies, Tribes, industry, non-governmental organizations (NGO), academic institutions, and the conservation community at large. Without duplicating the effort of existing partnerships, LCCs promote efficient and effective targeting of Federal dollars to obtain and analyze the science necessary for the Service and its partners to develop landscape-scale conservation models protecting fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats. This collaborative effort also enhances the Service's ability to collect information which can be used to improve or augment many of the Service's ongoing conservation efforts such as Endangered Species Recovery Plans, National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP), Joint Ventures, fish passage, and habitat restoration.

LCCs are applied conservation science partnerships with two main functions. The first is to promote collaboration among their members in defining shared conservation goals. With these goals in mind, partners can identify where and how they will take action, within their own authorities and organizational priorities, to best contribute to the larger conservation effort. LCCs don't place limits on partners; rather, they help partners to see how their activities can "fit" with those of other partners to achieve a bigger and more lasting impact.

The second function of LCCs is to provide the science and technical expertise needed to support conservation planning at landscape scales – beyond the scope and authority of any one organization. Through the efforts of in-house staff and science-oriented partners, LCCs are generating the tools, methods and data managers need to design and deliver conservation using the Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) approach. The LCCs keep an on-going dialog between scientists and resource managers to create a mechanism for informed conservation planning, effective conservation delivery, and adaptive monitoring to evaluate the effects of management actions.

The LCCs have developed a mature management structure consisting of individual LCC steering committees comprised of key partners; coordinators and technical staff; a national LCC coordination office and national coordination teams; focused task-specific work teams; and an emerging National LCC Council that has met for the first time in FY 2014. The Landscape Conservation Cooperative Network has developed, with affirmation of the 22 LCC steering committees, a statement of Vision, Mission, and Guiding Principles:

Vision

Landscapes capable of sustaining natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.

Mission

A network of cooperatives depends on LCCs to:

- Develop and provide integrated science-based information about the implications of climate change and other stressors for the sustainability of natural and cultural resources;
- develop shared, landscape-level, conservation objectives and inform conservation strategies that are based on a shared scientific understanding about the landscape, including the implications of current and future environmental stressors;
- facilitate the exchange of applied science in the implementation of conservation strategies and products developed by LCCs or their partners;
- monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of LCC conservation strategies in meeting shared objectives; and

- develop appropriate linkages that connect LCCs to ensure an effective network.

Guiding Principles

- Consider and respect each participating organization's unique mandates and jurisdictions.
- Add value to landscape-scale conservation by integrating across LCCs and other partnerships and organizations to identify and fill gaps and avoid redundancies.
- Conduct open and frequent communications within the LCC network and among vested stakeholders and be transparent in deliberations and decision-making.
- Focus on developing shared landscape-level priorities that lead to strategies that can be implemented.
- Develop and rely upon best available science.
- Develop explicit linkages and approaches to ensure products are available in a form that is usable by partners delivering conservation.
- Use a scientifically objective adaptive management approach in fulfilling the mission.

To determine how to most effectively conserve populations of fish, wildlife and plants at landscape scales the LCC Network will:

- Develop explicit and measurable biological objectives for populations of priority species to guide conservation design and delivery;
- apply and refine dynamic population-habitat models and other decision-support tools that will enable partners to manage species more effectively at landscape scales;
- apply down-scaled climate models at landscape scales to predict effects on fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats;
- help implement the National Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Climate Adaptation Strategy through design and evaluation of adaptation approaches that will help conserve populations at landscape scales;
- identify, and when necessary, design protocols and methodologies best suited to monitoring and inventorying species, habitats, and ecological functions and structures at landscape scales;
- identify high-priority research and technology needs; and
- support and advance work of surrogate species and evidence-based science.

Fundamental to each LCC is the individual steering committee. A full suite of all 22 planned LCCs have now been established each with a steering committee comprised of its key partners. These partners include representatives from State natural resource agencies, academia, non-governmental organizations, as well as all principle Federal land management agencies (e.g., National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of Defense, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Natural Resources Conservation Service, and U.S. Forest Service), the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Representatives from fish and wildlife agencies in all 50 States, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia are engaged with the LCCs, serving as chairs, vice-chairs, or co-chairs of 14 LCC steering committees. Other organizations with representatives serving as chairs, vice-chairs, or co-chairs of LCC steering committees include Federal agencies, Tribes, Canadian provincial agencies, NGOs, and private landowners.

An LCC National Council has been established to support the cooperative large-scale conservation efforts of the LCCs. The LCC National Council, selected by a team of LCC partners, will serve as the national voice for the LCC network, providing a platform for highlighting LCC successes and challenges. The Council will meet at a minimum biannually to identify and consider high-priority issues, identify the ecological and institutional challenges facing LCCs that should be addressed on a national level, and make recommendations to support the LCC network. National Council composition is meant to be reflective of the LCC network as a whole and includes 27 representatives from six Federal agencies, four States, Tribes, non-governmental organizations, major partners and international participants, a LCC coordinator, and at-large members.

The importance that State fish and wildlife agencies place on establishing LCCs is also evident in that their directors and staff are engaged with LCCs and provide invaluable support and leadership. LCCs complement and build on existing cooperative science and conservation entities such as fish habitat partnerships and migratory bird joint ventures as well as other efforts which focus on water resources and land protection. LCCs also benefit from their work with the U.S. Geological Survey's Climate Science Centers, and Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units, as well as the National Park Service's Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units. LCCs often use existing facilities and infrastructure of conservation partners, thereby greatly reducing expenditures for space and associated costs. For example, LCC Coordinators for the North Pacific LCC and the Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks LCC work out of offices provided by State agency partners, and the staff of the South Atlantic LCC is housed in the main office of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

LCCs provide information necessary for strategically delivering on-the-ground conservation actions within broader landscape contexts. The Desert LCC, for example, co-led by the Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Reclamation, is bringing people and resources together in a way that demonstrates the value of these partnerships. The Desert LCC is helping to conserve a critical binational protected area complex in the Big Bend reach of the Rio Grande-Rio Bravo watershed. In 2010, President Barack Obama and the then President of Mexico, Felipe Calderon, agreed that the Big Bend reach of the Rio Grande flows through one of the largest and most significant ecological complexes in North America. However, as a result of upstream dams and diversions and invasive vegetation that lines its banks, water quality and quantity have declined, affecting riverside communities, farmers, recreationists and others who rely on its ecosystem services. Native fish and wildlife have also declined, including the Rio Grande silvery minnow, or even disappeared. With numerous State, Federal, and Mexican partners, including the National Park Service, Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas, and the Tri-national Commission on Environmental Cooperation, the Desert LCC is facilitating development of scientific information that will improve the ability of managers to conserve the river for the benefit of fish, wildlife, and people. This information will be used to create an adaptive management framework that includes monitoring the effects of management actions so that they can be continuously improved to better meet partners' shared objectives. Working together in this way, partners can evaluate if they are achieving desired outcomes for the Rio Grande silvery minnow, clean water, and other natural resources that people value. In addition, the Desert LCC is enhancing the efforts of conservation partners in Big Bend and across the Southwest region and Northern Mexico by evaluating and sharing lessons learned from innovative partnerships that have been successful in similar endeavors, such as the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Working Group.

Science Investment and Accountability Schedule (SIAS)

The SIAS is an assessment tool developed to help inform the Service's investment in the suite of activities, actions and outcomes of the LCCs and to respond to Congressional direction on establishing clear goals, objectives and measurable outcomes for LCCs. The SIAS is the primary component of a performance standards system for the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives and the National Landscape Conservation Cooperative Network to examine the success of the program. In support of the Service's mission and vision for science, the SIAS will help guide the Service's investment and participation in to support more consistency of effort across LCCs in solving landscape-scale challenges, and ensure a uniform way in which LCC performance is evaluated across the network. The Service recognizes that the LCC Network is a broad partnership relying on multiple investments, and the construction of SIAS reflects many of the values of these partners.

The SIAS is comprised of eight interrelated Conservation Activity Areas (CAAs) and associated benchmarks that are guided by the Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) framework in support of the LCC Network's Vision and Mission. The eight CAAs are:

1. Organizational Operations
2. Landscape Conservation Planning Foundation
3. Landscape Conservation Design
4. Informing Conservation Delivery
5. Decision-based Monitoring
6. Research to Support Adaptive Management
7. Data Management and Integration
8. LCC Network Function

The SIAS tool used in FY 2013 was improved and expanded on for use in FY 2014. For FY 2014, all 22 LCCs will complete a full SIAS assessment, and the Service will use the final scores to direct funding to the most important scientific and conservation opportunities.

Key Examples and Accomplishments

The Pacific Islands Climate Change Cooperative (PICCC) is connecting wetland managers with the latest sea level rise research in order to help them determine where, how, and when restoration efforts will be most productive. By facilitating these critical science and management partnerships, the PICCC is helping managers develop strategies to increase the resilience of wetland ecosystems and support their ability to adapt to increasingly rapid change.



Hawaiian Monk Seal and pup.

Coastal wetlands in Hawaii are home to four endangered waterbird species, rare migratory birds, and listed marine species such as Hawaiian monk seals and green sea turtles. The PICCC has funded the development of a vulnerability assessment to show how rising seas will transform the

characteristics of two National Wildlife Refuges and one State Wildlife Sanctuary on the islands of Oahu and Maui. These studies from the University of Hawaii show because of local topography rising sea levels will quickly transform these sites from fresh to salt water wetlands. Knowing when this is likely to occur allows managers to plan appropriate restoration actions in support of endangered waterbird recovery. This research highlights the rapidly narrowing window of opportunity within which to develop alternative management strategies for coastal wetlands. With this and other critical research, the PICCC is

playing the pivotal role in linking LCC-funded science to management in support of climate change adaptation in the Pacific Islands.

North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative (NPLCC) –

Natural resource managers along the Pacific Northwest coast are learning how Traditional Ecological Knowledge can inform collective understanding of climate change -- and how communities in the Pacific Northwest can adapt. Indigenous peoples have long understood the inextricable link among climate, landscapes, watersheds, plants and animals, and people. And their



*Tribal member harvesting Pacific lamprey at Willamette Falls, OR.
AP Photo*

knowledge – often referred to as Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) – offers an important perspective to resource management in a time of rapid environmental change. Western science can miss the complex interactions between people and the broader ecosystem. But when TEK is considered along with Western science, managers can gain a more holistic understanding of the natural environment and can create a more resilient future.

Traditional knowledge is sacred and often held in close confidence within tribal communities, so to make TEK more accessible the NPLCC, the Service's Pacific Region and the Northwest Climate Science Center funded seven pilot projects throughout the Pacific Northwest's coastal temperate rainforest. The projects will support tribally led approaches to capitalize on the strengths of TEK and Western science and bring traditional knowledge into climate change adaptation plans. These projects, led by the Pacific Northwest and Alaska Native Tribes and the First Nations in Canada, are spread along the Pacific Coast throughout the range of the NPLCC, from south central Alaska to northern California – areas where climate change is already impacting natural and cultural resources. These grants are intended to address a wide range of climate-related challenges – from the local changes to plant and animal species to the broader effects of changing ocean conditions on coastal communities.



*Example of a dry event and a high flow event on the same portion of the lower Kuparuk River. Water depth during the high flow event reached 6 feet Arctic grayling (*Thymallus arcticus*) congregating in a pool near a disjunct reach of stream, await a high flow event so they can reach deeper waters that will increase their chances of surviving the harsh arctic winter. Image courtesy of Linda Deegan, MBL*

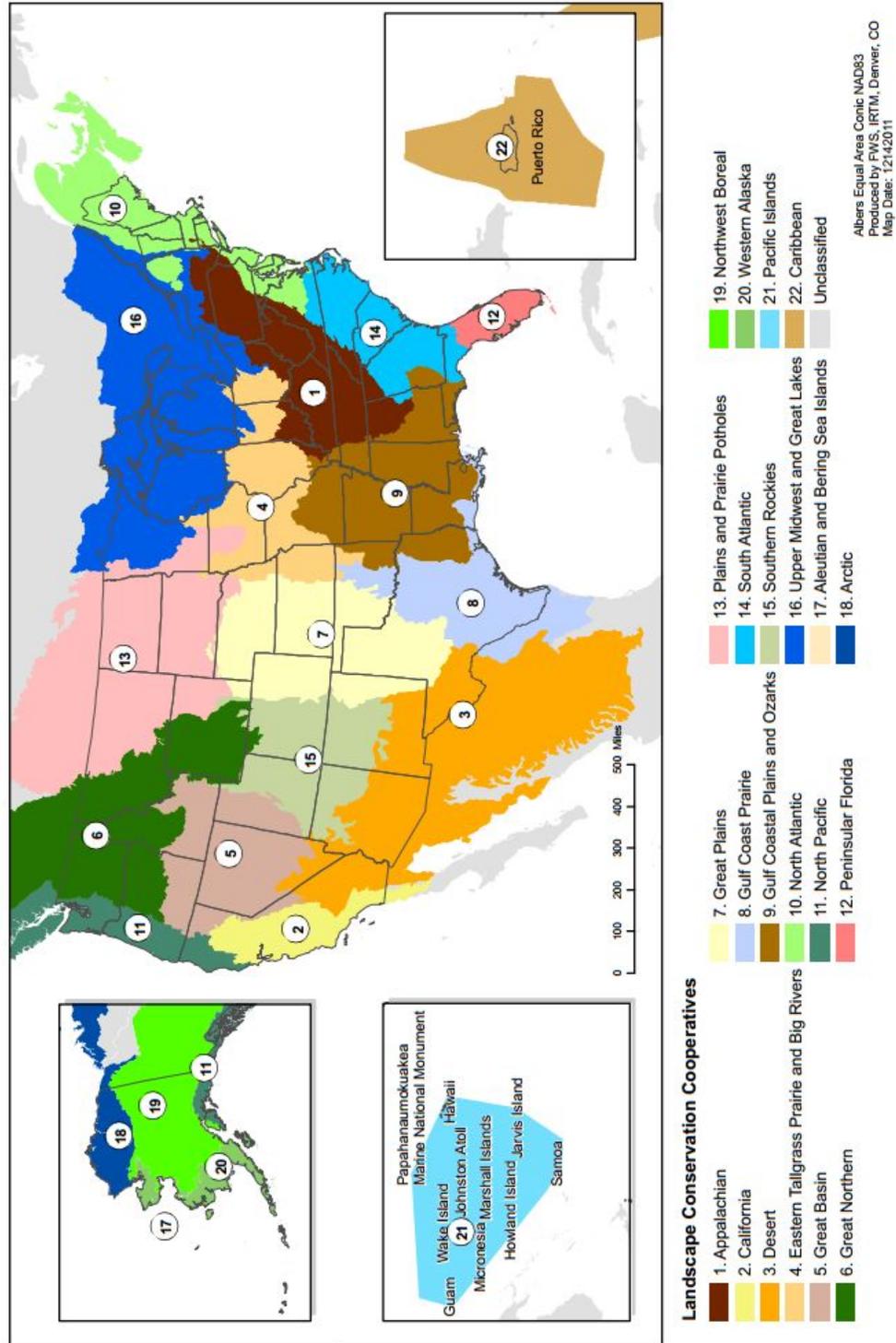
Arctic Landscape Conservation Cooperative -- While rapid temperature increases and sea ice loss in the Arctic seem to get all the press, the bigger issue for resident terrestrial species is freshwater. Will more or less precipitation fall? Will it fall as rain or snow? Will increases in freezing rain events cause additional mass starvation events? How will seasonality of precipitation, snow and ice melt, and changes in permafrost affect stream hydrology? Already, some arctic streams have been observed to become seasonally discontinuous in their flow, restricting fish movements to and from spawning and wintering grounds. Arctic LCC-sponsored research is assessing whether the Arctic's rapidly changing hydrology is impacting fish migration. Researchers of the University of Alaska Fairbanks' Water and Environment Research Center are studying the timing of in-stream migration of grayling to identify critical reaches of rivers where low flow may impede fish passage. They are also examining the historical records to identify the frequency, timing, duration, and magnitude of low flow periods that may affect fish. In this way, we can construct models of future fish passage impedence for a given projection of future hydrologic conditions. Current baseline data does not, however, allow us to do a very good job at predicting future water regimes in Arctic, Alaska. And it is this lack of basic environmental baseline data that drives all ecosystem response models that the Arctic LCC plans to address in their implementation of their Terrestrial Environmental Observing Network.

The Plains and Prairie Pothole LCC and the Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Big River LCC have supplied funding and coordination for a Hydrogeomorphic Evaluation (HGM) study along the lower Missouri River. This project has the potential to guide and direct conservation planning efforts along the lower portion of the Missouri River for the next several decades. This is critical as the lower Missouri River encompasses nearly 1.5 million acres of bottomland habitat for fish, wildlife and plants. The Missouri River contains countless conservation properties and efforts owned and/or maintained by local, State and Federal agencies, nonprofit groups and private entities. It features a diverse mix of riverine, floodplain, prairie, wetland and forest habitats that help support healthy populations of native fish and wildlife species, endangered species, and many recreational activities. Over time, societal interests have led to dramatic changes along the lower Missouri River, creating a system highly influenced by upstream reservoirs and containing highly altered physical and ecological attributes. These alterations pose significant challenges for strategic and sustainable maintenance, restoration and protection of the river's wildlife and their habitats. To help inform land managers and develop common conservation priorities, a Hydrogeomorphic Evaluation has been initiated for the lower 670 miles of the river from Little Sioux, Iowa to St. Louis, Missouri. Using this method, engineers and ecologists are examining the restoration and management potential of this regulated, yet still untamed system. The resulting maps, models and report will serve as tools which will help guide land and water uses within the corridor aimed at maximizing ecological functionality while considering flood control, restoration potential, recreation, navigation, and other interests along the river.

The Upper Midwest and Great Lakes LCC has invested in tools to help managers make decisions about re-connecting the Great Lakes to their tributaries where these connections have been severed by dams and road crossings. For some critical species like lake sturgeon and brook trout, these barriers prevent access to critical spawning grounds. But in many cases they also prevent the invasive sea lamprey from using these streams for spawning, which is a useful function. Balancing these competing needs creates problems for funding agencies and other decision-makers about which barriers to remove and which to retain. The LCC has supported work that has already identified over 275,000 barriers across the basin, estimated passability and costs for removal of each, and developed an optimization model to identify which set of barriers to remove given a particular budget. Current efforts will allow decision-makers to weigh benefits to lake sturgeon and coaster brook trout – two priority native fish species – against detriments from potential expansion of lamprey habitat. Future efforts will factor in additional priority native species and potential invasive species. This will provide critical information to guide the significant annual investment in barrier removal through various Federal programs like the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the US Fish and Wildlife Service's fish passage program.

The Southern Rockies Landscape Conservation Cooperative is collaborating with several Tribes (e.g., Shivwits Band of the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, Pueblo of Jemez, and Navajo Nation) on their tribally conducted assessments of impacts of landscape-level stressors on tribal and ancestral lands, and culturally significant species and associated habitats. Results provide recommendations concerning short-term and long-term research/data needs and adaptation strategies aimed at addressing immediate and long-term stressors. Also, results are informing the LCC’s larger landscape-scale planning and bringing decision support to resource managers in an integrated, partnership approach.

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives



2015 Program Performance

Delivering Priority Conservation Outcomes Defined by LCC Partners

Each LCC will establish explicit conservation objectives and targets and then prepare biological plans and landscape conservation designs in support of achieving these targets. In FY 2015, more attention will be directed toward establishing landscape-scale conservation targets and objectives for the priority species and habitats collaboratively identified by LCC steering committees. This process is a core component of the Science Investment and Accountability Schedule (SIAS) that will inform funding allocations to the LCCs in FY 2015. As a result, partners can better align their funding and personnel to implement or complement specific activities laid out in the landscape conservation designs. As this occurs, LCCs will devote more time and resources to designing and implementing monitoring and evaluation efforts capable of determining the extent of those successes, while refining and improving science and planning tools which will benefit future biological planning and conservation delivery.

Cooperative Landscape Conservation Combined Performance Change and Overview

Performance Goal	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Plan	2015 PB	Change from 2014 Plan to 2015 PB	Program Change Occurring in Out-years
CL.2.1.4 Number of decision-support tools provided to conservation managers to inform management plans/decisions and ESA Recovery Plans (Cumulative)	0	15	26	46	74	74	0	n/a
CL.2.1.5 Number of conservation delivery strategies and actions evaluated for effectiveness (Cumulative)	0	5	12	15	24	24	0	n/a
CL.2.1.6 Number of landscape-scale conservation strategies developed that can direct management expenditures where they have the greatest effect and lowest relative cost (Cumulative)	0	5	16	24	38	38	0	n/a
CL.3.1.1 Number of risk and vulnerability assessments developed or refined for priority species or areas. (Cumulative)	0	5	23	44	75	75	0	n/a
CL.3.1.2 Number of inventory and monitoring protocols developed, refined or adopted to capture data on priority species addressed in LCC work plans that are expected to be vulnerable to climate change (Cumulative)	0	12	29	47	61	61	0	n/a

Cooperative Landscape Conservation Combined Performance Change and Overview

Performance Goal	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Plan	2015 PB	Change from 2014 Plan to 2015 PB	Program Change Occurring in Out-years
CL.3.1.3 Number of population and habitat assessments developed or refined to inform predictive models for changes in species populations and habitats as a result of climate change (Cumulative)	0	14	31	61	88	88	0	n/a
CL.3.1.4 Number of biological planning and conservation design projects developed in response to climate change (Cumulative)	0	9	23	40	66	66	0	n/a
CL.3.1.5 Number of management actions evaluated for effectiveness in response to climate change and research activities conducted to address information needs in response to climate change (Cumulative)	0	6	15	24	43	43	0	n/a
CL.3.1.6 Number of conservation genetics projects to improve and enhance conservation design and delivery for fish and wildlife populations in response to climate change (Cumulative)	0	2	4	7	11	11	0	n/a

Science Support

Activity: Science Support

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015				Change from 2014 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Adaptive Science	(\$000) FTE	[12,116] [11]	10,767 10	+17 0	0 0	+4,365 0	15,149 10	+4,382 0
Service Science	(\$000) FTE	[8,027] [9]	6,468 9	+14 0	0 0	+10,003 +6	16,485 15	+10,017 +6
Total, Science Support	(\$000) FTE	[20,143] [20]	17,235 19	+31 0	0 0	+14,368 +6	31,634 25	+14,399 +6

Note: Science funding was included under Cooperative Landscape Conservation in 2013. Science Support was included under Conservation and Enforcement in 2014, and the Service proposes to shift it to its own activity in 2015.

Program Overview

The FWS Science Support activity addresses science needs using Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) as a guiding framework.

Adaptive Science funds studies essential to the work of our *network of Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) partnerships*, to better manage natural resources across broad areas. These partnerships work with six Interior bureaus, a diverse suite of other Federal agencies, State natural resource agencies, and other public and private partners to identify and implement landscape-scale conservation solutions to address on-the-ground conservation management questions.

Service Science needs are those of Service programs for information that can improve decision-making for refuge management, endangered species recovery, regulatory decisions, and other needs. To be effective in its mission delivery, the Service requires focused, applied science to answer questions about threats to trust fish and wildlife resources for discrete and timely decision-making. Improved information leads to better decisions to maintain species at healthy, sustainable, desired levels. Service Science funding is used to purchase studies, develop models, and secure scientific expertise to help managers interpret and apply the body of knowledge available.

The Service uses Science Support funding in three high-level areas to help the Service and the larger conservation community sustain fish, wildlife and plants across the nation:

1. Building our understanding of natural resource issues

Science funds will be used to build the science capacity necessary to help ensure that the Service fulfills its regulatory and management responsibilities for threatened and endangered species, migratory birds, marine mammals, and inter-jurisdictional fish. Priorities in this area include:

- White Nose Syndrome research where the Service will apply funding to three primary focus areas: research, monitoring/management, and outreach to help save endangered bats.
- Testing the feasibility of barred owl removal to determine whether it improves conditions for spotted owls.
- Research on minimizing effects of energy development and transmission projects on bald and golden eagles, bats, prairie chickens, sage grouse, desert tortoise, and other species to better conserve these species and efficiently permit needed infrastructure.

- Climate adaptation and carbon sequestration to develop and test tools and guidelines that can be used to identify the lands with the greatest current or potential carbon stocks and/or sequestration values.
- Develop decision support tools for land management and other users to support mitigation of the effects of climate change including changing species distributions and migration patterns, the spread of wildlife diseases and invasive species, and changes in freshwater availability with shifting precipitation and habitat types.
- Use surrogate species to develop, implement, and test conservation strategies to make more efficient conservation decisions and improve resource management in cooperation with State fish and wildlife agencies and other partners.

2. Implementing the Service's Climate Change Strategic Plan and National Fish, Wildlife and Plant Climate Adaption Strategy

In response to the Executive Order on climate change and Departmental policy, the Service will continue to effectively and efficiently incorporate and implement climate change adaptation measures into the agency's mission, programs, and operations, including fully implementing the Strategic Plan. Work is ongoing to develop and implement additional policies regarding climate change adaptation, mitigation, and engagement across the agency. The Adaptive Science and Service Science funding categories address these goals and have allowed the Service to continue to be a leader on addressing climate change impacts to wildlife and natural resources.

The National Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Climate Adaption Strategy (Strategy) was released in March of 2013. The Service led the development of this effort in partnership with NOAA and the State fish and wildlife agencies (as represented by the Association of State Fish and Wildlife Agencies). The partners worked closely with Federal, State, and tribal stakeholders and the broader conservation community as well as the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). The Strategy provides a common understanding, among the three levels of government (Federal, State and tribal) that have authority and responsibility for fish and wildlife resources, on the major strategies and actions that must be undertaken to sustain landscapes and their living resources in the face of climate change. Since release, the partners have been working together to roll out the Strategy across the country and promote it as a resource for adaptation planning at a variety of scales. The Strategy is already being used to inform Federal adaptation plans as well as State and tribal planning efforts. Moving forward, a high-level interagency Joint Implementation Working Group will promote implementation of the Strategy, and act as a forum for coordination between Federal, State, and tribal agencies and other stakeholders. This working group will help to highlight progress and accomplishments and guide revisions to the Strategy.



Credit: Susi von Oettingen USFWS,

3. Adaptive Science for Landscape Conservation

The LCCs are landscape-scale conservation science partnerships that produce and disseminate applied science products for resource management decisions. Funding supports development of scientific information, tools, and techniques that resource managers can apply to anticipate, monitor, and adapt to environmental changes and their effects on fish, wildlife, and cultural resources.

Each of these three areas:

- are highly **collaborative** and take advantage of the contributions of many partners
- emphasize a **landscape scale approach** to conservation, which the conservation community embraces as holding the greatest promise of succeeding today and in the future

- utilize **evidence-based science**
- incorporates an **adaptive management framework** that integrates science and management in a way that increases effectiveness in an environment of limited fiscal resources and unforeseen changes

The National Research Council defines adaptive management as flexible decision making that can be adjusted in the face of uncertainties as outcomes from management actions and other events become better understood. Careful monitoring of these outcomes advances scientific understanding and helps adjust policies or operations as part of an iterative learning process. While adaptive management has been embraced by the Service for many years, its use today is even more essential as the challenges to successful conservation of fish and wildlife are compounded by the uncertainties of future climatic conditions. An adaptive management framework includes setting measurable objectives, making resource management investments and decisions, systematically assessing results against expected outcomes, then making adjustments for future strategies and actions. Building an adaptive management framework ensures that future decisions are not made simply by “trial-and-error”, but on the basis of the best available science.

The kinds of science the Service needs to achieve these critically-important outcomes, includes:

Species Risk and Vulnerability Assessments – These assessments are the essential first step in deciding where to focus conservation activities and where additional scientific information is necessary for conservation.

Inventory and Monitoring – The Service will participate in inventory and monitoring programs, develop or acquire systems for managing data, and evaluate assumptions and scientific information used in models that link populations to their habitats and other limiting factors. The Service will coordinate its inventory and monitoring programs with other Bureaus, especially the National Park Service, and integrate its data and results with those of other agencies, especially those in the DOI Climate Effects Network.

Population and Habitat Assessments – These assessments will improve the Service’s understanding of the relationship between species and their habitats at various spatial scales as well as among species. This information will be used by LCCs to predict how environmental change will affect populations of fish and wildlife and their habitats, and how various management treatments can reduce or avoid those effects.

Biological Planning and Conservation Design – Capacity for biological planning and conservation design includes highly-specialized expertise, training and tools, and the use of complex statistical methods and modeling. The Service will examine management options, identify their strengths and weaknesses, and ultimately identify the mix of conservation actions that have the greatest likelihood of achieving the desired biological and ecological outcomes.

Management Evaluation and Research – The Service will use scientific “learning” to provide essential feedback for adaptive management. Science funding will support evaluations and research to answer questions that arise from habitat and species responses to management actions. Targeted research will enable the Service to fill information gaps and reduce uncertainty.

Conservation Genetics – Conservation genetics research identifies distinct population and management units. Biological assessments, conservation design strategies, and conservation delivery activities are most effective when they recognize the genetic population structure of a given species. Maintaining genetic diversity is essential for maintaining healthy, resilient populations of fish, wildlife and plants.

Activity: Science Support
Subactivity: Adaptive Science

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015				Change from 2014 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Adaptive Science	(\$000)	[12,116]	10,767	+17	0	+4,365	15,149	+4,382
	FTE	[11]	10	0	0	0	10	0

Note: Science funding was included under Cooperative Landscape Conservation in 2013.

Summary of 2015 Program Changes for Adaptive Science

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Adaptive Science	+3,865	0
• Biological Carbon Sequestration—Development of decision support tools for land managers and other users	+500	0
Program Changes	+4,365	0

Justification of Program Changes

The 2015 budget request for Adaptive Science is \$15,149,000 and 10 FTE, a net program change of +\$4,365,000 and +0 FTE from the 2014 Enacted.

Adaptive Science (+\$3,865,000/+0 FTE)

Since FY 2012, the Service has focused funding and support on those LCCs that were best able to deliver priority conservation outcomes as defined by LCC partners, while maintaining others at a reduced level. This increase continues the strategy of supporting best performing LCCs, but also seeks to build the larger capacity of this interconnected network, by providing the science, information, and tools needed to better define, design, and help partners strategically support LCCs that have received little or no adaptive science funding in the past such as: Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Big Rivers, Peninsular Florida, Great Basin, and Southern Rockies. The LCCs will utilize the Science Investment and Accountability Schedule (SIAS) as the primary component of a performance standards system to help identify, prioritize, and target research that address key uncertainties, and will use the results of the research to guide future science activities (e.g., data collection, research, model refinement) as part of the adaptive management framework.

Biological Carbon Sequestration (+\$500,000/+0 FTE)

Funding for biological carbon sequestration in the Service Science subactivity allows the Service to identify lands with both the most strategically important conservation values along with the greatest current or potential carbon stocks. Working with USGS and its LandCarbon products, as well as other partners (such as The Nature Conservancy), the Service will identify and classify spatial distributions of habitats with high soil organic carbon and woody biomass levels and a high likelihood of future conversion. Funding through this Adaptive Science increase focuses this broader research in two priority landscapes that support the Service's climate adaptation strategy: the Pocosin wetlands of the eastern Carolinas (South Atlantic LCC) focusing on quantification of carbon stocks in peatlands and peatland restoration; and the plains and prairie potholes of the Dakotas (Plains and Prairie Pothole LCC), focusing on prairie pothole acquisition and management planning.

In addition to better mapping priorities for management, acquisition, and restoration, this effort will identify and test methods for measuring carbon sequestration over time as another benefit of the conservation or restoration project. The implementation of this effort may reside at the Alligator River

National Wildlife Refuge and/or the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge to address threats to Albemarle Sound peatlands resulting from altered hydrology and prolonged droughts. As expressed above, the pilot project would examine numerous co-benefits to the environment and local communities including carbon sequestration, air and water quality protection and increased resiliency of peatlands. Partner cost-sharing will leverage funding.

Program Overview

In response to Secretarial Order 3289, which established an approach for applying scientific tools to increase the understanding of climate change and other landscape scale stressors on Federal resources, the Service developed a national network of Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs); see Cooperative Landscape Conservation (pp. CLC 1-5). The Service, with its highly diverse and actively engaged partners, uses LCCs to examine key conservation challenges on a landscape scale level that threaten the Nation's fish and wildlife resources. Funding for Adaptive Science helps to acquire the science necessary to understand and mitigate for threats such as habitat loss and degradation from development, climate change, invasive species, energy and agricultural development, and ever-increasing demands for clean abundant water. These threats are occurring on such a scale that no single organization, agency, or level of government acting in isolation can successfully address them.

The primary component of a performance standards system for Landscape Conservation Cooperatives utilized by the Service is the SIAS, an assessment tool developed to help inform and review the Service's investment in the suite of activities, actions and outcomes of individual LCCs and as a functional network. The development of the SIAS responds to Congressional direction on establishing clear goals, objectives, and measurable outcomes for LCCs. In support of the Service's mission and vision for science, the SIAS will help guide the Service's investment and participation in each LCC and in the LCC Network to ensure effectiveness, efficiency, and transparency. The Service recognizes that the LCC Network is a broad partnership relying on multiple investments, and the construction of SIAS reflects many of the values of these partners. Using this tool, the Service then considers funding and resource needs as outlined below.

Adaptive science funding is provided to the LCCs to support risk and vulnerability assessments, inventory and monitoring, population and habitat assessments, conservation design, evaluation of management options for LCC partners, and other applicable research. To evaluate the capability of the LCC's geography to support priority resources at desired levels, the LCCs conduct vulnerability assessments specific to each LCC's priority resources as well as landscape assessments that consider current and expected future conditions of landscapes. Informed by these vulnerability and landscape assessments, the LCC develops and integrates practical tools and information resulting in conservation strategies that identify alternative management approaches for specific resource priorities. For example, a conservation strategy may consider the effects of climate change, land-use change, and ecosystem services in the development of management actions and landscape designs for the LCC's priority resources.

The LCCs integrate multiple priority resources and develop spatially-explicit conservation designs and products that reflect landscape conditions and the ability of current and future landscapes to support the LCC's priority resources. The LCCs develop landscape conservation decision support information and tools to inform partners' conservation strategies relative to meeting agreed-upon objectives for priority resources. The LCCs develop tools and information to inform conservation delivery decisions now and in the future and ensure tools are relevant to individual organization mission pursuits. These products are built in consultation with end users, transferred and accessed with minimal impediment, and applied in a manner that improves efforts that address common and shared conservation priorities.

The LCCs track, catalog, and report on conservation delivery actions undertaken and implemented by management partners, and evaluate the utility of LCC products. The LCCs develop tools and processes to

catalog modifications to operational plans and subsequent conservation delivery actions that help to achieve measurable objectives for the LCC's priority resources and to assess effectiveness of LCC conservation design products. These tools and processes are used to promote situational awareness of ongoing conservation operations among the LCC's partners, and to facilitate evaluation of attainment of collectively recognized conservation and to adaptively improve LCC products.

Key Examples and Accomplishments

- The Great Plains LCC (GPLCC). Stream fishes in the Great Plains are declining in both distribution and abundance as evidenced by 29 species considered vulnerable, threatened, or endangered. GPLCC used the Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) framework to identify science needs for Arkansas River shiner (*Notropis girardi*) (ARS), a surrogate for a group of seven ecologically similar species, all of which are considered imperiled and occur within streams and rivers of the GPLCC. The Arkansas River shiner represents an ideal organism to understand the impacts of stream fragmentation and flow alteration within the GPLCC. Because it is an open-water spawner, the species is sensitive to the number of stream obstructions and the distance between obstructions. By understanding the current status of what we needed to know to advance actions per SHC element (biological planning, conservation design, conservation delivery, and, monitoring and research) in relation to the Arkansas River shiner, recommendations for funding of specific science and research projects were developed. The GPLCC (and its partners, most significantly Texas Parks and Wildlife Department through State Wildlife Grants) funded work that filled important data gaps in understanding spawning requirements. The iterative nature of SHC also allowed the GPLCC to re-prioritize science needs as projects were completed to ensure they acquired the critical information needed for effective conservation planning and design. To date, the GPLCC has funded several Arkansas River shiner projects that address science needs at landscape, regional and micro-habitat scales. As the Service advances its surrogate species approach, this LCC experience provides a solid foundation for planning, implementing, monitoring, and adapting.



Arkansas River shiner.

- Pacific Islands Climate Change Cooperative (PICCC). According to PICCC-funded research, coral reefs as we know them could disappear within the next 50-70 years. The research, published in *Nature Climate Change*, indicates that in just a few short decades coral reefs will experience annual bleaching, a phenomena not seen to be compatible with reef survival, regardless of global emissions trajectory. These projections, based on the latest IPCC climate models, now are available to planners and managers around the world via an interactive web tool http://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/climate/projections/piccc_oa_and_bleaching/index.php.

This projected loss of productive coral reef ecosystems spells environmental disaster for the Pacific Islands and the millions of people around the world who depend on reefs for food and income. Countless marine species stand to be lost and Pacific Island nations are likely to become increasingly dependent on US and international aid. The multi-billion dollar reef tourism industry that sustains many island economies will suffer (Hawaii's reefs alone are worth an estimated \$1 million dollars per day). Public assets at risk in the Pacific include five Marine National Monuments and associated National Wildlife Refuges, as well as extensive reef areas under Federal and local jurisdiction.

With strong policy-driven support, intensive coral reef management and protection could buy precious time for reef ecosystems and the people who depend on them to adapt to these inevitable changes. The Pacific Islands Climate Change Cooperative is working closely with scientists and resource managers in the Pacific region to predict timelines for coral reef degradation and explore ways to improve reef resilience in the face of climate change. Continued funding to support these efforts will allow our cooperative members to provide policy recommendations that will support rather than hinder climate change adaptation efforts, as per the President's recent mandate.

- The North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative (NPLCC).

The NPLCC is funding research to help coastal land managers face many challenges and uncertainties in planning adaptive strategies for conserving nearshore habitats under future climate change scenarios. Projected climate change effects on coastal environments include sea-level rise, increased storm magnitude and frequency, salt water intrusion, accelerated erosion, shifting mudflat profiles, and increased water



Storm surge on Oregon Coast. Photo public domain

temperature and acidity. This research brings locally-relevant, fine-scale climate change information to coastal land managers through in-person workshops in their communities – presenting initial modeling results, identifying their climate science needs, and introducing a decision-support tool. The aim is to facilitate and demonstrate how currently-available coastal climate information can be incorporated into today's natural and cultural resource management planning and decisions.

- Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) of the Flathead Reservation in Montana recently completed a Climate Change Strategic Plan. The plan is designed to serve as a foundation for developing effective strategies that benefit the Tribal community and the local environment. Following an evolving adaptive management process, the plan addresses current climate issues and concerns, potential impacts, and goals and actions. Unique to this plan are the Tribal Elders' perspectives on how the changing climate has affected cultural traditions and resources, an example of blending Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) into their approach.

2015 Program Performance

In FY 2015, the Service will focus on implementation of the National Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Climate Adaptation Strategy (NFWPCAS). The Service and its partners will promote awareness of the issue, present a forum for agencies to identify opportunities for programmatic coordination and integration, and align natural resource sector adaptation activities with other efforts (e.g., agriculture, energy, transportation). This level of work is essential to mitigate duplication and redundancy among agency programs, establish a level of consistency across sectors and agencies and provide the level of coordination essential to success.

At the same time, the Service will place major emphasis on using LCCs to address the “who, what, when and where” of the many strategies and actions identified in the NFWPCAS. For instance, the first action recommended in the strategy is to “identify high priority areas for protection using species distributions, habitat classification, land cover and geophysical settings (Action 1.1.1, NFWPCAS pg. 58)”. LCCs provide an ideal venue for bringing together the many partners necessary to accomplish this work.

Activity: Science Support
Subactivity: Service Science

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015			Change from 2014 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Service Science	(\$000)	[8,027]	6,468	+14	0	+10,003	16,485	+10,017
	FTE	[9]	9	0	0	+6	15	+6

Note: Science funding was included under Cooperative Landscape Conservation in 2013.

Summary of 2015 Program Changes for Service Science

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Service Science Research	+8,103	+6
• Transmission Corridors and Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan	+1,400	0
• Biological Carbon Sequestration—Development of decision support tools for land managers and other users	+500	0
Program Changes	+10,003	+6

Justification of Program Changes

The 2014 budget request for Service Science is \$16,485,000 and 15 FTE, a net program change of +\$10,003,000 and +6 FTE from the 2014 Enacted.

Service Science Research (+\$8,103,000/+6 FTE)

This increase will provide additional funding to support obtaining the scientific information needed by the Service. It will be applied to strategically identified information requirements across the Service to deliver priority conservation outcomes. An evaluation team, led by the Office of the Science Advisor, will solicit, evaluate, and prioritize the projects for funding. The Service will partner with USGS, universities, LCCs, and others to acquire this priority science. It will be applied across the suite of Service programs, addressing challenges faced by refuges, endangered species, migratory birds, and fish and aquatic resources.

This additional science capacity will address critical issues such as:

- data management;
- choosing surrogate species that represent broader suites of species or aspects of the species' environment and determining, based on the Strategic Habitat Conservation framework, if the species chosen are appropriate;
- evaluating impacts to land and water resources from the development of wind, hydroelectric, solar, oil and gas energy production;
- developing decision tools and models, including risk assessments, for terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems;
- determining best management practices for combating invasive species; and
- combating and adapting to a changing environment and the resultant impacts on health and natural resources.

Transmission Corridors and the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (+\$1,400,000/+0 FTE)

Significant conservation challenges remain in renewable energy development. The Service's goal is to protect sensitive lands and improve certainty for developers seeking to support the installation of renewable energy projects. For example, identifying high risk areas that energy developers should avoid will reduce environmental costs and conflicts for developers by minimizing the loss of golden eagles from strikes at wind energy facilities and power transmission lines, reducing disturbance and direct mortality of desert tortoise, and lessening impacts to federally protected species. The Service will use this funding increase to ensure energy transmission corridors avoid endangered and threatened species to the greatest extent possible by:

- conducting research and developing more robust risk analyses;
- determining the effectiveness of avoidance, minimization, and compensation measures;
- developing robust eagle monitoring protocols around proposed renewable energy projects;
- researching mortality factors to ensure proper siting of energy transmission corridors that minimize harm to wildlife, plants, and their habitats; and,
- researching behavioral and reproductive impacts on species of concern including sage grouse.

Research is urgently needed to inform Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and Endangered Species Act permitting processes and joint Federal-State conservation planning. Part of this research will be used to revise the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP), a large-scale planning effort developed in collaboration between the Service's Pacific Southwest Region, Bureau of Land Management and the State of California. The DRECP will streamline renewable energy permitting on Federal and non-federal lands while providing conservation for trust resources. Additionally, the increase will allow the Service to engage with the Federal family in efforts to identify energy transmission corridors throughout the west, ensuring that designation of these corridors is done utilizing best practices, such as upfront regional mitigation planning, to promote better environmental stewardship and provide predictability to project developers.

Biological Carbon Sequestration—Development of decision support tools for land managers and other users (+\$500,000/+0 FTE)

The Service recognizes the importance of considering carbon sequestration values in the protection and management of its lands, and is continually looking for data and tools to assist its land acquisition, management, and restoration practices. Use and promotion of carbon sequestration management techniques within the Service will demonstrate the link between protecting and increasing biological carbon storage with other land management objectives. The USGS Biologic Carbon Sequestration Assessment (LandCarbon Project) has identified lands with high carbon sequestration capacity and the potential for future climate change, wildfire, land use change, and land management activities to modify that capacity. Applying LandCarbon assessments to Service decision making however will require the development of tools that incorporate biological carbon sequestration considerations into resource planning strategies that are applicable in large natural areas across the United States.

Using LandCarbon data products and maps, the Service will develop and test tools and guidelines that can be used to identify the lands with the greatest current or potential carbon stocks and/or sequestration values for projects supporting (1) restoration and acquisition activities in the National Wildlife Refuge System, and (2) ecological restorations associated with Natural Resource Damage Assessment settlements and with restoration work conducted through Habitat Conservation programs. These tools and guidelines will help the Service choose the highest-priority lands for conservation or restoration by including biological carbon sequestration in the suite of factors used for conservation priority-setting. This will help the Service maximize benefits and ecosystem services generated through its land acquisition, restoration, and management activities.

Program Overview

Service Science funding targets resources to address science for on-the-ground management and conservation outside of Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC) and Adaptive Science activities. An evaluation team, led by the Office of the Science Advisor, will solicit, evaluate, and prioritize the projects for funding. The Service will partner with USGS, universities and other 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. To be effective in its mission-delivery, the Service needs focused, applied science directed at high impact questions surrounding threats to fish and wildlife resources for which management and/or mitigation is required to maintain species at healthy, sustainable, desired levels. The Service must base its decisions on the best science available, in order to defend its regulatory decisions, biological opinions and species conservation recommendations to land managers. Some examples of the science the Service continues to need are:

- Determining potential impacts to species (e.g., golden eagles, the endangered Virginia big-eared and Indiana bats) by wind turbines and how to mitigate project impacts on fish and wildlife resources.
- Identifying science gaps affecting listing determinations as well as recovery plans; such as understanding the decline in northern sea otter and tufted puffin populations.
- Identifying science gaps in managing refuges; for example, understanding the impacts of sea level rise on coastal national wildlife refuges and researching the effectiveness and potential impacts of chemical spraying vs. burning or other management efforts to control invasive species on refuge lands.
- Managing for biological outcomes at landscape levels using a surrogate species conservation approach. Specific areas requiring additional resources include:
 - Identification of surrogate species.
 - Identification of knowledge gaps and uncertainties.
 - Monitoring and evaluation of surrogate species approaches.

Examples of Current Projects

- **Evidence-based Science**

The Service has adopted an evidenced based conservation management approach – Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) – to better define, invest in, and deliver measurable improvements to biological outcomes at landscape scales. The essence of SHC begins with setting measurable population objectives for selected species that will help conserve functional landscapes that support sustainable populations. Currently, we are working with partners to develop a collaborative and science-based process to identify a subset of species on defined landscapes that can best represent other species or aspects of species. We will identify short-term and intermediate results that show our progress toward our long-term conservation goals. Ultimately, landscape-scale conservation, using a surrogate species approach in combination with other priority species, will enable the Service to make smarter, more cost-effective decisions and improve our ability to sustain abundant, diverse and healthy populations of fish, wildlife and plants.

- **White Nose Syndrome Research**

WNS is a devastating fungus that is rapidly spreading throughout the Nation. First documented in New York in 2006, the fungus was recently discovered in caves in Georgia and South Carolina for the first time and now threatens bat populations in more than 20 States. The Service will apply funding to three primary focus areas: research, monitoring/management, and outreach. Research will focus on critical areas for investigation and support the development of effective management protocols. The Service leads a cooperative effort with Federal and State agencies, Tribes, researchers, universities and other non-government organizations to research and manage the spread of white-nose syndrome

(WNS). As part of this response effort, a National WNS Response Plan was developed and implemented. Response plan work groups have identified several priority areas for research, including: investigating disease resistance in bats, detailed studies of the causative fungus, and identifying control options.

North American Bat Monitoring Initiative: NABat. Bats are the second most diverse group of mammals and are critically important to the maintenance of healthy ecosystems. Bats are voracious predators of insects, many of which are important agricultural insect pests. It has been estimated that bats provide approximately \$23 billion worth of insect pest control in the U.S. per year. In addition to consuming huge amounts of insects, bats are also important pollinators and seed dispersers and serve as important models in medical research and aerodynamics. Bat populations have been declining for decades but recent threats such as white-nose syndrome (WNS) and wind energy development have accelerated the declines in the U.S. It is estimated that at least 5.5 million bats have died from WNS since 2006, but it is difficult to document the extent of these declines and their impacts on agriculture and forestry because there is no coordinated program to monitor bats in North America. Therefore, the Service has been working with scientists and statisticians from the several Federal agencies (including US Geological Survey, US Forest Service, and National Park Service) and with partners in Canada, Mexico, and academia to develop a bat population monitoring program (NABat) to monitor trends in bat populations on State and national forests, parks, refuges, and private lands and provide trend data at the State, regional, and continental levels. Additionally, the Service and USGS, in coordination with partners, are working to develop a Bat Monitoring Lab, which will provide guidance and support to State, Federal, and tribal agencies monitoring and researching bats, standardize and house the data collected by agency and private partners, coordinate across international boundaries, and produce annual and multi-annual *State of North American Bats* reports.



Tricolor bats hibernating.

- **Invasive Species Early Detection and Rapid Response**

Innovative current research has developed a way to enhance a naturally occurring cheatgrass-suppressive soil bacterium, *Pseudomonas fluorescens* (*P.f.ACK 55*). Application of this bacterium to the soil of sagebrush communities can reduce cheatgrass to near zero in three to five years after a single application. This in turn would allow native sage-brush species to re-establish and provide habitat for greater sage-grouse and other sage-brush obligate species. Further application of this research is needed to pursue EPA registration of the product and make it available for widespread field application. Current field studies with this bacterium have been on small plots of less than 10 acres. In all cases this potential tool has had no adverse effect on non-target plants, fauna or animals. It is critical to fund and test *P.f. ACK55* at the landscape scale to assess whether there are any negative effects at this scale in order to pursue EPA registration.

- **Science needs for Energy**

Renewable sources of energy are supplying an increasingly greater amount of our energy needs. In terms of the Department's goal to "...increase approved capacity authorized for renewable (solar, wind, and geothermal) energy resources affecting Department of the Interior managed lands, while

ensuring full environmental review...” the Service has a significant role to play in securing an energy future for our Nation that is self-reliant and sustainable. Through early planning, thoughtful mitigation, and the application of sound science, the Service is working to ensure the Nation’s energy development strategy includes the right protections for land, wildlife and water. The continued and expected growth of wind and solar power, and natural gas and oil drilling, raises questions about the impacts on species of concern from energy projects, including migratory birds; bats; bald and golden eagles and other birds of prey; prairie and sage grouse; Arctic wildlife; and listed, proposed, or candidate endangered and threatened species. The Service must invest resources to focus and accelerate our partners’ research on tools, methods, and techniques for siting, designing, monitoring, operating and mitigating these energy projects in ways that can best reduce mortality and other impacts on wildlife. Funding is needed to determine the best mitigation methods, manage energy development-related data, determine how to best track changes to species populations or habitats as a result of energy developments, and explore landscape-level cumulative effects on species impacted by energy development. Examples of these species are:

Golden Eagle Survival. The objectives of this project are to deploy satellite transmitters (PTTs) on golden eagles to track their movements and fates. The data obtained is essential for updating population models for this species, which the Service uses to determine sustainable harvest (removal) rates, and to identify key sources of mortality that might be addressed through management actions. With the help of numerous collaborators, we now have over 80 PTTs deployed on golden eagles in Arizona, Colorado, Montana, Oregon, New Mexico, Maryland, Montana, and in Mexico; some PTTs have been re-deployed (i.e., the original eagle they were placed on died, and the units were recovered and re-deployed on another eagle), so our total sample size is somewhat greater. The remaining 28 PTTs purchased with Science funds are scheduled to be deployed in Alaska, Colorado and Wyoming over winter and spring of FY 2014. As part of this project, the Service and 20 collaborators are compiling all existing data from PTT-tagged eagles to conduct a meta-analysis of age-specific survival and causes of mortality. That analysis should be completed in FY 2014. The results will be used to parameterize models to re-assess sustainable harvest rates for the golden eagle.



Golden Eagle.

Raptor Demography Project. The objectives of this project are to clarify the demographic role and consequences of adult floaters in raptor populations. Floaters are individuals capable of breeding that do not, either because no nest sites are available or because they elect to defer breeding until later in life. Floaters are thought to provide a buffer against population decline in raptors by serving as a ready source of new recruits at breeding sites if mortality suddenly increases or reproduction declines, but there has been little actual work to see if this is really the case. Understanding the role of floaters is important because their presence in populations is a major factor in computing sustainable harvest rates for raptors. This project focuses on Cooper’s hawks because they nest at high densities in urban areas and thus are relatively easy to study; they mature at one year of age and thus can become floaters relatively early in life; and they have similar demographic and life-history characteristics to other raptors. Findings with Cooper’s hawks will likely be applicable to other raptors (e.g., eagles).

FY 2013 was the second full year of this 5-year study and the results suggest that while the role of floaters may vary across years, floaters can serve to buffer local population declines.

Golden Eagle ORV Disturbance. The objective of this project is to assess the effects of off-road vehicle (ORV) traffic on golden eagles. This study will provide information important in assessing the potential for disturbance from ORVs and other similar activities. In FY 2013 the Service collaborated with Boise State University on a two season research project. After completion of one season of research involving monitoring 23 territories in SW Idaho, they found breeding in only 10 territories, and young fledged in only 4 of those territories. Trail cameras (purchased with Science funds) helped estimate/quantify overall levels of use of ORVs and pedestrians within a given territory. Direct observations were conducted to link usage with disturbance. Only 16 instances of “flushing” were observed despite 300 documented “disturbance events”. Anecdotally, the eagles seem to be relatively tolerant of ORV use that is just “passing by”, but ORVs that stop (or pedestrian recreation) were the activities that seemed to cause behavioral changes of the eagles.

Genome-enabled Population Viability Analysis of the Mojave Desert Tortoise in the Ivanpah Valley. This project will produce a set of simulations, based on current landscape genomics, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and demographic data, that allow us to compare population-viability parameters under different land use projections. Although individual landscapes and genetic data may vary from place to place, the method will be generalizable across the range of the desert tortoise, and for other species of conservation concern.



Mojave Desert Tortoise.

Gene Transcription Patterns in the Desert Tortoises. The Gene Transcription project will use innovative molecular genetic techniques (gene transcription profiles) to identify specific genes such as heat shock protein 70 (a protein produced in response to thermal or other stressors) and measure molecular and physiological health responses of desert tortoises translocated to previously burned and unburned habitats. This research differs fundamentally from previous research on animal health because it is aimed specifically at not only learning about tortoise health responses, but also evaluating specific habitat attributes and related genetic health markers that are associated with improved conditions for tortoises.

Bat Migration Studie. The Service is investing in studies of spring emergence of Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats across their range. This study will locate maternity colonies and identify possible spring migration routes. While we have a fairly good understanding of where Indiana bats hibernate, we only know where less than 20% of the winter population resides during the summer, and we know even less for northern long-eared bats. The Service will use this information to make good decisions in Endangered Species Act (ESA) permitting decisions on wind projects and to develop more effective mitigation measures for those projects.

Evaluation of Trends and Factors Resulting in Bat Fatality at Existing Wind Projects. The Service is conducting a meta-analysis of data that analyzes pre-construction species-specific bat activity and post-construction fatality data to develop a methodology to estimate take of bats impacted by wind projects. The results of this study will be useful for assessing siting and environmental factors that

affect bat fatality rates, and developing methods to assess effectiveness of best management practices aimed at reducing bat fatality rates.

Steller's and Spectacled Eider Habitat. The Arctic coastal zone supports an abundance of wetland and upland habitats used by a wide variety of waterfowl, shorebirds, and land bird species – including two threatened species, the Steller's and spectacled eiders. The Service is creating a scalable depiction of coastal zone physical features and land cover types by assembling baseline imagery within a spatially accurate geodatabase. That database will allow us to query the location of particular land cover types across large geographic areas and habitats across Arctic coastal areas. It would also be used to monitor change and inform and track spatially explicit models.

Addressing scientific needs for Steller's eider reintroduction to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. This project addresses key scientific needs for re-establishing a viable population of Steller's eiders to Alaska's Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta through reintroduction, a task necessary for recovery of the listed population. With Service funding, collaborators at the Alaska SeaLife Center have defined the conditions necessary to hatch Steller's eider ducklings in captivity using artificial incubation, increasing capacity to produce ducklings for release. Logistical and ecological data have been combined into a geo-referenced spatial model to inform release site selection; the next step is to incorporate available climate change data into the model to determine potential constraints to candidate release sites. Also, the Alabama Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, a USGS facility the Service is working with, began developing several types of population models using existing data sets. These results, anticipated in fall 2014, will be used to evaluate the viability of the existing population on Alaska's North Slope, the likelihood of population closure, and the ability of current monitoring techniques to detect criteria for recovery.



Steller's Eider chick.

Sage grouse Studies. Funding will support a comprehensive genetic connectivity map for the Greater sage grouse. Research will combine genetic information with data on habitat abundance and quality. The result will be a comprehensive map that outlines connectivity and habitat conservation priorities, as well as giving us a tool for examining strategies for management under differing climate change scenarios. This research will be useful in conservation planning for the Greater sage grouse.

General Operations

Activity: General Operations

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015			Change from 2014 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Central Office Operations	(\$000) <i>FTE</i>	39,875 284	40,186 284	+386 0	0 0	+707 0	41,279 284	+1,093 0
Regional Office Operations	(\$000) <i>FTE</i>	37,912 411	37,912 411	+468 0	0 0	+2,918 0	41,298 411	+3,386 0
Servicewide Bill Paying	(\$000) <i>FTE</i>	33,930 25	36,430 25	-1,458 0	0 0	+255 0	35,227 25	-1,203 0
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	(\$000) <i>FTE</i>	7,022 0	7,022 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	7,022 0	0 0
National Conservation Training Center	(\$000) <i>FTE</i>	21,965 134	21,965 134	+150 0	0 0	+2,605 0	24,720 134	+2,755 0
Total, General Operations	(\$000) <i>FTE</i>	140,704 854	143,515 854	-454 0	0 0	+6,485 0	149,546 854	+6,031 0

Program Overview

General Operations funding provides the management and support for the Service’s programmatic activities and organizations; and ensures compliance with legal, regulatory, and Departmental policy in all functional areas of administration. It is comprised of five components:

- Central Office Operations
- Regional Office Operations
- Servicewide Bill Paying
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- National Conservation Training Center

Activity: General Operations
Subactivity: Central Office Operations

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015			Change from 2014 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Central Office	(\$000)	39,875	40,186	+386	0	+707	41,279	+1,093
Operations	FTE	284	284	0	0	0	284	0

Summary of 2015 Program Changes for Central Office Operations

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• General Program Activities	+707	0
Program Changes	+707	0

Justification of 2015 Program Changes

The 2015 budget request for Central Office Operations is \$41,279,000 and 284 FTE, a net program change of +\$707,000 and +0 FTE from the 2014 Enacted.

General Program Activities (+\$707,000/+0 FTE)

This request funds Central Office Operations at a level that keeps pace with servicing requirements. The increase supports management functions that ensure the Service is compliant in critical areas, including personnel and travel management, FBMS operations, and with OMB Circular A-123.

Program Overview

Central Office Operations is comprised of six Headquarters components: the Office of the Director, Office of Diversity and Inclusive Workforce Management, Assistant Director for External Affairs, Assistant Director for Budget, Planning and Human Capital, Assistant Director for Business Management and Operations, and Assistant Director for Information Resources.

Office of the Director

The Office of the Director consists of the Director, Deputy Directors, a Native American Liaison Office, and staff specialists, who provide policy direction and support for program and management activities of the Service. The Office supports and advances the Service's mission through leadership and coordination within the Service and with the Department and conservation community. Goals 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.

The Native American Liaison Office 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 agency's conservation mission. The liaison implements the Department of the Interior's Secretarial Order on Tribal Consultation and the Tribal Wildlife Grants program, and develops policies, guidelines, and training to ensure appropriate government-to-government consultation with Tribes.

Office of Diversity and Inclusive Workforce Management

The Office of Diversity and Inclusive Workforce Management (ODIWM) manages the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Program for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in compliance with EEO laws, Executive Orders, court decisions, and directives from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Department of Justice, and the Department of the Interior. To ensure a diverse workforce,

the ODIWM provides direction, policy formulation, and management with regard to applicable civil rights laws. Functional areas include managing programs in diversity and inclusion, EEO, accessibility, recruitment and outreach, special emphasis, and conflict resolution.

External Affairs

The Assistant Director for External Affairs formulates national policy and directs operations in the Divisions of Communications, Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Program and Partnership Support.

The Division of Congressional and Legislative Affairs serves as the key point of contact for Congressional Members and their staff. Important components of External Affairs’ work is responding to congressional inquiries, coordinating congressional briefings and meetings, and preparing Service personnel for congressional hearings. In addition, External Affairs serves as the primary office responsible for developing Service positions on legislation, testimony, and other matters pending before Congress.



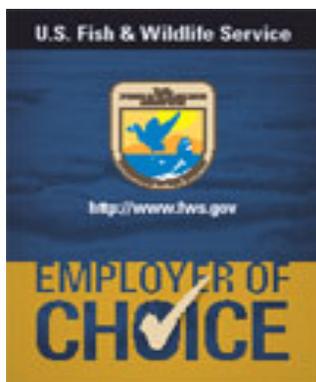
FWS Celebrates 40th Anniversary of the Endangered Species Act

The Division of Communications provides national policy, guidance, and direction on Service communications, as well as strategic communications planning in support of the agency’s conservation goals. External Affairs develops and provides information about the Service’s policies, programs, and actions to the news media, constituent organizations, and the public. External Affairs also works to advise and support Service leadership on internal communications with employees.

The Division of Program and Partnership Support provides coordination and support for many of the Service’s key national partnerships, as well as general technical communications support to other Service offices. External Affairs coordinates all print, multimedia and audiovisual materials, while ensuring compliance with Federal and Departmental print and web standards. External Affairs coordinates the Service’s environmental justice activities and maintains the Service’s public call center.

Budget, Planning and Human Capital

The Assistant Director for Budget, Planning and Human Capital (BPHC) formulates policy and directs operations in the Divisions of Human Capital, Budget, Policy and Directives Management, and Cost and Performance Management. BPHC provides support services to Headquarters offices, regional offices, and field stations by working with Service programs and the Directorate to formulate the Service’s budget proposals and execute Congressional direction regarding budget implementation.



In 2013 FWS was rated as one of the best places to work.

The division of Human Capital develops and implements human capital programs and procedures and provides workforce consultant services to Service leadership, regional offices, and programs to ensure management and performance processes and systems effectively support the Service’s mission and goals.

BPHC also provides expertise to reengineer Service functions, such as recruitment and hiring. It manages the Service-wide **Strategic Performance Management** system, providing software tools for setting performance measure targets, reporting performance accomplishments, and validating and verifying performance data. BPHC develops performance and cost information for executive and management decision-making, and provides the cost and performance data for preparation of the annual budget submissions.

Various administrative programs are managed within BPHC, including publication of notices and regulations in the Federal Register, the Service's Directives system, Paperwork Reduction Act compliance, General Accountability Office and the Office of the Inspector General liaison duties, and managing programmatic Internal Controls under OMB Circular A-123. In addition, reporting includes FAIR Act inventory, providing FACA committee support and forms management, and promoting Service-wide use of plain language in official documents.

Business Management and Operations

The Assistant Director for Business Management and Operations (BMO) serves as the Service's Chief Financial Officer and Chief Procurement Executive. BMO provides direction, policy formulation and management in the areas of finance, contracting and acquisition, engineering and construction, environmental compliance, energy, safety, occupational health, and industrial hygiene programs, economic analyses, and other associated support functions. BMO has primary responsibility for guiding Service-wide use and optimization of the DOI Financial and Business Management System (FBMS). In addition to supporting the Service at a national level, BMO provides local support services and instruction to headquarters program staff.

The Division of Financial Management (DFM) focuses on financial management and process improvements, and assists the Department in obtaining an unqualified audit opinion for the Department of the Interior's consolidated financial statement audit. BMO directs risk management and internal control activities in support of OMB Circular A-123. DFM also prepares and delivers the Service's annual, quarterly and monthly financial reporting to the Department, Office of Management and Budget and Treasury Department. In FY 2015, BMO will continue to provide project management and training support to enhance Service-wide use of the Department's new electronic travel system and strengthen travel policy.

The Division of Contracting and General Services (CGS) develops policy and manages programs for Service-wide acquisition, personal property, Government quarters, space leasing, and the motor vehicle fleet. CGS also manages office facilities and provides operational acquisitions for headquarters. CGS has primary responsibility for directing and managing the Service's headquarters office space relocation effort, the benefits of which are expected to materialize in FY 2015 (e.g., significant lease space square footage and cost reductions). The Service's new building will, at a minimum, meet a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver Certification.

The Division of Safety and Health (DSH) helps contain workers' compensation costs through injury prevention initiatives and coordination with regional compensation coordinators. Technical safety and health assistance is provided to the regions through special emphasis programs such as watercraft safety and diving safety.

The Division of Engineering (DEN) manages the Service's construction, dam safety, bridge safety, seismic safety, energy management, and environmental compliance and management programs. DEN provides Service-wide coordination for Emergency Support Function (ESF) which addresses engineering and construction support needs as part of the Federal response to hurricanes and other emergencies. DEN also develops plans and oversees activities for reducing the Service's greenhouse gas emissions and overall carbon footprint.



The Division of Economics (ECN) provides socio-economic reviews and analyses including designation of critical habitat for threatened and endangered species; regulatory impact statements; natural resource damage assessments; record of compliance statements; and hydroelectric dam relicensing reviews.

Information Resources and Technology Management (IRTM)

The Assistant Director for Information Resources (ADIR) provides secure, efficient and effective management of information resources and technology to enable and enhance the Service to accomplish its mission. IRTM provides leadership and expertise to the Service in meeting Information Technology (IT) strategic goals by providing Service-wide infrastructure services and direction. Infrastructure services include the Service Wide Area Network (SWAN), Enterprise Messaging, Web Services, Land Mobile Radio, Enterprise Technical Service Center and Technology Engineering. Direction is provided by Enterprise Architecture, Capital Planning and Investment Control (CPIC), Privacy, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Records. The security program maintains and monitors network security subsystems to ensure a stable and reliable environment for the FWS network, provides a liaison to manage IT audits and inspections, and manages the Computer Security Incident Response capability for the Service. IRTM is also responsible for: data resource management, standards, and stewardship; national GIS coordination, GIS spatial data inventory, and geospatial metadata creation/publication; systems consultation and development; oversight of IT portfolio and capital management, , and enterprise hardware/software management; project management of IT initiatives and investments; IRTM Emergency Management; Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act; and Service Budget Book reporting for E-Gov and open data management .

2015 Program Performance

In 2015 the **Office of Diversity and Inclusive Workforce Management** will:

- Work with Service supervisors to recruit potential applicants from diverse backgrounds.
- Manage the discrimination complaints programs, conduct EEO Counseling, mediations, investigations, and process Final Agency Decisions for employees, former employees and applicants who believe they have been discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, physical or mental disability, genetic information, reprisal, or sexual orientation. Provide for the prompt, fair, and impartial consideration and disposition of discrimination complaints, ensure implementation of settlement agreements, track complaints activities, review reports of investigation for completeness, and coordinate depositions, final agency decisions, hearings, and appeals with DOI, EEOC, and the Office of the Solicitor.
- Manage and coordinate all disability rights and accessibility programs to include employment; accessibility on Service facilities; disability rights impacting recipients of Federal financial assistance; and accessible information and technology.
- Collect, analyze and disseminate workforce data, conduct analysis of workforce trends, issue reports on workforce-related data, diversity and complaints trends, and other types of EEO-related information.
- Develop and monitor implementation of the affirmative programs of equal employment opportunity and effective affirmative action programs.
- Advise the Director and Directorate on strategic diversity implementation plans, objectives, goals, and accomplishments.
- Develop and deliver Diversity, Civil Rights, and EEO related training for managers, supervisors, and employees and provide guidance and assistance on EEO related matters to managers, supervisors, and employees.

In 2015, the **External Affairs** program will:

- Implement a Service-wide approach to communications, emphasizing effective, focused and accountable efforts that improve service to the public and help the agency meet its conservation objectives.
- Work with a wide variety of partners, including the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council, Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council, and Recreational Boating and

Fishing Foundation to maintain a strong focus on fishing, boating, hunting and shooting sports issues.

- Work with Congress to identify and implement the Service's legislative priorities and to increase the Service's effectiveness in responding to Congressional inquiries through improved coordination across the programs and regions.
- Promote appropriate use of the worldwide web, online video and audio services and other emerging technologies to enhance the Service's effectiveness in communicating with the public.
- Support agency initiatives for connecting people and nature, specifically targeting multicultural communities and urban populations, along with efforts to promote youth careers in nature.
- Continue to enhance an interactive intranet to improve internal communications between Service leadership and employees.

In 2015 the **Budget, Planning and Human Capital** will:

- Budget effectively, incorporating performance information and analysis of program needs; execute the Service's budget according to authority in Appropriations Acts.
- Provide timely and accurate budget information to Congress, the Department and OMB.
- Support the Service's use of the Federal Business Management System (FBMS) financial system.
- Provide expertise, tools and processes to reengineer the Service's conservation programs by creating new management and performance processes and systems to accommodate the Service's emphasis on landscape-scale conservation.
- Continue the deployment of tools to leverage the Service's investment in the Strategic Performance Management system. Using performance and cost data, provide managers with opportunities to improve program efficiencies by identifying least cost business practices for specific program areas of interest.
- Meet the OMB Circular A-11 requirements for collecting and reporting GPRA performance information to the DOI for inclusion in the DOI Annual Performance Plan and Report.
- Maintain and update the Service's directives system, which includes manuals and Director's Orders, the latter being the tool to rapidly announce policy changes to Fish and Wildlife staff.
- Review over 500 documents the Service publishes each year in the Federal Register. These reviews assure the documents are clear and meet all requirements.
- Develop a searchable standard position description library that is compliant with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act.
- Implement the Electronic Official Personnel Folder (eOPF) initiative. This initiative will move OPF paper documents to electronic form, facilitating the on-line transfer between Federal agencies.
- Continue to coordinate internal control reviews under OMB Circular A-123 and perform liaison activities with the General Accountability Office and the Office of the Inspector General.

In 2015, the **Business Management and Operations (BMO)** will:

- Focus on performing its core Service-wide and headquarters administrative support functions while helping to identify and drive administrative efficiencies through increased analysis of Financial and Business Management System (FBMS) data, continued business process integration, and increased use of shared services.
- Assist the Department in maintaining an unqualified audit opinion of its consolidated financial statements while achieving stated goals in the areas of Transportation Management, Improved Financial Management, Energy Management, and Environmental Stewardship.
- Continue to utilize resources for risk management and internal control activities in support of OMB Circular A-123. BMO will also continue its effort to provide safe and efficient operations to Service employees.

- Maintain currency of the Service's acquisition, property, fleet, engineering, safety and financial standard operating procedures and policies.
- Develop, review and implement standard acquisition file templates Service-wide.
- Conduct various economic analyses including an analysis of migratory bird hunting regulations. This analysis will estimate the benefits and costs of alternative hunting regulations that form the umbrella for all State migratory bird hunting regulations.
- Support the Return-to-Work initiative focused on bringing injured employees back to work as soon as medically feasible, with an emphasis on employees on long-term compensation rolls.
- Emphasize Collateral Duty Safety Officer (CDSO) training, providing standardized training and reference documents specific to FWS operations and activities.
- Support the Carbon Neutral Team's efforts to respond to environmental stressors by reviewing fleet management activities and continuing to replace aged fleet with Alternative Fuel Vehicles, reviewing travel management activities to determine steps for reducing the Service's carbon footprint, and evaluating and reducing the Service's energy usage.
- Refine processes for assessing internal control over financial reporting in accordance with the requirements of OMB Circular A-123, Appendix A.
- Review and revise Service financial policies and processes to ensure they remain consistent with Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB), OMB and DOI requirements.
- Implement the Strategic Sourcing Initiative by working with DOI and OMB to review current acquisition practices and identify potential reforms, and coordinate large acquisition needs with other Bureaus to negotiate lower costs.
- Support the Energy Efficiency Initiative by providing engineering expertise for retrofitting existing buildings with energy efficiency improvements, and update policies and processes to ensure construction projects meet energy conservation standards.
- Support the President's commitment on fiscal discipline by participating in an aggressive Department-wide effort to curb non-essential administrative spending. In accordance with this initiative, the Service has identified activities where savings can be realized: advisory contracts; travel and transportation of people and things, including employee relocation; printing; supplies; and equipment.

In 2015, the **Information Resources and Technology Management (IRTM)** will:

- Focus on managing Information Resources and Technology Management to accomplish the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's mission and goals.
- Leverage the potential to provide goods and services to our customers, partners, and employees in a better, faster, and cheaper manner by changing the way assets are acquired and utilized and providing better management and delivery of information services.
- Operate and maintain the previously deployed DOI enterprise IT projects, including the Enterprise Service Network and active directory services.
- Maintain and support the Departmental standard federated messaging system.
- Continue to develop, deploy and use new DOI enterprise business systems and retire obsolete legacy systems as planned in the Departmental modernization blueprints.
- Evaluate opportunities to streamline and reduce costs of IT infrastructure through effective consolidation, centralization and/or standardization, and leveraging of cloud computing/external sources.
- Continue to improve the maturity of IT Security, Enterprise Architecture, Capital Planning and project management disciplines.
- Continue to accomplish improvements in Standard Configurations and USGCB settings.
- Develop and implement Security Technical Implementation Guides (STIGs) for other IT platforms.

- Continue to implement the standard Software Development Life Cycle Process.
- Develop, improve, document, and implement Freedom of Information Act plans and initiatives; continue progress in reduction of FOIA backlogs.
- Develop, improve, document, and implement strategy and initiatives to enhance Service posture for safeguarding of Personally Identifiable Information and reducing uses of Social Security Number information.

Activity: General Operations
Subactivity: Regional Office Operations

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015			Change from 2014 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Regional Office Operations	(\$000)	37,912	37,912	+468	0	+2,918	41,298	+3,386
	FTE	411	411	0	0	0	411	0

Summary of 2015 Program Changes for Regional Office Operations

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Regional Office Operations – General Program Activities	+2,918	0
Program Changes	+2,918	0

Justification of 2015 Program Changes

The 2015 budget request for Regional Office Operations is \$41,298,000 and 411 FTE, a net program change of +\$2,918,000 and +0 FTE from the 2014 Enacted.

General Program Activities (+\$2,918,000/+0 FTE)

This increase provides Regional Offices with sufficient funding to support regional operations and reduces program impacts by eliminating the need to increase program assessments for common shared services. This increase ensures program resources remain focused on meeting Service mission goals.

Program Overview

The Regional Offices provide front line, daily support for the Service’s approximately 700 geographically diverse field offices by managing Regional leadership, Budget and Administration, and External Affairs functions. The Service has delegated authority to the field level in many functional areas; however, functions that require extensive training, certification (such as contracting warrants), or specialized knowledge (such as personnel hiring authorities) are retained at centralized, regional locations for cost efficiency purposes. Approximately 75 percent of our field locations have 15 or fewer employees and cannot support specialists in these administrative disciplines. Regional Office funding supports the following organizational components:

The Regional Directors advise the Service Director and develop recommendations on national and regional policies, plans, and procedures. In addition, the Regional Directors serve as liaisons to State, local and tribal governments, civic and interest groups, and the public within their geographic jurisdiction.

Within each region, the Budget and Administration offices direct the overall management and execution of administrative support activities, advise Regional Directors on administrative matters, and provide day-to-day operational management for budget, finance, contracting, human resources, diversity, safety, and information technology throughout each Region. Budget and Administration also provides organizational support services such as office equipment leasing, facility maintenance, reproduction and copying, telephone and computer connectivity, and service contracts. The office also supervises the Engineering Division (which is detailed in the Construction Appropriation section of the President’s Budget justification.)

The Regional office Division of Budget and Finance coordinates business operations and delivers financial information to regional management, including other support divisions. This office manages



FWS Regional Offices are located in Alaska, Oregon, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Georgia, Minnesota, and Massachusetts.

regional internal control programs (including external and internal audits), provides accounting system (FBMS) support and training, coordinates vendor payments, manages charge card and travel management systems, manages real property accounting processes, and monitors agreements to ensure costs are recovered in regional efforts to deliver conservation services for external partners.

The Regional office Division of Contracting and General Services performs activities associated with acquisitions, property and facilities. This includes acquisition of supplies and services (above the micro-purchase level), fleet management, quarters management, personal property management, leasing and office space

management, coordinating facility operations, and issuing grants and agreements where external partners assist the Service in meeting conservation goals.

The Regional office Division of Human Resources implements Service personnel policies, programs and procedures, and provide support services to program officials on human resource issues. The office provides a full range of services including work force planning, position management, recruiting and hiring, special employment programs, employee relations, performance management and recognition, retirement administration, benefits administration, training, labor relations, ethics, worker's compensation, security clearances and payroll services.

The Regional office Division for Diversity and Civil Rights manages the region's compliance with applicable civil rights laws, ensuring a diverse workforce. Functional areas include managing programs in diversity policy and reporting, EEO policy and reporting, federally assisted compliance, federally conducted compliance, special emphasis, disability/reasonable accommodation assistance, EEO complaints, conflict resolution (ADR/CORE), limited English proficiency and environmental justice.

The Regional office Division of Safety and Occupational Health develops and administers policies and procedures to prevent and reduce: employee injuries and illnesses; watercraft and motor vehicle accidents; property damage; fire losses; and injuries to the visiting public. This office also coordinates Continuity of Operations (COOP)/emergency management efforts.

The Regional office Division of Information Resources and Technology Management (IRTM) manages the region's operational technology requirements. This includes providing regional coordination to implement high priority Departmental IT transformation efforts, help desk operations (physical and virtual), support for various IT networks; monitoring IT security, managing communication devices (e.g. office phones, cell phones, tablets), providing web services, developing IT purchase/spend plans, acquisition and installation of IT hardware and software.

The Regional External Affairs Office administers a multifaceted program that provides technical support to field stations by communicating with the public, interest groups, and local, State, Federal, and tribal governments. Typical functions in the Regional Office for External Affairs include Congressional affairs, press releases, media inquiries, special event planning and support, message and image management, developing communication plans and products, education, outreach, web site design and management, and coordinating regional social media efforts.

Activity: General Operations
Subactivity: Servicewide Bill Paying

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015			Change from 2014 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Servicewide Bill Paying	(\$000) FTE	33,930 25	36,430 25	-1,458 0	0 0	+255 0	35,227 25	-1,203 0

Summary of 2015 Program Changes for Servicewide Bill Paying

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• DOI Working Capital Fund	+255	0
Program Changes	+255	0

Justification of 2015 Program Changes

The 2015 budget request for Servicewide Bill Paying is \$35,227,000 and 25 FTE, a net program change of +\$255,000 and +0 FTE from the 2014 Enacted.

Working Capital Fund (+\$255,000/+0 FTE)

This increase funds the review of indirect cost rate proposals for the Service by the Office of Indirect Costs. The Office of Indirect Cost Service negotiates indirect cost rates with non-federal entities including tribal governments, State and local governments, Insular governments, and nonprofit organizations that receive funding from the Department. In 2015, this activity will be funded from customer payments for services based on the number of proposals reviewed and will be direct billed through the DOI Working Capital Fund. This activity was previously funded in the Departmental Operations Appropriation.

Program Overview

The Servicewide Bill Paying subactivity pays expenses associated with nationwide operational support costs not directly attributable to a specific program. Expenses paid via Servicewide Bill Paying include the following:

Information Technology and Communication Needs

Includes payments and support costs for the GSA Networxx contract; costs associated with land, wireless, radio, and satellite communications; expenses related to the implementation of mandated information technology requirements; IT Systems Certification and Accreditation (C & A); security of information technology systems; and improving compliance with OMB Circular A-130 and Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) requirements.

DOI Working Capital Fund (WCF)

Payments for services received from the Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary and the Interior Business Center for a variety of centralized administrative and support services.

Mail Delivery and Distribution

Contract charges for Intra-Agency and Departmental courier and mailroom services. Includes the Service’s pro-rata share of costs arising from the DOI mailroom in the Main Interior Building (MIB), intra-bureau mail handling and distribution between MIB, FWS Headquarters Offices in Arlington, VA., the Interior Business Center in Denver, CO., and FWS Regional Offices.

Servicewide Workers' Compensation and Unemployment Compensation Costs

Includes costs of compensating injured employees and dependents of employees who suffer accidental deaths while on duty. In FY 2015, to provide incentive for Programs to participate in the Department's Return to Work initiative, workers compensation costs that exceed the funded amount will be assessed to the applicable program. Unemployment compensation costs represent the estimated changes in the costs of unemployment compensation claims.

Printing (Assistant Director – External Affairs)

While continuing to reduce printing costs by limiting the number of printed publications in favor of electronic media, the Service still incurs costs for printing copies of 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.

Reimbursable Support Agreements (RSA's)

Costs related to support services provided by the Department and external agencies. Examples include the Employee Assistance Program, Flexible Spending Plan administration and storage services from the National Archives and Records Administration.

Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks (AS-FWP) – Costs of salary, benefits and travel of personnel for activities directly related to Service issues, and other activities as established by RSA.

Economic Studies (Assistant Director – Business Management and Operations)

Contract costs for socio-economic reviews and analyses including: designation of critical habitat for threatened and endangered species; regulatory impact statements; natural resource damage assessments; record of compliance statements; and hydroelectric dam re-licensing reviews.

PRISM (Assistant Director – Business Management and Operations)

Supports overall Service administration of PRISM, the acquisition module in the Financial Business Management System (FBMS). This includes requisitioning infrastructure maintenance, helpdesk and workflow processing, acquisition management reviews, software optimization and training support.

Document Tracking System (DTS) (Office of the Director)

Costs for administration and technical support for the electronic system for managing and tracking official correspondence.

Activity: General Operations
Subactivity: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015			Change from 2014 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	(\$000)	7,022	7,022	0	0	0	7,022	0
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Justification of 2015 Program Changes

The 2015 budget request for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is \$7,022,000 and 0 FTE, no program change from the 2014 Enacted.

Program Overview



NFWF Student Volunteers Restore a Beach

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) runs a competitive challenge grant program with a statutory non-Federal matching requirement of 1:1 for all federally appropriated dollars NFWF awards; averaging 3:1 in recent years. With Federal dollars from the Service, NFWF has supported more than 3,810 grants among 1,865 conservation partners, leveraging more than \$180 million in Service funds into \$645 million for projects benefitting

conservation in all 50 States. Funding is targeted to on-the-ground conservation and is not used to support NFWF’s administrative expenses. The challenge grant model calls for multiple collaborators for each grant: the Service and/or the grantee; the matching private funders; and NFWF. NFWF also solicits diverse outside reviewers (Federal, State, non-profit, educational and private sector) to assess each project using detailed evaluation protocols. As a result, grants awarded have supported outcome-focused conservation business plans developed in partnership with the Service. By building partnerships among conservation organizations, government, businesses, private organizations, and individuals, NFWF stimulates new support for on-the-ground conservation – an important niche in conservation funding.

In 2013, NFWF staff awarded grants from NFWF Federal Funds (FWS) and Matching Funds to:

- Alaska Fish and Wildlife Fund
- Bird Keystone Initiatives
- Bring Back The Natives/More Fish
- Budweiser Conserve the Outdoors
- ConocoPhillips Spirit of Conservation
- Fish Keystone Initiatives
- Long Island Sound Futures Fund
- Longleaf Stewardship Fund
- Marine and Coastal Initiatives
- Pulling Together: Managing Invasives
- Sea Turtle Conservation Fund
- Southern Company Power of Flight
- Sustain Our Great Lakes
- Wells Fargo Environmental Solutions for Communities

Wildlife and Habitat Keystone Initiatives

2015 Program Performance

In 2015, the **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)** will

- Continue successful conservation partnerships that are complementary to the Service's mission and goals. These include NFWF's Special Grant Programs, Keystone Initiatives and Impact-Directed Environmental Account (IDEA) mitigation and settlement accounts.
- Work with the Service to implement strategic funding plans developed for each Keystone Initiative. NFWF will work with the Service to demonstrate how strategic habitat conservation investments can achieve maximum conservation results.
- Focus the Wildlife and Habitat Initiative on a landscape approach with a particular emphasis on developing sustainable solutions to energy development, improving wildlife corridors, addressing the impacts of environmental stressors, and recovering select "spotlight" wildlife populations.
- Ensure the Fish Initiative implements the National Fish Habitat Action Plan through targeted investments that address Eastern brook trout, Lahontan cutthroat trout, and select diadromous (migrating between fresh water and salt water) fish.
- The Bird Initiative will continue to target recovery of bird species/habitats such as Hawaii forest birds, Gunnison sage grouse, sea birds, and early successional, forest-dependent species.
- The Marine and Coastal Initiative will work on targeted estuary programs and programs focused on sea turtles, corals and other species of mutual concern.
- Conduct close-out actions on initiatives that have reached their outcome goals such as the Path of the Pronghorn, and establish new programs, such as a Northern Great Plains Initiative.

Activity: General Operations

Subactivity: National Conservation Training Center

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015			Change from 2014 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
National Conservation Training Center	(\$000)	21,965	21,965	+150	0	+2,605	24,720	+2,755
	FTE	134	134	0	0	0	134	0

Summary of 2015 Program Changes for National Conservation Training Center

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Youth Programs and Partnerships	+2,500	0
• Annual Maintenance	+105	0
Program Changes	+2,605	0

Justification of 2015 Program Changes

The 2015 budget request for National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) is \$24,720,000 and 134 FTE, with a net program change of +\$2,605,000 and +0 FTE from the 2014 Enacted.

Youth Programs and Partnerships (+\$2,500,000/+0 FTE)

- This increase includes \$2.50 million, for expanded youth programs and partnerships, including funding for the proposed 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC), an outcome of the America’s Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative. The 21CSC is a bold national effort to put young Americans to work protecting, restoring and enhancing public and tribal lands and waters as well as natural, cultural, and historical resources and treasures.
- The 21CSC will provide service, training, education and employment opportunities for thousands of young Americans and veterans, including low income and disadvantaged youth. The Fish and Wildlife Service will initiate the 21CSC partnerships across the country, by providing funding to Service regions to engage a myriad of partners to complete high-quality, cost-effective project work that will increase public access, provide job training, and enhance and restore natural resources; all while spurring economic development and outdoor recreation.
- Participants will benefit from employment and hands-on educational experiences on the public lands they are working to restore, and in the communities that surround the public lands. They will also focus on habitat enhancement and restoration, maintenance of recreational facilities, and reduction of ecological impacts that are the result of climate change. Projects that encourage career paths using the Pathways program and those that empower underserved and tribal communities will be a high priority.



Youth Discovering the Pollinator Garden on the NCTC Campus

Projects that leverage funding through partnerships will be the highest priority. There will be an emphasis on regional project partnerships to have cost sharing arrangements of at least a 50% match, and project partners will strive to meet program principles put in place by the National Council for 21CSC.

Annual Maintenance (+\$105,000/ +0 FTE)

This increase reflects restoration of annual maintenance funding at the FY 2012 Enacted level. Backlogged projects needing to be addressed include failing infrastructure and systems such as environmental controls, roofing, fire annunciation, and water delivery/sanitation systems.

Program Overview

Training Programs

The National Conservation Training Center (NCTC), which opened in 1997 and is located on 533 acres along the Potomac River in Shepherdstown, WV, is the primary training facility of the Service. 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. To date, NCTC has hosted more than 6,000 courses and events, and served over 230,000 professionals from 50 countries and all 50 States.

Training for Service employees is tied directly to mission accomplishment, ensuring the "workforce has the job-related knowledge, competencies, and skills necessary to accomplish organizational goals". NCTC implements training to help address needs identified in the Service's Human Capital Plan and ongoing program-based needs assessments. NCTC staff work closely with Service leaders, headquarters, and the field to constantly revise and refine training to meet the needs of the Service and its employees. NCTC bases course development activities on these mission-driven needs and priorities, offering over 200 courses each year tied directly to mission accomplishment.

The growth of NCTC's distance learning offerings has greatly expanded its reach. These courses and learning modules can be accessed via the NCTC website and are open to all with an interest in conservation. In the last few years, NCTC has doubled its distance learning offerings and plans additional growth in the coming year.

Building the Next Generation of Conservation Professionals

NCTC is a leading force for the Service to accomplish the Secretary's priority of Engaging the Next Generation. NCTC is focused on three key strategies for achieving this goal:

Coordination and Collaboration

Through DOI's Youth Task Force and Youth Alliance, NCTC supports and works with the DOI's Office of Youth, Partnership, and Service on efforts to prepare the next generation of conservation professionals. NCTC continues to develop, implement, and administer effective collaboration tools for sharing resources across DOI that target specific audiences including the DOI Youth Portal (YouthGo.gov). This work enables public land management agencies (DOI/USDA) and partners to effectively share success stories that highlight resources and educational and employment opportunities for young people.

Professional Development

The NCTC builds staff capacity through curriculum development and training within the Service and shares these resources with other Department bureaus and partners. A variety of classroom and distance learning programs are offered to Service and Department employees in environmental education, youth outdoor skills, and youth leadership to provide Service employees with the skills needed to engage, educate, promote volunteer service, and hire young people from the Millennial generation. To ensure that programs are executed with high effectiveness, the NCTC conducts program evaluations to determine effectiveness and impact for the Service and the youth.

The NCTC supports Service regions in implementing the Career Discovery Internship Program (CDIP), a 10-week summer internship program targeting college students from a variety of backgrounds. The NCTC provides training on mentoring and supervising youth in a variety of seasonal jobs at Service field stations, Regions, and Headquarters.

To engage high-school teachers and educators, NCTC works with partners to provide public and private schools with hands-on curriculum and activities related to surrogate species, strategic habitat conservation, citizen science, and career information on the variety of occupations available within the Department.

Career Awareness

NCTC supports the Service by coordinating efforts to engage an inclusive next generation of conservation professionals by supporting the various Service entry-level employment programs that reach diverse communities and by tracking program success. A key component is working with internal and external partners to connect people with nature through engagement, education, and employment programming across America.

NCTC has a key role in the execution of the Directorate Resource Assistant Fellowship Program (DFP). This high profile initiative is designed to provide a robust fellowship opportunity for highly qualified undergraduate and graduate students. DFP Fellows participate full time (for 11 weeks) on projects that meet the qualifications of a rigorous internship program. Upon successful completion of the program, students are granted non-competitive status for two years after they graduate. Fellowship opportunities for the DFP may be established and approved at the Service's Headquarters, Regional Offices, or field levels. This program will assist the Service in achieving the strategic goals and objectives in the Diversity and Inclusion Implementation Plan, specifically, those related to hiring at the entry level (GS-05, 07 and 09); recruiting talented students and creating career pathways for mission-critical occupations; and conducting targeted recruitment to create a pipeline for developing diverse managers, supervisors, and employees who are ready to be the next generation of leaders in the Service. Additionally, the DFP will assist the Service with its disability and veterans hiring initiatives.

In FY 2015, the Service will continue to work with the Department and other DOI bureaus on the implementation of the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps, work with universities to ensure alignment between graduate skills and entry-level job competencies, and provide intensive career information programs. These efforts will help prepare the next generation of conservation professionals for entry into public service and the complex conservation challenges of the future that will confront them.

Maintenance

NCTC is a 434,000 square foot, 17 building facility on 533 acres of forest and grasslands with a northern boundary along the Potomac River. The maintenance account supports Service programmatic activities and DOI strategic goals by keeping the national center in efficient operating condition. Annual maintenance ensures the campus is free of hazards and prevents project backlogs which could result in more costly emergency repairs.

Annual monitoring of campus infrastructure condition leads to the creation of a list of prioritized projects to be addressed as funding permits. There are several categories of projects, including fire/safety systems, emergency flood damage repairs, building exterior and interior repairs, HVAC, plumbing and electrical repairs, and road and trail upkeep. The Service works closely with the NCTC engineering contractor to develop and execute robust preventive maintenance and value engineering programs to reduce the cost of future major maintenance projects.

2015 Program Performance

NCTC will offer approximately 250 courses at the Shepherdstown campus and at various locations around the country, serving more than 4,400 students from the Service, and a variety of other government, non-profit and business organizations. Combined learning days for both classroom courses and distance learning events will be approximately 49,000. Courses in 2015 will focus on high priority science, leadership, youth engagement, and partnership training topics. NCTC will accommodate approximately 550 total on-campus events, serving more than 15,500 conservation professionals.

Approximately 200 distance learning offerings will be provided utilizing web-based delivery methods; the use of video and broadcast-based technologies will provide training to conservation professionals around the country, and educational program support to teachers and schoolchildren.

NCTC will work with a variety of Service field stations on the production of various video projects and graphic displays and exhibits. It is anticipated the centralized NCTC Literature Search Program will follow historic trends and respond to more than 240,000 requests from Service resource professionals and deliver more than 35,000 articles to the field.

NCTC, in collaboration with conservation partners, will develop objective, science-based information and educational materials for learners of all ages to be used for public outreach education and extension education materials. NCTC will also continue to facilitate Service efforts to connect people with nature working with the Service's Connecting People with Nature Working Group and developing resources and programs for use by Service field stations.



National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, WV

Construction

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; [\$15,722,000]\$15,687,000, to remain available until expended. (*Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2014*)

Authorizing Statutes

Recreation Use of Conservation Areas Act of 1962 (16 U.S.C. 460k-460k-4). Commonly known as the Refuge Recreation Act of 1962, authorizes development of fish and wildlife areas for recreational use, including land acquisition and facilities construction and management.

National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, 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. It was amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (P.L. 105-57).

Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 715k). Provides for land acquisition, construction, maintenance, development, and administration for migratory bird reservations.

Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (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, et seq.). Authorizes federal agencies to recover costs associated with hazardous materials removal, remediation, cleanup, or containment activities from responsible parties.

Federal Facilities Compliance Act (50 U.S.C. 1941). 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 of 1990, (P.L. 101-508) as amended (42 U.S.C. 13101, 13101 note, 13102-13109). 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 of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7701 -7706). Establishes an earthquake hazards reduction program.

National Dam Safety Program Act (P.L. 104-303 as amended by the Dam Safety and Security Act of 2002, P.L. 107-310 and the Dam Safety Act of 2006, P.L. 109-460). 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 of 1978 (P.L. 95-619, as amended, and 92 Stat. 3206, 42 U.S.C. 8252 et seq.). 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.

Federal Energy Management Improvement Act of 1988 (P.L. 100-615, November 5, 1998). Promotes the conservation and efficient use of energy throughout the Federal government.

Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPACT) (P.L. 109-58, August 8, 2005). 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 of 2007 (EISA) (P.L. 110-140, December 19, 2007). 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.

Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-8, March 11, 2009; 123 Stat. 527). Section 748 codifies Executive Order 13423. “Executive Order 13423 (72 Fed. Reg. 3919; Jan. 24, 2007) shall remain in effect hereafter except as otherwise provided by law after the date of the enactment of this Act.”

(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 (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 12941 for Seismic Risk Safety (December 1994). Adopts minimum standards for seismic safety, requires Federal agencies to inventory their owned/leased buildings and estimate the cost of mitigating unacceptable seismic risks.

Executive Order 12699, Seismic Safety of Federal and Federally Assisted or Regulated New Building Construction. Covers the new construction portion of *The Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977* (P.L. 95-124).

Executive Order 13031, Federal Alternative Fueled Vehicle Leadership (December 31, 1996). Mandates that the Federal government demonstrate leadership in Alternative Fuel Vehicle (AFV) use and ensures that 75 percent of new light-duty vehicles leased or purchased in FY 2000 and subsequent years in urban areas are alternative fuel vehicles.

Presidential Memorandum, Energy Conservation at Federal Facilities (May 3, 2001). Directs agencies to take appropriate actions to conserve energy use at their facilities to the maximum extent consistent with the effective discharge of public responsibilities. Agencies located in regions where electricity shortages are possible should conserve especially during periods of peak demand.

Presidential Memorandum, Energy and Fuel Conservation by Federal Agencies (September 26, 2005). Directs Federal agencies to take immediate actions to conserve energy and fuel use throughout Federal facilities and the motor fleet.

Memorandum of Understanding for Federal Leadership in High Performance and Sustainable Buildings (signed January 25, 2006, by the Deputy Secretary of the Interior; Final High Performance and Sustainable Buildings Guidance, including revision to the Guiding Principles for Sustainable New Construction and Major Renovations, and for new guidance for Sustainable Existing Buildings, was published by the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive on December 1, 2008.).

Executive Order 13423, Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management (January 24, 2007). [E.O. 13423 rescinds several previous E.O.s, including E.O. 13101, E.O. 13123, E.O. 13134, E.O. 13148, and E.O. 13149.] The Executive Order directs Federal agencies to implement sustainable practices for: energy efficiency and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions use of renewable energy; reduction in water consumption intensity; acquisition of green products and services; pollution prevention, including reduction or elimination of the use of toxic and hazardous chemicals and materials; cost effective waste prevention and recycling programs; increased diversion of solid waste; sustainable design/high performance buildings..

Executive Order 13514, Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance (October 5, 2009). This Executive Order expands on the energy reduction and environmental performance requirements of Executive Order 13423 and establishes an integrated strategy towards sustainability and reduction goals for greenhouse gas emissions, water consumption, petroleum consumption, recycling and diversion of materials. It further defines requirements for sustainability in buildings and leases, sustainable acquisition, and electronic stewardship among others.

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

Fixed Cost Changes and Projections	2014 Total or Change	2014 to 2015 Change
Pay Raise	+48	+64
The change reflects the salary impact of 1% pay raise for 2014 and the proposed pay raise of 1% for 2015.		
Employer Share of Federal Health Benefit Plans	+4	+5
The change reflects expected increases in employer's share of Federal Health Benefit Plans.		
Rental Payments	+0	+3
The adjustment is for changes in the costs payable to General Services Administration (GSA) and others resulting from changes in rates 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.		

Internal Realignments and Non-Policy/Program Changes (Net-Zero)	2015 (+/-)
Seismic Safety	
The Seismic Safety program is currently shown as a component of the Nationwide Engineering Services activity but is managed with Dam and Bridge safety. The Service proposes to realign the Seismic Safety program with the safety programs for dams and bridges and rename the activity Dam, Bridge and Seismic Safety.	
Dam, Bridge and Seismic Safety \ Seismic Safety	+120
Nationwide Engineering Services \ Seismic Safety	-120

Appropriation: Construction

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015			Budget Request	Change from 2014 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfer s (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
Nationwide Engineering Services	(\$000)	8,596	7,209	+72	-120	0	7,161	-48
Bridge, Dam, and Seismic Safety	(\$000)	1,751	1,852	0	+120	0	1,972	+120
Line Item Construction Projects	(\$000)	7,751	6,661	0	0	-107	6,554	-107
Total, Construction	(\$000)	18,098	15,722	+72	0	-107	15,687	-35
	FTE	70	62	0	0	0	62	0

Summary of 2015 Program Changes for Construction

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
Line Item Construction Projects	-107	0
Program Changes	-107	0

Justification of Program Changes for Construction

The 2015 budget request for the Construction program is \$15,687,000 and 62 FTE, with a program change of -\$107,000 and 0 FTE from the 2014 Enacted. The FY 2015 request includes projects only for repair or rehabilitation of existing facilities; no new facilities are proposed.

Line Item Construction Projects (-\$107,000/+0 FTE)

This reduction reflects a funding adjustment for line-item construction projects.

2015 Construction Project Listing by Program					
DOI Rank Score	Reg	Station	State	Project Title/Description	Request (\$000)
National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS)					
70	8	Bitter Creek NWR	CA	Construct 20-KW Photovoltaic Solar Array [p/d/cc]	313
70	2	Buffalo Lake NWR	TX	Repair Umbarger Dam Spillway [p/d]	300
70	8	Modoc NWR	CA	Rehab Dorris Dam [c]	2,000
70	6	Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR	CO	Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR-Repair Flood Damaged Bison Fences [p/d/cc]	300
62	3	DeSoto NWR	IA	Visitor Center Boiler and Chiller Replacement [p/d/cc]	793
50	5	Walkkill River NWR/Great Swamp NWR	NJ	Remove Sixteen (16) Facilities [p/d/cc]	632
Subtotal, NWRS					4,338
National Fish Hatchery System (NFHS)					
80	1	Quinalt NFH	WA	Quinalt NFH-Replace Hazardous Fish Barrier Phase II [p/d/cc]	862

2015 Construction Project Listing by Program					
DOI Rank Score	Reg	Station	State	Project Title/Description	Request (\$000)
70	1	Abernathy FTC	WA	Replace Hazardous Fish Barrier Phase 2 [c]	1,019
52	2	Williams Creek NFH	AZ	Demolish Residence 4 [p/d/cc]	60
50	2	Williams Creek NFH	AZ	Demolish Office Building [p/d/cc]	60
Subtotal, NFHS					2,001
Other					
80	N/A	Servicewide Seismic Safety	N/A	Perform Seismic Engineering Evaluations	215
Subtotal, NFHS					215
SUBTOTAL, CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS					6,554
Bridge, Dam, and Seismic Safety					
N/A	9	Servicewide	N/A	Dam Safety Investigations	1113
N/A	9	Servicewide	N/A	Bridge Safety Inspections	739
N/A	9	Servicewide	N/A	Seismic Safety Program	120
SUBTOTAL, DAM, BRIDGE & SEISMIC SAFETY					1,972
Nationwide Engineering Services (NES)					
N/A	9	Servicewide	N/A	Core Engineering Services	6,063
N/A	9	Servicewide	N/A	Environmental Compliance	998
N/A	9	Servicewide	N/A	Waste Prevention & Recycling	100
SUBTOTAL, Nationwide Engineering Services (NES)					7,161
TOTAL, CONSTRUCTION					15,687

Notes: p = planning, d = design, ic = initiate construction, cc = complete construction

Program Overview



*San Luis NWR, CA, Department of Interior 2013
Environmental Achievement Award*

The Service's Construction program delivers high quality, timely, cost-effective and code-compliant construction projects in support of the operation and maintenance of Service facilities. Construction funding supports engineering and technical program management for over 700 field stations, 562 units of the National Wildlife Refuge System, 72 fish hatcheries, and 65 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices situated on more than 150 million natural resource acres. Water scarcity, energy security objectives, and sustainable operations requirements have given rise to initiatives and mandates to minimize consumption and maximize use of renewable resources in conducting operational activities. The Service has been exemplary in meeting and exceeding these mandates. Maintaining an efficient and knowledgeable workforce that can help meet these requirements is critical to the Service's ability to meet ongoing infrastructure needs.

This appropriation supports the accomplishment of critical national engineering programs which include nearly 300 dams, 700 bridges, 7,000 buildings, seismic safety programs, and environmental compliance and management activities. Work is primarily accomplished through performing assessments, audits, and inspections. Responses to findings are addressed to the extent possible through operational changes, program funds, and when necessary, line-item construction requests. Required energy reporting is also

managed as a national program. The Construction appropriation consists of the following activities and program elements:

Nationwide Engineering Services

Nationwide Engineering Services (NES) support the management of numerous construction and maintenance projects completed each year. These projects must be designed and constructed in a manner that meets building code and other Federal facility requirements. Nationwide Engineering Services is a critical component to the Service's ability to meet ongoing infrastructure needs and ensure the lawful and safe operation of Service facilities. NES includes:

Core Engineering Services

Service engineers deliver high quality construction and maintenance project design and implementation. Core Engineering Services (CES) funding covers the cost of a small group of engineering managers and key support staff at the headquarters and regional levels, who are accountable for policy development, budget planning and execution, technical expertise, and workload management. Salary costs for project delivery are charged directly to projects (direct costs).

Environmental Compliance and Management

Environmental Compliance and Management encompasses two program areas: (1) Environmental Compliance; and (2) Waste Prevention, Recycling and Environmental Management Systems.

Environmental Compliance - The Environmental Compliance Branch (ECB) ensures that Service facilities and activities comply with new and existing Federal, state and local environmental laws and regulations as required by the Federal Facility Compliance Act. Environmental compliance audits are conducted for more than 700 field locations on at least a five-year cycle. In FY 2013, the Service conducted approximately 190 audits. The ECB provides technical assistance to Regional Offices and field stations regarding large-scale environmental contamination cleanup projects, compliance policy, training, environmental compliance audits, and compliance with regulatory requirements.



Crab Orchard NWR, IL, Ground-water Monitoring

The ECB assists Project Managers in effectively cleaning up releases of hazardous substances by: interpreting a broad array of guidance and regulations that apply to the clean-up of releases of hazardous substances to the environment; providing recommendations for remedy implementation; solving site-specific issues, such as the availability of disposal options that can delay progress in cleaning up contamination; and in some cases, managing contracts for activities such as ground-water sampling and technical document review.

Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Environmental Management Systems.

Funding is used to support the Service's implementation of Executive Orders 13423 and 13514 outlined in the Department of the Interior's Strategic Plan, and carrying out associated waste prevention, recycling, and similar actions outlined in the Department's Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan. The Waste Prevention, Recycling, and EMS Program objectives include: continuing to implement and maintain EMS at the Service level, establishing policy to incorporate sustainable practices into the Service's day-to-day operations; coordinating sustainability reporting requirements; reducing waste by-products; increasing

the recycled content of materials used by the Service in accordance with the opportunities identified in prior years; and reducing the use of toxic/hazardous chemicals and materials.

Dam, Bridge and Seismic Safety

In FY 2015, the Service proposes to include Seismic Safety, originally under Nationwide Engineering Services, into Dam and Bridge Safety so all safety programs are consolidated.

Dam Safety Program - The Service owns nearly 300 dams at wildlife refuges and fish hatcheries that are in place for resource or facility management. The referenced statutes require existing dams to be properly designed, operated and maintained to ensure human health and safety. In addition, dams that threaten



Dam Repair at Lake Rush, Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge, Oklahoma

downstream populations are required to have Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) which provide guidance for early detection and mitigation of conditions that may cause dam failures; and communication protocols for notification and evacuation of downstream populations. During 2015, the Service will continue its Dam Safety Program, which includes periodic Safety Evaluation of Existing Dams (SEED) inspections, EAP exercises, and engineering investigations. SEED inspections include performing and reassessing hazard classification, which is based upon the population at risk and the economic loss were a dam to fail. The Service uses the hazard classification, risk assessment, and overall condition of the dam to identify the need and priority for dam safety repair and rehabilitation projects.

The Service anticipates performing approximately 70 dam inspections, including 10 formal inspections of high hazard dams and approximately 45 inspections of low hazard dams as well as an estimated 15 initial assessments of impoundments to determine whether they qualify as dams. Funding to complete needed dam safety structural repairs is requested by the Service separately as individual line-item construction projects. Management of major rehabilitation or construction work is accomplished under the supervision of the Service's Dam Safety Officer.

Bridge Safety Program - The Service owns approximately 700 bridges that serve essential administrative functions or provide primary public access. Inspections are conducted at statutorily required time intervals, and involve: determining or verifying the safe load-carrying capacity; identifying unsafe conditions and recommending ways to eliminate them; and identifying maintenance, rehabilitation, or reconstruction needs. Funds are also used to provide national management, administration and technical supervision of the Bridge Safety Program. Funding to complete needed bridge safety structural repairs is requested by the Service separately as individual line-item construction projects.

Bridge inspections are scheduled according to their condition and last inspection. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS) requires all vehicular bridges to be inspected on a regular basis, typically at 24-month intervals. The 2015 Bridge Safety Inspection Program will include inspection of approximately 350 bridges, satisfying FHWA NBIS requirements.

Seismic Safety Program - Executive Order 12941 requires Federal agencies to inventory existing buildings and estimate the cost of mitigating unacceptable seismic risks. The seismic inspections required by this order are similar to the safety inspections conducted by the Service for existing dams and bridges and will be executed by the same Service staff. To improve clarity, the FY 2015 budget proposes to move Seismic Safety from the Nationwide Engineering Services subactivity to the Dam and Bridge Safety subactivity.

The *Earthquake Hazards Reductions Act of 1977* is intended to reduce risk to life and property from future earthquakes in the United States through establishment of an effective earthquake hazards reduction program. Executive Order 12699, *Seismic Safety of Federal and Federally Assisted or Regulated New Buildings Construction*, applies to the new construction portion of the Act.

The Service owns approximately 7,000 buildings, many of which are located in high or moderate seismic zones and potentially subjected to damage or collapse from seismic events. Results of preliminary screenings show that approximately 50 of the Service's owned buildings have a significant seismic risk of collapse.



Bridge at Laguna Atascosa NWR, Los Fresnos, Texas

The Seismic Safety Program is responsible for the implementation and oversight of the nationwide Seismic Safety Program. Program funding is inadequate to conduct the more detailed engineering evaluations required to assess these 50 identified high risk buildings. Funding for these evaluations is included in the 5-year Construction Plan as a line-item project in each of the fiscal years from 2015 through 2019. Upon completion of each assessment, the Service will understand the extent and likely costs necessary to mitigate seismic risk at these facilities. Funding to complete seismic safety structural repairs will be requested in future budget submissions as individual line-item construction projects as required.

Line Item Construction

Construction funding is used to reconstruct, repair, rehabilitate and replace existing buildings, other structures and facilities such as bridges and dams, and also to construct buildings, structures and facilities not previously existing. Construction funds are requested as project specific line-items in the President's Budget Request. Funds may be used for project-specific planning, design and construction management, construction, demolition, site work, land acquisition, and furniture, fixtures and equipment. Proposed construction projects are identified annually in the Service budget request as part of the "Five-Year Construction Plan." The FY 2015 request includes projects only for repair or rehabilitation of existing facilities; no new facilities are proposed.

2015 Program Performance

Line-Item Construction Projects. In 2015, the Service requests a total of \$6,661,000 for line-item construction projects. A summary of proposed projects is included in the 2015 Construction Appropriation List of Project Data Sheets (PDS) table below. A Project Data Sheet (PDS) is provided for each project and includes key data on project description, justification, cost and schedule. Following the individual PDSs is a Summary Project Data Sheet for 2015 – 2019. This summarizes the Service's 5-Year Construction Plan that directs funding to the most critical health, safety, and resource protection needs. This plan complies with the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB) Number 6 on deferred maintenance reporting. Project selection is based on each project's alignment with the Department and Service objectives, condition assessments of existing facilities, and subsequent ranking of Facility Condition Index (FCI) and Department of the Interior Rank.

2015 Construction Appropriation List of Project Data Sheets					
DOI Rank Score	Region	Station	State	Project Title/Description	Request (\$000)
80	N/A	Servicewide Seismic Safety	N/A	Perform Seismic Engineering Evaluations	215
80	1	Quinalt NFH	WA	Quinalt NFH-Replace Hazardous Fish Barrier Phase II [p/d/cc]	862
70	1	Abernathy FTC	WA	Replace Hazardous Fish Barrier Phase 2 [c]	1,019
70	8	Bitter Creek NWR	CA	Construct 20-KW Photovoltaic Solar Array [p/d/cc]	313
70	2	Buffalo Lake NWR	TX	Repair Umbarger Dam Spillway [p/d]	300
70	8	Modoc NWR	CA	Rehab Dorris Dam [c]	2,000
70	6	Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR	CO	Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR-Repair Flood Damaged Bison Fences [p/d/cc]	300
62	3	DeSoto NWR	IA	Visitor Center Boiler and Chiller Replacement [p/d/cc]	793
52	2	Williams Creek NFH	AZ	Demolish Residence 4 [p/d/cc]	60
50	2	Williams Creek NFH	AZ	Demolish Office Building [p/d/cc]	60
50	5	Walkill River NWR/Great Swamp NWR	NJ	Remove Sixteen (16) Facilities [p/d/cc]	632
Total Line Item Construction Projects					6,554



Replace Fish Barrier, Abernathy FTC, Washington

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service		Total Project Score/Ranking:	80
PROJECT DATA SHEET		Planned Funding FY:	2015
		Funding Source:	Construction
Project Identification			
Project Title: Seismic Safety Investigations			
Project #: 2012218261 Unit/Facility Name: Branch of Dam Safety			
Region/Area/District: Region: 9		Congressional District: NA	State: VA
Project Justification			
DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	API	FCI - Before
		100	0.00
			0.00
Project Description (PD):			
Funding will be used to perform seismic engineering evaluations of select Service buildings. Preliminary screening level assessments have identified over 50 Service buildings as having significant seismic risks of collapse. More detailed investigations beyond the screening level are necessary and engineering evaluations are the next required analysis to confirm the seismic hazard and to propose potential mitigation options. The engineering evaluations also may provide technical evidence not available through the simplified screening process that the seismic risk is low and no mitigation is required.			
Scope of Benefits (SB):			
This project supports Department Strategic Mission Area 1 Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4 (Provide Natural and Cultural Resource Protection and Experiences) and complements other activities in support of Mission Area 5 (Building a 21st Century Department of the Interior) by identifying seismic deficiencies in Service buildings that have been identified as having an unacceptable probability of collapse.			
Investment Strategy (IS):			
The primary purpose of this project is to ensure against loss of life in the event of rare but devastating earthquakes. The project also will provide a positive return on investment by identifying retrofit strategies that will result in stronger, more earthquake-resistant buildings that are able to resist smaller, more frequent earthquakes with little to no damage.			
Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):			
The Service buildings to be evaluated under this project have been identified as having an unacceptably high probability of collapse in the event of an earthquake; any such collapse would clearly endanger the life and health of Service employees and visitors.			
Ranking Categories: Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1B)			
FCI/API	(40 x 75)	Element Score =	30
SB	(20 x 100)	Element Score =	20
IS	(20 x 50)	Element Score =	10
CFA	(20 x 100)	Element Score =	20
Combine ranking factors = (40 x API_FCI score) + (20 x SB score) + (20 x IS score) + (20 x CFA score)			
Capital Asset Planning		Exhibit 300 Analysis Required: No	Total Project Score: 80
VE Required (Y or N): N		Type: Scheduled (YY):	Completed (YY):
Project Costs and Status			
Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):		Project Funding History (Entire Project):	
	\$'s %		\$'s
Deferred Maintenance Work:	215,000 100	Appropriated to Date:	215,000
Capital Improvement Work:	0 0	Requested in FY 2015 Budget:	215,000
Total:	215,000 100	Future Funding to Complete Project:	860,000
		Total:	1,290,000
Class of Estimate: A,B,C (C)		Planning and Design Funds: \$'s	
Estimate Escalated to FY (mm/yy): 12/17		Planning Funds Received in FY _____	\$0
		Design Funds Rec'd in FY _____	\$0
Dates:		Project Data Sheet	
Construction Start/Award (mm/yy):	Sch'd Actual	Prepared/Last Updated (mm/yy):	03/13
Project Complete (mm/yy):	10/14 09/15	DOI Approved?	Yes
Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs (\$'s)			
Current:	0	Projected:	0
		Net Change:	0

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service		Total Project Score/Ranking:	80
PROJECT DATA SHEET		Planned Funding FY:	2015
		Funding Source:	Construction
Project Identification			
Project Title: Replace Electric Fish Barrier - Phase 3 [c]			
Project #: 2013226482		Unit/Facility Name: Quinalt NFH	
Region/Area/District:	Region: 1	Congressional District: 6	State: WA
Project Justification			
DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	API	FCI - Before
40500100	10063210	100	0.00
		FCI - Projected	0.00
Project Description (PD):			
<p>This project will construct the final phase of the Quinalt NFH electric fish barrier replacement. In FY10 \$1,000,000 was provided for planning and design. In FY14 additional funds were requested to meet safety, environmental, and operational needs identified through the planning and design phase. This FY 15 request is for construction of required flood control walls and other measures.</p> <p>There have been numerous operational and safety issues with the current electric fish barrier, including fish and mammal (raccoons, bear) mortalities. An engineering evaluation has determined the barrier was built too wide and at the wrong angle to operate efficiently. The Quinalt Nation has indicated a velocity barrier would be a preferred alternative. Replacement of the barrier is needed to address human safety issues and better accommodate fish passage concerns.</p>			
Scope of Benefits (SB):			
<p>Quinalt National Fish Hatchery annually produces over 3 million anadromous fish. The Hatchery is located on Cook Creek on the Quinalt Indian Reservation. There are 15 miles of suitable salmon and steelhead habitat on Cook Creek above the hatchery, which is approximately 4.5 miles from the junction of the Quinalt River. The project supports PEM.2.0.2.0412 Percent of threatened or endangered species that are stabilized or improved (GPRA) and PIM.2.2.1.0712 Percent of populations of species of management concern that are managed to desired condition (GPRA).</p>			
Investment Strategy (IS):			
<p>The current barrier requires an annual service contract to maintain and repair electronics and other parts of the system. The new physical barrier will require only monitoring and maintenance to keep large debris from building up on the barrier.</p>			
Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):			
<p>If this final phase of construction is not accomplished the new barrier will not work as designed. Without a new barrier, the current fish barrier will remain in place and continue to pose a safety risk. Inefficient operations would continue that do not meet hatchery needs.</p>			
Ranking Categories: Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1B)			
FCI/API	(.40 x 75)	Element Score = <u>30</u>	
SB	(.20 x 100)	Element Score = <u>20</u>	
IS	(.20 x 50)	Element Score = <u>10</u>	
CFA	(.20 x 100)	Element Score = <u>20</u>	
Combine ranking factors = (.40 x API_FCI score) + (.20 x SB score) + (.20 x IS score) + (.20 x CFA score)			
Capital Asset Planning Exhibit 300 Analysis Required: No		Total Project Score: <u>80</u>	
VE Required/ Y or N: Y Type: D Scheduled (YY): 2015 Completed (YY):			
Project Costs and Status			
Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):		Project Funding History (Entire Project):	
	\$'s %		\$'s
Deferred Maintenance Work:	_____ 0	Appropriated to Date:	1,389,000
Capital Improvement Work:	_____ 100	Requested in FY <u>2015</u> Budget:	862,000
Total:	862,000 100	Future Funding to Complete Project:	_____
		Total:	2,251,000
Class of Estimate: A,B,C (C)		Planning and Design Funds: \$'s	
Estimate Escalated to FY (mm/yy): <u>12/17</u>		Planning Funds Received in FY <u>2010</u>	<u>\$1,000,000</u>
		Design Funds Rec'd in FY <u>2014</u>	<u>\$,389,000</u>
Dates:		Project Data Sheet	DOI Approved?
Construction Start/Award (mm/yy):	Sch'd <u>01/15</u> Actual _____	Prepared/Last Updated (mm/yy): <u>11/13</u>	Yes
Project Complete (mm/yy):	<u>04/16</u>		
Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs (\$'s)			
Current:	4,357	Projected:	1,200
		Net Change:	3,157

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service		Total Project Score/Ranking:		80
PROJECT DATA SHEET		Planned Funding FY:		2015
		Funding Source: Construction		
Project Identification				
Project Title: Abernathy FTC-Replace Hazardous Fish Barrier Phase II [c]				
Project #: 2007728297 Unit/Facility Name: Abernathy Fish Technology Center				
Region/Area/District: Region: 1		Congressional District: 03		State: WA
Project Justification				
DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	API	FCI - Before	FCI - Projected
40500100	10054470	100	0.38	0.00
Project Description (PD):				
<p>This project demolishes the existing electric fish barrier at Abernathy FTC (AFTC) and constructs a new physical fish barrier. This project will be executed and funded in phases: Phase I: Planning, Design and Permitting funded in FY13; and Phase II: Construction. The existing electric fish barrier was built in 2003 to replace an unsafe and possibly non-functional 20 year old electric barrier in anticipation of the start of a large, complex research project with regional scope and partner interest. The externally funded project (\$461,000 in FY12) is ongoing and continues to provide information to the FWS and its partners concerning possible threats to wild threatened and endangered salmonids from hatchery reared salmonids.</p> <p>The barrier has caused known fish (several) and mammal (two deer and raccoon) mortalities. In addition, the concrete structure has caused hydrological damage to the creek (bank damage, inappropriate boulder and gravel deposition, and scouring) making wild fish passage more difficult. An initial engineering evaluation determined the existing barrier was too wide and as such has caused many of the identified problems.</p>				
Scope of Benefits (SB):				
<p>AFTC provides critical applied aquatic research and development capabilities to the Pacific and Pacific Southwest Regions related to sturgeon, lamprey, bull trout, anadromous salmon, steelhead, lamprey, and other aquatic species. Applied research programs develop and evaluate scientific methods, concepts, systems, and approaches in support of Strategic Habitat Conservation and Landscape. An operational barrier is essential for continued research.</p>				
Investment Strategy (IS):				
<p>The current barrier requires annual maintenance and repair on the electronics and other parts of the system. The new physical barrier will require regular maintenance to keep large debris from building up on the barrier. To correct these problems will require replacement or major modification of the existing barrier.</p>				
Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):				
<p>In the short term, use of the barrier has been minimized, threatening the current and future mission of the Abernathy Fish Technology Center to provide research services. The electric barrier at AFTC, though only operated during spawning runs at certain flows, still presents safety risks to AFTC's employees and the public and has been a focus of concern by the Pacific Region's safety staff. Replacement with physical barrier is essential.</p>				
Ranking Categories: Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1B)				
FCI/API	(.40 x .100)			Element Score = <u>40</u>
SB	(.20 x .50)			Element Score = <u>10</u>
IS	(.20 x .50)			Element Score = <u>10</u>
CFA	(.20 x .100)			Element Score = <u>20</u>
Combine ranking factors = (.40 x API_FCI score) + (.20 x SB score) + (.20 x IS score) + (.20 x CFA score)				
Capital Asset Planning: Exhibit 300 Analysis Required: No		Total Project Score:		80
VE Required(Y or N): Y Type: D Scheduled (YY): 2015 Completed (YY):				
Project Costs and Status				
Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):		\$'s	%	Project Funding History (Entire Project):
Deferred Maintenance Work:	_____	_____	14	Appropriated to Date: 2013 _____ 225,000
Capital Improvement Work:	_____	_____	86	Requested in FY 2015 Budget: _____ 1,019,000
Total:	_____ 1,019,000	_____	100	Future Funding to Complete Project _____ 736,000
				Total: _____ 1,980,000
Class of Estimate: A,B,C (C)		Planning and Design Funds: \$'s		
Estimate Escalated to FY (mm/yy): 12/17		Planning Funds Received in FY 13 _____ \$225,000		
		Design Funds Rec'd in FY _____		
Dates:		Sch'd	Actual	Project Data Sheet
Construction Start/Award (mm/yy):	_____	01/15	_____	Prepared/Last Updated (mm/yy): 06/13
Project Complete (mm/yy):	_____	04/16	_____	DOI Approved?
				Yes
Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs (\$'s)				
Current:	343	Projected:	343	Net Change: 0

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service		Total Project Score/Ranking:		70
PROJECT DATA SHEET		Planned Funding FY:		2015
		Funding Source: Construction		
Project Identification				
Project Title: Bitter Creek NWR-Construct 20-KW Photovoltaic Array [p/d/cc]				
Project #: 2010123438 Unit/Facility Name: Bitter Creek NWR				
Region/Area/District: Region: 8		Congressional District: 21		State: CA
Project Justification				
DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	API	FCI - Before	FCI - Projected
4071000	81672	100	0.00	0.00
Project Description (PD): Funding is requested to design and install a 20-KW grid-tied photovoltaic (PV) array to offset the current 25,702 kWh annual (combined) electricity demand of the 50 square foot refuge office and 1,500 square foot bunkhouse. Any surplus energy will be metered back to the grid and credited by the local power company as a meter "roll-back". The predominately sunny climate of Bitter Creek NWR (located in the southwestern San Joaquin Valley of southern California) is well suited for PV production. The 20-KW PV array will generate approximately 28,732 kWh of renewable energy annually. At a utility rate of \$0.27 per kWh, the PV array will generate an annual cost savings of \$7,758. This cost savings will have a simple pay back of 32-years, and at the same time will reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by approximately 7,200 kg of carbon dioxide annually. A California Solar Initiative Rebate also may apply. A compatibility determination has been performed and no detrimental impact to wildlife has been found.				
Scope of Benefits (SB): Use of solar energy is identified in the refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan and will reduce the refuge's GHG emissions.				
Investment Strategy (IS): The 20-KW PV array will generate approximately 28,732 kWh of renewable energy annually. At a utility rate of \$0.27 per kWh, the PV array will generate an annual cost savings of approximately \$7,758. This cost savings equates to a simple pay back of 32-years, and at the same time will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 7,200 kg of carbon dioxide annually. A California Solar Initiative Rebate also may apply. The expected life of the panels and supporting system is 40 years with proper care and maintenance.				
Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA): The refuge will continue to pay escalating electric, heating and cooling bills, and there will not be a reduction in GHG emissions.				
Ranking Categories: Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1B)				
FCI/API (40 x 75)		Element Score = 30		
SB (20 x 100)		Element Score = 20		
IS (20 x 50)		Element Score = 10		
CFA (20 x 50)		Element Score = 10		
Combine ranking factors = (40 x API_FCI score) + (20 x SB score) + (20 x IS score) + (20 x CFA score)				
Capital Asset Planning Exhibit 300 Analysis Required: No		Total Project Score: 70		
VE Required(Y or N): N		Type: Scheduled (YY):	Completed (YY):	
Project Costs and Status				
Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):		\$'s	%	Project Funding History (Entire Project):
Deferred Maintenance Work:		0	0	Appropriated to Date: 0
Capital Improvement Work:		313,000	100	Requested in FY 2015 Budget: 313,000
Total:		313,000	100	Future Funding to Complete Project: 0
				Total: 313,000
Class of Estimate: A,B,C (B)		Planning and Design Funds: \$'s		
Estimate Escalated to FY (mm/yy): 12/17		Planning Funds Received in FY: 0		
		Design Funds Rec'd in FY: 0		
Dates:		Sch'd	Actual	Project Data Sheet
Construction Start/Award (mm/yy):		01/15		Prepared/Last Updated (mm/yy): 10/12
Project Complete (mm/yy):		09/15		DOI Approved? Yes
Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs (\$'s)				
Current:	45,578	Projected:	37,820	Net Change: -7,758

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service		Total Project Score/Ranking:	70
PROJECT DATA SHEET		Planned Funding FY:	2015
		Funding Source:	Construction
Project Identification			
Project Title: Buffalo Lake NWR-Repair Umberger Dam Spillway [p/d]			
Project #: 2013228933		Unit/Facility Name: Buffalo Lake NWR	
Region/Area/District:	Region: 2	Congressional District:	19
		State:	TX
Project Justification			
DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	API	FCI - Before
40162000	10007933	100	0.02
		FCI - Projected	0.01
Project Description (PD):			
The Umberger Dam is a 43 feet tall embankment dam which was repaired in 1993 by removing the spillway and placing Roller Compacted Concrete (RCC) over the entire dam to act as a large spillway. The top several layers of the RCC have deteriorated over time. Project funds are requested to complete the planning and repair of the RCC.			
Scope of Benefits (SB):			
The condition of the RCC overtopping protection has deteriorated and increases the risk of a potential dam failure. The funding will provide for the design and repairs to the RCC to correct these deficiencies.			
Investment Strategy (IS):			
This project represents a necessary investment that provides net savings when including the potential loss of valuable resources, costs of a failure of the dam and more expensive repairs if performed in the future.			
Consequences of Failure to Act CFA):			
This dam has a population at risk of over 4000 people, and provides significant downstream flood control benefits.			
Ranking Categories: Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1B)			
FCI/API	(.40 x 75)	Element Score = <u>30</u>	
SB	(.20 x 100)	Element Score = <u>20</u>	
IS	(.20 x 0)	Element Score = <u>0</u>	
CFA	(.20 x 100)	Element Score = <u>20</u>	
Combine ranking factors = (.40 x API_FCI score) + (.20 x SB score) + (.20 x IS score) + (.20 x CFA score)			
Capital Asset Planning Exhibit 300 Analysis Required: No		Total Project Score: 70	
VE Required(Y or N): Y Type: D Scheduled (YY): 2015 Completed (YY): 2015			
Project Costs and Status			
Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):		Project Funding History (Entire Project):	
	\$'s %		\$'s
Deferred Maintenance Work:	0 0	Appropriated to Date:	0
Capital Improvement Work:	300,000 100	Requested in FY 2015 Budget:	\$300,000
Total:	300,000 100	Future Funding to Complete Project:	\$0
		Total:	\$300,000
Class of Estimate: A,B,C (B)		Planning and Design Funds: \$'s	
Estimate Escalated To FY (mm/yy): 12/17		Planning Funds Received in FY _____ \$0	
		Design Funds Rec'd in FY _____ \$0	
Dates:		Project Data Sheet	
Construction Start/Award (mm/yy):	Sch'd Actual	Prepared/Last Updated (mm/yy):	DOI Approved?
	01/15 10/15	01/14	NO
Project Complete (mm/yy):			
Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs (\$'s)			
Current:	188	Projected:	188
		Net Change:	0

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service		Total Project Score/Ranking:	70
PROJECT DATA SHEET		Planned Funding FY:	2015
		Funding Source:	Construction
Project Identification			
Project Title: Modoc NWR- Rehab Dorris Dam [c]			
Project #: 2013228925 Unit/Facility Name: Modoc NWR			
Region/Area/District: Region: 8		Congressional District: 04	State: CA
Project Justification			
DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	API	FCI - Before
40182000	10001673	100	0.01
FCI - Projected			
0.00			
Project Description (PD):			
Project funds are requested to complete the repairs to Dorris Dam, including construction of a toe drain filter and resolution of continuing dam safety deficiencies. The dam has significant seepage problems resulting from a lack of a toe drain as well as a continuing problem with animal burrows. In addition, the trash rack that protects the service spillway is prone to collect debris potentially reducing the spillway performance.			
Scope of Benefits (SB):			
This project supports Department Strategic Mission goals including managing wetlands, uplands and riparian areas that comprise wildlife refuges; and protecting communities by significantly reducing the vulnerabilities of millions of people to natural hazards, improving real property assets and enhance enjoyment of recreational opportunities as well as protecting lives, resources and property through safety and emergency management.			
Investment Strategy (IS):			
This project is a necessary investment that provides net savings when including the potential loss of valuable resources and costs of a failure of the dam.			
Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):			
Dorris Dam is a high hazard dam with a large population at risk of over 600 people. The ongoing potential seepage problems increase the risk of a dam failure through internal erosion through the embankment. The trash rack problem increases the risk of a dam failure due to a large flood event by potentially blocking flood discharge through the only spillway serving the dam.			
			30
Ranking Categories: Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1B)			20
FCI/API	(40 x 75)		Element Score = 30
SB	(20 x 100)		Element Score = 20
IS	(20 x 0)		Element Score = 0
CFA	(20 x 100)	015	Element Score = 20
			2015
Combine ranking factors = (40 x API_FCI score) + (20 x SB score) + (20 x IS score) + (20 x CFA score)			
Capital Asset Planning Exhibit 300 Analysis Required: No		Total Project Score: 70	
VE Required (Y or N): Y Type: D Scheduled (YY): 2015 Completed (YY): 2015			
Project Costs and Status			
Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):		Project Funding History (Entire Project):	
	\$'s	%	\$'s
Deferred Maintenance Work:	0	0	Appropriated to Date: 300,000
Capital Improvement Work:	2,000,000	100	Requested in FY 2015 Budget: 2,000,000
Total:	2,000,000	100	Future Funding to Complete Project: 0
			Total: 2,300,000
Class of Estimate: A,B,C (B)		Planning and Design Funds: \$'s	
Estimate Escalated To FY (mm/yy): 12/17		Planning Funds Received in FY: \$0	
		Design Funds Rec'd in FY: \$0	
Dates:		Project Data Sheet	
Construction Start/Award: (mm/yy)	Sch'd	Actual	Prepared/Last Updated (mm/yy): 02/13
Project Complete: (mm/yy)	01/15	10/15	DOI Approved?
			Yes
Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs (\$'s)			
Current: 6,000	Projected: 6,000	Net Change: 0	

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service		Total Project Score/Ranking:		70
PROJECT DATA SHEET		Planned Funding FY:		2015
		Funding Source:		Construction
Project Identification				
Project Title: Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR-Repair Flood Damaged Bison Fences [p/d/cc]				
Project #: 2014239793 Unit/Facility Name: Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR				
Region/Area/District: Region: 6		Congressional District: 01		State: CO
Project Justification				
DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	API	FCI - Before	FCI - Projected
40800200	10053612	100	0.38	0.00
Project Description (PD):				
On Thursday, Sept 12, 2013, Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge experienced a dam breach at Havana Ponds. Due to record-breaking heavy rainfall, the dam was impacted from storm water upstream. The breach caused damage to roads, trails, and other infrastructure on the Refuge. This project is to repair/replace 5,700 linear feet of sturdy woven wire bison fence in Section 3 and 2,750 linear feet of 8 feet high chain link fence on the east side of section 10 that were damaged by flooding. The planned cost of repair/replacement of the bison fence is \$100,000 and the planned cost of repair/replacement of the chain-link fence is \$200,000. TOTAL = \$300,000				
Scope of Benefits (SB):				
The scope of the benefit is 100. The repair/replacement of this fencing will maintain the security of the refuge which is in an urban area, as well as keeping the bison herds in the designated pastures.				
Investment Strategy (IS):				
Temporary repairs have been made to the fencing, but it is not secure as it requires constant monitoring by refuge staff to ensure that animals stay on refuge land and that the public is not entering restricted areas. Since the bison fence has been damaged the bison are restricted to one pasture. Installing permanent fencing will eliminate the constant monitoring of the fences by refuge staff and restore the security of the refuge to its original status thus reducing maintenance costs and the potential for escaped bison to wander onto public roadways.				
Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):				
The CFA score is 100. Failure to complete this project would have major impacts on public health and safety as bison would wander into areas used by the public or wander off the refuge.				
Ranking Categories: Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1B)				
FCI/API	(.40 x 75)	Element Score = <u>30</u>		
SB	(.20 x 100)	Element Score = <u>20</u>		
IS	(.20 x 0)	Element Score = <u>0</u>		
CFA	(.20 x 100)	Element Score = <u>20</u>		
Combine ranking factors = (.40 x API_FCI score) + (.20 x SB score) + (.20 x IS score) + (.20 x CFA score)				
Capital Asset Planning Exhibit 300 Analysis Required: No		Total Project Score:		70
VE Required (Y or N): N		Type: Scheduled (YY):		Completed (YY):
Project Costs and Status				
Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):		\$'s	%	Project Funding History (Entire Project):
Deferred Maintenance Work:				Appropriated to Date: _____ \$0
Capital Improvement Work:	300,000	100		Requested in FY 2015 Budget: _____ 300,000
Total:	300,000	100		Future Funding to Complete Project: _____ 0
				Total: _____ 300,000
Class of Estimate: A,B,C (C)		Planning and Design Funds: \$'s		
Estimate Escalated to FY (mm/yy): 12/17		Planning Funds Received in FY _____ \$0		
		Design Funds Rec'd in FY _____ \$0		
Dates:		Sch'd	Actual	Project Data Sheet
Construction Start/Award (mm/yy):	01/15			Prepared/Last Updated (mm/yy): 02/14
Project Complete (mm/yy):	09/15			DOI Approved?
				NO
Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs (\$'s)				
Current:	10,000	Projected:	2,000	Net Change: -8,000

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service		Total Project Score/Ranking:	62
PROJECT DATA SHEET		Planned Funding FY:	2015
		Funding Source:	Construction
Project Identification			
Project Title: DeSoto NWR- Visitor Center Boiler and Chiller Replacement [p/d/cc]			
Project #: 2008860758 Unit/Facility Name: DeSoto NWR			
Region/Area/District: Region: 3		Congressional District: 04	State: IA
Project Justification			
DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	API	FCI - Before
35290700	10012850	100	0.06
		FCI - Projected	0.00
Project Description (PD):			
This project will replace boilers, chiller, and electrical switches in the 27 year old visitor center. Severe flooding in 2011 inundated the basement of the visitor center and most of the equipment was damaged. These items have exceeded their expected life cycle and require replacement in order to keep the heating, ventilating, and air conditioning systems in satisfactory operation. During this retrofit the system will be converted to a geothermal system to improve efficiency.			
Scope of Benefits (SB):			
These HVAC system upgrades will meet current energy efficiency standards and provide a healthy environment for the occupants of this facility. This project supports Executive Order 13514, the Energy Independence and Security Act, the Energy Policy Act, and the Department of the Interior's commitment to achieve a 20 percent reduction in scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions by 2020.			
Investment Strategy (IS):			
This project will complete the work needed to bring the system up to current energy use standards. This work will increase the efficiency of the system by approximately 20 percent and will eliminate the use of fossil fuel for heating by converting to a geothermal system.			
Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):			
This project will eliminate mold and complaints regarding temperature differentials by installing a high efficiency system that provides a quality work environment for the employees and visitors to the visitor center.			
Ranking Categories: Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1B)			
FCI/API	(40 x 30)	Element Score = <u>12</u>	
SB	(20 x 100)	Element Score = <u>20</u>	
IS	(20 x 50)	Element Score = <u>10</u>	
CFA	(20 x 100)	Element Score = <u>20</u>	
Combine ranking factors = (40 x API_FCI score) + (20 x SB score) + (20 x IS score) + (20 x CFA score)			
Capital Asset Planning Exhibit 300 Analysis Required: No		Total Project Score: <u>62</u>	
VE Required (Y or N): N Type: Scheduled (YY): Completed (YY):			
Project Costs and Status			
Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):		Project Funding History (Entire Project):	
	\$'s %		\$'s
Deferred Maintenance Work:	793,000 100	Appropriated to Date:	0
Capital Improvement Work:	0 0	Requested in FY <u>2015</u> Budget:	793,000
Total:	793,000 100	Future Funding to Complete Project:	
		Total:	793,000
Class of Estimate: A,B,C (C)		Planning and Design Funds: \$'s	
Estimate Escalated To FY (mm/yy): <u>12/17</u>		Planning Funds Received in FY _____	
		Design Funds Rec'd in FY _____	
Dates:		Project Data Sheet	
	Sch'd Actual	Prepared/Last Updated (mm/yy): <u>05/12</u>	
Construction Start/Award: (mm/yy)	<u>01/15</u>	DOI Approved?	
Project Complete: (mm/yy)	<u>10/15</u>	Yes	
Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs (\$'s)			
Current:	\$7,348	Projected:	69,878
		Net Change:	-17,470

<i>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</i>		Total Project Score/Ranking:		52
PROJECT DATA SHEET		Planned Funding FY:		2015
		Funding Source: Construction		
Project Identification				
Project Title: Williams Creek NFH- Demolish Residence 4 [p/d/cc]				
Project #: 2006497817		Unit/Facility Name: Williams Creek NFH		
Region/Area/District: Region: 2		Congressional District: 06		State: AZ
Project Justification				
DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	API	FCI - Before	FCI - Projected
33300200	10008634	50	0.13	0.00
Project Description (PD):				
This project will demolish this 1,108 square foot residence that has exceeded its expected useful life by more than 20 years. Retaining this residence would require a major renovation that would cost more than its replacement value. The renovation would require replacing the entire electrical system, HVAC system, windows, doors, flooring, kitchen cabinets and countertops, plumbing and plumbing fixtures, and appliances. The demolition would reduce the deferred maintenance backlog by \$60,000.				
Scope of Benefits (SB):				
Demolition of an asset is warranted when the asset no longer is needed for the mission and its condition is poor. Demolition of this building will eliminate the high O&M cost.				
Investment Strategy (IS):				
The renovation cost exceeds its replacement value. The Service will save money by removing this unneeded residence from the Service's portfolio.				
Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):				
This residence has been vacant for some time due to the high cost of rent, and likely would remain vacant for some time into the future. The station cannot afford to maintain this vacant building. The condition of the residence would worsen over time.				
Ranking Categories: Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1B)				
FCI/API (40 x 30)		Element Score = 12		
SB (20 x 100)		Element Score = 20		
IS (20 x 100)		Element Score = 20		
CFA (20 x 0)		Element Score = 0		
Combine ranking factors = (40 x API_FCI score) + (20 x SB score) + (20 x IS score) + (20 x CFA score)				
Capital Asset Planning Exhibit 300 Analysis Required: No				Total Project Score: 52
VE Required (Y or N): N Type: Scheduled (YY): Completed (YY):				
Project Costs and Status				
Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):		\$'s	%	Project Funding History (Entire Project):
Deferred Maintenance Work:		60,000	100	Appropriated to Date: 0
Capital Improvement Work:		0	0	Requested in FY 2015 Budget: 60,000
Total:		60,000	100	Future Funding to Complete Project: 0
				Total: 60,000
Class of Estimate: A,B,C (C)		Planning and Design Funds: \$'s		
Estimate Escalated To FY (mm/yy): 12/17		Planning Funds Received in FY: 0		
		Design Funds Rec'd in FY: 0		
Dates:		Sch'd	Actual	Project Data Sheet
Construction Start/Award: (mm/yy)		04/15		Prepared/Last Updated (mm/yy): 03/12
Project Complete: (mm/yy)		10/15		DOI Approved?
				Yes
Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs (\$'s)				
Current:	15,585	Projected:	0	Net Change: -15,585

<i>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</i>		Total Project Score/Ranking:		50
PROJECT DATA SHEET		Planned Funding FY:		2015
		Funding Source: Construction		
Project Identification				
Project Title: Williams Creek NFH-Demolish Office Building [p/d/cc]				
Project #: 2006497840 Unit/Facility Name: Williams Creek NFH				
Region/Area/District: Region: 2		Congressional District: 06		State: AZ
Project Justification				
DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	API	FCI - Before	FCI - Projected
35100000	10008635	100	0.15	0.00
Project Description (PD): This project will demolish the office building as the cost to renovate would exceed its replacement value. The building would need to undergo major renovations including replacing the entire electrical system, HVAC system, windows, doors, flooring, kitchen cabinets and countertops, plumbing and plumbing fixtures, and appliances. Demolishing this asset will remove a 60 year old, 1,326 square foot building from the Service's portfolio. Demolition will reduce the deferred maintenance backlog by \$60,000.				
Scope of Benefits (SB): Demolition of this 60 year old building will reduce the O&M cost at Williams Creek NFH. Two biologists who work in this building will move work out of the hatchery building in an 11' x 15' room next to the fish tanks until a replacement office is constructed. The station cannot construct an appropriate building until the existing building has been demolished, as the current building occupies the only suitable site.				
Investment Strategy (IS): The cost to renovate this office exceeds its replacement value. This building would need a major renovation that would include replacing the entire electrical system, HVAC system, windows, doors, flooring, kitchen cabinets and countertops, plumbing and plumbing fixtures, and appliances.				
Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA): The station cannot construct an appropriate office building until the existing building has been demolished as the existing building occupies the only suitable site.				
Ranking Categories: Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1B)				
FCI/API (40 x 75)		Element Score = <u>30</u>		
SB (20 x 100)		Element Score = <u>20</u>		
IS (20 x 0)		Element Score = <u>0</u>		
CFA (20 x 0)		Element Score = <u>0</u>		
Combine ranking factors = (40 x API_FCI score) + (20 x SB score) + (20 x IS score) + (20 x CFA score)				
Capital Asset Planning Exhibit 300 Analysis Required: No				Total Project Score: 50
VE Required (Y or N): N Type: Scheduled (YY): Completed (YY):				
Project Costs and Status				
Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):		\$'s	%	Project Funding History (Entire Project):
Deferred Maintenance Work:		60,000	100	Appropriated to Date: 0
Capital Improvement Work:		0	0	Requested in FY 2015 Budget: 60,000
Total:		60,000	100	Future Funding to Complete Project: 0
				Total: 60,000
Class of Estimate: A,B,C (C)		Planning and Design Funds: \$'s		
Estimate Escalated To FY (mm/yy): 12/17		Planning Funds Received in FY _____		
		Design Funds Rec'd in FY _____		
Dates:		Sch'd	Actual	Project Data Sheet
Construction Start/Award (mm/yy):		01/15		Prepared/Last Updated (mm/yy): 06/13
Project Complete (mm/yy):		10/15		DOI Approved? Yes
Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs (\$'s)				
Current:	1,639	Projected:	0	Net Change: -1,639

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service		Total Project Score/Ranking:	50
PROJECT DATA SHEET		Planned Funding FY:	2015
		Funding Source:	Construction
Project Identification			
Project Title: Walkkill River NWR/Great Swamp NWR- Remove Sixteen (16) Facilities [p/d/cc]			
Project #: 01113915		Unit/Facility Name: Walkkill River NWR/Great Swamp NWR	
Region/Area/District: Region: 5	Congressional District: 05	State: NJ	
Project Justification			
DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id#	API	FCI - Before
		0	0.91
			FCI - Projected
			0.00
Project Description (PD):			
<p>This project will remove 16 facilities at New Jersey's Great Swamp NWR and Walkkill NWR. Facilities that will be removed include barns, warehouses and dormitories which have not been utilized in several years. Most of these facilities have not been maintained due to lack of funds and personnel to complete the maintenance. Although the refuge intended to maintain these facilities, lack of maintenance has resulted in deterioration to the point that the buildings have become unsafe. The total square footage of all these facilities equals 31,974 square feet (SF). The asset types and SF to be taken off the inventory include:</p> <p>Bldg Hsg Single Family 8,991 SF Bldg Warehouse 10,714 SF Barn 11,269 SF Stable 1,000 SF Total 31,974 SF</p>			
Scope of Benefits (SB):			
<p>The most appropriate action is to demolish the structures, regrade the areas, and seed native grasses to begin to restore environmental integrity to the site. This project will reduce the total square footage of the Service's portfolio.</p>			
Investment Strategy (IS):			
<p>The Service will greatly reduce its portfolio and realize cost savings by removing these assets as one project instead of spreading the removal over a period of years. This project will reduce the deferred maintenance backlog by approximately \$663,000.</p>			
Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA): Many of these assets have become a safety hazard due to their poor condition. These buildings no longer serve any useful purpose to support the mission of the station.			
Ranking Categories: Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1B)			
FCI/API (40 x 0)			Element Score = 0
SB (20 x 100)			Element Score = 20
IS (20 x 100)			Element Score = 20
CFA (20 x 50)			Element Score = 10
Combine ranking factors = (40 x API_FCI score) + (20 x SB score) + (20 x IS score) + (20 x CFA score)			
Capital Asset Planning Exhibit 300 Analysis Required: No		Total Project Score: 50	
VE Required (Y or N): N		Type: Scheduled (YY): Completed (YY):	
Project Costs and Status			
Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):		Project Funding History (Entire Project):	
	\$'s %		\$'s
Deferred Maintenance Work:	632,000 100	Appropriated to Date:	0
Capital Improvement Work:	0 0	Requested in FY 2015 Budget:	632,000
Total:	632,000 100	Future Funding to Complete Project:	0
		Total:	632,000
Class of Estimate: A,B,C (C)		Planning and Design Funds: \$'s	
Estimate Escalated To FY (mm/yy): 12/17		Planning Funds Received in FY _____	
		Design Funds Rec'd in FY _____	
Dates:		Project Data Sheet	
Construction Start/Award (mm/yy):	Sch'd Actual	Prepared/Last Updated (mm/yy): 04/13	DOI Approved?
Project Complete (mm/yy):	01/15 10/15		Yes
Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs (\$'s)			
Current:	0	Projected:	0
		Net Change:	0

FY	Priority	Total Score	Region	Facility or Unit Name	Project Title	State	Cong. District	Categories					Total (\$000)	Change in Annual O & M Costs
								API/FCI Score	SB Score	IS Score	CFA Score			
2015	1	80	9	Seismic Safety Program	Seismic Safety Investigations	VA	NA	30	20	10	20	215	0	
2015	2	80	1	Quinault NFW	Quinault NFW-Replace Hazardous Fish Barrier Phase II [p/d/cc]	WA	06	30	20	10	20	862	-3,157	
2015	3	70	1	Abernathy FTC	Abernathy FTC-Replace Hazardous Fish Barrier Phase II [p/d/ic]	WA	03	40	10	0	20	1,019	0	
2015	4	70	8	Bitter Creek NWR	Bitter Creek NWR-Construct 20-KW Photovoltaic Solar Array [p/d/cc]	CA	21	30	20	10	10	313	-7,758	
2015	5	70	2	Buffalo Lake NWR	Buffalo Lake NWR-Repair Umbarger Dam Spillway [p/d/cc]	TX	19	30	20	0	20	300	-188	
2015	6	70	8	Modoc NWR	Modoc NWR-Rehab Dorris Dam [c]	CA	04	30	20	0	20	2,000	-137	
2015	7	70	6	Rocky Mountain Arsenal	Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR-Repair Flood Damaged Bison Fences [p/d/cc]	CO	01	30	20	0	20	300	-8,000	
2015	8	62	3	DeSoto NWR	DeSoto NWR-Visitor Center Boiler and Chiller Replacement [p/d/cc]	IA	04	12	20	10	20	793	-17,470	
2015	9	52	2	Williams Creek NFH	Williams Creek NFH-Demolish Residence 4 [p/d/cc]	AZ	06	12	20	20	0	60	-15,585	
2015	10	50	2	Williams Creek NFH	Williams Creek NFH-Demolish Office Building [p/d/cc]	AZ	06	30	20	0	0	60	-1,639	
2015	11	50	5	Wallkill River/Great Swamp NWR	Wallkill River NWR/Great Swamp NWR-Remove Sixteen (16) Facilities [p/d/cc]	NJ	05	0	20	20	10	632	0	
FY 2015 Total												6,554		
FY	Priority	Total Score	Region	Facility or Unit Name	Project Title	State	Cong. District	Categories					Total (\$000)	Change in Annual O & M Costs
								API/FCI Score	SB Score	IS Score	CFA Score			
2016	1	90	8	San Pablo Bay NWR	San Pablo Bay NWR-Restore Sears Point	CA	02	30	20	20	20	1,469	0	
2016	2	90	9	Bavin Lab	Bavin Lab-Replace Leased Space with Secured Storage Building	OR	02	30	20	20	20	450	0	
2016	3	90	3	Crab Orchard NWR	Crab Orchard NWR - Concrete Repairs to Three Dams - Phase 1	IL	12	30	20	20	20	600	0	
2016	4	80	9	Seismic Safety Program	Seismic Safety Investigations	NA	NA	40	20	0	20	215	NA	
2016	5	70	1	Abernathy FTC	Abernathy FTC-Replace Hazardous Fish Barrier Phase II [p/d/cc]	WA	03	40	10	0	20	736	0	
2016	6	70	7	Tetlin NWR	Tetlin NWR-HQ Conversion to Solar [p/d/cc]	AK	00	30	20	10	10	384	-4,347	
2016	7	70	4	Wolf Creek NFH	Wolf Creek NFH-Replace Oxygenation System [p/d/cc]	KY	01	40	20	0	10	1,200	-4,710	
2016	8	70	5	Chincoteague NWR	Chincoteague NWR-Install Solar and Sustainability [p/d/cc]	VA	02	30	20	20	0	447	-14,000	
2016	9	60	6	Gavins Point NFH	Gavins Point NFH-Replace 3000 GPM Drum Filter and VFD	SD	00	30	20	0	10	600	-2,800	
2016	10	52	2	Williams Creek NFH	Williams Creek NFH-Demolish Residence 3	AZ	06	12	20	20	0	78	-923	
2016	11	52	2	Williams Creek, NFH	Williams Creek NFH-Demolish Residence 1	AZ	06	12	20	20	0	60	-895	
2016	12	52	2	Williams Creek, NFH	Williams Creek NFH-Demolish Residence 6	AZ	06	12	20	20	0	60	-1,312	
2016	13	32	3	Crab Orchard NWR	Crab Orchard NWR-Demolish Buildings in Area 9	IL	12	12	10	10	0	362	0.00	
FY 2016 Total												6,661		

FY	Priority	Total Score	Region	Facility or Unit Name	Project Title	State	Cong. District	Categories				Total (\$000)	Change in Annual O & M Costs
								API/FCI Score	SB Score	IS Score	CFA Score		
2017	1	90	8	Bavin Lab	Bavin Lab-Replace Leased Space with Secured Storage Building	OR	02	30	20	20	2,550	0	
2017	2	90	3	Dam Safety Program	Crab Orchard NWR- Concrete Repairs to Three Dams - Phase 2	IL	12	30	20	20	400	0	
2017	3	80	9	Seismic Safety Program	Seismic Safety Investigations	NA	NA	40	20	0	215	NA	
2017	4	80	9	Dam Safety Program	Evaluations of Newly Acquired Dams	NA	NA	40	20	0	250	NA	
2017	5	80	1	Julia Butler Hansen NWR	Julia Butler Hansen NWR-Rehabilitate Outer Dike	OR	01	30	20	10	882	0	
2017	6	80	4	Warm Springs NFH	Warm Springs NFH-Replace Fish Holding House [p/d/cc]	GA	02	40	20	10	1,114	-10,900	
2017	7	70	5	Harrison Lake NFH	Harrison Lake NFH-Reconfigure and Rehabilitate Pond Complex [p/d/ic]	VA	03	40	10	10	500	-1,436	
2017	8	70	4	Cape Romain NWR	Cape Romain NWR-Solar Green Energy Project	SC	01	30	20	20	750	-5,602	
FY 2017 Total											6,661		
FY	Priority	Total Score	Region	Facility or Unit Name	Project Title	State	Cong. District	Categories				Total (\$000)	Change in Annual O & M Costs
								API/FCI Score	SB Score	IS Score	CFA Score		
2018	1	90	3	Dam Safety Program	Crab Orchard NWR - Concrete Repairs to Three Dams - Phase 3	IL	12	30	20	20	300	0	
2018	2	80	9	Seismic Safety Program	Seismic Safety Investigations	NA	NA	40	20	0	215	NA	
2018	3	80	9	Dam Safety Program	Evaluations of Newly Acquired Dams	NA	NA	40	20	0	250	NA	
2018	4	80	6	Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR	Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR-Install a 100 kilowatt Solar Array [p/d/cc]	CO	0	30	20	10	800	3,000	
2018	6	70	2	Alchesay NFH	Alchesay NFH-Install Effluent Treatment System	AZ	06	30	20	10	350	2,000	
2018	7	70	2	Tishomingo NFH	Tishomingo NFH-Install Effluent Treatment System	OK	03	30	20	10	400	2,000	
2018	8	70	6	Hotchkiss NFH	Hotchkiss NFH-Install Sand Settling Basin	CO	03	30	20	10	500	-7,845	
2018	9	60	8	Modoc NWR	Modoc NWR-Restore Godfrey Tract Riparian and Upland Habitat	CA	03	30	20	0	1,860	0	
2018	10	60	4	Big Branch Marsh NWR	Big Branch Marsh NWR-Marsh Restoration	LA	0	30	20	0	1,486	0	
2018	11	60	8	Lahontan NFH	Lahontan NFH-Upgrade Water Reuse System	NV	01	30	20	0	500	0	
FY 2018 Total											6,661		
FY	Priority	Total Score	Region	Facility or Unit Name	Project Title	State	Cong. District	Categories				Total (\$000)	Change in Annual O & M Costs
								API/FCI Score	SB Score	IS Score	CFA Score		
2019	1	90	3	Detroit River IWR	Detroit River IWR-Wetland Habitat Restoration	MI	0	40	20	10	839	0	
2019	2	80	9	Branch of Dam Safety	Seismic Safety Investigations	NA	NA	40	20	0	215	NA	
2019	3	80	9	Dam Safety Program	Evaluations of Newly Acquired Dams	NA	NA	40	20	0	250	NA	
2019	4	80	4	St Marks NWR	St Marks NWR-Maintenance Shop Energy Upgrades	FL	02	40	20	0	950	-4,014	
2019	5	70	1	Nisqually NWR	Nisqually NWR-Remove Eight Buildings	WA	0	30	20	0	350	0	
2019	6	70	3	Pendills Creek NFH	Pendills Creek NFH-Replace 18" CMP Water Supply Pipeline [p/d/ic/c]	MI	01	30	20	10	825	0	
2019	7	70	3	Pendills Creek NFH	Pendills Creek NFH-Replace 24" Water Supply Pipeline to Traveling Screen [p/d/ic/c]	MI	01	30	20	10	900	-10	
2019	8	62	1	Umatilla NWR	Umatilla NWR-Consolidate Office Buildings[p/d/cc]	OR	01	2	20	20	1,000	-554	
2019	9	60	5	Great Dismal Swamp NWR	Great Dismal Swamp NWR-Replacement of Lake Drummond East Ditch	VA	04	0	20	20	1,057	-157	
2019	10	60	3	Iron River NFH	Iron River NFH-Rehabilitate Visitors Center Foyer Area [p/d/c]	WI	07	30	10	10	245	-6,162	
2019	11	30	3	Iron River NFH	Iron River NFH-Removal of Dilapidated Milking Barn	WI	07	0	10	10	30	0	
FY 2019 Total											6,661		

Summary of Requirements for Construction
(Dollars in Thousands)

	2013		2014 Enacted		Program Changes (+/-)			2015		Change from 2014 Enacted	
	Amount	FTE	Total FTE	Amount	Fixed Costs & Related	Internal Transfers	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE
CONSTRUCTION											
Nationwide Engineering Services	8,596		62	7,209	+72	-120	+0	7,161	62	7,161	+0
Nationwide Engineering Services	8,596		62	7,209	+72	-120	+0	7,161	62	7,161	+0
Total, Nationwide Engineering Service											
Bridge, Dam and Seismic Safety ¹	1,053		0	1,113	+0	+0	+0	1,113	0	1,113	+0
Dam Safety	698		0	739	+0	+0	+0	739	0	739	+0
Bridge Safety	-		0	-	+0	+120	+0	120	0	120	+0
Seismic Safety	-		0	-	+0	+120	+0	120	0	120	+0
Total, Bridge, Dam and Seismic Safety	1,751		0	1,852	+0	+120	+0	1,972	0	1,972	+0
Line Item Construction	6,756		0	4,111	+0	+0	+0	4,338	0	4,338	+0
Wildlife Refuges	995		0	2,145	+0	+0	+0	2,001	0	2,001	+0
Fish Hatcheries	-		0	405	+0	+0	+0	215	0	215	+0
Other	-		0	6,661	+0	+0	+0	6,554	0	6,554	+0
Total, Line Item Construction	7,751		0	6,661	+0	+0	+0	6,554	0	6,554	+0
SUBTOTAL, CONSTRUCTION	18,098		62	15,722	+72	+0	+0	15,687	62	15,687	+0
Supplemental, Hurricane Sandy	64,630		0	-	+0	+0	+0	0	0	0	0
Reimbursable Program	2,000		0	2,000	+0	+0	+0	2,000	0	2,000	+0
TOTAL, CONSTRUCTION	84,728		62	17,722	+72	+0	+0	17,687	62	17,687	+0

1. Bridge, Dam and Seismic Safety: New Name in FY15

Standard Form 300 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CONSTRUCTION			
Program and Financing (in million of dollars)	2013	2014	2015
Identification Code 010-18-1612	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
<u>Obligations by program activity:</u>			
0001 Refuges	19	38	30
0002 Hatcheries	2	2	2
0003 Other Projects	0	1	1
0004 Dam safety	1	1	1
0005 Bridge safety	1	1	1
0006 Nationwide engineering services	10	7	7
0100 Total, Direct program:	33	50	42
0799 Total direct obligations	33	50	42
0801 Reimbursable program	2	2	2
0900 Total new obligations	35	52	44
<u>Budgetary Resources:</u>			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	25	74	43
1010 Unobligated balance transfer to other accts [14-1125]	-3	0	0
1021 (01) Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	3	3	3
1050 Unobligated balance (total)	25	77	46
<u>Budget authority:</u>			
Appropriations, discretionary:			
1100 (01) Appropriation	19	16	16
1100 (02) Appropriation: Hurricane Sandy Emergency Supplemental	68	0	0
1130 Appropriations permanently reduced	-4	0	0
1160 Appropriation, discretionary (total)	83	16	16
Spending authority from offsetting collections, discretionary:			
1700 (01) Collected	2	2	2
1701 Change in uncollected payments, Federal sources	-1	0	0
1750 Spending auth from offsetting collections, disc (total)	1	2	2
1900 Budget authority (total)	84	18	18
1930 Total budgetary resources available	109	95	64
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	74	43	20
<u>Change in obligated balance:</u>			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	40	38	39
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	35	52	44
3020 Outlays (gross)	-34	-48	-50
3040 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations, unexpired	-3	-3	-3
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	38	39	30
Uncollected payments:			
3060 Uncollected pymts, Fed sources, brought forward, Oct 1	-5	-4	-4
3070 Change in uncollected pymts, Fed sources, unexpired	1	0	0
3090 Uncollected pymts, Fed sources, end of year	-4	-4	-4
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	35	34	35
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	34	35	26

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CONSTRUCTION			
Program and Financing (in million of dollars)	2013	2014	2015
Identification Code 010-18-1612	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
<u>Budget authority and outlays, net:</u>			
Discretionary:			
4000 Budget authority, gross	84	18	18
Outlays, gross:			
4010 Outlays from new discretionary authority	9	5	5
4011 Outlays from discretionary balances	25	43	45
4020 Outlays, gross (total)	34	48	50
Offsets against gross budget authority and outlays:			
Offsetting collections (collected) from:			
4030 (01) Federal sources	-1	-2	-2
4033 Non-Federal sources	-1	0	0
4040 Offsets against gross budget authority and outlays (total)	-2	-2	-2
4050 Change in uncollected pymts, Fed sources, unexpired	1	0	0
4070 Budget authority, net (discretionary)	83	16	16
4080 Outlays, net (discretionary)	32	46	48
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	83	16	16
4190 Outlays, net (total)	32	46	48
Object Classification (O)			
<u>Direct obligations:</u>			
Personnel compensation:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	6	5	5
11.3 Other than full-time permanent	1	1	1
11.9 Total personnel compensation	7	6	6
12.1 Civilian personnel benefits	2	1	1
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons	0	0	1
23.1 Rental payments to GSA	1	1	1
25.2 Other services from non-Federal sources	9	12	10
25.3 Other goods and services from Federal sources	1	1	1
25.4 Operation and maintenance of facilities	3	6	5
25.7 Operation and maintenance of equipment	0	1	1
26.0 Supplies and materials	0	2	1
31.0 Equipment	0	2	1
32.0 Land and structures	10	18	14
99.0 Subtotal, obligations	33	50	42
<u>Reimbursable obligations:</u>			
25.2 Other services from non-Federal sources	1	1	1
25.3 Other goods and services from Federal sources	1	1	1
99.0 Subtotal, obligations	2	2	2
99.9 Total new obligations	35	52	44
Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	70	62	62

Land Acquisition

Land Acquisition

Appropriations Language

For expenses necessary to carry out the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, (16 U.S.C. 4601-4 through 11), including administrative expenses, and for acquisition of land or waters, or interest therein, in accordance with statutory authority applicable to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, [\$54,422,000] \$55,000,000, to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated for specific land acquisition projects may be used to pay for any administrative overhead, planning or other management costs. (*Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2014.*)

Authorizing Statutes

The Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, as amended (16 U.S.C. 742a). 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 of 1962, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460). 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 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.

National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd). Established overall policy guidance, placed restrictions on the transfer, exchange, or other disposal of refuge lands, and authorized the Secretary to accept donations for land acquisition.

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1534). 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 of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 3901). Authorizes the purchase of wetlands, or interests in wetlands, consistent with the wetlands priority conservation plan established under the Act.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Land Acquisition
Justification of Fixed Costs and Internal Realignments
(Dollars In Thousands)

Fixed Cost Changes and Projections	2014 Total or Change	2014 to 2015 Change
Pay Raise	+65	+88
The change reflects the salary impact of 1% pay raise for 2014 and the proposed pay raise of 1% for 2015.		
Employer Share of Federal Health Benefit Plans	+5	+7
The change reflects expected increases in employer's share of Federal Health Benefit Plans.		
Rental Payments	+0	+3
The adjustment is for changes in the costs payable to General Services Administration (GSA) and others resulting from changes in rates 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.		

Internal Realignments and Non-Policy/Program Changes (Net-Zero)	2015 (+/-)
Land Protection Planning	+465
The National Wildlife Refuge System's Land Protection Planning Program directly supports the Land Acquisition program. The Service will transfer funding from the Resource Management Appropriation to the Land Acquisition Appropriation to better align the purpose of this program.	

Appropriation: Land Acquisition

	2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015 Request				Change from 2014 Enacted (+/-)
			Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Land Acquisition Management (\$000)	12,865	10,500	+98	0	+2,015	12,613	+2,113
Land Protection Planning (\$000)	0	0	0	+465	0	465	+465
Exchanges (\$000)	2,365	1,500	0	0	0	1,500	0
Inholdings / Emergencies and Hardships (\$000)	4,257	7,351	0	0	-2,000	5,351	-2,000
Highlands Conservation Act (\$000)	123	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Refuges/Projects (\$000)	32,165	35,071	0	0	0	35,071	0
Subtotal, Land Acquisition-Discretionary (\$000)	51,775	54,422	+98	+465	+15	55,000	+578
FTE	90	89	0	0	0	89	0
Land Acquisition Management (\$000)	0	0	0	0	+12,000	12,000	+12,000
Land Protection Planning (\$000)	0	0	0	0	+3,000	3,000	+3,000
Exchanges (\$000)	0	0	0	0	+1,000	1,000	+1,000
Inholdings / Emergencies and Hardships (\$000)	0	0	0	0	+3,000	3,000	+3,000
Sportsmen / Recreational Access (\$000)	0	0	0	0	+2,500	2,500	+2,500
Land Acquisition Projects (\$000)	0	0	0	0	+30,387	30,387	+30,387
Collaborative Landscape Component Projects (\$000)	0	0	0	0	+61,885	61,885	+61,885
Land Acquisition – Mandatory (\$000)	0	0	0	0	+113,772	113,772	113,772
FTE	0	0	0	0	+40	40	+40
Total, Land Acquisition (\$000)	51,775	54,422	+98	+465	+113,787	168,772	+114,350
FTE	90	89	0	0	+40	139	+40

Summary of 2015 Program Changes for Land Acquisition (Discretionary)

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Land Acquisition Management	+2,015	0
• Inholdings / Emergencies and Hardships	-2,000	0
Program Changes	+15	0

Justification of 2015 Program Changes

The 2015 budget request for Land Acquisition is \$55,000,000 and 89 FTE, a net program change of +\$15,000 and +0 FTE from the 2014 Enacted.

Land Acquisition Management (+\$2,015,000/+0 FTE)

This increase will restore management operations to approximately the FY 2013 level. Funding in this category supports land acquisition staff; the land acquisition program's share of Servicewide bills, such as IT infrastructure and leased space; and any efforts not specific to a single acquisition. In FY 2014 a reduction in this funding was addressed by using carryover funding and delaying the implementation of a comprehensive survey to address encroachments. Restoring this funding allows the Service to act quickly on land acquisition opportunities, may expedite the acquisition process, and will help discover and resolve encroachment issues, which will contain the costs of resolution. This increase will directly support the Service's efforts to acquire important fish, wildlife, and plant habitat for the conservation of listed endangered and threatened species, and to manage the lands it already owns. Staff will continue to work cooperatively with land management bureaus within the Department of the Interior (NPS and BLM) and the Department of Agriculture (FS) to acquire land for landscape-scale conservation projects. Additional funds for land acquisition management will enable the Service to take advantage of new, unexpected opportunities to acquire biologically rich lands from willing sellers, including wilderness areas.

Inholdings / Emergencies and Hardships (-\$2,000,000/+0 FTE)

Decreased funding for Inholdings/Emergencies and Hardships will allow the Service to address changing land acquisition priorities. Funds will be transferred to the Land Acquisition Management account, for staff support. Mandatory funding is also requested in 2015 for inholdings, emergencies and hardships.

Program Overview

The Service uses Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) monies to acquire important fish, wildlife, and plant habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System and the National Fish Hatchery System, and to provide outdoor recreation areas for the public, as authorized by acts of Congress. The Service uses alternative and innovative land acquisition conservation tools, including conservation easements; implements projects that have the input and participation of the affected local communities and stakeholders; and leverages Federal dollars to the maximum extent possible.

Linking conservation actions to measurable biological outcomes of wildlife populations will increase the Service's ability to meet its trust responsibilities.

Federal Refuges/Projects

Acquisition of land for the National Wildlife Refuge System and the National Fish Hatchery System conserves wildlife habitat and also provides public health benefits, such as improved air and water quality, while supporting the America's Great Outdoors and Urban Wildlife Refuge Initiatives. National Wildlife Refuge lands provide affordable public outdoor recreational activities such as bird watching, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, interpretation, fishing, and hunting.

More than 47 million people visited National Wildlife Refuges in 2013, supporting local tourism, which supports local economies as visitors stay in local lodges, eat at local restaurants, and shop in local stores.



A pasque flower in the South Dakota prairie in the heart of the Dakota Grassland Conservation Area.

Local employment increases, and additional funding from the increase in tax revenues goes to local, county, and State governments.

Using a sample of Service-owned lands in 92 National Wildlife Refuges, a FY 2011 study¹ reported that 46.5 million visitors provided benefits to local businesses by generating an estimated:

- \$2.4 billion of sales, an increase of 19 percent over 2006;
- \$792 million in salaries, an increase of 21 percent over 2006;
- More than 35,000 jobs, an increase of 23 percent over 2006; and
- Refuge recreational spending generated \$343 million in local, county, State, and tax revenue, an increase of 54 percent over 2006.

National wildlife refuges not only provide public outdoor recreational opportunities that contribute to local economies, but also increase local land values. According to *Amenity Values of Proximity to National Wildlife Refuges*, prepared by the Center for Environmental and Resource Economic Policy at North Carolina State University in April 2012, property values surrounding national wildlife refuges are higher than equivalent properties elsewhere.

The Service makes acquisition land decisions based on the resource values of lands and waters proposed for acquisition, ecosystem considerations, the potential for landscape-level conservation, and opportunities to advance and support projects involving public and private conservation partnerships.

The Service acquires conservation easements to permanently protect important wildlife habitat on working ranches, farms, and forests, to accomplish Service goals to conserve high-priority habitats on private lands. Conservation easement acquisition keeps landowners on their property to continue working their lands, as well as provide protection to habitats and natural areas. Easement acquisition helps ensure that wildlife habitat and migration corridors on private lands are conserved to achieve desirable populations of fish and wildlife for the public to enjoy. The Service's operations and maintenance costs for lands under easements are minimal because the landowner retains responsibility for management of the land.

The Department of the Interior's FY 2015 budget request for projects includes two sources: Mandatory and Discretionary:

Discretionary

This funding allows the Service to continue conserving important wildlife habitat in the nine projects and 33,504 acres, of which 26,954 acres will remain in private ownership under easement. The project descriptions later in this section provide details about the resource values of the lands and waters proposed for addition to the Department's network of conservation lands. The list below is the discretionary portion of the Service's request in priority order.

Mandatory Funds

The Department of the Interior proposes to permanently authorize annual mandatory funding, without further appropriation or fiscal year limitation for the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) programs beginning in fiscal year 2015. Starting in 2016, \$900 million annually in permanent funds would be available. During the transition to full permanent funding in 2015, the budget proposes \$900 million in total LWCF funding, comprised of \$550 million in

¹ *Banking on Nature: The Economic Benefits to Local Communities of National Wildlife Refuge Visitation*, by Eric Carver and James Caudill, Ph.D, Division of Economics, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

mandatory and \$350 million discretionary funds. The amounts requested include the authorized levels for the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture.

In FY 2015, the LWCF mandatory proposal for FWS includes \$113.8 million for Federal Land acquisition and \$50.0 million for Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund. Land acquisition funds are also used to secure access for the American public to their Federal lands. Concurrent with the America's Great Outdoor initiative, these funds will invest in acquisitions to better meet recreation access needs by working with willing landowners to secure rights-of-way, easements or fee simple lands that provide access or consolidate Federal ownership so that public has unbroken spaces to recreate, hunt, and fish. FWS will focus \$2.5 million in mandatory funding towards projects to acquire access for sportsmen/recreation.

Included in the \$113.8 million mandatory proposal for FY 2015 is \$92.272 million for the Fish and Wildlife Service Land Acquisition projects. Together with the discretionary request, the complete listing would cover the top 20 Service priorities. For project specific information, see the project data sheets that follow at the end of this section.

Refuge Land Protection Planning

Service staff evaluate potential land acquisitions to support the strategic growth of the National Wildlife Refuge System. By using landscape-scale conservation planning aids such as models of species-habitat interactions and 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 its conservation partners can accomplish much more than working as separate entities.



San Joaquin River NWR, CA, has been important in the recovery of Aleutian cackling goose and riparian brush rabbit populations.

The Service has developed a draft policy to guide the strategic growth and management of the Refuge System that, when finalized, will be incorporated into the Service Manual. The Strategic Growth policy provides guidance on identifying priority areas for conservation and potential land acquisition.

The Planning program is complemented by the Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife program, which works with hundreds of private landowners annually on habitat restoration and enhancement projects on their lands. These projects connect and extend high-quality habitats, restore landscapes, and sustain high priority Federal trust species populations.

Local communities also benefit from the ecological aspects of enhanced wildlife corridors, additional habitat for wildlife, and maintenance of grasslands, wetlands, and forests.

Strategic Outcomes and Results

In implementing the recommendations of the NWRS's *Conserving the Future* vision document, the Service has narrowed the criteria it uses to evaluate proposed refuges and prioritize land acquisitions for existing refuges. The new criteria, which are in the draft Strategic Growth policy, will be incorporated into a new project scoring tool that the Service is developing. The new project scoring tool will replace the Land Acquisition Priority System (LAPS).



Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Area acquisitions will protect diverse and intact ecosystems allowing ranchers remain on working lands. Credit: Chad Harder

The projects proposed for the FY 2015 budget reflect important factors, including contribution of leveraged funds, partner participation, and urgency of project completion to protect natural areas and wildlife species' habitats from development or other incompatible uses. Service projects support the Service's mission-oriented priorities as well as potential Collaborative Conservation projects, including the Southwest Desert in California; the National Trails; and the Longleaf Pine in Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina. Many Service projects also provide or enhance public outdoor recreation in close proximity to both rural and urban areas.

Like LWCF land acquisitions, the National Trails System increases economic and public benefits to local communities through ecotourism and recreation activities. Local economies benefit from expenditures associated with visitation at national wildlife refuges and use of National Trails.

Means and Strategies

The Service's policy is to request land acquisition funding only for properties that are located within approved Refuge boundaries and that also have willing sellers. Also, for every project for which the Service is requesting funding, the Service has completed the required National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process, and the project has an approved Land Protection Plan.

Federal land acquisition projects often have small amounts of funds remaining after land has been acquired. These small amounts of funds are insufficient to acquire additional land, so in 2014, the Service instituted a policy of reallocating residual funds of less than \$50,000 to the Inholdings line item for acquisition of tracts that do not have project funding. This policy increases the Service's ability to acquire valuable wildlife habitat within refuge boundaries that becomes available for acquisition in between appropriations cycles. (Projects funded in 2009 and 2010 are excluded from this policy due to existing reprogramming restrictions.)

Success Stories

Each year the Service acquires land in fee title or conservation easement through the LWCF. The acquired lands provide improved habitat for wildlife, and often enhance management capability. Fee title acquisitions provide public outdoor recreational opportunities and generate economic benefits for local communities. FY 2013 acquisition highlights include:

Nestucca Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Oregon

Nestucca Bay NWR, located on Oregon's coast just two hours from Portland, is one of three estuarine refuges in the Oregon Coastal NWR Complex. The Refuge's salt marsh, brackish marsh, wetlands along lakes and rivers, and wooded upland habitats offer sanctuary to a diverse array of fish and wildlife, including waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, small mammals, amphibians, and anadromous fish. The Refuge

is an outdoor classroom providing practical environmental education and opportunities to connect with nature.

Each year, several million seabirds breed at the Refuge. The Refuge also provides wintering habitat for the coastal population of Dusky Canada geese and the entire population of Semidi Islands Aleutian Canada geese. Peregrine falcons and bald eagles hunt the nesting seabirds and waterfowl that migrate along the coast in summer.

After several years of negotiations, the Service acquired the 102-acre forested headland property on the coast known as the Jesuit Novitiate in Sheridan, saving the property from development. Located at the confluence of the Nestucca and Little Nestucca Rivers, the property contains upland forest, shoreline, and tideland habitats, and is particularly important to seabirds along the Pacific Northwest coast. The acquisition was a combined effort of The Nature Conservancy, the Federal Highway Administration, the Oregon Department of Transportation, and the Oregon Congressional delegation. The acquisition expands the Refuge's shoreline and hiking and walking trails, and provides outstanding wildlife viewing areas.

James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge, Hawaii

The Service acquired 29 fee acres and seven easement acres at James Campbell NWR, located on the north shore of O'ahu island. This acquisition completes the third phase of a four-phase acquisition that began in 2008. This property connects the Refuge to an access road and has the ideal footprint for a proposed complex headquarters and visitor center to increase opportunities for environmental education.

The Refuge is working with partners to restore a more natural scrub/shrub community on the property through removal of invasive plants and planting of native plants.



Latest acquisition on the James Campbell NWR and possible site for a future Visitor Center and Headquarters Office.

Credit: Realty Specialist Charlie Parrott, USFWS



Newest acquired land as part of Valle de Oro NWR.

Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, New Mexico

Valle de Oro NWR, located near Albuquerque, is the Southwest's first urban refuge. This Refuge will fulfill the goals of President Obama's America's Great Outdoors Initiative by working with community partners to establish a 21st century conservation ethic and reconnect people, especially young people, to the natural world. In 2013, through the EPA's Urban Waters program, Valle de Oro NWR was recognized as part of key conservation and restoration projects along the Rio Grande River. Valle de Oro NWR serves to enhance the River corridor, bringing it into the daily lives of Albuquerque's citizens, and is an oasis for wildlife and people.

Urban refuges, such as Valle de Oro NWR, offer unique environmental education and recreation opportunities in highly populated areas while promoting the mission of the Refuge System. With the assistance from The Trust for Public Land, the Service recently acquired 41 acres of the Price's Dairy property for the Refuge; the Refuge now encompasses 431 acres of the 570 total acres that it will have upon completion. The Refuge also includes valuable

water rights associated with the land. The Service is working with the State of New Mexico, The Trust for Public Land, and Friends of Valle de Oro NWR to acquire the final 139 acres for the Refuge.

Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Pennsylvania

The Service recently acquired a 90-acre property for the Cherry Valley NWR. The Service acquired the property using a combination of LWCF dollars and funding from a Natural Resources Damage Assessment and Restoration settlement on the Palmerton Zinc Superfund site located 20 miles west of the property. A trustee council comprised of partner agencies, including the Service, National Park Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources evaluated numerous projects, and ultimately chose to support this acquisition with restoration funds.

Nestled at the foot of the north slope of the Kittatinny Ridge, the property includes a diverse mix of habitats, including hemlock and rhododendron forest, oak-hickory hardwood forested slopes, black cherry and red cedar scrublands, red maple swamp, emergent wetlands, and the riparian corridor of a native trout stream. The area provides important habitat for migratory birds and an array of wildlife.



Newest acquisition for Cherry Valley NWR, new office/intern quarters in background and cold water pond for public fishing.

The acquisition of this keystone parcel is part of a landscape-scale effort to preserve threatened bog turtle habitat, and provide habitat continuity and water quality in the Aquashicola Creek watershed. The effort is supported by a diverse partnership, including private landowners. During 2013, the Refuge restored 20 acres of bog turtle habitat on this property, and partner efforts restored an additional 50 acres of bog turtle habitat on adjacent private lands.



Bluestem on the Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Area.

The acquisition provides necessary facilities to support Refuge administration and partner activities. A restored bank barn serves as an auditorium for Refuge and Friends group events, and the former farmhouse serves as an office and provides accommodations for interns and bog turtle investigators during summer months. A cold water pond on the property is slated to become a public fishing area for native brook trout. The property will also support a public hunting program, along with wildlife observation and hiking along the Refuge trail system.

Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Area, Kansas

The Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Area (FHLCA) in eastern Kansas was established in September 2011. The FHLCA was created by the Service in conjunction with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, private landowners, and other partners to protect some of the last remaining tallgrass prairie in

the nation. Less than four percent of the nation's one-vast tallgrass prairie remains, of which over 80 percent lies within the Flint Hills of eastern Kansas and northeastern Oklahoma. The grassland birds that inhabit the region are the fastest declining group of avians in North America.

The Service is working with public and private partners to reduce the amount of development on the last remaining tallgrass prairie habitat while supporting ranching practices that have helped preserve the tallgrass prairie in the region. Acquisition of conservation easements for the FHLCA will permanently protect this important habitat while maintaining existing ranching lifestyles and economies.

The Service recently purchased the first easement for the FHLCA on 2,158 acres of tallgrass prairie in Chase County, Kansas. The landowner donated an additional 287 easement acres, conserving a total of 2,245 tallgrass prairie acres. Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem, and Indiangrass dominate the property. The landowner has exhibited tremendous stewardship in his efforts to reduce woody vegetation.

Grasslands Wildlife Management Area, California

The Grasslands WMA is located in western Merced County, California, within the San Joaquin River Basin. The Basin supports the largest remaining block of contiguous wetlands in the Central Valley. These wetlands constitute 30 percent of the remaining wetlands in California's Central Valley and are extremely important to Pacific Flyway waterfowl populations. The Service is continuing to acquire conservation easements to provide for the long-term viability of the grassland and wetland ecosystem, as well as to provide a safe haven for migratory birds and other wildlife. The most recent conservation easement is on 959 acres.



Waves of grass in the San Joaquin River valley.

San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge, California

Established in 1987, the San Joaquin River NWR has an endangered species focus to protect the wintering grounds of Aleutian Canada (cackling) geese. The population of the cackling geese has significantly increased since the establishment of the Refuge, resulting in its delisting and becoming a game species for sportsmen. The other major endangered species focus for the Refuge is the riparian brush rabbit, perhaps the most endangered mammal in California. As very little of the species' dense riparian habitat remains, the Recovery Plan requires three new self-sustaining populations; acquisition of needed habitat is a key element for this species' recovery. The Service continues to acquire conservation easements to protect these species and their habitats, having most recently acquired a conservation easement on 501 acres of predominantly native, irrigated pasture.



During the month of January, numbers peak for geese, cranes, and ducks in the San Joaquin River valley.

Update on Land Exchanges for FY 2015

Exchange projects provide unique opportunities to work in partnership with Federal, State, and local governments, private landowners and organizations, and local and national conservation groups. Exchange projects leverage the collective expertise, to decrease habitat fragmentation, conserve critical habitat for a variety of wildlife within the National Wildlife Refuge System, and provide access to resources for the public to enjoy.

The following table lists refuges, waterfowl production areas, wetland management districts, and Native Corporations' properties that may be part of ongoing projects in the negotiation or acquisition phases of possible land exchanges. Other exchanges may be undertaken throughout FY 2015 as opportunities arise. The Service projects an estimated \$1,711,000 (including carryover) in acquisition costs for more than 253,806 acres. Exchanges may involve on-going expenditures over a period of years.

STATE	POTENTIAL EXCHANGES	ACRES TO BE ACQUIRED	MANAGEMENT COSTS
ALASKA	Arctic NWR - Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation	2,000.00	\$10,000
	Alaska Maritime - The Aleut Corp.	Undetermined	\$50,000
	Alaska Maritime - Shumagan Corp.	Undetermined	\$25,000
	Izembek NWR - State of Alaska	52,000.00	\$150,000
	Kenai NWR - CIRI	3,000.00	\$10,000
	Yukon Delta NWR - Scammon Bay	3,600.00	\$60,000
	Yukon Delta NWR - Cherfornak	40,000.00	\$15,000
	Yukon Delta NWR - NIMA Corp	5,000.00	\$65,000
	Yukon Delta NWR - Napakiak	55,000.00	\$65,000
	Yukon Delta NWR - Kotlik	Undetermined	\$25,000
	Yukon Delta NWR - Bethel Native Corporation	10.00	\$55,000
	Yukon Delta NWR - Napaskiak	45,000.00	\$15,000
	Yukon Delta NWR - Eek	Undetermined	\$25,000
	Yukon Delta NWR - Aniak	Undetermined	\$10,000
	Yukon Delta NWR - Chevak	30,000.00	\$65,000
CALIFORNIA	Bitter Creek NWR	297.00	\$10,000
	Bitter Creek NWR	0.10	\$10,000
	Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR	3.00	\$75,000
FLORIDA	Archie Carr NWR	71.00	\$10,000
	ARM Loxahatchee NWR	2,723.00	\$20,000
	St. Marks NWR	3.00	\$15,000

STATE	POTENTIAL EXCHANGES	ACRES TO BE ACQUIRED	MANAGEMENT COSTS
GEORGIA	Bond Swamp NWR	74.00	\$10,000
	Savannah NWR	Undetermined	\$5,000
ILLINOIS	Meredosia NWR - IL DOT	10.00	\$20,000
	IL River NWR	5.00	\$10,000
	Cypress Creek NWR	10.00	\$10,000
INDIANA	Patoka River NWR	Undetermined	\$20,000
IOWA	Union Slough NWR	40.00	\$10,000
LOUISIANA	Bogue Chitto NWR	4.00	\$2,000
	Delta NWR	816.00	\$10,000
	Lacassine NWR	1,944.00	\$5,000
	Upper Ouachita NWR	80.00	\$10,000
	Upper Ouachita NWR	Undetermined	\$10,000
MAINE	Rachel Carson NWR	47.00	\$5,000
	Moosehorn NWR	1,500.00	\$50,000
MARYLAND	Patuxent Research Refuge	2.00	\$10,000
MASSACHUSETTS	Oxbow NWR	20.00	\$10,000
MICHIGAN	Shiawassee NWR	337.00	\$50,000
	Jackson County FmHA	5.00	\$10,000
	Jackson County WPA	2.00	\$25,000
MINNESOTA	Minnesota Valley NWR - MN DNR	279.60	\$25,000
	Kandiyohi County FmHA	20.00	\$10,000
	Pope County WPA	40.00	\$10,000
	Tamarac NWR	10.00	\$10,000
	Upper Mississippi River NW&FR	2.00	\$10,000
MISSISSIPPI	MS Sandhill Crane NWR	30.00	\$10,000
	Theodore Roosevelt NWR	809.00	\$15,000
MONTANA	Pablo NWR	2.00	\$10,000
NEBRASKA	Rainwater Basin WMD	160.00	\$25,000
NORTH DAKOTA	Various North Dakota WPA's & WMA's	100.00	\$80,000
NEW JERSEY	E. B. Forsythe NWR	10.00	\$10,000
SOUTH CAROLINA	Santee NWR	32.80	\$2,000
SOUTH DAKOTA	Various South Dakota WPA's & WMD's	160.00	\$55,000
	South Dakota WMD State Land	4,022.00	\$15,000
TENNESSEE	Lower Hatchie NWR	1.70	\$10,000
TEXAS	Lower Rio Grande Valley - Hildalgo Co Irrigation District #3	5.00	\$5,000

STATE	POTENTIAL EXCHANGES	ACRES TO BE ACQUIRED	MANAGEMENT COSTS
	Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR FM 800	5.60	\$2,000
	Lower Rio Grande Valley Cameron County CCRMA	73.00	\$10,000
	Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR - Agriculture Investment Associates	2,700.00	\$45,000
	Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR - Fred Shuster	80.00	\$20,000
	Neches River NWR-Tetlin-through Exxon Exchange in Alaska	516.00	\$10,000
VERMONT	Silvio O. Conte NFWR	100.00	\$25,000
WASHINGTON	Columbia NWR	563.00	\$80,000
WEST VIRGINIA	Canaan Valley NWR	2.00	\$10,000
WISCONSIN	Necedah WMA	5.00	\$20,000
	Fond du Lac County WPA	113.40	\$15,000
	Upper MS River NW&FR - WI DOT	Undetermined	\$25,000
	Upper MS River NW&FR	280.00	\$10,000
WYOMING	Cokeville Meadows NWR	<u>81.00</u>	<u>\$70,000</u>
Total Exchange Acres and Management Costs		253,806.20	\$1,711,000

Exchange Success Stories

Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge, Colorado

Working in partnership with several local governments, the Service recently acquired 617 acres for Rocky Flats NWR. In a complex land exchange involving the Colorado State Land Board (State) and the Jefferson Public Parkway Highway Authority (JPPHA), and with considerable assistance from numerous local partners, the Service expanded the Refuge to include lands formerly managed by the State. In exchange for the lands acquired, the Service conveyed a 300-foot strip of land along the eastern edge of the Refuge to the JPPHA for future transportation improvements. The transaction was a collaborative effort among private parties and local government entities including Jefferson County, Boulder County, the City of Boulder, the City of Arvada, Colorado Natural Resource Trustees, the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

The exchange permanently protects rare xeric tallgrass prairie, upland shrubland, wetlands, and high-quality riparian habitat. The rare xeric tallgrass prairie is a remnant from the ice age. The acquired lands protect critical habitat for the threatened Preble's meadow jumping mouse, and provide a nearly continuous corridor connecting the Refuge with existing public open space to the west, allowing for continued seasonal animal migration.

Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge and Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge

The Alaska Peninsula and Alaska Maritime NWRs recently completed land exchanges with two Alaska Native Corporations. At Alaska Maritime NWR, land exchanges significantly improved management of the Jacob, Paul, and Chiachi Islands by eliminating mixed ownership and consolidating land



*Chiachi Island is in the background and Shapka Island, part of the Alaska Peninsula NWR, is in the foreground.
Credit: Susan LaKowski, USFWS*



*Long Beach River, Anchor Bay, within Alaska Peninsula NWR.
Credit: Susan LaKowski, USFWS*

management. The acquisitions will reduce habitat fragmentation and will facilitate the Service's efforts to control invasive species. The exchange at Alaska Peninsula NWR established the eastern bank of the Long Beach River as the eastern boundary of the Refuge, creating a clear boundary between Refuge lands and Alaska Native Corporation lands, which will reduce trespass issues. The land exchange also provided the only feasible access to the Native Corporation lands in the upper Kametook River area, improving land management.

Land Acquisition Projects for FY 2015

The FY 2015 request includes 20 proposed land acquisition projects totaling 79,499 acres that are funded from discretionary and mandatory sources. This is the current set of land acquisition priorities that has been vetted and approved by bureau and Department leadership to meet the high priority programmatic needs of the Service.

Collaborative Landscape Planning (CLP)

The 2015 Federal Land Acquisition program builds on Collaborative Conservation efforts started in 2011 and 2012, and included in the President's budget request for the first time in FY 2013. The Collaborative Conservation Program was developed to support strategic interagency landscape-scale conservation projects while continuing to meet agency-specific programmatic needs, and was initiated partially in response to Congressional direction to the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (FS), to use LWCF land acquisition funds to strategically protect contiguous landscapes and meet shared conservation goals. Interior bureaus collaborated extensively with the FS to develop a process to coordinate land acquisition planning with government and local community partners, to achieve the highest priority shared conservation goals more effectively.

To respond to the direction from Congress, the CLP process is designed to collaboratively plan for measurable outcomes at the landscape scale; invest LWCF resources in some of the most ecologically important landscapes; and invest in projects that have a clear strategy to reach shared goals grounded in science-based planning, are driven by and in response to local community initiatives, and will make the most efficient use of Federal funds.

For the FY 2015 budget request, the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture have a combined request of \$240.71 million of discretionary and mandatory funding for this effort. This includes a request of \$194.10 million for the three Interior bureaus (the Service, BLM, and NPS) and the remaining \$46.60 million for the Forest Service. The Service has three discretionary and seven mandatory projects totaling \$78.89 million as part of the Collaborative effort. The 2015 CLP projects were evaluated

by a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) made up of Service, BLM, NPS, and FS staff, and were rated according to merit-based criteria in the following categories:

- Process—ensure proposals are built through Federal agency and local stakeholder collaboration and make efficient use of Federal funding. Stakeholder commitment to proposals, including broad-based community support, resources, or funding, were considered.
- Outcomes—ensure Federal resources are targeted to achieve important biological, recreational, cultural, and socio-economic outcomes, including improving access to public lands.
- Urgency—ensure funding is focused on outcomes that may be lost today if no action is taken, or that are particularly achievable today.
- Contribution to national and regional priorities—ensure contributions are to the highest priority conservation goals.

The joint Interior-Agriculture National Selection Committee identified a number of large natural areas throughout the Nation where high priority shared conservation goals can be achieved based on existing locally-driven conservation efforts. Through a rigorous merit-based evaluation process, the ecosystems selected for inclusion in the Service's 2015 budget: Southwest Deserts in California, the National Trails System Collaborative, FL/GA and SC Longleaf Pine Initiatives, Upper Rio Grande, Grasslands/Prairie Potholes, and High Divide.

Investing now in these ecologically important but threatened large natural areas will ensure that they remain resilient in the face of development pressures and global climate change. Smart investment in strategic conservation of these large natural areas will prevent further ecosystem decline or collapse, which will preclude the need for future investments in restoration. The proposed Federal investments in these landscapes will additionally leverage significant private commitments to land and water conservation in the four ecosystems.

The **California Southwest Deserts** proposal exemplifies a commitment to the important role collaboration plays between Federal agencies and non-Federal partners in achieving a common landscape conservation vision. To further conservation and community goals in this area, a partnership comprised of State, local, and NGO entities has leveraged Federal funding impressively, including NGOs that have donated all or a portion of the market value of real property or defrayed acquisition costs in order to allow the agencies to maximize use of available dollars.

The Southwest Deserts in California focal area is comprised of Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and the west half of Imperial Counties. Less than a day's drive for 40 million people, the area is characterized by extensive wildlife corridors, miles of national scenic and historic trails, and 72 federally protected species. Rich in biodiversity and recreational opportunity, the landscape is under pressure from increasing demands such as energy development and urban growth that impact these unique resources.

Propelled by Congressional designation, **National Trails**, the country's national scenic and historic trails are significant both in their entirety and individually. Each is a collaborative venture in the conservation, interpretation, and responsible public use of important elements of our Nation's natural and cultural heritage. As required by law, the administration and management of these trails require interagency collaboration. Significant LWCF investment is essential to protect national scenic and historic trails for public enjoyment.

The collaborative nature of the National Scenic and Historic Trails means that a financial investment by any of the partners has the potential to be greatly leveraged by contributions from other partners (State agencies, local governments, and land trusts), as so often is the case with the National Trails System. Federal financial investment not only buys land to protect critical resources, but also sets the stage for

citizen and community involvement in national trail stewardship. For example, the Federal investment in these trails—well illustrated by the Appalachian Trail—clearly stimulates citizen engagement in public resource stewardship and volunteerism, connects citizens with the Nation’s natural and cultural heritage, and strengthens communities across the country.

The National Trails System Collaborative seeks to fund critical missing pieces along various trail routes. Many of the trails in this proposal were authorized by Congress more than 30 years ago, yet less than one-third have received funds to assist in acquiring and protecting critical parts of their corridors.

Tracts identified in the **Longleaf Pine Initiative** are crucial to the ecological well-being and recovery of the diminishing longleaf pine ecosystem across the southeastern U.S. Longleaf pines once covered up to 98 million acres of the Southeast, but have been reduced to three million acres, much of it in poor condition. Collaborative regional efforts to address this decline have been underway for over 15 years. Strong public-private partnerships, like the Longleaf Alliance, bring together private landowners, forest industries, State and Federal agencies, conservation groups, and researchers to work on collaborative solutions.

Federal agencies drew from Florida wildlife habitat gap analyses, recovery plans, and other Florida and Federal natural resource assessments and initiatives, along with local government and general public input, to develop a plan for land acquisition that targets the most critical conservation needs. Based on this plan, State and local governments and conservation non-profit groups, such as The Nature Conservancy, worked closely with Federal agencies to secure these tracts to allow sufficient time for the Departments to acquire them.

In South Carolina, opportunities to leverage funds are also time-sensitive. The Charleston County Greenbelt Program, funded by a local sales tax approved by county referendum in 2004, will match LWCF investments for a limited time period. A \$10 million match from the Greenbelt Program was approved to protect 6,500 acres adjacent to the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge.

The Longleaf Pine Initiative also protects significant cultural lands, including the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor, an area intrinsically linked to cultural heritage of African Americans in NC, SC, GA, and FL.

Although many threatened and endangered species require a longleaf pine ecosystem to survive, the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) is the keystone species for the ecosystem. The Service, BLM, FS, and our local partners have collaborated for over 20 years to dramatically grow the RCW populations and promote the recovery of the longleaf pine ecosystem through the Southern Range Translocation Cooperative, and to protect and expand critical wildlife areas.

The acquisitions proposed to be funded in this request address the most critical needs of each agency in support of our shared priority of longleaf pine ecosystem conservation, restoration, and endangered and threatened species recovery. The lands selected for this proposal are the highest priority for each unit, to protect critical habitat, improve management, protect private lands from wildfire, and leverage the efforts of conservation partners to secure these tracts for Federal protection.

The **Upper Rio Grande** landscape is a remarkable embodiment of the LWCF Collaborative Conservation Program. Over the last 30 years, grassroots community-based efforts on both sides of the Colorado and New Mexico State line have made incredible strides to permanently protect large swaths of critical cultural, wildlife, ecological, scenic, geologic, and recreational natural areas, under a variety of Federal and State authorities. At the same time, private, partnership-based efforts have made significant investments to protect the working landscapes across the Upper Rio Grande through conservation

easements and increased public awareness of the importance of landscape-scale conservation.

This multi-agency (NPS, Service, BLM, FS) and multi-year effort began with the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve Act, which provided for the acquisition of the Baca Ranch in 2004 and continued with the CO State Land Board Exchange in 2009. Proposed acquisitions would create an unfragmented core of protected lands, facilitating management efficiencies and conservation of resources across the landscape. These parcels would also connect to the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness Area of 220,000 acres and the Trinchera and Blanca Ranches, Service-donated conservation easements totaling 167,300 acres, for a total contiguous block of over 1.6 million acres. Acquiring the remaining 33,000 acres within the Upper Rio Grande landscape will create a 1.3-million acre contiguous block of protected lands.

The **Grasslands and Prairie Potholes** region is a tapestry of tallgrass, mixed-grass, and short-grass, interspersed with glaciated prairie wetlands, streams, and river corridors. For farm-dominated regions in North and South Dakota, this landscape supports the mid-continent breeding duck population and provides critical habitat for multiple threatened and endangered species, such as black-footed ferret, pallid sturgeon, prairie-fringed orchid, and piping plover. The area is home to grassland-dependent birds including marbled godwits, burrowing owls, and greater sage grouse.

Two threats dominate the conservation resources of this landscape: conversion to row-crop agriculture and energy development. With commodity prices at all-time highs, thousands of acres of grasslands and wetlands are being converted to agricultural and energy uses. Viewed collectively, this land conversion has resulted in a “Crisis on the Prairies”. Just as in the time preceding the Dust Bowl, land is being converted to agriculture, and marginal land used for grazing is being plowed, making it susceptible to erosion and instability as well as loss of wildlife habitats.

Cooperating partners share a common vision for this landscape that focuses on balancing agriculture, livestock ranching, and energy development with wetland and grassland conservation projects. Using science-based landscape-level planning tools developed by the Service Habitat and Population Evaluation Team (HAPET), geographic “focus areas” for wetland and grassland restoration/conservation projects have been identified. Conservation and restoration provide carbon storage, making carbon unavailable for dispersal to the surface waters or the atmosphere. In addition, restored and conserved habitats will improve wildlife connectivity, prevent habitat fragmentation, and enhance water quality and flood abatement.

Partner dollars will contribute to land acquisition as well as habitat restoration work. Partners include State Natural Resource agencies, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, and local governments and communities.

The mountains, valleys, and rivers of **High Divide** are a crucial wildlife lifeline along the spine of the continent in Idaho and Montana. Boundaries are defined by tracked movements of signature wildlife: elk, pronghorn, grizzly, wolverine, sage grouse, salmon, and grayling. The High Divide connection is landscape-scaled linkage in migratory corridors from Montana to Idaho, plus linkage between large core habitats in Yellowstone National Park and Idaho Wilderness.

Within the High Divide, Red Rock Lakes NWR ensures resiliency and connectivity of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Threatened and endangered plants, fish, and wildlife are protected, as are forests. The project focuses on strategic acquisition of conservation easements on ranch lands from willing sellers, to meet multiple goals. Working ranches are central to the region’s economy and culture as a way of life, and conserve many of the resources targeted within the High Divide.

FY 2015 Land Acquisition - Discretionary <i>(Dollars in thousands)</i>				
		Land Protection Planning	\$465	
		Acquisition Management	\$12,613	
		Inholding/Emergencies/Hardships	\$5,351	
		Exchanges	\$1,500	
		Subtotal, Land Acquisition - Discretionary	\$19,929	
Rank	State	Collaborative Landscape/Project Name or Core Project Name	FY 2015 Budget Request	Acres
1		California Desert SW		
	CA	San Diego NWR	<u>\$5,000</u>	<u>100</u>
		<i>Subtotal, California Desert SW</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>	<i>100</i>
2	ND/SD	Dakota Tallgrass Prairie Wildlife Management Area	\$3,000	6,122
3	ND/SD	Dakota Grassland Conservation Area	\$7,000	15,555
4		National Trails System		
	VA	Rappahanock River NWR	<u>\$2,000</u>	<u>148</u>
		<i>Subtotal, National Trails System</i>	<i>\$2,000</i>	<i>148</i>
5	MT	Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Area	\$2,000	5,277
6	FL	Everglades Headwaters NWR & Conservation Area	\$3,000	600
7	AR	Cache River NWR	\$1,071	523
8	CT/MA/ NH/VT	Silvio O. Conte NFWR	\$2,000	779
9		Florida-Georgia Long Leaf Pine		
	FL	St. Marks NWR	\$6,000	2,400
	GA	Okefenokee NWR	<u>\$4,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>
		<i>Subtotal, Florida-Georgia Long Leaf Pine</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>	<i>4,400</i>
		Core Projects	\$18,071	28,856
		<i>Collaborative Landscape Planning Projects</i>	<i>\$17,000</i>	<i>4,648</i>
		Subtotal, Land Acquisition Discretionary Projects	\$35,071	33,504
		Total, Fish and Wildlife Land Acquisition - Discretionary	\$55,000	33,504

FY 2015 Land Acquisition – Mandatory				
<i>(Dollars in thousands)</i>				
		Land Protection Planning	\$3,000	
		Acquisition Management	\$12,000	
		Inholding/Emergencies/Hardships	\$3,000	
		Exchanges	\$1,000	
		Sportsman/Recreational Access	\$2,500	
		Subtotal, Land Acquisition – Mandatory	\$21,500	
Rank	State	Collaborative Landscape/Project Name or Core Project Name	FY 2015 Budget Request	Acres
10		California Desert SW		
	CA	San Diego NWR	<u>\$6,770</u>	<u>225</u>
		<i>Subtotal, California Desert SW</i>	<i>\$6,770</i>	<i>225</i>
11	ND/SD	Dakota Tallgrass Prairie Wildlife Management Area	\$3,887	7,932
12	ND/SD	Dakota Grassland Conservation Area	\$7,000	15,555
13		National Trails System		
	VA	Rappahanock River NWR	\$3,560	264
	ID	Grays Lake NWR	\$3,500	4,342
	AK	Innoko NWR	\$100	120
	WA	Ridgefield NWR	\$500	126
	TN	Chickasaw NWR	<u>\$3,000</u>	<u>1,153</u>
		<i>Subtotal, National Trails System</i>	<i>\$10,660</i>	<i>6,005</i>
14	FL	Everglades Headwaters NWR & Conservation Area	\$5,000	998
15	AR	Cache River NWR	\$2,000	740
16	CT/MA/ NH/VT	Silvio O. Conte NFWR	\$3,000	2,025
17	CA	San Joaquin River NWR	\$1,000	90
18		Florida-Georgia Long Leaf Pine		
	FL	St. Marks NWR	<u>\$19,049</u>	<u>7,732</u>
		<i>Subtotal, Florida-Georgia Long Leaf Pine</i>	<i>\$19,049</i>	<i>7,732</i>
19	CA	Grasslands WMA	\$1,000	133
20	ID/UT /WY	Bear River Watershed Conservation Area	\$2,000	2,469
21		South Carolina Long Leaf Pine		
	SC	ACE Basin NWR	\$2,500	820
	SC	Waccamaw NWR	\$1,766	622
	SC	Santee NWR	\$3,000	410
	GA	Cape Romain NWR	\$2,986	284
	SC	Carolina Sandhills NWR	<u>\$1,000</u>	<u>570</u>
		<i>Subtotal, South Carolina Long Leaf Pine</i>	<i>\$11,252</i>	<i>2,706</i>

Rank	State	Collaborative Landscape/Project Name or Core Project Name	FY 2015 Budget Request	Acres
22	KS	Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Area	\$1,000	2,000
23	TX	Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR	\$2,000	714
24	Upper Rio Grande			
	CO	Baca NWR	<u>\$2,654</u>	<u>5,134</u>
	<i>Subtotal, Upper Rio Grande</i>		<i>\$2,654</i>	<i>5,134</i>
25	TX	Balcones Canyonlands NWR	\$1,000	320
26	MN/IA	Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR	\$500	150
27	Grasslands/Prairie Potholes			
	ND/SD	Dakota Tallgrass Prairie Wildlife Management Area	\$3,000	6,122
	ND/SD	Dakota Grasslands Conservation Area	<u>\$7,500</u>	<u>15,555</u>
	<i>Subtotal, Grasslands/Prairie Potholes</i>		<i>\$10,500</i>	<i>21,677</i>
28	WA	Willapa NWR	\$1,000	590
29	High Divide			
	MT/ID	Red Rock Lakes NWR	<u>\$1,000</u>	<u>2,304</u>
	<i>Subtotal, High Divide</i>		<i>\$1,000</i>	<i>2,304</i>
Subtotal, Core Projects			\$30,387	33,716
<i>Subtotal, Collaborative Landscape Planning Projects</i>			<i><u>\$61,885</u></i>	<i><u>45,783</u></i>
Subtotal, Land Acquisition Mandatory Projects			\$92,272	79,499
Total, Fish and Wildlife Land Acquisition - Mandatory			\$113,772	79,499

CALIFORNIA SOUTHWEST DESERTS
San Diego NWR
California

DISCRETIONARY

Acquisition Authority: Endangered Species Act of 1973
Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

FY 2015 Priority Rank: No. 1 of 9

Location: Approximately 15 miles east of the City of San Diego

Congressional Districts: California, Districts 50, 51, and 52 **FWS Region 8**

Total LWCF Appropriations: \$33,427,904

FY 2015 Budget Request: **\$5,000,000**

Acquisition Status:

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	55	5,003	\$30,363,320	\$6,069
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	5	2	\$0	\$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	13	4,165	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	6	2,250	\$1,700,000	\$756
Partner Contributions through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2013	79	11,420	\$32,063,320	\$2,808
Planned FY 2014	0	0	\$0	\$0
Proposed FY 2015	16	100	\$5,000,000	\$50,000
Remaining	418	26,373	\$52,936,680	\$2,007
Totals	513	37,893	\$90,000,000	\$2,375

Purpose of Acquisition: The California Southwest Deserts focal area comprises Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and the west half of Imperial Counties in California. Less than a day's drive from 40 million people, the area has extensive wildlife corridors, miles of national scenic and historic trails, and 72 federally protected species. Rich in biodiversity and recreational opportunity, the landscape is also suffering from increasing demands (e.g., energy development and urban growth), which impact these unique resources. The community's conservation goals are rooted in years of partnership between government agencies and NGOs, and are informed by multiple conservation and recreation plans.

Project Cooperators: The Nature Conservancy, Friends of San Diego NWR, Conservation Biology Institute, public and private partners that participate in the State of California's Natural Communities Conservation Planning Program and the San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP).

Project Description: Funds would acquire fee title to approximately 100 acres of land in four tracts within San Diego National Wildlife Refuge, consisting of largely undisturbed coastal sage, chaparral, and riparian habitats. Acquisition of these tracts would extend the Service's successful efforts with more than a dozen local jurisdictions, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and many private landowners to protect over 172,000 acres of natural habitat within a 582,000-acre planning area. Acquisition of these mountainous upland tracts would assist in recovery efforts by providing opportunities to protect and restore habitat by creating a buffer from surrounding high-density development and limiting off-road

access. Refuge land acquisitions not only help meet natural resource goals, but also may reduce the need to list additional species under Federal and State laws. These include species such as the coastal California gnatcatcher, Otay tarplant, and Quino checkerspot butterfly.

O&M: The Service anticipates no additional operations or maintenance costs associated with this acquisition because the tracts are located within the Refuge boundaries and would add no additional workload.

DAKOTA TALLGRASS PRAIRIE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA DISCRETIONARY

North Dakota and South Dakota

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

FY 2015 Priority Rank: No. 2 of 9

Location: Northeastern South Dakota and southeastern North Dakota

Congressional Districts: North Dakota, At Large **FWS Region 6**
South Dakota, At Large

Total LWCF Appropriations: \$10,173,750 (Includes Title V funds)

FY 2015 Budget Request: \$3,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	\$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	201	62,852	\$9,590,414	\$153
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	1	8	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	1	160	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	1	12	\$0	\$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2013	204	63,032	\$9,590,414	\$152
Planned FY 2014	0	0	0	\$0
Proposed FY 2015 (easement)	24	6,122	\$3,000,000	\$490
Remaining	Multi	120,846	\$53,888,426	\$446
Totals	Multi	190,000	\$66,478,840	\$350

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect the northern tallgrass prairie ecosystem and associated wildlife.

Project Cooperators: The Nature Conservancy and the local community.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire perpetual conservation easements on approximately 6,122 acres of tallgrass prairie from willing sellers. Tallgrass prairie once covered 90 percent of the Dakotas, but less than three percent remains. Habitat fragmentation and conversion to crop production are the primary threats to this ecosystem. The Service plans to use grassland easements to protect 190,000 acres of the remaining tallgrass prairie in the eastern Dakotas, including 25,000 acres in North Dakota and 165,000 acres in South Dakota. These easement acquisitions will help to maintain traditional ranching operations while fostering landscape-level conservation.

The project area has a rich variety of plant and wildlife species, including more than 147 species of breeding birds ranging from neotropical migrants to waterfowl. Several candidate endangered species use the tallgrass prairie ecosystem, including Baird’s sparrow, loggerhead shrike, ferruginous hawk, and rare butterflies such as the Dakota skipper. These large blocks of grasslands help to buffer prairie ecosystems from agricultural chemicals and invasive species, and provide the natural habitat mosaic required by prairie-dependent species. Existing prairie is a well-documented store of terrestrial carbon. Preventing conversion of tallgrass prairie with grassland easements ensures continued sequestration of this carbon.

O&M: The Service anticipates spending a minimal amount for annual compliance over-flights, estimated at less than \$1,500 per year, which the Service would fund out of NWRS base funding.

DAKOTA GRASSLAND CONSERVATION AREA
North Dakota and South Dakota

DISCRETIONARY

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

FY 2015 Priority Rank: No. 3 of 9

Location: North Dakota and South Dakota, east of Missouri River

Congressional Districts: North Dakota, At Large **FWS Region 6**
 South Dakota, At Large

Total LWCF Appropriations: \$12,150,000

FY 2015 Budget Request: \$7,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost*	\$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Easement through FY 2013*	26	9,639	\$3,751,178	\$389
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	1	1,071	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2013	27	10,710	\$3,751,178	\$350
Planned FY 2014	57	23,053	\$8,650,000	\$375
Proposed FY 2015 (easements)	39	15,555	\$7,000,000	\$450
Remaining	Multi	1,890,682	\$568,598,822	\$301
Totals	Multi	1,940,000	\$588,000,000	\$303

* Includes Migratory Bird Conservation Fund funding and incidental costs.

Purpose of Acquisition: Purchase perpetual wetland and grassland easements to protect wildlife habitats of native grassland and associated wetlands located in the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR).

Project Cooperators: North Dakota Game & Fish Department, North Dakota Natural Resources Trust, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, South Dakota Grassland Coalition, and private landowners.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire perpetual conservation easements on approximately 15,555 acres from willing sellers. The PPR ecosystem consists of native mixed-grass prairie intermingled with high densities of temporary, seasonal, semi-permanent, and permanent wetlands that support breeding habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, grassland birds, and the endangered piping plover. Habitat fragmentation and loss due to conversion of wetlands and grasslands to cropland are the primary threats to wildlife species in the PPR. With the protection afforded by perpetual easements, this highly productive, yet fragile, ecosystem will remain intact, preserving habitat where biological communities will flourish. Acquisition of these easements would help to maintain traditional farming and ranching operations while fostering landscape-scale conservation.

O&M: The Service anticipates spending a minimal amount for annual compliance over-flights, estimated at less than \$8,000 per year, which the Service would fund out of NWRS base funding.

**NATIONAL TRAILS
Rappahannock River NWR
Virginia**

DISCRETIONARY

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, Refuge Recreation Act of 1962, Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980

FY 2015 Priority Rank: No. 4 of 9

Location: Virginia

Congressional Districts: Virginia, District 1 **FWS Regions 5**

Total LWCF Appropriations: \$15,628,500

FY 2014 Budget Request: \$2,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	20	5,461	\$12,629,536	\$2,313
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	7	1,918	\$4,277,034	\$2,230
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	2	1,339	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2013	29	8,718	\$16,906,570	\$1,939
Planned FY 2014	1	104	\$1,400,000	\$13,462
Proposed FY 2015	1	148	\$2,000,000	\$13,514
Remaining	20	11,030	\$33,093,430	\$3,000
Totals	51	20,000	\$53,400,000	\$2,670

Purpose of Acquisition: The National Scenic and Historic Trails are physical and cultural corridors traversing 49 States and every ecological biome in the U.S. These long distance trails, stretching for hundreds or thousands of miles each, connect with 70 NWRs, 80 national parks, 90 national forests, and 100 major metropolitan areas. As they pass through or alongside NWRs, they protect crucial conservation areas, provide wildlife migration corridors, and offer tremendous public recreational opportunities and viewsheds. This request would be directed to Rappahannock River NWR (VA).

Project Cooperators: State of Virginia, The Nature Conservancy.

Project Description: Funds would acquire fee title in a phased acquisition totaling 148 acres in the Fones Cliff area of the Rappahannock River NWR, which will add to the Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT. These forested bluffs reach heights of nearly 100 feet above the river shore and support high concentrations of bald eagles throughout the year. Surveys conducted by boat during winter months show the highest densities of eagles, ranging from 141 to 395 along a 30-mile stretch, with Fones Cliff consistently supporting dozens of birds.

Many other migratory bird species use the forests, swamps, and steep ravines found on the property, including several Service or State species of conservation concern. They include the Louisiana waterthrush, ovenbird, prothonotary warbler, Kentucky warbler, worm-eating warbler, yellow-throated

vireo, wood thrush, scarlet tanager, chuck-will's widow, and whip-poor-will, all of which are confirmed breeders on the Refuge.

Overlooking a key freshwater segment of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT, the 252-acre Fones Cliff project provides an opportunity for a spectacular interpretive site overlooking the Rappahannock River. State help for protection is anticipated along with \$20,000 in funds for administrative costs. Seventy-five million dollars has already been invested for conservation of the lower Rappahannock Valley.

O&M: The Service estimates total initial costs of \$104,000 for fence removal, posting, new fencing, and trail clearing, plus development of the trail head and kiosks for the trails. The Service would fund initial costs out of NWRS base funding.

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT CONSERVATION AREA
Montana**

DISCRETIONARY

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956
FY 2015 Priority Rank: No. 5 of 9
Location: 65 miles northwest of Great Falls, MT, and 55 miles east of Missoula
Congressional Districts: Montana At Large **FWS Region 6**
Total LWCF Appropriations: \$26,993,081
FY 2015 Budget Request: \$2,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	\$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	12	46,556	\$18,847,872	\$405
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	9	14,196	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	1	2,613	\$1,108,500	\$424
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2013	22	63,365	\$19,956,372	\$315
Planned FY 2014	4	16,325	\$8,385,000	\$546
Proposed FY 2015 (easements)	1	5,277	\$2,000,000	\$379
Remaining	64	208,717	\$118,910,684	\$570
Totals	91	293,684	\$149,252,056	\$508

Purpose of Acquisition: To provide for long-term viability of fish and wildlife habitat on a large landscape in Montana. Acquisition of perpetual conservation easements conserves habitat where existing biological communities are functioning well and maintains the traditional rural economies, for present and future generations of Americans.

Project Cooperators: The Conservation Fund/Mellon Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Rocky Mountain Front Landowner Advisory Group, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Lewis & Clark County Commissioners, Montana DNRC, Montana Wilderness Association, and Montana Audubon Society.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire perpetual conservation easements on approximately 5,277 acres along the Rocky Mountain Front Conservation in Montana. These lands border existing protected land (owned by the State of Montana, The Nature Conservancy, or other Federal agencies) and include important habitat for grizzly bear, gray wolf, lynx, long-billed curlew, grasshopper sparrow, burrowing owl, and chestnut-collared longspur. The Rocky Mountain Front CA is considered to be one of the best remaining intact ecosystems left in the Lower 48, and supports nearly every wildlife species described by Lewis and Clark in 1806, with the exception of free-ranging bison. There is increasing pressure to subdivide and develop these landscapes for second home development and commercial uses. Protecting these tracts with conservation easements would prevent habitat fragmentation and conserve trust species habitat in one of America’s best remaining intact ecosystems.

O&M: The Service estimates that annual monitoring and inspection of the easement acres would require approximately \$8,000 annually, which the Service would fund out of NWRS base funding.

**EVERGLADES HEADWATERS NWR AND CONSERVATION AREA DISCRETIONARY
Florida**

Acquisition Authority: Land and Water Conservation Fund of 1965
Endangered Species Act of 1973

FY 2015 Priority Rank: No. 6 of 9

Location: Approximately 50 miles south of Orlando and 75 miles east of Tampa, in the counties of Polk, Osceola, Okeechobee, and Highlands

Congressional Districts: Florida, Districts 12, 15, and 16 **FWS Region 4**

Total LWCF Appropriations: \$4,500,000

FY 2015 Budget Request: \$3,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	\$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	1	10	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2013	1	10	\$0	\$0
Planned FY 2014 *	4	2,525	\$9,500,000	\$3,762
Proposed FY 2015	1	600	\$3,000,000	\$5,000
Remaining (fee)	Multi	48,365	\$193,460,000	\$4,000
Remaining (easement)	Multi	98,500	\$270,875,000	\$2,750
Totals	Multi	150,000	\$476,835,000	\$3,179

* The Service will use FY 2014 funds to acquire 625 fee acres and 1,500 easement acres. A 400-fee acre donation will accompany these acquisitions.

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect, restore, and conserve habitat for 278 Federal and State listed species, including Florida panther, Florida black bear, Audubon’s crested caracara, Florida scrub jay, red-cockaded woodpecker, whooping crane, Everglades snail kite, and, most significantly, protect habitat for the Florida grasshopper sparrow, a federally endangered endemic species.

Project Cooperators: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, South Florida Water Management District, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Division of State Lands, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, U. S. Air Force, Avon Park Air Force Range, The Nature Conservancy, National Wildlife Refuge Association, Florida Cattlemen’s Association, and Florida Farm Bureau.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire fee title to 600 acres from a willing seller. The acquisition would help protect a large landscape of diverse and high-quality habitats, including habitat for the federally endangered Florida grasshopper sparrow. Acquisitions would protect, restore, and conserve the headwaters, groundwater recharge, and watershed of the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, and Lake Okeechobee region. This acquisition would improve water quantity and quality in the

Everglades watershed, complementing the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan goals, and protecting the water supply for millions of people.

O&M: The Service anticipates annual costs of up to \$25,000 for habitat management and restoration, including prescribed burning, hunting, and public use management.

CACHE RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
Arkansas

DISCRETIONARY

Acquisition Authority: Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986

FY 2015 Priority Rank: No. 7 of 9

Location: Adjacent to the White and Cache Rivers, 75 miles northeast of Little Rock

Congressional Districts: Arkansas, District 1 **FWS Region 4**

Total LWCF Appropriations: \$16,883,213

FY 2015 Budget Request: \$1,071,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	\$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	111	68,635	\$60,201,338	\$877
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	7	2,155	\$134,000	\$62
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	2	945	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	1	0	\$115,000	\$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2013	121	71,735	\$60,450,338	\$843
Planned FY 2014	0	0	\$0	\$0
Proposed FY 2015	1	523	\$1,071,000	\$2,048
Remaining	348	112,719	\$234,605,460	\$2,081
Totals	470	184,977	\$296,126,798	\$1,601

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect fisheries and wildlife resources and provide public access to Refuge lands.

Project Cooperators: The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, Ducks Unlimited, and Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire fee title to approximately 523 acres from one willing seller. The tract contains row crop agriculture, bottomland hardwood forest, moist soils units, and bald cypress-tupelo swamps. Acquisition of these tracts would contribute greatly to the Service’s habitat conservation efforts in the Cache River project area, which encompasses some of the largest remaining expanses of forested wetlands on any tributary within the Mississippi Alluvial Valley. The Refuge project area is considered the most important wintering area for mallards in North America, and one of the most important for pintail and teal, Canada geese, and other migratory waterfowl. Forest and wetland restoration on these tracts would facilitate carbon sequestration, provide surrogate species habitat, and fulfill national and State conservation plan goals.

O&M: The Service estimates initial costs of \$6,000 for posting and fencing, which the Service would fund from Refuge System base funding. Annual costs would be less than \$500 for maintenance.

SILVIO O. CONTE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE REFUGE
Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Vermont

DISCRETIONARY

Acquisition Authority: The Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge Act (P.L.102-212)

FY 2015 Priority Rank: No. 8 of 9

Location: Within the Connecticut River Watershed located in CT, MA, NH, and VT

Congressional Districts: Connecticut, Districts 1, 2, and 3
 Massachusetts, Districts 1 and 2
 New Hampshire, District 2
 Vermont, At Large
FWS Region 5

Total LWCF Appropriations: \$30,081,328

FY 2015 Budget Request: \$ 2,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee Through FY 2013	79	35,691	\$30,013,806	\$841
Acquired Easement Through FY 2013	2	169	\$126,000	\$746
Acquired Exchange Through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation Through FY 2013	5	125	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means Through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through 2013	86	35,985	\$30,139,806	\$838
Planned FY 2014	3	770	\$1,262,000	\$1,639
Proposed FY 2015	15	779	\$2,000,000	\$2,567
Remaining	1,906	41,373	37,098,194	\$897
Totals	2,010	78,907	\$70,500,000	\$893

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect fisheries and wildlife resources and provide public access to Refuge lands.

Project Cooperators: The Trust for Public Land, The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, the Kestrel Land Trust, the Middlesex Land Trust, and the National Wildlife Refuge Association.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire fee title to approximately 779 acres in seven Refuge divisions located within the Connecticut River watershed. Acquisition of approximately 40 acres within the Refuge’s Fort River Division (MA) would benefit a large grassland project for grassland species, the endangered dwarf wedge mussel, and anadromous fish. The Service would also acquire 159 acres of riparian habitat within the Westfield River Division (MA). Acquisition of 529 acres of northern boreal forest will include 164 acres in the Nulhegan Basin Division (VT) and 365 acres in the Pondicherry and Mohawk River Divisions (NH), and will protect nesting songbird habitat and provide public opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation. The Service would acquire 51 total acres in the Refuge’s Whalebone Cove and Salmon River Divisions (CT), which contain extensive freshwater tidal marshes used by migrating and wintering waterfowl.

Acquisition of these tracts, in partnership with others, would enhance connectivity across area, elevation, latitude, aspect, and process within the 1.8 million acre Connecticut River watershed. Improving connectivity across the landscape would better position waterfowl (27 species), other migratory birds (247 species), and threatened and endangered species (9 species) for anticipated changes resulting from climate change, providing potential opportunities for species emigration and adaptation as habitats change in temperature, precipitation, and water levels. Connecting lands under Refuge stewardship within an extensive and expanding conservation mosaic would also promote representation, redundancy, and resiliency within the watershed. These project features provide a robust foundation for nationally significant and vital wildlife habitat that will sustain high quality opportunities for wildlife-dependent outdoor recreation for current and future generations of Americans. Each of the proposed acquisitions makes clear and valuable contributions to each of the six legislated purposes for the Refuge while strategically integrating Service investments into the larger landscape.

O&M: The Service anticipates minimal additional costs associated with these acquisitions because the parcels are located within the Refuge boundary and would create no additional workload.

FLORIDA-GEORGIA LONGLEAF INITIATIVE
St. Marks and Okefenokee NWRs
Florida and Georgia

DISCRETIONARY

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

FY 2015 Priority Rank: No. 9 of 9

Location: In the Florida Panhandle, 24 miles south of Tallahassee; 11 miles southwest of Folkston, GA

Congressional Districts: Florida, District 4
 Georgia, District 1 **FWS Region 4**

Total LWCF Appropriations: \$10,287,288

FY 2015 Budget Request: \$10,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	140	434,009	\$10,828,484	\$25
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	13	329	\$0	\$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	19	14,170	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	13	24,398	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	5	1,994	\$0	\$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2013	190	474,900	\$10,828,484	\$23
Planned FY 2014	2	1,913	\$4,616,069	\$2,413
Proposed FY 2015	2	4,400	\$10,000,000	\$2,273
Remaining	Multi	91,363	\$201,406,500	\$2,204
Totals	Multi	572,576	\$226,851,053	\$396

Purpose of Acquisition: To conserve populations of threatened, endangered, rare, and imperiled plants and animals, and their native longleaf pine habitats; to restore former slash pine plantations to native longleaf pine; to provide suitable black bear habitat, including corridors to link to critical habitat for major population centers; to provide high-quality habitat for migratory birds, shorebirds, waterbirds, and marshbirds; and to provide public opportunities for hunting, fishing, and other wildlife-dependent recreation.

Project Cooperators: Sam Shine Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Florida Chapter of Wildlife Society, The Florida Natural Areas Inventory, St. Marks Refuge Association, Florida Trail Association, Blue Goose Alliance, Apalachee Audubon Society, and Florida Wildlife Federation.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire 4,400 fee acres including a portion of a multi-year 519-acre acquisition from a willing seller at St. Marks NWR and a one-mile, wildfire-resilient wildlife conservation zone around the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. Acquisition would benefit Federally-listed endangered species such as red-cockaded woodpecker, woodstork, and flatwood salamanders, as well as a variety of other resident and migratory species. Also, acquisition would help to preserve a tapestry of Federal, State, and private forest lands that provide more than a million acres of

unfragmented habitat for a variety of federally-listed endangered and threatened species. The project is located in a designated Important Bird Area and a Land Management Research and Demonstration Site for Longleaf Pine Ecosystems Funds, and is a key segment of the Florida National Scenic Trail.

O&M: The Service anticipates annual costs of up to \$100,000 for habitat management and restoration, including prescribed burning, hunting, and public use management. Acquisition may produce efficiency improvements in Service law enforcement and boundary posting, which would reduce these costs. Costs associated with restoration work could be offset by hunting fees or outside funding.

CALIFORNIA SOUTHWEST DESERTS
San Diego NWR
California

MANDATORY

Acquisition Authority: Endangered Species Act of 1973
Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

FY 2015 Priority Rank: No. 1 of 20

Location: Approximately 15 miles east of the City of San Diego

Congressional Districts: California, Districts 50, 51, and 52 **FWS Region 8**

Total LWCF Appropriations: \$33,427,904

FY 2014 Budget Request: \$6,770,000

Acquisition Status:

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	55	5,003	\$30,363,320	\$6,069
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	5	2	\$0	\$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	13	4,165	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	6	2,250	\$1,700,000	\$756
Partner Contributions through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2013	79	11,420	\$32,063,320	\$2,808
Planned FY 2014	0	0	\$0	\$0
Proposed FY 2015	16	225	\$6,770,000	\$30,089
Remaining	418	26,248	\$51,166,680	\$1,949
Totals	513	37,893	\$90,000,000	\$2,375

Purpose of Acquisition: The Southwest Deserts in California focal area comprises of Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and the west half of Imperial Counties in California. Less than a day's drive from 40 million people, the area has extensive wildlife corridors, miles of national scenic and historic trails, and 72 federally-protected species. Rich in biodiversity and recreational opportunity, the landscape is also suffering from increasing demands (e.g., energy development and urban growth), which impact these unique resources. The community's conservation goals are rooted in years of partnership between government agencies and NGOs, and are informed by multiple conservation and recreation plans.

Project Cooperators: The Nature Conservancy, Friends of San Diego National Wildlife Refuge, Conservation Biology Institute, Public and private partners that participate in the State of California's Natural Communities Conservation Planning Program and the San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP).

Project Description: Funds would acquire fee title to approximately 225 acres of land within San Diego National Wildlife Refuge, consisting of four tracts with 45 acres of largely undisturbed coastal sage, chaparral, and riparian habitats. Acquisition of these tracts would extend the Service's successful efforts with more than a dozen local jurisdictions, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and many private landowners to protect over 172,000 acres of natural habitat within a 582,000-acre planning area.

Acquisition of these mountainous upland tracts would assist in recovery efforts by providing opportunities to protect and restore habitat by creating a buffer from surrounding high-density development and limiting off-road access. Refuge land acquisitions not only help meet natural resource goals, but also may reduce the need to list additional species under Federal and State laws. These include species such as the coastal California gnatcatcher, Otoy tarplant, and Quino checkerspot butterfly.

O&M: The Service anticipates no additional operations or maintenance costs associated with this acquisition because the tracts are located within the Refuge boundaries and would add no additional workload.

DAKOTA TALLGRASS PRAIRIE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA MANDATORY

North Dakota and South Dakota

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

FY 2015 Priority Rank: No. 2 of 20

Location: Northeastern South Dakota and southeastern North Dakota

Congressional Districts: North Dakota, At Large **FWS Region 6**
 South Dakota, At Large

Total LWCF Appropriations: \$10,173,750 (Includes Title V funds)

FY 2015 Budget Request: \$3,887,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	\$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	201	62,852	\$9,590,414	\$153
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	1	8	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	1	160	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	1	12	\$0	\$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2013	204	63,032	\$9,590,414	\$152
Planned FY 2014	0	0	\$0	\$0
Proposed FY 2015 (easement)	Multi	7,932	\$3,887,000	\$490
Remaining	Multi	119,036	\$53,001,426	\$445
Totals	Multi	190,000	\$66,478,840	\$350

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect the northern tallgrass prairie ecosystem and associated wildlife.

Project Cooperators: The Nature Conservancy and the local community.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire perpetual conservation easements on approximately 7,932 acres of tallgrass prairie from willing sellers. Tallgrass prairie once covered 90 percent of the Dakotas, but less than three percent remains. Habitat fragmentation and conversion to crop production are the primary threats to this ecosystem. The Service plans to use grassland easements to protect 190,000 acres of the remaining tallgrass prairie in the eastern Dakotas, including 25,000 acres in North Dakota and 165,000 acres in South Dakota. These easement acquisitions will help to maintain traditional ranching operations while fostering landscape-level conservation.

The project area has a rich variety of plant and wildlife species, including more than 147 species of breeding birds ranging from neotropical migrants to waterfowl. Several candidate endangered species use the tallgrass prairie ecosystem, including Baird’s sparrow, loggerhead shrike, and ferruginous hawk, and rare butterflies such as the Dakota skipper. These large blocks of grasslands help to buffer prairie ecosystems from agricultural chemicals and invasive species, and provide the natural habitat mosaic required by prairie-dependent species. Existing prairie is a well-documented store of terrestrial carbon. Preventing conversion of tallgrass prairie with grassland easements ensures continued sequestration of this carbon.

O&M: The Service anticipates spending a minimal amount for annual compliance over-flights, estimated at less than \$1,500 per year, which the Service would fund out of NWRS base funding.

DAKOTA GRASSLAND CONSERVATION AREA
North Dakota and South Dakota

MANDATORY

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

FY 2015 Priority Rank: No. 3 of 20

Location: North Dakota and South Dakota, east of Missouri River

Congressional Districts: North Dakota, At Large **FWS Region 6**
 South Dakota, At Large

Total LWCF Appropriations: \$12,150,000

FY 2015 Budget Request: \$7,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost*	\$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Easement through FY 2013*	26	9,639	\$3,751,178	\$389
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	1	1,071	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2013	27	10,710	\$3,751,178	\$350
Planned FY 2014	Multi	23,053	\$8,650,000	\$375
Proposed FY 2015 (easements)	39	15,555	\$7,000,000	\$450
Remaining	Multi	1,890,682	568,598,822	\$301
Totals	Multi	1,940,000	\$588,000,000	\$303

* Includes Migratory Bird Conservation Fund funding and incidental costs.

Purpose of Acquisition: Purchase perpetual wetland and grassland easements to protect wildlife habitats of native grassland and associated wetlands located in the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR).

Project Cooperators: North Dakota Game & Fish Department, North Dakota Natural Resources Trust, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, South Dakota Grassland Coalition, and private landowners.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire perpetual conservation easements on approximately 15,555 acres from willing sellers. The PPR ecosystem consists of native mixed-grass prairie intermingled with high densities of temporary, seasonal, semi-permanent, and permanent wetlands that support breeding habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, grassland birds, and the endangered piping plover. Habitat fragmentation and loss due to conversion of wetlands and grasslands to cropland are the primary threat to wildlife species in the PPR. With the protection afforded by perpetual easements, this highly productive, yet fragile, ecosystem will remain intact, preserving habitat where biological communities will flourish. Acquisition of these easements would help to maintain traditional farming and ranching operations while fostering landscape-scape conservation.

O&M: The Service anticipates spending a minimal amount for annual compliance over-flights, estimated at less than \$8,000 per year, which the Service would fund out of NWRS base funding.

NATIONAL TRAILS MANDATORY

**Innoko National Wildlife Refuge, Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Rappahannock River National Wildlife Refuge, Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, and Chickasaw National Wildlife Refuge
Alaska, Idaho, Tennessee, Virginia, and Washington**

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, Refuge Recreation Act of 1962, Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980, Migratory Bird Conservation Act, and Refuge Recreation Act of 1962

FY 2015 Priority Rank: No. 4 of 20

Location: Alaska, Idaho, Tennessee, Virginia, and Washington

Congressional Districts: Alaska, District 1, **FWS Regions 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7**
Idaho, District 32,
Tennessee District 8,
Virginia, District 1, and
Washington, District 3

Total LWCF Appropriations: \$15,628,500

FY 2014 Budget Request: \$10,660,000

Acquisition Status:

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres**</u>	<u>Cost*</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	77	36,043	\$44,590,019	\$1,237
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	26	4,341	\$4,285,927	\$987
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	1	27	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	5	1,738	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	6	18,468	\$381	\$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2013	115	60,617	\$48,876,327	\$806
Planned FY 2014	0	0	\$0	\$0
Proposed FY 2015	24	6,005	\$10,660,000	\$1,775
Remaining	327	71,820	\$221,001,308	\$3,077
Totals	466	138,442	\$280,537,635	\$2,026

*Price per acre includes the cost of acre/feet of water.

**80 acres reserved from public domain; 13,000 acres acquired through agreement

Purpose of Acquisition: The National Scenic and Historic Trails are physical and cultural corridors traversing 49 States and every ecological biome in the U.S. These long distance trails, stretching for hundreds or thousands of miles each, connect with 70 NWRs, 80 national parks, 90 national forests, and 100 major metropolitan areas. As they pass through or alongside NWRs, they protect crucial conservation areas, provide wildlife migration corridors, and offer tremendous public recreational opportunities and viewsheds. This request would be directed to four Refuge/trail acquisitions: the Iditarod NHT at the Innoko NWR (AK), the California NHT at the Grays Lake NWR (ID), the Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT at the Rappahannock River NWR (VA), the Lewis and Clark NHT at the Ridgefield NWR (WA), and the Trail of Tears at the Chickasaw NWR (TN).

Project Cooperators: State of Alaska Office of History and Archeology, State of Virginia, The Nature Conservancy, and Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency

Project Description: Funds would be used at Innoko NWR to acquire fee title to two Alaska Native allotments, USS 7347 and USS 7298. The Iditarod National Historic Trail runs through both USS 7298 and USS 7347. Both allotments border the Iditarod River and are within the Innoko NWR Wilderness Area. Acquisition of the allotments would place the property along the River and trail in conservation status ensuring protection of threatened and endangered plants, fish, and wildlife, including caribou, lynx, brown and black bear, wolverine, wolf, land otter, bald and golden eagles, osprey, and peregrine falcon. Additionally, the acquisitions would ensure that cover for terrestrial species that move along the River corridor and connectivity of terrestrial and watershed ecosystems would be preserved.

Funds would be used at Grays Lake NWR to acquire fee title to private landowners' interest in the lakebed of Grays Lake as well as associated uplands. Grays Lake NWR has the world's largest hardstem bulrush marsh and contains high elevation (6,400 ft.) montane wetlands, riparian inflows and outflows with willow shrublands, and sagebrush-steppe uplands. The Refuge hosts a large nesting population of greater sandhill cranes; as many as 1200 individuals are counted in the valley during migration and staging times, and attracts large numbers of ducks, Canada geese, and trumpeter swans, as well as providing important habitat for a variety of native plant and wildlife species.

The Refuge is in the shadow of the historic Caribou Mountain (9,803 feet). Grays Lake NWR provides breeding habitat for over 200 species of mammals, fish, amphibians, waterfowl, and other migratory birds. This acquisition would protect plants, fish, and wildlife, support working farms, ranches, and forests, and protect special landscapes, historic, and cultural resources. The California National Historic Trail which led over 250,000 gold-seekers to the gold fields of California during the 1840's and 1850's is located within the project area. The land surrounding the Refuge is managed by the private landowners, State of Idaho, BIA, BLM, and USFS.

Funds would acquire fee title in a phased acquisition totaling 252 acres in the Fones Cliff area of the Rappahannock River NWR. These forested bluffs reach heights of nearly 100 feet above the River shore and support high concentrations of bald eagles throughout the year. Surveys conducted by boat during winter months show the highest densities of eagles, ranging from 141 to 395 along a 30-mile stretch, with Fones Cliff consistently supporting dozens of birds.

Many other migratory bird species use the forests, swamps, and steep ravines found on the property, including several Service or State species of conservation concern. They include the Louisiana waterthrush, ovenbird, prothonotary warbler, Kentucky warbler, worm-eating warbler, yellow-throated vireo, wood thrush, scarlet tanager, chuck-will's widow, and whip-poor-will, all of which are confirmed breeders on the Refuge.

Overlooking a key freshwater segment of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT, the Fones Cliff project provides an opportunity for a spectacular interpretive site overlooking the Rappahannock River. State help for protection is anticipated along with \$20,000 in funds for administrative costs. Seventy-five million dollars has already been invested for conservation of the lower Rappahannock River Valley.

Funds for Ridgefield NWR would be used to acquire three parcels along the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail, as well as the Columbia River Water Trail, a 50-State AGO project. Lands along the lower Columbia River portion of the Lewis and Clark Trail would be acquired to protect wildlife habitat and lands similar to what the Corps of Discovery explorers encountered more than 200 years ago. These lands are within 25 miles of Portland, Oregon, and Vancouver, Washington. Acquisition would protect trail resources and access, and would also improve water quality and protect vital winter habitat for dusky

Canada geese and other species. Threats to this iconic landscape include residential and agricultural and commercial-industrial development.

The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail commemorates the 15,000 Cherokee people who were forced to walk hundreds of miles across nine States, from their ancestral homelands in Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama, to live in Indian Territory, now Oklahoma, in 1838-1839.

The requested funds would be used to acquire fee title to approximately 1,155 acres from six willing sellers. The tracts proposed for acquisition contain former bottomland hardwood forests now planted as row crops along a five-mile stretch of the Mississippi River in western Tennessee and designated as part of the national historical Trail of Tears. These tracts would be restored to bottomland hardwood forests; restoration would benefit not only cultural and historic resources, but also migratory birds, threatened and endangered species, and species of concern. Migratory birds include wintering waterfowl, bald eagles, and forest interior land birds. Endangered species include the least tern, pallid sturgeon, and Indiana bat. Species of concern include the cerulean warbler, Swainson's warbler, yellow-billed cuckoo, northern long-eared bat, alligator gar, American eel, paddlefish, and southern hickorynut mussel. All of the tracts proposed for acquisition are located within the approved acquisition boundary of Chickasaw NWR.

O&M: The Service estimates total initial costs of \$104,000 for fence removal, posting, new fencing, and trail clearing, plus development of the trail head and kiosks for the trails. The Service would fund initial costs out of NWRS base funding.

EVERGLADES HEADWATERS NWR AND CONSERVATION AREA MANDATORY Florida

Acquisition Authority: Land and Water Conservation Fund of 1965 and Endangered Species Act of 1973

FY 2015 Priority Rank: No. 5 of 20

Location: Approximately 50 miles south of Orlando and 75 miles east of Tampa, in the counties of Polk, Osceola, Okeechobee, and Highlands

Congressional Districts: Florida, Districts 12, 15, and 16 **FWS Region 4**

Total LWCF Appropriations: \$4,500,000

FY 2015 Budget Request: \$5,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	\$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	1	10	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2013	1	10	\$0	\$0
Planned FY 2014 *	4	2,525	\$9,500,000	\$3,762
Proposed FY 2015	1	998	\$5,000,000	\$5,010
Remaining (fee)	Multi	47,967	\$193,133,000	\$4,026
Remaining (easement)	Multi	98,500	\$272,875,000	\$2,770
Totals	Multi	150,000	\$480,508,000	\$3,203

* The Service will use FY 2014 funds to acquire 625 fee acres and 1,500 easement acres. A 400 fee-acre donation will accompany these acquisitions.

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect, restore, and conserve habitat for 278 Federal and State listed species, including Florida panther, Florida black bear, Audubon’s crested caracara, Florida scrub jay, red-cockaded woodpecker, whooping crane, Everglades snail kite, and, most significantly, protect habitat for the Florida grasshopper sparrow, a federally listed endangered endemic species.

Project Cooperators: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, South Florida Water Management District, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Division of State Lands, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, U.S. Air Force, Avon Park Air Force Range, The Nature Conservancy, National Wildlife Refuge Association, Florida Cattlemen’s Association, and Florida Farm Bureau.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire fee title to 998 acres from a willing seller. The acquisition would help protect a large landscape of diverse and high-quality habitats, including habitat for the federally listed endangered Florida grasshopper sparrow. Acquisitions would protect, restore, and conserve the headwaters, groundwater recharge, and watershed of the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, and Lake Okeechobee region. This acquisition would improve water quantity and

quality in the Everglades watershed, complementing the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan goals, and protecting the water supply for millions of people.

O&M: The Service anticipates annual costs of up to \$25,000 for habitat management and restoration, including prescribed burning, hunting, and public use management.

CACHE RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

MANDATORY

Arkansas

Acquisition Authority: Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986**FY 2015 Priority Rank:** No. 6 of 20**Location:** Adjacent to the White and Cache Rivers, 75 miles northeast of Little Rock**Congressional Districts:** Arkansas, District 1 **FWS Region 4****Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$16,883,213**FY 2015 Budget Request:** \$2,000,000**Acquisition Status:**

	Owners	Acres	Cost	\$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	111	68,635	\$60,201,338	\$877
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	7	2,155	\$134,000	\$62
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	2	945	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	1	0	\$115,000	\$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2013	121	71,735	\$60,450,338	\$843
Planned FY 2014	0	0	\$0	\$0
Proposed FY 2015	1	740	\$2,000,000	\$2,703
Remaining	348	112,502	\$233,676,460	\$2,077
Totals	470	184,977	\$296,126,798	\$1,601

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect fisheries and wildlife resources and provide public access to Refuge lands.**Project Cooperators:** The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, Ducks Unlimited, and Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.**Project Description:** Funds would be used to acquire fee title to approximately 740 acres from one willing seller. The tract contains row crop agriculture, bottomland hardwood forest, moist soils units, and bald cypress-tupelo swamps. Acquisition of these tracts would contribute greatly to the Service's habitat conservation efforts in the Cache River project area, which encompasses some of the largest remaining expanses of forested wetlands on any tributary within the Mississippi Alluvial Valley. The Refuge project area is considered the most important wintering area for mallards in North America, and one of the most important for pintail and teal ducks, Canada geese, and other migratory waterfowl. Forest and wetland restoration on these tracts would facilitate carbon sequestration, provide surrogate species habitat, and fulfill national and State conservation plan goals.**O&M:** The Service estimates initial costs of \$6,000 for posting and fencing, which the Service would fund from Refuge System base funding. Annual costs would be less than \$500 for maintenance.

SILVIO O. CONTE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE REFUGE **MANDATORY**
Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Vermont

Acquisition Authority: The Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge Act (P.L.102-212)

FY 2015 Priority Rank: No. 7 of 20

Location: Within the Connecticut River Watershed located in CT, MA, NH, and VT

Congressional Districts: Connecticut, Districts 1, 2, and 3 **FWS Region 5**
 Massachusetts, Districts 1 and 2
 New Hampshire, District 2
 Vermont, At Large

Total LWCF Appropriations: \$30,081,328

FY 2015 Budget Request: \$ 3,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	\$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	79	35,691	\$30,013,806	\$841
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	2	169	\$126,000	\$744
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	5	125	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through 2013	86	35,985	\$30,139,806	\$838
Planned FY 2014	3	770	\$1,262,000	\$1,639
Proposed FY 2015	11	2,025	\$3,000,000	\$1,481
Remaining ***	1,910	40,127	\$36,098,194	\$900
Totals	2,010	78,907	\$70,500,000	\$893

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect fisheries and wildlife resources and provide public access to Refuge lands.

Project Cooperators: The Trust for Public Land, The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, the Kestrel Land Trust, the Middlesex Land Trust, and the National Wildlife Refuge Association.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire fee title to approximately 2,025 acres in seven Refuge divisions located within the Connecticut River watershed. Acquisition of approximately 20 acres within the Refuge’s Fort River Division (MA) would benefit a large grassland project for grassland species, the endangered dwarf wedge mussel, and anadromous fish. The Service would also acquire 55 acres of riparian habitat within the Westfield River Division (MA). Acquisition of 1,876 acres of northern boreal forest, including 938 acres in the Nulhegan Basin Division (VT) and 938 acres in the Pondicherry and Mohawk River Divisions (NH), would protect nesting songbirds and provide public opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation. The Service would acquire 75 total acres in the Refuge’s Whalebone Cove and Salmon River Divisions (CT), which contain extensive freshwater tidal marshes used by migrating and wintering waterfowl.

Acquisition of these tracts, in partnership with others, would enhance connectivity across area, elevation, latitude, aspect, and process within the 1.8 million acre Connecticut River watershed landscape. Improving connectivity across the landscape would better position waterfowl (27 species), migratory birds (247 species), threatened and endangered (9 species) for anticipated changes resulting from climate change, providing potential opportunities for species emigration and adaptation as habitats respond to changes in temperature, precipitation, and water levels. Connecting lands under Refuge stewardship within an extensive and expanding conservation mosaic would also promote representation, redundancy, and resiliency within the watershed. These project features provide a robust foundation for nationally significant and vital wildlife habitat that will sustain high quality opportunities for wildlife-dependent outdoor recreation for current and future generations of Americans. Each of the proposed acquisitions makes clear and valuable contributions to each of the six legislated purposes for the Refuge while strategically integrating Service investments into the larger landscape.

O&M: The Service anticipates no additional costs associated with this acquisition because the parcel is located within the Refuge boundary and would create no additional workload.

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
California

MANDATORY

Acquisition Authority: Endangered Species Act 1973
FY 2015 Priority Rank: No. 8 of 20
Location: Approximately 10 miles west of Modesto, CA
Congressional Districts: California, District 18 **FWS Region 8**
Total LWCF Appropriations: \$19,843,600
FY 2015 Budget Request: \$1,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	Ownerships	Acres	Cost	\$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	8	7,148	\$25,725,448	\$3,599
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	4	4,240	\$24,718,346	\$5,830
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2013	12	11,388	\$50,443,794	\$4,430
Planned FY 2014	0	0	\$0	\$0
Proposed FY 2015	1	90	\$1,000,000	\$11,111
Remaining	4	2,437	\$18,556,206	\$7,614
Totals	17	13,915	\$70,000,000	\$5,031

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect native grasslands and wetlands that are essential for long-term survival of the Aleutian Canada goose, and to protect a large piece of riparian habitat valuable to a variety of wildlife species.

Project Cooperators: State of California CALFED Bay Delta Grant Program.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire a perpetual conservation easement on approximately 90 acres of predominantly native, irrigated pasture from a willing seller. The biggest threat to the Refuge is residential development and the conversion of grasslands and wetlands habitat to croplands and orchards that provide little or no benefit to wildlife. Acquisition of this conservation easement would provide long-term viability to the grassland and wetland ecosystem as well as provide a safe haven for migratory birds and other wildlife species.

O & M Costs: The interest to be acquired in the 90 acres is a perpetual conservation easement. For this reason there will be little to no long-term management costs associated with this acquisition

FLORIDA-GEORGIA LONGLEAF INITIATIVE
St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge
Florida

MANDATORY

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

FY 2015 Priority Rank: No. 9 of 20

Location: In the Florida Panhandle, 24 miles south of Tallahassee

Congressional Districts: Florida, District 4 **FWS Region 4**

Total LWCF Appropriations: \$10,287,288

FY 2015 Budget Request: \$19,048,667

Acquisition Status:

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	113	65,508	\$8,977,213	\$25
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	11	283	\$0	\$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	17	4,897	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	12	749	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	2	134	\$0	\$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2013	155	71,571	\$8,977,213	\$125
Planned FY 2014	1	915	\$2,207,895	\$2,413
Proposed FY 2015	2	7,732	\$19,048,667	\$2,464
Remaining	Multi	32,029	\$80,040,000	\$2,499
Totals	Multi	112,247	\$110,273,775	\$982

Purpose of Acquisition: To conserve populations of threatened, endangered, rare, and imperiled plants and animals, and their native longleaf pine habitats; to restore former slash pine plantations to native longleaf pine; to provide suitable black bear habitat, including corridors to link to critical habitat for major population centers; to provide high-quality habitat for migratory birds, shorebirds, waterbirds, and marshbirds; and to provide public opportunities for hunting, fishing, and other wildlife-dependent recreation.

Project Cooperators: Sam Shine Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Florida Chapter of Wildlife Society, The Florida Natural Areas Inventory, St. Marks Refuge Association, Florida Trail Association, Blue Goose Alliance, Apalachee Audubon Society, and Florida Wildlife Federation.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire 7,732 fee acres including a portion of a multi-year 519-acre acquisition from a willing seller at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. Acquisition would benefit federally-listed endangered species such as red-cockaded woodpecker, woodstork, and flatwood salamanders, as well as a variety of other resident and migratory species. Also, acquisition would help to preserve a tapestry of Federal, State, and private forest lands that provide more than a million acres of unfragmented habitat for a variety of federally-listed threatened and endangered species. The project is located in a designated Important Bird Area and a Land Management Research and Demonstration Site for Longleaf Pine Ecosystems Funds, and is a key segment of the Florida National Scenic Trail.

O&M: The Service anticipates annual costs of up to \$100,000 for habitat management and restoration, including prescribed burning, hunting, and public use management. Acquisition may produce efficiency improvements in Service law enforcement and boundary posting, which would reduce these costs. Costs associated with restoration work could be offset by hunting fees or outside funding.

**GRASSLANDS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
California**

MANDATORY

Acquisition Authority: Emergency Wetlands Resource Act of 1986

FY 2015 Priority Rank: No. 10 of 20

Location: In the Pacific Flyway between the cities of Los Banos and Gustine, CA

Congressional Districts: California, District 18 **FWS Region 8**

Total LWCF Appropriations: \$14,276,332

FY 2015 Budget Request: \$1,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	8	14,970	\$18,066,228	\$1,207
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	171	78,713	\$44,619,590	\$567
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2013	179	93,683	\$62,685,818	\$669
Planned FY 2014	0	0	\$0	\$
Proposed FY 2015	2	133	\$1,000,000	\$7,519
Remaining	233	39,484	\$182,183,369	\$4,614
Totals	416	133,300	\$245,869,187	\$1,844

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect important wintering area for Pacific Flyway waterfowl populations.

Project Cooperators: State of California.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire perpetual conservation easements on approximately 133 acres of predominantly native, irrigated pasture from two willing sellers. The biggest threat to the Grasslands WMA is residential development and the conversion of grasslands, wetlands, and riparian habitat to croplands and orchards that provide little or no benefit for wildlife. Acquisition of conservation easements would provide long-term viability to the grassland ecosystem as well as provide a safe haven for migratory birds and other wildlife species.

O&M: The interest to be acquired in the 133 acres is a perpetual conservation easement. For this reason, there will be little long-term management costs associated with this acquisition.

BEAR RIVER WATERSHED CONSERVATION AREA
Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming

MANDATORY

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

FY 2015 Priority Rank: No. 11 of 20

Location: The Bear River watershed located in southeastern Idaho, northeastern Utah, and southwestern Wyoming

Congressional Districts: Idaho, District 2
 Utah, District 1
 Wyoming At Large **FWS Regions 1, 6**

Total LWCF Appropriations: \$0

FY 2015 Budget Request: \$2,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	\$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Planned FY 2014	0	0	\$0	\$0
Proposed FY 2015 (easement)	4	2,469	\$2,000,000	\$810
Remaining	Multi	917,531	\$743,200,000	\$810
Totals	Multi	920,000	\$745,200,000	\$810

Purpose of Acquisition: To conserve the Bear River watershed’s intact wetland, riparian, and upland habitat for more than 270 different species, including more than 200 bird species.

Project Cooperators: Idaho Fish and Game, Utah Department of Natural Resources, Wyoming Game and Fish, soil and water conservation districts, Tribes, The Nature Conservancy, Bridgerland Audubon, Trout Unlimited, Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust, PacifiCorp, Utah Farm Bureau, and local communities.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire perpetual conservation easements on approximately 2,469 acres in the Bear River watershed. Wetlands and riparian areas in the watershed’s lower elevations provide some of the most important resting, staging, feeding, breeding, and nesting areas for migratory birds in the Pacific and Central Flyways. The watershed supports millions of birds, including 46 percent of the white-faced ibis, 24 percent of the marbled godwits, and 18 percent of the black-necked stilts in North America. The watershed also provides habitat for the greater sage grouse, and habitat that is essential to the survival of the Bonneville cutthroat trout. Existing refuges and adjacent protected lands in the watershed provide habitat for more than 270 different species, and the acquisition of conservation easements for the Conservation Area would improve connectivity among these protected lands.

The Bear River serves many functions for both wildlife and people, but the health of the River is directly affected by land use along its route. Land use in the watershed affects wildlife habitat and the amount and quality of available water. Agricultural lands in the watershed provide habitat for wildlife, but, in some areas, are undergoing rapid conversion to residential development. Some counties in the watershed are expected to double in population over the next 30 years. The collaborative efforts of conservation partners in the Bear River watershed are crucial to preserving this working landscape that is such an important resource for people and wildlife.

The Conservation Area is located in parts of 12 counties: Bannock, Bear Lake, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida, and Power in Idaho; Box Elder, Cache, Rich, and Summit in Utah; and Lincoln and Uinta in Wyoming. A number of landowners have expressed interest in selling conservation easements, and the Service is currently identifying lands that contain high quality wildlife habitat for easement acquisition. Acquisition of conservation easements from willing sellers would protect habitat that is important for focal species, while helping to preserve the agricultural heritage of the landscape.

O&M: Within the base funding for the Refuge System, the Service would use less than \$5,000 for annual maintenance of the new acquisitions, mainly for easement enforcement.

LONGLEAF PINE INITIATIVE

MANDATORY

**Ernest F. Hollilngs ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge,
Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge,
Santee National Wildlife Refuge, and Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge
South Carolina**

Acquisition Authority: Migratory Bird Conservation Act, Endangered Species Act of 1973

FY 2015 Priority Rank: No. 12 of 20

Location: South Carolina coastal areas

Congressional Districts: South Carolina, District 1 **FWS Region 4**

Total LWCF Appropriations: \$32,978,393

FY 2015 Budget Request: \$11,252,500

Acquisition Status:

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres*</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	283	101,479	\$32,978,393	\$325
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	2	12	\$0	\$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	11	32,058	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	16	16,589	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	4	13,499	\$20,111	\$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2013	316	163,637	\$32,998,504	\$202
Planned FY 2014	2	2,016	\$4,864,608	\$2,413
Proposed FY 2015	12	2,706	\$11,252,500	\$4,158
Remaining	Multi	174,469	\$528,336,010	\$3,028
Totals	Multi	342,828	\$577,451,622	\$1,684

Purpose of Acquisition: To conserve and restore longleaf pine and unique embedded habitats that support threatened, endangered, and declining species, including red-cockaded woodpeckers, neotropical forest interior birds, black bear, and coastal-dependent birds in serious decline; to safeguard and unite high quality habitats on adjacent refuges and forests to preserve wildlife corridors and reduce agency management costs; to expand natural landscape connections in the Gullah Geechee Corridor for fishing, hunting, bird watching, and other outdoor recreation on public lands.

Project Cooperators: Charleston County Greenbelt, Francis Marion National Forest, Gullah Geechee Heritage Commission, ACE Basin Taskforce, The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, Pee Dee Land Trust, American Rivers.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire a combination of over 2,706 fee acres at Ernest F. Hollins ACE Basin, Cape Romain, Carolina Sandhills, Santee and Waccamaw NWRs. Acquisition would support longleaf pine ecosystem conservation and restoration. Acquisition would also help to preserve a tapestry of Federal, State, and private forest lands that provide more than 495,000 acres of habitat for a variety of federally-listed threatened and endangered species, including red-cockaded woodpecker and wood stork. Residential, commercial, and industrial development, habitat fragmentation, extraction

industries, loss of public access, and loss of paleontological resources are some the greatest threats facing this landscape. Acquisition funding would significantly contribute to a multi-partner effort to ensure resiliency and connectivity of this ecosystem, support working lands, enhance recreational access and opportunities, and protect historic and cultural resources.

O&M: The Service estimates annual costs of up to \$100,000 for habitat management and restoration, prescribed burning, and hunting and public use management. Acquisition may produce efficiency improvements in Service law enforcement and boundary posting, which would reduce these costs. Costs associated with restoration work could be offset by hunting fees or outside funding.

FLINT HILLS LEGACY CONSERVATION AREA
Kansas

MANDATORY

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

FY 2015 Priority Rank: No. 13 of 20

Location: In the Flint Hills Ecoregion, a long narrow band running north-south in eastern Kansas

Congressional Districts: Kansas, Districts 1, 2, and 4 **FWS Region 6**

Total LWCF Appropriations: \$2,000,000

FY 2015 Budget Request: \$1,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	\$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	0	0	\$23,800	\$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	1	5	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2013	1	5	\$23,800	\$0
Planned FY 2014	0	0	\$0	\$0
Proposed FY 2015 (easement)	1	2,000	\$1,000,000	\$500
Remaining	311	1,097,995	\$438,976,200	\$400
Totals	313	1,100,000	\$440,000,000	\$400

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect the Flint Hills tallgrass prairie ecosystem and associated grassland-dependent wildlife species.

Project Cooperators: The Nature Conservancy, the Kansas Land Trust, The Ranchland Trust of Kansas, the Tallgrass Legacy Alliance, and the local community.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire perpetual conservation easements on approximately 2,000 acres of tallgrass prairie from willing sellers. Tallgrass prairie is one of the most endangered ecosystems in the United States, with less than four percent of the original acreage remaining. Fragmentation has been the result of residential, commercial, and industrial development, as well as encroachment of woody vegetation. Acquisition of perpetual conservation easements from willing sellers provides permanent protection for tallgrass prairie ecosystems and fosters landscape-level conservation, while helping to maintain traditional ranching operations. Landowner interest is high, and the Service is currently identifying for acquisition lands that contain high-quality tallgrass habitat with minimal fragmentation and woody vegetation encroachment. In addition to conserving some of the last remaining tallgrass prairie, conservation easements would protect habitat that is important for the threatened Topeka shiner, as well as a wide variety of grassland-dependent birds and other species. The Service will use conservation easements to ultimately protect 1,100,000 acres of the remaining tallgrass prairie in the Flint Hills ecoregion from the threat of further fragmentation.

O&M: Within the base funding for the Refuge System, the Service would use approximately \$1,000 for annual maintenance of the new acquisitions, mainly for easement enforcement.

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
Texas

MANDATORY

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, Refuge Recreation Act of 1962
FY 2015 Priority Rank: No. 14 of 20
Location: South Texas coast, approximately one hour southeast of McAllen, TX
Congressional Districts: Texas, Districts 15, 27, and 28 **FWS Region 2**
Total LWCF Appropriations: \$32,777,516
FY 2015 Budget Request: \$ 2,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners*	Acres**	Cost	\$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	299	79,168	\$75,073,310	\$948
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	6	5,616	\$1,412,751	\$252
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	12	9,142	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	4	953	\$0	\$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2013	321	94,879	\$76,486,061	\$806
Planned FY 2014	1	7,428	\$9,570,000	\$1,288
Proposed FY 2015	1	714	\$2,000,000	\$2,801
Remaining	791	29,479	\$44,218,500	\$1,500
Totals	1,114	132,500	\$132,274,561	\$998

* Out of six conservation easements acquired, two were donated, raising the amount of easement ownerships from four to six.

** Four of the six conservation easements were acquired with LWCF funds (2,566 acres), and two were donated (3,050 acres), for a total of 5,616 acres.

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect native subtropical brush lands within the diverse biotic communities of the area.

Project Cooperators: The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, National Audubon Society, Ducks Unlimited, North American Butterfly Association, and The Trust for Public Land.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire 714 acres of the Refuge’s best remaining brush land habitat from willing sellers. The Refuge has 11 distinct biotic communities that provide habitat for resident and migrating wildlife. Nearly 400 species of birds, 300 species of butterflies, and 1,100 species of plants have been noted in the four-county project area. The area not only provides an important migration corridor for neo-tropical migratory birds, but also provides sanctuary for a number of endangered species, including the piping plover, northern aplomado falcon, ocelot, and jaguarundi.

O&M: The Service anticipates minimal expenses beyond an initial \$10,000 for signage and posting of boundaries, which the Service would fund from Refuge System base funding.

UPPER RIO GRANDE BACA NWR

MANDATORY

Colorado

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

FY 2015 Priority Rank: No. 15 of 20

Location: Southern Colorado

Congressional Districts: Colorado, District 3 **FWS Region 6**

Total LWCF Appropriations: \$14,411,000 (Includes Emergency/Hardship fund)

FY 2015 Budget Request: \$2,653,500

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	\$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	3	54,081	\$14,459,200	\$267
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	2	31,860	\$0	\$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2013	5	85,941	\$14,459,200	\$168
Planned FY 2014	0	0	\$0	\$0
Proposed FY 2015 (easement)	1	5,134	\$2,653,500	\$517
Remaining	1	1,456	728,000	\$500
Totals	7	92,531	\$17,840,700	\$192

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect and preserve a diverse suite of habitats including unique sand sheet uplands associated with the Great Sand Dunes Complex and playa wetlands associated with one of Colorado's largest playa wetland complexes. The unique juxtaposition of these habitats support a diversity of migratory bird species as well as several native small mammals. Acquisition of these parcels is an integral component to restore playa wetlands in the closed basin of the San Luis Valley.

Project Cooperators: The Nature Conservancy.

Project Description: Funding will acquire approximately 5,134 fee acres. From soaring 14,000-foot peaks to spectacular river gorges, the Upper Rio Grande (URG) landscape captivates with unspoiled vistas and rich Hispanic and Native American heritage. Water is the lifeblood of this landscape, supporting wildlife resources and cultures today as it has for untold millennia. Baca National Wildlife Refuge lies within a day's drive of six metropolitan areas and five million people. The Refuge is supported by an unparalleled community commitment to conservation, motivated to protect the unique wildlife, ecological, cultural, scenic, and recreational resources.

These funds will be used to acquire a portion of a larger parcel owned by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) within the acquisition boundary of Baca National Wildlife Refuge. TNC owns the last significant acreage within the Refuge. Service acquisition of these lands will permanently protect continuous habitat and hydrology between the Refuge and the adjoining Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve. This acquisition is a significant contribution to protecting the remaining 33,000 acres needed to create 1.6 million acres of permanently protected, contiguous Federal and private lands.

O&M: The Service anticipates approximately \$3,800 annually to prevent trespass on and disturbance of cultural resources, as well as invasive weed control. Refuge base funds would be used for expenses.

BALCONES CANYONLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
Texas

MANDATORY

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956
 Endangered Species Act of 1973

FY 2015 Priority Rank: No. 16 of 20

Location: Approximately one hour northwest of Austin

Congressional District: Texas, District 21 **FWS Region 2**

Total LWCF Appropriations: \$32,281,620

FY 2015 Budget Request: \$1,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	59	19,843	\$28,505,861	\$1,437
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	15	4,215	\$2,535,000	\$601
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2013	74	24,058	\$31,040,861	\$1,290
Planned FY 2014	0	0	\$0	\$0
Proposed FY 2015	1	320	\$1,000,000	\$3,125
Remaining	225	55,622	\$155,741,600	\$2,800
Totals	300	80,000	\$187,782,461	\$2,347

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect essential breeding habitat for the golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo; to protect habitats for other wildlife species; and to preserve unique flora, fauna, and karst systems.

Project Cooperators: Friends of Balcones Canyonlands NWR, The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Lago Vista Chamber of Commerce, and the Texas Audubon Society.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire fee title to approximately 320 acres from willing sellers. These multiple-year acquisition tracts are highly sought after for residential development. The Refuge provides essential habitat for two endangered neotropical migratory birds, endangered cave dwelling invertebrates in the karst formation, and important riparian habitat in a unique and biologically diverse area. The project area is located in one of the fastest growing areas in the country, and these remnant habitats are imminently threatened by development. The remaining habitats must be protected, or the listed species will be lost.

O&M: The Service anticipates minimal interim fencing while adjoining properties may be purchased. Estimated annual O&M is \$1,800 for removal and installation of fencing.

**NORTHERN TALLGRASS PRAIRIE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
Minnesota and Iowa**

MANDATORY

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

FY 2015 Priority Rank: No. 17 of 20

Location: Eighty-five counties in western MN and northwestern IA

Congressional District: Minnesota, Districts 1 and 7
Iowa, Districts 2, 3, and 4 **FWS Region 3**

Total Appropriations: \$6,306,635

FY 2015 Budget Request: \$500,000

Acquisition Status:

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	11	2,803	\$4,319,393	\$1,541
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	44	2,452	\$1,672,903	\$682
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2013	55	5,255	\$5,992,296	\$1,140
Planned FY 2014	0	0	\$0	\$0
Proposed FY 2015	1	150	\$500,000	\$3,333
Remaining	794	71,595	\$18,507,704	\$259
Totals	850	77,000	\$25,000,000	\$325

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect, restore, and enhance the remaining northern tallgrass prairie habitats and associated wildlife species.

Project Cooperators: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, The Nature Conservancy, Minnesota Waterfowl Association, several county conservation boards, and several local Chambers of Commerce.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire approximately 150 fee title acres or easement acres in western Minnesota and/or northwestern Iowa from willing sellers. The project would include prairie preservation and restoration, which would protect the prairie ecosystem and benefit grassland birds such as dickcissel, bobolink, grasshopper sparrow, and sedge wren.

Rather than acquire a contiguous boundary with the aim of eventual ownership of all lands, the Service has set a goal of acquiring 77,000 acres, spreading land acquisition across portions of 85 counties. The Service would acquire fee and easement lands to reach this goal. The Service will work with private landowners to develop stewardship agreements, and provide incentives and management assistance in the interest of preserving the prairie landscape regardless of ownership.

O&M: The Service anticipates annual operation and maintenance costs of approximately \$10,000 for initial restoration and enhancement work (spraying, mowing, burning, and signage).

GRASSLANDS AND PRAIRIE POTHOLE MANDATORY

Dakota Tallgrass Prairie Wildlife Management Area and Dakota Grasslands CA

North Dakota and South Dakota

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

FY 2015 Priority Rank: No. 18 of 20

Location: Prairie Pothole Region east of the Missouri River in ND and SD

Congressional Districts: North Dakota, At Large **FWS Region 6**
 South Dakota, At Large

Total LWCF Appropriations: \$13,673,750 (includes Title V funding)

FY 2015 Budget Request: \$10,500,000

Acquisition Status:

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	0	0	0	\$0
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	227	72,491	\$13,341,592	\$184
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	1	8	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	2	1,231	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	1	12	\$0	\$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2013	231	73,742	\$13,341,592	\$181
Planned FY 2014	Multi	23,053	\$8,650,000	\$375
Proposed FY 2015	71	21,667	\$10,500,000	\$484
Remaining	Multi	2,011,307	\$621,874,248	\$309
Totals	Multi	2,129,769	\$654,365,840	\$307

Purpose of Acquisition: Protect native wetlands and grasslands, to protect wildlife habitats located in the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR).

Project Cooperators: North Dakota Game and Fish Department, North Dakota Natural Resources Trust, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, Natural Resource Conservation Service, South Dakota Grassland Coalition, private landowners and the local community.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire approximately 21,667 acres of perpetual conservation easements of prairie grasslands from willing sellers in North and South Dakota. The Grasslands and Prairie Pothole Region is a tapestry of tallgrass, mixed-grass, and short-grass prairie interspersed with glaciated prairie wetlands, streams, and river corridors. From farm-dominated regions to the wide open ranchlands of the western parts of North and South Dakota, the landscape supports over 50% of the mid-continent breeding duck population and provides critical habitat for multiple threatened and endangered species. The area is home to grassland-dependent birds, including marbled godwits, burrowing owls, and greater sage grouse. This is the landscape where Theodore Roosevelt solidified his vision of natural resource conservation. The landscape is threatened by unprecedented conversion rates of native sod and prairie wetlands and grasslands to row-crops, and the future is uncertain as energy

exploration disrupts the native ecosystem. Tallgrass prairie once covered 90 percent of the Dakotas, but less than three percent remains.

Under the goals set by both the Dakota Grassland Conservation Area and the Tallgrass Prairie Project, the Service plans to use grassland easements to eventually protect 1.2 million acres of the remaining mixed grass and tallgrass prairie in the eastern Dakotas. These easement acquisitions will help to maintain traditional ranching operations while fostering landscape-level conservation.

The project area has a rich variety of plant and wildlife species, including more than 147 species of breeding birds ranging from neotropical migrants to waterfowl. Several candidate endangered species use the tallgrass prairie ecosystem, including Baird's sparrow, loggerhead shrike, and ferruginous hawk, and rare butterflies, such as the Dakota skipper. These large blocks of grasslands help to buffer prairie ecosystems from agricultural chemicals and invasive species, and provide the natural habitat mosaic required by prairie-dependent species. Existing prairie is a well-documented store of terrestrial carbon. Preventing conversion of tallgrass prairie with grassland easements ensures continued sequestration of this carbon.

O&M: The Service anticipates spending a minimal amount for annual compliance over-flights, estimated at less than \$10,000 per year, which the Service would fund out of NWRS base funding.

WILLAPA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
Washington

MANDATORY

Acquisition Authorities: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956; Endangered Species Act of 1973

FY 2015 Priority Rank: No. 19 of 20

Location: Pacific County, WA, Near the Community of Long Beach, WA

Congressional Districts: Washington, District 3 **FWS Region 1**

Total LWCF Appropriations: \$12,018,000

FY 2015 Budget Request: \$1,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres*</u>	<u>Cost**</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	40	10,362	\$7,344,928	\$709
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	3	3,123	\$0	\$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	3	892	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	1	2,059	8,518,000	\$4,137
Partner Contributions through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2013	47	16,436	15,862,928	\$965
Planned FY 2014	1	392	\$775,000	\$1,977
Proposed FY 2015	2	590	\$1,000,000	\$1,695
Remaining	24	5,916	\$10,648,800	\$1,800
Totals	74	23,334	\$28,286,728	\$1,212

*Donated easement of 3,123 acres. No ownership was accounted for 2,059, so they were withdrawn from Public Domain.

**\$8,518,000 for timber rights on Weyco land without acreage, from one owner.

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect, restore, and manage areas of forest, streams, and wetlands; provide refuge for breeding and migrating waterfowl and shorebirds; contribute to the conservation and recovery of threatened and endangered species; and provide for increased opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation, education, and research.

Project Cooperators: The Nature Conservancy, Columbia Land Trust, and Forterra.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire all or part of 590 acres in two ownerships. One of these tracts would be the first addition to the recently expanded Nemah Unit of the Refuge and contains emergent and scrub-shrub intertidal wetlands, Seal Slough, and riparian areas and associated upland coniferous forest. It has one mile of Willapa Bay frontage, 2 miles of fish bearing streams, 70 acres of emergent and forested salt marsh, and 20 acres of riparian habitats. The highest priority tract is adjacent to over 900 acres of Willapa Bay shoreline conserved by Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife and Cascade Land Conservancy, adding to habitat connectivity. Other tracts within the Nemah Unit are slated for donation within the next few years.

The second tract would close a gap within the Refuge boundary and would contribute to the protection and overall health and function of the watershed that supports a healthy Willapa Bay and the aquatic

species within it and create an opportunity to enhance and restore western red cedar forests to eventually re-establish late successional old-growth function. These areas are important to Federal and State endangered/threatened species and most migratory bird species using the Pacific Flyway. The federally-listed marbled murrelet recovery plan identifies Southwest Washington as a significant gap in suitable nesting habitat along the Pacific Northwest coast (USFWS 1997). Increasing available habitat in this area is critical to expanding the geographic distribution of the murrelet within its threatened range (Raphael, et al, 2008).

O&M: The Service anticipates minimal additional operations or maintenance costs associated with this acquisition because the parcel is located within refuge boundaries and would add no additional workload. The Service would benefit from our cooperative relationship with The Nature Conservancy on the management of forest lands in the project area. TNC and the Service have an active partnership involving the study and management practices for restoration of old growth forest habitat for the benefit of the marbled murrelet and other species.

HIGH DIVIDE Red Rock Lakes NWR

MANDATORY

Montana

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

FY 2015 Priority Rank: No. 20 of 20

Location: 28 miles east of Monida, MT

Congressional Districts: Montana At Large **FWS Region 6**

Total LWCF Appropriations: 10,670,135

FY 2015 Budget Request: \$1,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost*</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	13	11,564	\$16,183,121	\$1,399
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	4	18,172	\$5,125,150	\$282
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	1	2	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	5	6,158	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013**	2	48,876	\$27,081	\$1
Partner Contributions through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2013	25	84,772	\$21,335,352	\$252
Planned FY 2014	0	0	\$0	\$0
Proposed FY 2015	1	2,304	\$1,000,000	\$434
Remaining	Multi	14,786	\$8,914,648	\$603
Totals	Multi	101,862	31,250,000	\$307

*MB dollars, NAWCA and FLTA and incidental cost included

**Acres are from Primary and Secondary Withdrawal from BLM; Primary Transfer and leases

Purpose of Acquisition: To provide for long-term viability of fish and wildlife habitat on a large landscape basis in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem portion of the High Divide Collaborative Landscape. In addition, the project would protect, restore and enhance native wet meadows, wetlands, uplands and mountain foothills for migratory birds, including waterfowl, and other wildlife. Protection of this landscape would preserve the critical linkage corridor that the Centennial Valley provides between Yellowstone National Park and the Frank Church Wilderness of Idaho.

Project Cooperators: The Nature Conservancy, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Beaverhead County Commissioners, Bureau of Land Management, Heart of the Rockies, Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Council and private landowners.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire a perpetual conservation easement on approximately 2,304 acres within the Centennial Valley adjacent to Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. The mountains, valleys and rivers of High Divide are a crucial wildlife lifeline along the spine of the continent in Idaho and Montana that link the World’s first National Park, Yellowstone, to Idaho’s Frank Church Wilderness. Boundaries are defined by tracked movements of the High Divide’s signature wildlife, elk, pronghorn, grizzly, wolverine, sage grouse, salmon, and grayling. Assessment of wildlife migrations, cultural history, recreation values, and economies leads to a big vision of linking Yellowstone

National Park to the Idaho Wilderness across the High Divide. It is touted as our nation's top keystone region for continental scale connectivity. Without the High Divide linkage, protected core areas will remain isolated and increasingly vulnerable to threats, such as climate change. Securing this linkage is time-sensitive as development threats are imminent.

O&M: The Service estimates that annual monitoring and inspection costs for the 2,304 acres of easements would require approximately \$1,000 from base funding of the Refuge System.

Standard Form 300 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE LAND ACQUISITION			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) Identification Code 010-18-5020	2013 Actual	2014 Estimate	2015 Estimate
Obligations by program activity:			
0001 Land Acquisition Management	10	11	23
0002 Emergencies and hardships	2	4	4
0003 Land Protection Planning	0	0	2
0004 Exchanges	2	2	3
0005 Inholdings	3	3	3
0006 Inholdings, Emergencies and Hardships	0	0	2
0007 User Pay Cost Share	2	0	0
0008 Land Acquisition	36	38	57
0009 Collaborative Landscape	0	0	37
0010 Sportsmen/Recreational Access	0	0	2
0100 total, direct program	55	58	133
0801 Reimbursable program activity Border Fence Mitigation	0	1	0
0900 Total new obligations	55	59	133
Budgetary Resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	35	32	28
1010 Unobligated balance transfer to other accts [14-1125]	-1	0	0
1021 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	2	1	1
1050 Unobligated balance (total)	36	33	29
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, discretionary:			
1101 Appropriation (LWCF)	55	54	55
1120 Appropriations transferred to other accts [14-1125]	-1	0	0
1132 Appropriations temporarily reduced	-3	0	0
1160 Appropriation, discretionary (total)	51	54	55
Appropriations, mandatory:			
1221 Appropriations transferred from other accts [14-5005]	0	0	114
1260 Appropriations, mandatory (total)	0	0	114
Spending authority from offsetting collections, discretionary:			
1750 Spending auth from offsetting collections, disc (total)	0	0	0
1900 Budget authority (total)	51	54	55
1930 Total budgetary resources available	87	87	198
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	32	28	65

Standard Form 300 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE LAND ACQUISITION			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) Identification Code 010-18-5020	2013 Actual	2014 Estimate	2015 Estimate
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	25	31	30
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	55	59	133
3020 Outlays (gross)	-47	-59	-106
3040 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations, unexpired	-2	-1	-1
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	31	30	56
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	25	31	30
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	31	30	56
Budget authority and outlays, net:			
Discretionary:			
4000 Budget authority, gross	51	54	55
Outlays, gross:			
4010 Outlays from new discretionary authority	20	22	22
4011 Outlays from discretionary balances	27	37	38
4020 Outlays, gross (total)	47	59	60
Offsets against gross budget authority and outlays:			
Offsetting collections (collected) from:			
4070 Budget authority, net (discretionary)	51	54	55
4080 Outlays, net (discretionary)	47	59	60
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	0	0	114
Outlays, gross:			
4100 Outlays from new mandatory authority	0	0	46
4160 Budget authority, net (mandatory)	0	0	114
4170 Outlays, net (mandatory)	0	0	46
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	51	54	169
4190 Outlays, net (total)	47	59	106

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE LAND ACQUISITION			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2013	2014	2015
Identification Code 010-18-5020	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	7	10	13
12.1 Civilian personnel benefits	2	2	3
23.1 rental payments to GSA	1	1	1
25.2 Other services from non-Federal sources	3	6	12
25.3 Other goods and services from Federal sources	1	1	3
32.0 Land and structures	32	39	99
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	7	0	0
99.0 Subtotal, obligations	53	59	131
99.5 Below reporting threshold	2	0	2
99.9 Total new obligations	55	59	133
Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	90	89	129

National Wildlife Refuge Fund

National Wildlife Refuge Fund

Appropriations Language

[For expenses necessary to implement the Act of October 17, 1978 (16 U.S.C. 715s), \$13,228,000.]
(*Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2014*).

Justification of Language Changes

Deletion of all language since language is no longer needed if program is eliminated as requested.
(Mandatory portion does not require appropriations language.)

Authorizing Statutes

Refuge Revenue Sharing Act (16 U.S.C. 715s), as amended. 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), Section 1002 and Section 1008, 16 U.S.C. 3142 and 3148. These sections 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

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015			Budget Request	Change from 2014 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
Appropriations	(\$000)	13,228	13,228	0	0	-13,228	0	-13,228
Receipts	(\$000)	7,950	7,851	0	0	+149	8,000	+149
Total, National Wildlife Refuge Fund	(\$000)	21,178	21,079	0	0	-13,079	8,000	-13,079
	FTE	9	9	0	0	0	9	0

The 2013 and 2014 amounts include sequestration in accordance with section 251A of the BBEDCA, 2 U.S.C.901a.

Summary of 2015 Program Changes for National Wildlife Refuge Fund

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Appropriations	-13,228	0
TOTAL Program Changes	-13,228	0

Justification of 2015 Program Changes

The 2015 budget request for National Wildlife Refuge Fund is \$0 and +0 FTE, a program change of -\$13,228,000 and +0 FTE from the 2014 Enacted.

Appropriations (-\$13,228,000/ +0 FTE)

The Service proposes the elimination of the entire appropriated (discretionary) portion of this program. The mandatory receipts collected and allocated under the program would remain. Refuges often generate tax revenue for communities far in excess of that which was lost with Federal acquisition of the land. In addition, Refuge lands provide many public services and place few demands on local infrastructure such as schools, fire, and police services when compared to development that is more intensive.

National Wildlife Refuges had approximately 47.5 million visitors in 2013. Recreation opportunities provided by national wildlife refuges support local tourism, which supports local economies. Visitors stay in local lodges, eat at local restaurants, and shop in local stores. Local employment increases, and additional funding goes to local, county, and State governments from the additional tax revenues.

Banking on Nature: The Economic Benefits to Local Communities of National Wildlife Refuge Visitation by Erin Carver and James Caudill, Ph.D., Division of Economics, US Fish and Wildlife Service, October 2013, presents estimated FY 2011 visitor findings for a sample of 92 Service-owned lands. The original *Banking on Nature* report by the Service focusing on data for FY 2006, provided astounding estimates of visitors to Service-owned lands, the economic value to surrounding communities, and increases to local businesses.

Results for the 2011 sample presents a clear picture of the value NWRs have on local communities. The information for 2011 is:

- Approximately 46.5 million visitors during 2011, an increase of 29% over 2006
- Over \$2.4 million was spent by visitors to NWRs, an increase of 19% over 2006
- Over \$792 million was generated as Job Income, an increase of 21% over 2006
- 35,058 jobs with average income of \$22,612, an increase of 23% over 2006.

(Source: Table 11-1.2011 National Significance of Refuge Visitation by FWS Region, p.355)

Not only do Service lands contribute to local economies, they also improve local land values. According to the Executive Summary of *Amenity Values of Proximity to National Wildlife Refuges* prepared by the Center for Environmental and Resource Economic Policy at North Carolina State University in April 2012, property values surrounding refuges are higher than equivalent properties elsewhere. Most importantly, in an increasingly urban world, these sanctuaries of natural beauty offer Americans priceless opportunities to connect with nature.

Mandatory Receipts - The 2015 estimate for National Wildlife Refuge Fund revenue is \$8,000,000.

Program Overview

The *Refuge Revenue Sharing Act*, as amended, 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. These revenues are derived from the sale or disposition of (1) products (e.g., timber and gravel); (2) other privileges (e.g., right-of-way and grazing permits); and/or (3) 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 contained in the Act that entitles counties to whatever 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. Every 5 years, appraisals may be updated to determine the fair market value.

If the net revenues are insufficient to make full payments for fee lands according to the formula contained in the Act, direct appropriations up to an amount equal to the difference between net receipts and full authorized payment may be authorized.

The refuge revenue sharing payments made on lands reserved from the public domain and administered by the Service for fish and wildlife purposes 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, if authorized, the Department makes Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) (31 U.S.C. 6901-6907) on all public domain lands, including Service-reserved land. The Service annually reports to the Department all of our reserved land acres and the revenue sharing amount already paid on those acres. The Department then calculates the PILT amount, subtracts the amount the Service has already paid, and makes the PILT payment to the community.

The *Refuge Revenue Sharing Act* also provides for the payment of certain expenses incurred in connection with revenue producing activities. Such expenses include:

- Salaries of foresters who cruise and mark timber for sale;
- Staff salaries and supplies associated with maintenance of fences in support of grazing;
- Costs associated with sale of surplus animals and collecting refuge share of furs and crops;
- Costs of conducting land appraisals, processing, and maintaining the records.

Sections 1008 and 1009 of the *Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act* (ANILCA), 16 U.S.C. 3148, address procedures for oil and gas leasing on non-North Slope Federal lands in Alaska. Title XI of the Act, 16 U.S.C. 3161, addresses the procedures for transportation and utility systems in and across the Alaska conservation system units. An applicant pays the cost to process an application or administer a permit relating to utility and transportation systems or seismic exploration. Payments are deposited in the NWRF for reimbursement to the Region.

2015 Program Performance

According to current projections, payments to counties in 2015 will equal \$5,788,000 or 7 percent of the estimated full entitlement, based on appropriations of \$0 and \$5,788,000 of estimated receipts less expenses. In addition to payments to counties, national wildlife refuges provide tangible and intangible benefits to communities that bring increased tax revenues that may offset the reductions.

<i>(Dollars in Thousands)</i>				
	2013	2014	2015	
National Wildlife Refuge Fund	Actual	Estimate	Estimate	Program Change (+/-)
Receipts / Expenses				
Receipts Collected	7,950	7,851	8,000	0
Recoveries	82	100	100	0
Expenses for Sales	-1,928	-2,000	-2,000	0
ANILCA Expenses	-13	-13	-13	0
Estimated User-Pay Cost Share	-183	-150	-150	0
Net Receipts – Available during the following year	5,908	5,788	5,937	+149
Payments to Counties				
Receipts Available - collected previous year		5,908	5,788	-120
Appropriated		13,228	0	-13,228
Total Available for Payments to Counties		19,136	5,788	-13,348
Authorized Level		78,500	78,500	0
Percent Payment		24%	7%	-17%

Standard Form 300 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FUND			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2013	2014	2015
Identification Code 010-18-5091	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
0100 Balance, start of year	0	0	0
Receipts:			
0220 National Wildlife Refuge Fund [010-00-509110-0-200403]	8	8	8
0400 Total: Balance and Collections	8	8	8
Appropriations:			
0500 National Wildlife Refuge Fund [010-00-5091-0-1201]	-8	-8	-8
0502 National Wildlife Refuge Fund [010-00-5091-0-1232]	0	1	0
0599 Total appropriations	-8	-7	-8
0799 Balance, end of year	0	1	0
Obligations by program activity:			
0001 Expenses for sales	2	2	2
0002 Civilian Pay	1	1	1
0003 Payments to counties	16	16	6
0900 Total new obligations	19	19	9
Budgetary Resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	4	6	8
1001 Discretionary unobligated balance brought fwd, Oct 1	0	1	0
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, discretionary:			
1100 Appropriation	14	13	0
1130 Appropriations permanently reduced	-1	0	0
1160 Appropriation, discretionary (total)	13	13	0
Appropriations, mandatory:			
1201 Appropriation (special or trust fund)	8	8	8
1232 Appropriations and/or unobligated balance of appropriations temporarily reduced	0	-1	0
1260 Appropriations, mandatory (total)	8	7	8
1900 Budget authority (total)	21	21	8
1930 Total budgetary resources available	25	27	16
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	6	8	7
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	2	1	0
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	19	19	9
3020 Outlays (gross)	-20	-20	-9
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	1	0	0

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FUND			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2013	2014	2015
Identification Code 010-18-5091	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	2	1	0
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	1	0	0
<u>Budget authority and outlays, net:</u>			
Discretionary:			
4000 Budget authority, gross	13	13	0
Outlays, gross:			
4010 Outlays from new discretionary authority	13	13	0
4070 Budget authority, net (discretionary)	13	13	0
4080 Outlays, net (discretionary)	13	13	0
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	8	8	8
Outlays, gross:			
4100 Outlays from new mandatory authority	6	6	6
4101 Outlays from mandatory balances	1	1	3
4110 Outlays, gross (total)	7	7	9
4160 Budget authority, net (mandatory)	8	8	8
4170 Outlays, net (mandatory)	7	7	9
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	21	21	8
4190 Outlays, net (total)	20	20	9

Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	1	1	1
25.2 Other services from non-Federal sources	1	1	1
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	16	16	7
99.0 Subtotal, obligations	18	18	9
99.5 Below reporting threshold	1	1	0
99.9 Total new obligations	19	19	9

Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	9	9	9

Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

Appropriations Language

For expenses necessary to carry out section 6 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), [~~\$50,095,000~~]~~\$50,000,000~~, to remain available until expended, [of which \$22,695,000 is]to be derived from the [Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund; and of which \$27,400,000 is to be derived from the]Land and Water Conservation Fund. (*Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2014.*)

Justification of Language Change

Deletion: “\$50,095,000...of which \$22,695,000 is...Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund; and of which \$27,400,000 is to be derived from”

The budget proposes that all funding for the Cooperative Endangered Species fund be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

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. 4601). 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.

Appropriation: Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015			Budget Request	Change from 2014 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
Conservation Grants	(\$000)	10,508	10,508	0	0	0	10,508	0
Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants	(\$000)	8,322	9,485	0	0	-2,095	7,390	-2,095
Species Recovery Land	(\$000)	9,462	9,462	0	0	+1,700	11,162	+1,700
HCP Land Acquisition Grants to States	(\$000)	14,193	17,938	0	0	0	17,938	0
Administration	(\$000)	2,702	2,702	0	0	+300	3,002	+300
Total Appropriated Funds	(\$000) FTE	45,187 13	50,095 13	0 0	0 0	-95 +2	50,000 15	-95 +2
Permanent Funds (LWCF)	(\$000) FTE	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	+50,000 +6	50,000 6	+50,000 +6
Mandatory – Unavailable Receipts**	(\$000)	62,636	72,058	0	0	-11,520	60,538	-11,520

** 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 CESCFC.

Program information may be accessed at: <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/index.html>

Summary of 2015 Program Changes for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants	-2,095	0
• Species Recovery Land Acquisition	+1,700	0
• Administration	+300	+2
Program Changes	-95	+2

Justification of Program Changes

The 2015 budget request for Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund is \$50,000,000 and 15 FTE, a net program change of -\$95,000 and +2 FTE from the 2014 Enacted.

Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants (-\$2,095,000/+0 FTE)

Due to the fluctuating demand for the development of regional, multi-species habitat conservation plans (HCPs) from year to year, the Service is requesting to shift funds from HCP Planning Assistance to other CESCFC grant programs to address the very high demand for traditional conservation grant and land acquisition funding. With this decrease, the Service anticipates funding 4 fewer HCP Planning Assistance grants.

Recovery Land Acquisition Grants (+\$1,700,000/+0 FTE)

Recovery Land Acquisition grants are provided to States to address habitat loss, 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. Recovery Land Acquisition grants are matched by States and non-federal entities to acquire

habitats from willing sellers, leveraging Service funding. The Service anticipates funding 3 additional Recovery Land Acquisition grants with this increase.

Administration (+\$300,000/+2 FTE)

CESCF administrative funding has not increased proportionally to the increased requirements for program oversight and operational costs. Federal grant management and administrative oversight are necessary to ensure compliance with program requirements and purposes; this increase in funding will support those efforts. This funding increase will improve fund fidelity by reducing reliance on other funding from resource management accounts and provide for better report tracking and monitoring oversight of the grant recipients and funding.

Mandatory Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Department of the Interior will submit a legislative proposal to permanently authorize annual funding, without further appropriation or fiscal year limitation for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Starting in 2016, \$900 million annually in permanent funds would be available. During the transition to full permanent funding in 2015, the budget proposes \$900 million in total LWCF funding, comprised of \$550 million permanent funds and \$350 million discretionary funds. The amounts requested include the authorized levels for the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture. In 2015, the proposal includes \$50 million in discretionary funding and \$50 million in permanent funding for CESCFC.

Program Overview

The Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (CESCF; Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act), 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.



*Fenderson's Blue butterfly, protected using past traditional grant funding
Credit: Jeff Dillon USFWS*

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.

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;
- Other natural or manmade factors affecting a species' continued existence.

Because most listed species depend on habitat found on state and private lands, grant assistance through the CESCFC program is crucial to conserving federally-listed species. States and Territories have been extremely effective in garnering participation by private landowners.

Section 6 grants assist States and Territories build partnerships that achieve meaningful on-the-ground conservation. Land acquisition grants address land-based threats by funding land purchases to prevent land use changes that impair or destroy key habitat values. 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 CESCFC 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 the grants. To ensure that States and Territories are able to effectively carry out endangered species conservation funded through these grants, 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 and candidate 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 imperiled species.

Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants

By developing regional, multi-species habitat conservation plans (HCPs), local governments and planning jurisdictions incorporate species conservation into local land use plans, streamlining the project approval process. Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants provide funding to States to assist local governments and planning jurisdictions develop regional, multi-species HCPs.

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 development or other 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.

Use of Cost and Performance Information

- HCP Land Acquisition, HCP Planning Assistance, and Species Recovery Land Acquisition Grants are awarded through national and regional competitions. The established eligibility and ranking criteria for the program and the competitions conducted to select grants allow the Service to focus the program on its overall goals and ensure that program performance goals are achieved.

- The Service continues to analyze results from previous years of the program to further refine program elements to better meet program goals. For the FY 2012 competition, the Service targeted 10 percent of the HCP Land Acquisition funding to support single-species HCPs to further the conservation of high priority species across the Nation.

In 2013, the following were awarded:

- 14 HCP Planning Assistance Grants to States
- 16 Recovery Land Acquisition Grants to States and Territories.
- 6 HCP Land Acquisition Grants to States.
- 209 Traditional Conservation Grants to States and Territories.

Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) 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.

2015 Program Performance**Traditional Conservation Grants**

The Service published a request for proposals in January 2014 and anticipates making award announcements in the summer of fiscal year 2014. With the requested program funding, the Service expects to make a similar number of awards as will be funded in FY 2014 (assuming the average grant amount is constant with that of FY 2013).

The Service awarded 209 Traditional Conservation Grants in FY 2013. 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.

- Establishment of a population of Ko'ko on Rota, CNMI, \$10,000
- Monitoring Fender's Blue Butterfly and assessing prairie quality including nectar sources at sites on public and protected private land in the Willamette Valley, Oregon, \$20,107
- Mid-story thinning to enhance habitat for the red-cockaded woodpecker in the McCurtain County Wilderness area, Oklahoma, \$25,000
- Wildfire impacts on federally listed species and species of concern in New Mexico, \$45,000
- Assessing the status of the black rail in Jasper, Beaufort, Colleton, Charleston, Georgetown, and Horry Counties in South Carolina, \$32,550
- Conducting nest surveys, researching nest productivity, and reducing loss of leatherback and hawksbill sea turtle nests in Puerto Rico, \$40,000
- Propagation and restoration of the Neosho mucket in the Cottonwood and Verdigris Rivers in Kansas, \$18,716
- Translocation of greater sage-grouse from Montana to southwestern North Dakota, \$89,320
- Comparison of techniques to detect denning polar bears in Alaska, \$32,558
- Pacific walrus harvest sample analysis in Alaska, \$51,576
- Manipulation of second-growth redwood tree crown structure to accelerate development of old-growth structural characteristics for the benefit of the marbled murrelet in California, \$131,039
- Captive propagation of the Pacific pocket mouse (*Perognathus longimembris pacificus*) in California, \$500,649

Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants

The Service published a request for proposals in January of 2014 and anticipates making award announcements in the summer of fiscal year 2014. With the requested program funding, the Service expects that 4 fewer grants will be funded in FY 2015 (assuming the average grant amount is constant with that of FY 2013).

The Service awarded 14 HCP Planning Assistance Grants in FY 2013. 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/pdf/FY13_Project_Descriptions_Final.pdf for a full list of awarded projects.)

- **Bay Delta Conservation Plan (Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta, California) \$410,818.**

This grant will support the development of an HCP/NCCP for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta (Delta) Region. The Delta is the largest estuary on the West Coast. The Delta supports over 750 plant and animal species, 126 of which are sensitive or listed as threatened or endangered. The Delta is also critical to California's economy, serving as the "hub" of the State's water infrastructure, supplying drinking water for two-thirds of Californians and irrigation water for over 7 million acres of highly-productive agricultural lands. The Bay Delta HCP/NCCP is being developed as a long-term comprehensive plan that will conserve and manage covered species and natural communities in perpetuity while providing reliable water supplies for the State's myriad of beneficial uses.

- **Lower Flint River Basin Habitat Conservation Plan (15 Southwest Georgia Counties) \$263,458.**

This grant will assist in the second year of planning for a basin-wide HCP for aquatic habitats used by federally-listed mussels such as the shinyrayed pocketbook, oval pigtoe, Gulf moccasinshell, purple bankclimber, and fat threeridge. Other aquatic species to benefit include fifteen fish, mussel, reptile, and amphibian species of State management concern. Increasing demands for water resources in this vital agricultural area combined with recent droughts have made clear the need for proactive conservation planning in this region.

- **Coordination and Planning of the Kaua'i Seabird Habitat Conservation Program on Kaua'i, Hawai'i (Kaua'i County) \$445,331.**

This project will continue the development of an HCP for 14 applicants, including the County of Kaua'i, Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative, and the Hawai'i Department of Transportation, to address incidental take of listed species from light attraction and utility line collisions. Three federally listed species -- the Hawaiian petrel, Newell's shearwater and green sea turtle -- one candidate species, the band-rumped storm petrel, and a host of endangered plants will be covered under the HCP. The green sea turtle was recently added to the covered species based on new information indicating that coastal lights have resulted in the take of nesting turtles. Ninety percent of the world's Newell's shearwater population breeds on Kaua'i and the population has declined by 75% since the early 1990s. When completed, the HCP will provide a legal solution to the incidental take of listed seabirds, enable multiple entities to obtain Federal and State authorization of this take, and initiate mitigation to offset take through management that will benefit nesting seabirds and sea turtles.



Hawaiian petrel Credit: Brenda Zaun, USFWS

- **Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan for Wind Energy Development in the Midwest (Indiana, Michigan, Missouri- Statewide) \$950,000.**

This grant will allow the natural resource agencies within the Service's Midwest Region to continue the development of a landscape-level, multi-species HCP throughout eight States to provide conservation benefits to listed species, while accommodating wind development. The

plan will provide a means for wind energy developers to avoid, minimize, mitigate, and compensate for adverse effects to covered species such as the endangered Indiana bat, gray bat, interior least tern, Kirtland's warbler, piping plover, and several unlisted bat species. As a part of the HCP, all eight States in the Midwest Region will work in collaboration with the wind industry and The Conservation Fund to lead a strategic conservation planning process that focuses on integrating species needs with potential habitat mitigation across the landscape.

Recovery Land Acquisition Grants

The Service published a request for proposals in January 2014 and anticipates making award announcements in the summer of fiscal year 2014. With the requested program funding, the Service expects that 3 additional grants will be funded in FY 2014 (assuming the average grant amount is constant with that of FY 2013).

The Service awarded 16 Recovery Land Acquisition Grants in FY 2013. 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/pdf/FY13_Project_Descriptions_Final.pdf for a full list of awarded projects.)

- **Upper Sevenmile Creek Flow Restoration Easement (Klamath County, Oregon) \$355,719.**

This project, which was provided partial funding in 2012, will acquire a conservation easement on the JaCox Ranch that will permanently transfer water rights to instream flow in order to restore year-round hydrologic connectivity to Sevenmile Creek. The existing water rights allow for the diversion of the entire summer flow of Sevenmile Creek, dewatering two miles of important habitat and disconnecting upstream and downstream pristine habitat. The acquisition will restore hydrologic connectivity and fish passage in an important area for endangered bull trout. This project will also increase lake levels and improve access to cold-water springs and wetland refugial habitats during the late summer period for the protection of endangered Lost River and shortnose sucker. This acquisition will provide benefits to multiple other species in the middle and lower reaches of the Klamath River basin including lamprey, Chinook and the federally listed coho salmon.

- **Bog Turtle Recovery in Sussex County II (Sussex County, New Jersey) \$400,000.**

This acquisition project will protect the bog turtle through a purchase of four tracts from a single landowner for a total of 143.6 acres. This property connects two known bog turtle habitat areas within a large wetland complex and stream corridor. The property also provides landscape-level protection with upland forest and grassland habitats, thus conserving the hydrology and water quality of the wetlands. It is a rare opportunity in New Jersey to find such a large, undeveloped property adjacent to a growing network of protected properties that can help meet the recovery goals for this imperiled species.



Bog turtle

- **Recovery Land Acquisition for the Salt Creek Tiger Beetle (Lancaster County, Nebraska) \$190,301.**

Acquisition and restoration of the habitat on this parcel will allow for reintroduction of the endangered Salt Creek tiger beetle. Providing additional reintroduction locations is critical for avoiding extinction of this highly-imperiled species with only a few hundred individuals left. This

effort will also protect and restore Eastern Saline Wetlands, which are the most limited and endangered wetland type and vegetation community in Nebraska.

Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Land Acquisition Grants

The Service published a request for proposals in October 2012 and anticipates making award announcements in the summer of fiscal year 2013. With the requested program funding, the Service expects to make a similar number of awards as will be funded in FY 2014 (assuming the average grant amount is constant with that of FY 2013).

The Service awarded 6 HCP Land Acquisition Grants in FY 2013. 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/pdf/FY13_Project_Descriptions_Final.pdf for a full list of awarded projects.)

- **Mountain View 4-O Ranch 2013 (Asotin County, Washington) \$2,000,000.**

This project will protect 2,400 acres in extreme southeastern Washington, including one mile of the Lower Grande Ronde River and three miles of tributaries that support federally listed bull trout, as well as steelhead, interior redband trout, Pacific lamprey, and many other sensitive aquatic species. This project is part of a larger, multi-phased, landscape-level project that will eventually protect 13,000 acres and 15 miles of streams. The project is bordered on the north by Forest Service lands and on the south and east by Bureau of Land Management lands. This is a rare opportunity to purchase a large, ecologically-intact, and diverse landscape that protects many habitat types including uplands, cliff and talus habitats, meadows, springs, curl-leaf mahogany shrubland, interior grassland, and Ponderosa pine woodlands that support the federally listed gray wolf, as well as elk, bighorn sheep, deer, and golden eagles.

- **Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (Riverside County, California) \$3,000,000.**

This grant will result in the acquisition of up to 3,114 acres that will greatly enhance the existing Coachella Valley MSHCP by securing key regional wildlife linkages, sand transport areas, and preserving core habitat areas. The land acquisition will benefit 20 species, including federally listed species such as the Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, desert tortoise, and peninsular bighorn sheep. The acquisition will complement and greatly enhance the ecological value of the many other acquisitions that have previously occurred in these areas in the last few years.



Peninsular bighorn sheep

- **Washington County HCP Desert Tortoise Acquisition (Washington County, Utah) \$1,419,266.**

This grant will support the acquisition of up to 1,245 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.

Standard Form 300 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE COOPERATIVE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2013	2014	2015
Identification Code 010-18-5143	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
0100 Balance, start of year	321	361	410
Receipts			
0240 Payment from the General Fund, Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund [010-00-514300-0-200403]	63	72	60
0400 Total: Balances and collections	384	433	470
Appropriations			
0500 Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund [010-18-5143-0-1101]	-23	-23	0
0799 Balance, end of year	361	410	470
Obligations by program activity:			
0001 Conservation Grants to States	14	14	14
0002 HCP Planning Assistance Grants	10	11	11
0004 Administration	2	3	5
0005 HCP Land Acquisition Grants to States	16	20	35
0006 Species Recovery Land Acquisition	11	12	12
0007 Payment to special fund unavailable receipt account	63	72	61
0900 Total new obligations	116	132	138
Budgetary Resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	74	73	75
1001 Discretionary unobligated balance brought fwd, Oct 1	74	73	0
1010 Unobligated balance transfer to other accts [14-1125]	-4	0	0
1021 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	11	12	12
1050 Unobligated balance (total)	81	85	87
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, discretionary:			
1101 Appropriation LWCF special fund [145479]	24	27	50
1101 Appropriation CESCFC special fund [145143]	23	23	0
1132 Appropriations temporarily reduced	-2	0	0
1160 Appropriation, discretionary (total)	45	50	50
Appropriations, mandatory:			
1200 Appropriation	63	72	61
1221 Appropriations transferred from other accts [14-5005]	0	0	50
1260 Appropriations, mandatory (total)	63	72	111
1900 Budget authority (total)	108	122	161
1930 Total budgetary resources available	189	207	248
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	73	75	110

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE COOPERATIVE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2013	2014	2015
Identification Code 010-18-5143	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	155	119	93
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	116	132	138
3020 Outlays (gross)	-141	-146	-136
3040 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations, unexpired	-11	-12	-12
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	119	93	83
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	155	119	93
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	119	93	83
Budget authority and outlays, net:			
Discretionary:			
4000 Budget authority, gross	45	50	50
Outlays, gross:			
4010 Outlays from new discretionary authority	1	5	5
4011 Outlays from discretionary balances	77	69	65
4020 Outlays, gross (total)	78	74	70
4070 Budget authority, net (discretionary)	45	50	50
4080 Outlays, net (discretionary)	78	74	70
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	63	72	111
Outlays, gross:			
4100 Outlays from new mandatory authority	63	72	66
4160 Budget authority, net (mandatory)	63	72	111
4170 Outlays, net (mandatory)	63	72	66
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	108	122	161
4190 Outlays, net (total)	141	146	136

Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	1	1	2
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	51	58	73
94.0 Financial transfers	63	72	61
99.0 Subtotal, obligations	115	131	136
99.5 Below reporting threshold	1	1	2
99.9 Total new obligations	116	132	138

Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	13	13	21

The 2015 estimate for line 1101 is updated from the estimate included in the Appendix, Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2015.

North American Wetlands Conservation Fund

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.), \$34,145,000, to remain available until expended. (*Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2014.*)

Authorizing Statutes

North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989 (16 U.S.C. 4401). 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, Making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1994, and for other purposes, November 11, 1993, 107 Stat 1384. 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 with other countries.

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

	2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015				Change from 2014 (+/-)
			Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
<u>Appropriations:</u>							
North American Wetlands Conservation Fund (\$000)	33,640	34,145	0	0	0	34,145	0
<u>Receipts (Mandatory):</u>							
Migratory Bird Treaty Act Fines (\$000)	475	19,056	0	0	+1,644	20,700	+1,644
Total, North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	34,115	53,201	0	0	+1,644	54,845	+1,644
FTE	6	10	0	0	0	10	0

The 2013 and 2014 amounts include sequestration in accordance with section 251A of the BBEDCA, 2 U.S.C. 901a.

Justification of 2015 Program Changes

The 2015 budget request for the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund is \$34,145,000 and 10 FTE, with no net change from the 2014 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 2014 and 2015 amounts include Deepwater Horizon settlement payments. The FY 2015 estimate is \$20,700,000 for this account.

Program Overview



Successful NAWCA wetland restoration project constructed by Texas R.I.C.E. at Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge. Restoration involved the removal of invasive plant species and installation of water management infrastructure. New, seasonally-flooded rice fields now support wintering populations of Sandhill Cranes and at least one endangered Whooping Crane.

Credit: Bill Stransky/USFWS.

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) provides grants throughout North America to conserve habitat for waterfowl and other wetland-associated migratory birds. For the past 24 years, NAWCA has provided the funds for the Service, state wildlife agencies, and conservation organizations to protect, enhance, and restore more than 27 million acres for wetland-dependent birds and other wildlife. NAWCA is the primary federal program and most important funding mechanism for the conservation of waterfowl nesting, migrating and wintering habitat across North America.

NAWCA funds are invested in North America’s most vital wetland ecosystems. Projects are selected based on the significance of the wetland ecosystems and wildlife habitat to be conserved, migratory bird species benefitted, partner diversity, and non-federal contributions leveraged, as well as the long-term value of the conservation work proposed. The Service seeks to maintain or increase the frequency and intensity of project monitoring, to help projects succeed and ensure grant program accountability. Consistent and thorough monitoring helps the Service identify areas of technical assistance needed by partners; evaluate grantee performance; ensure regulatory compliance and responsible financial management; correct grant administration errors, irregularities and noncompliance; and deter waste, fraud and abuse.

NAWCA Partnerships

Grants made through NAWCA have assisted thousands of public-private partnerships in protecting and improving the health and integrity of wetland and wetland-associated landscapes across North America. Project activities not only provide critical habitat for waterfowl and other wetland species, but also improve the natural functions of project sites and nearby communities. NAWCA-funded projects often result in increased groundwater recharge, water quality improvements, and reduced flooding during high water events. Through FY 2013, the NAWCA program has supported over 2,300 projects in 50 U.S. States, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, 13 Canadian provinces and territories, and 31 Mexican states. Millions of acres have been conserved by more than 4,800 partners.



NAWCA grantees from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources work with non-governmental organizations and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conserve wetlands in the Prairie Pothole Region. Credit: Lacy Alison/USFWS

Country	Protected Acres	Enhanced, Restored, and Created Acres	Number of Projects
Canada	14,790,850	3,280,000*	512
Mexico	2,199,980	1,106,435	268
U.S.	4,762,310	3,697,724	1,530
All Countries	21,753,140	8,074,159	2,310

Acres represent total proposed acres approved for funding in the U.S. and Canada from FY 1991 through FY 2013. Some acres are included in both “Protected” and “Enhanced, Restored and Created” due to multiple activities occurring on the same property, and 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.

By working with non-federal partners such as private landowners, States, local governments, conservation organizations, national and local sportsmen’s groups, tribes, trusts, and corporations, NAWCA funds have effectively leveraged twice the legally required 1:1 match-to-grant ratio. NAWCA grants are catalysts for partnerships and projects that:

- Support migratory bird conservation, flood control, groundwater recharge, and water quality improvement;
- Sustain cultural traditions, such as hunting and fishing;
- Improve quality and opportunities for outdoor recreation;
- Help implement the tri-national North American Waterfowl Management Plan and other national and international bird conservation plans;

- Assist in the recovery of endangered and threatened species; and
- Achieve the Service’s long-term goal of healthy and sustainable migratory bird populations, including waterfowl.

NAWCA Grant Types and Programs

NAWCA funds Standard Grants and Small Grants. Standard Grants are open to applicants in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. Standard Grant amounts in the U.S. are typically \$750,000 to \$1,000,000, and eligible grantees must provide non-Federal matching funds at least equal to the award amount. Small Grants, available only in the U.S. and limited to \$75,000 per project, are intended to assist smaller partners and projects to successfully compete for NAWCA funds. The Small Grants attract new partners for wetland conservation and help diversify the types and locations of projects funded by NAWCA.

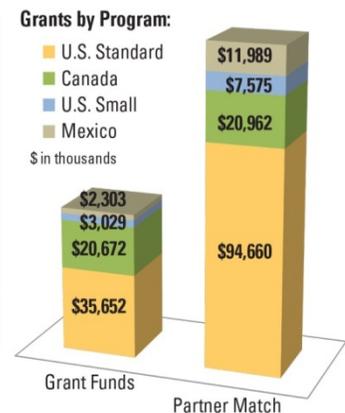


Many NAWCA Small Grants support habitat enhancement projects, such as the installation of nest boxes and removal of invasive plants. Credit: J. Kelly/USFWS

Data collected through 2013 show the NAWCA Standard Grants have supported over 3,700 partners as they implemented 1,691 projects worth over \$4.5 billion. NAWCA has contributed over \$1.2 billion to these projects, with total partner funds of more than \$4 billion. Almost \$2.8 billion of these partner funds are from *non-federal sources*, providing more than \$2 in eligible match for every NAWCA dollar awarded. More than 27 million acres of wetlands and associated uplands have been protected, restored, or enhanced through the Standard Grants Program in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

The Small Grants Program started in 1996 with \$250,000 in grant funds. Currently, up to \$5 million of NAWCA funds may be used for small grant awards each year, depending upon the availability of funds and number of qualifying projects. Through 2013, 619 projects have been approved for more than \$34.1 million in grant funds. Eligible partners have contributed more than \$121 million in *non-federal matching* funds (including in-kind contributions) to projects located in 49 States and Puerto Rico. Such *non-federal matching* has allowed small grants to leverage almost \$4 for every NAWCA dollar awarded, affecting over 278,000 acres, benefitting a diversity of wetland and wetland-related habitats, and fostering new and expanded partnerships for the NAWCA program.

2013 Grants



North American Wetlands Conservation Council and Migratory Bird Conservation Commission

A nine-member North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council) recommends grant projects for approval by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (MBCC). The Council is comprised of the FWS Director, the Secretary of the Board of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, four Directors of state wildlife agencies representing each of the migratory bird flyways (Atlantic, Mississippi, Central, Pacific), and representatives from three nonprofit conservation organizations actively involved in wetlands conservation projects. The Council also includes Ex-Officio members appointed at the discretion of the Secretary.

The MBCC includes two U.S. Senators and two U.S. Representatives, the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. The MBCC approves or rejects recommended projects, or may reorder the priority of any Council-recommended project list.

NAWCA Funding

The Act authorizes funding from four sources:

- Direct appropriations
- Fines, penalties and forfeitures resulting from violations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Interest from receipts in the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration account
- Receipts from the Sport Fish Restoration account for U.S. coastal projects (Pacific and Atlantic coastal States, States bordering the Great Lakes, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa).



*Meeting of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission.
Credit: Tami Heilemann/DOI*

NAWCA Supports Agency Priorities

NAWCA is a critical funding source for migratory bird habitat conservation, but the program's impact is much broader. Projects funded by NAWCA benefit a range of wetland-dependent species, and support national and international conservation priorities:

- NAWCA-supported projects complement and complete Service conservation efforts through the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Endangered Species Act, National Wildlife Refuges, and other Service programs. The NAWCA grant programs also complement and often work directly with other agencies including the National Park Service, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs and U.S. State Department.
- NAWCA enhances the Department of Interior's efforts to connect people with nature by funding projects that facilitate outdoor recreation opportunities such as hiking, birdwatching, hunting, and fishing
- NAWCA's Mexico program connects youth with nature, supporting the Department's youth initiatives. The program funds projects that involve training young professionals in conservation practices and educating young people through nature festivals and other outreach activities.

NAWCA grant projects increase bird populations and wetland habitat, while supporting income-generating activities such as hunting and birdwatching, and sustaining cultural traditions such as fishing and ranching. The NAWCA program protects our natural resources while generating economic activity which supports local economies.

NAWCA - Combined Performance Change and Overview Table

Performance Goal	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Plan	2015 PB	Change from 2014 Plan to 2015 PB	Program Change Occurring in Out-years
4.1.6 # of habitat acres enhanced/ restored of habitat in North America through NAWCF - annual (GPRA)	214,507	293,410	178,047	333,522	387,997	194,775	-193,222 (-50%)	n/a
4.4.1 # of non-FWS wetland acres protected/ secured through NAWCF - annual (GPRA)	797,083	666,009	185,123	576,005	567,707	481,541	-86,166 (-15%)	n/a
Comments	For both measures above: Acres of habitat reported as protected and secured are the result of projects funded from several years previous that were completed during a particular fiscal year. The change in performance from 2010 to 11, 12, 13, and 14 demonstrates the variability inherent in multi-year grants as to when they are proposed/funded and when they are reported as completed. This year-to-year variability is responsible for the fluctuation in reported acreages that are associated with a given fiscal year.							

Standard Form 300 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION FUND			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) Identification Code 010-18-5241	2013 Actual	2014 Estimate	2015 Estimate
0100 Balance, start of year	1	21	21
Receipts:			
0200 Fine, Penalties, and Forfeitures from Migratory Bird Treaty Act, North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	21	21	21
0400 Total Balances and collections	22	42	42
Appropriations:			
0500 North American Wetlands Conservation Funds	-1	-21	-21
0799 Balance, end of year	21	21	21
Obligations by program activity:			
0003 Wetlands conservation projects	34	52	54
0004 Administration	1	1	1
0900 Total new obligations	35	53	55
Budgetary Resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	4	3	4
1001 Discretionary unobligated balance brought fwd, Oct 1	1	1	0
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, discretionary:			
1100 Appropriation	35	34	34
1132 Appropriations temporarily reduced	-2	0	0
1160 Appropriation, discretionary (total)	33	34	34
Appropriations, mandatory:			
1201 Appropriation (special or trust fund)	1	21	21
1232 Appropriations and/or unobligated balance of appropriations temporarily reduced	0	-1	0
1260 Appropriations, mandatory (total)	1	20	21
1900 Budget authority (total)	34	54	55
1930 Total budgetary resources available	38	57	59
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	3	4	4
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	75	63	75
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	35	53	55
3020 Outlays (gross)	-47	-41	-50
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	63	75	80
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	75	63	75
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	63	75	80

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION FUND			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2013	2014	2015
Identification Code 010-18-5241	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
<u>Budget authority and outlays, net:</u>			
Discretionary:			
4000 Budget authority, gross	33	34	34
Outlays, gross:			
4010 Outlays from new discretionary authority	2	5	5
4011 Outlays from discretionary balances	43	31	33
4020 Outlays, gross (total)	45	36	38
4070 Budget authority, net (discretionary)	33	34	34
4080 Outlays, net (discretionary)	45	36	38
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	1	20	21
Outlays, gross:			
4100 Outlays from new mandatory authority	0	5	5
4101 Outlays from mandatory balances	2	0	7
4110 Outlays, gross (total)	2	5	12
4160 Budget authority, net (mandatory)	1	20	21
4170 Outlays, net (mandatory)	2	5	12
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	34	54	55
4190 Outlays, net (total)	47	41	50
Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	0	1	1
25.2 Other services from non-Federal sources	0	1	1
32.0 Land and structures	2	1	1
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	32	50	52
99.0 Subtotal, obligations	34	53	55
99.5 Below reporting threshold	1	0	0
99.9 Total new obligations	35	53	55
Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	6	10	10

Multinational Species Conservation Fund

Multinational Species Conservation Fund

Appropriations Language

For expenses necessary to carry out the African Elephant Conservation Act (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.), \$9,061,000, to remain available until expended. (*Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2014.*)

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. Authorizes prohibitions against the sale, importation, and exportation of ivory derived from African elephants. Authorization of Appropriations: Expired September 30, 2012.

Asian Elephant Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 4261-4266, 1538). Authorizes financial assistance for cooperative projects for the conservation and protection of Asian elephants and their habitats. Authorization of Appropriations: Expired September 30, 2012.

Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 5301-5306, 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. Authorization of Appropriations: Expired September 30, 2012.

Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000, (16 U.S.C. 6301-6305, 1538). 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. Authorization of Appropriations: Expired September 30, 2010.

Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004, (16 U.S.C. 6601-6607). Authorizes financial assistance in the conservation of marine turtles and the nesting habitats of marine turtles, to conserve the nesting habitats, conserve marine turtles in those habitats and address other threats to the survival of marine turtles. The funds are to be a sub-account of the Multinational Species Conservation Fund. Authorization of Appropriations: Expired September 30, 2009.

Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp Act of 2010, (H.R. 1454).

Requires the United States Postal Service to issue and sell, a Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp. The proceeds from the stamp are made available to the Service to help fund the operations supported by the Multinational Species Conservation Funds and divided equally among the existing Conservation Funds. Proceeds are prohibited from being taken into account in any decision relating to the level of discretionary appropriations. The stamp is to be made available to the public for at least two years.

Appropriation: Multinational Species Conservation Fund

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015			Change from 2014 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
African Elephant Conservation Fund	(\$000)	1,566	1,582	0	0	0	1,582	0
Asian Elephant Conservation Fund	(\$000)	1,542	1,557	0	0	0	1,557	0
Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund	(\$000)	2,416	2,440	0	0	0	2,440	0
Great Ape Conservation Fund	(\$000)	1,955	1,975	0	0	0	1,975	0
Marine Turtle Conservation Fund	(\$000)	1,492	1,507	0	0	0	1,507	0
Total, Multinational Species Conservation Fund	(\$000)	8,971	9,061	0	0	0	9,061	0
	FTE	4	4	0	0	0	4	0

Justification of 2015 Program Changes

The 2015 budget request for the Multinational Species Conservation Funds is \$9,061,000 and 4 FTE, with no net program change from the 2014 Enacted.

Program Overview

The Multinational Species Conservation Fund (MSCF) conserves some of the world’s most treasured—and, unfortunately, most threatened—animals in their natural habitats. These funds provide direct support in the form of technical and cost-sharing grant assistance to range countries for on-the-ground protection and conservation of African and Asian elephants, rhinoceroses, tigers, chimpanzees, gorillas, bonobos, gibbons, orangutans, and marine turtles—a total of 30 species important to the conservation of larger ecosystems and to the American people, as recognized by five Congressional Acts and 175 million annual public visitors to zoos and aquariums.



African elephant in Kruger National Park

Activities funded through this program promote collaboration with key range country decision-makers, and further the development of sound policy, international cooperation, and goodwill toward the United States among citizens of developing countries. These funds strengthen law enforcement activities, build support for conservation among people living in the vicinity of the species’ habitats, and provide the vital infrastructure and field equipment needed to conserve habitats. Several of the species covered by the program, including rhinoceros and African elephants, are at the center of the current crisis in poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking. Activities funded through this

program directly address this crisis by increasing protection for these species in their native habitats and supporting local and international law enforcement efforts to stop illegal wildlife trafficking.

The range countries of these species are often underdeveloped nations in Africa and Asia, where local people have little training in wildlife management. The sustainability of species in these regions can potentially be achieved through modern human-wildlife management techniques, training and collaborative efforts. The Multinational Species Conservation Funds provide technical assistance and grant funding through broad-based partnerships with national governments, local communities, non-governmental organizations, and other private entities for on-the-ground conservation projects. Funding is targeted to the highest-priority projects impacting the greatest number of species, and support is provided for a range of activities including anti-poaching, conservation education, research, monitoring, habitat restoration, community outreach, law enforcement, training, and capacity building. Without this financial assistance, degradation of species and their habitats will continue, which may ultimately result in extinction. The Multinational Species Conservation Funds have engaged nearly 600 domestic and foreign partners working in over 54 foreign countries. From 2008 to 2013, the Multinational Species Conservation Funds provided \$69 million in grant funding for on-the-ground conservation, leveraging nearly \$105 million in additional matching funds.

The African Elephant Conservation Fund is a crucial source of funding for activities combating trafficking of illegal wildlife products within range states and consumer nations including: constructing and operating road blocks on transit routes out of protected areas; detection dogs at roadblocks, airports and ports; training and operational costs for intelligence units tracing wildlife crimes; and sponsoring joint investigations tracing ivory shipments back to point of origin. In 2013, African elephant funds continued to help finance projects to protect the largest known population of forest elephants in the Democratic Republic of Congo. These projects included strengthening and rebuilding the national wildlife agency, anti-poaching patrols and overnight missions to reduce elephant poaching in the area. In addition a team of five bloodhounds and handlers will be trained to track poachers and have been very successful in locating poachers, weapons and ivory. Another project will support ongoing core operational and anti-poaching expenses in and around one of Zambia's most important wildlife areas, North Luangwa. Funds will also be used to support operating costs of ground patrols conducted by ZAWA, the national wildlife agency, and operating costs of an aircraft for aerial patrolling and surveillance.



Amur tiger Credit: WCS

In 2013, funds for rhinoceros and tigers continued to improve intelligence and investigations capacity in the North Luangwa conservation area of Zambia. Funding supported training courses for the Zambia Wildlife Authority in crime investigation procedures and techniques and supported operating costs and equipment for law enforcement units protecting Zambia's reintroduced southern black rhino population. Another project focused on proactive human-tiger conflict in Nepal's Bardia National Park. This project will build predator proof corrals for farmers who have lost livestock due to leopard/tiger conflict. In addition, culinary training and assistance finding employment will be provided to people who have lost family members due to tiger attacks. A project in India's Manas National Park will improve management and patrolling activities to reduce poaching of recently introduced rhinos. Accomplishments include selecting a suitable law enforcement monitoring tool that will be used to train frontline patrol staff in the implementation of that tool. Also, central control stations will be established for patrolling the areas to protect the park's rhinos.

In 2013, Asian elephant funds ensured the protection of wild elephants and their habitat by establishing a multi-disciplinary team to build an innovative model to address human-elephant conflict (HEC) in Aceh, Sumatra. In FY 2014 and FY 2015, this team will compile and disseminate communication and materials from a baseline assessment of HEC threats in targeted areas and will provide guidance for sustainable human-elephant co-existence in an agriculture landscape. The project will also increase the effectiveness of laws for the protection of biodiversity and natural resources of Aceh by creating a cross-party, knowledgeable and constantly expanding legislator network called Aceh Conservation Caucus. In addition, the project will design and develop a web portal with a thematic structure that provides specific information to lawmakers, while linking them with relevant environmental issues and priorities. The portal will provide information on environmental issues, decision-making processes, statistics, including constantly updated databases, as well as being a forum for participation and dissemination of the work of the network of environmental legislators. Another project in Kaeng Krachan National Park, Thailand will improve protection for elephants and their habitats by utilizing spatial management information systems. In addition the information system will reduce human elephant conflict by promoting standard mitigation measures and will monitor the effectiveness of those methods and expand elephant conservation education in the area.



Asian Elephant Credit: WCS

In 2013, the Great Ape Conservation Fund continued to help conserve globally significant gibbon populations in the Lao People's Democratic Republic by developing a quick response patrolling unit and supporting patrolling by regular enforcement teams near key northern white-cheeked gibbon habitat inside the established core zone. In addition, a scientific method of gathering and analyzing data derived from rangers in the field to analyze wildlife populations' vulnerability and to direct protection efforts (SMART) is being adapted for use in Lao PDR. The process requires translating the SMART program into the local language; and providing SMART training including data input and analysis. Another Great Ape project supports conservation efforts in Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of the Congo which first began in 2008. This project helps improve law enforcement and training for park rangers, develops alternative fuel sources to reduce the destructive practice of charcoal creation, increases aerial surveillance capacity, and increases park tourist revenue through a chimpanzee habituation and tourism project in the region that generates nearly 1 million dollars. A significant reduction in wildlife trafficking is achieved through support to the EAGLE network (Eco Activists for Governance and Law Enforcement), an innovative partnership between government and local activists in six Central and West African countries. Support to the EAGLE network has led to over 900 arrests and the subsequent imprisonment of major wildlife traffickers.



Chimp in Virunga NP Credit: VZS

In 2013, funds for marine turtle conservation implemented an extensive loggerhead turtle nesting beach conservation project in Cape Verde. The project supported night time beach patrols in collaboration with the military to protect nesting loggerhead females from rampant illegal slaughter on important nesting beaches on the Cape Verde Island of Boa Vista which hosts about 90 percent of the Cape Verde nesting population. The project also organized an annual meeting for the Cape Verde Sea Turtle Partnership and

implemented public awareness programs in schools and communities throughout the island. Another project supported hawksbill conservation programs for the largest remaining hawksbill nesting population in the Eastern Pacific at three sites covering 23 miles of beach in El Salvador. The project also addressed the threat of blast fishing to adult and juvenile turtles through training programs for regional fisheries authorities and law enforcement officers to increase the effectiveness of blast fishing enforcement.



Green turtle returns to sea

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 intent is to give the public an easy and inexpensive way to help conserve wild tigers, rhinos, elephants, great apes and marine turtles around the world. The stamp, which featured the image of an Amur tiger cub, sold at a rate of 55 cents per stamp - just slightly above the cost of first-class postage. In two years, 24.9 million stamps have been sold, raising more than \$2.5 million for the conservation of international wildlife. Following Congressional direction, the Postal Service ended sale of the stamp on December 31, 2013. The National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking includes the recommendation that Congress direct the Postal Service to continue to allow the public an opportunity to purchase the stamp. For further information about the stamp, see www.tigerstamp.com.



Standard Form 300 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2013	2014	2015
Identification Code 010-18-1652	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
<u>Obligations by program activity:</u>			
0001 African elephant	2	2	2
0002 Asian elephant	2	2	2
0003 Rhinoceros and tiger	2	2	2
0004 Great ape conservation	2	2	2
0005 Marine turtle	1	1	1
0799 Total direct obligations	9	9	9
0801 Multinational Species Semi Postal Stamp Act	1	1	1
0900 Total new obligations	10	10	10
<u>Budgetary Resources:</u>			
Unobligated balance:			
1001 Discretionary unobligated balance brought fwd, Oct 1	0	0	0
<u>Budget authority:</u>			
Appropriations, discretionary:			
1100 Appropriation	9	9	9
1160 Appropriation, discretionary (total)	9	9	9
Spending authority from offsetting collections, mandatory:			
1800 Collected	1	1	1
1850 Spending auth from offsetting collections, mand (total)	1	1	1
Mandatory, Authorizing Committee			
Multinational Species Semi Postal Stamp Act			
1900 Budget authority (total)	10	10	10
1930 Total budgetary resources available	10	10	10
<u>Change in obligated balance:</u>			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	9	8	7
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	10	10	10
3020 Outlays (gross)	-11	-11	-10
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	8	7	7
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	9	8	7
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	8	7	7

Standard Form 300 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) Identification Code 010-18-1652	2013 Actual	2014 Estimate	2015 Estimate
<u>Budget authority and outlays, net:</u>			
Discretionary:			
4000 Budget authority, gross	9	9	9
Outlays, gross:			
4010 Outlays from new discretionary authority	3	3	3
4011 Outlays from discretionary balances	7	7	6
4020 Outlays, gross (total)	10	10	9
4070 Budget authority, net (discretionary)	9	9	9
4080 Outlays, net (discretionary)	10	10	9
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	1	1	1
Outlays, gross:			
4101 Outlays from mandatory balances	1	1	1
<u>Offsets against gross budget authority and outlays:</u>			
Offsetting collections (collected) from:			
4120 Federal sources	-1	-1	-1
4160 Budget authority, net (mandatory)	0	0	0
4170 Outlays, net (mandatory)	0	0	0
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	9	9	9
4190 Outlays, net (total)	10	10	9
Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	9	9	9
Reimbursable obligations:			
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	1	1	1
99.9 Total new obligations	10	10	10
Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	4	4	4

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Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund

Appropriations Language

For expenses necessary to carry out the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.), \$3,660,000, to remain available until expended. (*Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2014.*)

Authorizing Statutes

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Improvement Act of 2006, (16 U.S.C. 6101). 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, Latin America, Canada and the Caribbean.

Appropriation: Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015			Change from 2014 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfer s (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund	(\$000)	3,588	3,660	0	0	0	3,660	0
	FTE	1	1	0	0	0	1	0

Justification of 2015 Program Changes

The 2015 budget request for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund is \$3,660,000 and 1 FTE, with no net program change from the 2014 Enacted.

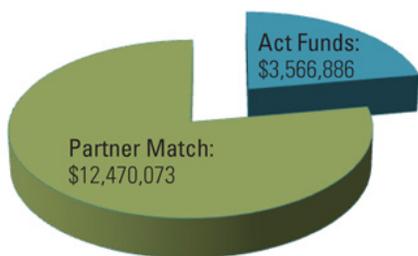
Program Overview

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA) 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. Over 380 species of Neotropical migratory birds breed in the United States and Canada and winter in Latin America, including sandpipers, hawks, thrushes, warblers and sparrows. The populations of many of these birds are declining, and several species are protected as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Thirty-two of these migratory birds are targeted by the Service’s Migratory Bird Program as focal species and 62 are on the Service’s list of birds of conservation concern. Conservation actions funded through this program are essential to keeping species from becoming listed under the Endangered Species Act.



The Golden-cheeked Warbler, an endangered species targeted for conservation through the NMBCA.
Credit: Jason Crotty, Creative Commons

2013 Grants



2013 Projects: 27
2013 Countries: 15

A primary purpose of the NMBCA is to perpetuate healthy populations of these birds by catalyzing migratory bird conservation projects that otherwise would not take place. The program leverages nearly four dollars of non-federal match for every Federal grant dollar invested. By law, at least 75 percent of the funds available each year must go to projects in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Canada, with the remaining funds available for projects in the United States. In Latin America and the Caribbean, resources for migratory bird conservation are scarce and the NMBCA program provides critical funds for our partners working to conserve shared bird species on their migrating and wintering grounds. NMBCA grants are highly competitive, with demand for projects greatly exceeding available funds, thus only the highest quality proposals receive funding.

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act program supports priority national and international initiatives to engage people in conservation, benefiting local communities and our economy:

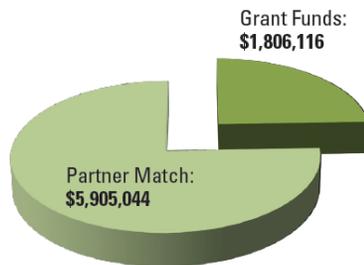
- The NMBCA supports and enhances the DOI's and the Service's efforts to connect people with nature and the outdoors, such as the America's Great Outdoors initiative. By conserving birds that appear in peoples' backyards, NMBCA helps to engage people in the great outdoors and in activities that allow them to enjoy these amazing and beautiful birds.
- The NMBCA connects youth with nature, supporting DOI's and the Service's youth initiatives, including Engaging the Next Generation. NMBCA funds projects that involve training young professionals and educating youth through nature festivals and other outreach activities.
- NMBCA actions provide opportunities to support people at the local level in other countries, increasing good will toward the U.S. and supporting diplomatic efforts. Through the Southern Cones Grasslands Alliance, U.S. funds support the economic livelihood of ranchers to keep them on the land, promote security, sustainability, and healthy landscapes and people.
- The birds NMBCA conserves have a significant economic impact, through birding festivals, wildlife watching (purchasing of bird food and binoculars etc.), and creating jobs in association with these recreational opportunities. According to the 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation:
 - 71.8 million Americans photographed, fed or observed birds and other wildlife around their homes or on trips;
 - Americans spent \$55 billion on wildlife watching trips (food, lodging, and transportation), equipment (such as binoculars), and other related items (memberships in, and contributions to wildlife organizations, etc.);
 - 17.8 million Americans traveled away from home to see wild birds, putting millions into local economies
- In 2006 it was estimated that 671,000 jobs were created due to bird watching, and \$11 billion in local, State, and Federal tax revenue resulted from bird watching expenditures (Birding in the United States: A Demographic and Economic Analysis an addendum to the 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation).



A Buff-breasted Sandpiper thrives in Bolivian grasslands protected with NMBCA funds. This is one of hundreds of migratory species sought by birdwatchers during birding festivals and other events. Credit: Asociacion Armonia

2012-2013 Pilot Program Grants

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act



Grant Funds: \$1,806,116

Matching Funds: \$5,905,044

Match Ratio: 3.3 to 1

Projects: 14

Countries: 11

Acres Affected: 450,000

developing measurable wintering range population targets that take into consideration climate change impacts. Another pilot program project supports protection of Golden-winged Warbler habitat in Minnesota to meet the species population goals by the year 2050. Meanwhile we are continuing support for the US-Mexico Chihuahuan grassland project seeking to double the local population of Sprague's Pipit wintering on project sites over the next 4-5 years.

The NMBCA conserves Neotropical migrants for the benefit of the American people. By targeting our investment to key priority species and seeking projects that will demonstrate a measurable improvement, the pilot program will show the return we achieve on investment of taxpayer dollars. The pilot program is set up to create a significant impact for each grant dollar invested and to evaluate the value of that investment for birds.

NMBCA Project Highlights

With the 70% of grant funding available for all Neotropical migratory species and broader conservation efforts, the NMBCA continues to be a catalyst for conservation and to support 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, including:

- securing, restoring, and managing wintering, migrating, and breeding habitat;
- conducting law enforcement;
- providing community outreach and education; and

NMBCA Pilot Program

In 2012, the Service started to focus approximately 30% of NMBCA funding annually on thirteen particularly threatened Neotropical migratory bird species. The goal is to achieve a measurable biological improvement in these species' populations at a local, regional or hemispheric scale within 5-10 years. Each species has a conservation action plan identifying threats to the birds and priority actions to address those threats. By dedicating funding over the next ten years to these species, the NMBCA can leverage resources where progress of conservation actions can be measured. Grantees will evaluate the success of their efforts and strategically adapt their approach to conservation by measuring biological improvements in the target species, such as increased abundance or survival or improved quality of habitat. Funded projects must include monitoring and evaluation to track these measurable objectives for the desired improvements.

In 2013, the second year of the pilot program, the Service supported seven projects taking actions on breeding and stopover or wintering grounds to conserve Bicknell's Thrush, Sprague's Pipit, Golden-winged Warbler, Reddish Egret, and Golden-cheeked Warbler. One project in Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras will protect and improve the management of 49,000 acres of wintering habitat, while also



In the Dominican Republic, the NMBCA Pilot Program is supporting efforts to protect crucial overwintering habitat for the Bicknell's Thrush by phasing out ranching in a core area of a scientific reserve. Copyright: Kent McFarland

- conducting bird population research and monitoring.

Examples of projects supported by NMBCA in 2013 include:

- *Conserving the Bay of Panama.* Strengthening outreach to local people about the importance of the bay to the economy, shorebirds and to environmental and human health. The Bay of Panama is a critical migration and wintering site for more than 33 species of shorebirds, including more than 30% of the U.S. population of the Western Sandpiper.
- *Restoring and Managing Priority Habitats in Asunción Bay.* Thirty-two species of Neotropical migratory birds have been recorded in Asunción Bay, an inlet of the major waterway that flows by the capital of Paraguay. It is globally significant as a stop-over site for the Buff-breasted Sandpiper. The development of a shoreline road has destroyed about 70% of the shorebird habitat in the bay. Local and national government agencies will work with NGO Guyra Paraguay to restore and manage 60 acres of priority habitats. Guyra Paraguay will hire reserve guards and train local people to be advocates for conservation of this urban oasis.

Program Impacts since 2002

Grant Funding: \$46,500,000

Matching Funds: \$178,500,000

Match Ratio: 4 to 1

Projects: 422

Countries: 36

Acres Affected: 3,250,000



The Western Sandpiper, a migratory shorebird, depends on habitats like the Bay of Panama, a NMBCA funded site, for its wintering grounds.

Credit: Roger Baker, USFWS Volunteer

Through 2013, more than \$46 million in NMBCA grant funds have supported 422 projects in 36 countries and 48 U.S. States and Territories across the Western Hemisphere. Non-federal partners have contributed more than \$178 million in matching funds to these projects. All bird groups have benefited from this funding, including songbirds, raptors, shorebirds, and waterfowl.

If we are to be effective at conserving America's migratory birds, we must conserve them throughout their range. The NMBCA is a mechanism to protect investments in species conservation in the U.S. by making a sound and directed investment in conservation in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Canada.

NMBCF Combined Performance Change and Overview

Performance Goal	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Plan	2015 PB	Change from 2014 Plan to 2015 PB	Program Change Occurring in Out-years
6.4.3 # of acres restored/ enhanced of habitat in U.S./ Mexico/ Latin America through NMBCA	3,464	28,313	398,455	554,238	411,981	456,050	44,069 (11%)	n/a
6.4.4 # of acres protected/ secured of habitat in U.S./ Mexico/ Latin America through partnerships and networked lands through NMBCA	176,282	50,495	390,133	155,959	832,898	480,257	-352,641 (-42%)	n/a
Comments	For both of the above measures: Acres of habitat reported as protected and secured are the result of projects funded from several years previous that were completed during a particular fiscal year. The change in performance from 2010 to 11, 12, 13, and 14 demonstrates the variability inherent in multi-year grants as to when they are proposed/funded and when they are reported as completed. This year-to-year variability is responsible for the fluctuation in reported acreages that are associated with a given fiscal year.							

Standard Form 300 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION FUND			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) Identification Code 010-18-1696	2013 Actual	2014 Estimate	2015 Estimate
<u>Obligations by program activity:</u>			
0001 Neotropical Migratory Bird	4	4	4
0900 Total new obligations	4	4	4
<u>Budgetary Resources:</u>			
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, discretionary:			
1100 Appropriation	4	4	4
1930 Total budgetary resources available	4	4	4
<u>Change in obligated balance:</u>			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	6	6	5
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	4	4	4
3020 Outlays (gross)	-4	-5	-6
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	6	5	3
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	6	6	5
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	6	5	3
<u>Budget authority and outlays, net:</u>			
4000 Budget authority, gross	4	4	4
4010 Outlays from new discretionary authority	1	1	1
4011 Outlays from discretionary balances	3	4	5
4020 Outlays, gross (total)	4	5	6
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	4	4	4
4190 Outlays, net (total)	4	5	6

Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	4	4	4

Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	1	1	1

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State and Tribal Wildlife Grants

State and Tribal Wildlife Grants

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 *federally recognized* 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, [\$58,695,000]\$50,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amount provided herein, [\$4,084,000]\$4,000,000 is for a competitive grant program for *federally recognized* Indian tribes not subject to the remaining provisions of this appropriation: *Provided further*, That [\$5,487,000]\$5,000,000 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 [\$9,571,000]\$9,000,000 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 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 percent of the total costs of such projects and the Federal share of implementation grants shall not exceed 65 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 [2014]2015 to any State, territory, or other jurisdiction that remains unobligated as of September 30, [2015]2016, shall be reapportioned, together with funds appropriated in [2016]2017, in the manner provided herein. (*Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2014.*)

Justification of Language Change

Addition: “federally recognized” Indian tribes

The budget proposes clarifying that only federally recognized Indian tribes are eligible to apply for Tribal Wildlife Grants.

Addition: “to implement approved plans”

The budget proposes clarifying that the grant funding is for implementing only approved State Wildlife Action plans.

Authorizing Statutes

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (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 of 1956, as amended (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 Coordination Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 661). 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

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015			Change from 2014 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
State Wildlife Grants (Formula)	(\$000)	48,638	49,124	0	0	-8,124	41,000	-8,124
State Wildlife Grants (Competitive)	(\$000)	5,433	5,487	0	0	-487	5,000	-487
Tribal Wildlife Grants	(\$000)	4,044	4,084	0	0	-84	4,000	-84
Total, State and Tribal Wildlife	(\$000)	58,115	58,695	0	0	-8,695	50,000	-8,695
	FTE	19	19	0	0	-3	16	-3

Summary of 2015 Program Changes for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
▪ State Wildlife Grants (Formula)	-8,124	-3
▪ State Wildlife Grants (Competitive)	-487	0
▪ Tribal Wildlife Grants	-84	0
Program Changes	-8,695	-3

Justification of 2015 Program Changes

The 2015 budget request for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants is \$50,000,000 and 16 FTE, a net program change of -\$8,695,000 and -3 FTE from the 2014 Enacted.

State Wildlife Grants (Formula) (-\$8,124,000/-3 FTE)

Formula funding is decreased to allow the Service to address higher priorities. The Service supports funding for the States, and believes that State Wildlife Grants allow the States to participate in and implement numerous positive management functions for species and habitats. The proposed reduction will weaken the State’s ability to respond to species needs, and to address the needs of non-game species.

State Wildlife Grants (Competitive) (-\$487,000/+0 FTE)

The decrease in Competitive State Wildlife Grants will reduce States’ ability to engage in landscape-scale conservation in partnership with other States, and will diminish the quality and extent of States’ revisions to State Wildlife Action Plans. First developed in 2005, most States are currently updating and revising the Plans in preparation for the FWS’s October 1, 2015 deadline.

Tribal Wildlife Grants (-\$84,000/+0 FTE)

The decrease in Tribal Wildlife Grants will impact one tribal community’s ability to conserve and protect culturally-significant imperiled species on tribal lands.

Program Overview

As authorized by the *Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956*, the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants (STWG) Program provides Federal grant funds to States, the District of Columbia, Commonwealths, Territories (States), and Tribes, to develop and implement programs for the benefit of fish and wildlife and their habitat, including species that are not hunted or fished. The Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY 2002 (Public Law 107-63) provided funding for STWG and this funding continues in the annual appropriations legislation. For the past 13 years, this grant program has provided State fish and wildlife agencies a stable Federal funding source. All funded activities must link

with species, actions, or strategies included in each State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). These SWAPs collectively form a nationwide strategy to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered, and are unique from many prior conservation plans because of broad participation and an inclusive public planning process. By working with stakeholders and other members of the community, State fish and wildlife agencies translate pressing conservation needs into practical actions and on-the-ground results. The success of this program is evident in the 1.79 million acres of species habitat it has enhanced and the nearly 130,000 acres of critical habitat through land acquisition or conservation easements it has protected.

Results in STWG will be assessed through effectiveness measures designed in coordination with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and will be tracked using the Service's new performance reporting database, Wildlife TRACS. This will allow the Service to consider an evidence based approach for future grants.

In accordance with the *Endangered Species Act* of 1973, the STWG program is the primary source for States and Tribes to fund proactive actions to address the needs of declining species. Through preventative measures, such as habitat restoration and protection through land acquisition, STWG helps to avert vastly greater expenditures to communities and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), by preventing imperiled species from becoming listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Consistent with the *Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act*, as amended (16 U.S.C. 661), the STWG program accomplishes its goals by leveraging Federal funding through cost-sharing provisions with State fish and wildlife agencies, Tribes, and other partners. In doing so, it grants States the flexibility to identify, study, and conserve those species most in need. A core principle of the STWG program are the effective partnerships which demonstrate the spirit of cooperation and sharing of resources inherent in the *Coordination Act*.

Goals of the Program - The long-term goal of STWG is to stabilize, restore, enhance, and protect species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) and their habitat. Addressing these issues early avoids the costly and time-consuming process entered into when habitat is degraded or destroyed and species' populations plummet, requiring additional protection (and Federal expenditure) through the Endangered Species Act or other regulatory processes. The program accomplishes its protection goals by 1) focusing projects on SGCN and their habitats, and 2) leveraging Federal funding through cost-sharing provisions with State fish and wildlife agencies.

Funds provided through STWG are a critically important asset in keeping species off the Endangered Species list. The STWG program is supporting proactive conservation strategies that focus on both candidate and petitioned species. For example, the Service began working with a group of southeastern States in 2011 to evaluate hundreds of species in an effort to determine their potential for listing under the ESA. Service staff and their State partners worked with the Southeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) to develop the SEAFWA At-Risk Species Conservation Strategy and Action Plan. Using STWG funds, this multi-agency, multi-State partnership implemented a coordinated and integrated research, inventory, monitoring and status assessment effort to address data gaps and provide crucial data for at-risk species prioritization and conservation. The Strategy has focused STWG funds to support effective habitat enhancement projects across multiple States, for species like the Gopher Tortoise, which is a candidate species for listing in the eastern portion of its range and listed as threatened in the western portion.

Between 2011 and 2014, more than \$1.8 million in State Wildlife Grant funds were delivered to Florida, Georgia, Alabama and Louisiana fish and wildlife agencies targeting longleaf pine habitat restoration, which benefits a wide range of species of greatest conservation need. These projects will ultimately

create, enhance, and protect more than 15,000 acres of quality habitat for candidate species such as Gopher Tortoise. In Florida, partners have used STWG funds, along with other non-federal funds, to improve more than 265,000 acres of habitat for threatened species such as the Florida scrub jay and other imperiled species such as fox squirrel. Support through STWG funding is critical as the Florida scrub jay is found in nearly half of all Florida counties, and up-listing the species as endangered could have economic impacts.

Work by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries focusing on the alligator snapping turtle is another example of how STWG funding helps States implement key preventive measures focused on habitat restoration and protection, which help preclude the need for listing.



Gunnison sage grouse Credit: Mike Danzenberger USFWS

In the Midwest and West, STWG funds are used by partnerships of multiple States to help conserve key iconic wildlife species such as Lesser Prairie-Chicken and Gunnison sage-grouse which, if listed under the Endangered Species Act could impact resource based economies of western States. These species, like most others targeted through the STWG Program, have been petitioned for listing or are currently considered candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act. STWG funds help maintain sustainable populations of such species through targeted land acquisition, habitat management, and direct actions such as captive breeding and release.

STWG also supports States in developing a landscape-scale understanding of fish and wildlife needs through their SWAPs, and by incentivizing inter-State cooperation that includes joint planning, design, and implementing projects that seek to improve species populations range-wide. The Service and its grantees recognize that the collective habitat requirements of many SGCN overlap multiple State borders and are subject to similar patterns of loss and degradation on the regional landscape. Approaches to conservation of such species typically use STWG funds to assess species' status and establish biological objectives for their conservation and recovery on a range-wide basis.

For example, thirteen States and the District of Columbia are working together to address landscape-level conservation challenges by pooling four percent of their apportioned STWG funds to support the Northeast Regional Conservation Needs Grant Program. The program helps identify the Region's top-priority species conservation challenges, as well as setting specific, measurable biological objectives for those species' recovery. Funds are managed by a partnering non-profit organization on behalf of northeastern States to develop and implement multi-partner conservation initiatives that focus on the conservation, management, and protection of SGCN and their habitats which are best addressed on a landscape or regional level, such as the New England Cottontail Rabbit.



The Northeast Regional Conservation Needs Grant Program funded a grant assessing diseases affecting Timber rattlesnake. The project is on track to be completed at the end of 2014.

State Wildlife Action Plan - Each State must have a SWAP, approved by the Service's Director, for the conservation of fish and wildlife. Each plan must consider the broad range of fish and wildlife and associated habitats, giving priority to SGCN, with an awareness of the relative level of funding available for the conservation of those species. The States must review and, if necessary, revise their SWAP by October 1, 2015, and every ten years afterwards. States may choose to update their plan more frequently. Revisions to SWAPs must follow the guidance issued in the July 12, 2007 letter from the Service's Director and the President of the AFWA.

Several States are using STWG funds to incorporate sophisticated, state-of-the-art climate science modeling into their SWAPs to better prepare for anticipated impacts of climate change on SGCN. For example, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is utilizing a State Wildlife Grant to incorporate climate change modeling into Alaska's SWAP. This landscape-level strategic plan will be updated in 2015 to prioritize research and survey efforts, conservation actions, and monitoring, based on anticipated climate-related changes to species populations and their habitats. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game recognizes the benefits of cooperating on broad-scale landscape conservation efforts, and is utilizing funds to work more closely with the Service and other partners involved with the Arctic, Western Alaska and North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs). Other States conducting similar projects include Colorado, North Carolina, and Maine.

Tribal Wildlife Grants - The Tribal Wildlife Grant (TWG) program provides funds to federally recognized tribal governments to develop and implement programs for the benefit of wildlife and their habitat, including species of Native American cultural or traditional importance and species that are not hunted or fished. Although Tribes are exempt from the requirement to develop wildlife plans, individual Tribes are eager to continue their conservation work using resources from this national tribal competitive program. The projects funded through TWGs serve to strengthen tribal nations throughout the United States by providing critical resources to help them protect valued cultural and economic assets upon which many Tribes depend.

Wildlife TRACS - Wildlife TRACS is the Service's tracking and reporting system for the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program. It replaces the Federal Aid Information Management System (FAIMS) which was decommissioned in late 2012. TRACS stands for Tracking and Reporting Actions for the Conservation of Species. The outcomes that result from expenditure of State Wildlife Grants (SWG) will be documented and displayed in Wildlife TRACS beginning in 2013. One of the significant new advancements in accomplishment reporting provided by Wildlife TRACS is a geospatial database which displays locations of conservation actions and other activities supported with SWG and other program funds. Another is the incorporation of standard results chains developed for the SWG program to assess the potential impact and effectiveness of conservation actions on target species and their associated habitats. Wildlife TRACS will allow better coordination of conservation efforts among States, their many partners, and the Service, in developing a landscape-level understanding and united conservation approach. It will give stakeholders the ability to see accomplishments by species and geography, and help to measure the impacts of program spending on species population, distribution, and other trends over time.

Activities that may be eligible for STWG:

- Conservation actions, such as research, surveys, species, and habitat management, acquisition of real property, facilities development, and monitoring.
- Coordination and administrative activities, such as data management systems development and maintenance, developing strategic and operational plans, and coordinating implementation meetings with partners. Partners are entities that participate in the planning or implementation of a State's plan. These entities include, but are not limited to, Federal, State, and local agencies, Tribes, nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, industry groups, and private individuals.
- Education and law enforcement activities under the following conditions:
 - The education activities are actions intended to increase the public's knowledge or understanding of wildlife or wildlife conservation through instruction or distribution of materials.
 - The law enforcement activities are efforts intended to compel the observance of laws or regulations.
 - The activities are critical to achieving the project's objectives.

- The activities are no more than 10 percent of the respective project cost.
- The activities specifically benefit SGCN or their habitats.
- Providing technical guidance to a specific agency, organization, or person that monitors or manages SGCN or their habitats. Technical guidance is expert advice provided to governmental agencies, landowners, land managers, and organizations responsible for implementing land planning and management.
- Addressing nuisance wildlife or damage caused by wildlife, but only if the objective is to contribute to the conservation of SGCN or their habitats, as indicated in a State's Wildlife Action Plan.
- Conducting environmental reviews, site evaluations, permit reviews, or similar functions intended to protect SGCN or their habitats.
- Responding to emerging issues.
- Planning activities.

Activities ineligible for funding under the SWG include:

- Mitigation or compensation for resource losses caused by subprogram-funded activities, or are necessary to secure permits or approval of these activities. "Mitigate" means to take action required by a Federal, State, or local government agency, through law or regulation, to compensate for adverse impacts on natural resources.
- Mitigating wildlife habitat losses resulting from activities that are not approved.
- Initiating or enhancing wildlife-associated recreation, which includes outdoor leisure activities associated with wildlife, such as hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, and photography.
- Establishing, publishing, and disseminating State-issued regulations on the protection and use of wildlife. This includes, but is not restricted to, laws, orders, seasonal regulations, bag limits, creel limits, and license fees. This does not prohibit the scientific collection of information or the evaluation of this information to support management recommendations.
- Projects in which more than 10% of the funding is for educating the public or conducting law enforcement activities.
- Public relations activities to promote organizations or agencies.
- Projects with the primary purpose of producing revenue. This includes all processes and procedures directly related to efforts imposed by law or regulation, such as the printing, distribution, issuance, or sale of licenses or permits. It also includes the acquisition of real or personal property of rental, lease, sale, or other commercial purposes.
- Wildlife damage management activities that are not critical to the conservation of SGCN or their habitats.



A wolverine, one of the 20 Species of Greatest Conservation Need the Multi-Species Baseline Initiative is surveying.

Types of State Wildlife Grant Program (SWG) Projects - All 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 participate in this program through their respective fish and wildlife agencies. Each State, Commonwealth, and Territory develops and selects projects for funding based on the agencies' assessment of problems and needs associated with their SWAP. For example, Idaho Fish and Game received a competitive State Wildlife Grant to launch the Multi-Species Baseline Initiative, managed by a coalition of more than 20 partner organizations. As lead agency of the initiative, Fish and Game will spend the next three years surveying the Idaho Panhandle and northeastern

Washington for 20 "Species of Greatest Conservation Need," which include rare amphibians, snails, slugs and forest carnivores. Biologists will collect location data for these species, as well as baseline

information on their microclimate requirements. All 20 species are identified in either Idaho's or Washington's SWAP as "lacking essential information" on their status. This project will provide important distribution and abundance information for these species and contribute to their ability to address species conservation needs at a landscape scale. By assessing the status of these species, States can make more informed, strategic decisions on where to direct resources and on-the-ground action.

States often use STWG to study and conserve species which are so highly imperiled that they are in imminent danger of being listed by the Service as Threatened or Endangered. For example, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources recently received STWG funds for an aquatic species conservation and monitoring project. The objective of this project is to improve conservation and monitoring efforts for high priority aquatic species and habitats. They are focusing on species that are candidates or petitioned for listing under the Endangered Species Act as well as other species identified in the Georgia SWAP.

Funding Planning and Implementation Grants – In 2007, the Service introduced new SWG guidance that narrowed the scope of work that may be conducted under planning grants. The guidance restricted the content of State planning grants to: 1) conducting internal evaluation of SWAPs; and 2) obtaining input from partners and the public on how to improve those plans. Because of the restrictions on the content of work that can be carried out under planning grants, the Service expects the States will shift most of their SWG financial resources away from planning activities and toward conducting "implementation" work for more on-the-ground activities.

After deducting administrative costs for the Service's Headquarters and Regional Offices, the Service distributes SWG funds to States in the following manner:

- A. The District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico each receive a sum equal to not more than one-half of 1 percent. The Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U. S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands each receive a sum equal to not more than one-fourth of 1 percent.
- B. The Service divides the remaining amount among the 50 States by a formula where one-third of the amount for each State is based on the ratio of the State land area to the total land area of the 50 States, with the other two-thirds based on the ratio of the State population to the total population of the 50 States. However, each of the 50 States must receive no less than 1 percent of the total amount available and no more than 5 percent.

The Federal share of planning grants must not exceed 75 percent of the total cost, and the Federal share of implementation grants must not exceed 65 percent of the total cost. These percentages are subject to change in the annual Appropriations Act that both reauthorizes and funds the SWG. The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) can waive the 25 percent non-Federal matching requirement of the total grant cost for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Territories of Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, and American Samoa up to \$200,000 (48 U.S.C. 1469a (d)). The non-Federal share may not include any Federal funds or Federal in-kind contributions unless legislation specifically allows it. Again, TWG are competitive and are not required to provide a share of project costs; however, many do, some even quite substantially.

Obligation Requirements – States must obligate SWG funds to a grant by September 30 of the second Federal fiscal year after their apportionment, or the remaining unobligated dollars revert to the Service. Reverted SWG funds lose their original fiscal year and State identity, and all States will receive them as an addition to the next year's national appropriation. If a State obligates SWG funds to an approved grant but does not expend the funds in the grant period, WSFR will deobligate the unexpended balance. If WSFR deobligates the funds during the two-year period of availability, WSFR will reobligate these funds

to an existing or new grant to the same State. SWG funds deobligated after their two-year period of availability revert to the Service, lose their original fiscal year and State identity, and go into next year's SWG appropriation for apportionment to all States.

2015 Program Performance

With the FY 2015 budget of \$50 million in payments to States and Tribes, the Service expects program grantees to continue to stabilize, restore, enhance, and protect SGCN, as well as their habitat, although on a reduced scale. In addition, the Service will continue working cooperatively with these partners to find ways to more consistently and comprehensively report accomplishments. By 2015, the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program will be tracking all STWG project spending using Wildlife TRACS, which captures geospatial data for all conservation actions, as well as program accomplishments and outcomes.

The STWG program has proved a stable Federal funding source for State and tribal fish and wildlife agencies for the past 12 years. This funding stability is critical to the recovery and continued resilience of many species that are in the greatest need of conservation. Some examples of activities planned by State fish and wildlife agencies in FY 2014 include:

- The State fish and wildlife agencies of Illinois, Oklahoma, and Louisiana seek to reverse the decline of the Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*), which is State-identified as endangered or threatened in several Midwestern states. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently reviewing the species for listing under the Endangered Species Act. The partnering States will generate life table data necessary for accurately assessing the species' conservation status, develop standardized reintroduction and monitoring protocols, and attempt to re-establish the turtle population in Illinois, where it was last documented in 1984. Reintroduced turtles in all three States will be monitored through radio telemetry.
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife will utilize State Wildlife Grant funds to collect and analyze a variety of current datasets including climate projections and species distribution models to produce a robust vulnerability assessment for the State's species of greatest conservation need (SGCN). In obtaining this data, staff will utilize resources of a wide variety of State, Federal, and private conservation partners, including the Southern Rockies and Great Plains Landscape Conservation Cooperatives and the North Central Climate Science Center. The State agency will produce vulnerability assessments for at least 10 major habitats and their associated species, based on the best-available science. The assessments will inform the agency's current review of their State Wildlife Action Plan.
- The Hawai'i Division of Forestry and Wildlife will partner with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a U.S. Army Garrison, and the University of Hawai'i at Manoa to implement conservation efforts targeting 41 snail species of the federally-listed genus *Achatinella* as well as five extremely rare species in the family *Amastridae*. The partners' strategy includes release of captive-bred snails into natural habitat protected by predator exclusion fencing in the Ko'olau Mountains of O'ahu. Other actions include population surveys, monitoring, and predator control.

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE STATE AND TRIBAL WILDLIFE GRANTS			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2013	2014	2015
Identification Code 010-18-5474	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
<u>Obligations by program activity:</u>			
0001 State wildlife grants	54	50	40
0002 State competitive grants	1	7	6
0003 Administration	4	3	3
0004 Tribal wildlife grants	5	5	4
0900 Total new obligations	64	65	53
<u>Budgetary Resources:</u>			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	39	37	34
1021 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	4	3	3
1050 Unobligated balance (total)	43	40	37
<u>Budget authority:</u>			
Appropriations, discretionary:			
1100 Appropriation	61	59	50
1132 Appropriations temporarily reduced	-3	0	0
1160 Appropriation, discretionary (total)	58	59	50
1930 Total budgetary resources available	101	99	87
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	37	34	34
<u>Change in obligated balance:</u>			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	153	144	133
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	64	65	53
3020 Outlays (gross)	-69	-73	-77
3040 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations, unexpired	-4	-3	-3
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	144	133	106
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	153	144	133
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	144	133	106
<u>Budget authority and outlays, net:</u>			
Discretionary:			
4000 Budget authority, gross	58	59	50
Outlays, gross:			
4010 Outlays from new discretionary authority	11	13	12
4011 Outlays from discretionary balances	58	60	65
4020 Outlays, gross (total)	69	73	77
4070 Budget authority, net (discretionary)	58	59	50
4080 Outlays, net (discretionary)	69	73	77
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	58	59	50
4190 Outlays, net (total)	69	73	77

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE STATE AND TRIBAL WILDLIFE GRANTS			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2013	2014	2015
Identification Code 010-18-5474	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	2	2	2
12.1 Civilian personnel benefits	1	1	1
25.1 Advisory and assistance services	1	0	0
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	60	62	50
99.9 Total new obligations	64	65	53
Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	19	19	16

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Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration

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.

Authorizing 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 *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act* (P.L. 112-141) (MAP-21) which expires September 30, 2014, 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 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 Ocean, 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 for which this Act provides funding, 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. MAP-21 authorizes funding for the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act of 1990 through 2014.

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. MAP-21 authorizes funding for the Clean Vessel Act of 1992 through 2014.

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. MAP-21 authorizes funding for boating infrastructure through 2014.

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, as well.

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 extended program authorizations for Clean Vessel Act grants, Boating Infrastructure grants, and the National Outreach and Communications program through FY 2009, and it extended 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 authorized 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 Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (P.L. 112-141) (MAP-21) amends Section 4 of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 777c) to extend program authorizations for Coastal Wetlands, Clean Vessel Act, and Boating Infrastructure grants; and the National Outreach and Communications program through FY 2014. It also extends the authority to use Sport Fish Restoration receipts for the U.S. Coast Guard's State Recreational Boating Safety Program through 2014.

Appropriation: Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration

		2013 Actual	2014 Estimate	2015			Budget Request	Change from 2014 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
Payments to States	(\$000)	353,490	326,207	0	0	+18,333	344,540	+18,333
Administration	(\$000)	9,963	10,393	0	0	+354	10,747	+354
Clean Vessel	(\$000)	12,403	11,446	0	0	+643	12,089	+643
National Outreach	(\$000)	12,403	11,446	0	0	+643	12,089	+643
Boating Infrastructure Grant Program	(\$000)	12,403	11,446	0	0	+643	12,089	+643
Multistate Conservation Grant Program	(\$000)	2,847	2,937	0	0	+63	3,000	+63
Coastal Wetlands	(\$000)	17,209	15,881	0	0	+893	16,774	+893
Fishery Commissions	(\$000)	759	783	0	0	+17	800	+17
Sport Fishing & Boating Partnership Council	(\$000)	380	392	0	0	+8	400	+8
Subtotal	(\$000)	421,857	390,931	0	0	+21,597	412,528	+21,597
	FTE	59	53			0	53	0
North American Wetlands	(\$000)	17,209	15,881	0	0	+893	16,774	+893
	FTE	5	5	0	0	0	5	0
TOTAL, Sport Fish	(\$000)	439,066	406,812	0	0	+22,490	429,302	+22,490
	FTE	64	58			0	58	0

The 2013 and 2014 amounts include sequestration in accordance with section 251A of the BBEDCA, 2 U.S.C.901a.

Justification of 2015 Program Changes

The 2015 budget estimate for the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act programs is \$429,302,000 and 58 FTE. The estimate is based on current law projections provided by the Department of the Treasury's Office of Tax Analysis.

Program Overview

The Sport Fish Restoration program has provided a stable Federal funding source for State fish and wildlife agencies for over 60 years. This funding stability is critical to the recovery of many of the nation's sport fish species. 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, commonwealth, and territorial governments. The various programs enhance the country'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. Specifically, Congress has authorized the Service to use funding from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund to administer these six grant programs: Sport Fish Restoration, Multistate Conservation, Clean Vessel, Boating Infrastructure, Coastal Wetlands (including North American Wetlands), and National Outreach and Communications. MAP-21 (P.L. 112-141) authorizes the last four grant programs until September 30, 2014.

The Sport Fish Restoration grant program is the cornerstone of fisheries recreation and conservation efforts in the United States. All 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 (State(s)) can participate in this grant program through their respective fish and wildlife agencies. The program also increases boating opportunities and aquatic stewardship throughout the country. The Sport Fish Restoration program is widely recognized as one of the most successful conservation programs

in the world. Since its inception in 1950, this program has awarded more than \$7.65 billion to State fish and wildlife agencies for their fisheries conservation and boating access efforts. The stable funding provided by this program allows States to develop comprehensive fisheries conservation programs and provide public boating access. The Sport Fish Restoration grant program is a formula-based apportionment program. The formula is based on 60 percent of its licensed anglers and 40 percent of its land and water area. No State may receive more than 5 percent or less than 1 percent of each year's total apportionment. Puerto Rico receives 1 percent, and the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, and the District of Columbia each receive one-third of 1 percent. Table 1 provides the estimated FY 2014 and FY 2015 Sport Fish Restoration apportionment to States.



*Boating access area – Annapolis, MD
Credit: Andy Loftus, USFWS*

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and the Service work cooperatively together to manage the Multistate Conservation Grant Program. The Service ultimately awards and manages grants; however, the AFWA administers the grant application process, providing oversight, coordination, and guidance for the program as established by the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-408). These high priority projects address problems affecting States on a regional or national basis. Project types generally selected for funding are: biological research/training, species population status, outreach, data collection regarding angler participation, aquatic education, economic value of fishing, and regional or multistate habitat needs assessments. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission was recently awarded a grant for the Compilation of Reservoir Habitat Best Management Practices and Expansion of Local Partnerships; a project that will benefit all 50 States. The grant will be used to compile and design Best Management Practices (BMP) suitable for addressing regional differences in fisheries habitat impairments afflicting U.S. reservoirs, and to develop a national BMP monitoring system appropriate for evaluating and refining BMP applied within an adaptive management context. The grant will also strengthen and diversify Reservoir Fishery Habitat Partnership strategic capability to implement the National Fish Habitat Partnership Action Plan. More than 21 million anglers fish reservoirs across the country with an economic impact exceeding \$15 billion in direct expenditures. The Multistate Conservation Grant Program addresses the Secretary of the Interior's priorities to (1) build a landscape-level understanding, (2) celebrate and enhance America's great outdoors, and (3) engage the next generation (as well as other age groups) in exploring, connecting with and preserving America's natural heritage.

The Clean Vessel Act (CVA) grant program is a nationally competitive program 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. For example, the California Department of Boating and Waterways reduces vessel sewage pollution from overboard discharges into the lakes and coastal waters of the State of California through the installation of new or replacement pump-out stations, dump stations, floating restrooms, and operation and maintenance



*Pumpout station – NY
Credit: Lisa Van Alstyne, USFWS*

funding for all CVA equipment. The facilities help meet the demand for adequate boater-generated sewage collection and help prevent the discharge of sewage into California waterways. Additionally, their education program reaches out to millions of recreational boaters in California and educates them as to why it is so important to do the right thing and “not discharge sewage” directly into the water. The Clean Vessel Act grant program directly addresses the Secretary of the Interior’s priority of assuring sustainable, secure water supplies. Table 2 provides the FY 2013 Clean Vessel grant program awards.



*Boating access area – Annapolis, MD
Credit: Andy Loftus, USFWS*

The Boating Infrastructure Grant program is a nationally competitive program that provides funding to construct, renovate, and maintain tie-up facilities with features for transient boaters in vessels 26 feet or longer. The program also produces and distributes information and educational materials. In FY 2013, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission was awarded \$1,285,129 for improvements among three projects; the Gulfport Casino Docks, Madeira Beach Municipal Marina, and the Riviera Beach Marina. Tables 3 and 4 provide the FY 2013 Boating Infrastructure Grant awards.

The National Coastal Wetlands Conservation grant program continues to expand its reach and beneficial conservation work. The program provides grants to States and organizations to restore and protect coastal wetlands ecosystems nationwide. Partnerships are an essential part of this program and allow the Service to work closely with a diverse number of agencies and organizations concerned about natural resources. For example, in the first National Coastal Wetland Conservation grant to American Samoa, Restoration of Leone Village Coastal Wetlands, the American Samoa Department of Commerce will partner with the Leone Village Community; American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources; American Samoa Community College; University of Hawaii Department of Urban and Rural Planning; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, to restore 18.3 acres of coastal wetland habitat with the goal of addressing the degradation and loss of coastal wetland and coral reef habitat in Leone Village, including damage from a devastating 2009 tsunami event. The Leone wetland area consists of one of the largest and most important mangrove swamps in American Samoa and was designated as a Special Management Area in 1990. The four main project activities are: community management, tsunami debris removal, coral reef restoration, and mangrove restoration. Community members will participate in all phases of restoration. Enhancing and improving the wetland habitats will benefit the marine, freshwater and terrestrial wildlife associated with mangroves and coral reefs, as well as increase the resiliency of the ecosystem to future impacts from natural disasters and climate change. Table 5 provides the FY 2013 Coastal Wetlands Conservation grant awards.

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant program is an internationally recognized conservation program that provides grants throughout North America for the conservation of waterfowl and other wetland-associated migratory birds. The North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant program receives funds from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund to support projects in U.S. coastal areas. These funds help sustain the abundance of waterfowl and other migratory bird populations throughout the Western Hemisphere. Along the Texas Gulf Coast, Ducks Unlimited, Inc. and numerous other partners are using the funding to protect, restore, and enhance almost 5,200 acres of wetlands, prairies, and other critical habitats. This effort continues a 20-year partnership designed to recover historically important habitats along the coast for the benefit of breeding, wintering, and migrating waterfowl, shorebirds, and other wildlife species. Table 6 provides the FY 2013 North American Wetlands Conservation grant awards.

The National Outreach program improves communications with anglers, boaters, and the public regarding angling and boating opportunities which reduces barriers to participation in these activities, advances adoption of sound fishing and boating practices, promotes conservation and the responsible use of the Nation's aquatic resources, and furthers safety in fishing and boating. The Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, a nonprofit 501(c)(3), administers this nationally-competitive grant program.

2015 Program Performance

The Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act programs provide essential grant funds to address many of the nation's most pressing conservation and recreation needs. The grant programs focus primarily on aquatic-based issues and contribute directly, or indirectly, to several of the Department of Interior's mission goals. In FY 2015, the States will continue to conduct conservation projects, similar to those below, with funds provided from the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act:



Potomac River, MD. Credit: Julie McCandless, USFWS

- Research and survey of sport fish populations;
- Fish stocking in suitable habitats to help stabilize species populations and provide angling opportunities;
- Improve public access and facilities for the use and enjoyment of anglers and boaters;
- Operate and maintain fishing and boating access sites, fish hatcheries and other associated opportunities;
- Develop and improve aquatic education programs and facilities;
- Support partnerships, watershed planning, and leveraging of ongoing projects in coastal wetlands; and
- Construct, renovate, operate, and maintain pump-out stations and dump stations to dispose of sewage from recreational boats.

All grant programs funded by the Sport Fish Restoration program leverage the Federal funds by requiring a minimum of a 25 percent cost share, with the exception of the Multistate Conservation Grant, which does not require a cost share. While the Sport Fish Restoration grant program began over 60 years ago, its core value is a cooperative partnership of Federal and State agencies, anglers, boaters, and industry that provides significant benefits to the public and our nation's natural resources. Moreover, the program is central to the Service's mission of "working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for continuing benefit of the American people."

Some examples of activities planned by State fish and wildlife agencies in FY 2015 include:

- **Alaska:** In support of the Secretary's priority for engaging the next generation and enjoying America's great outdoors, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) delivers Aquatic Education (AE) programs throughout Alaska. In Anchorage, the most populous city in Alaska, ADF&G staff will continue to provide content-rich, hands-on AE programs throughout the Anchorage School District (ASD) and community events. The programs with the ASD reach an incredibly culturally diverse youth audience, with minority students comprising over 50 percent of the 48,000-plus student population who speak 93 different languages at home. AE staff work with about 60 schools and interact with about 5,500 students a year to deliver in-classroom and out-of-doors education experiences involving aquatic habitat, salmon lifecycle, salmon anatomy, and outdoor sport fishing. Though Anchorage is surrounded by natural areas and fish-filled waters,

many students experience their first encounter with live fish in their natural habitats though this program, providing early and positive steps in engaging youth with nature.

- **North Carolina:** The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) will continue activities to study the mortality, movement, and habitat selection of juvenile muskellunge in the New River. The muskellunge, *Esox masquinongy*, is the largest member of the Esocid family and a widely sought sport fish. Muskellunge are native to the Ohio, St. Lawrence, and Upper Mississippi Rivers, and they were native to the French Broad River in North Carolina. They were extirpated from the French Broad River during the 1950s because of pollution and loss of habitat. The NCWRC began stocking the North Carolina sections of the New River in 1978 to create a trophy muskellunge fishery. In 1985 it was determined that 48 percent of this section of the New River contained suitable muskellunge habitat, and the stocking program was tailored to better match the available habitat.

As little is known about the present state of the fishery, the NCWRC proposed a 41-month project to (1) evaluate the mortality, dispersal, and habitat selection of stocked fingerling muskellunge in the New River, and to (2) compare the status of a hatchery-maintained muskellunge sport fishery to that of an unstocked muskellunge sport fishery in the same region. The total budget for this 41-month project is \$203,263, of which the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act Federal share is \$152,447. This study's results will guide NCWRC biologists in the updating of stocking and muskellunge management strategies to improve the sport fishing success for this highly prized sport fish species.

- **Oregon:** The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is undertaking the final phase of a three-phase wetland enhancement project that is designed to improve water management capabilities and wetland function at the Anna River within the Summer Lake Wildlife Management Area. The Phase 3 restoration is within the Bullgate Wetland Management Unit. The proposed restoration will refurbish existing levees, replace and/or install water control structures, and construct water conveyance swales. The construction footprint totals 34 acres and it will include 60,731 cubic yards of fill derived primarily from swale construction which entails the excavation of 61,388 cubic yards of borrow material. Construction will also include installation of six pre-cast concrete and five inline Agri-drain water control structures. The final design will enable water to efficiently flow through the unit to the bottom where it can be impounded and slowly flooded, replicating the historic Summer Lake water regime.
- **Texas:** The Inland Fisheries Division of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is responsible for management and conservation of the freshwater sport fisheries and aquatic resources of Texas. The freshwater fisheries resources of Texas consist of approximately 800 public impoundments and about 80,000 miles of rivers and streams, together totaling 17 million acres. Over 2 million anglers, whose fishing activities result in at least \$2 billion in trip and equipment expenditures, use these resources. Approximately \$41 million is needed annually for hatchery operation, maintenance, and salaries for approximately 53 staff at six facilities. The sport fish in Texas' public waters were created and/or enhanced through fingerling stockings from the State's fish hatcheries. Additional stockings are needed from time-to-time to maintain desired fisheries. Stockings also are needed for creating fisheries in new or renovated waters, support of research efforts, and put-and-take or put-grow-and-take fisheries in small urban situations where natural reproduction cannot sustain angling needs. Based on standardized management surveys and inventories, an annual demand in excess of 30 million fish (fry, fingerlings, and adults) has been identified.

In September 2008, after a two-year effort, the Service, in cooperation with States, developed a Conservation Heritage Strategic Plan that includes goals and performance measures for the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration program. Data collection to assess progress on the Conservation

Heritage Strategic Plan began in FY 2009. The Conservation Heritage Measures demonstrate long-term national outcomes as well as annual output performance goals through data provided by the individual States and collected in national surveys. Below are the targeted measures for FY 2015 under the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration program.

Sport Fish - Performance Change and Overview Table

Performance Goal	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Plan	2015 PB	Change from 2014 Plan to 2015 PB	Program Change Occurring in Out-years
15.8.13 # of resident and nonresident fishing license holders	n/a	28,396,914	29,323,585	28,000,000	27,947,923	27,947,923	0	n/a
15.8.16 # of Days of participation in fishing	n/a	516,781,000	553,841,000	553,841,000	553,841,000	553,841,000	0	n/a

Table 1

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE		
ESTIMATED APPORTIONMENT OF DINGELL-JOHNSON		
SPORT FISH RESTORATION FUNDS		
STATE	FY 2014	FY 2015
ALABAMA	\$5,908,175	\$6,447,849
ALASKA	\$16,310,300	\$17,226,984
AMERICAN SAMOA	\$1,087,353	\$1,148,465
ARIZONA	\$6,459,410	\$6,774,767
ARKANSAS	\$5,953,181	\$5,909,613
CALIFORNIA	\$16,310,300	\$17,226,984
COLORADO	\$7,883,846	\$8,383,088
CONNECTICUT	\$3,262,061	\$3,445,397
DELAWARE	\$3,262,061	\$3,445,397
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	\$1,087,353	\$1,148,465
FLORIDA	\$10,991,144	\$11,433,110
GEORGIA	\$6,040,849	\$6,331,230
GUAM	\$1,087,353	\$1,148,465
HAWAII	\$3,262,061	\$3,445,397
IDAHO	\$5,659,027	\$6,070,564
ILLINOIS	\$6,574,298	\$6,920,046
INDIANA	\$4,110,956	\$4,551,266
IOWA	\$4,270,622	\$4,505,784
KANSAS	\$4,565,852	\$4,886,508
KENTUCKY	\$4,751,730	\$5,157,198
LOUISIANA	\$6,455,413	\$6,398,658
MAINE	\$3,262,061	\$3,445,397
MARYLAND	\$3,262,061	\$3,445,397
MASSACHUSETTS	\$3,262,061	\$3,445,397
MICHIGAN	\$10,214,610	\$11,093,583
MINNESOTA	\$11,950,183	\$13,055,476
MISSISSIPPI	\$3,977,887	\$4,134,513
MISSOURI	\$7,282,571	\$7,951,612
MONTANA	\$7,581,787	\$8,191,556
N. MARIANA ISLANDS	\$1,087,353	\$1,148,465
NEBRASKA	\$4,022,217	\$4,267,162
NEVADA	\$4,746,839	\$5,023,507
NEW HAMPSHIRE	\$3,262,061	\$3,445,397
NEW JERSEY	\$3,262,061	\$3,445,397
NEW MEXICO	\$5,543,727	\$5,955,326
NEW YORK	\$7,951,483	\$8,176,269
NORTH CAROLINA	\$9,651,638	\$9,873,343
NORTH DAKOTA	\$3,628,849	\$3,845,793
OHIO	\$6,211,058	\$6,924,925
OKLAHOMA	\$6,601,917	\$7,002,897
OREGON	\$7,326,047	\$7,757,308
PENNSYLVANIA	\$7,779,316	\$7,986,910
PUERTO RICO	\$3,262,060	\$3,445,396
RHODE ISLAND	\$3,262,061	\$3,445,397
SOUTH CAROLINA	\$4,702,303	\$4,772,548
SOUTH DAKOTA	\$3,986,680	\$4,205,469
TENNESSEE	\$6,404,241	\$6,281,880
TEXAS	\$16,310,300	\$17,226,984
UTAH	\$5,885,475	\$6,272,626
VERMONT	\$3,262,061	\$3,445,397
VIRGIN ISLANDS	\$1,087,353	\$1,148,465
VIRGINIA	\$5,045,589	\$5,510,113
WASHINGTON	\$6,850,144	\$6,973,997
WEST VIRGINIA	\$3,262,061	\$3,445,397
WISCONSIN	\$10,846,598	\$11,499,256
WYOMING	\$4,879,947	\$5,245,898
TOTAL	\$326,208,005	\$344,539,688

Table 2

FY 2013 Clean Vessel Act Grant Program Awards

State	Coastal / Inland	Federal Share
Alabama	Coastal	\$203,983
Alabama	Inland	\$81,483
Arkansas	Inland	\$1,500,000
California	Coastal	\$945,000
California	Inland	\$1,134,000
Connecticut	Coastal	\$1,500,000
Florida	Coastal	\$1,406,400
Florida	Inland	\$879,582
Georgia	Coastal	\$269,566
Guam	Coastal	\$61,063
Hawaii	Coastal	\$468,437
Indiana	Coastal	\$102,530
Indiana	Inland	\$102,530
Louisiana	Coastal	\$50,000
Maine	Coastal	\$382,789
Maryland	Coastal	\$757,615
Massachusetts	Coastal	\$1,094,874
Michigan	Coastal	\$200,000
Mississippi	Coastal	\$76,000
Mississippi	Inland	\$54,000
Missouri	Inland	\$48,000
New Hampshire	Coastal	\$80,397
New Hampshire	Inland	\$54,999
New Jersey	Coastal	\$754,117
North Carolina	Coastal	\$116,250
Ohio	Inland	\$533,315
Oklahoma	Inland	\$36,513
Texas	Coastal	\$240,000
Texas	Inland	\$270,000
Vermont	Inland	\$81,750
Washington	Coastal	\$1,500,000
Washington	Inland	\$155,000
	Total	\$15,140,193

Table 3

FY 2013 Boating Infrastructure Grant Program – Tier 1 Awards

State	Federal Share
Alabama	\$100,000
Arizona	\$100,000
Arkansas	\$100,000
Connecticut	\$100,000
Florida	98,629
Guam	\$100,000
Hawaii	\$100,000
Indiana	\$100,000
Louisiana	\$100,000
Maine	\$99,975
Maryland	\$100,000
Massachusetts	\$100,000
Michigan	\$100,000
Mississippi	\$100,000
Missouri	\$100,000
New Jersey	\$100,000
New York	\$100,000
North Carolina	\$51,066
Ohio	\$72,309
Oregon	\$100,000
Pennsylvania	\$68,700
Rhode Island	\$100,000
South Carolina	\$99,300
Tennessee	\$100,000
Vermont	\$100,000
Virginia	\$100,000
Washington	\$100,000
Wisconsin	\$98,500
Total	\$2,688,479

Table 4

FY 2013 Boating Infrastructure Grant Program – Tier 2 Awards

State	Project Title	Federal Share
Arkansas	Shoal Bay	\$1,215,841
California	Rio Vista	\$225,000
Connecticut	Thamesport Marina	\$1,430,975
Florida	Gulfport Casino Docks	\$112,613
Florida	Madeira Beach Municipal Marina	\$322,516
Florida	Riviera Beach Marina	\$850,000
Hawaii	Lahaina Roadstead Offshore Mooring Installation	\$248,500
Maine	Belfast	\$120,898
Maryland	Annapolis City Dock Improvements	\$1,500,000
Massachusetts	Seaport Landing Marina	\$267,700
Michigan	Munising Marina	\$1,466,577
Michigan	Port Austin State Harbor, West Dock Renovation	\$747,250
New Jersey	Belmar Municipal Marina	\$270,059
New Jersey	Grassy Sound Marina	\$36,364
New Jersey	Silver Cloud Harbor Marina	\$65,710
New York	Shattemuc Yacht Club	\$593,501
Ohio	Ironton Riverfront Boat Ramp and Docks	\$636,000
Oregon	Port of Arlington	\$190,191
Pennsylvania	Bristol Maritime Center	\$1,492,195
Rhode Island	Ann Street Public Pier	\$740,000
Rhode Island	Bristol Maritime Center	\$861,028
South Carolina	Charleston City Marina	\$1,496,462
Tennessee	City of Chattanooga	\$1,285,868
Virginia	Deltaville Marina	\$743,891
Virgin Islands	St. John Marina	\$1,273,689
	Total	\$18,192,828

Table 5

FY 2013 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program Awards

State	Project Title	Federal Share
American Samoa	Restoration of Leone Village Coastal Wetlands	\$269,000
California	Ryan Creek Wetlands Conservation	\$1,000,000
California	Sonoma Creek Enhancement Project	\$1,000,000
California	Steam Shovel Slough Acquisition	\$1,000,000
California	Upper Devereux Slough Wetlands Restoration Phase 3	\$1,000,000
Florida	Grassy Flats Estuarine Habitat Restoration Project	\$777,142
Georgia	Morgan Lake Tract Acquisition	\$600,000
Illinois	Illinois Wolf Lake— Powderhorn Lake Connection	\$1,000,000
Massachusetts	Nasketucket Bay Wetlands Protection Project	\$1,000,000
Maine	Penobscot River Restoration: Veazie Dam Removal	\$1,000,000
Maine	White Island (Stevens) and Wilson's Cove	\$300,000
New Jersey	Cohansey Bayshore Wetlands Phase 2	\$1,000,000
Ohio	Lake Erie Bluffs Restoration Project Phase 4	\$1,000,000
Oregon	Sand Lake Acquisition	\$625,000
Texas	Dickinson Bayou Wetland Restoration Phase 2	\$500,000
Washington	Fudge Point Shoreline Acquisition	\$1,000,000
Washington	Kindred Island Acquisition: Linking and Expanding North Willapa Bay Conservation Initiatives	\$803,500
Washington	Lower Dungeness Floodplain and Estuarine Basin Conservation	\$930,300
Washington	North Livingston Bay Wetlands Phase 1	\$1,000,000
Washington	Oakland Bay Estuary Conservation, Phase 3	\$1,000,000
Washington	Port Gamble Bay Shoreline Acquisition	\$1,000,000
Washington	Snow Creek Salt Marsh and Nearshore Restoration Phase 2	\$815,435
Washington	Tarboo-Dabob Acquisition and Restoration Phase 3	\$1,000,000
Wisconsin	Mink River Estuary and Coastal Wetlands Protection	\$420,000
	Total	\$20,040,377

Table 6

FY 2013 North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grant Awards

State	CFDA Number 15.623 Project	Amount
CA	Save the Bay Tidal Marsh Transition Zone Restoration Project: Eden Landing	\$75,000
DE	Delaware Bayshore Land Conservation Initiative - Phase I	\$1,000,000
FL	Coastal Palmetto Bay Habitat Restoration Project	\$75,000
GA	Boyles Island	\$900,000
LA	Gum Cove	\$1,000,000
LA	Liner's Canal	\$997,506
MA	Broad Brook Habitat Preservation	\$75,000
MA	Rocky Gutter	\$75,000
MD	Wetland Enhancement and Restoration at Deal Island WMA	\$66,400
ME	Belgrade Wetlands Restoration	\$75,000
ME	Hurds Pond Focus Area Phase I: Hauk-Fry Property	\$19,540
ME	Perley Mills	\$75,000
MI	River Raisin - Trachet Easement	\$52,500
NC	Southeastern North Carolina Wetlands Initiative III	\$1,000,000
NH	New Hampshire Great Bay Estuary, Phase VII	\$900,119
NH	Rockrimmon Road Conservation Area	\$55,000
NJ	Country Meadow	\$75,000
NY	Chippewa Bay - St. Lawrence River IBA	\$75,000
NY	New York's Great Swamp Corridor: Phase II	\$1,000,000
OH	Cooke Restoration - Pickerel Creek	\$75,000
OR	Sullivan Gulch Restoration	\$60,000
SC	Santee Delta and Winyah Bay Wetlands Protection Project Phase II	\$1,000,000
SC	South Carolina Low Country Wetlands Initiative III	\$1,000,000
SC	South Carolina Wetlands Landscape Initiative I	\$1,000,000
TX	Alamo Beach Wetland Restoration and Enhancement	\$75,000
TX	Coastal Prairie Wetlands Preservation Project	\$1,000,000
TX	GCJV Mottled Duck Conservation Plan - Phase 6	\$8,000
TX	Texas Gulf Coast X	\$996,110
TX	Texas Mid Coast Wetlands Project	\$734,670
VA	Dragon Run I	\$1,000,000
WI	Green Bay	\$210,000
WI	Northern Lakes Habitat Program	\$68,750
	Administration (4% of \$14,818,595)	[\$592,744]
	Total	\$14,818,595

Standard Form 300 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE SPORTFISH RESTORATION			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) Identification Code 010-18-8151	2013 Actual	2014 Estimate	2015 Estimate
<u>Obligations by program activity:</u>			
0001 Payments to States for sport fish restoration	400	385	379
0003 North American wetlands conservation grants	16	16	17
0004 Coastal wetlands conservation grants	26	16	17
0005 Clean Vessel Act- pumpout stations grants	14	12	12
0006 Administration	11	11	11
0007 National communication & outreach	12	12	12
0008 Non-trailerable recreational vessel access	17	12	12
0009 Multi-State conservation grants	3	3	3
0010 Marine Fisheries Commissions & Boating Council	1	1	1
0900 Total new obligations	500	468	464
<u>Budgetary Resources:</u>			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	227	214	193
1021 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	48	40	36
1050 Unobligated balance (total)	275	254	229
<u>Budget authority:</u>			
Appropriations, mandatory:			
1201 Appropriation (special or trust fund)	658	595	619
1203 Appropriation (previously unavailable)	0	24	0
1220 Appropriations transferred to other accts [96-8333]	-80	-75	-78
1220 Appropriations transferred to other accts [70-8149]	-115	-107	-112
1232 Appropriations and/or unobligated balance of appropriations temporarily reduced	-24	-30	0
1260 Appropriations, mandatory (total)	439	407	429
1900 Budget authority (total)	439	407	429
1930 Total budgetary resources available	714	661	658
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	214	193	194
<u>Change in obligated balance:</u>			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	518	516	533
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	500	468	464
3020 Outlays (gross)	-454	-411	-446
3040 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations, unexpired	-48	-40	-36
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	516	533	515
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	518	516	533
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	516	533	515

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE SPORTFISH RESTORATION			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2013	2014	2015
Identification Code 010-18-8151	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
<u>Budget authority and outlays, net:</u>			
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	439	407	429
Outlays:			
4100 Outlays from new mandatory authority	88	101	129
4101 Outlays from mandatory balances	366	310	317
4110 Outlays, gross (total)	454	411	446
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	439	407	429
4190 Outlays, net (total)	454	411	446

Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	6	6	6
12.1 Civilian personnel benefits	2	2	2
23.1 Rental payments to GSA	1	1	1
25.2 Other services from non-Federal sources	1	1	1
25.3 Other goods and services from Federal sources	2	1	1
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	488	457	453
99.9 Total new obligations	500	468	464

Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	64	58	58

Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration

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 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 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 develop and implement a Multistate Conservation Grant Program and a Firearm and Bow Hunter Education and Safety Program that provide 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 fund not required for current year spending in interest-bearing obligations to be available for wetlands conservation projects.

Appropriation: Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration

		2013 Actual	2014 Estimate	2015				Change from 2014 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Trans- fers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Payments to States	(\$000)	507,023	761,227	0	0	-212,974	548,253	-212,974
Hunter Education & Safety Grants	(\$000)	7,592	7,832	0	0	+168	8,000	+168
Multistate Conservation Grants	(\$000)	2,847	2,937	0	0	+63	3,000	+63
Administration	(\$000)	9,963	10,393	0	0	+354	10,747	+354
Subtotal (\$000)	(\$000)	527,425	782,389	0	0	-212,389	570,000	-212,389
	<i>FTE</i>	46	52	0	0	0	52	0
Interest – NAWCF	(\$000)	6,744	7,186	0	0	+308	7,494	+308
	<i>FTE</i>	5	5	0	0	0	5	0
TOTAL, Pittman- Robertson Wildlife Restoration	(\$000)	534,169	789,575	0	0	-212,081	577,494	-212,081
	<i>FTE</i>	51	57	0	0	0	57	0

The 2013 and 2014 amounts include sequestration in accordance with section 251A of the BBDECA, 2 U.S.C.901a.

Justification of 2015 Program Changes

The 2015 budget estimate for the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration program is \$577,494,000 and 57 FTE. The estimate is based on current law projections provided by the Department of the Treasury's Office of Tax Analysis.

Program Overview

In 1937, Congress passed the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act. The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration grant programs, including Section 4(c) Hunter Education and Safety program (Basic Hunter Education), and 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. These programs not only help to meet hunter education, safety and shooting sports goals, but also support the Department's Resource Protection Strategy to "sustain biological communities on managed and influenced lands and waters" by providing financial and technical assistance to States, Commonwealths, and Territories (States) for:

- Restoration, conservation, management, and enhancement of wild bird and mammal populations;
- Acquiring and managing wildlife habitats;
- Providing public uses that benefit from wildlife resources;
- Educating hunters on conservation ethics and safety; and
- Constructing, operating, and managing recreational firearm shooting and archery ranges.

The Wildlife Restoration program has been a stable funding source for wildlife conservation efforts for 76 years. States have developed comprehensive wildlife management strategies using a wide range of state-of-the-art techniques. Furthermore, States increase on-the-ground achievements by matching grant funds with at least one dollar for every three Federal dollars received. States use approximately 60 percent of Wildlife Restoration funds to purchase, lease, develop, maintain, and operate wildlife management areas. Since the program began, States have acquired about five million acres of land with these Federal funds through fee-simple acquisitions, leases, and easements. States use about 26 percent of Wildlife

Restoration funds annually for wildlife surveys and research; enabling biologists and other managers to put science foremost in restoring and managing wildlife populations. Many States have been successful in restoring numerous species to their native ranges, including the Eastern and Rio Grande turkey, white-tailed deer, pronghorn antelope, wood duck, beaver, black bear, giant Canada goose, American elk, desert and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, bobcat, mountain lion, and many species of birds.

Since the start of the program, States have provided fish and wildlife management assistance to over 9.3 million landowners and have enhanced or improved over 38.6 million acres of habitat for wildlife species. Additionally, States have operated and maintained over 33 million acres of wildlife management areas for recreational purposes each year. Since the late 1930s, States have acquired or leased over 4.8 million acres for wildlife habitat and recreational purposes. The conservation efforts associated with the Wildlife Restoration program provide a wide range of outdoor opportunities for firearm users (recreational shooters and hunters), archery enthusiasts, birdwatchers, nature photographers, wildlife artists, and other users.

America's wildlife continues to face a wide variety of challenges, and the Wildlife Restoration program is essential to meeting ever-changing conservation needs. States continue to respond to these challenges with unique programs designed to benefit wildlife across State boundaries and across the nation. Colorado provides an excellent example via a program that addresses the need for information and alternative decision making processes to support its moose herd management by developing and refining metrics to evaluate moose herd performance in relation to current habitat conditions. Researchers capture and radio collar moose in different locations throughout the State in an attempt to better understand the limiting habitat components to population management. Additional metrics, such as the efficiency of hunters to encounter and harvest animals, and the average age of harvested animals, are also investigated to evaluate their utility for informing future harvest and population management decisions.

The Service and States continue to adapt the program to the changing needs of America's wildlife conservation and outdoor recreation demands, including those of youth and veterans. For example, The South Carolina Take One Make One Program was established in 1999 and continues as a youth mentoring program to get youth involved in outdoor recreation, the shooting sports and hunting. From July 2012 through June 2013, the program coordinated 46 youth hunts, with 422 youth and adults participating in primarily first time hunt experiences, as well as two hunts for wounded warrior veterans returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Service also supports State Hunter Education Programs that teach the knowledge and skills for safe and responsible hunting and recreational shooting. In FY 2014, approximately \$138 million is available to assist States in providing hunter education, shooting and archery ranges and young hunter programs. States' hunter education programs have trained more than ten million students in hunter safety and had over 3.9 million students participating in live-fire exercises over a span of 44 years. This effort has resulted in a significant decline in hunting-related accidents and has increased the awareness of outdoor enthusiasts on the importance of individual stewardship and conserving America's resources. Recently, the Pennsylvania Game Commission has undertaken a rigorous examination of demand for and access to hunter education courses. This research has led to changes in the timing and geographic location of classes, with more classes being offered later in the year and additional classes near large urban centers like Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. As a result of this increased attention to class timing and location, the Game Commission enrolled 6,000+ more students in hunter education classes; an increase of about 15 percent over the prior year's participation.

In 2000, the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act authorized the Enhanced Firearm and Bow Hunter Education and Safety Program (Enhanced Hunter Education). This funding provides enhancements to the Basic Hunter Education activities provided under the Wildlife Restoration

Act. Enhanced Hunter Education, an \$8 million set-aside from the Wildlife Restoration Trust Fund, enhances interstate coordination and development of hunter education and shooting range programs; promotes bow hunter and archery education, safety, and development programs; and provides for construction or development of firearm and archery ranges.

The Improvement Act of 2000 also authorized the development and implementation of a Multistate Conservation Grant Program (MSCGP). In FY 2015, \$6 million (\$3 million each from Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration programs) will be provided to the MSCGP for conservation grants arising from a cooperative effort between the Service and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. These grants support conservation projects designed to solve high priority problems affecting States on a regional or national level. Project types generally selected for funding are: biological research/training, species population status, outreach, data collection regarding hunter/angler participation, hunter/aquatic education, economic value of fishing/hunting and regional or multistate habitat needs assessments. The MSCGP addresses the Secretary of the Interior's priorities to (1) build a landscape-level understanding, (2) celebrate and enhance America's great outdoors, and (3) engage the next generation (as well as other age groups) in exploring, connecting with and preserving America's natural heritage.

Since the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration program began, the program has collected more than \$7.68 billion in manufacturers' excise taxes and awarded this to States for wildlife conservation efforts. States have provided their required match of over \$1.92 billion. The National Shooting Sports Foundation estimates that, on a daily basis, about \$3.5 million is contributed through excise taxes and license fees to wildlife conservation. This funding is critical to the restoration of many species of wildlife, including the most recognizable symbol of our American heritage, the bald eagle. These funds also benefit songbirds, peregrine falcons, sea otters, prairie dogs, and other nongame species.

The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration program is one of the most successful programs administered by the Service. It has also served as a model for a companion program, the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act, which uses excise-tax funds derived from anglers and boaters to safeguard the nation's sport fish resources and provide recreational opportunities. Together these two programs are the cornerstones of fish and wildlife management and recreational use in the United States.

Types of State Wildlife Restoration 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 participate in this program through their respective fish and wildlife agencies. Each fish and wildlife agency develops and selects projects for funding based on the agencies' assessment of problems and needs for management of wildlife resources. The following are eligible activities under the Wildlife Restoration program:

- Conduct surveys and inventories of wildlife populations;
- Acquire, manage, and improve habitat;
- Introduce wildlife into suitable habitat to help stabilize species populations;
- Improve public access and facilities for their use and enjoyment of wildlife resources;
- Operate and maintain wildlife management areas;
- Acquire land through fee title, leases, or agreement for wildlife conservation and public hunting purposes;
- Conduct research on wildlife and monitor wildlife status;
- Develop and improve hunter education and safety programs and facilities; and
- Develop and manage shooting or archery ranges.

Law enforcement and fish and wildlife agency public relations are ineligible for funding.

Funding Source for the Wildlife Restoration Program – Wildlife Restoration program funds come from manufacturer excise taxes collected by the U.S. Treasury and deposited in the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Trust Fund. The Service’s Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) administers the Trust Fund. Once collected, the funds are distributed to State fish and wildlife agencies for eligible wildlife restoration activities. The manufacturer excise taxes include:

- 10% tax on pistols, handguns, and revolvers;
- 11% tax on other firearms and ammunition; and
- 11% tax on bows, quivers, broadheads, and points.

The Basic Hunter Education program funds come from one-half of the manufacturer excise taxes on pistols, revolvers, bows, quivers, broadheads, and shafts. The Enhanced Hunter Education funding is a set-aside of \$8 million from the Wildlife Restoration Trust Fund.

State Apportionment Program – Through a permanent-indefinite appropriation, States (including Commonwealths and Territories) receive funds, provided they pass legislation to ensure that hunting license fees are used only for administration of the State fish and wildlife agency (assent legislation). The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act includes an apportionment formula that distributes program funds to States based on the area of the State (50%) and the number of paid hunting license holders (50%). No State may receive more than 5 percent, or less than one-half of one percent of the total apportionment. The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico receives one-half of one percent, and the Territories of Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands each receive one-sixth of one percent of the total funds apportioned.

The allocation of Basic and Enhanced Hunter Education funds is determined by using a formula-driven apportionment which compares State population to the latest census figures on total U.S. population. No State may receive more than three percent or less than one percent of the total hunter safety funds apportioned. The Commonwealths of Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands are each apportioned up to one-sixth of one percent of the total apportioned. Estimated apportionments for FY 2014 and FY 2015 are included in subsequent pages.

Matching Requirements – The 50 States must provide at least 25 percent of the project costs from a non-Federal source. The non-Federal share often comes from State revenues derived from license fees paid by hunters. The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program can waive the 25 percent non-Federal matching requirement for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Territories of Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, and American Samoa, up to \$200,000 (48 U.S.C. 1469a (d)). The non-Federal share may not include any Federal funds or Federal in-kind contributions unless legislation specifically allows it.

Obligation Requirements – Wildlife Restoration Program funds (including Basic Hunter Education) are available for a period of two years. Under the Act, funds that are not obligated within two years revert to the Service to carry out the provisions of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act. The Wildlife Restoration Act stipulates that the interest from the Wildlife Restoration Trust Fund go to the North American Wetlands Conservation program. Enhanced Hunter Education funds are available for a period of one year.

2015 Program Performance

For 76 years, the Wildlife Restoration program has provided a stable Federal funding source for State fish and wildlife agencies. This funding stability is critical to the recovery of many of the nation's wildlife species. An example of activities planned by State fish and wildlife agencies in FY 2015 includes:

Alaska: In support of the Secretary's priority for engaging the next generation and enjoying America's great outdoors, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game will continue implementation of an \$800,000 Wildlife Restoration grant to fund its Hunter Education Program. Since 1973, over 50,000 students have received their basic hunter education certification. In 1988, the program was expanded to include bowhunter education, and since then, over 17,000 additional students have been certified utilizing the National Bowhunter Education Foundation curriculum. An additional program has evolved from interest in muzzleloader hunting. Since 1999, nearly 2,000 students have received muzzleloader certification. Virtually all instruction has been done by volunteers; now over 400 strong statewide. Priorities for hunter education include teaching of firearms safety, promoting the National Archery in the Schools Program, and offering youth shooting leagues.

Idaho: For the fiscal years 2014-2015, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game is proposing construction of an approximately 3,000 square foot hunter education meeting room and wildlife restoration office space facility immediately adjacent to the Panhandle Region office in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The new building will provide classroom space for hunter education courses, as well as office space for staff working on hunter education and wildlife restoration grants.

Texas: The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department began funding the Texas Youth Hunting Program (TYHP) sixteen years ago under the Wildlife Restoration Act, Hunter Education Program. Through TYHP, youth participants and their parents learn about wildlife habitat and population management from agency biologists, landowners, and game wardens. They are taught the role of hunters and hunting in improving habitat for a diversity of native wildlife, and the importance of their license purchase in funding conservation. Long-term success of TYHP will be reflected in the continued ability of Texas to maintain license sales where other States have seen steep declines over the past 10 years. In the last sixteen years, TYHP has taken over 15,000 youths hunting and has provided more than 47,000 participants with outdoor experiences. To-date, TYHP has conducted over 1,700 youth hunts, with 98 percent of these hunts donated by private landowners. In FY 2015, the TYHP expects to continue implementing this grant project, spending about \$220,000 to provide about 150 youth hunts for approximately 1,500 participants.

In September 2008, after a two-year effort, the Service, in cooperation with States, developed a Conservation Heritage Strategic Plan that includes goals and performance measures for the Pittman-Robertson Restoration program. The Conservation Heritage Measures demonstrate long-term national outcomes as well as annual output performance goals through data provided by the individual States and collected in national surveys. In 2015, the Service will continue to focus on improving performance information through the "Tracking and Reporting Actions for the Conservation of Species" (TRACS) system and on improving programmatic accomplishment reporting and better documentation of progress made in meeting performance goals. Below are the targeted measures for FY 2015 under the Pittman-Robertson Restoration program.

Wildlife Restoration - Performance Change and Overview Table

Performance Goal	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Plan	2015 PB	Change from 2014 Plan to 2015 PB	Program Change Occurring in Out-years
4.5.6 # of Acres of terrestrial habitat acquired and protected through fee title (GPRA)	n/a	35,048	70,917	14,682	12,903	11,100	-1,803 (-14%)	n/a
Comments	Due to the decrease in funding, fundamental program activities including habitat protection will be negatively impacted.							
7.19.4 # of acres achieving habitat/biological community goals through voluntary agreements	470,610	258,418	718,898	88,490	59,125	50,850	-8,275 (-14%)	n/a
Comments	Due to the decrease in funding, fundamental program activities including voluntary agreements for habitat protection and restoration will be negatively impacted.							
15.8.14 # of resident and nonresident hunting license holders	n/a	14,974,534	14,960,522	14,629,726	14,631,327	14,631,327	0	n/a
15.8.15 # of Days of participation in hunting	n/a	219,925,000	281,884,000	281,884,000	281,884,000	281,884,000	0	n/a
15.8.17 # of Days of participation in wildlife watching (away from home)	n/a	352,070,000	335,625,000	335,625,000	335,625,000	335,625,000	0	n/a
15.8.18 # of around the home wildlife watching participants	n/a	67,756,000	68,598,000	68,598,000	68,598,000	68,598,000	0	n/a
15.8.19 # of shooting ranges constructed, renovated, or maintained that support recreational shooting	n/a	371	342	411	282	282	0	n/a
15.8.20 # of certified students that completed a Hunter Education program	n/a	1,048,318	810,306	875,239	637,231	637,231	0	n/a

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE				
ESTIMATED APPORTIONMENT OF PITTMAN-ROBERTSON				
WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014				
	Wildlife Restoration	Hunter Education		Total
		Section 4c	Section 10	
STATE	5220	5221 *	5230 **	
ALABAMA	\$15,447,638.00	\$2,961,069.00	\$177,741.00	\$18,586,448
ALASKA	\$31,537,512.00	\$1,304,769.00	\$78,320.00	\$32,920,601
AMERICAN SAMOA	\$1,051,250.00	\$217,461.00	\$13,053.00	\$1,281,764
ARIZONA	\$15,229,881.00	\$3,914,301.00	\$234,960.00	\$19,379,142
ARKANSAS	\$13,041,022.00	\$1,304,769.00	\$78,320.00	\$14,424,111
CALIFORNIA	\$21,433,973.00	\$3,914,301.00	\$234,960.00	\$25,583,234
COLORADO	\$15,988,100.00	\$3,115,610.00	\$187,018.00	\$19,290,728
CONNECTICUT	\$3,153,752.00	\$2,214,170.00	\$132,908.00	\$5,500,830
DELAWARE	\$3,153,752.00	\$1,304,769.00	\$78,320.00	\$4,536,841
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0
FLORIDA	\$9,414,608.00	\$3,914,301.00	\$234,960.00	\$13,563,869
GEORGIA	\$13,305,396.00	\$3,914,301.00	\$234,960.00	\$17,454,657
GUAM	\$1,051,250.00	\$217,461.00	\$13,053.00	\$1,281,764
HAWAII	\$3,153,752.00	\$1,304,769.00	\$78,320.00	\$4,536,841
IDAHO	\$13,402,989.00	\$1,304,769.00	\$78,320.00	\$14,786,078
ILLINOIS	\$12,123,824.00	\$3,914,301.00	\$234,960.00	\$16,273,085
INDIANA	\$9,158,468.00	\$3,914,301.00	\$234,960.00	\$13,307,729
IOWA	\$10,094,027.00	\$1,304,769.00	\$78,320.00	\$11,477,116
KANSAS	\$13,122,666.00	\$1,304,769.00	\$78,320.00	\$14,505,755
KENTUCKY	\$10,654,762.00	\$2,688,258.00	\$161,366.00	\$13,504,386
LOUISIANA	\$12,003,059.00	\$2,808,445.00	\$168,580.00	\$14,980,084
MAINE	\$6,840,917.00	\$1,304,769.00	\$78,320.00	\$8,224,006
MARYLAND	\$3,456,612.00	\$3,576,742.00	\$214,698.00	\$7,248,052
MASSACHUSETTS	\$3,153,752.00	\$3,914,301.00	\$234,960.00	\$7,303,013
MICHIGAN	\$21,152,644.00	\$3,914,301.00	\$234,960.00	\$25,301,905
MINNESOTA	\$20,120,554.00	\$3,285,806.00	\$197,234.00	\$23,603,594
MISSISSIPPI	\$9,186,432.00	\$1,304,769.00	\$78,320.00	\$10,569,521
MISSOURI	\$16,808,751.00	\$3,710,169.00	\$222,707.00	\$20,741,627
MONTANA	\$19,057,452.00	\$1,304,769.00	\$78,320.00	\$20,440,541
N. MARIANA ISLANDS	\$1,051,250.00	\$217,461.00	\$13,053.00	\$1,281,764
NEBRASKA	\$11,314,059.00	\$1,304,769.00	\$78,320.00	\$12,697,148
NEVADA	\$12,246,989.00	\$1,304,769.00	\$78,320.00	\$13,630,078
NEW HAMPSHIRE	\$3,153,752.00	\$1,304,769.00	\$78,320.00	\$4,536,841
NEW JERSEY	\$3,153,752.00	\$3,914,301.00	\$234,960.00	\$7,303,013
NEW MEXICO	\$13,955,514.00	\$1,304,769.00	\$78,320.00	\$15,338,603
NEW YORK	\$16,606,659.00	\$3,914,301.00	\$234,960.00	\$20,755,920
NORTH CAROLINA	\$15,975,491.00	\$3,914,301.00	\$234,960.00	\$20,124,752
NORTH DAKOTA	\$10,017,897.00	\$1,304,769.00	\$78,320.00	\$11,400,986
OHIO	\$12,253,278.00	\$3,914,301.00	\$234,960.00	\$16,402,539
OKLAHOMA	\$15,070,284.00	\$2,323,979.00	\$139,499.00	\$17,533,762
OREGON	\$14,803,692.00	\$2,373,369.00	\$142,464.00	\$17,319,525
PENNSYLVANIA	\$24,140,485.00	\$3,914,301.00	\$234,960.00	\$28,289,746
PUERTO RICO	\$3,153,751.00	\$217,461.00	\$13,053.00	\$3,384,265
RHODE ISLAND	\$3,153,752.00	\$1,304,769.00	\$78,320.00	\$4,536,841
SOUTH CAROLINA	\$7,246,990.00	\$2,865,434.00	\$172,001.00	\$10,284,425
SOUTH DAKOTA	\$12,632,599.00	\$1,304,769.00	\$78,320.00	\$14,015,688
TENNESSEE	\$15,709,612.00	\$3,914,301.00	\$234,960.00	\$19,858,873
TEXAS	\$31,537,512.00	\$3,914,301.00	\$234,960.00	\$35,686,773
UTAH	\$12,592,113.00	\$1,304,769.00	\$78,320.00	\$13,975,202
VERMONT	\$3,153,752.00	\$1,304,769.00	\$78,320.00	\$4,536,841
VIRGIN ISLANDS	\$1,051,250.00	\$217,461.00	\$13,053.00	\$1,281,764
VIRGINIA	\$9,977,797.00	\$3,914,301.00	\$234,960.00	\$14,127,058
WASHINGTON	\$10,398,622.00	\$3,914,301.00	\$234,960.00	\$14,547,883
WEST VIRGINIA	\$6,760,262.00	\$1,304,769.00	\$78,320.00	\$8,143,351
WISCONSIN	\$19,901,463.00	\$3,523,114.00	\$211,479.00	\$23,636,056
WYOMING	\$12,438,872.00	\$1,304,769.00	\$78,320.00	\$13,821,961
TOTAL	\$630,750,244	\$130,476,736	\$7,832,000	\$769,058,980

*Section 4(c) - Proposed Name Change: Basic Hunter Education and Safety

**Section 10 - Proposed Name Change: Enhanced Hunter Education and Safety

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE				
ESTIMATED APPORTIONMENT OF PITTMAN-ROBERTSON				
WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015				
	Wildlife Restoration	Hunter Education		Total
		Section 4c	Section 10	
STATE	5220	5221 *	5230 **	
ALABAMA	\$10,904,645	\$2,337,506	\$181,554	\$13,423,705
ALASKA	\$22,262,650	\$1,030,000	\$80,000	\$23,372,650
AMERICAN SAMOA	\$742,088	\$171,667	\$13,333	\$927,088
ARIZONA	\$10,750,928	\$3,090,000	\$240,000	\$14,080,928
ARKANSAS	\$9,205,790	\$1,030,000	\$80,000	\$10,315,790
CALIFORNIA	\$15,130,460	\$3,090,000	\$240,000	\$18,460,460
COLORADO	\$11,286,162	\$2,459,503	\$191,030	\$13,936,695
CONNECTICUT	\$2,226,265	\$1,747,895	\$135,759	\$4,109,919
DELAWARE	\$2,226,265	\$1,030,000	\$80,000	\$3,336,265
DC	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FLORIDA	\$6,645,867	\$3,090,000	\$240,000	\$9,975,867
GEORGIA	\$9,392,414	\$3,090,000	\$240,000	\$12,722,414
GUAM	\$742,088	\$171,667	\$13,333	\$927,088
HAWAII	\$2,226,265	\$1,030,000	\$80,000	\$3,336,265
IDAHO	\$9,461,306	\$1,030,000	\$80,000	\$10,571,306
ILLINOIS	\$8,558,330	\$3,090,000	\$240,000	\$11,888,330
INDIANA	\$6,465,056	\$3,090,000	\$240,000	\$9,795,056
IOWA	\$7,125,476	\$1,030,000	\$80,000	\$8,235,476
KANSAS	\$9,263,423	\$1,030,000	\$80,000	\$10,373,423
KENTUCKY	\$7,521,305	\$2,122,146	\$164,827	\$9,808,278
LOUISIANA	\$8,473,081	\$2,217,023	\$172,196	\$10,862,300
MAINE	\$4,829,073	\$1,030,000	\$80,000	\$5,939,073
MARYLAND	\$2,440,058	\$2,823,527	\$219,303	\$5,482,888
MASSACHUSETTS	\$2,226,265	\$3,090,000	\$240,000	\$5,556,265
MICHIGAN	\$14,931,866	\$3,090,000	\$240,000	\$18,261,866
MINNESOTA	\$14,203,303	\$2,593,858	\$201,465	\$16,998,626
MISSISSIPPI	\$6,484,796	\$1,030,000	\$80,000	\$7,594,796
MISSOURI	\$11,865,468	\$2,928,855	\$227,484	\$15,021,807
MONTANA	\$13,452,849	\$1,030,000	\$80,000	\$14,562,849
N. MARIANA ISLANDS	\$742,088	\$171,667	\$13,333	\$927,088
NEBRASKA	\$7,986,709	\$1,030,000	\$80,000	\$9,096,709
NEVADA	\$8,645,274	\$1,030,000	\$80,000	\$9,755,274
NEW HAMPSHIRE	\$2,226,265	\$1,030,000	\$80,000	\$3,336,265
NEW JERSEY	\$2,226,265	\$3,090,000	\$240,000	\$5,556,265
NEW MEXICO	\$9,851,339	\$1,030,000	\$80,000	\$10,961,339
NEW YORK	\$11,722,809	\$3,090,000	\$240,000	\$15,052,809
NORTH CAROLINA	\$11,277,261	\$3,090,000	\$240,000	\$14,607,261
NORTH DAKOTA	\$7,071,735	\$1,030,000	\$80,000	\$8,181,735
OHIO	\$8,649,714	\$3,090,000	\$240,000	\$11,979,714
OKLAHOMA	\$10,638,266	\$1,834,581	\$142,492	\$12,615,339
OREGON	\$10,450,077	\$1,873,568	\$145,520	\$12,469,165
PENNSYLVANIA	\$17,041,014	\$3,090,000	\$240,000	\$20,371,014
PUERTO RICO	\$2,226,265	\$171,667	\$13,333	\$2,411,265
RHODE ISLAND	\$2,226,265	\$1,030,000	\$80,000	\$3,336,265
SOUTH CAROLINA	\$5,115,724	\$2,262,011	\$175,690	\$7,553,425
SOUTH DAKOTA	\$8,917,480	\$1,030,000	\$80,000	\$10,027,480
TENNESSEE	\$11,089,574	\$3,090,000	\$240,000	\$14,419,574
TEXAS	\$22,262,650	\$3,090,000	\$240,000	\$25,592,650
UTAH	\$8,888,900	\$1,030,000	\$80,000	\$9,998,900
VERMONT	\$2,226,265	\$1,030,000	\$80,000	\$3,336,265
VIRGIN ISLANDS	\$742,088	\$171,667	\$13,333	\$927,088
VIRGINIA	\$7,043,428	\$3,090,000	\$240,000	\$10,373,428
WASHINGTON	\$7,340,493	\$3,090,000	\$240,000	\$10,670,493
WEST VIRGINIA	\$4,772,139	\$1,030,000	\$80,000	\$5,882,139
WISCONSIN	\$14,048,645	\$2,781,192	\$216,015	\$17,045,852
WYOMING	\$8,780,726	\$1,030,000	\$80,000	\$9,890,726
TOTAL	\$445,253,000	\$103,000,000	\$8,000,000	\$556,253,000
<i>*Section 4(c) - Proposed Name Change: Basic Hunter Education and Safety</i>				
<i>**Section 10 - Proposed Name Change: Enhanced Hunter Education and Safety</i>				

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2013	2014	2015
Identification Code 010-18-5029	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
0100 Balance, start of year	556	842	629
Receipts			
0200 Excise Taxes, Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Fund	813	570	530
0240 Earnings on Investments, Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Fund	7	7	7
0299 Total receipts and collections	820	577	537
0400 Total: Balances and collections	1,376	1,419	1,166
Appropriations			
0500 Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration [010-18-5029-0-1201]	-563	-820	-577
0501 Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration [010-18-5029-0-1203]	0	-29	0
0502 Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration [010-18-5029-0-1202]	29	59	0
0599 Total appropriations	-534	-790	-577
0799 Balance, end of year	842	629	589
Obligations by program activity:			
0003 Multi-state conservation grant program	3	3	3
0004 Administration	10	11	11
0005 Wildlife restoration grants	502	669	601
0006 NAWCF (interest used for grants)	13	9	9
0007 Section 10 hunter education	8	8	8
0900 Total new obligations	536	700	632
Budgetary Resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	167	196	306
1021 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	31	20	20
1050 Unobligated balance (total)	198	216	326
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, mandatory:			
1201 Appropriation (special or trust fund)	563	820	577
1203 Appropriation (previously unavailable)	0	29	0
1232 Appropriations and/or unobligated balance of appropriations temporarily reduced	-29	-59	0
1260 Appropriations, mandatory (total)	534	790	577
1930 Total budgetary resources available	732	1,006	903
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	196	306	271
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	394	475	611
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	536	700	632
3020 Outlays (gross)	-424	-544	-594
3040 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations, unexpired	-31	-20	-20
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	475	611	629
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	394	475	611
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	475	611	629

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2013	2014	2015
Identification Code 010-18-5029	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
<u>Budget authority and outlays, net:</u>			
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	534	790	577
Outlays, gross:			
4100 Outlays from new mandatory authority	106	153	144
4101 Outlays from mandatory balances	318	391	450
4110 Outlays, gross (total)	424	544	594
4160 Budget authority, net (mandatory)	534	790	577
4170 Outlays, net (mandatory)	424	544	594
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	534	790	577
4190 Outlays, net (total)	424	544	594
<u>Memorandum (non-add) entries:</u>			
5000 Total investments, SOY: Federal securities: Par value	735	1,421	1,529
5001 Total investments, EOY: Federal securities: Par value	1,421	1,529	1,559
Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	5	5	5
12.1 Civilian personnel benefits	1	1	1
23.1 Rental payments to GSA	1	1	1
25.2 Other services from non-Federal sources	1	1	1
25.3 Other goods and services from Federal sources	2	2	2
32.0 Land and structures	1	0	0
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	525	689	621
99.0 Subtotal, obligations	536	699	631
99.5 Below reporting threshold	0	1	1
99.9 Total new obligations	536	700	632
Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	51	57	57

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Migratory Bird Conservation Account

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.

Legislative Proposal

Concurrent with this budget request, the Service is proposing to amend the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act, to increase the sales price for Duck Stamps from \$15 to \$25 beginning in 2015. Increasing the cost of Duck Stamps in 2015 will bring the annual estimate for the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (MBCF) to approximately \$70.4 million.

Authorizing Statutes

The Migratory Bird Conservation Act of February 18, 1929, as amended (16 U.S.C. 715), 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 Stamp Act of March 16, 1934, as amended (16 U.S.C. 718), 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 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 Wetlands Loan Act of October 4, 1961, as amended (16 U.S.C. 715k-3 through 715k-5), authorizes the appropriation of advances (not to exceed \$200 million, available until expended) to accelerate acquisition of migratory waterfowl habitat. To date, \$197,439,000 has been appropriated under this authority. Funds appropriated under the *Wetlands Loan Act* are merged with receipts from sales of Duck Stamps and other sources and made available for acquisition of migratory bird habitat under provisions of the *Migratory Bird Conservation Act, as amended*, or the *Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act, as amended*.

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 668dd-ee), requires payment of fair market value for any right-of-way easement or reservation granted within the Refuge System. These funds are deposited into the MBCF.

The Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986, as amended (16 U.S.C. 3901), 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; (2) removal of the repayment provision of the wetlands loan; and (3) the graduated increase in the price of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp over a five year period to \$15.00.

Appropriation: Migratory Bird Conservation Account

		2013 Actual	2014 Estimate	2015			Change from 2014 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Duck Stamp Receipts* (\$000)		23,048	22,026	0	0	+14,374	36,400	+14,374
Import Duties on Arms and Ammunition (\$000)		41,912	33,804	0	0	+196	34,000	+196
Total, Migratory Bird Conservation Account	(FTE)	66	66	0	0	+10	76	+10

The 2013 and 2014 amounts include sequestration in accordance with section 251A of the BBEDCA, 2 U.S.C. 901a.

*Duck stamp receipts include incidental amounts from sale of refuge land or rights-of-way.

Justification of 2015 Program Changes

The 2015 budget request for the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund is \$70.4 million and 76 FTE. This amount includes an estimated \$14.0 million of increased revenue due to the requested Duck Stamp price increase. With this revenue, the Service would purchase additional land and hire 10 additional staff of realty specialists, land surveyors, realty assistants, cartographers, and program managers at the regional level based on workload and acquisition opportunities. Their duties will include boundary surveys, mapping, landowner negotiations, title curative work, case closures, and post-acquisition tracking associated with land acquisition at National Wildlife Refuge System lands and Waterfowl Production Areas.

Legislative Proposal

Concurrent with this budget request the Administration is proposing to amend the *Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act*, to increase the sales price for Duck Stamps from \$15 to \$25 beginning in 2015. Increasing the cost of Duck Stamps in 2015 will bring the annual estimate for the MBCF to approximately \$70.4 million. With the additional receipts, the Service anticipates additional acquisition of approximately 7,200 acres in fee and approximately 10,420 acres in conservation easements. Total acres acquired for 2015 would then be approximately 15,500 acres in fee title and 69,350 acres in perpetual conservation easements. After 2015, the legislation also proposes that the price of the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp can be increased by the Secretary of the Interior, with the approval of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission.



This acquisition at Blackwater NWR, in 2013, attracts many types of waterfowl, and wading birds.

Program Overview

The Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (MBCF) allows the Service to acquire important waterfowl habitat. Service policy is to acquire land and water interests including, but not limited to, fee title, easements, leases, and other interests. Areas acquired become units of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and provide compatible wildlife-dependent educational and recreational opportunities that contribute to the Secretary's goal of celebrating and enhancing America's Great Outdoors.



Adam Grimm from South Dakota won the 2013 Federal Duck Stamp Contest with this painting of canvasbacks.

The MBCF receives money from the sale of Federal Duck Stamps, which all duck hunters must purchase in order to hunt. For this reason, most of the fee title tracts are open to public hunting, including youth hunts. Acquired lands and waters also provide opportunities for non-hunters, such as bird watching and other wildlife observation. By providing habitat for ducks and other wildlife, adding more recreational lands for public enjoyment, and protecting more wetlands, these acquisitions, with State-level review and input, engage the next generation; assure sustainable, secure water supplies; and use a landscape-level approach to conservation.

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (MBCC), under authority of the *Migratory Bird Conservation Act*, considers and acts on recommendations by the Secretary of the Interior for purchase or rental of land, water, or land and water for waterfowl conservation. Further, under the Act, the MBCC can fix the price or prices at which the Service may purchase or rent such areas; and the MBCC must approve any changes. Congress also has authorized the Secretary to approve the use of the MBCF for the purchase of critical waterfowl production areas in the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR) of the northern Midwest to preserve the breeding ground for millions of waterfowl and other migratory birds. The MBCC:

- includes representatives from the Legislative and Executive Branches of government,
- invites the participation of State government officials when specific migratory bird areas are recommended to the MBCC, and
- meet at least twice per year.

The Service considers many factors before seeking approval from the MBCC for acquisitions from willing sellers, including:

- the value of the habitat to the waterfowl resource (in general or for specific species),
- the degree of threat to these values due to potential land use changes,
- the possibility of preserving habitat values through means other than Service acquisition,
- the long-term operation and maintenance costs associated with acquisition, and
- the resiliency of potential acquisitions in coastal areas, in light of climate change and rising sea levels.

The MBCC continues to support the Service's acquisition focus on vital habitat in the PPR. The accelerated conversion of waterfowl habitat to cropland in the PPR continues to spur the need for conservation and acquisition efforts to protect and buy more waterfowl production areas (WPAs). The PPR is a large land area covered with shallow wetlands and associated native prairie. The prime breeding habitat for millions of waterfowl, it includes parts of Iowa, the Dakotas, Minnesota, and Montana. The North American Waterfowl Management Plan identified the PPR as the continent's top priority for waterfowl conservation. In 2015, the Service, Ducks Unlimited, and other partners will continue working

with the MBCC to expend at least 70 percent of currently available funding in the PPR to help secure the future for waterfowl and grassland species. In 2013, the Service acquired nearly 53,000 acres of WPAs, in fee and easement, for just over \$41 million.

To carry out MBCC approved projects, the MBCF supports a staff of realty specialists, land surveyors, realty assistants, cartographers, and program managers. This staff performs detailed, technical duties including boundary surveys, mapping, landowner negotiations, title curative work, case closures, and post-acquisition tracking, associated with land acquisition at national wildlife refuges and WPAs.

From 1935 to 2013, the Migratory Bird land acquisition program has received approximately \$1.25 billion for the acquisition of wetlands and other habitat important to waterfowl. The Service has used these funds, including some appropriations received in the early years of the program, to purchase over 3 million acres in fee title and 2.5 million acres in easements or leases, nationwide. MBCF funding is derived from the following sources:

- Federal Duck Stamp sales
- Proceeds from import duties on certain firearms and ammunition
- Payments from rights-of-way on refuges and sale of refuge lands
- State reverted funds in the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration account

Delivering Conservation for Migratory Birds

Since its creation, the MBCF has contributed significantly to the successful conservation of wetland birds, and this program continues to expand conservation for waterfowl and other birds that use imperiled habitats within our Nation, including coastlines, grasslands, and forests. In addition to PPR acquisition, the following are examples of the quality waterfowl habitats acquired in FY 2013:

- The MBCC approved two projects each at San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge and Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge in Texas. These refuges are located in the southeastern part of the State and contain important bottomland hardwoods for wintering mallards, mottled ducks, and other waterfowl. In total, the MBCC approved the acquisition of 2,336 fee acres at San Bernard NWR and 311 fee acres at Trinity River NWR.
- A key fee acquisition at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, in Maryland facilitated the second part of a 2-part acquisition of an inholding the former owners had managed for waterfowl with a dike system and numerous impoundments. The MBCC approved the fee acquisition of 201 acres, which allows the Service to use the dikes and to manage and control the wetlands on both pieces of the inholding.
- The MBCC also approved acquisition of 367 easement acres at San Joaquin NWR in California.-



Geese rise from a 2013 MBCC-approved acquisition of 367 easement acres at San Joaquin NWR in California.

2015 Program Performance

The Service reports MBCF and LWCF land acquisitions for the National Wildlife Refuge System, in two annual reports, the Annual Report of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, and the Annual Report of Lands Under the Control of the USFWS. The combined acquisitions support the Resource Protection goal to sustain biological communities on DOI-managed lands and waters.

With the legislatively proposed increase in the price of the Federal Duck Stamp, we anticipate an increase in the number of dollars and protected acres in 2015, as shown in the Workload Indicators table.

Workload Indicators

Subactivity	FY 2014		FY 2015			
	Est. (\$000)	Est. Acres	Estimated (\$000)	Estimated Acres	Change from 2014 (\$000)	Change from 2014 Acres
Refuge Acquisition	16,550	10,000	20,900	17,625	+4,350	+7,625
Waterfowl Production Areas	38,530	57,230	48,750	67,225	+10,220	+9,995
Duck Stamp Printing and Distribution Costs	750	n/a	750	n/a	-	n/a
Total	55,830	67,230	70,400	84,850	+14,570	+17,620

FY	Fee	Easement	Total
2013	7,433	52,873	60,306
2012	14,747	48,144	62,891
2011	16,719	23,160	39,879
2010	6,398	25,297	31,695
2009	13,870	27,504	41,374
2008	7,716	32,073	39,789
2007	8,041	29,147	37,188
2006	9,634	31,964	41,598
2005	13,768	49,103	62,871
2004	10,098	38,819	48,917
2003	36,164	41,706	77,870
2002	21,274	48,931	70,205
Totals	165,862	448,721	614,583

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACCOUNT			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2013	2014	2015
Identification Code 010-18-5137	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
0100 Balance, start of year	0	3	4
Receipts:			
0200 Migratory Bird Hunting Stamps [010-00-513710-0-000000]	24	22	22
0201 Legislative Proposal subject to PAYGO - Migratory Bird Hunting Stamps [010-00-513710-4-000000]	0	0	14
0202 Customs Duties on Arms and Ammunition [010-00-513712- 0-000000]	44	34	34
0299 Total receipts and collections	68	56	70
0400 Total: Balances and collections	68	59	74
Appropriations:			
0500 Migratory Bird Conservation Account [010-18-5137-0-1201]	-68	-56	-56
0501 Migratory Bird Conservation Account [010-18-5137-0-1203]	0	-3	0
0502 Migratory Bird Conservation Account [010-18-5137-0-1232]	3	4	0
0503 Legislative Proposal subject to PAYGO - Migratory Bird Conservation Account [010-18-5137-4-1201]	0	0	-14
0599 Total Appropriations	-65	-55	-70
0799 Balance, end of year	3	4	4
<u>Obligations by program activity:</u>			
0001 Printing and sale of duck stamps	1	1	2
0003 Acquisition of refuges and other areas	65	53	66
0900 Total new obligations	66	54	68
<u>Budgetary Resources:</u>			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	10	10	11
1021 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	1	0	0
1050 Unobligated balance (total)	11	10	11
<u>Budget authority:</u>			
Appropriations, mandatory:			
1201 Appropriation (special or trust fund)	68	56	70
1203 Appropriation (previously unavailable)	0	3	0
1232 Appropriations and/or unobligated balance of appropriations temporarily reduced	-3	-4	0
1260 Appropriations, mandatory (total)	65	55	70
1930 Total budgetary resources available	76	65	81
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	10	11	13

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACCOUNT			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2013	2014	2015
Identification Code 010-18-5137	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	17	17	15
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	66	54	68
3020 Outlays (gross)	-65	-56	-67
3040 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations, unexpired	-1	0	0
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	17	15	16
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	17	17	15
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	17	15	16
Budget authority and outlays, net:			
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	65	55	70
Outlays, gross:			
4100 Outlays from new mandatory authority	27	29	41
4101 Outlays from mandatory balances	38	27	26
4110 Outlays, gross (total)	65	56	67
4160 Budget authority, net (mandatory)	65	55	70
4170 Outlays, net (mandatory)	65	56	67
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	65	55	70
4190 Outlays, net (total)	65	56	67

Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	5	5	6
12.1 Civilian personnel benefits	2	2	2
25.2 Other services from non-Federal sources	1	1	1
25.3 Other goods and services from Federal sources	2	2	2
32.0 Land and structures	56	44	57
99.9 Total new obligations	66	54	68

Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	66	66	76

The 2015 estimate for lines 0001 and 0003 is updated from the estimate included in the Appendix, Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2015.

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Recreation Fee Program

Federal Lands Recreation Fee Program

Appropriations Language

This activity does not require appropriations language as there is permanent authority to use the receipts through December 8, 2015.

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 over 10 years (with a 1 year extension through HR 2775 to December 8, 2015). 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.

Appropriation: Federal Lands Recreation Fee Program

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015			Change from 2014 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Federal Lands Recreation Fee	(\$000)	4,963	5,079	0	0	+21	5,100	+21
Program	FTE	23	23	0	0	0	23	0

The 2013 and 2014 amounts include sequestration in accordance with section 251A of the BBEDCA, 2 U.S.C. 901a.

Program Overview

The Recreation Fee Program, authorized through December 8, 2015, allows the collection of entrance and expanded amenity fees on Federal lands and waters. The Fish and Wildlife 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 more than 141 refuges enrolled in the Recreation Fee Program. An additional 23 National Fish Hatchery, Ecological Service offices, or other refuge sites also sell interagency passes to improve pass availability for the public in certain regions. The Recreation Fee Program expects to collect approximately \$5,100,000 in FY2014 and in FY 2015 under FLREA authority.

The FLREA did not change the Federal Duck Stamp program, which will continue to provide current stamp holders with free entry to Service entrance fee sites.

The Service is one of five bureaus, including the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Reclamation, participating in the Recreation Fee Program. The Service continues to cooperate with these bureaus to update and reissue program implementation guidance to ensure compatibility and consistency across the Recreation Fee Program.

In FY2013, entrance fees at 35 field sites generated \$2.8 million for recreation enhancements such as hiring temporary park rangers and volunteer coordinators, paying law enforcement overtime, and supporting visitor services interns and conservation corps youth crews. These temporary employees and interns provide for on-the-ground visitor service enhancements such as increased safety, facility and trail maintenance, and interpretive and educational programs. Other direct benefits from the fee program include securing educational supplies such as spotting scopes, binoculars, and GPS units for visitor use, informational brochures and maps, updated refuge signs, routine maintenance of access roads, and the “greening” of visitor facilities.



Binoculars purchased for visitor use at Ridgely NWR.

The Service collected \$1 million in hunting permits at 95 refuges across the United States in FY2013. These fee dollars help support hunt program administration, habitat restoration, routine maintenance and enhancements for hunting facilities, the hiring of temporary check station operators and park rangers, gate and hunt access road repairs, the printing of hunt brochures, creating or expanding youth hunts, and supporting hunting and fishing special events.



Fees support Disabled Veteran events at Walkill NWR.



Outdoor Women Canoe Class supported with fee funds at Big Oaks NWR.

The Service also collected nearly \$423,000 from fishing permits, boat ramp, and boat launching fees. Many of these fees help support over 10 million fishing and boat launch visits and hundreds of events at refuges in FY 2013.

Sales from the Interagency America the Beautiful - The National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass generated over \$424,000 in revenues. The Annual (\$80) and Senior (\$10) passes provide U.S. citizens and visitors an affordable and convenient way to access Federal recreation lands. Up to 100% of the Pass Program's receipts are available to improve and enhance visitor recreation services at the sites where they are collected.



Fourth Annual Bow Jam event at Holla Bend NWR.

Another \$316,000 in fees were paid by our visitors to access trails and tour routes, facility rentals, interpretive tours, and Special Recreation Permits.

2015 Program Performance

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (\$000)	2013 Actual	2014 Estimate	2015 Estimate
Recreation Fee Revenues	4,963	5,079	5,100
America the Beautiful pass	[424]	[430]	[435]
Unobligated Balance Brought Forward & Recoveries	4,761	5,626	4,689
Total Funds Available	9,724	10,705	9,789
Obligations by Type of Project			
Facilities Routine/Annual Maintenance	573	919	895
Facilities Capital Improvements	378	605	419
Facilities Deferred Maintenance	62	374	185

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (\$000)	2013 Actual	2014 Estimate	2015 Estimate
Subtotal, asset repairs and maintenance	1,013	1,898	1,499
Visitor Services	1,412	2,146	1,924
Habitat Restoration (directly related to wildlife dependent recreation)	169	175	152
Direct Operation Costs	656	877	791
Law Enforcement (for public use and recreation)	327	357	337
Fee Management Agreement and Reservation Services	40	78	78
Administration, Overhead and Indirect Costs	481	485	483
Total Obligations	4,098	6,016	5,264

Program Performance Summary

The Recreation Fee Program directly supports the DOI Recreation Goal to provide for a quality recreation experience, including access, and enjoyment of natural and cultural resources. Each collaborating bureau also has a goal concerning costs associated with fee collections. The Service's goal is to limit collection costs to less than 20 percent of total collections.

Standard Form 300 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RECREATION ENHANCEMENT FEE PROGRAM			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) Identification Code 010-18-5252	2013 Actual	2014 Estimate	2015 Estimate
0100 Balance, start of year	0	0	0
Receipts:			
0220 Recreation Enhancement Fee, FWS [010-00-525210-0-200403]	5	5	5
0400 Total: Balances and Collections	5	5	5
Appropriations:			
0500 Recreation Enhancement Fee, FWS [010-18-5252-0-1201]	-5	-5	-5
0799 Balance, end of year	0	0	0
<u>Obligations by program activity:</u>			
0001 Direct program activity	5	5	5
0900 Total new obligations	5	5	5
<u>Budgetary Resources:</u>			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	5	5	5
<u>Budget authority:</u>			
Appropriations, mandatory:			
1201 Appropriation (special or trust fund)	5	5	5
1260 Appropriations, mandatory (total)	5	5	5
1930 Total budgetary resources available	10	10	10
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	5	5	5
<u>Change in obligated balance:</u>			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	2	2	2
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	5	5	5
3020 Outlays (gross)	-5	-5	-6
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	2	2	1
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	2	2	2
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	2	2	1
<u>Budget authority and outlays, net:</u>			
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	5	5	5

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RECREATION ENHANCEMENT FEE PROGRAM			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2013	2014	2015
Identification Code 010-18-5252	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Outlays, gross:			
4100 Outlays from new mandatory authority	1	3	3
4101 Outlays from mandatory balances	4	2	3
4110 Outlays, gross (total)	5	5	6
4160 Budget authority, net (mandatory)	5	5	5
4170 Outlays, net (mandatory)	5	5	6
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	5	5	5
4190 Outlays, net (total)	5	5	6

Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	1	1	1
11.3 Other than full-time permanent	1	1	1
11.9 Total personnel compensation	2	2	2
25.2 Other services from non-Federal sources	1	1	1
25.3 Other goods and services from Federal sources	1	1	1
99.0 Subtotal, obligations	4	4	4
99.5 Below reporting threshold	1	1	1
99.9 Total new obligations	5	5	5

Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	23	23	23

Contributed Funds

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 Service 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, as amended (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 treasury.

Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (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, as amended (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

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015			Change from 2014 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Contributed Funds	(\$000)	5,048	3,000	0	0	0	3,000	0
	FTE	18	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 DOI goals and the Service’s mission.

Contributions are difficult to accurately forecast due to external events. Annual contributions typically range from approximately \$1.2 to \$5.6 million. In FY 2013, the receipts totaled \$5.0 million.

2015 Program Performance

The Service uses contributed funds to address its highest priority needs in concert with other types of funding. The funds in 2015 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 2013:

Migratory Birds (TN, WI and NC): The Service funded several wetlands and habitat restoration projects. In the South Fork, Forked Deer River Project Area, located in Henderson and Chester Counties, TN, the Pershing State Wildlife Area (SWA) Habitat Program project located in Taylor County, WI and to support the NC Partners Program. These projects restored acres to create habitat for waterfowl and improved the nesting and food sources for migratory birds.



International Activities (Bangladesh and Kenya): A \$26,000 grant was awarded to support to WildTeam for ensuring long-term human-tiger conflict reduction in the Bangladesh Sundarbans. This project seeks to reduce human-tiger conflict in the Sundarbans forest and the 26 unions adjacent to the forest. Contributed funds were used to Save the Rhino International for preparing the Chyulu Hills in Kenya to become an Intensive Protection Zone for black rhino. These funds supported rhino monitoring and anti-poaching patrols for an extremely imperiled population of eastern black rhinos in southern Kenya.



Black Rhinos

Standard Form 300 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CONTRIBUTED FUNDS			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) Identification Code: 010-18-8216	2013 Actual	2014 Estimate	2015 Estimate
0100 Balance, start of year	0	0	0
Receipts:			
0220 Deposits, Contributed Funds FWS [010-00-821610-200403]	5	3	3
0440 Total: Balances and Collections	5	3	3
Appropriations:			
0500 Contributed Funds [010-18-8216-0-1201]	-5	-3	-3
0799 Balance, end of year	0	0	0
<u>Obligations by program activity:</u>			
0001 Direct program activity	4	5	5
0900 Total new obligations	4	5	5
<u>Budgetary Resources:</u>			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	6	7	5
<u>Budget authority:</u>			
Appropriations, mandatory:			
1201 Appropriation (special or trust fund)	5	3	3
1260 Appropriations, mandatory (total)	5	3	3
1930 Total budgetary resources available	11	10	8
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	7	5	3
<u>Change in obligated balance:</u>			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	1	1	2
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	4	5	5
3020 Outlays (gross)	-4	-4	-4
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	1	2	3
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	1	1	2
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	1	2	3

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CONTRIBUTED FUNDS			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2013	2014	2015
Identification Code: 010-18-8216	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
<u>Budget authority and outlays, net:</u>			
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	5	3	3
Outlays, gross:			
4100 Outlays from new mandatory authority	1	1	1
4101 Outlays from mandatory balances	3	3	3
4110 Outlays, gross (total)	4	4	4
4160 Budget authority, net (mandatory)	5	3	3
4170 Outlays, net (mandatory)	4	4	4
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	5	3	3
4190 Outlays, net (total)	4	4	4
Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	1	1	1
26.0 Supplies and materials	1	1	1
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	1	1	1
99.0 Subtotal, obligations	3	3	3
99.5 Below reporting threshold	1	2	2
99.9 Total new obligations	4	5	5
Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	18	18	18

Miscellaneous Permanent Appropriations

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 of 1985, 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. Authorizing language is:

“Notwithstanding title 5 of the United States Code or any other provision of law, after September 30, 1984, rents and charges collected by payroll deduction or otherwise for the use or occupancy of quarters of agencies funded by this Act shall thereafter be deposited in a special fund in each agency, to remain available until expended, for the maintenance and operation of the quarters of that agency...”

Flood Control Act of 1944, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460(d)). 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. Authorizing language is:

“The Secretary of the Army is also authorized to grant leases of lands, including structures or facilities thereon, at water resource development projects for such periods, and upon such terms and for such purposes as he may deem reasonable in the public interest... [P]rovided further, that in any such lease or license to a Federal, State, or local governmental agency which involves lands to be utilized for the development and conservation of fish and wildlife, forests, and other natural resources, the licensee or lessee may be authorized to cut timber and harvest crops as may be necessary to further such beneficial uses and to collect and utilize the proceeds of any sales of timber and crops in the development, conservation, maintenance, and utilization of such lands.”

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. 105-83). 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. 105-83 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. Authorizing language is:

“Lahontan Valley and Pyramid Lake Fish and Wildlife Fund – (1) There is hereby established in the Treasury of the United States the ‘Lahontan Valley and Pyramid Lake Fish and Wildlife Fund’ which shall be available for deposit of donations from any source and funds provided under subsections 205(a) and (b), 206(d), and subparagraph

208(a)(2)(C), if any, of this title; (2) Moneys deposited into this fund shall be available for appropriation to the Secretary for fish and wildlife programs for Lahontan Valley consistent with this section and for protection and restoration of the Pyramid Lake fishery consistent with plans prepared under subsection 207(a) of this title. The Secretary shall endeavor to distribute benefits from this fund on an equal basis between the Pyramid Lake fishery and the Lahontan Valley wetlands, except that moneys deposited into the fund by the State of Nevada or donated by non-Federal entities or individuals for express purposes shall be available only for such purposes and may be expended without further appropriation, and funds deposited under subparagraph 208(a)(2)(C) shall only be available for the benefit of the Pyramid Lake fishery and may be expended without further appropriation.”

P.L. 105-83 – “Provided further, that the Secretary may sell land and interests in land, other than surface water rights, acquired in conformance with subsection 206(a) and 207(c) of Public Law 101-618, the receipts of which shall be deposited to the Lahontan Valley and Pyramid Lake Fish and Wildlife Fund and used exclusively for the purposes of such subsections, without regard to the limitation on the distribution of benefits in subsection 206(f)(2) of such law.”

Community Partnership Enhancement Act of 1998 (P.L. 105-242, section 5, Section 7 of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C.742f), as amended by **Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY 1998** (H.R. 1856). 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. Authorizing language is:

“Amounts received by the Secretary of the Interior as a result of projects and programs under subparagraph (B) shall be deposited in a separate account in the Treasury. Amounts in the account that are attributable to activities at a particular refuge or complex of geographically related refuges shall be available to the Secretary of the Interior, without further appropriation, to pay the cost of incidental expenses related to volunteer activities, and to carry out cooperative agreements for the refuge or complex of refuges.”

Appropriation: Miscellaneous Permanent Appropriations

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015			Budget Request	Change from 2014 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
Operations and Maintenance of Quarters	(\$000)	3,447	3,425	0	0	0	3,425	0
	FTE	6	6	0	0	0	6	0
Proceeds from Sales	(\$000)	552	200	0	0	0	200	0
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lahontan Valley & Pyramid Lake Fish and Wildlife Fund	(\$000)	467	160	0	0	0	160	0
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Community Partnership Enhancement	(\$000)	414	0	0	0	0	0	0
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total, Miscellaneous Permanent Appropriations	(\$000)	4,880	3,785	0	0	0	3,785	0
	FTE	6	6	0	0	0	6	0

Justification of 2015 Program Changes

The 2015 budget request for Miscellaneous Permanent Appropriations is \$3,785,000 and 6 FTE, with no net program change from the 2014 Estimate.

Program Overview

Operations and Maintenance of Quarters - The Operations and Maintenance of Quarters Account (O & M Quarters) uses receipts from the rental of Service quarters to pay for maintenance and operation 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 (ex. 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. To provide for these needs, the Service manages 1,082 units comprised of 876 quarters on 227 refuges, 205 quarters on 62 hatchery facilities, and 1 quarters at an Ecological Services facility.



A new furnace saves energy and reduces risk to the environment at Patuxent NRR.

Quarters require routine operational maintenance, periodic rehabilitation, and upgrades to maintain safe and healthy conditions for occupants. Rental receipts are used for general maintenance and repair of quarters buildings; code and regulatory improvements; retrofitting for energy efficiency; correction of safety deficiencies, repairs to roofs and plumbing; utilities upgrades; access road repair and maintenance; grounds and other site maintenance services; and the purchase of replacement equipment such as household appliances, air conditioners, and furnaces. Funds are used to address the highest priority maintenance. For example, in FY2013, Patuxent National Research Refuge used Quarters Funds for a furnace replacement and conversion from fuel oil to propane. The new propane furnace is 98 percent

efficient as opposed to the 80 percent efficient oil furnace. As an added benefit, the propane furnace eliminates any chance of an oil spill which would be detrimental to the environment.

Rental rates for Service quarters are based upon comparability with private sector housing. Quarters rental rates are surveyed on a rotating basis every five years using statistical analysis of comparable rentals from 16 areas nationwide. Between surveys, rents are adjusted using the Consumer Price Index-Rent Series annual adjustment from the end of the fiscal year. Volunteers who must travel a great distance to work at a Service facility are permitted to stay in Service housing units at no cost if vacant housing units are available.

Proceeds From Sales, Water Resources Development Projects - Receipts collected from the sale of timber and crops from 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, 16 U.S.C. 460(d). Twenty-three national wildlife refuges were established as overlay projects on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers land and 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. These expenses cannot exceed the receipt amounts deposited as proceeds from sales.

Examples of some of the projects undertaken using Proceeds from Sales receipts are: soil amendments; road construction and repairs; ditch and fence construction and maintenance. The agreements with the Corps of Engineers specify that the receipts collected on refuges must be spent within five years. This agreement structure provides for carryover balances from year to year which allows the receipts to accumulate until sufficient funds are available to support some of the larger development projects on these refuges.

Lahontan Valley and Pyramid Lake Fish and Wildlife Fund - Pursuant to the Truckee-Carson Pyramid Lake Water Rights Settlement Act of 1990, as amended, 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 in excess of operation and maintenance costs of Stampede Reservoir are available without further appropriation. Donations made for express purposes and State cost-sharing funds are available without further appropriation. The Secretary is also authorized to deposit proceeds from the sale of certain lands, interests in lands, and water rights into the Pyramid Lake Fish and Wildlife Fund.



Canada Geese at Stillwater NWR, NV.

Wetlands in Northern Nevada's Lahontan Valley, including those at Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge and Carson Lake, are a key migration and wintering area for up to 1,000,000 waterfowl, shorebirds, and raptors traveling on the eastern edge of the Pacific Flyway. More than 250,000 ducks, 28,000 geese and 12,000 swans have been observed in the area during wet years. In addition to migratory populations, the wetlands support about 4,500 breeding pairs producing 35,000 waterfowl annually. Up to 70 bald eagles, Nevada's largest concentration, have wintered in the valley.

In 1996, the Service completed a Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision which described, analyzed and implemented a program to purchase up to 75,000 acre-feet of water from the Carson Division of the Newlands Project for Lahontan Valley wetlands. In partnership with the State of Nevada, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and the Bureau of Reclamation, 43,200 acre-feet of Newlands Project water rights have been acquired for Lahontan Valley wetlands to date. Of the acquired water rights; approximately 35,200 acre-feet were acquired by the Service, 1,800 acre-feet were acquired by BIA and 8,900 acre-feet were acquired by the State. Water rights have been purchased from willing sellers at appraised market value. In addition to acquiring water, the Service is authorized to pay customary operations and maintenance charges to the local irrigation district for delivering the acquired water.

The Service's Lahontan National Fish Hatchery Complex is pursuing various activities to protect and restore the Pyramid Lake fishery, including operation and maintenance of Marble Bluff Fish Passage Facility, Lahontan cutthroat trout spawning and incubation operations at Marble Bluff Fish Passage Facility, and other ongoing conservation efforts for the fishes of Pyramid Lake.

Expenditures from the Lahontan Valley and Pyramid Lake Fish and Wildlife Fund continue to support the Service's water rights acquisition and land sales programs at Stillwater NWR.

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 wildlife refuge or complex. The partnership between a refuge or complex and non-federal organizations may promote public awareness of the resources of the 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 complex.

Funds may be used to promote the education and conservation of fish, wildlife, plants, and cultural and historical resources on a refuge or complex. Projects may be approved to:

- promote stewardship of resources of the refuge through habitat maintenance, restoration and improvement, biological monitoring, or research;
- support the operation and maintenance of the refuge through constructing, operating, maintaining or improving the facilities and services of the refuge;
- increase awareness and understanding of the refuge and the Refuge System through the development, publication, or distribution of educational materials and products;
- advance education concerning the purposes of the refuge and the mission of the Refuge System through the use of the refuge as an outdoor classroom and development of other educational programs; and
- subject to the availability of funds, matching funds may be provided or in the case of property or in-kind services, the fair market value may be matched.



Friends of Alaska Refuges volunteers celebrate completion of an invasive weed pulling project. Credit: Jerry D. McDonnell

2015 Program Performance

Operation and Maintenance of Quarters

Estimated receipts in 2014 and 2015 are expected to be approximately \$3,425,000 each year. Revisions continue to be made in the management of the program to reduce the operating balance of the account and target the highest priority repairs and improvements.

Proceeds From Sales, Water Resources Development Projects

Estimated receipts in 2014 and 2015 are expected to be approximately \$200,000 each year for timber and grain harvest. Receipts depend on the amount of the commodity harvested, current market value, and the amount of the commodity that the Service uses for wildlife habitat management purposes. Annual receipts may also vary from year to year due to the influence of natural events such as flood or drought.

Lahontan Valley and Pyramid Lake Fish and Wildlife Fund

In 2015, receipts from land sales are estimated at \$160,000. The anticipated receipts have dropped from prior years because of adverse regional real estate market conditions.

Community Partnership Enhancement

Anticipated receipts for 2014 and 2015 are zero due to the expiration of an agreement with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and no other existing agreements. However, annual receipts may vary from year to year due to individual donations or activities of partners to generate donations.

Standard Form 300 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE MISCELLANEOUS PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) Identification Code 010-18-9927	2013 Actual	2014 Estimate	2015 Estimate
0100 Balance, start of year	0	0	0
Receipts:			
0220 Rent and Charges for Quarters	4	3	3
0221 Proceeds from Sales, Water Resources Development Project	1	0	0
0240 Transfer from Lahonton Valley and Pyramid Lake Fish and Wildlife Fund	0	1	1
0299 Total receipts and collections	5	4	4
0400 Total: Balances and collections	5	4	4
Appropriations:			
0500 Miscellaneous Permanent Appropriations	-5	-4	-4
0799 Balance, end of year	0	0	0
<u>Obligations by program activity:</u>			
0001 Miscellaneous Permanents	4	4	4
0900 Total new obligations	4	4	4
<u>Budgetary Resources:</u>			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	6	7	7
<u>Budget authority:</u>			
Appropriations, mandatory:			
1201 Appropriation (special or trust fund)	5	4	4
1260 Appropriations, mandatory (total)	5	4	4
1930 Total budgetary resources available	11	11	11
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	7	7	7
<u>Change in obligated balance:</u>			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	1	1	1
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	4	4	4
3020 Outlays (gross)	-4	-4	-5
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	1	1	0
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	1	1	1
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	1	1	0
<u>Budget authority and outlays, net:</u>			
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	5	4	4

Standard Form 300 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE MISCELLANEOUS PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS
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Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2013	2014	2015
Identification Code 010-18-9927	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Outlays, gross:			
4100 Outlays from new mandatory authority	1	1	1
4101 Outlays from mandatory balances	3	3	4
4110 Outlays, gross (total)	4	4	5
4160 Budget authority, net (mandatory)	5	4	4
4170 Outlays, net (mandatory)	4	4	5
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	5	4	4
4190 Outlays, net (total)	4	4	5

Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
25.2 Other services from non-Federal sources	1	1	1
25.4 Operation and maintenance of facilities	2	2	2
26.0 Supplies and materials	1	1	1
99.9 Total new obligations	4	4	4

Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	6	6	6

Cancellation of Balances

Private Stewardship Grants

Appropriation Language

Of the unobligated balances under this heading from prior year appropriations, all remaining amounts are hereby permanently cancelled: Provided, That no amounts may be cancelled 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, as amended.

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; 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). Authorization of Appropriations: Expired September 30, 1992.

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.

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended, (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, in providing public shooting and fishing areas, including easements across public lands for access thereto.

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.

Landowner Incentive Program

Appropriation Language

Of the unobligated balances under this heading from prior year appropriations, all remaining amounts are hereby permanently cancelled: Provided, That no amounts may be cancelled 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, as amended.

Authorizing Statutes

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (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). Authorization of Appropriations: Expired September 30, 1992.

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.

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 661). 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, in providing public shooting and fishing areas, including easements across public lands for access thereto.

Standard Form 300 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE LANDOWNER INCENTIVE PROGRAM			
Program and Financing (in million of dollars) Identification Code 010-18-5496	2013 Actual	2014 Estimate	2015 Estimate
<u>Budgetary Resources:</u>			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	1	1	1
1010 Unobligated balance transfer to other accts (14X1125, Emergency Fire Transfer) [14-1125]	-1	0	0
1021 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	1	0	0
1050 Unobligated balance (total)	1	1	1
<u>Budget authority:</u>			
Appropriations, discretionary:			
1131 Unobligated balance of appropriations permanently reduced	0	0	-1
1160 Appropriation, discretionary (total)	0	0	-1
1930 Total budgetary resources available	1	1	0
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	1	1	0
<u>Change in obligated balance:</u>			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	16	9	4
3020 Outlays (gross)	-6	-5	-3
3040 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations, unexpired	-1	0	0
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	9	4	1
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	16	9	4
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	9	4	1
Budget authority and outlays, net:			
<u>Budget authority and outlays, net:</u>			
Discretionary:			
4000 Budget authority, gross	0	0	-1
Outlays, gross:			
4011 Outlays from discretionary balances	6	5	3
4070 Budget authority, net (discretionary)	0	0	-1
4080 Outlays, net (discretionary)	6	5	3
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	0	0	-1
4190 Outlays, net (total)	6	5	3
<u>Employment Summary (Q)</u>			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	1	0	0

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Appendices

Section 404 Compliance

Administrative User-Pay Cost Share

Purpose: To fulfill legislative requirements for disclosure of program assessments used to support Government-wide, departmental, or agency initiatives or general operations. Public Law 113-76, the 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act, includes the following:

SEC. 404. 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 Committee on Appropriations for approval.

Pursuant to the *Section 404* directive, the Service fully discloses its administrative costs as follows:

REGIONAL COMMON PROGRAM SERVICES: Each region has reported on common program services (shared costs) and direct charges. A few examples of these services include facilities management, training programs, safety initiatives and local outreach programs.

NON-RESOURCE MANAGEMENT USER-PAY COST SHARE: Non-Resource Management Programs continue to pay annually for the administrative services used. The funding received from Non-Resource Management Programs supplements central, regional and Service-wide 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 pays workers compensation costs centrally through the Service-wide bill paying account. As a result, Programs are not aware of the costs that result from employee injuries. To address an audit finding and provide incentive for Programs to participate in the Department's Return to Work initiative, beginning in FY 2015 worker's compensation costs beyond the funded amount will be charged to the applicable Programs.

ENTERPRISE-WIDE SERVICES: In order to provide the necessary level of funding for Enterprise-wide 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 and the like. In addition, the Service assesses programs to support such items as contracting and personnel officers in regional and headquarters offices to provide service as programs request. These program assessments are under the oversight and administrative management of the Service's General Operations Budget Council.

RESERVES: The Service Director manages a deferred allocation fund in the amount 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 consistent 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 FY 2014 and FY 2015:

	Fiscal Year 2014
External Administrative Costs	
WCF Centralized Billings	\$25,003,600
WCF Direct Billings/Fee for Service	\$12,803,600
Program Assessments	
Holdbacks, Reserves, and Deductions	\$2,301,934
Bureau Administrative Costs/Central and Regional Operations	
Regional Common Program Services	\$11,735,245
Non-Resource Management User-Pay Cost Share	\$10,154,502
Enterprise-Wide Services	\$12,401,755

	Fiscal Year 2015
External Administrative Costs	
WCF Centralized Billings	\$24,051,500
WCF Direct Billings/Fee for Service	\$13,187,708
Program Assessments	
Holdbacks, Reserves, and Deductions	\$5,027,376
Bureau Administrative Costs/Central and Regional Operations	
Regional Common Program Services	\$12,087,302
Non-Resource Management User-Pay Cost Share	\$11,169,952
Workers Compensation	\$500,000
Enterprise-Wide Services	\$12,773,808

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PER-4 Exhibit: Employee Count by Grade

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

EMPLOYEE COUNT BY GRADE
(Total Employment)

	2014	2015
	Current	Budget
	Year	Year
	Prior Year	Estimate
	13 Actuals	Estimate
Executive Level V.....	1	1
SES	22	22
Subtotal.....	23	23
ST - OO.....	0	0
SL - OO.....	2	2
Subtotal.....	2	2
GS/GM-15	138	139
GS/GM-14	556	559
GS/GM-13	1,414	1,421
GS-12	1,912	1,922
GS-11	1,533	1,536
GS-10	12	12
GS-9	996	1,005
GS-8	128	130
GS-7	681	684
GS-6	258	262
GS-5	510	525
GS-4	263	265
GS-3	116	117
GS-2	27	27
GS-1	9	9
Subtotal	8,553	8,612
Other Pay Schedule Systems*.....	771	795
Total employment (actuals & estimates)..	9,349	9,623

*Other pay schedule systems includes wage system employees (WG/WL/WS/WB).

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Allocations Received from Other Accounts						
Department Program	FY 2013 Actual		FY 2014 Estimate		FY 2015 Estimate	
	Budget Authority	Outlays	Budget Authority	Outlays	Budget Authority	Outlays
Department of Agriculture:						
Forest Pest Management	0	37,506	200,000	140,000	200,000	200,000
Department of the Interior:						
<i>Office of Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration</i>						
Damage Assessment 8300	2,102,859	1,743,054	2,500,000	2,380,858	2,500,000	2,500,000
Restoration 9800	25,267,029	21,151,434	25,000,000	25,080,109	25,000,000	25,000,000
<i>Office of Wildland Fire Coordination</i>						
Wildland Fire Management	60,461,451	61,241,928	57,000,000	58,038,435	61,000,000	59,800,000
Disaster Relief - Hurricane Sandy	0	0	102,070,000	30,621,000	0	71,449,000
<i>Bureau of Land Management</i>						
Central Hazardous Materials Fund	4,586,580	3,241,132	4,000,000	4,410,606	4,000,000	4,000,000
So. Nevada Public Lands Management	5,894,720	16,202,722	6,000,000	5,926,304	6,000,000	6,000,000
Energy Act - Permit Improvement	1,320,000	1,283,136	1,300,000	1,314,000	1,300,000	1,300,000
Department of Transportation:						
Federal Highway Administration-Discretionary	695,375	0	600,000	666,763	600,000	600,000
Federal Highway Administration- Mandatory	18,038,000	11,836,613	18,000,000	18,026,600	18,000,000	18,000,000
TOTAL	118,366,014	116,737,525	216,670,000	146,604,674	118,600,000	188,849,000