

**FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
CONTINGENCY PLAN FACT SHEET
September 27, 2013**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) works with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages nearly 150 million acres of land and waters in the national wildlife refuge system, operates 73 national fish hatcheries and is responsible for implementing and enforcing some of our Nation's most important environmental laws, such as the Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, The Lacey Act, and international agreements like the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

In the event of a lapse in appropriations and pursuant to law, the Service will close most operations, but certain excepted activities will continue.

- National Wildlife Refuges will be closed to public access. Visitor Centers and other buildings will be closed.
- All activities will be canceled on federal lands and public buildings until the government reopens. This includes hunting and fishing activities on public lands.
- No permitting work or consultations will occur with respect to the Endangered Species Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species, the Lacey Act or the National Environmental Policy Act.
- Employees and others may not volunteer their services on behalf of Service functions or on federal lands.

Services and Programs that would remain operational

The Service has designated the following exempted categories:

- Programs financed by other than annual appropriations.
- Activities expressly authorized by law.
- Necessary activities to protect life and property.

NAME OF SERVICE/PROGRAM	REASON
Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration	Non-lapsing funding sources available
Sport Fish Restoration	Non-lapsing funding sources available
Natural Resource Damage Assessment Fund	Non-lapsing funding sources available
Refuge Law Enforcement	Emergency and/or excepted activity
Law Enforcement	Emergency and/or excepted activity
Firefighting	Emergency and/or excepted activity
Care and feeding activities at hatcheries and captive breeding facilities	Emergency and/or excepted activity