



BUDGET The United States
Department of the Interior
JUSTIFICATIONS

and Performance Information
Fiscal Year 2017

**FISH AND WILDLIFE
SERVICE**

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

Fiscal Year 2017 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, and the only agency in the Federal government whose primary responsibility is management of biological resources for the American public. The Service helps ensure a healthy environment for people by providing opportunities for Americans to enjoy the outdoors and our shared natural heritage.



Kids fishing day at Patuxent National Wildlife Refuge

The Service believes connecting Americans directly with the Nation's wildlife heritage is a priority, as the future of conservation lies in inspiring Americans to become stewards of the environment. To accomplish this goal, 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 related 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 annual expenditures of \$145 billion. This spending creates thousands of jobs, supports countless local communities, and provides vital funding for conservation.

In FY 2014, nearly 47 million visitors to national wildlife refuges hunted, fished, observed or photographed wildlife, or participated in environmental education or interpretation on a refuge. The most popular visitor activities were use of our trails, wildlife auto routes, and wildlife observation programs. The Service's latest Banking on Nature report, published in 2013, indicated that the NWRS was an economic engine for local communities as well, helping to annually support 37,000 jobs and \$2.4 billion in visitor expenditures.

Of all the wildlife in the United States, birds attract the biggest following. According to the Service's *Birding in the United States: A Demographic and Economic Analysis, Addendum to the 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation*, there were 47 million birdwatchers 16 years of age and older in the United States, which amounts to about 20 percent of the population. National wildlife refuges are wonderful places to observe birds, especially during major bird festivals that coincide with spring or fall migrations. The Festival of the Cranes, Swan Day Festival, Eagle Festival, and Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival are just a few examples of the more than 33 bird festivals held at refuges in 2014.



Festival of the Cranes
Photo by Refuge volunteer John Olson

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

The Service works through partnerships with landowners and others on strategic conservation of habitat across broad landscapes. The Service invests in keeping landowners on their land, and preserving working landscapes for the benefit of species and of agriculture, ranching, timber and other traditional uses. In many cases, species will greatly benefit from appropriately managed private lands. The Service has several tools to help private landowners be good stewards of their lands, and has worked with landowners across the west to preserve open spaces. For example, the Service has worked with the Blackfoot Challenge in Montana on conservation easements to preserve working ranchlands. We have provided funding for habitat restoration, and species recovery projects, such as the Malpai Borderlands project in Arizona and New Mexico to encourage ranching and other traditional land uses that will sustain the nature of the west for future generations. The group's efforts on behalf of the jaguar, the leopard frog, the long-nosed bat, and the ridge-nosed rattlesnake, among others, has

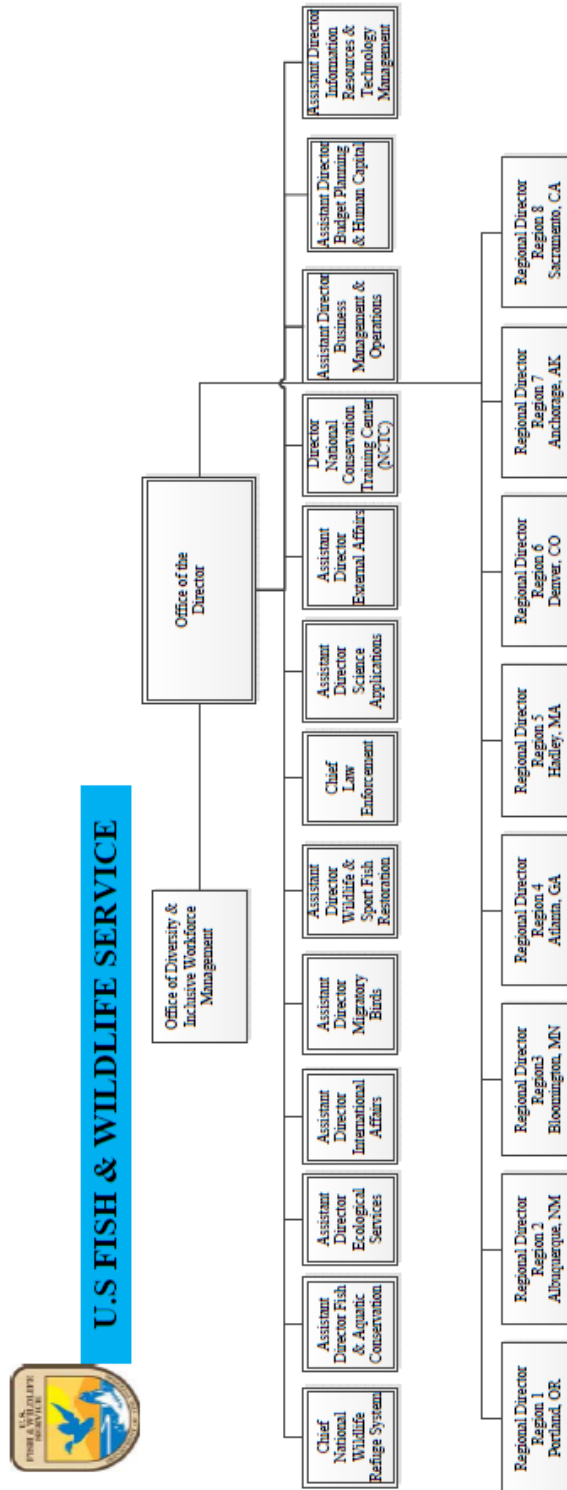
resulted in a more secure future for those species as well as for the landowners whose livelihoods help maintain habitats.

The Service's Organization

The Service has headquarters in Washington, D.C. and Falls Church, Virginia, with eight regional offices and over 700 field stations. These stations include 562 units of the NWRs; seven 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; seven Fish Technology Centers; 65 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices; and waterfowl production areas in 209 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 to accomplish its conservation mission, including other Federal agencies, State and local governments, tribes, international organizations, and private organizations and individuals.

The Director reports to the Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and has direct line authority over headquarters and eight Regional Directors. 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)



Overview of FY 2017 Budget Request

Budget Authority (000)	FY 2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017 Request	*Change from 2016 (+/-)
Discretionary	1,439,764	1,508,368	1,562,899	54,531
Mandatory	1,432,918	1,346,199	1,469,744	123,545
Total \$\$\$	2,872,682	2,854,567	3,032,643	178,076
Discretionary	6,689	6,903	7,116	213
Mandatory	246	260	282	22
Transfers/Alloc.	1,539	1,576	1,576	0
TOTAL FTE	8,474	8,739	8,974	235

Overview

The 2017 President's Budget request for the Service totals \$3.03 billion, including current appropriations of \$1.6 billion. The discretionary request is an increase of \$54.5 million compared to the 2016 enacted level. The Budget also includes \$1.5 billion available under permanent appropriations, most of which will be provided directly to States for fish and wildlife restoration and conservation. The Service estimates staffing will equal 8,974 full time equivalents (FTE) in 2017, an increase of 235 FTE from the 2016 enacted level.

This budget funds Departmental initiatives and Service priorities, including the America's Great Outdoors, Powering Our Future, Engaging the Next Generation, Cooperative Recovery, and investments in Landscape Level Understanding.

America's Great Outdoors Initiative

America's Great Outdoors (AGO) fosters the intrinsic link between healthy economies and healthy landscapes and 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. This includes funding to operate and maintain our public lands; expand and improve recreational opportunities at the State and local level; protect cultural resources; and conserve and restore land, water, and native species. The President's budget for the Service proposes \$1.5 billion in current funding for AGO related activities, an increase of \$90.4 million over the 2016 enacted level. This includes \$1.3 billion for Resource Management operations, an increase of \$71.1 million over the 2016 enacted level.

The budget offers strategic investments in land acquisition and grant programs that leverage resources and encourage cooperative, landscape level conservation efforts nationwide. A critical component of AGO is the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS). The NWRS delivers conservation on a landscape level, providing important ecosystem services such as water filtration, flood mitigation, and habitat for the survival and protection of endangered and other at-risk species. The NWRS also offers recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing, and watching wildlife.

The 2017 budget proposal for programs funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) includes \$137.6 million for Federal land acquisition, composed of \$58.7 million in current funding and

\$79 million in proposed permanent funding, a total increase of \$69.1 million above the 2016 level. These funds will be used to secure rights-of-way, easements, or fee simple lands that provide access or consolidate Federal ownership, so that the American public has unbroken spaces to recreate, hunt, and fish and species have unfragmented habitat to breed and forage in, lessening threats to their survival. All of these projects have willing sellers who wish to work with the Service to provide these benefits to the Nation; the Service does not take land from landowners against their will.

The 2017 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. Examples of areas the Budget proposes to invest in this year include Dakota Grasslands and Everglades Headwaters. In addition, the budget requests funding from the LWCF for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund, including \$53.5 million in current appropriations and an additional \$55.0 million in mandatory funding.

The budget also requests \$106 million for grant programs administered by the Service that support America's Great Outdoors goals. This includes \$67 million for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants, an increase of \$6.4 million over the 2016 level.

Powering Our Future and Responsible Use of the Nation's Resources

The FWS continues to support the Administration's energy strategy by engaging in early planning, thoughtful mitigation, and the application of sound science not only for conventional sources of energy, but also in the development of new, cleaner energy sources to help mitigate the causes of climate change. The budget includes \$14.2 million, equal to the 2016 level, for activities associated with energy development, including scientific analysis of potential impacts of energy development, creation of mitigation strategies, and approvals of renewable energy projects.

Landscape Level Understanding

Fish, wildlife, and plants are an integral feature of the Nation's natural landscapes and have played a major role in shaping America's history, identity, and character. The Service uses its technical excellence in planning and delivering conservation to help protect this natural heritage. Whether on a wildlife refuge, at a national fish hatchery, or working with partners on other lands, the plans and projects we deliver are widely acclaimed for their quality and effectiveness in addressing conservation challenges.

The budget includes \$65.9 million, an increase of \$9.5 million above the 2016 level, to better understand environmental challenges and improve the resilience of communities and landscapes. Through its 22 Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, FWS works across Federal agencies, with State and local governments, tribes, and other partners to define shared conservation goals, identify studies needed to address scientific gaps, and design conservation objectives. The budget increase will support LCCs and science within FWS to increase understanding of how to most effectively conserve populations of fish, wildlife, and plants on landscape scales, particularly when facing natural hazards.

Cooperative Recovery

The Cooperative Recovery Initiative (CRI) was established to restore and recover threatened and endangered species on the landscape scale, focusing on national wildlife refuges and surrounding lands. This initiative provides opportunities for focused, large-scale conservation efforts that leverage resources across programs and with partners to meet our highest priority endangered species needs.

In FY 2017, the Service requests a total of \$9.7 million for Cooperative Recovery, an increase of \$2.8 million over the 2016 enacted level. This increase supports the Service's cross-programmatic,

partnership-based approach to addressing threats to endangered species in strategically important areas through planning, restoration, and management actions. The requested funds will be used to implement recovery actions for species near delisting or reclassification from endangered to threatened and actions that are urgently needed to prevent extinction of critically endangered species. From FY 2013 to FY 2015, the Service funded a total of 41 projects across the Nation, covering 57 national wildlife refuges and benefitting 102 trust species. Two species, the Columbian white tailed deer and the Oregon Chub have been delisted partly because of previously funded CRI projects.

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 a key player in delivering on the *National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking*, which articulates the Administration's priorities in battling trafficking of wildlife, and the 2017 Budget reflects the Service's continued commitment. In 2017, the Service is requesting increases in International Affairs to fund additional wildlife trafficking actions. The Service will use increased funding provided by Congress in FY 2016 to combat expanding illegal wildlife trafficking and expand the capability of wildlife forensics to provide the evidence needed for investigating and prosecuting criminal activity. However, a successful effort to combat wildlife trafficking cannot solely rely on investigating and prosecuting criminal activity, it must also change attitudes and consumption patterns to reduce market demand for wildlife products. To that end, the 2017 Budget requests an additional \$500,000 for the Service's International Affairs program to support efforts to combat wildlife trafficking and drive down demand for products from flagship species such as tigers, elephants, and rhinos.

Urban Wildlife Conservation

The Service will continue to bridge the growing disconnect between young people and the outdoors. As part of the Department's Engaging the Next Generation Initiative, the Service is requesting \$7.5 million for its Urban Wildlife Conservation Program, including \$2 million for Refuge Law Enforcement to place 14 new Federal Wildlife Officers at priority urban refuges to protect visitors, staff, and natural resources. Through this program, FWS is welcoming city dwellers to enjoy the outdoors by creating stepping stones of engagement for new audiences to connect them with outdoor experiences. The requested increase will not lead to the creation of new refuges; instead, it will enable the Service to concentrate efforts on five new, high-priority urban refuges. Fourteen priority urban refuges submitted proposals in 2014 and the Service allocated \$1 million to each of four refuges from 2014-2016.

One of these, the Southern California (SoCal) Urban Wildlife Refuge Project, was announced in August 2014. Covering a large swath of land in and around Los Angeles and San Diego, the project's accomplishments include:

- In collaboration with partners, over 5,000 elementary school students (3rd-5th graders) have engaged in education and stewardship activities about the Los Angeles River and the Condor Recovery Program.
- Five hundred teens in grades 6–12 have participated in activities to raise awareness about careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields, including women-in-science career opportunities.
- Over 1,200 high school students have engaged in conservation science, outdoor recreation, and stewardship activities on San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex and partner lands near refuges. These activities include teaching field research techniques in an outdoor learning lab, mountain biking on San Diego NWR, kayaking in San Diego Bay, and planting native coastal sage scrub habitats.
- Through the Los Angeles Conservation Corps' at-risk Youth Hire Program, over 17,000 square

feet of the Los Angeles River has been restored to native habitat, 12,000 pounds of trash removed from the river bed, 31 streets surrounding the river have been cleaned, and over 4,100 square feet of graffiti removed.

Pollinators

The Service supports the Administration's *National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators* by managing our lands to help pollinators while also working in partnership with other landowners to provide pollinator habitat. FWS is proposing an increase of \$2 million to support habitat restoration and enhancement projects on refuge and private lands in partnership to benefit pollinators; inventory and monitor for key pollinator and monarch butterfly populations; and provide outreach and education about pollinator and monarch butterfly populations identified in the Federal Pollinator Strategy. This request includes \$1 million for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program and \$1 million for the Refuge System.

Refuge 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. The Budget requests an increase of \$3.7 million for Inventory and Monitoring (I & M) program, which will enhance I & M of biological resources, ecological processes, components of the physical environment, and human interactions with these resources in a way that allows more successful conservation delivery. Information collected through the I&M program is critical to implementing the Service's Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) model and adaptive management philosophy, where planning, management actions, and monitoring the results of those actions create an iterative process that increases efficiency of conservation efforts. Successful conservation design and delivery at the landscape scale—considering risks such as climate change—requires coordinated monitoring efforts, both internally and externally. This is why the I & M program works directly with the National Park Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and other Federal and State partners to integrate data collection and monitoring systems and minimize duplication of effort. Additionally, the I & M program directly supports the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives Network and ensures that survey design, data storage, analysis, and reporting are consistent with Service policy.

Economic Growth Environmental Review

The Service is requesting an additional \$3.6 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 MBTA, ESA, and other Federal laws contributes to job creation and economic growth. As the economy improves, growth in business investment and consumer spending will likely increase 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 providing technical assistance with siting determinations to minimize impacts on listed species. Economic recovery also generates demand for supporting infrastructure such as roads, water supply control, and flood risk reduction. To support this predicted growth, the Service needs to 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 the demand for environmental reviews to allow the Service to expedite project reviews.

Gulf Restoration

The Service is requesting an additional \$3 million for Gulf of Mexico environmental reviews, technical assistance, and restoration planning associated with damages resulting from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The Gulf of Mexico Watershed spans 31 States and is critically important to the health and

vitality of our Nation's natural and economic resources. The natural resources in the five Gulf Coast States are the bedrock of a multi-billion dollar economic engine that employs more than eight million people and accounts for the majority of the Nation's annual shrimp and oyster harvests.

Over the course of the next decade, billions of dollars in settlement funds, Clean Water Act (CWA) penalties, and Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) restitution will be directed toward restoration of the Gulf of Mexico's ecology and economy. While not a direct recipient of these funds, the Service will be responsible for environmental reviews for projects supported by restoration funds because of our mission and legal and trust responsibilities. Additionally, the Service's expertise can help guide and prioritize restoration throughout the entire Gulf watershed to maximize the return on investment for the American public by strategically connecting restoration efforts and merging existing conservation needs and efforts with proposed projects. The proposed increase in the 2017 Budget helps the Service better meet the expected demand for their environmental review, technical assistance, and planning expertise as funding flows to the Gulf region.

Taking Care of Our Investments

The Service is requesting \$59.4 million for improving our maintenance backlog, and taking care of the investments in facilities and infrastructure that the Congress has made. This is an increase of \$6.1 million over the 2016 enacted level. This request includes increases of \$3 million for hatchery deferred maintenance, \$500,000 for refuge deferred maintenance and \$2.6 million for NCTC maintenance. Investing in and appropriately managing deferred maintenance is a Service priority to ensure completion of needed repairs and prevent further deterioration and unsafe conditions.

Building a 21st Century Department of the Interior

Challenge and opportunity are two sides of the same coin. The conservation challenges confronting our natural resources require us to collaborate with others to leverage our resources and talents, which provides the opportunity to build partnerships and accomplish great conservation, even in times of constrained resources. The Service is committed to moving into the future with that outlook to realize key successes in fighting poaching and wildlife trafficking; recovering imperiled species; increasing our ability to conserve species at a landscape scale; reaching new urban audiences; and building a new generation that has a deep connection to conservation by engaging in outdoor recreation opportunities such as hunting, fishing, and birding.

The President's Management Agenda

The Department of the Interior supports the President's Management Agenda to build a better government, one that delivers continually improving results for the American people and renews their faith in government. The Service is actively involved in the government-wide effort to bring forward the most promising ideas to improve government effectiveness, efficiency, spur economic growth, attract top talent, promote people and culture, and eliminate unnecessary requirements. As part of this involvement, the Service is looking at existing initiatives upon which to build and improve.

An example of existing efforts underway is the Campaign to Cut Waste. Over the last three years, the Service has implemented a series of management reforms to curb growth in contract spending, travel, printing and other costs.

In November 2011, President Obama issued an Executive Order reinforcing these performance and management reforms and the achievement of efficiencies and cost-cutting across the government. This Executive Order identifies specific savings as part of the Administration's Campaign to Cut Waste to reduce administrative spending. The Service had a target for travel costs to spend less than \$34.9 million, and met the target by spending \$34.08 million.

Administrative Provisions Language Change

In FY 2017, the Service is requesting language providing 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 Refuge System or other Service resources. Today, when Refuge System resources are injured or destroyed, the costs of repair and restoration falls 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. Unlike other land management agencies, the Service only has criminal penalties (fines) for those injuries occurring on refuge lands, and cases are only prosecuted at the discretion of the Department of Justice. In most cases, the injuries far exceed any fines recovered by the United States Government. With this authority, the recovery of damages for injury to Refuge System resources would be used to: reimburse assessment costs; prevent or minimize the risk of loss; monitor ongoing effects; and/or restore, replace or acquire resources equivalent to those injured or destroyed. This language mirrors the authority that the National Park Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration already have. In 2013, the Refuge System reported seven 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 National Wildlife Refuge in Oklahoma including burning acreage and damming a creek; grounding of a ship on coral reefs at Northwest Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge; and abandonment of property on numerous refuges.

Legislative Proposals

Concurrent with this budget request the Administration is proposing the following legislative proposals:

Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act (Duck Stamp) —The requested language would allow limited authority for the Secretary of the Interior to increase the price of the Federal Duck Stamp to keep pace with inflation, with the approval of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission. This language is intended to provide stability to the purchasing power of the Federal Duck Stamp. The last increase approved by Congress in 2014 came nearly 25 years since the previous price increase. During that time, the costs of land rose significantly and caused serious erosion of the purchasing power of the Duck Stamp, which has substantially constrained the Service from addressing a crisis in the prairie pothole region, where important breeding and resting habitat in the Nation’s “duck factory” is being converted to crop land at a fast pace.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)— The Department 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). During the transition to full permanent funding in 2018, the budget proposes \$900 million in total LWCF funding in FY 2017, comprised of \$425 million in mandatory and \$475 million in discretionary funds. The amounts requested include the authorized levels for the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture. In FY 2017, the proposal includes \$58.66 million in discretionary funding and \$78.97 million in mandatory funding for the Service’s Federal Land acquisition program.

U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE								
MAJOR ACCOUNT SUMMARY OF FISCAL YEAR 2017								
Account		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017				Change from 2016 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
<u>Current Appropriations</u>								
Resource Management 1/	\$000	1,207,658	1,238,771	+6,615	0	+64,526	1,309,912	+71,141
	FTE	6,519	6,726		0	+212	6,938	+212
Construction	\$000	15,687	23,687	+53	0	0	23,740	+53
	FTE	50	57	0	0	0	57	0
Land Acquisition	\$000	47,535	68,500	+73	0	-9,918	58,655	-9,845
	FTE	75	78	0	0	0	78	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
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund	\$000	50,095	53,495	0	0	0	53,495	0
	FTE	18	16	0	0	0	16	0
North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	\$000	34,145	35,145	0	0	0	35,145	0
	FTE	7	7	0	0	0	7	0
Multinational Species Conservation Fund	\$000	9,061	11,061	0	0	0	11,061	0
	FTE	4	4	0	0	0	4	0
Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation	\$000	3,660	3,910	0	0	0	3,910	0
	FTE	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
State and Tribal Wildlife Grants	\$000	58,695	60,571	0	0	+6,410	66,981	+6,410
	FTE	14	14	0	0	+1	15	+1
Landowner Incentive Program	\$000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	FTE	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL, Current Appropriations	\$000	1,439,764	1,508,368	+6,741	0	+47,790	1,562,899	+54,531
	FTE	6,689	6,903	0	0	+213	7,116	+213
1/Resource Management does not include FY2015 transfer of \$17.5 M from State Dept/USAID - Congo and annual transfers of \$5.4 M in FY 2016 and FY 2017 from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.								

U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE								
MAJOR ACCOUNT SUMMARY OF FISCAL YEAR 2017 REQUEST								
Account		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017				Change from 2016 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Permanent and Trust Accounts								
Land Acquisition - Legislative Proposal FY 2017	\$000	0	0	0	0	+78,967	78,967	+78,967
	FTE	0	0	0	0	+16	16	+16
National Wildlife Refuge Fund	\$000	8,476	8,083	0	0	+461	8,544	+461
	FTE	4	8	0	0	0	8	0
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund - Payment to Special Fund	\$000	73,510	67,744	0	0	-3,289	64,455	-3,289
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund - Legislative Proposal FY 2017	\$000	0	0	0	0	+55,000	55,000	+55,000
	FTE	0	0	0	0	+6	6	+6
North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	\$000	19,613	19,446	0	0	-6,746	12,700	-6,746
	FTE	4	4	0	0	0	4	0
Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration	\$000	431,197	442,326	0	0	+3,517	445,843	+3,517
	FTE	65	58	0	0	0	58	0
Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration	\$000	822,932	724,888	0	0	-9,459	715,429	-9,459
	FTE	49	57	0	0	0	57	0
Migratory Bird Conservation Account	\$000	62,553	70,149	0	0	+5,038	75,187	+5,038
	FTE	69	74	0	0	0	74	0
Federal Lands Recreational Enhancement Act	\$000	5,627	5,113	0	0	+56	5,169	+56
	FTE	24	23	0	0	0	23	0
Contributed Funds	\$000	4,788	4,000	0	0	0	4,000	0
	FTE	17	20	0	0	0	20	0
Miscellaneous Permanent Appropriations	\$000	4,222	4,450	0	0	0	4,450	0
	FTE	4	5	0	0	0	5	0
Coastal Impact Assistance Program	\$000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	FTE	10	11	0	0	0	11	0
Subtotal, Permanent Appropriations	\$000	1,432,918	1,346,199	0	0	+123,545	1,469,744	+123,544
	FTE	246	260	0	0	+22	282	+22
Reimbursements and Allocations from others								
Reimbursable (1900 series)	FTE	795	815	0	0	0	815	0
Offsetting Collections 1800 series	FTE	180	200	0	0	0	200	0
Offsetting Collections 4000 series	FTE	30	30	0	0	0	30	0
Wild land Fire Management	FTE	387	386	0	0	0	386	0
Southern Nevada Lands	FTE	6	16	0	0	0	16	0
Federal Aid - Highway	FTE	13	16	0	0	0	16	0
NRDAR	FTE	73	80	0	0	0	80	0
Central HAZMAT	FTE	9	7	0	0	0	7	0
Forest Pest	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disaster Relief	FTE	41	20	0	0	0	20	0
Energy Act - Permit Processing	FTE	5	6	0	0	0	6	0
Subtotal, Other		1,539	1,576	0	0	0	1,576	0
TOTAL FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE	\$000	2,872,682	2,854,567	+6,741	0	+171,335	3,032,643	+178,075
	FTE	8,474	8,739	0	0	+235	8,974	+235

Agency Priority Goals

Engaging the Next Generation Agency Priority Goal

Priority Goal: By September 30, 2017, the Department of Interior will provide 100,000 work and training opportunities over four fiscal years (FY 2014 through FY 2017) for individuals age 15 to 35 to support Interior's mission.

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 next generation students and recent graduates as resources permit to provide a quality, cost-effective outdoor work experience to a diverse pool of our Nation's Millennial generation. The Service's hires will continue to contribute to the Priority Goal's objective to employ Millennials 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 Millennials with the outdoors. These programs also provide opportunities to educate next generation students and recent graduates 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 the next generation in the great outdoors by emphasizing new and creative ways to get the Nation's young people out into nature, specifically underrepresented groups such as those in urban environments, minorities, and women. The Service's Pathways program, rural and Tribal YCC programs, and the Biologist-in-Training Program complement these early learning experiences to mold future conservation stewards and advance next generation students and recent graduates 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 next generation students and recent graduates, and to provide natural resource career awareness, and provide professional development. NCTC has implemented 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 Millennials to careers in the natural resource community. NCTC holds classroom training, workshops, and "community of practice" sessions to bring the best practices to Departmental professionals for engaging the next generation in nature. The program will also build competencies to engage Millennials through new media and social networking tools. NCTC will also engage next generation students and recent graduates

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

The Fish and Wildlife Service reports direct hires and partnership hires to the Department as part of the effort to track progress toward achieving the purposes of the Engaging the Next Generation goal.

Renewable Energy Resource Development Agency Priority Goal

Priority Goal: By September 30, 2017, increase approved capacity authorized for renewable (solar, wind, geothermal, and hydropower) energy resources affecting Department of the Interior managed lands, while ensuring full environmental review, to at least 16,600 Megawatts (since end of FY 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 FWS provides a “supporting role” for this priority goal none of its internal measures are reported to Performance.gov.

Climate Change Adaptation Management Agency Priority Goal

Priority Goal: By September 30, 2017, the Department of the Interior will mainstream climate change adaptation and resilience into program and regional planning, capacity building, training, infrastructure, and external programs, as measured by scoring 300 of 400 points through the Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan scorecard

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 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 (see below). 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 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.

Monarch Butterfly and Other Pollinators Conservation Agency Priority Goal

Priority Goal: By September 30, 2017, the Department of Interior (Fish & Wildlife Service) will double the acres of restored or enhanced habitat for Monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Bureau Contribution

The Monarch butterfly population is in crisis, having declined by more than 90 percent from its peak in the late 90's to the lowest population count on record the winter of 2013-2014. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Service) is leading the Federal government's efforts to guide actions for monarch conservation, which serves as a flagship effort for broader pollinator conservation work. Interior's APG on Monarchs and Other Pollinators supports the National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators (Strategy) released on May 19, 2015, by the White House Pollinator Health Task Force (Task Force) and directly addresses two of the three Task Force overarching goals (on Monarch Butterflies and Pollinator Habitat) as well as addressing public education and outreach and public-private partnerships.

In support of the Federal Pollinator Strategy, the Department is working with a broad coalition of partners to rebound the Monarch butterfly population to 225 million butterflies in five years. To achieve this, the Service has developed a Monarch Conservation Strategy that emphasizes the importance of restoring and enhancing habitat – particularly through voluntary conservation on private lands – for monarchs in high priority geographies in the United States, which also supports a wide range of pollinators.

Implementation Strategy

The **Division of Natural Resources and Conservation Planning, National Wildlife Refuge System**, will collect information on habitat restoration and enhancement on Service lands, and on other lands through the Partners/Coastal Programs, and in partnership with States as well as monitor the implementation of other FWS program's conservation activities in support of the priority goal. While the FWS will not be reporting on their efforts, other DOI agency partners, such as the U.S. Geological Survey, National Park Service, and the Bureau of Land Management are also involved in the Monarch conservation initiative.

The FWS has partnered with the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), to lead the charge in protecting monarch butterflies across the American landscape. The MOU between NWF and the Service will serve as a catalyst for national collaboration on monarch conservation, particularly in planting native milkweeds and nectar plants - the primary food sources in breeding and migration habitats for the butterfly. The NFWF Monarch Conservation Fund will provide a dedicated source of funding for projects to conserve Monarchs. In addition to the strategies supported through the Monarch Butterfly Conservation Fund, NFWF will use other conservation grant programs it

administers to strengthen efforts to reverse declines in the monarch population including the Five-Star/Urban Waters Initiative and Pulling Together Initiative.

In a larger context, the Monarch Joint Venture is a partnership of Federal and State agencies, non-governmental agencies, and academic programs working together to protect monarchs and their migration. The partners are experts in the fields of monarch conservation and education in the U.S. In addition to the Department of the Interior, partners in this effort include (but are not limited to) the USDA's Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, the Pollinator Partnership, the Tallgrass Prairie Center, and many others. Efforts are also underway to work with Canada and Mexico to determine ways we can collaborate internationally to save this species

Performance Metrics

The Fish and Wildlife Service has identified a set of internal measures to monitor and track achievement of the Priority 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 FWS met or exceeded seven of its eight FY 2015 targets for Strategy #1: improve land and water health performance metrics, contributing to the Department meeting its metrics for FY 2015 in this strategic objective.

The FWS met or exceeded all six of its FY 2015 targets for Strategy #2: sustain fish, wildlife, and plant species performance metrics, contributing to the Department's meeting or exceeding all metrics for FY 2015 in this strategic objective.

The FY 2017 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 2017 request will maintain FWS' 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.

FWS 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), FWS 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 2017 request will increase funding for FWS 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. FWS 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. FWS 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 2017 will also enable FWS 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 the former Soviet Union. 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 2017 request will enhance the ability of the FWS' 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

FWS will continue its efforts in improving land and water health and sustaining fish, wildlife and plant species at similar levels in FY 2017 compared to FY 2015. 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 2017 Budget request and are not repeated here in an effort to reduce redundancy.

Performance Metrics

FWS 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 2017 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 FWS met or exceeded all three of the FY 2015 targets for cultural and heritage resources performance metrics, contributing to the Department meeting most of the metrics for FY 2015 in this strategic objective.

The Refuges program is FWS' 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 2017 request will maintain efforts to protect these resources at levels similar to FY 2015.

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 National Conservation Training Center 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 2017, compared to FY 2015. 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 2017 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 2017 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 2015 target for visitor satisfaction. A visitor survey, conducted at selected, representative National Wildlife Refuge locations showed increased visitor satisfaction over previous years in all facets of their experience. 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 2017 request will enable the FWS to maintain opportunities for play, enlightenment, and inspiration at National Wildlife Refuges and National Fish Hatcheries at levels similar to FY 2015.

Implementation Strategy

FWS will continue its visitor service programs at similar levels in FY 2017, compared to FY 2015, 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 2017 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 2017 Budget request and are not repeated here in an effort to reduce redundancy.

Budget at a Glance

2017 Budget At A Glance						
<i>(Dollars in Thousands)</i>						
	2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	Fixed Costs	Internal Transfers	Program Changes	2017 President's Budget
Appropriation: RESOURCE MANAGEMENT						
ECOLOGICAL SERVICES						
LISTING	20,515	20,515	+122	0	+2,264	22,901
Listing					+2,264	
PLANNING AND CONSULTATION	98,336	99,079	+887	0	+5,684	105,650
Gulf Coast Restoration					+3,000	
General Program Activities					+2,684	
CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION	29,146	32,396	+216	0	+1,950	34,562
National Wetlands Inventory					+1,200	
Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem					+750	
RECOVERY	77,916	82,016	+543	+153	+6,468	89,180
Aquatic Species Conservation Delivery					+500	
Cooperative Recovery					+1,527	
Multi-partner Recovery Actions (Aplomado Falcon, Condor)					-500	
Wolf Livestock Demonstration Program					-1,000	
General Program Activities					+5,941	
ECOLOGICAL SERVICES TOTAL	225,913	234,006	+1,768	+153	+16,366	252,293
HABITAT CONSERVATION						
PARTNERS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE	51,776	51,776	+271	0	+2,000	54,047
Aquatic Species Conservation Delivery					+1,000	
Pollinator Habitat Restoration and Enhancement					+1,000	
COASTAL PROGRAM	13,184	13,375	+119	0	0	13,494
HABITAT CONSERVATION TOTAL	64,960	65,151	+390	0	+2,000	67,541
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM						
WILDLIFE AND HABITAT MANAGEMENT						
Refuge Wildlife & Habitat Management	230,343	230,343	+1,241	0	+8,805	240,389
Cooperative Recovery					+1,000	
Inventory & Monitoring					+3,715	
Pacific Marine National Monuments					+2,000	
General Program Activities					+2,090	
Refuge Visitor Services	70,319	73,319	+431	0	+6,630	80,380
Pollinator Outreach and Education					+500	
Pollinator Private-Public Partnerships					+500	
Urban Wildlife Conservation Program					+5,500	
General Program Activities					+130	
Refuge Law Enforcement	38,054	38,054	+224	0	+2,434	40,712
Urban Wildlife Conservation Program					+2,000	
General Program Activities					+434	
Refuge Conservation Planning	2,988	2,523	+21	0	0	2,544
Refuge Maintenance	132,498	137,188	+487	0	+4,919	142,594
Maintenance Support					+1,697	
Deferred Maintenance					+500	
Equipment and Vehicle Management					+2,722	
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM TOTAL	474,202	481,427	+2,404	0	+22,788	506,619

2017 Budget At A Glance						
<i>(Dollars in Thousands)</i>						
	2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	Fixed Costs	Internal Transfers	Program Changes	2017 President's Budget
CONSERVATION AND ENFORCEMENT						
MIGRATORY BIRD MANAGEMENT						
Conservation and Monitoring	29,427	30,439	+182	0	+1,117	31,738
Aviation Management					+500	
Cooperative Recovery					+300	
Bird-Livestock Conflicts					-250	
General Program Activities					+567	
Permits	3,346	3,346	+25	0	0	3,371
Duck Stamp Office	556	556	+3	0	+150	709
Junior Duck Stamp Program					+150	
North American Waterfowl Management Plan	13,139	13,139	+52	0	+952	14,143
SHC Conservation Planning and Design					+500	
General Program Activities					+452	
Migratory Bird Management Total	46,468	47,480	+262	0	+2,219	49,961
LAW ENFORCEMENT						
Law Enforcement Operations	65,827	73,815	+328	0	0	74,143
Equipment Replacement	910	910	0	0	0	910
Law Enforcement Total	66,737	74,725	+328	0	0	75,053
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS						
International Conservation	7,183	7,211	+29	0	+1,050	8,290
Arctic Council Support					+550	
Wildlife Trafficking					+500	
International Wildlife Trade	7,323	7,485	+41	0	0	7,526
International Affairs Total	14,506	14,696	+70	0	+1,050	15,816
CONSERVATION AND ENFORCEMENT TOTAL	127,711	136,901	+660	0	+3,269	140,830
FISH AND AQUATIC CONSERVATION						
National Fish Hatchery Operations	52,860	53,418	+341	0	0	53,759
Maintenance and Equipment	17,920	19,920	0	0	+3,000	22,920
Deferred Maintenance					+3,000	
Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation						
Habitat Assessment and Restoration	28,321	28,641	+79	0	+110	28,830
Fish Passage Improvements					+1,500	
Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement					-1,390	
Population Assessment and Cooperative Mgmt.	30,821	30,821	+339	0	0	31,160
Aquatic Invasive Species	12,056	15,456	+35	0	+669	16,160
Prevention					+669	
Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation Subtotal	71,198	74,918	+453	0	+779	76,150
FISH AND AQUATIC CONSERVATION TOTAL	141,978	148,256	+794	0	+3,779	152,829
COOPERATIVE LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION	13,988	12,988	+83	0	+4,718	17,789
SCIENCE SUPPORT						
Adaptive Science	10,517	10,517	+5	0	+1,000	11,522
SHC Conservation Planning and Design					+1,000	
Service Science	6,468	6,468	+19	0	+2,570	9,057
General Program Activities					+2,570	
SCIENCE SUPPORT TOTAL	16,985	16,985	+24	0	+3,570	20,579

2017 Budget At A Glance						
<i>(Dollars in Thousands)</i>						
	2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	Fixed Costs	Internal Transfers	Program Changes	2017 President's Budget
GENERAL OPERATIONS						
Central Office Operations	39,985	40,722	+286	-153	+1,294	42,149
Regional Office Operations	37,722	37,722	+478	0	+3,154	41,354
Servicewide Bill Paying	35,227	35,177	-387	0	+988	35,778
Working Capital Fund - Indian Water Rights					+101	
Working Capital Fund - Technical Correction					+592	
Asst. Secretary - FWP					+200	
Memberships					+45	
Document Tracking					+50	
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation	7,022	7,022	0	0	0	7,022
National Conservation Training Center	21,965	22,414	+115	0	+2,600	25,129
Annual Maintenance					+2,600	
GENERAL OPERATIONS TOTAL	141,921	143,057	+492	-153	+8,036	151,432
TOTAL - RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	1,207,658	1,238,771	+6,615	0	+64,526	1,309,912
Appropriation: CONSTRUCTION						
Nationwide Engineering Services	7,161	7,161	+53	0	0	7,214
Dam, Bridge and Seismic Safety	1,972	1,972	0	0	0	1,972
Line Item Construction	6,554	14,554	0	0	0	14,554
TOTAL - CONSTRUCTION	15,687	23,687	+53	0	0	23,740
Appropriation: LAND ACQUISITION						
Land Acquisition Management	12,613	12,773	+73	0	+109	12,955
Land Protection Planning	0	465	0	0	0	465
Exchanges	1,500	1,500	0	0	0	1,500
Inholdings, Emergencies and Hardships	5,351	5,351	0	0	0	5,351
Sportsmen and Recreational Access	0	2,500	0	0	0	2,500
Highlands Conservation Act	3,000	10,000	0	0	-10,000	0
Land Acquisition	25,071	35,911	0	0	-27	35,884
TOTAL - LAND ACQUISITION	47,535	68,500	+73	0	-9,918	58,655
Appropriation: NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FUND	13,228	13,228	0	0	-13,228	0
Appropriation: COOPERATIVE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND	50,095	53,495	0	0	0	53,495
Appropriation: NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION FUND	34,145	35,145	0	0	0	35,145
Appropriation: MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND	9,061	11,061	0	0	0	11,061
Appropriation: NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY	3,660	3,910	0	0	0	3,910
Appropriation: STATE & TRIBAL WILDLIFE GRANTS	58,695	60,571	0	0	+6,410	66,981
TOTAL, FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (Disc.)	1,439,764	1,508,368	+6,741	0	+47,790	1,562,899

FY 2017 Summary of Fixed Cost Changes by Appropriation

(Dollars in Thousands)

Fixed Cost Component	Resource Management	Construction	Land Acq.	TOTAL
Two Less Paid Days	-5,656	-55	-75	-5,786
Pay Raise	11,139	108	148	11,395
Federal Employees Retirement System	0	0	0	0
Departmental Working Capital Fund	-368			-368
Workers' Compensation Payments	151			151
Unemployment Compensation Payments	-170			-170
GSA and non-GSA Space Rental Payments	1,450			1,450
Net O & M Baseline Adjustment	69			69
TOTAL, Fixed Costs	6,615	53	73	6,741
The 2017 President's Budget includes the following programmatic increases related to fixed costs:				
Working Capital Fund - Indian Water Rights	101			101
Working Capital Fund - Technical Correction	592			592
TOTAL, Related Program Changes	693	0	0	693
TOTAL	7,308	53	73	7,434

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, [\$1,238,771,000] \$1,309,912,000 to remain available until September 30, [2017] 2018: *Provided*, That not to exceed [\$20,515,000]\$22,901,000 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] \$1,501,000 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, [2014] 2015; of which not to exceed [\$1,501,000] \$4,605,000 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 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. (*Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016.*)

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.

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: Expired.

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. Expired.

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.

Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013, (P.L. 113-239). Authorizes the Service to permanently allow any State to provide hunting and conservation stamps for migratory birds (referred to as Federal Duck Stamps) electronically. The electronic stamps would remain valid for 45 days to allow for the physical stamps to arrive in the mail.

Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act 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, 2019.

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>															
	2015 Actual		2016 Enacted		Fixed Costs (+/-)		Internal Transfers		Program Changes (+/-)		2017 Budget Request		Change from 2016 (+/-)		
		FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Ecological Services															
Listing	20,515	123	20,515		+122	0	0	+10	+2,264	133	22,901	+10	+2,386		
Planning and Consultation	98,336	677	99,079		+887	0	0	+32	+5,684	709	105,650	+32	+6,571		
Conservation and Restoration	29,146	189	32,396		+216	0	0	+13	+1,950	202	34,562	+13	+2,166		
Recovery	77,916	401	82,016		+543	0	+153	+49	+6,468	450	89,180	+49	+7,164		
Subtotal, Ecological Services	225,913	1,390	234,006		+1,768	0	+153	+104	+16,366	1,494	252,293	+104	+18,287		
Habitat Conservation															
Partners for Fish and Wildlife	51,776	243	51,776		+271	0	0	+2	+2,000	245	54,047	+2	+2,271		
Coastal Program	13,184	62	13,375		+119	0	0	0	0	62	13,494	0	+119		
Subtotal, Habitat Conservation	64,960	305	65,151		+390	0	0	+2	+2,000	307	67,541	+2	+2,390		
National Wildlife Refuge System															
Wildlife and Habitat Management	230,343	1,396	230,343		+1,241	0	0	+47	+8,805	1,443	240,389	+47	+10,046		
Visitor Services	70,319	540	73,319		+431	0	0	+14	+6,630	554	80,380	+14	+7,061		
Law Enforcement	38,054	242	38,054		+224	0	0	+16	+2,434	258	40,712	+16	+2,658		
Conservation Planning	2,988	20	2,523		-465	0	0	0	0	20	2,544	0	+21		
Maintenance	132,498	579	137,188		+487	0	0	+14	+4,919	593	142,594	+14	+5,406		
Subtotal, National Wildlife Refuge System	474,202	2,777	481,427		2,404	0	0	+91	+22,788	2,868	506,619	+91	+25,192		
Conservation and Enforcement															
Migratory Bird Management	46,468	229	47,480		+262	0	0	+2	+2,219	231	49,961	+2	+2,481		
Law Enforcement	66,737	322	74,725		+328	0	0	0	0	322	75,053	0	+328		
International Affairs	14,506	81	14,696		+70	0	0	+3	+1,050	84	15,816	+3	+1,120		
Subtotal, Conservation and Enforcement	127,711	632	136,901		+660	0	0	+5	+3,269	637	140,830	+5	+3,929		
Fish and Aquatic Conservation															
National Fish Hatchery Operations	52,860	331	53,418		+341	0	0	0	0	331	53,759	0	+341		
Maintenance and Equipment	17,920	72	19,920		0	0	0	0	+3,000	72	22,920	0	+3,000		
Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation	71,198	334	74,918		+453	0	0	+3	+779	337	76,150	+3	+1,232		
Subtotal, Fish and Aquatic Conservation	141,978	737	148,256		+794	0	0	+3	+3,779	740	152,829	+3	+4,573		
Cooperative Landscape Conservation															
Science Support	13,988	74	12,988		+83	0	0	+3	+4,718	77	17,789	+3	+4,801		
Adaptive Science	10,517	5	10,517		+5	0	0	+3	+1,000	8	11,522	+3	+1,005		
Service Science	6,468	16	6,468		+19	0	0	0	+2,570	16	9,057	0	+2,589		
Subtotal, Science Support	16,985	21	16,985		+24	0	0	3	+3,570	24	20,579	+3	+3,594		
General Operations															
Central Office Operations	39,985	268	40,722		+286	0	-153	+1	+1,294	269	42,149	+1	+1,427		
Regional Office Operations	37,722	381	37,722		+478	0	0	0	+3,154	381	41,354	0	+3,632		
Service-wide Bill Paying	35,227	14	35,177		-387	0	0	0	+988	14	35,778	0	+601		
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	7,022	0	7,022		0	0	0	0	0	0	7,022	0	0		
National Conservation Training Center	21,965	127	22,414		+115	0	0	0	+2,600	127	25,129	0	+2,715		
Subtotal, General Operations	141,921	790	143,057		+492	0	-153	+1	+8,036	791	151,432	+1	+8,375		
Total, Resource Management 1/	1,207,658	6,726	1,238,771		+6,615	0	0	+212	+64,526	6,938	1,309,912	+212	+71,141		

Note: For ease of comparison, this table presents figures for all budget years in the budget structure enacted in the 2016 appropriation.
 1/ Amounts do not include FY 2015 transfer of \$17.5 M from State Dept/USAID - Congo and annual transfers of \$5.4 M in FY 2016 and FY 2017 from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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

Fixed Cost Changes and Projections	2016 Total or Change	2016 to 2017 Change
Change in Number of Paid Days This column reflects changes in pay associated with the change in the number of paid days between 2016 and 2017.	+2,948	-5,656
Pay Raise The change reflects the salary impact of the 1.6% programmed pay raise increases as provided in the June, 2015 Circular A-11.	+9,689	+11,139
Departmental Working Capital Fund The change reflects expected changes in the charges for centrally billed Department services and other services through the Working Capital Fund. These charges are detailed in the Budget Justification for Department Management.	-1,047	-368
Worker's Compensation Payments The amounts reflect projected 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.	-19	+151
Unemployment Compensation Payments The amounts reflect projected changes in the costs of unemployment compensation claims to be paid to the Department of Labor, Federal Employees Compensation Account, in the Unemployment Trust Fund, pursuant to Public Law 96-499.	+28	-170
Rental Payments The amounts reflect changes in the costs payable to General Services Administration (GSA) and others for office and non-office space as estimated by GSA, as well as the rental costs of other currently occupied space. These costs include building security; in the case of GSA space, these are paid to Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Costs of mandatory office relocations, i.e. relocations in cases where due to external events there is no alternative but to vacate the currently occupied space, are also included.	-2,582	+1,450
Baseline Adjustments for O&M Increases In accordance with space maximization efforts across the Federal Government, this adjustment captures the associated increase to baseline operations and maintenance requirements resulting from movement out of GSA or direct-leased (commercial) space and into Bureau-owned space. While the GSA portion of fixed costs will go down as a result of these moves, Bureaus often encounter an increase to baseline O&M costs not otherwise captured in fixed costs. This category of funding properly adjusts the baseline fixed cost amount to maintain steady-state funding for these requirements.	+0	+69

Internal Realignments and Non-Policy/Program Changes (Net-Zero)	2017 (+/-)
Listing The Service will shift funds from Critical Habitat to Petitions in anticipation of an increased workload in Petition work and a decrease in standalone Critical Habitat designations.	
Ecological Services \ Conservation and Restoration \ Petitions	+3,104
Ecological Services \ Conservation and Restoration \ Critical Habitat	-3,104
Return Position to Ecological Services In 2014, an Ecological Services person with specialized communications skills was moved to External Affairs to enhance outreach support for the ES program. With the retirement of that individual in FY14, the position is being returned to Ecological Services.	
Ecological Services \ Conservation and Restoration	+153
General Operation \ Central Offices \ External Affairs	-153

Standard Form 300 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT			
Program and Financing (in million of dollars)	2015	2016	2017
Identification Code 010-18-14-1611	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Combined Schedule (X)			
Obligations by program activity:			
0001 Ecological Services	172	215	251
0002 National Wildlife Refuge System	479	480	504
0004 Conservation and Enforcement	161	188	181
0005 Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation	145	147	153
0006 Habitat Conservation	112	65	66
0007 Cooperative Landscape Conservation	14	12	14
0008 General Operations	145	146	150
0009 Science Support	16	17	18
0100 Subtotal, direct program	1,244	1,270	1,337
0799 Total direct obligations	1,244	1,270	1,337
0801 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative	43	40	40
0802 Reimbursable program activity all other	229	220	220
0899 Total reimbursable obligations	272	260	260
0900 Total new obligations	1,516	1,530	1,597
Budgetary resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	291	289	275
1011 Unobligated balance transfer from other acct [014-0102]	1	0	0
1021 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	18	18	18
1050 Unobligated balance (total)	310	307	293
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, discretionary:			
1100 Appropriation	1,207	1,239	1,310
1121 Appropriations transferred from other acct [072-1021]	18	0	0
1121 Appropriations transferred from other acct [096-3123]	0	5	5
1160 Appropriation, discretionary (total)	1,225	1,244	1,315
Spending authority from offsetting collections, discretionary:			
1700 Collected	299	254	254
1701 Change in uncollected payments, Federal sources	-29	0	0
1702 Offsetting collections (previously unavailable)	0	0	0
1750 Spending auth from offsetting collections, disc (total)	270	254	254
1900 Budget authority (total)	1,495	1,498	1,569
1930 Total budgetary resources available	1,805	1,805	1,862
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	289	275	265

Standard Form 300 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT			
Program and Financing (in million of dollars)	2015	2016	2017
Identification Code 010-18-14-1611	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
<u>Change in obligated balance:</u>			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	574	570	629
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	1,516	1,530	1,597
3011 Obligations incurred, expired accounts	3	0	0
3020 Outlays (gross)	-1,492	-1,453	-1,557
3040 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations, unexpired	-18	-18	-18
3041 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations, expired	-13	0	0
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	570	629	651
Uncollected payments:			
3060 Uncollected pymts, Fed sources, brought forward, Oct 1	-373	-290	-290
3070 Change in uncollected pymts, Fed sources, unexpired	29	0	0
3071 Change in uncollected pymts, Fed sources, expired	54	0	0
3090 Uncollected pymts, Fed sources, end of year	-290	-290	-290
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	201	280	339
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	280	339	361
<u>Budget authority and outlays, net:</u>			
Discretionary:			
4000 Budget authority, gross	1,495	1,498	1,569
Outlays, gross:			
4010 Outlays from new discretionary authority	880	973	1,022
4011 Outlays from discretionary balances	612	480	535
4020 Outlays, gross (total)	1,492	1,453	1,557
Offsets against gross budget authority and outlays:			
Offsetting collections (collected) from:			
4030 Federal sources	-299	-198	-198
4033 Non-Federal sources	-55	-56	-56
4040 Offsets against gross budget authority and outlays (total)	-354	-254	-254
Additional offsets against gross budget authority only:			
4050 Change in uncollected pymts, Fed sources, unexpired	29	0	0
4052 Offsetting collections credited to expired accounts	55	0	0
4060 Additional offsets against budget authority only (total)	84	0	0
4070 Budget authority, net (discretionary)	1,225	1,244	1,315
4080 Outlays, net (discretionary)	1,138	1,199	1,303
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	1,225	1,244	1,315
4190 Outlays, net (total)	1,138	1,199	1,303

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT			
Program and Financing (in million of dollars)	2015	2016	2017
Identification Code 010-18-14-1611	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	492	516	541
11.3 Other than full-time permanent	25	25	25
11.5 Other personnel compensation	20	20	20
11.8 Special personal services payments	1	1	1
11.9 Total personnel compensation	538	562	587
12.1 Civilian personnel benefits	199	208	217
13.0 Benefits for former personnel	0	0	0
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons	28	28	28
22.0 Transportation of things	7	7	7
23.1 Rental payments to GSA	35	48	48
23.2 Rental payments to others	1	2	2
23.3 Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges	22	22	22
24.0 Printing and reproduction	3	3	3
25.1 Advisory and assistance services	8	8	8
25.2 Other services from non-Federal sources	58	60	60
25.3 Other goods and services from Federal sources	39	40	40
25.4 Operation and maintenance of facilities	30	30	30
25.7 Operation and maintenance of equipment	19	20	20
26.0 Supplies and materials	47	48	48
31.0 Equipment	43	45	45
32.0 Land and structures	27	27	27
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	139	112	145
42.0 Insurance claims and indemnities	1	0	0
99.0 Subtotal, obligations, Direct obligations	1,244	1,270	1,337
Reimbursable obligations:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	40	42	42
11.3 Other than full-time permanent	11	11	11
11.5 Other personnel compensation	2	2	2
11.9 Total personnel compensation	53	55	55
12.1 Civilian personnel benefits	18	19	19
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons	4	4	4
22.0 Transportation of things	1	1	1
23.1 Rental payments to GSA	1	1	1
23.3 Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges	4	4	4
25.1 Advisory and assistance services	1	1	1
25.2 Other services from non-Federal sources	21	21	21
25.3 Other goods and services from Federal sources	27	27	27

Standard Form 300				
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT				
Program and Financing (in million of dollars)		2015	2016	2017
Identification Code	010-18-14-1611	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities	10	10	10
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment	43	43	43
26.0	Supplies and materials	12	12	12
31.0	Equipment	7	7	7
32.0	Land and structures	5	5	5
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	65	50	50
99.0	Subtotal, obligations, Reimbursable obligations	272	260	260
99.9	Total new obligations	1,516	1,530	1,597

Employment Summary (Q)				
1001	Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	6,729	6,956	7,168
2001	Reimbursable civilian full-time equivalent employment	795	815	815
3001	Allocation account civilian full-time equivalent employment	534	531	531

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Ecological Services



Activity: Ecological Services

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Change from 2016 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Listing	(\$000) FTE	20,515 123	20,515 123	+122 0	0 0	+2,264 +10	22,901 133	+2,386 +10
Planning and Consultation	(\$000) FTE	98,336 670	99,079 677	+887 0	0 0	+5,684 +32	105,650 709	+6,571 +32
Conservation and Restoration	(\$000) FTE	29,146 173	32,396 189	+216 0	0 0	+1,950 +13	34,562 202	+2,166 +13
Recovery	(\$000) FTE	77,916 391	82,016 401	+543 0	+153 0	+6,468 +49	89,180 450	+7,164 +49
Total, Ecological Services	(\$000) FTE	225,913 1,357	234,006 1,390	+1,768 0	+153 0	+16,366 +104	252,293 1,494	+18,287 +104

*Note: For ease of comparison, this table presents figures for all budget years in the budget structure enacted in the 2016 appropriation.

Summary of 2017 Program Changes for Ecological Services

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Listing	+2,264	+10
• Gulf Coast Restoration	+3,000	+20
• Planning and Consultation Activities	+2,684	+12
• Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem Conservation	+750	+5
• National Wetlands Inventory	+1,200	+8
• Recovery Activities	+5,941	+49
• Aquatic Species Conservation Delivery	+500	0
• Cooperative Recovery Initiative	+1,527	0
• Multi-partner Recovery Actions	-500	0
• Wolf Livestock Loss Demonstration Program	-1,000	0
Program Changes	+16,366	+104

Program Mission

Ecological Services achieves conservation of Service trust resources, focusing on imperiled species, and works closely with external partners and agencies for the conservation of natural resources across the landscape. Through leadership in environmental response and restoration, environmental reviews of Federal projects, listing and recovery of candidate, threatened, and endangered species, and management of decision support and mapping tools, the Program works closely with our partners to meet the conservation challenges of today and tomorrow. Staff within the Ecological Services Program develop and implement national policies and guidance to facilitate implementation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA); prepare and review rulemakings; conduct environmental reviews with other Federal agencies; provide outreach and build partnerships to advance the Program’s goals; and provide assistance to States under the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund.

Program Elements

The Ecological Services program is comprised of the following program elements:

- Listing – Uses the best scientific information available to identify foreign and domestic plant and animal species that are in danger of extinction or likely to become in danger of extinction within the foreseeable future and thus need protection under the ESA.
- Planning and Consultation – Provides integrated advanced project planning, environmental review and consultation, and permitting assistance to proactively facilitate compliance with environmental laws while supporting economic recovery, business growth, and demand for new infrastructure and community development.
- Conservation and Restoration – Delivers collaborative species conservation efforts; protects and restores habitats important to Federal trust species; and provides mapping products and databases that are essential tools for conservation and restoration of species and habitats by other Federal and state agencies and the public.
- Recovery – Develops and facilitates implementation of recovery plans to prevent extinction and improve the status of listed species, with the objective of bringing species to the point where they no longer require the protection of the ESA. Funds delisting and downlisting of species.

Applicable Laws, Acts, and Orders

By providing technical support and expertise, the Service promotes conservation of fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats across large natural areas with varied land uses. Operating under authorities such as the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA), 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 (CBRA), Oil Pollution Act (OPA), Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), and multiple Executive Orders, the Service identifies potential impacts, provide technical solutions, and raises environmental awareness.

Subactivity: Ecological Services
Program Element: Listing

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Budget Request	Change from 2015 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
Critical Habitat	(\$000)	4,605	4,605	0	-3,104	0	1,501	-3,104
	FTE	35	35	0	-32	0	3	-32
Listing	(\$000)	12,905	12,905	+122	0	+2,264	15,291	+2,386
	FTE	78	78	0	0	+10	88	+10
Foreign Listing	(\$000)	1,504	1,504	0	0	0	1,504	0
	FTE	5	5	0	0	0	5	0
Petitions	(\$000)	1,501	1,501	0	+3,104	0	4,605	+3,104
	FTE	5	5	0	+32	0	37	+32
Total, Listing	(\$000)	20,515	20,515	+122	0	+2,264	22,901	+2,386
	FTE	123	123	0	0	+10	133	+10

Summary of 2017 Program Changes for Listing

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Listing	+2,264	+10
Program Changes	+2,264	+10

Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for Listing is \$22,901,000 and 133 FTE, a program change of +\$2,264,000 and +10 FTE from the 2016 Enacted.

Listing (+\$2,264,000/+10 FTE)

This request seeks resources to carry out statutory listing duties, including petition findings, timely listing determinations for both foreign and domestic species, and designation of critical habitat where prudent and determinable. Adequate funding and staffing to carry out these mandatory duties will support timely and transparent decision making based on the best available scientific information, with effective public involvement, and will minimize the risk of litigation to enforce missed deadlines. Failure to complete petition findings and listing determinations in a timely manner, as the law requires, will put the Service at risk of accumulating a backlog of candidate species, without expeditious progress to resolve their status, which will put the Service at high legal risk again.

Program Overview

Through the Listing subactivity, the Service uses the best scientific information available to identify foreign and domestic plant and animal species that are in danger of extinction or likely to become in danger of extinction within the foreseeable future and thus meet the ESA’s definition of endangered or threatened. This determination helps identify and address the conservation needs of the species, including the designation of critical habitat. Legal protections afforded under sections 7 and 9 of the ESA become effective upon listing, preventing the decline and extinction of many species. Information sought and compiled through the rule-making process associated with the listing determination informs and streamlines subsequent section 7 consultation and section 10 permitting activities and provides information crucial for recovery planning and implementation. In many ways, the listing process sets the stage for recovery needs and objectives, which facilitates early response and implementation.

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 -- key components of America’s natural 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 helps the Service and its partners focus resources and efforts on recovering the species.

The ESA uses the following definitions for listing determinations:

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

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

Listing determinations, critical habitat designations, and their associated processes are important tools that support the Service’s goal to recover species. This support stems in large part from the information developed when conducting the analysis of whether a species meets the definition of threatened or endangered. Using the best scientific and commercial data available, the listing rule provides information on the species (e.g., 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, an assessment of the effectiveness of applicable conservation measures, and establishes a summary 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 finalized listing two subspecies of the African Lion under the ESA in October 2015. Photo credit: Heidi Ruffler/USFWS

For the past six years, the Service has focused our listing resources on resolving the status of the species that were candidates for listing in 2011, as per our commitment under the Multi-District Litigation (MDL) settlement agreements, and on making initial 90-day findings on incoming petitions. We have carried out all of our commitments under the MDL settlements and expect to emerge from that settlement in FY2017, at which point the Service will need the resources to make reasonably timely decisions balanced among all aspects of our listing responsibilities.

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.

Listing Program Performance

Listing Determinations for U.S. Species*

During FY 2017, the Service projects the following determinations:

- 3 Proposed listing determinations with critical habitat for 5 species.
- 3 Proposed critical habitat determinations for 3 species.
- 23 Final listing determinations for 33 species.
- Emergency listings as necessary.

Petition Findings*

The Service intends to address all 90-day petitions as received, and anticipates publishing 60 12-month petition findings for 14 species in FY 2017.

Listing Determinations for Foreign Species

During FY 2017, the Service projects completion of the following determinations for foreign species:

- One proposed listing for one species.
- One final listing for one species.
- Four 12-month petition findings for 20 species.

*Note: 12-month findings assume increased funding shifted under Petitions sub-cap.

Endangered Species Listing - Program Change Table

Performance Goal	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Target	2017 PB	Change from 2016 Target to 2017 PB
7.32.1 - % of final listing determinations promulgated in a timely manner	5% (2 of 38)	8% (8 of 95)	87% (40 of 46)	22% (2 of 9)	62% (8 of 13)	70% (16 of 23)	8%
7.32.1.1 - # of final listing determinations promulgated in a timely manner	2	8	40	2	8	16	8
7.32.1.2 - # of final listing determinations promulgated this FY	38	95	46	9	13	23	10
7.32.2 - % of petition findings made within one fiscal year of petition receipt	11% (14 of 131)	6% (6 of 95)	4% (3 of 72)	15% (8 of 55)	29% (19 of 66)	64% (25 of 39)	35%
Comments:	The backlog of 90-day findings has already been addressed.						
7.32.2.1 - # of petition findings promulgated within 1 year of petition receipt	14	6	3	8	19	25	6
Comments:	The backlog of 90-day findings has already been addressed.						
7.32.2.2 - # of petition findings promulgated this FY	131	95	72	55	66	39	-27
Comments:	The backlog of 90-day findings has already been addressed.						

Subactivity: Ecological Services
Program Element: Planning and Consultation

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Change from 2015 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Planning and Consultation	(\$000) FTE	98,336 670	99,079 677	+887 0	0 0	+5,684 +32	105,650 709	+6,571 +32

Summary of 2017 Program Changes for Planning and Consultation

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Gulf Coast Restoration	+3,000	+20
• Planning and Consultation Activities	+2,684	+12
Program Changes	+5,684	+32

Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for Planning and Consultation is \$105,650,000 and 709 FTE, a program change of +\$5,684,000 and +32 FTE from the 2016 Enacted.

Gulf Coast Restoration (+\$3,000,000/+20 FTE)

Funds will be used to work collaboratively to review and consult on Gulf of Mexico restoration projects being funded in the next decade by billions of dollars in Deepwater Horizon and RESTORE Act funds.

The Service will direct resources to the environmental review of proposed projects (as required by statutes such as the FWCA, NEPA, and the ESA), so that environmentally beneficial restoration projects can move through the regulatory review process in a timely fashion. We will also work with State and other partners to ensure Service priorities are incorporated into Gulf conservation and resiliency efforts. This request recognizes that over the course of the next decade the Service will be directly involved in influencing the distribution of billions of dollars of settlement funds to restoration activities in the Gulf Coast watershed. Additional capacity is needed to dedicate to this unprecedented opportunity to ensure that a Gulf-wide, landscape scale effort, based on the best science, is implemented and that this broader effort benefits Service trust resources.

Planning and Consultation Activities (+2,684,000/+12 FTE)

The Service is instrumental in supporting economic recovery in the United States. Timely evaluations and permitting of proposed infrastructure and other development projects contributes to economic growth and job creation. We accomplish this work using numerous tools and authorities, including technical assistance to permitting agencies, consulting and issuing permits for projects under the ESA and other Federal laws and working with local and State governments to identify the best areas for development. Conversely, without adequate funding and staff to carry out our environmental review and permitting responsibilities, project review and permitting efforts cannot proceed on schedule, which can impede economic recovery.

Economic growth will result in a greater demand for supporting infrastructure such as roads, water supply, and flood risk reduction. With this increased demand for infrastructure, the Service will receive more requests for consultations and permits needed for compliance with environmental laws and will need to provide planning and technical assistance for siting determinations to minimize impacts on resources covered by our authorities, including listed species, migratory birds, and eagles. To support this predicted growth, the Service needs the capacity to provide technical assistance and environmental reviews in a timely manner.

Program Overview

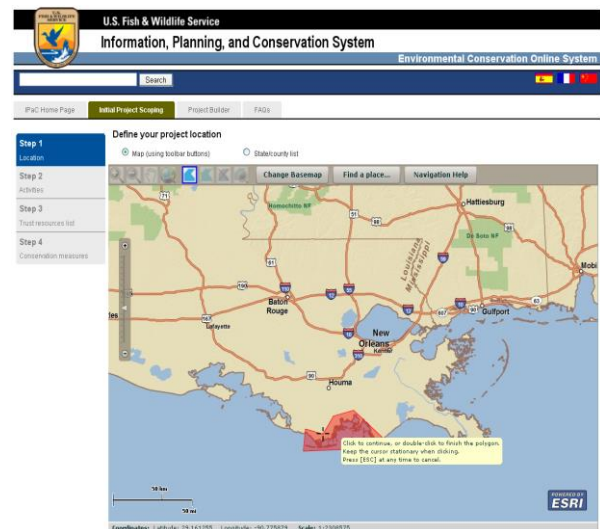
Within Planning and Consultation, the Service provides a field-based, landscape-level approach that works collaboratively with industry, agencies, Tribes, and other stakeholders to balance conservation and development needs. Service biologists work with stakeholders at the planning stages of federally-authorized, 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 have extensive knowledge in numerous authorities, including the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the NEPA, the FWCA, the Federal Power Act, the MBTA and the Eagle Act and use that background to bring a true “One Service” integrated presence to our work. By engaging in development processes early, Service recommendations save taxpayers money by preventing the need to list animals as endangered or threatened, streamlining the permitting process, reducing paperwork, and ensuring minimized environmental and community impacts of development projects. Advanced biological planning and conservation design also assists communities and industry in adapting to environmental change.

Environmental review functions constitute a significant workload for the Service, and we are 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 a decision support system for streamlining the environmental review process. The Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC) system provides the Service and project proponents interactive, online tools to spatially link data for quick analyses of resource threats and determinations of the effectiveness of various conservation actions (<http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>). This function allows for rapid identification of potential projects that will not affect listed species and expedites completion of requirements involving ESA section 7 consultations, section 10 Habitat Conservation Plans, and other environmental review processes. In 2015, the Service estimates that automated delivery of listed species lists is resulting in a savings of 743 labor hours saved or 4.6 FTE monthly, allowing staff to focus on technical assistance requests.

The Service 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 disruptors, 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 Pesticide Consultations

The Service works closely with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on water quality and pesticide registration consultations. In FY 2017, work continues on completing water quality



consultations on discharge permits and State water quality standards, as well as, providing assistance to EPA on the derivation of national aquatic life criteria. In FY 2017, the Service will continue to develop and implement scientifically rigorous protocols for national consultations with EPA to protect threatened and endangered species by more thoroughly assessing risks posed by exposure to pesticides. This more rigorous and thorough assessment process for evaluating risks to 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, while ensuring the protection of listed species.

New Energy Frontier

One of Secretary Jewell's priorities is for the Department of the Interior to play a role in securing an energy future that promotes the responsible use of our resources as we ensure self-reliant and sustainable energy for our Nation. 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, tidal, and hydrokinetic energy projects. At the same time, traditional energy sources, such as oil and gas, continue to be developed. Consequently, the Service is increasingly engaged in extensive coordination with other Department of the Interior bureaus, Federal agencies, States, 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 measures. 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 land-based wind turbines on wildlife and their habitat. Service collaboration with a 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 have been conducted since 2012 and are continuing to support the successful implementation of these guidelines. This has been and continues to be a collaborative effort including other agencies and the wind industry. Offshore wind is gaining interest with States as they work to meet their renewable energy targets. The Service is providing technical assistance to States and other Federal agencies as we learn more about bird, bat, and insect movements along shorelines and across oceans.
- **Solar power:** 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. The Service will be participating in a multi-agency collaborative working group initiated by the Department of Energy that will advance understanding of avian-solar interactions in 2016. The working group will include representatives from other Federal agencies, States and energy regulatory agencies from California, Nevada, and Arizona. The working group's primary mission is to improve



Joshua Winchell/USFWS

coordination among state and federal agencies to promote better understanding of 1) avian-solar interactions and 2) agency actions and requirements. The Service continues to work closely with the California Energy Commission, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and BLM to finalize the draft Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP). The plan was available for review in 2015, and the team is now working on addressing comments. The DRECP identifies areas suitable for construction of renewable energy projects across 22.5 million acres of Federal, State, and private lands in the Mojave and Colorado Deserts of Southern California. This effort will protect areas in the California desert that are important for wildlife, recreation, cultural and other uses while also facilitating the timely permitting of solar, wind, and geothermal energy projects and associated transmission in appropriate areas.

- ***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 partnered with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to provide training for Service and State natural resource agency staff on oil and gas topics such as application review, mitigation options and the role of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Two trainings were held in 2015 and another is planned for the spring of 2016. This knowledge helps Service staff provide the information needed by project applicants in a timely manner.
- ***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 continues to work closely with partners to advance environmentally-sound projects and technologies that minimize adverse impacts to fish and wildlife.

2017 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 2017, the Service anticipates completing an additional 1,935 technical assistance requests as compared to FY 2016.
- Continue to refine and expand the internet-based IPaC system, which can be used to obtain information regarding 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, and facilitate the implementation of Executive Order 13604 on *Improving Performance of Federal Permitting and Review of Infrastructure Projects* (March 22, 2012).
- Continue to work cooperatively with EPA, NMFS, and the USDA 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.

Planning and Consultation - Combined Program Change and Overview Table

Performance Goal	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Target	2017 PB	Change from 2016 Target to 2017 PB
4.7.5 - % of requests for technical assistance completed	92% (22,625 of 24,576)	90% (18,762 of 20,852)	92% (16,785 of 18,306)	90% (13,251 of 14,659)	82% (4,998 of 6,132)	95% (14,656 of 15,392)	14% (9,658 of 9,260)
Comments:	Assumes a 5% increase from FY 2015						
7.31.1 - % of formal/informal "other non-resource-use specific" consultations addressed in a timely manner	84% (8,028 of 9,590)	85% (7,390 of 8,680)	83% (6,722 of 8,077)	84% (7,105 of 8,413)	81% (5,484 of 6,758)	96% (8,305 of 8,651)	15% (2,821 of 1,893)
Comments:	Due to Gulf Coast and General Program Activities increase						

Subactivity: Ecological Services
Program Element: Conservation and Restoration

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Change from 2015 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Conservation and Restoration	(\$000)	29,146	32,396	+216	0	+1,950	34,562	+2,166
	FTE	173	189	0	0	+13	202	+13

Summary of 2017 Program Changes for Conservation and Restoration

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• National Wetlands Inventory	+1,200	+8
• Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem Conservation	+750	+5
Program Changes	+1,950	+13

Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for Conservation and Restoration is \$34,562,000 and 202 FTE, a program change of +\$1,950,000 and +13 FTE from the 2016 Enacted.

National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) (+\$1,200,000/+8 FTE)

With this funding, the Service will begin initial planning and design for the next decadal Status and Trends report due in 2020. Produced every ten years, this report provides important long-term trend information about specific changes and places and the overall status of wetlands in the United States. The historical data base that the Service has developed through Status and Trends, provides photographic evidence of land use and wetlands extent dating back to the 1950s. This provides an accurate record to assist in future restoration efforts. Funds will also be targeted towards maintaining the national wetlands data layer through timely quality assurance and quality review of contributed data as well as 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. Integrated geospatial layers 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.

Conservation of Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem (+\$750,000/+5 FTE)

The sagebrush steppe ecosystem extends across 11 States, the conservation of which requires a collaborative conservation effort that is unprecedented in geographic scope and magnitude. To achieve sustainable conservation success for this ecosystem, the Service has identified priority needs for basic scientific expertise, technical assistance for on-the-ground support of landowners, and internal and external coordination and partnership building with western States, the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and other partners. Success in conserving this ecosystem requires constant communication, planning, and adaptive management by the Service and its partners to ensure long-term conservation for sage-dependent wildlife, including migratory birds that are declining or at risk. Working with State and Federal partners to provide scientifically sound recommendations for maintaining a viable

sagebrush steppe ecosystem, the Service will support conservation of greater sage-grouse and other sage-dependent species and fully develop a long-term conservation vision for the sagebrush steppe ecosystem.

Further, there continues to be an unmet demand for Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAA) within this landscape. There are a number of CCAAs in Wyoming, Colorado, and Montana that are in development, and interest from other States continues. Private landowners are key in the success of efforts to conserve large landscapes like the sagebrush steppe. This request supports the Service's staffing needs to allow them to work closely with landowners that are considering enrollment in these programs across the ecosystem. Without additional staffing, the Service may miss a critical opportunity to engage private landowners in the voluntary conservation of the sagebrush steppe ecosystem through the enrollment of large blocks of privately-owned habitat. 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 sagebrush steppe ecosystem, 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.

Program Overview

Through the Conservation and Restoration subactivity, the Service leads and supports collaborative species conservation efforts, works to protect and restore habitats that are important to federal trust species, and provides mapping products and databases that are essential tools for conservation and restoration of species and habitats by other Federal and State agencies and the public.

Candidate Conservation

Candidate Conservation focuses on two primary activities: species assessment and facilitating voluntary conservation efforts for species under consideration for listing under the ESA. Candidate Conservation uses all available information to conduct a scientifically rigorous assessment process that identifies species that warrant listing. The Service is working towards adopting a species status assessment framework that is an analytical approach to deliver foundational science for informing all ESA decisions. The 2015 Candidate Notice of Review, published on December 24, 2015, identified 60 species as candidates for listing.

Candidate Conservation 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. Service biologists support and monitor 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 Service uses a proactive, strategic, and collaborative approach for conservation planning that is designed to reduce or remove identified threats. A conservation agreement or strategy is then prepared that covers the entire range of one or more candidate species, or a landscape scale plan targeting threats in a particular area that supports multiple species-at-risk. In 2015, several plant species, including Ramshaw Meadows sand-verbena, Siskiyou mariposa lily, and Tahoe yellow cress, were

removed from the candidate list due to ongoing conservation actions identified in conservation agreements and a strategy in their respective locations in California, Oregon, and Nevada. In California and Oregon, the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management have been successfully managing for viable populations of the mariposa lily, and in California, the Forest Service has protected the sand-verbena and reduced stressors to that species. For the yellow cress, a conservation strategy coupled with a memorandum of understanding/conservation agreement between numerous Federal, State, and local agencies, and environmental organizations has been implemented and successfully addressed the threat to Tahoe yellow cress. These are just a few examples of how designing and implementing a conservation strategy early can successfully preclude the need to list a species.

Marine Mammals

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



Walrus
Joel Garlich Miller/USFWS

Meeting the Service’s mandate for the conservation of marine mammal species requires communication and cooperation with other Federal agencies, State governments, Alaska Native Organizations, scientists from numerous institutions and organizations, industry groups, and nongovernmental organizations. Through active collaboration and coordination, the Service is able to enhance the effectiveness of implementing the MMPA and achieve its goal of optimum sustainable population levels for marine mammal stocks. In FY 2017, 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 mammal stocks under the conservation and management jurisdiction of the Service. Working with Alaskan natives and local communities, the Service will coordinate management of the Pacific walrus stock with Russia and the two polar bear stocks shared with Russia and Canada, in support of our existing international agreements. The Service will continue implementing regulations associated with oil and gas industry activities to minimize potential impacts and will address other sources for incidental take authorizations.

Environmental Response, Damage Assessment, and Restoration of Trust Resources

Service biologists provide technical guidance to the lead Federal Response agencies (i.e., U.S. Coast Guard or Environmental Protection Agency) before and during an oil spill or hazardous material release in order to reduce the impacts on natural resources. In addition, Service biologists are also key members of the Department’s Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (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 NRDAR 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 oil spills and the release of hazardous materials and applies their unique technical expertise to restore injured trust 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.

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. 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 2017, the Service will continue to evolve and engage the geospatial community in using mapping data to answer critical questions about species conservation and recovery. Geospatial data layering and reports provide important tools to inform biologists and decision makers about key locational information to help with energy project siting decisions, project planning impacts, options 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.

2017 Program Performance

Highlights include:

- Facilitating voluntary conservation efforts by private landowners, States, Tribes, Territories, Federal agencies (especially the NRCS 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.
- In coordination with our partners, continuing to prepare for oil spill and hazardous materials releases to minimize impacts to trust resources and work with communities to restore natural resources injured during spills and releases.
- Continuing comprehensive Coastal Barrier Resources Act map modernization for eight northeastern States affected by Hurricane Sandy.
- Working with partners to add updated or revised wetlands data into the National Wetlands Inventory online database as the data becomes available.
- Initiating data collection for the 2020 Status and Trends report on wetlands in the United States.
- Updating stock assessments for up to six marine mammal populations.
- Developing and implementing Harvest Regulation under the US-Russia Bilateral Agreement for the Alaska-Chukotka polar bear population.
- Beginning implementation of the conservation and management actions called for in the "Polar Bear Conservation Management Plan."
- Renewing OMB Information Collection Authorization for the Marine Mammal Marking, Tagging, and Reporting program.

Conservation and Restoration - Combined Program Change and Overview Table

Performance Goal	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Target	2017 PB	Change from 2016 Target to 2017 PB
8.3.5 - % of candidate species where listing is unnecessary as a result of conservation actions, including actions taken through agreements	1% (3 of 246)	3% (5 of 188)	4% (6 of 143)	13% (12 of 96)	6% (3 of 51)	6% (3 of 51)	0%
8.3.5.1 - # of candidate species where listing is unnecessary as a result of conservation actions or agreements	3	5	6	12	3	3	0
8.3.5.2 - total # of candidate species	246	188	143	96	51	51	0
9.1.5 - # of current marine mammal stock assessments	8	9	9	9	9	9	0

Subactivity: Ecological Services
Program Element: Recovery

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017				Change from 2015 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Recovery	(\$000)	77,916	82,016	+543	+153	+6,468	89,180	+7,164
	FTE	391	401	0	0	+49	450	+49

Summary of 2017 Program Changes for Recovery

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Recovery Activities	+5,941	+49
• Cooperative Recovery Initiative	+1,527	0
• Aquatic Species Conservation Delivery	+500	0
• Multi-partner Recovery Actions	-500	0
• Wolf Livestock Loss Demonstration Program	-1,000	0
Program Changes	+6,468	+49

Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for Recovery of Listed Species is \$89,180,000 and 450 FTE, a net program change of +\$6,468,000 and +49 FTE from the 2016 Enacted.

Recovery Activities (+\$5,941,000 / +49 FTE)

The goal of the Recovery program is to minimize or remove the threats that led to a species listing so that it can be delisted or reclassified—or downlisted—from "Endangered" to "Threatened". The activities necessary to recover species include developing and facilitating implementation of recovery plans for listed species, monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of recovery actions, reviewing the status of each species at least every 5 years (through statutorily-mandated 5-year reviews), developing rules for reclassification and delisting of species whose status has improved, and evaluating and responding to petitions to delist or reclassify species. All of these require close coordination with our partners as well as decades of monitoring, adaptive management, and holistic planning. Given the growing number of listed species— limited resources force the Recovery Program to make difficult tradeoffs among these activities including 5-year reviews, developing recovery plans, implementing recovery actions, delisting and downlisting, all of which are necessary to achieve recovery.

Recovery plans guide the conservation of the species by identifying criteria for recovery and identifying efficient and effective necessary actions to improve the status of species. By providing this information, Federal agencies, landowners, and the public can take the most timely and strategic necessary actions to facilitate recovery. All newly listed species will require recovery plans within 2.5 years of listing per Service policy. The Recovery program should begin the recovery planning process for more than 300 recently listed species; at the same time, final plans for a number of previously listed species are still in process, and others species' plans are in need of revisions to keep plans current. In addition to developing recovery plans, the Service needs to collaborate with many land managers and partners to facilitate implementation of on-the-ground activities.

To evaluate the effectiveness of these recovery plans and actions, and adjust them if necessary, species that have been listed for five or more years require a periodic assessment of status, called a "5-year review." In FY 2017, the Service needs to complete 5-year reviews for 318 species. The reviews also recommend whether a species status should be changed. If a change in status from endangered to

threatened or threatened to delisted is recommended, the Recovery program may complete the rulemaking process necessary to change the status for that species. Currently, approximately 49 species have 5-year reviews that recommend downlisting or delisting. Additional funds would be directed towards the proposed or final rules based on the 5-year review recommendations. In addition, some recommendations call for additional surveys or updated information to determine the current and future status of a species. Additional funds would be directed towards gathering the critical information needed to support a 5-year review recommendation.

Additional funds will also allow for implementation of approximately 292 additional recovery actions addressing some of the most urgently needed actions for conservation. These actions will range from captive breeding and propagation to habitat management actions, such as control of invasive species. The Recovery program strives to allocate resources to its highest priorities across the range of actions it is responsible for and is actively seeking ways to better prioritize investments across its suite or responsibilities. Any new funding will follow the development of a more transparent approach to ensure our funding decisions achieve the most conservation on-the-ground for our imperiled species.

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

This funding will support a continuing 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 near delisting or reclassification from endangered to threatened and actions that are urgently needed for critically endangered species. The Ecological Services Program participates in this Cooperative Recovery Initiative (CRI) by combining our resources with those of the National Wildlife Refuge System, the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, the Fish and Aquatic Conservation 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 ecosystems. CRI projects are intended to be on-the-ground activities that will significantly improve the status of one or more listed species within a short timeframe, but are also planned within the larger context of Service landscape conservation priorities. Each project also includes a monitoring component, and the Service is in the process of identifying performance measures for selected projects. At this time, the Service anticipates being able to support approximately 10 recovery actions with its contribution.

Aquatic Species Conservation Delivery (+\$500,000/+0 FTE)

This funding will support a cross-programmatic partnership approach to conserve and protect imperiled aquatic resources in high-priority watersheds through an improved understanding of the long-term variability and resilience of the identified aquatic species and their habitats and better information on the recovery potential of aquatic species or communities. This proposal represents an expansion of the Service's work with States, other Federal agencies, and landowners to remove or reduce threats to aquatic species in a way that facilitates recovery and/or precludes the need to list species under the ESA. Through a proposal driven process, the Service will select 15-20 large scale, on-the-ground conservation efforts, including landowner assurances that address species imperiled by water quantity, quality, or security. Funds will be targeted towards watersheds where the Service can leverage conservation for multiple listed and non-listed aquatic species that share habitat. Priority will be given to support activities where meaningful progress can be shown within a short time frame and projects fit within the larger context of Service landscape conservation priorities.

Multi-Partner Recovery Actions (-\$500,000/+0 FTE)

This reduction eliminates funding for multi-partner recovery actions, such as those for the California condor and northern aplomado falcon. The Service will continue to participate in such multi-partner recovery efforts to the extent possible within existing resources and given competing recovery priorities.

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

In FY 2016, 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 in FY 2017 because there are other programs that are better suited to deliver this funding. The 2014 Farm Bill makes the Livestock Indemnity Payments (LIP) a permanent program and provides retroactive authority to cover eligible livestock losses back to Oct. 1, 2011. LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the Federal government or protected by Federal law, including wolves and avian predators. Funding for recovery of listed species is limited, and the Service aims to focus on preventing extinction and improving the status of listed species through on-the-ground conservation actions.

Program Overview

Delisting and downlisting, as well as recovery actions and recovery planning, are funded through this subactivity.

Preventing extinction and achieving recovery of listed species has always been, and will continue to be, one of the Service's highest priorities. Increasingly, the Service is also working proactively with States, communities, and landowners to conserve at-risk species before they reach the point of warranting listing under the ESA. Species conservation, whether for listed or unlisted species, involves creation of conservation plans and strategies; development of collaborative conservation vehicles like Candidate Conservation Agreements, safe harbor agreements, cooperative agreements, and other emerging programs and tools; and coordinated implementation of conservation actions.



*The Service delisted the Delmarva Peninsula fox squirrel due to recovery in November, 2015.
Photo credit: Guy Willey/USFWS*

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

Developing, coordinating, implementing, and managing all of the recovery tools and partner activities in a cohesive and effective manner for species' recovery require significant commitment and resources. As more threats are impacting listed species, the need for timely intervention is becoming increasingly urgent at the same time threats are becoming more difficult to ameliorate. The Service plays a vital role in leading or guiding the recovery planning process, as well as an essential role in facilitating, supporting, and monitoring the implementation of recovery actions by the Service, other DOI bureaus, Federal agencies, States, and other partners and stakeholders.

Service biologists use the inherent flexibility in the implementation of the ESA whenever it is advantageous, feasible, and practicable. Recently the Service finalized the revised existing regulations under section 10(j) of the ESA governing the nonessential experimental population of the Mexican wolf.

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, revisions include expanding the area in which captive raised wolves can be released and the area into which wolves can disperse in order to improve recovery implementation and species conservation.

2017 Program Performance

The Service anticipates the following accomplishments and activities:

- Continue to complete 5-year reviews for species listed five years or more, resulting in over 1,340 listed species with a completed 5-year review.
- Provide final recovery plans for 1,159 listed species.
- Build partnerships to help the Service implement 292 recovery actions (including habitat restoration, captive propagation, and reintroduction) for priority listed species.
- Continue to address approximately 49 species that have been identified for potential delisting or reclassification from endangered to threatened under the ESA based upon recent 5-year reviews, including pursuing delisting of four species presently recognized as recovered.

Endangered Species Recovery - Program Change Table

Performance Goal	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Target	2017 PB	Change from 2016 Target to 2017 PB
7.20.1 - % of delisted species due to recovery (total)	46% (19 of 41)	48% (21 of 44)	50% (23 of 46)	45% (21 of 47)	49% (25 of 51)	58% (32 of 55)	9%
7.30.8 - Percent of threatened and endangered species recovery actions implemented (GPRA)	73.3% (24,625 of 33,616)	68.1% (24,285 of 35,678)	68.6% (24,621 of 35,878)	69.1% (24,951 of 36,109)	69.9% (24,380 of 34,864)	72.5% (25,262 of 34,864)	2.5%
Comments:	Associated with General Program Activities increase in Recovery						

Habitat Conservation

Habitat Conservation



Activity: Habitat Conservation

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Change from 2016 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Partners for Fish and Wildlife	(\$000) FTE	51,776 243	51,776 243	+271 0	0 0	+2,000 +2	54,047 245	+2,271 +2
Coastal Program	(\$000) FTE	13,184 62	13,375 62	+119 0	0 0	0 0	13,494 62	+119 0
Total, Habitat Conservation	(\$000) FTE	64,960 305	65,151 305	+390 0	0 0	+2,000 +2	67,541 307	2,390 +2

Summary of 2017 Program Changes for Habitat Conservation

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Aquatic Species Conservation Delivery	+1,000	0
• Pollinator Habitat Restoration and Enhancement	+1,000	+2
Program Changes	+2,000	+2

Program Mission

The Service promotes the protection, conservation, and restoration of the Nation’s fish and wildlife resources through the Habitat Conservation Program—the Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program and the Coastal Program. The overall Habitat Conservation Program’s mission is to achieve voluntary habitat conservation by providing technical and financial assistance, in collaboration with partners, for the benefit of Federal trust species. Staff biologists work with partners to deliver strategic habitat conservation, conduct landscape-scale conservation planning and design, and implement habitat improvement and protection projects.

Program Elements

Both PFW and the Coastal Program are cooperative programs that 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 to support Federal and local conservation strategies on public and private lands. These efforts help conserve America’s great outdoors and address conservation challenges like climate change and habitat fragmentation. Using Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) principles, the Service targets resources within geographic focus areas to achieve habitat conservation benefits on large, connected natural areas that have positive impacts on species.

The primary strategies for the PFW and the Coastal Program include:

- Developing strong and effective partnerships and leveraging resources to affect greater impacts on common conservation goals;
- Providing technical and financial assistance to partners to protect, restore, and enhance priority habitats; and
- Coordinating with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) at the national, regional, state, and local levels by providing technical assistance in the development, implementation, and evaluation of Farm Bill conservation programs and initiatives to ensure shared conservation goals are met to benefit Trust resources.

Applicable Laws, Acts, and Orders

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

- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661)
- Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742 a-j)

In addition, the PFW Program is authorized through The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Act Public Law 109-294.

Activity: Habitat Conservation
Subactivity: Partners for Fish and Wildlife

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Change from 2016 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Partners for Fish and Wildlife	(\$000) FTE	51,776 243	51,776 243	+271 0	0 0	+2,000 +2	54,047 245	+2,271 +2

Summary of 2017 Program Changes for Partners for Fish and Wildlife

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Aquatic Species Conservation Delivery	+1,000	0
• Pollinator Habitat Restoration and Enhancement	+1,000	+2
Program Changes	+2,000	+2

Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program is \$54,047,000 and 245 FTE, a program change of +\$2,000,000 and +2 FTE from the 2016 Enacted.

Aquatic Species Conservation Delivery (+\$1,000,000/+0 FTE)

Competition for water resources and associated habitat because of moderate to extreme drought conditions from the West Coast to the Central and Southern Great Plains, along parts of the Gulf Coast, and in the Northern Plains is increasingly stressing many aquatic and wetland dependent species. With the requested funding, the Service will implement a strategic, cross-programmatic, watershed-scale Aquatic Species Conservation Delivery program modeled after the ongoing, successful Cooperative Recovery Initiative (CRI). Working with Ecological Services field staff, Partners for Fish and Wildlife staff will provide technical assistance, financial assistance, and biological expertise for on-the-ground conservation and will work with landowners willing to undertake voluntary conservation efforts. Together, these efforts will remove or reduce threats and contribute to the recovery of aquatic species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) along with the conservation of other species of greatest concern that are not currently listed. Such conservation efforts can also provide regulatory predictability that avoids unnecessary concern about possible burdens to landowners.

This new program is responsive to the reality that more than half of our outstanding listing petitions under the ESA are for aquatic dependent species (388 out of 733). With this new, focused effort on strategic aquatic species conservation, the Service and its partners can stabilize aquatic species and their habitats that are facing extinction, support recovery of species so they no longer need the ESA’s protections, and reduce threats to at-risk species in a way that may preclude the need to list some species under the ESA. These funds will be targeted to watersheds where conservation efforts will benefit multiple aquatic species, listed and non-listed, that share the same habitat; while recovery of listed species is a critical goal of the Service’s efforts, this effort recognizes the need to conserve species and their habitat before they are listed or even considered as a candidate for listing. Priority will be given to support on-the-ground activities where meaningful progress can be shown within a short time frame that reflect the larger context of Service landscape conservation priorities, giving careful consideration to on-going and projected climate impacts and related stressors.

Pollinator Habitat Restoration and Enhancement (+\$1,000,000/+2 FTE)

The Service supports the Administration’s *National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators* by managing Service lands to help pollinators while also working in partnership with

other landowners to provide pollinator habitat. With the requested funding, the Service will support partnership projects focusing on habitat restoration and enhancement projects on private lands to benefit pollinators; inventory and monitor key pollinator and monarch butterfly populations; and support implementation of the Federal Pollinator Health Strategy Partnership Action Plan (to be developed by the Federal Pollinator Task Force).

Program Overview

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife (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 across stakeholders is a value-added component of on-the-ground delivery, the Service works with private landowners, government agencies, Tribes, and other partners to support Federal and local conservation strategies.

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. The PFW Program is an important conservation delivery tool and is engaged in cross-programmatic biological planning and conservation design to identify priority species habitat restoration targets across a large natural area to increase or sustain species populations. The resulting PFW projects reduce the threats to fish and wildlife habitat and enhance ecosystem and population resiliency to predicted changes. Increased collaboration of the PFW Program expertise with other Service staff improves 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 (ESA). This effort fits well within the Service’s Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) framework.

PFW 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.

Private land is critically important to the successful management of Federal trust species and to fulfill the Service’s mission. With private land ownership comprising nearly 70 percent of all holdings in the U.S.¹, these properties are pivotal to the success of conservation programs to conserve large, connected natural areas and the species that depend upon them. For example, three-quarters of the wetlands remaining in the U.S. are privately owned. Wetlands are vital to both wildlife and people, with millions of birds, mammals, and other animals depending on them for food, spawning, and nursery areas, and nearly one-third of America’s endangered and threatened plants and animals needing them for survival. Wetlands also benefit people by providing natural flood water storage, recreational opportunities, ground water supply recharge, and pollutant filtration. To date, the PFW Program has restored over 1,225,000 acres of wetlands on private land, benefiting both wildlife and private landowners and communities.

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

¹ Congressional Research Service, *Federal Land Ownership: Overview and Data*. December 29, 2014.

partnerships and building one-on-one relationships, achieved with a field staff of about 260 highly trained professionals. PFW staff work with private landowners to execute voluntary, cooperative agreements with the Service that strengthen the role of citizens in the public/private natural resource conservation partnership. Bringing together people with a common interest in conservation and diverse skills allows for the leveraging of unique expertise and experience and makes the projects stronger. These partnerships 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 PFW Program delivers high quality habitat restoration projects in collaboration with many partners across the country. In FY 2015, the PFW Program worked with 1,809 private landowners and 855 partners to implement projects across the nation. Since the start of the program in 1987, PFW biologists have worked with over 18,800 private landowners and over 6,600 partner groups, leveraging program dollars at a ratio of 4:1 or greater, and leading to the voluntary restoration of over 4,270,000 acres of upland habitat and 1,225,000 wetland acres. In total, the PFW Program has restored close to 5.5 million acres of habitat. These acres, along with over 12,700 miles of enhanced stream habitat, provide valuable habitat for Federal trust species. These private lands efforts have been critical in recent recovery efforts including:

- The establishment of large tracts of wooded area on private lands for Delmarva Fox Squirrel in Maryland and Virginia was pivotal in the species' recent ESA delisting.
- Restoration work on private lands in Oregon led to the delisting of the Oregon chub, the first fish in the history of the ESA to recover and be delisted.
- In Louisiana, the restoration of forested wetland on private lands was the driving force behind the proposed delisting of the endangered Louisiana black bear.
- Restoration of young forests on private lands in the Northeast was essential to the decision that protections for the New England cottontail were not warranted under the ESA.
- The unprecedented collaboration in public and private restoration, due in part to the PFW Program, led to the determination that the Greater sage-grouse did not warrant protection under the ESA.

PFW Strategic Plan

The PFW Program resources are targeted to high-value geographic focus areas developed in coordination with other Service Programs and partner agencies and identified in the PFW Program 5-year Strategic Plan. A new revised Strategic Plan is being developed for 2017-2021. This Plan guides the Program toward: (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.

“Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program staff are critical partners for local restoration efforts during every project phase, from helping with design to leveraging additional partners. USFWS involvement results in healthier wildlife habitat and major economic benefits to local communities. ”

*– Jeff Benoit, President and CEO,
Restore America’s Estuaries*

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Project Examples

Monarch Butterfly Conservation Initiative

In May 2015, the President’s Pollinator Health Task Force released the *National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators* that identified two goals related to monarch conservation: a population target for the eastern population of 225 million monarchs and a restoration/enhancement target of 7 million acres of pollinator habitat, both to be met by 2020. In response, PFW Program biologists are working diligently across the country to integrate native milkweed and nectar plants into our seed mixes and implement habitat management practices beneficial to monarchs.

These efforts are all part of a nationwide multi-agency monarch butterfly conservation effort focused on restoration and enhancement of habitat used during the extraordinary migrations of this iconic species. The PFW Program is making a major contribution to the Service’s commitment to restore and enhance 130,000 acres of habitat to benefit monarch butterflies in FY 2017. In FY 2015, the PFW Program completed 73,720 acres of restoration with an additional 24,884 acres still actively being restored. The PFW Program also restored 44 miles of habitat along lakes, rivers, and streams that benefit Monarch butterflies.



Monarch Butterfly. Joe Milmoie/USFWS

Hope Blackland Prairie Project
Hope County, Arkansas

This 65-acre project is on private land outside of Hope, Arkansas and in the PFW Program’s Blackland Prairie focus area. The landowner bought the land to enjoy the outdoors, and was referred to the PFW Program. A partnership



Before and after prairie restoration. Mike Budd/USFWS

then developed between PFW, which paid for the native seed mix, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission who donated herbicide, and the landowner who hired a contractor to apply herbicide in the spring and fall.

In May 2015, after we treated the property, we documented thousands of milkweed plants of at least two species that were present in the seed bank. This project provides high quality habitat for the monarch butterfly, northern bobwhite, indigo bunting, loggerhead shrike, and several other songbird and small game species. The project also shares a border with a State wildlife area, providing one large contiguous block of habitat.

Juvenile Coho Habitat Enhancement Using Beaver Dams

Siskiyou County, CA

Water is a critical natural resource, but is increasingly stressed by the demands our society places on it. The Service is working to secure and stretch water supplies for use by existing and future generations to benefit people, the economy, and the environment, and identify adaptive measures needed to address climate change and future demands.



*During restoration (left) and after restoration (right).
Photo by Mark Cookson/USFWS*

In a time of extreme drought throughout the Klamath basin and

American West, this innovative project utilizes new technology to artificially create structures that mimic beaver dams, natural structures that help to keep water on the landscape for longer periods of time. Beaver dams help to: slow snowmelt runoff (extending summertime stream flows), create ponds and wetland habitat, improve water quality, decrease evaporation, restore perennial flow and recharge groundwater in the adjacent floodplains and agricultural lands. The groundwater is recharged upstream of, beside, and downstream of dams which sub-irrigates the valley and allows water to re-enter creeks/streams downstream as cooler seeps, which is critically important to cold water salmonids.

This project installed six synthetic beaver dams (analogues) to create nearly 20 acres of rearing habitat for juvenile coho salmon, Chinook salmon, steelhead, and other aquatic species. Light Detection and Ranging data (LiDAR) was used by a Service biologist and NOAA Fisheries to identify site locations and design. The Service purchased the materials needed for construction and worked directly with the State Water Resources Control Board and the landowner to install the structures. The newly installed beaver dams have impounded water and improved the quantity and quality of coho salmon rearing habitat in the watershed.

Topeka Shiner (*Notropis topeka*) Recovery

Southwest Minnesota

The Topeka shiner (*Notropis topeka*) is a federally endangered small minnow inhabiting small to mid-size prairie streams in the Midwest and primarily found in the headwaters. Topeka shiners are known to inhabit open pools with clear, cool water and



Topeka shiner (Notropis topeka) (USFWS)

prefer slower moving backwater pools and off-channel habitat.

The PFW Program worked collaboratively with Refuges and Endangered Species field staff to prioritize and coordinate a watershed scale restoration project funded by the Cooperative Recovery Initiative. The PFW Program worked with local partners and private landowners to design and implement dozens of stream restoration projects. These projects included a variety of cutting edge in-stream restoration techniques to create ideal habitat for the Topeka shiner. Wetland and grassland restorations in the upper watersheds have also been completed to mitigate agricultural runoff and provide wildlife habitat. These projects not only provide quality habitat for the Topeka shiner but the grassland restoration work provides benefits to the federally threatened Dakota skipper (*Hesperia dacotae*), the endangered Poweshiek skipperling (*Oarisma poweshiek*), and federally threatened plant species including prairie bush clover (*Lespedeza leptostachya*), and western prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera praeclara*).



Photo by Common Ground High School.

Schoolyard Habitat

New Haven County, CT

Service staff are working with the New Haven Harbor Watershed Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership (New Haven, CT) to create a network of wildlife-friendly schoolyard habitat oases and habitat improvements to engage underserved youth in urban areas. Schools that are in their second year of Schoolyard Habitat implementation have a 57 percent increase in how often teachers go outside for lessons. These data are collected and analyzed by Audubon CT. The Service attributes the increase to several factors, including exceptional New Haven

teachers willing to try new things with their students, in-school environmental education programs offered by conservation and education professionals within the Service, Audubon CT and Common Ground High School as well as effective teacher training programs offered twice a year by New Haven Urban Wildlife Refuge Partners to show teachers how to use their Schoolyard Habitats.

Chubb River Dam Removal

Essex County, NY



Before and after restoration. Photo by Carl Schwartz / USFWS.

This project showcases the Service’s resourcefulness in combining habitat restoration to benefit Federal trust species with the creation of a park for public enjoyment. Service staff provided assistance with the design and oversight of the dam removal (an old hydroelectric dam on the Chubb River) and stream

restoration treatment for the benefit of brook trout. Today, fish are able to pass from the West branch of the AuSable River through the project site at the Chubb River. Additionally, a new sewer line was run through the site to connect the Village of Lake Placid to the treatment plant. Upon completion of the project, Service staff worked with the Village of Lake Placid and AuSable River Association to convert the project into a town park along the river, which provides outdoor recreation and interpretive opportunities to be enjoyed by local constituents.

2017 Program Performance

The PFW Program is revising its 5-year Strategic Plan for 2017-2021 with one National Vision Document and a Regional Step-Down Strategic Work Plan for each region to identify priority habitat restoration activities within geographic focus areas. A collaborative stakeholder driven process will identify the focus areas and focal species based on biological needs. 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 2017, the PFW Program will continue supporting 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, lesser prairie-chicken) in priority focus areas. With the Aquatic Species Conservation Delivery requested increase, the PFW Program will implement a cross-programmatic, CRI-type program focused on protecting and restoring listed and not-listed aquatic species. The requested increase for pollinator habitat restoration and enhancement will be used to implement projects in priority areas identified for the monarch butterfly and other pollinators in support of the goals identified in the Administration's National Pollinator Strategy.

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.

Partners for Fish and Wildlife - Program Change & Overview Table

Performance Goal	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Target	2017 PB	Change from 2016 Target to 2017 PB
3.1.1 - # of non-FWS riparian (stream/shoreline) miles restored, including through partnerships (includes miles treated for invasive species & now restored) - PFW - annual (GPRA)	306	253	353	265	220	613	393
4.1.1 - # of wetlands acres enhanced/ restored through voluntary partnerships (includes acres treated for invasive species & now restored) - PFW - annual (GPRA)	38,840	33,827	31,096	24,001	13,454	34,081	20,627
4.2.1 - # of non-FWS upland acres enhanced/ restored through voluntary partnerships (includes acres treated for invasive species & now restored) - PFW - annual (GPRA)	134,720	247,093	241,302	172,246	99,683	208,524	108,841
5.1.14 - # of fish barriers removed or installed - PFW	102	118	97	109	78	113	35
Comments:	Applies to 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.						

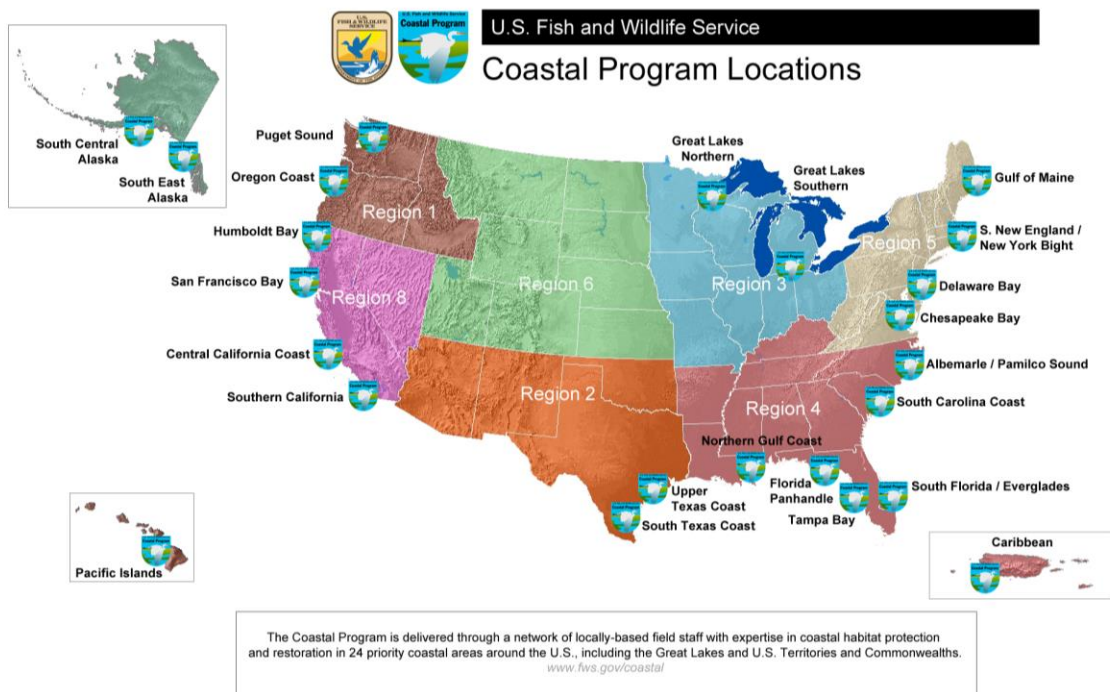
Activity: Habitat Conservation
Subactivity: Coastal Program

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Change from 2016 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Coastal Program	(\$000)	13,184	13,375	+119	0	0	13,494	+119
	FTE	62	62	0	0	0	62	0

Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for the Coastal Program is \$13,494,000 and 62 FTE, no program change from the 2016 Enacted.

Program Overview

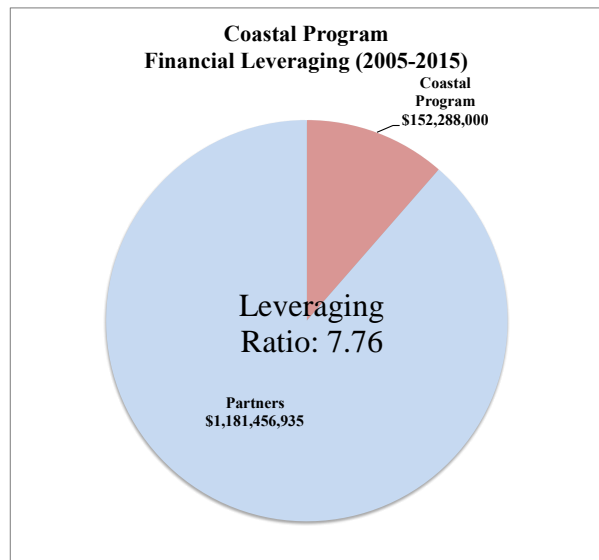


Since 1985, the Coastal Program has conserved our Nation’s treasured coastal resources by providing technical and financial assistance to implement habitat restoration and protection projects on public and private lands in 24 priority coastal ecosystems, including areas in the Great Lakes and U.S. Territories. The Coastal Program 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, industries, and private landowners. The Coastal Program’s ability to work on both private and public lands provides a unique opportunity to deliver landscape conservation, maintain habitat connectivity and continuity, and connect and engage conservation partners with the Service’s priorities and objectives.

The Program’s strategic plan was developed in collaboration with Federal and State agencies and other conservation partners, and incorporates the goals of both national and regional conservation plans (e.g., State Wildlife Action Plans, National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plans, endangered species recovery plans, and migratory bird joint venture implementation plans). As a result, since 1985, Service staff and conservation partners have protected 2,110,755 acres of priority coastal habitat and restored over 546,390 acres of critical wetland and upland habitat and 2,590 miles of stream habitat. From FY 2002-2015, the Coastal Program worked with thousands of partners to deliver 3,826 habitat conservation projects designed specifically to benefit Federal trust species. In 2015, the Coastal Program completed 77 projects on or adjacent to a national wildlife refuge, protecting and/or restoring 719,514 acres of important habitat. These efforts allow the American public to experience fish, wildlife, plants, and their ecosystems in one of the world’s largest systems of conserved lands and waters.

Conservation delivery is through locally-based Service staff with the technical expertise to implement habitat conservation projects that are ecologically-sound and cost-effective. The Coastal Program also works closely with Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) to implement coastal habitat conservation under the framework of landscape-scale planning. This planning helps connect important habitat areas for the Service’s priority species and enlarge the scope of conservation actions.

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 eight non-federal dollars for every Federal dollar spent. This Service effort 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 Service estimates that the average project directly supports 12 jobs and stimulates eight businesses. Service staff also provides additional capability and capacity building to conservation partners.



The Coastal Program supports several Service and Department of the Interior priorities and initiatives:

Monarch Butterfly Conservation Initiative

The Coastal Program continues to support the Service’s Monarch Conservation Initiative, which plans to restore and enhance 130,000 acres of monarch habitat in 2017. Within the Service, the Coastal Program is collaborating with other programs to develop conservation capacity and prioritize and plan conservation activities. The Coastal Program is also working with State agencies, non-profit organizations, and others to develop regional monarch management plans and to implement on-the-ground habitat improvement projects. Working with partners, the Coastal Program has restored and protected over 5,400 acres of monarch habitat.

Gulf of Mexico Restoration

Restoring the Gulf of Mexico after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill is one of the most complex and comprehensive conservation efforts ever undertaken, requiring coordination among the five Gulf States

(i.e., Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas), multiple Federal agencies, and hundreds of local governments, non-governmental organizations, and citizens.

The Coastal Program serves as an advisor for projects funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund, the Natural Resources Damage Assessment Program, the RESTORE Council, North American Wetlands Conservation Act, and other sources. In 2015, over \$350 million was expended on restoration projects, bringing the overall investment following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill to over \$1.5 billion. The Coastal Program directly supported or was engaged in many of these projects that benefited Service trust resources (e.g., migratory birds, endangered species, inter-jurisdictional fisheries, and Federal lands).

Urban Conservation

The Service recognizes the importance of engaging urban communities in habitat conservation. To help with this stewardship effort, the Coastal Program conducts conservation projects in urban areas to benefit fish and migratory birds, and develops conservation tools to empower local communities. For example, the Coastal Program has been working in the heavily urbanized San Francisco Bay Area. Covering up to 1,600 square miles, San Francisco Bay is the largest estuary in western North America. Home to 7.5 million people, it is also the most urbanized estuary in the U.S. The Coastal Program is providing technical assistance to restore tidal wetlands in San Pablo Bay. Service staff prepared project designs, provided native plant recommendations, and ensured environmental regulatory compliance. The Service and its partners have successfully enhanced thousands of acres of tidal marsh and freshwater habitats in the Bay. Improving the health of these ecosystems has benefited many avian species and the federally listed salt marsh harvest mouse.

Coastal Program Project Examples:



Tijuana NWR
Photo credit: Ralph Lee Hopkins

Tijuana River Enhancement at the Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge

The Coastal Program worked with the Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge and the Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association to enhance approximately eight acres of valuable habitat along lakes, rivers, and streams, and nearly one-half mile of riverine habitat along the Tijuana River in southern California. The site was dominated by the invasive salt cedar, which consumed large amounts of water – lowering the water table and degrading native habitat. Eradication of the salt cedar resulted in recruitment of native coastal salt marsh vegetation, providing nesting, foraging, and roosting habitat for the federally endangered light-

footed Ridgeway's rail, State endangered Belding's savannah sparrow, as well as native plants, fish and invertebrates. Located adjacent to the City of Long Beach, the project supports the Service's Urban Refuge Initiative and the Service's Climate Change Initiative by removing an exotic plant that is known to reduce water table levels. It also enhances recreational opportunities on the Refuge and stimulates the local economy through purchase of local goods and services.

Ha'ena Community-based Management

The Coastal Program helped establish a six square mile community-based marine protected area on the north shore of Kaua'i. Starting in 2008, the Service worked with the Kaua'i north shore community of Ha'ena, Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources, non-governmental organizations, and others

to develop a management plan and train community members to oversee Ha'ena's 3,583-acre near-shore coral reef ecosystem.

The goals of the marine protected area are to protect an important marine habitat and support sustainable subsistence fisheries and cultural traditions. In August 2015, Governor Ige approved the Ha'ena Community Based Subsistence Fishing Area Management Plan. The local community will be actively involved in monitoring resources in the Ha'ena area and detecting and reporting any violations. This area is the first of its kind in Hawaii, and is a model for other communities to co-manage their marine resources with the State.



Manini on coral reef

Photo credit: Kydd Pollock (USFWS)

Goff Mill Brook Dam Removal

Dams can block fish passage and access to impounded upstream spawning and riparian habitats.

The Coastal Program worked with the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, The Nature Conservancy, and Trout Unlimited to remove the dam on Goff Mill Brook, the largest tributary of the Kennebunk River. A comprehensive assessment of fish passage barriers in Maine prioritized this dam removal because the brook contains high quality river habitat, including gravel beds, deep pools, undercut banks, and cool water.



Goff Mill Brook Dam removal

Photo credit: Trout Unlimited

This dam removal reconnected seven miles of river habitat to the Kennebunk River estuary for brook trout, American eel, Atlantic salmon, and other native species. This project supports specific conservation goals of the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture and the Atlantic Salmon Recovery Framework. Post-restoration monitoring is being coordinated with Maine Department of Marine Resources and data will inform regional population assessments. In addition to providing funds for the project, Coastal Program staff assisted with the restoration design and project implementation, and construction and compliance oversight.

Restoration of Nolla Camuy Dunes and Invasive Species Removal

Restoration of the Nolla Camuy Dunes in Camuy, Puerto Rico benefits several Federal trust species, including the federally endangered hawksbill sea turtle and the leatherback sea turtle. The Coastal Program assisted the Vida Marina-Center for Coastal Restoration and Conservation at the University of Puerto Rico to restore sand dune habitat and increase coastal resiliency. In addition to contributing funds to the restoration, Coastal Program staff assisted with the design and construction of the restoration project.



Hawksbill sea turtle

Photo credit: Julie Suess

Over the past four decades most of the dunes were either destroyed or seriously depleted by sand mining operations and coastal storms. The 120-acre project on the Finca Nolla Reserve increased sand accumulation and reduced erosion by installing sand barriers, re-establishing native vegetation, installing boardwalks and information signage, and removing invasive plant species.

The site is also being used by the Vida Marina Center as a field laboratory to train students and teachers from local schools and universities in Puerto Rico and other States about conservation biology and habitat restoration.



Albatross
Photo credit: USFWS

Establishing a new Albatross Colony

An innovative conservation partnership among the Coastal Program, National Wildlife Refuge System, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, American Bird Conservancy, Pacific Rim Conservation, U.S. Navy, and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation is working to establish a new Laysan Albatross colony on the northern coast of O’ahu, Hawaii. Albatross nests in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands are severely threatened by sea level rise and storm surges.

In preparation for the translocation, Coastal Program staff provided their expertise on the placement of predator fencing and restoration of nesting habitat within the protected area. Laysan albatross eggs from Kaua’i were delivered to O’ahu where they were incubated, hatched, and later moved to James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge, which is considered a “high island.” At the refuge, care for the chicks continued until all 10 chicks flew out to sea on July 1, 2015. After three to five years at sea, the birds will return to the refuge to propagate the next generation of albatross.

2017 Program Performance

In 2017 the Coastal Program will continue directing resources to priority geographic focus areas identified in the Coastal Program’s 5-year Strategic Plan, which is being revised for 2017 – 2021. The Coastal Program will continue to provide valuable strategic landscape design, capacity building, and other technical assistance to other Service programs, Federal and State agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and coastal communities. These conservation efforts have a broader impact on conservation by improving the science and delivery of habitat conservation.

The Coastal Program also delivers important on-the-ground projects in priority areas such as the Gulf of Mexico, Florida Everglades, Great Lakes, and Chesapeake Bay. Many of these projects will support Service initiatives such as Urban Refuges, Monarch Butterfly Conservation, and the Conservation Recovery Initiative. At the requested funding level, the Coastal Program will protect and restore critical habitats for priority fish and wildlife resources on both public and private lands, which will include:

- Protecting 8,000 acres of critical wetland and upland habitat;
- Restoring 4,100 acres of priority wetlands;
- Restoring 5,000 acres of priority uplands;
- Restoring 16 miles of important stream and riparian habitat; and
- Removing 23 fish passage barriers.

Coastal Program - Combined Change and Overview Table

Performance Goal	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Target	2017 PB	Change from 2016 Target to 2017 PB
3.1.2 - # of non-FWS riparian (stream/shoreline) miles restored, including through partnerships - CoastProg - annual (GPRA)	268	24	19	28	38	16	-22
3.2.1 - # of non-FWS riparian (stream/shoreline) miles protected through voluntary partnerships - annual (GPRA)	56	47	26	77	12	16	4
4.3.1 - # of non-FWS coastal/marine wetlands acres enhanced/ restored through voluntary partnerships (includes acres treated for invasive species & now restored) - annual (GPRA)	7,617	34,204	19,235	6,202	6,491	4,072	-2,419
4.3.2 - # of non-FWS coastal/marine upland acres enhanced/ restored through voluntary partnerships (includes acres treated for invasives & now restored) - annual (GPRA)	12,022	13,127	8,202	4,850	3,742	4,939	1,197
4.6.1 - # of non-FWS coastal/marine wetlands acres protected through voluntary partnerships - annual (GPRA)	6,851	3,062	2,836	20,751	1,394	5,286	3,892
4.6.2 - # of non-FWS coastal/marine upland acres protected through voluntary partnerships - annual (GPRA)	14,742	11,574	4,441	24,920	2,170	2,686	516
5.1.17 - # of fish barriers removed or installed - Coastal	45	19	16	11	28	23	-5
Comments:	Applies to 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

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Budget Request	Change from 2016 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
Wildlife and Habitat Management	(\$000) FTE	230,343 1,396	230,343 1,396	+1,241 0	0 0	+8,805 +47	240,389 1,443	+10,046 +47
Refuge Visitor Services	(\$000) FTE	70,319 536	73,319 540	+431 0	0 0	+6,630 +14	80,380 554	+7,061 +14
Refuge Law Enforcement	(\$000) FTE	38,054 242	38,054 242	+224 0	0 0	+2,434 +16	40,712 258	+2,658 +16
Conservation Planning	(\$000) FTE	2,988 20	2,523 20	+21 0	0 0	0 0	2,544 20	+21 0
Refuge Operations	(\$000) FTE	341,704 2,194	344,239 2,198	+1,917 0	0 0	+17,869 +77	364,025 2,275	+19,786 +77
Refuge Maintenance	(\$000) FTE	132,498 579	137,188 579	+487 0	0 0	+4,919 +14	142,594 593	+5,406 +14
Total, National Wildlife Refuge System	(\$000) FTE	474,202 2,773	481,427 2,777	+2,404 0	0 0	+22,788 +91	506,619 2,868	+25,192 +91

Summary of 2017 Program Changes for the National Wildlife Refuge System

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Inventory and Monitoring	+3,715	+18
• Wildlife and Habitat Management Activities	+2,090	+16
• Pacific Marine National Monuments	+2,000	+13
• Cooperative Recovery	+1,000	0
• Visitor Services-Urban Wildlife Conservation Program	+5,500	+10
• Pollinator Outreach and Education	+500	+4
• Pollinator Private-Public Partnerships	+500	0
• Visitor Services Activities	+130	0
• Refuge Law Enforcement-Urban Wildlife Conservation Program	+2,000	+14
• Law Enforcement Activities	+434	+2
• Equipment and Vehicle Maintenance	+2,722	0
• Maintenance Support	+1,697	+14
• Deferred Maintenance	+500	0
Program Changes	+22,788	+91

Program Mission

The National Wildlife Refuge System's mission is 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.

Program Elements

The Service's National Wildlife Refuge System (Refuge System) embodies our Nation's commitment to conserving fish and wildlife for all Americans and future generations. With 563 refuges in all U.S. States and Territories, the Refuge System provides lands and waters 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. Refuges are home to over 700 migratory bird species, 220 mammal species, 250 reptile and amphibian species, and more than 1,000 fish species, and offers protection to over 380 threatened or endangered plants or animals. The refuges range in size from the half-acre Mille Lacs National Wildlife Refuge that has 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 has over 150 million acres, including 15 refuges with about 8,300 surface and nearly 55 million submerged acres. We also administer 4.8 million acres managed under easement, agreement, or lease, including waterfowl production areas in 209 counties, organized across 38 wetland management districts, and 50 wildlife coordination areas. Outside the Refuge System, the Service manages over 418 million acres of submerged lands and waters, mostly in four Marine National Monuments



Green River, Ouray Refuge (UT). Photo credit: Jaclyn Kircher

(Marianas Trench, Pacific Remote Islands, Papahānaumokuākea, and Rose Atoll). The Service also manages lands and waters with special designations for their unique values, including two other National Monuments (Hanford Reach National Monument and World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument), 75 wilderness areas, and 1,086 miles of refuge rivers within the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

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

The Refuge System fulfills its mission by focusing efforts in five primary areas:

- Wildlife and Habitat Management: Includes refuge operations that 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.
- Refuge Visitor Services: Welcomes visitors to the 563 national wildlife refuges and builds their appreciation for wildlife and natural areas, encouraging people to become conservation stewards. Provides opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, nature photography, environmental education, and interpretation (collectively called wildlife-dependent recreation), an important goal for the Refuge System.
- Refuge Law Enforcement: Includes emergency managers, Federal wildlife zone officers, regional refuge law enforcement chiefs, field officers, training, equipment, and supplies.
- Conservation Planning and Policy: Enables the Service to successfully implement conservation efforts on-the-ground through a transparent public planning process and conservation design. Planning contributes to informed decision making that recognizes the interests of all stakeholders, while never losing sight of the Service's mission and goals.
- Refuge Maintenance: Supports active management of over three million acres of wildlife habitat each year and maintains more than \$29 billion in constructed real property assets such as roads, buildings, and water management facilities. The Refuge Maintenance staff also takes care of administrative, visitor use, and maintenance facilities, and the fleet of vehicles and heavy equipment necessary to conduct wildlife and habitat management activities.

Applicable Laws, Acts, and Orders

- Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, as amended (16 U.S.C. 742(a)-754);
- Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 2901-2911);
- National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.);
- The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (P.L. 105-57);
- National Wildlife Refuge System Volunteer and Community Partnership Act of 1998 (P.L. 105-442);
- The National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-408).

Refuges - Combined Program Change and Overview Table

Performance Goal	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Target	2017 PB	Change from 2016 Target to 2017 PB
1.0.1 - Number of NWRS riparian (stream/shoreline) miles achieving desired conditions (GPRA)	310,030	310,369	310,365	310,363	310,233	310,233	0
2.0.1 - # of NWRS wetland, upland, and coastal/marine acres achieving desired condition (GPRA)	140,232,660	140,741,380	140,232,307	145,791,353	140,001,101	140,010,859	9,758
11.1.1 - % of NWRS baseline acres infested with invasive plant species that are controlled (GPRA)	3.9% (94,868 of 2,409,758)	2.2% (57,032 of 2,558,619)	2.2% (52,839 of 2,399,819)	2.7% (59,696 of 2,245,244)	2.6% (61,200 of 2,337,279)	2.6% (61,200 of 2,337,279)	0.0%
12.1.1 - % of invasive animal species populations that are controlled (GPRA)	16% (297 of 1,847)	8% (154 of 1,900)	7% (118 of 1,701)	7% (127 of 1,699)	8% (135 of 1,745)	8% (135 of 1,745)	0%
9.3.7 - Number of Inventory and Monitoring Plans completed and approved in the current fiscal year.	NA	NA	8	23	45	45	0
9.3.8 - Number of protocols approved for use in the current fiscal year.	NA	NA	9	6	10	25	15
Comments:	The Service has been making steady strides in the development and approval of I&M protocols since the adoption of the revised I&M Policy and Survey Protocol Handbook into policy on January 9, 2014 as we continue to extend training to staff. The increase in the estimated number of approved protocols in FY17 relative to FY16 is a direct reflection of efficiencies gained through our experience.						
CSF 13.1 - Percent of archaeological sites and historic structures on FWS inventory in good condition	19% (3,267 of 17,185)	22% (3,783 of 17,444)	22% (3,800 of 17,520)	22% (3,911 of 17,675)	22% (3,914 of 17,692)	23% (3,923 of 17,326)	1%
15.2.2 - % of NWRs/WMDs that have quality hunting programs, where hunting is compatible	80% (292 of 365)	82% (297 of 364)	81% (296 of 364)	83% (301 of 364)	84% (304 of 364)	84% (307 of 365)	1%
15.2.4 - % of NWRs/WMDs that have quality fishing programs, where fishing is compatible	64% (221 of 345)	74% (224 of 303)	76% (229 of 303)	76% (231 of 303)	77% (232 of 303)	77% (233 of 304)	0%
15.2.6 - % of NWRs/WMDs that have quality wildlife observation programs, where wildlife observation is compatible	78% (363 of 466)	78% (367 of 470)	78% (365 of 468)	78% (369 of 473)	78% (369 of 474)	78% (369 of 474)	0%
15.2.8 - % of NWRs/WMDs that have quality environmental education programs, where interpretation is compatible	76% (301 of 394)	74% (292 of 392)	75% (292 of 387)	73% (291 of 397)	75% (293 of 393)	74% (293 of 395)	0%
15.2.10 - % of NWRs/WMDs with quality interpretative programs that adequately interpret key resources and issues, where interpretation is compatible	73% (320 of 437)	72% (311 of 434)	73% (312 of 430)	73% (312 of 430)	75% (320 of 427)	75% (320 of 428)	0%
15.2.23 - Total # of visitors to NWRS - annual	47,059,171	47,465,286	46,912,041	48,477,661	46,694,807	49,000,000	2,305,193
52.1.1 - # of volunteer hours are annually contributed to NWRS	1,594,235	1,462,025	1,415,809	1,416,622	1,260,242	1,300,000	39,758
Comments:	Based on historic trends						

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

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Change from 2016 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Wildlife and Habitat Management	(\$000) FTE	230,343 1,396	230,343 1,396	+1,241 0	0 0	+8,805 +47	240,389 1,443	+10,046 +47

Summary of 2017 Program Changes for Wildlife and Habitat Management

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Inventory and Monitoring	+3,715	+18
• Wildlife and Habitat Management Activities	+2,090	+16
• Pacific Marine National Monuments	+2,000	+13
• Cooperative Recovery	+1,000	0
Program Changes	+8,805	+47

Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for Wildlife and Habitat Management program is \$240,389,000 and 1,443 FTE, a program change of +\$8,805,000 and +47 FTE from the 2016 Enacted.

Inventory and Monitoring (+\$3,715,000/+18 FTE)

To adapt the Service’s conservation delivery and refine management actions, investments in conservation design capacity must be paired with investments in our monitoring and information management capacity. This increase in the Service’s Inventory and Monitoring (I&M) program will help ensure that the Service has the data and information needed to make our conservation delivery activities targeted, effective, and transparent, and help the Service evaluate the implementation of our conservation actions. Through the I&M program, the Service will continue supporting and delivering science-driven planning and landscape design with our partners, which will aid the Service in most efficiently planning and implementing management actions to have the greatest likelihood of success and return on investment.

Increased I&M efforts will also support integrated information management systems to ensure transparency and data availability to all of our scientific partners. Improved information management systems are critical to leveraging information of the entire scientific community while reducing duplications of effort. Investments will ensure that each refuge’s wildlife and habitat objectives are integrated with our partners and are developed and refined in a regional context.

Wildlife and Habitat Management Activities (+\$2,090,000/+16 FTE)

This request will allow National Wildlife Refuges to regain lost base capacity for wildlife and habitat management operations critical to refuge sustainability and fulfillment of the Refuge System mission. This funding will support the planning, design, and delivery of conservation at a landscape scale through science and collaboration. Maintaining high quality habitat for fish and wildlife is arguably the most important work on refuges. Declining funding and FTEs—a loss of 158 FTEs since 2010—has limited the Service’s ability to restore and maintain lands and waters, which has been demonstrated through declines in performance measures. Since 2010, the Service has experienced: a 88 percent reduction in the number of acres and miles of wetlands, upland, open water, and riparian areas restored; a 55 percent reduction in the number of invasive species controlled; and 58 percent fewer of invasive species controlled. Reductions in work on invasive species are particularly problematic, as they can exacerbate drought and erosion, damage

property (feral hogs), endanger people (fire ants, crazy ants, Burmese pythons), carry disease, and throw ecosystems out of balance.

With the requested funding and associated FTE (+16), the Service will directly impact landscape conservation design, strategic habitat conservation, and inventory and monitoring efforts. The Service will also provide healthy habitats for migratory birds and other wildlife, endangered species, and priority pollinators, and work to address invasive species.

Additionally, this funding will cover wildlife and habitat management operations to initiate and leverage capacity by engaging other Service programs, Federal and State partners, and a multiple stakeholders to support efforts to plan, design, and deliver conservation at a large landscape scale through science and collaboration. Doing so will inform current Department, Service, and Refuge System priorities to fulfill landscape scale resource management, conservation design, delivery and monitoring. Application of this work in the appropriate geographic locations incorporates expanded urban outreach, and a connected conservation community, making refuges relevant to our partners and the public.

Pacific Marine National Monuments (+\$2,000,000/+13 FTE)

The recent designation of new Pacific Marine National Monuments increased the Service's responsibility for open water from 4,400 to 490,000 square miles, an area almost three times the size of California. This area is extremely remote and many of the islands are far from each other, some a several-day boat ride away. The Service will use the requested funding to develop and implement two comprehensive, five-year inventory and monitoring plans at the 12 refuges within the four Marine National Monuments in the Pacific Ocean. With our partners, including NOAA, USGS, and Phoenix Islands Protected Area, the Service will conduct at least 30 priority marine and terrestrial surveys that will target the status and trends of 28 seabird species and the biological resilience of over 270 species of hard corals in diverse coral reef communities.

Because of the extreme remoteness of these refuges, the Service will primarily focus on using remote sensing data from satellites owned by other Federal agencies. The remote sensing capability will allow for essential data collection above and below water for species presence, status and trends, detection of annual ecological variability, as well as illegal human trespass and surveillance.

The requested funding will also support the Service's efforts to monitor the refuges through annual Rapid Ecological Assessments (REAs) at three island ecosystems in Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. The Service will use these REAs because the remoteness of locations and logistical constraints make full assessments impossible.

Additionally, the requested funding will help support the Service's presence in the area of these refuges to conduct habitat restoration and environmental outreach and education.

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

This funding will support an on-going cross-programmatic partnership approach to address current threats to endangered species in areas of strategic importance for their conservation. 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 by taking actions to prevent extinction. Funding appropriated in prior years has contributed to the delisting or downlisting of two species, the Columbia white tailed deer and Oregon chub.

Projects selected will significantly improve the status of one or more listed species. Cooperative Recovery Initiative 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. Each project also includes a monitoring component.

Program Overview

The Refuge System includes 563 national wildlife refuges and 38 wetland management districts totaling more than 150 million acres, and 418 million acres of Marine National Monuments.

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.

The Refuge System works collaboratively internally and externally to leverage resources and achieve effective conservation. We work with other Federal agencies, State fish and wildlife agencies, Tribes, non-governmental organizations, local landowners, community volunteers, and other partners. Meaningful engagement with stakeholders at a regional, integrated level adds to the effective conservation achievements of the Service and allows individual refuges to respond more effectively to climate change and other environmental challenges.

Programs funded by the Wildlife and Habitat Management subactivity include:

General Wildlife and Habitat Management Activities

Wildlife and Habitat Management funds refuge operations that 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. These activities include:

- 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;
- Monitoring air quality;
- Investigating and cleaning contaminants;
- Preventing and controlling wildlife disease outbreaks;
- Assessing water quality and quantity; and
- Understanding the complex relationship between people and wildlife through the integration of social science.

Inventory and Monitoring (I&M)

The Service embraces a scientific, landscape-level approach to conserving, managing, and restoring refuge lands and waters and works to deliver conservation within and outside the Refuge System. Inventory and monitoring (I&M) of the biological resources, ecological processes, physical environment, and human interactions with these resources are a critical component of the Service's effort to successfully deliver conservation.

The I&M initiative was developed to provide the information necessary to implement the Service's Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) model across the Refuge System. SHC is an adaptive management framework where planning management actions and monitoring those actions create an iterative process of increasing efficiency. I&M efforts are coordinated nationally through the Service's Natural Resource Program Center to ensure that collected data is consistent and relevant at multiple scales, and that data analysis and storage achieve the highest scientific standards. Using standard protocols, the I&M initiative establishes baselines that are key to understanding how a natural area is

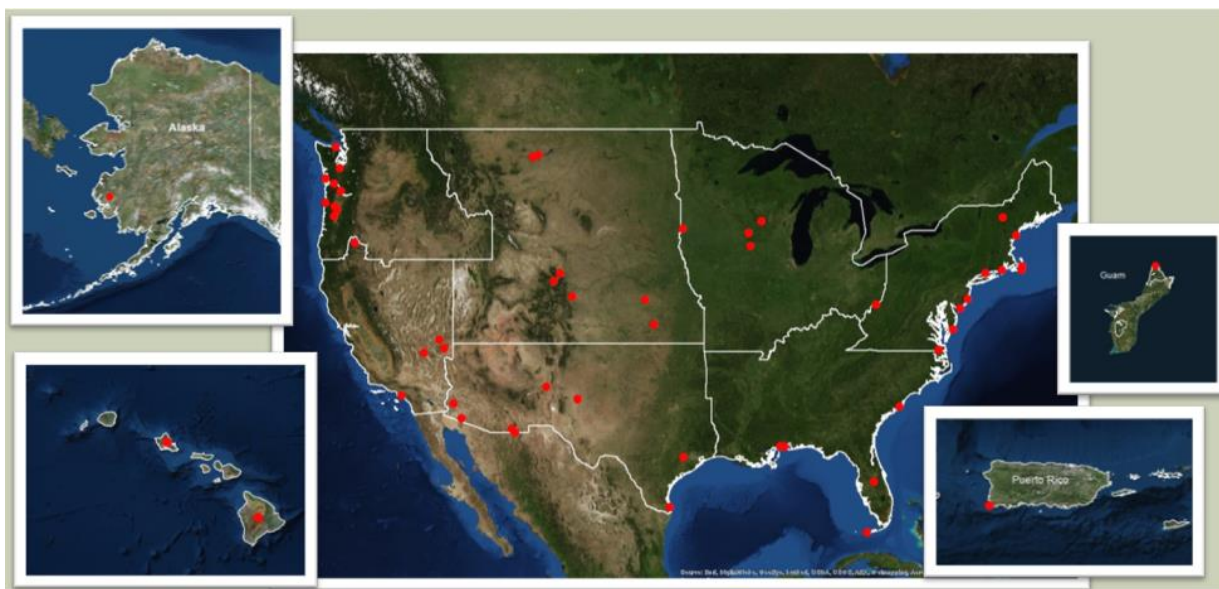
changing and provides the foundation necessary to plan and deliver conservation for large, connected natural areas.

Successful conservation design and delivery at a regional integrated level in the face of a rapidly changing environment requires intense coordination, both internally and externally. The I&M initiative works directly with the National Park Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and other Federal and State partners to integrate efforts across the Federal government and minimize duplication. I&M works with Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) and their stakeholders to efficiently and effectively achieve shared conservation goals and ensure that survey design, data storage, analysis, and reporting are collaborative and consistent with Service guidelines. We continue to streamline and enhance the Service's scientific capacity through integration and collaboration with the scientific efforts and protocols of other agencies, States, and scientific communities.

Cooperative Recovery Initiative (CRI)

This initiative is a strategic, cross-programmatic approach to restore and recover federally listed species on national wildlife refuges and surrounding lands. The Service combines the resources of the Refuge System, Ecological Services, Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Fish and Aquatic Conservation, Migratory Birds, and Science Applications to fund focused, large-scale efforts that provide the strongest conservation benefit to threatened or endangered 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.

Projects are selected through a national, proposal-driven process that identifies projects with the highest likelihood of success. Successful proposals: 1) implement urgently-needed actions for critically-endangered species at risk of imminent extinction; or 2) implement recovery actions for species near delisting or reclassification from endangered to threatened. From FY 2013 to FY 2015, the Service funded a total of 41 projects from across the Nation, covering 57 national wildlife refuges and benefitting 102 trust species. Two species, the Columbian white tailed deer and the Oregon Chub have been delisted partly because of previously funded CRI projects.



CRI funded project locations from 2013-2015.

Examples of CRI funded projects include:

Sonoran Pronghorn, Cabeza Prieta NWR & Kofa NWR (AZ)—Through releases from the Kofa NWR pen and augmentation from the Cabeza Prieta NWR pen, this project will establish a second population of Sonoran pronghorn in the U.S. within Kofa NWR and surrounding areas. The project aims to increase and stabilize the current U.S. population south of Interstate-8 that includes Cabeza Prieta NWR, with an ultimate goal of 300 individuals. To date, the Service has released a total of 36 collared pronghorn into the wild at Kofa NWR and Cabeza NWR.



Sonoran Pronghorn



Red-cockaded Woodpecker.

Red-Cockaded Woodpecker Re-Introduction, Great Dismal Swamp NWR (VA)— The project will establish a second viable breeding population of red-cockaded woodpeckers in Virginia by installing artificial cavities in established cluster sites; capturing, transporting, and releasing individuals birds; monitoring nest activity; conducting fall censuses; and monitoring and managing roost and nest cavities. In the fall of 2015, the Service translocated 32 nest cavities and eight birds to Great Dismal Swamp NWR. Additional translocation and monitoring will continue in 2016.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

The Service’s IPM program promotes pest and invasive species management principles, methods, and techniques that provide the least risk to humans, wildlife, and the environment. Each year, the IPM Program assesses approximately 2,600 proposed uses of pesticides for the control of invasive and/or pest species. However, pesticides are just one of many IPM methods available to manage habitats on Service owned lands.



The Service uses highly trained dogs, as depicted above, to locate evasive, invasive nutria rodents; live traps are then set in areas of nutria use.

For example, the Service has used trained dogs since 2014 to locate and remove invasive semi-aquatic nutria (a rodent native to South America) in the expansive marsh of the Delmarva Peninsula. These large, beaver-sized rodents feed on the visible marsh vegetation and plant root-base, turning once thriving, resilient marshes into open waters. These marsh habitats are a critical component in the protection of coastal habitats and prevention of erosion during large catastrophic storm events.

Biological control agents are another non-pesticide and low risk IPM tool that uses other living organisms to effectively control invasive species. For example, the Service identifies and uses natural predators, such as moth caterpillars, beetles, and flies, to control invasive swallow-wort vine, which strangles native milkweed plants that are essential to the survival of monarch

butterflies. These control efforts are an important part of the Service’s efforts across the country to engage partners to advance the health of native pollinators. Toward that goal, another effective technique is the restoration of habitats using native seed stock, including those that support local pollinators.

The Service also uses a biological control to combat cheatgrass. The Service, in collaboration with other DOI bureaus and USDA, is leading an effort to register a naturally-occurring soil bacterium to target and suppress invasive cheatgrass. This highly invasive grass fuels large, intense wildfires destroying Great Basin sage-steppe habitat critical to the survival of the Greater sage-grouse and several hundred species of other native wildlife. In Fall 2016, the Service will pilot the use of this low-impact technology combined with restoration on refuge lands to evaluate its effectiveness on sage-steppe habitat in the Great Basin.

Invasive Species Management

Invasive species are one of the most serious threats to the native wildlife, fish, and plants in the Refuge System, and these threats are expected to be exacerbated with climate change. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, invasive species are the second largest threat to biodiversity and federally-listed threatened and endangered species after habitat loss. Invasive species negatively affect native species through habitat modification, competition, predation, herbivory, acting pathogen vectors, and by hybridizing with natives.

Based on the threats posed by 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. Funds are used to prevent, inventory, map, monitor, treat, control, and eradicate invasive species from refuge lands to protect and restore native ecosystems. Treatment methods can include mechanical removal, pesticides, controlled burns, flooding, or biological control. Moving forward, the Department and the Service are particularly interested in working with their partners on the early detection and rapid response (EDRR) of emerging invasive species. EDRR aims to limit the establishment or range expansion of invasive species and prevent the need for the more costly ongoing treatments often required once invasive species are established.

Invasive species continue to alter wildlife habitat and pose challenges to the management of refuge lands. In FY 2015, nearly 2.35 million acres of refuge lands were infested with non-native invasive plants. However, the Refuge System was only able to treat 208,959 (less than 9 percent) of these acres with the resources available, given competing priorities for investment. Refuge management is frequently overwhelmed by battling invasive species, leaving little funding or time for native habitat protection or enhancement.



Prevention is the most important component of invasive species management and is exemplified by the surrender of this rainbow boa at 2014 Southwest Florida Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area Pet Amnesty Day at North Collier Regional Park, Naples, FL. Photo Credit: USFWS



The Marine National Monuments represent the greatest opportunity for the Service to sustain biodiversity and environmental health across the entire Pacific by providing vital habitat for marine life such as sea turtles, sharks, and coral reefs, including numerous threatened and endangered species.

Marine National Monuments

The Refuge System manages four Marine National Monuments, including about 8,300 surface acres and nearly 55 million submerged acres within the boundaries of 12 national wildlife refuges. Outside the Refuge System, the Service manages over 418 million acres of submerged lands and waters, mostly in four Marine National Monuments (Marianas Trench, Pacific Remote Islands, Papahānaumokuākea, and Rose Atoll). These Marine National Monuments are considered the most unspoiled tropical ecosystems under U.S. purview and are some of our Nation's last frontiers for wildlife conservation and scientific exploration. Spanning an area larger than the Continental U.S. and covering over 20 islands, atolls, and reefs scattered across five time zones of the tropical Pacific, these areas are experiencing the direct impact and effect of global climate change. The Marine National Monuments represent the greatest opportunity for the Service to sustain biodiversity and environmental health across the entire Pacific by providing vital habitat for sea turtles, sharks, and coral reefs, along with many other threatened and endangered species.

Refuge System Contaminants Program

The Contaminants Program includes a number of activities, including assessments and cleanups. The Assessment Process evaluates potential or known contaminant sources on or near refuges and possible transport pathways, allowing Refuge managers to assess risks to wildlife and put response plans in place. The Contaminants Program performs regularly scheduled internal compliance audits to ensure that refuges are conforming to Environmental Protection Agency enforced regulations. The Refuge Cleanup Program funds five to seven projects each year, including phased, multiyear projects. These projects range from small-scale removal of contaminated soil around refuges from fuel oil spills or peeling lead paint, to larger scale restorations such as decontaminating former landfills. Recently, the Refuge System has focused on cleaning and restoring habitats associated with on-refuge firing ranges. While most are now inactive and require assessment of contamination and clean-up restoration activities, some firing ranges are still active and may also require remediation. In 2015, the Service selected 11 firing ranges across the Refuge System for assessment and/or remediation.

Refuge Energy Program

The Refuge System's Energy Program supports Secretarial and Administration priorities of energy development by interpreting and developing regulations and policies related to energy development on Refuge System lands and providing technical assistance to the field based on sound science. The Energy Program's goals are increasing management consistency and reducing impacts of energy development on refuge lands. Through the Energy Program, the Service implements a multi-faceted strategy to address plugging and surface reclamation of orphaned oil and gas wells on refuge lands. This effort includes assessing the extent of abandoned oil and gas equipment on refuge lands and options for their removal, as well as exploring the potential use of new technology used by the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Geological Survey for locating abandoned wells on Refuge System lands. The Service uses spatial databases on oil and gas wells and pipelines on refuge lands to track the extent of oil and gas development, and trains refuge and other Service staff on the management of oil and gas development on refuges.



Service staff inspects an oil production facility at Delta National Wildlife Refuge in Louisiana.

The Service works with partners to avoid or minimize, where possible, adverse impacts to wildlife and their habitat, including direct and indirect wildlife mortality from oil and gas activities, leakage and

migration of contaminants, habitat alteration or destruction, and degradation of air and water quality. In response to oil and brine spills on refuge fee-interest lands and conservation easements, Energy Program staff provide technical assistance to other Service staff by evaluating remediation options and reviewing spill characterization reports and remediation plans. Finally, Energy Program staff assist Refuge System field and regional staff with assessing new oil and gas activities such as proposed seismic exploration surveys and drilling.



The ruggedness of the weathered granite mountainous terrain in the Charons Garden Wilderness Area of Wichita Mountains NWR provides an experience of solitude, naturalness, and wildness.

Refuge System Wilderness Program

For more than 50 years the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS), established by the 1964 Wilderness Act, has ensured that future generations could continue experiencing wild and natural places. Today the National Wilderness Preservation System includes over 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 natural areas, including extensive forests, coastal wetlands, and untamed deserts.

Wilderness areas provide 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 the Service works with partners to design resilient landscapes, relatively untouched wilderness lands and waters can fulfill important roles as wildlife corridors and serve as baseline representations of healthy natural areas against which we can measure change in other refuge lands and waters. The program coordinates with the other Federal wilderness-management agencies to leverage funding for wilderness training, education, and research, and to apply stewardship polices in a consistent manner.

2017 Program Performance

The 2017 budget request will build upon the landscape-scale, long-term, I & M program the Service began in 2010. I & M data contribute critical information for planning and management decisions. At the requested funding level, the Service will be able to complete more than 4,000 I & M surveys, a critical first step for the Service to more effectively manage habitats for wildlife and plant species. In 2017, the Service plans to implement approximately 2,000 threatened and endangered species recovery actions, 1,100 population management actions, and 1,800 research studies, and eight refuge contaminant cleanup actions.

With the requested funding, the Service intends to restore more than 65,000 upland, wetland, and open water acres. The Service also plans to treat more than 180,000 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 approximately 48.5 million annual visitors.

The Service will also continue traditional wildlife and habitat management activities, such as water level manipulation, prescriptive grazing, and selective timber harvesting to achieve desired habitat conditions. In 2017, 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 Refuge System and focusing on early detection and rapid response to recently established infestations.

Activity: National Wildlife Refuge System
Subactivity: Refuge Visitor Services

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Change from 2016 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Refuge Visitor Services	(\$000)	70,319	73,319	+431	0	+6,630	80,380	+7,061
	FTE	536	540	0	0	+14	554	+14

Summary of 2017 Program Changes for Refuge Visitor Services

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Urban Wildlife Conservation Program	+5,500	+10
• Pollinator Outreach and Education	+500	+4
• Pollinator Private-Public Partnerships	+500	0
• Visitor Services Activities	+130	0
Program Changes	+6,630	+14

Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for the Visitor Services program is \$80,380,000 and 554 FTE, a program change of +\$6,630,000 and +14 FTE from the 2016 Enacted.

Urban Wildlife Conservation Program (+\$5,500,000/+10 FTE)

This funding will build upon the Service’s Urban Wildlife Conservation Program to engage urban dwellers to play, relax, and enjoy their nearby refuges and the outdoors, and in turn add value and benefit to those local communities. Eighty percent of the U.S. population lives in urban communities. By actively seeking to connect with these communities, the Service seeks to develop the next generation of anglers, hunters, and outdoor enthusiasts.

The requested increase will enable the Refuge System to concentrate efforts on five of the highest-priority urban refuges. Fourteen priority urban refuges submitted proposals in 2014, and \$1 million was allocated to each of four refuges from 2014-2016.

The Service will also fund three to five additional new long-term Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnerships with these requested funds. These partnerships assist local non-profit organizations and municipalities reach urban communities on lands that the Service does not own or govern. Activities vary depending on the partners and can include Service staff helping local non-profit groups involve urban youth in fishing, canoeing, archery, and other outdoor activities; assisting partners with environmental education for underserved youth; contributing to urban youth education in STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math); and helping develop culturally-inclusive partnerships that benefit the health and wellness of the community and build an appreciation for nature.

Pollinator Outreach and Education (+\$500,000/+4 FTE)

The Service supports the Administration’s *National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators* and manages our lands to support pollinators. With the requested funding, the Service will provide outreach and education about pollinator and monarch butterfly populations identified in the Federal Pollinator Strategy. Funding also will be used for strategic habitat restoration and enhancement projects on Service lands and on non-Federal lands in partnership, such as schoolyard and community habitats and gardens. Funding will support implementation of the Federal Pollinator Health Strategy Partnership Action Plan (to be developed by the Federal Pollinator Task Force).

Pollinator Private-Public Partnerships (+\$500,000/+0 FTE)

The Service supports the Administration's *National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators* and manages Service lands to support pollinators. The requested funding will support public-private partnerships to increase pollinator and monarch butterfly populations, fund outreach and education programs, and increase community-based support for schoolyard pollinator gardens.

Visitor Services Activities (+\$130,000/+0 FTE)

These funds will enable the Service to continue building stronger environmental education programs with nearby schools. With an emphasis on 4th and 5th grade classes, the Service will develop more on-site learning opportunities and digital programs that link classroom curricula and learning objectives. These environmental education efforts will be complementary to other Federal investments as part of the Every Kid in a Park initiative.

Program Overview

The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (Improvement Act) clarified that providing opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, nature photography, environmental education, and interpretation (collectively called wildlife-dependent recreation) is a prominent and important goal for the Refuge System. The Improvement Act recognizes the importance of a close connection between land, water, and wildlife, the American character, and the need to conserve natural areas for future generations of Americans. The Refuge System Visitor Services program supports these priorities while providing cultural resource protection and interpretation, access to knowledgeable staff, an accessibility program, volunteers and Friends programs, special use permits, recreation fees, concessions management, and opportunities to connect youth with the outdoors. These connections foster understanding and appreciation of the need to conserve America's natural resources. Youth employment programs educate teens and young adults about career opportunities and promote public service as part of a life-long commitment to natural resource conservation. Additionally, in accordance with authorizing legislation and policies, the Refuge System protects 103 cultural 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 numerous historic lighthouses.

In FY 2015, nearly 48.5 million Refuge System visitors took advantage of outstanding Service recreation programs including more than 2,700 special events. Visitors included nearly 2.4 million hunters and approximately 6.8 million recreational anglers. Wildlife watching continues to be the most popular recreational activity, as roughly 30.8 million visitors took part on the extensive network of refuge trails; auto tour routes; and observation towers, platforms, and boardwalks. Wildlife photography is increasing faster than any other activity and 8.8 million visitors took wildlife and nature photos last year. Refuge System interpretation and environmental education programs—our informal and formal education opportunities—attracted approximately 2.6 million and 681,000 participants, respectively. Additionally, thousands of young Americans were provided job opportunities and career-building experiences. The psychological, ecological, and economic amenities that nature provides are a benefit for Americans from all walks of life.

A 2012 peer-reviewed national visitor survey indicated that 90 percent of refuge visitors, on average, gave high marks to all facets of their experiences on refuge lands. The survey was sponsored by the Service and designed, conducted, and analyzed by researchers with the U.S. 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;
- 91% are highly satisfied with how refuges are conserving fish, wildlife, and their habitats; and

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

The *U.S. Department of the Interior’s Economic Report for Fiscal Year 2014* found that national parks, national wildlife refuges, national monuments, and other public lands managed by DOI hosted an estimated 423 million recreational visits in 2014—up from 407 million in 2013—and that these visits alone supported \$42 billion in economic output and about 375,000 jobs nationwide. Service recreation programs have a direct impact on the local economies of hundreds of communities where refuges are located because visitors spend money for gas, lodging, meals, and other purchases. Maintaining healthy visitor services programs are vital to the economic wellbeing of communities all across the nation.

Economic Impacts

Refuges attract tens of millions of visitors who come to hunt, fish, observe, and photograph wildlife and are a significant boon to local economies. According to the Service’s 2013 *Banking on Nature Report*, visitors to refuges positively impact the local economies. The report details that 47 million people who visited refuges that year:

- Generated \$2.4 billion of sales in regional economies;
- Supported over 35,000 jobs;
- Generated \$342.9 million in tax revenues at the local, county, State, and Federal level; and
- Contributed a total of \$4.5 billion to the economy.

Banking On Nature Report	Jobs	Output	Job Income	Tax Revenue
Economic and job benefits	35,058	\$2,441,627,000	\$792,725,000	\$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

Banking on Nature Report published in 2013 (<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/about/RefugeReports/>)

The Refuge System provides an additional benefit to landowners and residents in nearby communities because of the positive financial impact that its open-space amenities has on property values. As described 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 study found that homes within 0.5 miles of a refuge and within eight miles of an urban center ranged in value 3-9 percent higher depending on the region of the country.

Visitor Facility Enhancements

Visitor Services funding develops, rehabilitates, and constructs small-scale facilities, such as parking areas at trailheads, wildlife observation platforms, hunting blinds, boat ramps, kiosks, and other projects necessary for interpretation and environmental education on refuges. This program



Visitor Facility Enhancements such as this accessible observation deck at Bon Secour NWR (AL) allow all visitors to get out on the land to experience refuges first-hand. Photo credit: Steve Hillebrand

was initiated in FY 2003 to get more people outdoors and provide them with inexpensive quality visitor experiences at many refuges. Since then, the Refuge System has constructed hundreds of small-scale visitor facilities to improve public access to and use of refuge lands and waters. Most visitor facility enhancements are available free of charge to local residents and out-of-town refuge visitors.

Welcoming Everyone

The Service clearly identifies all wildlife refuges that are open to the public for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, nature photography, environmental education, and interpretation. We ensure that visitors understand how refuges conserve and manage habitat and natural resources, and provide visitors with the information and tools to help them enjoy their visits. Welcoming and orienting visitors provides a unique brand identity that helps the public understand the 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.

Recreation Contributions to Americans' Health

Outdoor recreation on refuges promotes healthier lifestyles among families and children. Over the last few decades, Americans have spent less time playing and enjoying the outdoors than in previous generations. *Connecting Today's Kids with Nature*, a 2008 report published by the National Wildlife Federation, states that "Today's kids spend six and a half hours a day 'plugged into' electronic media." Engagement in outdoor activities on refuges such as canoeing, hiking, walking on trails, and participating in outdoor environmental education programs provides many opportunities for Americans to enjoy the benefits of healthier lifestyles.

Environmental Education and Interpretation

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

Over 681,000 students and teachers visit national wildlife refuges annually. Through a variety of learning activities, the Service provides environmental education programs to help young people understand the basic concepts of natural resource conservation. The students and educators use national wildlife refuges as hands-on, outdoor classrooms to learn the fundamentals of environmental science and natural resource conservation. Our goal is to provide students with the information they need to become effective land stewards and make informed decisions in conserving our lands, waters, and wildlife. Additionally, millions of students and teachers access conservation education materials available through Service web pages.



This fisherman is having a successful day at Cameron Prairie NWR (LA). Fishing is one of the most popular forms of recreation at national wildlife refuges. Photo credit: Steve Hillebrand

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

Birding programs are an outgrowth of the Service's national and international role in conserving quality habitat. Refuges play a key role in attracting birds and bird enthusiasts, with fully one-third of all Important Bird Areas (IBA) in the U.S. located on our lands and waters. The Service welcomes casual and serious birders through events and festivals, which generate significant revenue and create jobs for local economies. The Service launched a Birder-Friendly Refuge Program to connect national wildlife refuges, birders, and birds. The project aims to strengthen quality wildlife-dependent recreation on refuges, including wildlife observation and photography, environmental education, and interpretation. The Birder-Friendly Refuge Program gives the Refuge System a more visible role in promoting the activity of birding, and highlights the central role of national wildlife refuges in bird conservation. The purpose is to establish a set of medium-term objectives that will improve and increase appropriate Refuge System use among birders and nurture simultaneous birder commitment to the Refuge System. From those ideas, a prioritized list of 20 items was developed, forming the basis to make a refuge "Birder-Friendly."



One-third of all Important Bird Areas (IBA) in the United States are located on National Wildlife Refuges, illustrating the key role that refuges play in attracting birds and bird enthusiasts.

The "Birder-Friendly" Refuge program developed partnerships with non-governmental organizations, such as the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, to distribute equipment and field guides for use by the visiting public. Birds and birding programs have also served as catalysts for offering more citizen science opportunities on refuges. The Audubon Christmas Bird Counts (primarily for adults) and the Christmas Bird Count for Kids are two examples that blend citizen science (inventory and monitoring) with the recreational pursuit of birding. In addition to connecting people to nature, these two events introduce the public to bird surveying, and the data can be used by refuge staff to monitor bird range expansions, reductions, and population changes over time.

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. Professionally trained cultural resource specialists 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. The Service protects thousands of important cultural and archaeological sites including 103 resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places, ten of which have been designated National Historic Landmarks. The Refuge System has identified more than 20,000 archaeological and historical sites on its lands to date, with more yet to be discovered. The entire Service protects about 4.2 million museum objects in collections which are 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.



Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge

The Allee House at Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge (DE) stands today, as it did when it was built in 1753, overlooking the fields and marshes of Kent County. It is one of the best preserved examples of an early brick farmhouse in Delaware and is the oldest standing historic structure in the Service. It is currently undergoing a large-scale stabilization effort, a necessary first step for a larger interpretive effort for the house, led by the National Park Service. Work on the house is expected to last into FY 2016. In addition to preserving the house, the project will offer a unique opportunity to train Service maintenance staff (who will make up a small portion of the labor pool for the project) in historic preservation techniques.

Urban Wildlife Conservation Program

American demographics are changing, considering that over 80 percent of the country now lives in cities. The Service established the Urban Wildlife Conservation program four years ago to engage local communities surrounding national wildlife refuges and help build a new generation of American hunters, anglers, wildlife photographers, and environmental educators. The Service will not be creating new refuges as a part of this program. With 101 refuges within 25 miles of 250,000 or more people, the Refuge System has many opportunities to engage local urban communities. In areas where the Service does not have a land base, we are developing urban partnerships with local non-profits, government agencies, and other partners.

The Service funded programs at two refuges to demonstrate the potential of urban refuges and partnerships to reach new audiences in their communities. In 2014, the SoCal Urban Refuge Project in California, which encompasses activities of five refuges and serves 17 million people, was selected as the first area to receive funding. In 2015, Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon was selected.

The Southern California (SoCal) Urban Wildlife Refuge Project was announced in August 2014. Covering a large swath of land in and around Los Angeles and San Diego, the project expands outdoor learning for students, creates refuge-based jobs for at-risk youth, and develops culturally-sensitive community programs that build an appreciation for nature. Within the first year of existence, the partnership has accomplished the following:

- In collaboration with partners, over 5,000 elementary school students (3rd-5th graders) have engaged in education and stewardship activities about the Los Angeles River, Condor Recovery Program, National Wildlife Refuge habitat restoration, use of technology for scientific research and the value of natural areas for people and wildlife.
- Five hundred teens in grades 6–12 have participated in activities to raise awareness about careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields, including women in science career opportunities, building remotely operated-vehicles for engineering careers, and refuge wildlife biologist presentations.

- Over 1,200 high school students have engaged in conservation science, outdoor recreation and stewardship activities on San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex and partner lands near refuges. These activities include teaching field research techniques in an outdoor learning lab, mountain biking on San Diego NWR, kayaking in San Diego Bay, and planting native coastal sage scrub habitats.
- Through the Los Angeles Conservation Corps' at-risk Youth Hire Program of young adults, over 17,000 square feet of the Los Angeles River has been restored to native habitat, 12,000 pounds of trash removed from river bed, 31 streets surrounding the river have been cleaned, and over 4,100 square feet of graffiti removed. The youth also worked with the Friends of the Los Angeles River as River Ambassadors, educating visitors about the Los Angeles River at community pocket park events.

The Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge was announced in April 2015 in Portland, OR/Vancouver, WA area to invest in innovative, inclusive, and pioneering efforts that will promote conservation and sustainability in the community. Project examples include Cully Park, where the Service is helping convert undeveloped land into an urban hub of nature and culture, and Soul River's therapeutic fly fishing excursions for at-risk youth and military veterans.

Many major cities do not have a nearby refuge. To address this challenge, the Service has designated 17 Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnerships, with several more to be established in 2016. These partnerships nurture an appreciation of wildlife conservation in new audiences by empowering local community organizations to inspire conservation in local parks and other natural areas. There are currently 17 Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnerships:

1. New Haven Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership (New Haven, CT)
2. Forest Preserves of Cook County Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership (Chicago, IL)
3. Houston Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership (Houston, TX)
4. Providence Parks Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership (Providence, RI)
5. Lake Sammamish Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership (Seattle, WA)
6. Masonville Cove Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership (Baltimore, MD)
7. L.A. River Rover Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership (Los Angeles, CA)
8. Valle de Oro Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership (Albuquerque, NM)
9. Condor Kids (Santa Barbara, CA)
10. Wallkill Connection: Fostering Urban River Stewards (Yonkers, NY)
11. Habitat Is Where It's At (New Orleans, LA)
12. Community Greening and Restoration Project (Denver, CO)
13. PSJA, Preserving for Future Generations (Pharr/San Juan/Alamo, TX)
14. Neighborhood Environmental Stewardship (NESt) (Philadelphia, PA)
15. South Fork Conservancy (Atlanta, GA)
16. Regreen Springfield (Springfield, MA)
17. Alaska Geographic Association (Anchorage, AK)

Tribal Partnership Priority

Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex, an urban refuge just outside Las Vegas, Nevada, has been working to restore relationships and build partnerships with the seven tribes of Nuwuvi, or Southern Paiutes. Supported by funds from the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA), the Service established an exemplary consultation process by partnering with Dr. Jeremy Spoon, an anthropologist from Portland State University, to facilitate this collaboration with Nuwuvi. In 2012, all parties finalized a consultation handbook. The Service and the U.S. Forest Service (FS), Spring Mountain National Recreation Area, worked with Nuwuvi to reestablish an annual tradition, a “Gathering,” each fall to harvest pine nuts in the mountains on refuge and FS lands. Service and FS, with volunteers and partners, work together to provide supplies, services, field trips, and transportation so that multiple generations can camp, conduct cultural demonstrations and traditional practices, and gather and roast pine nuts.

The voice of Nuwuvi is strong in the exhibits of three refuge visitor centers recently completed in Nevada, Desert (2013), Ash Meadows (2015) and Pahrnatagat (2015), also funded by SNPLMA. The Service collaborated with Nuwuvi to incorporate their perspective woven throughout the exhibits. At Ash Meadows and Pahrnatagat NWR, collaboration started early enough that representatives worked with contractors to influence the design, location, and orientation of the buildings. The partnership continues as the Service applies for additional SNPLMA funding for the design and fabrication of trails and exhibits to nearby sacred rock writing (petroglyphs) in a canyon at Pahrnatagat NWR. Additionally, the Service partners with Nuwuvi on outreach and interpretive programs, restoration projects, field trips and annual meetings.



Neuwe and Nuwuvi celebrating the Grand Opening of the visitor center at Ash Meadows NWR (NV) in March 2015

Volunteers and Community Partnerships

Service volunteers facilitate recreation activities, habitat restoration, maintenance, administrative activities, and many other tasks as directed by the Volunteer and Community Partnership Enhancement Act of 1998. In FY 2015, the Service benefitted from the hard work and commitment of over 36,000 volunteers to the Refuge System who contributed more than 1.4 million hours of volunteer service. These volunteers contributed \$32 million in work, and logged hours equivalent to 681 FTE. In fact, volunteers contribute nearly 20 percent of the work hours performed on refuges. Additionally, nearly 200 non-profit Friends organizations serving over 300 refuges are critical to building effective community partnerships,

leveraging resources, and serving as conservation ambassadors in their communities, helping to connect volunteers to opportunities at refuges.

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 volunteers plant trees at Anahuac NWR (TX)



Volunteer staffing refuge bookstore at Audubon NWR (ND)

Youth Careers & Volunteer Opportunities in Natural Resources

Environmental education is one part of the Service's overall youth program. The Service is also building upon existing, proven programs with new and creative approaches to offer public service opportunities, support science-based education and outdoor learning laboratories, engage young Americans in conservation work, and promote youth interest in 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 Refuge System offers a variety of volunteer and employment opportunities for youth:

- Youth Conservation Corps: Provides opportunities for young adults from varied backgrounds to work together on conservation projects and learn about potential career opportunities.
- Volunteer and Community Service Programs: Connects Service volunteers with school and youth groups and support organizations, such as the Scouts. Volunteers often serve as role models and mentors.
- Student Conservation Association (SCA): Develops conservation and community leaders through conservation internships and summer trail crew opportunities that support the Service's mission.
- Career Pathways: Allows students or recent graduates to begin their careers in the Federal government by choosing the path that best describes their academic status:
 - Internship Program: 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: Students 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: Students who have received a qualifying advanced degree within the preceding two years and have the potential to be future Federal leaders. For more than three decades, the Presidential Management Fellows Program has been the Federal government's premier leadership development program for advanced degree candidates.



Julia (left) worked as a Water Corps intern at Valle de Oro NWR (NM). Phillip (right), was a Career Discovery intern who conducted a biological inventory of Pickerel Lake at Tetlin NWR (AK).

2017 Program Performance

The 2017 budget request will allow the Service to continue to welcome more than 48 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, currently at 90 percent, and help the Service connect to new audiences. In 2017, the Service expects to host more than 2,700 special events with approximately 725,000 participants. Some visitors participate in multiple activities 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 36,000 volunteers who contribute over 1.4 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 many Friends groups across the country that help refuges achieve the Service mission.

Activity: National Wildlife Refuge System
Subactivity: Refuge Law Enforcement

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Change from 2016 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Refuge Law Enforcement	(\$000)	38,054	38,054	+224	0	+2,434	40,712	+2,658
	FTE	242	242	0	0	+16	258	+16

Summary of 2017 Program Changes for Refuge Law Enforcement

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Urban Wildlife Conservation Program	+2,000	+14
• Law Enforcement Activities	+434	+2
Program Changes	+2,434	+16

Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for the Refuge Law Enforcement program is \$40,712,000 and 258 FTE, a program change of +\$2,434,000 and +16 FTE from the 2016 Enacted.

Urban Wildlife Conservation Program (+\$2,000,000/+14 FTE)

In support of our Urban Wildlife Conservation Program, it is important that visitors feel safe while visiting National Wildlife Refuges, yet almost half of our urban refuges have no law enforcement presence. In its 2015 report, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) recommended 235 law enforcement FTE at the identified 101 urban refuges; the Service currently has 55. With these additional funds, the Service will prioritize hiring additional Federal Wildlife Officers to serve urban refuges and obtaining equipment necessary to protect Service resources, staff, and visitors to these refuges.

Law Enforcement Activities (+\$434,000/+2 FTE)

These funds will be used to backfill vacancies of two Federal Wildlife Officers and outfit them with their law enforcement vehicles and equipment. Currently, the Service has an effective force of 255 officers, with 234 full-time and 82 dual-function officers protecting the 150 acre Refuge System and over 48 million visitors. This amount is about 22 percent of the total number of officers recommended by International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) for the Service in 2015. These new officers will help add much-needed capacity to the Service’s law enforcement program to detect and deter violent crimes against people, wildlife poaching, easement violations, illegal border activity, and damages to natural resources.

Program Overview

Refuge Law Enforcement includes funding for the Refuge Law Enforcement Program and the Service’s Emergency Management and Physical Security Program. Included under the funding are emergency managers, Federal wildlife zone officers, regional refuge law enforcement chiefs, field officers, training, equipment, and supplies. Refuge Law Enforcement funds training, equipment, and management of the System’s full-time officers, dual-function officers, and associated Regional and Headquarters management support staff. The professional cadre of law enforcement officers 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. They also educate the public about the Service’s mission, contribute to environmental education and outreach, provide safety and security for the visiting public, assist local communities with law enforcement and natural disaster

recovery, and help protect native subsistence rights. They are routinely involved with the greater law enforcement community in cooperative efforts to combat the Nation's drug problems, address border security issues, and aid in other security challenges.

The Service relies on partnerships through agreements with local, county, State, and other Federal agencies for mutual law enforcement assistance for the purpose of protecting lives, property, and resources. The Supplemental Wildlife Enforcement Program (SWEP) is an example of cooperative work between the Service and local enforcement agencies. The SWEP program is an initiative that leverages funding for enforcement activities by partnering with State and local agencies on various operations, including some actions focused on preventing State wildlife violations.

Federal Wildlife Officers protect the security and safety of the more than 48 million refuge visitors, Service employees and volunteers, government property, and wildlife populations and habitats. In 2014, Service Federal Wildlife Officers managed over 42,000 Service-related incidents, crimes, and requests for



Refuge Law Enforcement supports a broad spectrum of Service programs by enforcing conservation laws, educating the public, providing safety and security for visitors, and assisting communities with law enforcement and natural disaster recovery.

services, a 20 percent increase from 2013, which included rapes, robberies, kidnappings, assaults, burglaries, larcenies, motor vehicle thefts, Natural Resource violations, timber thefts, arsons, trespasses, poaching, hunting and fishing violations, easement violations, undocumented person apprehensions, search and rescues, and emergency medical services. This number is captured through the Uniform Crime Report that is sent to the FBI. Refuge Law Enforcement also documented nearly 45,000 additional law enforcement incidents on national wildlife refuges, including more than 3,850 hunting compliance contacts; 1,418 fishing compliance contacts; 717 endangered species issues; 388 easement violations; 5,330 trespass violations; and

seven Archeological Resource Protection Act cases. Refuge Law Enforcement responded to 82 medical situations and conducted 100 search and rescue missions. Refuge Law Enforcement also participated in 217 educational encounters, such as school programs, scout programs, or otherwise educating visitors regarding rules or regulations. In FY 2015, there were over 306 Serious Incidents reported, a six percent increase over the previous year.

While the Service has continued improving its law enforcement operations through the hiring and training of full-time officers, dual-function officers continue playing 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. Since 2002, the Service has reduced 394 dual-function officers to improve effectiveness and efficiency of refuge law enforcement operations. Only 82 commissioned dual-function officers remain. As the Service reduces 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 currently has 316 Federal Wildlife Officers, of which 234 are full-time officers and 82 are dual-function officers who spend 25 percent of their time on law enforcement. The effective force is 255

officers charged with patrolling the 150 million acre Refuge System and respond to law enforcement issues. A May 2015 analysis by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) detailed the urgent need for more law enforcement 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. The IACP recommended that 1,149 full-time Federal wildlife officers were necessary to adequately protect wildlife and habitat and make refuges safe for staff and visitors. Additionally, visitation to National Wildlife Refuges continues to grow each year. A shortage 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 as an essential way to protect our Refuge System mission and priorities.

Emergency Management

The Emergency Management and Security program reaches out to subject matter experts within the Service to serve as catalysts in supporting 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

Emergency Management staff developed policies for Continuity of Operations, Emergency Management Coordination and Physical Security and developed Operational plans for Continuity of Operations, All-Hazard Response, and Employee Accountability. Recent Incident Command System (ICS) response coordination includes Kilauea Volcano Lava Flow (2014), Hurricane Ana (2014), 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 U.S.(multiple years).

2017 Program Performance

In FY 2017, the Division of Refuge Law Enforcement will continue to pursue its goal of protecting human lives, wildlife, and Service properties. The FY 2017 budget request would support 258 FTE within the Law Enforcement program. These officers would provide for the security and safety of nearly 48.5 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 42,000 offenses/incidents including natural, cultural, archaeological, and heritage resource crimes and violent crimes such as drug abuse, burglary, assaults, and murders.

The FY 2017 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 the Federal Wildlife Officers to communicate with other law enforcement agencies when patrolling, verifying information on criminal suspects, and summoning aid under emergency circumstances.

Activity: National Wildlife Refuge System
Subactivity: Conservation Planning

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Change from 2016 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Refuge Planning	(\$000)	2,523	2,523	+21	0	0	2,544	+21
Land Protection Planning	(\$000)	465	0	0	0	0	0	0
Conservation Planning	(\$000)	2,988	2,523	+21	0	0	2,544	+21
	<i>FTE</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>0</i>

Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for the Conservation Planning program is \$2,544,000 and 20 FTE, no program change from the 2016 Enacted.

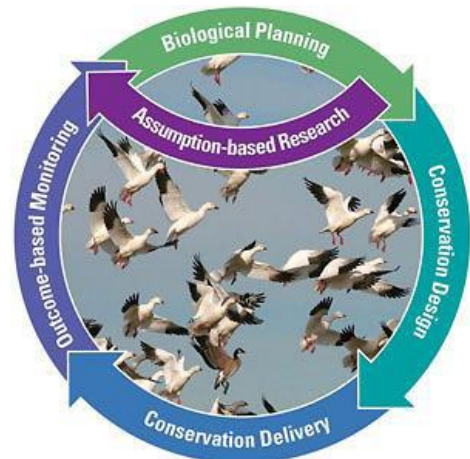
Program Overview

Through solid planning and design, Conservation Planning enables the Service to successfully implement conservation efforts on-the-ground. Planning contributes to informed decision making that recognizes the interests of all stakeholders, while never losing sight of the Service’s mission and goals. 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 opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, nature photograph, environmental education, and interpretation and work 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 part of the Service’s conservation legacy.

The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 requires the Service to prepare a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for every unit of the Refuge System and revise each CCP every 15 years, as may be necessary. 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 next generation of conservation plans shifts the Service’s focus beyond refuge boundaries and links refuge planning and management actions regionally. This shift will require a greater understanding and incorporation of drivers of environmental change, 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. The Service works closely with 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 include CCPs and Step-down Management Plans. CCPs describe how each refuge will be managed, and Step-down Management Plans describe specific management prescriptions, “stepping down” from the goals and objectives in a CCP.

Refuge management plans are developed for individual refuges by the Service with extensive input from the public, States, Tribes, and other partners. Effective refuge planning requires integration of the best available science. This subactivity supports funding for these plans, as well as for geographic information system capability and other related support tools.



Refuge management plans are developed with extensive input from the public, States, Tribes, and other partners.

Landscape Conservation Design

The Refuge System Planning program is currently transforming the way we develop CCPs. Once we have completed the original 554 CCPs as mandated under the Refuge Improvement Act of 1997, the remaining of which we intend to begin in FY 2017, future CCPs will be preceded by a Landscape Conservation Design (LCD), developed with our conservation partners through the Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) network and other conservation partnerships. LCD is a long-term, iterative process. Flexibility and adaptive management are keys to its success. LCD assesses the current and future conditions of a landscape and identifies shared resource management goals and objectives with the necessary landscape partnership. The CCPs for all refuges within a LCD geography will then be designed to both implement the goals and objectives of the LCD and address refuge-specific issues.

Consistent with Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) and *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. Doing so requires understanding and incorporating environmental drivers, such as climate change, urbanization, and other threats and stressors from outside of refuge boundaries into the process. To be successful, these issues must be addressed collaboratively. LCD creates a framework by linking refuge planning and management actions to create functional natural areas within a larger landscape. 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).

Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP)

The Service uses 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.

The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 mandated that by October 9, 2012, the Service develop CCPs for 554 units in existence in 1997. As of October 2015, the Service had completed 502 CCPs (91 percent). We are making significant progress in completing CCPs for the remaining 52 units and intend to have all remaining CCPs underway in FY 2017.

CCPs for eight of the 502 completed units have been revised and six are currently being revised. In addition, new refuges have been created since the Improvement Act of 1997. The Service has completed CCPs for 12 new units and is developing CCPs for 15 new units. Therefore, the total number of CCPs completed since 1997 is actually 522 (502 completed + 8 revisions + 12 for new units).

2017 Program Performance

In FY 2017, the Conservation Planning program will continue to serve a leadership role in biological planning and conservation design to support the 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 within the Service to ensure the stewardship of threatened and endangered species, migratory birds, and inter-jurisdictional fish. The Service's I&M efforts will be used to both inform what data collection efforts are the highest priorities and to adapt the Service's conservation delivery actions in an iterative manner as the monitoring data dictates. The Service 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

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Change from 2016 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Maintenance Support	(\$000)	53,391	54,081	+487	0	+1,697	56,265	+2,184
Annual Maintenance	(\$000)	26,350	26,350	0	0	0	26,350	0
Deferred Maintenance	(\$000)	37,120	41,120	0	0	+500	41,620	+500
Equipment and Vehicle Management	(\$000)	14,988	14,988	0	0	+2,722	17,710	+2,722
Youth Conservation Corps	(\$000)	649	649	0	0	0	649	0
Refuge Maintenance	(\$000)	132,498	137,188	+487	0	+4,919	142,594	+5,406
	FTE	579	579	0	0	+14	593	+14

Summary of 2017 Program Changes for Refuge Maintenance

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Equipment and Vehicle Management	+2,722	0
• Maintenance Support	+1,697	+14
• Deferred Maintenance	+500	0
Program Changes	+4,919	+14

Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for the Refuge Maintenance program is \$142,594,000 and 593 FTE, a program change of +\$4,919,000 and +14 FTE from the 2016 Enacted.

Equipment and Vehicle Management (+\$2,722,000/+0 FTE)

The Service is continually reviewing its operations and seeking ways to more cost-effectively manage our fleet. Since 2014, the Refuge System has proactively reduced our sedan and light-duty truck fleet by over 10 percent and is actively implementing a plan to modernize and right-size the fleet. With the requested funding, the Service will improve the replacement cycle of our vehicle fleet by following the rental and automotive warranty industries’ standards to ensure the lowest total cost of ownership, reduce emissions, improve fuel economy, and ensure Refuge employees, volunteers, and Law Enforcement Officers have safe and reliable vehicles to support Service mission accomplishment. Under the improved replacement cycle, the Service can replace a vehicle three times over a 15-year period, using the proceeds from sale to purchase new vehicles, for about 10 percent less than owning the same vehicle for a 15-year period.

Goals of this effort are to:

- Assure that vehicles are properly repaired and maintained;
- Facilitate reporting of consumption and utilization data to enable appropriate management and analysis;
- Implement a vehicle replacement cycle that ensures the lowest total cost of ownership;
- Monitor utilization to provide the minimum number of vehicles necessary to efficiently accomplish mission objectives;

- Promote alternative fuel and electric vehicle use where appropriate to reduce carbon emissions; and,
- Encourage short-term vehicle leases and use of non-traditional vehicles and transportation to meet seasonal mission needs.

Maintenance Support (+\$1,697,000/+14 FTE)

The requested increase will help the Service maintain the \$30 billion of investments that American taxpayers made in Refuge System infrastructure, which includes over 5,000 miles of public use roads, over 5,300 buildings, and a multitude of other Refuge System critical real property assets. Over time, the maintenance workforce has fallen from a peak of over 900 full time positions in the mid-1990s to 432 across the Refuge System in 2015. With 563 Refuges and 38 Wetland Management Districts, many field stations no longer have maintenance employees to proactively maintain habitats, equipment, vehicles, roads, buildings, or constructed real property assets that provide safe and reliable public access for the over 48 million annual public visits. Without these staff, the Refuge System has managed 465,000 fewer acres of uplands, wetlands, and moist soil and reduced invasive species treatment on 106,000 acres. The requested increase will restore 14 vacant positions, about 15 percent the FTE lost over the last five years, at refuges with the greatest need for a maintenance worker. The Refuge System has worked diligently to reduce the deferred maintenance backlog, and these additional maintenance staff will help continue our responsible management of constructed real property assets in a cost-effective and efficient manner. Without maintenance support to maintain and construct high quality habitat and safe and reliable public use and operational facilities, accomplishing the refuges' purposes and fulfilling the Refuge System mission is challenging. Habitat improvement and restoration has associated positive benefits: it helps protect Service lands and neighboring communities through improved storm resiliency, erosion control, flood risk reduction, and water quality.

Deferred Maintenance (+\$500,000/+0 FTE)

With the requested funding, the Service will address deferred maintenance needs at refuges, reduce maintenance backlogs, and improve the condition of assets as measured by the Facility Condition Index (FCI) needed to support wildlife and habitat conservation. The Service will complete two additional critical deferred maintenance projects for a total of about 194 completed in FY 2017. Replacement of these major systems extends the useful life of buildings and structures in a more cost effective manner than a complete facility replacement and will prevent incurring higher costs later. Investing in and appropriately managing deferred maintenance is a Service priority to ensure completion of needed repairs and prevent further deterioration and unsafe conditions. Combined with the requested FTE increase in Maintenance Support, these funds will help stabilize the overall maintenance backlog and prevent further growth in FY 2017.

Program Overview

Refuge maintenance employees actively manage over 3 million acres of wildlife habitat each year and maintain more than \$29 billion in constructed real property assets such as roads, buildings, water management facilities, and visitor use facilities. Active management of wildlife habitat on refuge lands includes mowing and disking fields, manipulating water levels on impoundments to ensure water flow in wetlands, and removing undesirable and invasive vegetation. The Refuge Maintenance Program also takes care of administrative, visitor, and maintenance facilities, and the fleet of vehicles and heavy equipment necessary to conduct wildlife and habitat management activities. A critical function of the maintenance program is providing and maintaining safe and reliable public access for our 48.5 million visitors. The Service must have properly maintained facilities and equipment to fulfill its conservation mission and service goals.

Refuge maintenance activities positively impact the local economies surrounding refuges. Maintenance professional services like tractor repairs, heating and cooling system repairs, and supplies are procured from local businesses generate employment opportunities and community growth and development. The visitation enabled by refuge maintenance activities is also an economic generator, as visitors depend on local businesses for lodging, meals, supplies, and other entertainment, which in the U.S. generated \$2.4 billion in local sales for refuges' regional economies in 2011^a. A well-maintained and accessible refuge helps facilitate a healthy local economy.

As of September 30, 2015, refuge maintenance employees maintain 13,030 roads, bridges and trails; 5,284 buildings; 8,007 water management structures; and 7,886 other structures such as visitor facility enhancements (hunting blinds, fishing piers, boat docks, observation decks, and information kiosks). The overall facility infrastructure is valued at nearly \$30 billion as indicated in the following tables.

Constructed Real Property Summary as of September 30, 2015

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	5,318	3,556	3,100	1,650	302	0.10
Dams	235	74	1,390	156	44	0.03
Levees	3,353	2,240	6,709	620	135	0.02
Roads (Number of miles)	5,901 (11,899 miles)	3,074	4,835	420	80	0.02
Trails (Number of miles)	1,131 (2,171 miles)	957	31	11	1	0.03
Other Structures	18,269	11,750	2,924	1,449	107	0.10
Total	34,207	21,651	29,820	6,216	1,165	0.05

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 the Interior standards.

^a *Banking on Nature: The Economic Benefits to Local Communities of National Wildlife Refuge Visitation*, Carver and Caudill, 2013.

**Nationwide Portfolio of Refuge System Constructed Facility Assets
As of September 30, 2015**

Asset Grouping	Asset Count		Replacement Value		Deferred Maintenance	
	Amount	% of Total	\$ (Millions)	% of Total	\$ (Millions)	% of Total
Buildings	5,318	15%	3,100	10%	302	26%
Water Management Structures	8,007	23%	9,130	31%	286	25%
Roads, Bridges and Trails	7,665	23%	11,659	39%	296	25%
Other Structures	13,217	39%	5,931	20%	281	25%
Total	34,207	100%	29,820	100%	1,165	100%

Energy Management

Energy conservation, reduction of energy costs, and application of renewable energy sources is a priority in the management of Service facility assets. Approximately \$8 million was devoted to renewable energy measures through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Sustainable energy measures are incorporated into deferred maintenance and new construction projects whenever feasible to reduce annual Operations and Maintenance (O&M) costs and 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 locations. Energy audits will help identify and prioritize needed actions and performance measurements such as reduction of O&M costs, return on investment, and reduction of energy intensity as measured in BTU's/Gross Square foot.

Managing Service Assets

The Service uses financial and performance data to improve management of its facility infrastructure and mobile equipment fleet. The Service's Asset Management Plan takes into consideration General Services Administration useful life standards, generally accepted asset management principles, and variables such as geographic location and utilization patterns.

The Service considers costs and benefits when allocating maintenance funding through its use of Service Asset and Maintenance Management System (SAMMS). SAMMS calculates each asset's Facility Condition Index (FCI), the ratio of the asset's repair cost to its current replacement value. SAMMS is our system of record to document assessments, facility maintenance histories, and maintenance schedules to improve overall FCI and reduce out year project costs. To do so, we use the FCI measurement in combination with the Asset Priority Index (API is mandated by OMB and defined by DOI), which indicates the relative importance of an asset in accomplishing a station's mission. Additional scoring mechanisms are applied that consider 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.

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 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.



Maintenance Action Team Builds Big Muddy NWR Office Building

The Service began using Maintenance Action Teams (MATs) in 2005 to achieve cost efficiencies and strengthen capacity within the maintenance professional workforce. MATs are teams made up of Service staff and equipment that plan, coordinate and execute restoration, rehabilitation, construction, or demolition projects. The Service currently has seven MATs.

In June 2015 the Service began constructing an office building with a visitor contact station at Big Muddy NWR located in Central Missouri, 20 minutes west of Columbia, Missouri. The facility is a new 6,453 square foot single story, wood frame building and includes site development for access, parking, storm water management, sanitary sewage systems, potable water systems, trails, and an overlook. This new building will provide a base of operations for the refuge staff, volunteers, and cooperators, and will be the primary public contact point for refuge visitors. To achieve cost efficiencies and provide training opportunities to Service and partner employees, the Service is using a MAT approach. Within the last six months, 40 Service and partner employees from all over the country have gathered to accomplish this MAT project. Team members included employees from 27 different National Wildlife Refuges, two National Fish Hatcheries, one Wetland Management District, and one National Park. This is the first MAT project of this scope and scale.

Refuge Maintenance Elements:

Refuge Maintenance Support

Refuge Maintenance Support includes salaries and associated funding for maintenance and facilities management employees at refuge field stations and Regional and Headquarters offices. Maintenance staff are critical in properly maintaining facility and equipment assets, which enables the Service to accomplish habitat management, refuge operations, visitor services goals, and fulfill our conservation mission. Staff spend about half their time maintaining functional facilities and reliable equipment, and the other half supporting habitat management efforts, like mowing fields, removing unwanted woody vegetation from

wetland impoundments, and controlling invasive plants and animals. Their work to maintain and repair roads, trails, and a variety of facilities also helps ensure refuge visitors can safely access our lands and have a positive experience.

Management and coordination of Refuge System wide facility and equipment maintenance and improvement efforts are carried out by Regional and national level staff who carry out or oversee the following functions:

- Managing and providing technical support for implementing SAMMS, which along with DOI's Financial and Business Management System, make up 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 developing 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 an equipment and vehicle fleet program that includes operator safety training, budget planning, consolidated purchasing of replacement equipment, monitoring utilization and condition to optimize use and resale, and coordination of equipment rental.

Annual Maintenance

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) repair of 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.

Deferred Maintenance

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 FCI and API 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 staff directly working on Deferred Maintenance projects. Prioritization of projects occurs through the development of a five-year deferred maintenance plan, which is updated annually.

Reducing the Deferred Maintenance Backlog

In 2012, Refuge System leadership concluded that a review of the deferred maintenance backlog was necessary to clearly articulate and prioritize maintenance and repair needs for assets that provide safe public access and have the greatest impact on achieving the Service's mission. A thorough review of

processes and priorities was completed. The Service has refined its practices to: 1) focus limited deferred maintenance funds on assets that maximize return on investment; 2) improve consistency of deferred maintenance and repair cost estimates; and 3) communicate improved focus in the budget planning and justification processes.

Deferred maintenance estimates for our extensive inventory of roads were further classified to emphasize public use and traffic volume. As a result, minimally used administrative roads are now generally excluded from contributing to deferred maintenance backlog calculations, although field stations are still required to maintain these roads in an appropriate condition for their type and volume of use. The Transportation bill provides some funding for the Service to maintain public-use roads and related facilities. The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act provides \$30 million per year through FY 2020 to assist in maintaining public roads, bridges, and parking areas in national wildlife refuges and national fish hatcheries.

At the beginning of FY 2016, Service real property assets were collectively valued at \$29.8 billion and had a Deferred Maintenance backlog of \$1.17 billion. Despite flat funding and continued deterioration of aging structures, the Service has continued focusing on reducing its Deferred Maintenance backlog through refined business practices, nationally consistent procedures, and the disposal of non-mission-essential assets.

5-Year History of Deferred Maintenance Backlog by Four Major Categories of Assets

Category	Refuge System Deferred Maintenance (beginning of FY) (\$ millions)				
	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
Buildings	408	349	315	316	302
Water Management	409	404	343	299	286
Roads/Bridges/Trails	1,430	1,356	849	383	296
Other	297	289	240	286	281
Total	2,544	2,398	1,747	1,284	1,165

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 mission-critical assets and the 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 Planning 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;
- Improve efficiency and reduce costs through space consolidations;
- Dispose of any excess 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 five 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 Management

The Service owns and maintains a variety of traditional and specialized mobile equipment items necessary to achieve its strategic goals. The Refuge System requires an extensive fleet of heavy and light equipment, including motorized vehicles, to successfully carry out its conservation and management mission. This program also employs equipment rental and leasing to provide a cost-effective alternative to purchasing new equipment, particularly for short-term needs to complete vital projects. Equipment and Vehicle Management funds optimize the management of fleets to meet mission needs, environmental mandates, and serve as an example for the efficient use of public assets.

Most of the more than 4,000 vehicles used on refuges are four wheel-drive trucks and utility vehicles for transporting equipment and tools to remote sites, firefighting, wildlife and habitat surveying, law enforcement needs, and conducting other volunteer tasks. Smaller, specialized equipment such as all-terrain vehicles, small aircraft, boats, small tractors, snowmobiles, trailers, agricultural implements, and similar equipment are needed to access and maintain and restore habitats in remote or rugged areas. In total, the Refuge System's small equipment and vehicle fleet consists of about 8,500 items.



*Small specialized equipment, such as all-terrain vehicles, are used to restore habitat such as eradication of invasive plants at Big Muddy NWR (MO).
Photo credit: Steve Hillebrand*

Heavy Equipment

Heavy equipment management includes acquisition, repair, and disposal of heavy equipment, which is any equipment item exceeding \$25,000 in replacement cost, except for passenger vehicles and light trucks. 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 visitor facilities such as boardwalks, observation platforms, tour routes, and nature trails. The Service owns nearly 4,000 heavy equipment assets with a combined replacement value of about \$369 million.

Equipment Inventory as of December 1, 2015

Heavy Equipment	Total Units	Acquisition Cost (millions)	Current Replacement Costs (millions)
Agricultural Tractors	1,120	\$54.1	\$100.8
Heavy Duty Trucks	773	\$55.4	\$73.5
Bulldozers	321	\$34.8	\$28.9
Specialty Equipment	426	\$12.8	\$23.4
Graders	184	\$20.1	\$36.8
Backhoes	305	\$18.2	\$27.5
Excavators	159	\$21.9	\$33.4
Loaders	133	\$9.4	\$16.6
Skid Steers	225	\$6.8	\$14.6
Forklifts	188	\$4.9	\$8.5
Scraper Drag	71	\$3.2	\$4.6
Total	3,905	\$241.6	\$368.6

Note: The equipment above only represents a portion of equipment owned by the Service. The equipment represented in the table reflects the highest valued equipment needed to maintain and restore our land and facilities.

Federal mandates require all Federal agencies to reduce petroleum fuel use by two percent per year, as compared to their levels in 2005, through 2020, to reduce petroleum fuel use by a total of 30 percent. These fuel reduction mandates therefore have a major impact on fleet management practices and the Service is working to replace older, inefficient vehicles, with more fuel efficient models.

The Service is taking the following actions for mobile equipment assets to maximize resources in the most cost effective manner:

- Reducing petroleum consumption for vehicles and equipment;
- Increasing use of alternate fuel vehicles;
- Using equipment and vehicle sharing across multiple locations where feasible;
- Using equipment and vehicle 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; and,
- Requiring nationally consistent safety training for safe operation.



Heavy equipment enables the Service to accomplish habitat management, refuge operations, and visitor services goals.

Youth Conservation Corps

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 YCC program offers employment, education and recreation opportunities that connect youth with the outdoors. These connections foster understanding and

appreciation of the need to conserve America's natural resources and promote public service as part of a life-long commitment to natural resource conservation.

2017 Program Performance

The FY 2017 budget request will 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 will also support replacement of mobile equipment assets furthering implementation of an initiative to improve management of the vehicle fleet. It will also enable the Service to complete approximately 194 deferred maintenance projects which will improve the condition of Service assets as measured by the FCI. These funds will 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 will use its ongoing condition assessment program to focus maintenance activities on highest priority needs. By completing an assessment of 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 will also continue use of the SAMMS database to reduce these costs through improved management.

The Service will 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 will 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 will help provide more than 48 million visitors with high-quality, wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities.

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Migratory Bird Management



Activity: Conservation and Enforcement
Program Element: Migratory Bird Management

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Change from 2016 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Conservation and Monitoring	(\$000) FTE	29,427 141	30,439 144	+182 0	0 0	+1,117 0	31,738 144	+1,299 0
Permits	(\$000) FTE	3,346 32	3,346 32	+25 0	0 0	0 0	3,371 32	+25 0
Federal Duck Stamp	(\$000) FTE	556 4	556 4	+3 0	0 0	+150 0	709 4	+153 0
North American Waterfowl Management/Joint Ventures	(\$000) FTE	13,139 49	13,139 49	+52 0	0 0	+952 +2	14,143 51	+1,004 +2
Total, Migratory Bird Management	(\$000) FTE	46,468 226	47,480 229	+262 0	0 0	+2,219 +2	49,961 231	+2,481 +2

Summary of 2017 Program Changes for Migratory Bird Management

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Conservation and Monitoring Activities	+567	0
• Aviation Management	+500	0
• Cooperative Recovery	+300	0
• Bird-Livestock Conflicts	-250	0
• Junior Duck Stamp Program	+150	0
• SHC Conservation Planning and Design	+500	+2
• North American Waterfowl Management Plan/Joint Ventures Activities	+452	0
Program Changes	+2,219	+2

Program Mission

The Migratory Bird Program’s conservation planning, monitoring, and management activities provide sustainable take levels (hunting seasons and issuing permits) while ensuring healthy populations of over 1,000 species of migratory birds and their habitats. The Service uses sound science and collaborative partnerships to increase the number of migratory bird populations that are healthy and sustainable, prevent bird populations from declining and requiring Endangered Species Act protection, and conserve habitats needed to



Surveying a seasonal wetland on the Hanna transect, Photo by Murray Gillespie

support these populations for future generations. The Service's vision is a world where birds and people thrive for the mutual benefit of both. The Service strives to achieve this vision through creating awareness, promoting key actions, increasing support, and expanding opportunities for engagement in conserving migratory birds.

This year—2016—is an important milestone in the Service's history of bird conservation, marking the centennial of the Convention between the United States and Great Britain (on behalf of Canada) for the Protection of Migratory Birds, signed in Washington, DC, on August 16, 1916. This Migratory Bird Treaty created a system of protection for certain species of birds that migrate between the United States and Canada. Similar treaties followed with Mexico (1936), Japan (1972), and Russia (1976). Throughout 2016-2017, the Service and partners will continue to celebrate this centennial working with partners to create awareness about migratory birds and the role they play in our lives, and expanding opportunities for engagement in the conservation of migratory birds. Information on the Migratory Bird Treaty Centennial can be found at www.fws.gov/birds/MBTreaty100/.

Program Elements

The Migratory Bird Management program is comprised of the following elements:

- Conservation and Monitoring – Conducts surveys and other monitoring activities to determine the status of migratory birds, and uses the results in developing bird take regulations that ensure healthy populations while providing recreational opportunities and mitigating problems
- Permits – Provides a means to balance use and conservation of protected species of migratory birds by enabling the public to engage in legitimate wildlife related activities that would otherwise be prohibited by law. The permit program ensures that such activities are carried out in a manner that safeguards migratory birds or promotes conservation efforts.
- Federal Duck Stamp Program – Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation stamps (Duck Stamps) are conservation revenue stamps with 98 percent of the purchase price going directly to help acquire and protect wetland habitat and purchase conservation easements for the National Wildlife Refuge System.
- North American Waterfowl Management Plan and Migratory Bird Joint Venture Partnerships—An international accord signed by the U.S. and Canada in 1986 and by Mexico in 1994 that has helped to sustain abundant waterfowl populations across North America by conserving landscapes through science guided partnerships.

Applicable Laws, Acts, and Orders

The Service has the legal mandate and trust responsibility to ensure the continued existence of healthy migratory bird populations for the benefit of the American public. More than 25 laws, treaties, and conventions mandate that the Service sustain over 1,000 species of migratory birds and their habitats. Primary among these is the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918, which establishes Federal responsibility for protecting and managing migratory birds. It also implements the four international treaties affecting migratory birds common to the United States, Canada, Mexico, Japan and Russia. 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. Executive Order 13186 - Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds requires that each Federal agency taking actions that have, or are likely to have, a measurable negative effect on migratory bird populations is directed to develop and implement a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Service that shall promote the conservation of migratory bird populations. Additionally, 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.

**Subactivity: Migratory Bird Management
Program Element: Conservation and Monitoring**

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Change from 2016 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Conservation and Monitoring	(\$000)	29,427	30,439	+182	0	+1,117	31,738	+1,299
	FTE	141	144	0	0	0	144	0

Summary of 2017 Program Changes for Migratory Bird Conservation and Monitoring

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Conservation and Monitoring Activities	+567	0
• Aviation Management	+500	0
• Cooperative Recovery	+300	0
• Bird-Livestock Conflicts	-250	0
Program Changes	+1,117	0

Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for Conservation and Monitoring is \$31,738,000 and 144 FTE, a net program change of +\$1,117,000 and +0 FTE from the 2016 Enacted.

Conservation and Monitoring Activities (+\$567,000/+0 FTE)

This increase will allow the Service to modernize our data collection, management, and sharing procedures for our survey and monitoring programs to improve customer service. For example, web-based applications will be developed to share hunter and harvest information, which will also improve survey response from the over 180,000 sampled hunters whose responses help inform [migratory birds hunting regulations]. Continued investments in conservation and monitoring help the Service maintain its capability to address priority conservation monitoring needs across large landscapes that provide the scientific justification for migratory bird hunting regulations.

Aviation Management (+\$500,000/+0 FTE)

This increase will support the Service’s continued efforts to improve aviation safety and training for pilots that conduct Service biological monitoring and surveys critical to informing conservation efforts. Together with the million dollars provided by Congress in 2016, this funding will improve pilot training and safety. In addition, this increase will allow the staff to continue to carefully evaluate the potential for use of unmanned aviation systems to conduct Service biological monitoring activities; this will involve the assessment of potential cost savings associated with such systems, their efficacy at conducting monitoring activities, and their implications for safety and privacy.

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

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 Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program, the Science Program, and the Ecological Services Program through a national, proposal-driven process to identify and implement the highest priority projects for species of the greatest need.

Bird-Livestock Conflicts (-\$250,000/+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 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. The ability to monitor bird populations allows the Service to evaluate the



Service Employee Neil Lalonde with a Canvasback during banding season, Photo by Rob Spangler/USFWS

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. The ability of the Program to deliver recreational opportunities to hunters and the ability to alleviate problems associated with birds (e.g., crop depredation, damage to buildings or equipment) is critically dependent on the quality of its monitoring programs.

Each year, the Service conducts extensive migratory game bird population and habitat surveys across North America and produces several reports that assess their status. These reports include the most current breeding population, production, and harvest information available for waterfowl, sandhill cranes, woodcock, dove, rail and other wetland game birds in North America and are the result of cooperative efforts with the Canadian Wildlife Service, various State and provincial conservation agencies, and private conservation organizations.

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

Government and non-government resource managers, researchers and other conservation professionals depend on the Service's migratory bird surveys and assessment capabilities to provide accurate, comprehensive population status and trend information. These conservation partners rely heavily on the results of annual assessments to inform 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 reports and results of other Assessments can be found at: www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/NewsPublicationsReports.html



*Northern Pintails in flight
Photo by J. Kelly USFWS*



The Wing Bee is an opportunity to train field biologists and students on how to use hunter-harvested wings to derive estimates of the percent of chicks in the harvest by male and female as well as the percent of yearlings and adults in the harvest. Photo by USFWS

Due to the importance of many of our survey and monitoring programs, the Service is committed to periodic reviews of many of these programs to maximize their utility in informing management decisions and to take important steps toward maximizing cost efficiency and improving customer service. As a result, the Service will continue to take steps to modernize our data collection and data management, while improving information sharing. For example, in FY 2016, the Service will begin developing online applications to collect hunter and harvest information, providing an opportunity for over 180,000 sampled hunters to respond to our surveys online, which reduces postage costs and data processing times while still providing the Service with the information needed to make informed hunting regulations. Similarly, the Service continues to invest in online tools such as the collaborative Avian Knowledge

Network (AKN) to provide better data access and decision support tools. Other tools such as the Service's Information, Planning, and Conservation system (IPaC) continue to be developed to deliver conservation measures to address project-related impacts.

Focal Species

In 2005, the Service initiated a Focal Species strategy for migratory birds to better measure its success in achieving its bird conservation priorities and mandates. To select Focal Species, the Migratory Bird Program identifies species from the Birds of Management Concern list that need investment because they: 1) have high conservation need, 2) are representative of a broader group of species sharing the same or similar conservation needs, 3) act as a potential unifier for partnerships, and/or 4) have a high likelihood that factors affecting status can be realistically addressed. Focal Species are identified over the short term to receive specific attention.

The 2012 – 2016 Focal Species list contains 55 species, including King Rail, American Woodcock, Marbled Godwit, Reddish Egret and the Golden-winged Warbler. Examples of some of these efforts include:

- Working with partners, the Reddish Egret Working Group has completed a compilation of the existing knowledge of focal breeding sites across their range and is finalizing a monitoring protocol within three designated eastern, central, and western management units. Information is available on the new website; www.reddishegret.org.
- The Service partnered in 2014 with the American Bird Conservancy, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, and the Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Fund using focal areas and research-based habitat management guidelines from the Golden-winged Warbler Status Review and Conservation Plan, put 536 acres of Golden-winged Warbler habitat “on-the-ground” in Minnesota. The partnership has contracted for an additional 1,600 acres of habitat restoration in 2015.

Partnerships

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 (MOU). In 2014, the Department of Defense (DOD) renewed their MOU, and the US Coast Guard (USCG) developed a state-of-the-art MOU with the Service, embracing new collaborative approaches and building a cooperative relationship that strives to improve bird conservation opportunities through clearly defined and easily implementable actions (e.g. enabling Service staff to board watercraft to monitor and collect bird data). Both the DOD and USCG MOU's provide more specific information and guidance on how to reduce impacts to birds than earlier MOU's that were developed, and the Service will adopt this new implementation-focused approach as we develop future MOU's. This approach empowers Federal agencies to immediately implement on-the-ground solutions to conserve birds. Nearing completion are MOU's with the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Federal Highways Administration. 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 2014, Service staff continued to lead the development and implementation of bird conservation business plans to reverse declines and maintain populations of shorebirds and their habitats along the Pacific and Atlantic coasts of the Western Hemisphere. These strategic business plans differ from previous efforts 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 that 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 that regards all areas migratory birds travel is needed to ensure conservation investments made in one part of the range are not offset by conservation losses elsewhere. The business strategy approach has now been adopted by the bird conservation community at large. The Service is currently working with partners to develop eight geo-spatially specific Conservation Business Plans that will provide the strategic workplan for protecting the migratory birds within the Western Hemisphere.

Urban Conservation

The Urban Bird Treaty program is a unique, successful collaborative effort between the Service and participating U.S. cities. The program is dedicated to conserving birds in or passing through our cities, and brings together private citizens, Federal, State, and municipal agencies, and non-governmental organizations to conserve birds through a variety of actions including: education, conservation, and habitat improvement. Currently, 21 Urban Bird Treaty cities have programs working to conserve, protect, restore and enhance habitat, reduce bird hazards, and educate urban residents on the importance of migratory birds especially for their intrinsic, ecological, recreational, and economic significance. Urban Bird Treaties can help cities and their partners promote outdoor bird-related experiences, foster environmental education with a focus on migratory birds that nest, overwinter, or pass through municipal and urban/suburban neighborhoods, and foster and build natural resource career development opportunities.



K - 6th grade students in the Lewistown Boys and Girls Club go bird watching with binoculars purchased by the Urban Bird Grant and Billings Wild Birds Unlimited. Photo by Beverly Skinner / USFWS

Reducing Incidental Take

The Service continues to work with partners to reduce the incidental take of migratory birds through both regulatory and non-regulatory means. Working across programs, the Service leads the development of guidance and recommendations that are meant to empower the public, Federal agencies, and industries with the solutions to address direct and indirect impacts to migratory birds. Recent guidance documents include recommendations for reducing bird collisions with building glass, a fact sheet for finding bird resources critical for environmental reviews, and a list of national conservation measures that can be employed at any project, nationwide. These documents are housed on the Migratory Bird Program's webpage for access by anyone seeking to reduce impacts to migratory birds.

Aviation

The safety and training oversight of the Fish and Wildlife Service's fleet of planes and pilots is presently housed within the Migratory Birds program. This critically important function currently consists of a National Aviation Manager and a National Aviation Training and Operations Specialist. The National Aviation Management Branch is responsible for aviation policy development and compliance throughout the Service. Additionally the National Aviation Management Branch is responsible for the Service Aviation Fire program, Department of the Interior (DOI) Aviation Executive Subcommittee (Departmental Policy Development), Unmanned Aircraft System program development within the Department, and the Service Emergency Management (Aviation). The National Aviation Management Branch is also responsible for oversight of all Service aircraft acquisitions and vendor contracts. The Service currently has 54 percent of the DOI fleet aircraft and is responsible for approximately 25% of all DOI flight hours yet has the fewest staff (currently two) dedicated to aviation management, training, safety, and policy compliance. The Aviation Management Branch has identified and is working on the implementation of six priorities that will immediately improve the Service's aviation enterprise; automated flight following transponders, crew resource management, pilot/mentorship program, standardized risk assessment processes, aviation management communications, and a Kodiak aircraft training plan.



*Male yellow-headed blackbirds sitting on the fence next to a water hole on the Pixley Ditch at Cokeville Meadows, WY,
Photo by K. Theule/USFWS*

Migratory Bird Management Combined Performance Change and Overview

Performance Goal	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Target	2017 PB	Change from 2016 Target to 2017 PB
CSF 6.1 - Percent of all migratory bird species that are at healthy and sustainable levels (GPRA)	72.1% (726 of 1,007)	72.1% (726 of 1,007)	72.8% (747 of 1,026)	72.8% (747 of 1,026)	72.8% (747 of 1,026)	72.8% (747 of 1,026)	0.0%
6.1.6 - # of management actions taken that annually address Birds of Management Concern, excluding focal species actions	233	204	196	176	159	156	-3 (-1.9%)
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%
15.7.2.1 - # of management actions completed	174	162	157	148	145	145	0
15.7.2.2 - # of management actions necessary	176	163	178	142	145	145	0

Subactivity: Migratory Bird Management
Program Element: Permits

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Change from 2016 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Permits	(\$000)	3,346	3,346	+25	0	0	3,371	+25
	FTE	32	32	0	0	0	32	0

Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for the Permits Program is \$3,371,000 and 32 FTE, no program change from the 2016 Enacted.

Program Overview

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 Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (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. The permits are administered by the eight Regional Migratory Bird Permit Offices, which process more than 11,000 applications annually. Native American eagle feather possession permits are valid indefinitely; most other permits are valid for one to five years. Programmatic permits for the incidental take of eagles associated with otherwise lawful activities may be authorized for up to five years. A condition of the permit is the submission of annual mortality information. Based on this information, and data from surveys and research, the Service works with permittees to ensure eagle populations are safeguarded. Additional revisions of the regulations permitting take of golden and bald eagles are intended to establish efficiencies in permit issuance and facilitate the responsible development of renewable energy projects, supporting the President's priority to power the future. In 2015, the Service initiated work on a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and proposed revision to the non-purposeful eagle take regulations to improve the program based on information gained since the rule was first implemented in 2009.

The Service continues to focus on clarifying and streamlining regulatory requirements. For example, beginning in 2012, hundreds of Native American tribal members have received migratory bird parts and feathers essential to their traditional tribal cultural and religious practices via two permits the Service issues to "umbrella" organizations who maintain repositories for this purpose. In 2017, the Service plans to introduce a new web-based platform to allow electronic submission of 45 migratory bird application and report forms (including depredation permits) that will be available to the public at www.epermits.fws.gov. In addition, an updated version of the Service's Permits Issuance and Tracking System (SPITS) will undergo development which coupled with e-permits, will reduce the processing time for permits, be more user friendly for permittees, and give options to permittees on how to pay for permits.

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

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Change from 2016 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Federal Duck Stamp	(\$000)	556	556	+3	0	+150	709	+153
	FTE	4	4	0	0	0	4	0

Summary of 2017 Program Changes for the Federal Duck Stamp Program

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Junior Duck Stamp Program	+150	+0
Program Changes	+150	+0

Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for the Federal Duck Stamp Program is \$709,000 and 4 FTE, a program change of +\$150,000 and +0 FTE from the 2016 Enacted.

Junior Duck Stamp Program (+\$150,000/+0 FTE)

Since 1989, the Service has conducted the Junior Duck Stamp Program, an art and science-based environmental education curriculum to help teach wildlife conservation to American schoolchildren. An additional \$150,000 will provide added support for hands-on experiences for youth, educators, and communities in wildlife and habitat conservation. This funding request is designed to take advantage of the existing programmatic framework. The focus of this funding will be to provide additional training opportunities for staff, outdoor professionals, educators, interns, and volunteers. One goal is to share best practices about how to integrate science, math, visual arts, language arts, technology, and conservation into traditional and nontraditional education venues.



2015-2016 Junior Duck Stamp

The annual goal for this program is to introduce to at least 30,000 students annually to the outdoors in a meaningful way and to provide a secondary benefit of expanding youth art programs in schools.

Program Overview



The internationally recognized Federal Duck Stamp 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. Many non-hunters also buy Federal Duck Stamps to support conservation, as 98 percent of these funds are used to purchase wetland habitat. In 2014, 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 fishing, hiking and wildlife watching, key components of the Administration's America's Great Outdoors Initiative.

The 2015-2016 Duck Stamp features New York artist Jennifer Miller's painting of a pair of ruddy ducks and is the first Duck Stamp sold at the new price of \$25. The 2015 stamp marks the eighth year the Service is selling Duck Stamps through the Electronic Duck Stamp (E-Stamp) program. The E-Stamp program is a valuable customer service tool, making Duck Stamps available quickly and conveniently across the country. The acceptance of this initiative has been clearly demonstrated by the increasing number of States participating—up to 19 States after six States joined in 2015—and the growth in E-Stamp sales from 58,000 in the pilot's first year (2007) to more than 683,000 in 2014. The sales period is July through the following June. As of October 2015, sales of the 2015-2016 E-Stamp exceeded 488,000 in less than 4 months of sales. The Service will continue to expand the E-Stamp program, adding up to 10 additional States over the next two years, further improving the ability to meet customer needs.



Through the Junior Duck Stamp Program, youth in grades K-12 are encouraged to explore wildlife and habitat conservation principles through science, art, math and technology. The program culminates with an art contest from which an annual Junior Duck Stamp is produced.

Photo credits:

Left: Stacey Hayden, USFWS

Right: Casie Harding, used with permission



Entire communities benefit from our students' creativity and share in the celebration of conservation through the arts. Marais des Cygnes NWR created this prairie maze for a weekend public event to celebrate the Federal Duck Stamp Program Contest and to honor a previous Junior Duck Stamp winner who has gone on to enter the Federal Duck Stamp Program and become a local voice for conservation education. Junior Duck Stamp winner who has gone on to enter the Federal Duck Stamp Program and become a local voice for conservation education.

Since 1989, the Service has conducted the Junior Duck Stamp Program, 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 indifferent to, 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 the tools to teach about nature and to encourage conservation activities.

In FY 2012, the Service introduced an updated Junior Duck Stamp curriculum, which included much needed revisions and provided tools to keep current the material on technology, social networking, and scientific information. This curriculum 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. The winning artwork often graces the cover of the State's annual hunting regulation brochure and individual State winners are entered into the national contest. At the 2015 National Junior Duck Stamp art contest,

Wyoming student Andrew Kneeland's painting of a pair of wood ducks took top honors among the 53 State and territorial winners. Annual art contest participation averages about 30,000 students.

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

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Change from 2016 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
North American Waterfowl Management/Joint Ventures	(\$000)	13,139	13,139	+52	0	+952	14,143	+1,004
	FTE	49	49	0	0	+2	51	+2

Summary of 2017 Program Changes for North American Waterfowl Management/Joint Ventures

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• SHC Conservation Planning and Design	+500	+2
• North American Waterfowl Management Plan/Joint Ventures Activities	+452	0
Program Changes	+952	+2

Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for the North American Waterfowl Management Plan is \$14,143,000 and 51 FTE, a program change of +\$952,000,000 and +2 FTE from the 2016 Enacted.

Strategic Habitat Conservation Planning and Design (+\$500,000/+2 FTE)

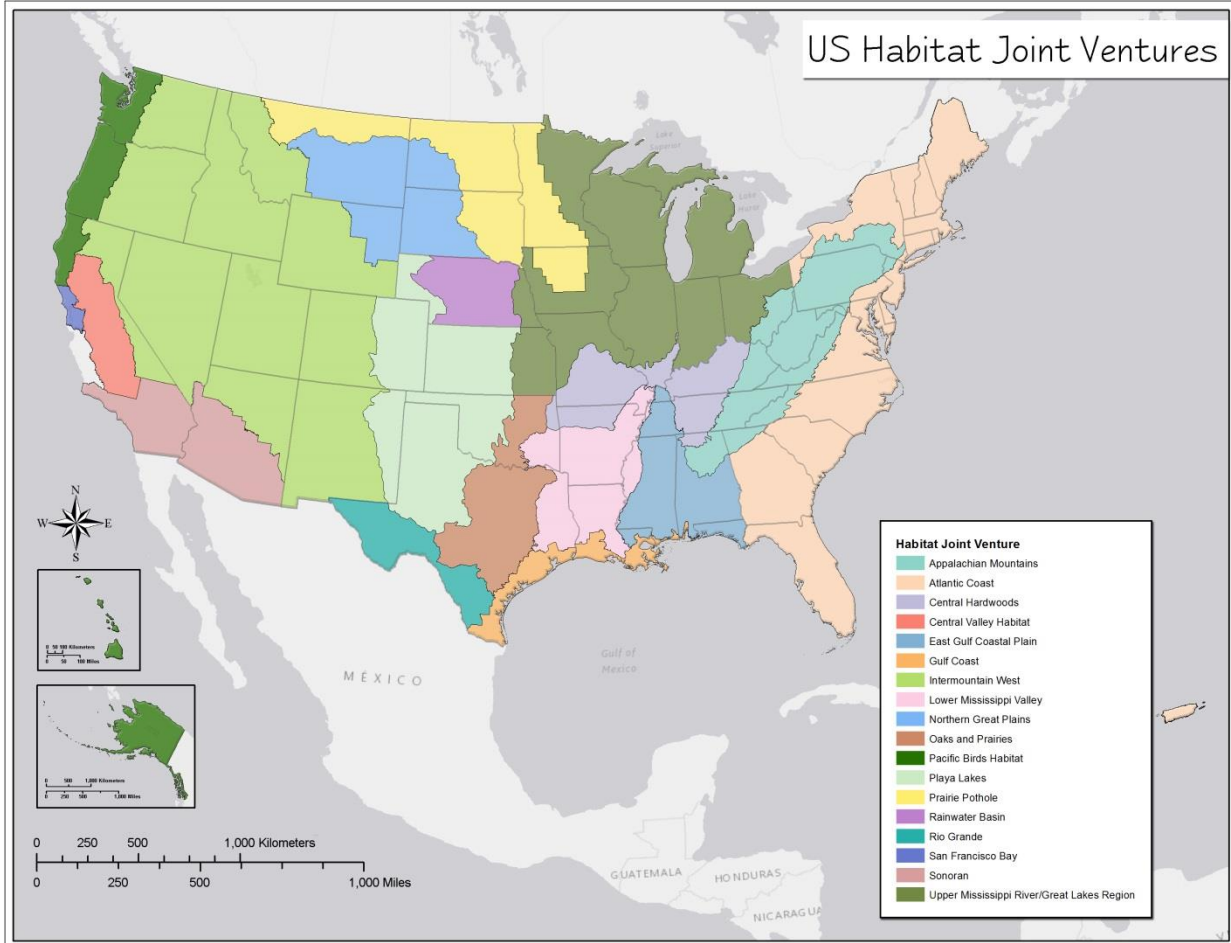
The Migratory Bird Joint Ventures have operated under the Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) framework for many years, incorporating biological planning, conservation design, conservation delivery, and monitoring into their overall program delivery. The increase of \$500,000 will be used to strategically increase Joint Venture biological planning and conservation design capacity for those Joint Ventures focused on high priority landscapes (e.g. prairies, sagebrush-steppe, Gulf Coast wetlands, California Central Valley, etc.) to achieve measurable biological outcomes for priority migratory bird species. The additional funding will allow the Service to better define, invest in, and deliver measurable improvements to populations of targeted species in priority landscapes.

North American Waterfowl Management Plan/Joint Ventures Activities (+452,000/+0 FTE)

The requested increase will enable the Service to ensure that all 21 Migratory Bird Joint Ventures receive the minimum funding necessary to step-down large landscape-scale plan priorities into effective, locally delivered habitat conservation actions. Joint Venture partners, including conservation agencies and organizations, landowners, and local governments, have helped develop these landscape strategies and can ensure that regional habitat efforts are designed and implemented within the context of those plans. In addition, these funds will further support Service conservation priorities, including the implementation of national and international waterfowl, waterbird, shorebird, and land-bird conservation initiatives. The Joint Ventures and their partners will target the highest priority habitats for migratory birds, and explore new social science and landscape design techniques that will result in better integration strategies for protecting habitat while preserving working landscapes.

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. For the past 30 years the Plan has helped to sustain abundant waterfowl populations across North America 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 environmental, ecological, and 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 \$1.8 billion on hunting related expenditures, while the 2013 addendum to the National Survey titled *Birding in the United States: A Demographic and Economic Analysis* showed that 47 million birders spent nearly \$41 billion on trip and equipment-related expenditures.

The habitat goals of the Plan, as well as the conservation and management priorities of national and international shorebird, waterbird, and landbird partnership initiatives, are primarily implemented by Migratory Bird Joint Ventures (JVs)—a network of regional, self-directed partnerships involving Federal, State, and local governments; corporations; individuals; and non-government conservation groups. Eighteen U.S. habitat-based JVs and three species-specific JVs address local, regional, and continental goals for sustaining migratory bird populations and work to conserve habitat for birds, other wildlife, and people. JVs build landscape-level conservation plans and develop targeted habitat projects, bringing a landscape scale perspective to local delivery. By catalyzing partnerships to protect habitat, JVs leverage a

diversity of conservation expertise, create collaborations at a variety of scales that others cannot replicate, and make conservation entities stronger through a focus on improving effectiveness and efficiency in others.

JVs complement but serve a distinctly different purpose than the Service's Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs), which also rely upon regional partnerships. LCCs provide the science and technical expertise to support conservation planning at landscape scales and supply the primary source of tools, methods, and data to design and deliver conservation through the Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) framework. Additionally, the network of 22 individual LCCs across the country promotes collaboration among its members to define conservation priorities. Landscape-scale research supported by the LCCs will help answer some of the critical questions about the impacts of natural and human-induced environmental changes on birds over time. For example, climate modeling efforts currently made possible through LCC resources will help predict changes in temperature and precipitation across the Nation's migratory bird flyways. LCCs will provide support to JVs working to focus bird habitat protection and restoration in areas that also serve to abate flooding, improve water quality, and enhance carbon sequestration. These efforts—working in concert—will enhance the values of habitat projects for birds, ecological communities, and society.

The JV partnerships played an instrumental role in pioneering the SHC approach that has been adopted and implemented across the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Using SHC, JVs establish and achieve habitat conservation objectives at a scale that influences populations. Armed with the best available scientific information, JVs help predict how bird populations will respond to habitat conservation and other management activities, and then develop conservation plans for those populations. This unique collaborative approach enables JVs to say where, why, how, and how much habitat is needed.



The 2012 revision of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan recognizes the importance of engaging an expanding community of waterfowl resource users and supporters, such as bird watchers.

JVs use the products of this biological planning (often maps or models) to design landscape-level conservation strategies that 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. This framework is particularly well suited to strategically address problems migratory birds face on breeding, migration, and wintering grounds.

Looking forward, North American landscapes will continue to change in ways and at scales that have potential to drive bird populations downward, with more species at risk of being listed as threatened or endangered. Fortunately, JV partnerships have been successful at adapting to this changing world with a 28 year track record of positive accomplishments for birds and their habitats. In step with the NAWMP, JVs are now at the forefront of integrating human dimensions into bird conservation planning efforts. The

JVs recognize the path to effective and sustainable bird conservation on our dynamic landscapes must incorporate an understanding of the ways in which human value, use, and depend on the natural environment. Thus JV efforts, more than ever before, seek to align bird conservation with benefits to human society and local communities. Building upon the SHC model and focusing on a more integrated approach to landscape conservation that links the ecological and social drivers of conservation together, JVs are working to develop better implementation strategies with existing partners, as well as new approaches to connecting bird conservation with new partners and stakeholders inherent to the changing demographics of America.

Intermountain West Joint Venture – Benefitting sagebrush birds and the ranching community

With 90 percent of sagebrush steppe habitat located within the Intermountain West and priority arid land birds in steep decline, the Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV) is instrumental to sagebrush steppe conservation. In 2010, the IWJV entered into the Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI), a novel collaboration with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to provide the science, field delivery, and communications capacity for an array of partners conserving Greater sage-grouse and sage obligate species. This voluntary, incentive-based, targeted model for landscape-scale conservation helped contribute to the no-list ESA determination for the Greater Sage-grouse in 2015. With over 40 paying partners invested in sagebrush conservation, the path forward involves blurring the lines between private and public jurisdictional boundaries to continue addressing habitat degradation, fragmentation, and loss at ecologically-significant scales. Funds will be used to work collaboratively and across programs to make conservation entities (e.g., western States, private landowners, The Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Bureau of Land Management, non-governmental organizations, and industry partners) stronger, more efficient, and more effective in targeting resource investments and actions to reduce threats and maintain sagebrush obligate bird species populations on more than 500,000 acres. Investments will continue to be directed toward maintaining working lands for the ranching community and rural livelihoods across the West.



Wyoming Sage Rangeland in the IWJV by Dave Smith



Brewer's Sparrow in Oregon by Elaine R Wilson

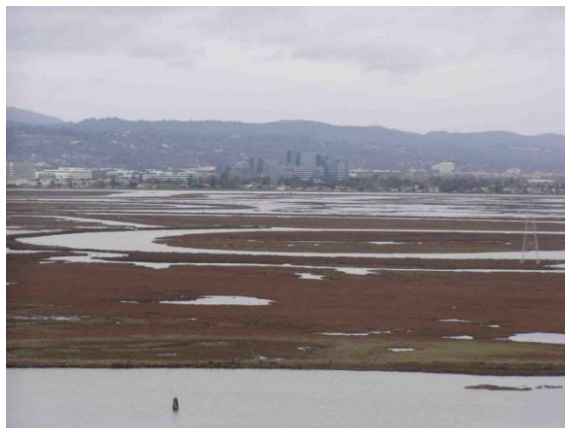
San Francisco Bay Joint Venture and SediMatch – Linking bird conservation and community benefits

As part of an innovative program that brings environmental benefits and cost-savings to flood risk reduction agencies along the San Francisco Bay shoreline, SediMatch is a strategy that seeks to transform sediment in local navigational and flood channels into a resource to help restore wetland habitats for birds, and improve water quality and shoreline resiliency. As a leader in this effort, the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture has been tracking the sediment needs of tidal wetland restoration projects in the Bay Area and hosting match-making meetings between restoration project managers and dredgers, as well as seeking solutions to issues that inhibit the beneficial use of dredge materials to restore wetlands. As a result, several “matches,” including non-traditional conservation partners, have been made to deliver dredged material for beneficial use at restorations sites throughout the Bay Area. This partnership is a

critical strategy to ensure that Bay Area marshes keep pace with rising sea levels, protect shoreline communities against storm surges, and continue to provide habitat, natural flood risk reduction, water quality benefits, and recreational opportunities into the future.



*Sediment from the Port of Oakland used to restore the former Army Air Base at Hamilton Field back to wetland habitat
Credit: Beth Huning*



*Tidal wetlands on Bair Island (Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR) that benefitted from reuse material
Credit: Beth Huning*

Performance Goal	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Target	2017 PB	Change from 2016 Target to 2017 PB
6.4.1 - % of habitat needs met to achieve healthy and sustainable levels of migratory birds - cumulative	57.7% (299,890,960 of 519,665,916)	50.2% (260,976,538 of 519,675,916)	51.0% (265,746,680 of 520,837,443)	52.4% (284,923,324 of 543,258,973)	49.4% (268,242,836 of 543,280,973)	52.7% (290,000,000 of 550,000,000)	3.4%
Comments:	The performance increase reflects ongoing baseline activities, as well as outcomes resulting in increased capacity to support Strategic Habitat Conservation Planning and Design for migratory birds on high priority landscapes.						
6.4.5 - # of BMC with habitat management needs identified at eco-regional scales	533	496	559	528	478	560	82
Comments:	The performance increase reflects ongoing baseline activities, as well as outcomes resulting in increased capacity to support Strategic Habitat Conservation Planning and Design for migratory birds on high priority landscapes.						

Law Enforcement



Activity: Conservation and Enforcement
Subactivity: Law Enforcement

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Change from 2016 Enacted (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Operations	(\$000)	65,827	73,815	+328	0	0	74,143	+328
Equipment Replacement	(\$000)	910	910	0	0	0	910	0
Total, Law Enforcement	(\$000)	66,737	74,725	+328	0	0	75,053	+328
	FTE	264	322	+0	+0	+0	322	+0

Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for the Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) is \$75,053,000 and 322 FTE, no program change from the 2016 Enacted.

Program Mission

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, working with others, conserves, protects, and enhances fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. As part of this mission, the Service - through the Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) - is responsible for enforcing U.S. and international laws, regulations, and treaties that protect wildlife and plant resources. The Service, through effective law enforcement, seeks to recover endangered species, conserve migratory birds, preserve wildlife habitat, safeguard fisheries, combat invasive species, and promote international wildlife conservation.

Applicable Laws, Acts, and Orders

The Service has the legal mandate and trust responsibility to fulfill its mission due to the Nation’s wildlife and plant protection laws and several Presidential actions. The Lacey Act (18 U.S.C. 42; 16 U.S.C. 3371-3378) prohibits the importation, exportation, transportation, sale, or purchase of fish, wildlife, or plants taken or possessed in violation of State, Federal, tribal, and foreign laws. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712) makes unlawful to pursue, hunt, kill, capture, possess, buy, sell, purchase, or barter any migratory bird including feathers or other parts. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668C) prohibits import, export, or take of bald or golden eagles, or to sell, purchase, or barter their parts or products. The Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) prohibits the importation, exportation, taking, and interstate or foreign commerce of fish, wildlife, and plants that are listed as threatened or endangered species. The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act (16 U.S.C. 718) requires waterfowl hunters to purchase and possess a valid Federal waterfowl hunting stamp before take of migratory waterfowl. The Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1361-1407) establishes a moratorium on the take and importation of marine mammals, including parts and products. The Airborne Hunting Act (16 U.S.C. 742j-1) prohibits taking or harassing wildlife from aircraft. The National Refuge System Administration Act (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee) provides guidelines for administration and management of all areas in the system. The African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4201-4245)

places a moratorium on the importation of raw or worked ivory from African elephant-producing countries that do not meet certain criteria. The Wild Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4901) limits or prohibits the importation of wild birds as necessary. The Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 5301-5306) prohibits the import, export, or sale of any product, item, or substance containing, or labeled or advertised as containing, any substance derived from tiger or rhinoceros. The Antarctic Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 2401) makes unlawful for any citizen to take, possess, or sell any native bird or mammal from Antarctica. The Archeological Resources Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 470aa) prohibits excavation, removal, damage, or alteration to any archaeological resource located on public or Indian lands without a permit. Presidential actions include the President's Executive Order—Combating Wildlife Trafficking and the President's Memorandum—Comprehensive Framework to Combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing and Seafood Fraud.

Program Overview

The Service protects fish, wildlife, and plant resources by investigating wildlife crimes and monitoring the Nation's wildlife trade to intercept smuggling and facilitate legal commerce. Effective enforcement of the Nation's wildlife laws is essential to the Service's conservation mission, combats wildlife trafficking (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, intelligence analysts, and forensic scientists help recover endangered and other protected species, conserve migratory birds, restore fisheries, combat invasive species, safeguard wildlife habitat, and promote international wildlife conservation. They play a critical global role in holding the line for species on the brink of extinction from the accelerating black market of wildlife trade. Service efforts that protect wildlife resources and support strategic habitat conservation are also vital in the face of ongoing threats such as habitat loss. These threats make wildlife populations even more vulnerable to crimes such as poaching, black market trafficking, and industrial take.



Elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn products seized during Operation Crash.

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 Executive Order 13648 "Combating Wildlife Trafficking" which established the Presidential Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking, co-chaired by the Secretary of the Interior. In February 2014, the task force released the *National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking* that identified strengthening enforcement as a key strategic priority. Specifically, the National Strategy tasks agencies to strengthen interdiction and investigation efforts, collaborate with foreign governments to build enforcement capacity, and support the development and use of effective technologies and analytical tools. To help meet this responsibility, the Service is building upon its proven record of accomplishment.



Species identification is a vital job skill for wildlife inspectors.

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

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 they work 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.

In FY 2014, to make a greater impact, the Service began a special agent "International Attaché" program with the goal of hiring and placing five special agents stationed overseas to investigate international wildlife trafficking. This program addresses limiting factors in countries that drive or enable the market for illegal wildlife by supporting direct partnerships with foreign governments to share and coordinate intelligence, expand training programs, and provide technical assistance in customs monitoring. One special agent has been on duty and stationed at the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand since FY2014, where he has been focusing on wildlife trafficking issues throughout Southeast Asia. The agent has supported not only U.S.-based investigations, but has also provided expertise to other U.S. Federal law enforcement agencies and foreign governments, including supporting training efforts. Working closely with the Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Bangkok, the attaché has briefed several other regional embassies on wildlife trafficking issues and supported their local efforts.

In August 2015, three additional attachés were stationed at U.S. embassies in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; Gaborone, Botswana; and Lima, Peru. In the short time since these additional attachés have been in place they have provided critical support to strengthen enforcement and expand international cooperation throughout the regions of Southern and Central Africa, and South and Central America. The attachés have assisted in wildlife trafficking investigations by providing investigative expertise, as well as highly technical assistance to local governments involved in wildlife trafficking investigations. They have also provided training and capacity building, increased coordination among



The Thailand Attaché assisted a partner nation in the Indian Ocean with a CITES protected rosewood timber case.

government agencies, and provided support to Wildlife Enforcement Networks throughout their areas of responsibility. The Service continues to work with the Department of State to place our fifth attaché in Beijing, China in early 2016. This attaché will work to reduce demand, a significant component of the National Strategy, in a key consumer market for illegal wildlife trade.

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 that illegally profit from trade in American wildlife and plants. As well, the Service's enforcement addresses 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.

National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory

The Service's National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory (Lab), the world's only full-service crime laboratory devoted exclusively to supporting wildlife law enforcement, is vital to Service efforts to fight illegal wildlife trade and protect plants and animals. Scientists at the laboratory identify the species of wildlife parts and products seized as evidence to link suspect, victim, and crime scene through the examination of physical evidence, cause of death determinations, and crime scene analysis.

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

Lab staff also analyzes wood and wood products to help implement the 2008 illegal wood amendments to the Lacey Act. Species identification of logs, planks, and veneers is difficult because they lack the traditional descriptors of plants, such as leaves and flowers. The Lab is currently using macroscopic wood anatomy for determining genus of timber, and a novel tool—the Direct Analysis in Real Time (DART) Time-Of-Flight Mass Spectrometer (TOFMS)—to determine the species of wood evidence associated with criminal investigations. The Lab has also developed databases for several CITES

protected species and their “look-alikes” and is accredited under ISOI 7025 to conduct wood identifications.

Laboratory scientists also conducted research to develop new analytical techniques needed in wildlife forensics. For example, Service scientists developed and successfully applied new protocols for extracting amplifiable DNA from bile for use in species identification. This work will prove particularly useful in analyzing the species source of bile used in traditional Asian medicine, previously used methods could only identify to the family level.

Digital Evidence Recovery and Technical Support Unit



OLE staff uses “cutting edge” technology to assist agents investigating wildlife crimes.

The Service established its Digital Evidence Recovery and Technical Support Unit (DERTSU) in 2009 to provide special agents in the field with better support for retrieval and analysis of computer-based records and advanced surveillance techniques.

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

expertise (both technical and investigative) to assist field officers with large-scale and complex investigations.

2017 Program Performance



A Service K-9 and handler search for illegal wildlife at LAX international mail center.

In FY 2017, The Service will continue to utilize its network of special agent and international attachés to build on past successes in combating global wildlife trafficking. Investigations will continue to prioritize crimes that jeopardize wild populations of protected species that are nationally and internationally devastated by poaching, black market trafficking, and transnational profiteering.

The Service has established a professional wildlife detector dog program with three wildlife inspector/canine detection teams stationed at critical ports of entry to improve the interception of smuggled wildlife. Since the program started in the spring of 2014, these highly trained K-9 teams were used in over 430 inspections of

imports and exports that resulted in the refusal of at least 429 wildlife items (such as hunting trophies, feathers, furs, skins, raw coral, and shells) as well as 160 kilograms of wildlife parts and products (such as boots, shoes, purses, jewelry, caviar, and meats).

Through FY 2017, the Service will continue Operation Crash, its vastly successful long-term investigation 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. Due to OLE's Special Investigation Unit, over 30 subjects have been charged for illegally trafficking wildlife products.

The program will increase efforts to build wildlife law enforcement capacity in critical regions, including sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia. Additionally, the Service will provide investigative and technical assistance to authorities in countries such as Togo, the Philippines, in anticipation of potentially placing an attaché. Efforts to build wildlife law enforcement capacity overseas include training for forensic specialists from Southeast Asia and Australia, and participation in the conference of the Central American Dominican Republic Wildlife Enforcement Network in Costa Rica.

In FY 2016, Congress provided additional funding for wildlife trafficking. These funds are being used to increase the number of digital forensic specialists, international special agent attachés, special agents, and intelligence analysts. Digital forensic specialists support agents in case development and execution by providing forensic results concerning computers, cell phones, and other digital technologies. International attachés are experts on investigating wildlife trafficking and breaking up smuggling networks stationed around the world in strategic international locations to strengthen ongoing international partnerships to protect the world's wildlife from poaching and illegal trade. The Service plans to deploy an additional four international attachés in 2016. Exact locations have not been determined, but attachés will likely be stationed in areas where increased demand for illegal wildlife products has been observed. Intelligence analysts support special agents and wildlife inspectors working in the field in numerous ways, including providing information concerning trends in wildlife trafficking, researching information on smuggling syndicates, performing criminal history checks, and producing and distributing intelligence bulletins. By increasing staff in these vital areas of expertise, the Service has strengthened our own and our global partners' capacity to prosecute and deter criminals that engage in the poaching and smuggling of wildlife and plants.



A Service special agent instructs how to photo-document evidence at the International Law Enforcement Academy in Bangkok.

Law Enforcement - Combined Performance Change and Overview

Performance Goal	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Target	2017 PB	Change from 2016 Target to 2017 PB
6.5.1 - # of individuals and businesses conducting illegal activities involving migratory birds	2,510	1,824	1,452	1,299	1,400	1,350	-50
6.5.4 - % of investigations involving migratory birds	9.5% (1,147 of 12,034)	9.0% (935 of 10,422)	8.5% (757 of 8,952)	7.7% (711 of 9,281)	8.0% (746 of 9,300)	8.0% (750 of 9,350)	0.0%
7.33.4 - % of total investigations related to Threatened & Endangered species	18% (2,152 of 12,034)	18% (1,852 of 10,422)	18% (1,632 of 8,952)	18% (1,677 of 9,281)	18% (1,700 of 9,300)	19% (1,750 of 9,350)	0%
10.4.4 - % of investigations involving foreign species	71.6% (8,620 of 12,034)	73.2% (7,624 of 10,422)	74.7% (6,688 of 8,952)	77.5% (7,196 of 9,281)	75.8% (7,200 of 9,500)	75.5% (7,210 of 9,550)	-0.3%
10.4.5 - % of wildlife shipments containing foreign species	88% (162,805 of 185,002)	87% (157,065 of 180,368)	87% (157,264 of 181,411)	87% (162,787 of 187,453)	87% (163,000 of 188,000)	87% (163,050 of 188,100)	0%
Comments:	Applies to all measures above: Although difficult to predict due to reactive nature of law enforcement, minimal overall changes are projected in FY 2017. Increases in investigations involving threatened and endangered or foreign species anticipated because of increased emphasis placed on wildlife trafficking.						

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International Affairs



Activity: Conservation and Enforcement
Subactivity: International Affairs

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017				Change from 2016 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
International Conservation	(\$000)	7,183	7,211	+29	0	+1,050	8,290	+1,079
International Wildlife Trade	(\$000)	7,323	7,485	+41	0	+0	7,526	+41
Total, International Affairs	(\$000)	14,506	14,696	+70	0	+1,050	15,816	+1,120
	<i>FTE</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>81</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>+3</i>	<i>84</i>	<i>+3</i>

Summary of 2017 Program Changes for International Affairs

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• International Conservation: Arctic Council Support	+550	+1
• International Conservation: Wildlife Trafficking	+ 500	+2
Program Changes	+1,050	+3

Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for International Affairs is \$15,816,000 and 84 FTE, a program change of +\$1,050,000 and +3 FTE from the 2016 Enacted.

Arctic Council Support (+\$550,000/+1 FTE)

DOI is leading a range of Arctic Council initiatives under the U.S. chairmanship that focus on Arctic science, conservation, climate resilience, and ocean safety and stewardship. This increase will support the U.S. Chairmanship of the Arctic Council, and will enable the Service to chair the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Working Group. The Arctic Council is an intergovernmental forum that promotes cooperation on Arctic issues, especially relating to environmental protection and sustainable development. The Department’s leadership on U.S. chairmanship initiatives will result in a better understanding of climate resilience in the region, a circumpolar plan for the prevention and management for invasive species, and a pan-Arctic digital elevation model that will improve the quality of regional topographic information.

Most Arctic Council initiatives are carried out by six Working Groups. DOI participates in five of the six Arctic Council Working Groups and is the lead U.S. representative agency for the CAFF Working Group. Just as the Chair of the Arctic Council rotates every two years, the Chair of the CAFF also rotates every two years. The U.S., under DOI’s leadership, will assume the CAFF chairmanship starting in 2017.

These additional resources will enable the Service to lead international conservation and management in the Arctic, address priorities such as climate change, ecosystem-based management, biodiversity, resilience of tribal and native communities dependent on natural resources, and knowledge and public awareness of the Arctic's living resources. The Service will also focus on improving international cooperation on species of mutual concern with other Arctic countries and leveraging our conservation capacity in the Arctic with other government and community partners.

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

The Service is committed to advancing the President's *National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking* and actions articulated in the Implementation Plan. These strategic documents set forth a robust, whole-of-government approach that focuses on three key objectives to stem illegal wildlife trade: strengthening enforcement, reducing demand for illegally traded wildlife, and expanding international cooperation. Many species decimated by illegal trade and other threats, such as habitat loss, are now in danger of extinction, jeopardizing the survival of iconic species such as elephants and rhinos. Conservation efforts to protect biodiversity and preserve functioning ecosystems are critical to secure economic prosperity, regional stability, and human health around the world.

As many species share habitats across geopolitical boundaries and major ecosystems go beyond national boundaries, international conservation can only be achieved by collaborating with other nations. Current programmatic activities within regional grant programs (Western Hemisphere, Africa and Eurasia) already address key components of the Implementation Plan, including capacity development with foreign governments, community-based wildlife conservation, global demand reduction and the innovative use of technology to combat illegal trade in wildlife. In 2017, increased funding for wildlife trafficking will support a new Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) issued by the Service to provide financial assistance to projects in foreign source, transit, or consumer countries that advance counter-wildlife trafficking activities as outlined in the next steps of the National Strategy's Implementation Plan. This new NOFO, working in concert with ongoing regional activities, will streamline Service efforts to build further capacity, values, governance, and partnerships for species and habitat conservation with a focus on innovation through these programs.

Program Mission

The International Affairs program works with partners worldwide to conserve fish, wildlife, plants, and the habitats they depend on, and to maintain the integrity of ecological processes beyond our borders for present and future generations. Through this aim, the International Affairs Program leads 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.

Program Elements

The International Affairs program is comprised of the following program elements:

- International Conservation – These species and regional programs provide technical and financial assistance to governmental, non-governmental and community-based partners around the globe to conserve high-priority species and habitats across landscapes.
- International Wildlife Trade – This program is responsible for implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in the United States and to ensure international wildlife trade does not threaten the survival of animals and plants in the wild.



Left: African elephant mom and calf. Credit: Daphne Carlson Bremer. Right: Ivory trinkets before being destroyed during the U.S. Ivory Crush in Times Square Credit: Kelsey Williams/USFWS.

Applicable Laws, Acts, and Orders

The Service has the legal mandate and trust responsibility to engage in the conservation of wildlife species beyond our borders in the context of several long-standing commitments. These obligations are contained in domestic laws, international treaties, and other multilateral agreements, such as the 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, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention).

Program Overview

The survival of living resources important to the American public depends on effective international



Scarlet Macaw.

Credit: Chris Packham/Wildlife Conservation Society-Guatemala

conservation. Rampant poaching for ivory and rhino horn, in addition to climate change, wildlife disease, illegal and unsustainable trade in wildlife and plants, inadequate governance, and landscape-scale habitat alteration threaten species and habitats around the globe. The Service’s goal is to safeguard native species from the potential negative impacts of international trade and strengthen capacity within other countries to address conservation problems that affect the health and viability of species that are important to the U.S. economy and have intrinsic value to the American people. Working with private citizens, local communities, Federal and State agencies, foreign governments, U.S. and international non-governmental

organizations (NGOs), scientific and conservation organizations, industry groups, and other interested parties, the Service conserves species worldwide and ensures effective implementation of treaties and laws.

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

Building Capacity and Partnerships with a Focus on Innovation

The Service's international efforts emphasize investment in people, processes, and partnerships to accomplish wildlife conservation. The Service works with and through strategic partners to establish networks and strengthen the individual and institutional capacity to catalyze action and achieve long-term in-country solutions to wildlife conservation challenges.

Since 1989, the Service has provided more than 3,700 grants for international conservation totaling nearly \$200 million. The Service has worked with more than 700 partners in developing countries who have contributed more than \$320 million in additional non-Federal matching support for grant projects, more than doubling the impact of our funding. Through the International Conservation species and regional programs, the Service promotes, funds, facilitates, and supports vital efforts to build capacity in range countries and preserve the world's rich diversity of wildlife. These programs target cooperative conservation initiatives that set a positive tone for U.S. international relations around the globe, including in the Western Hemisphere, Africa, and Eurasia.

Since 2014, the Service has increased its focus on developing the capacity of foreign governments to effectively implement CITES, the principal international agreement to addresses unsustainable and illegal wildlife trade. The Service conducted capability and needs assessments in Gabon and Cameroon, and participated most recently in a wildlife trafficking needs assessment in Uganda. These efforts will determine each country's ability to implement CITES and fulfill their treaty obligations, and how the United States can best assist them with CITES implementation to ensure that trade in wildlife through their ports is both legal and sustainable. The Service is supporting the participation of Gabon and Cameroon in the highly-regarded CITES Master's Program. In partnership with the U.S. Agency for International Development's West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change (WA BICC) Program, the Service is supporting participation of 12 additional West African officials to the CITES Master's Program. These capacity-building efforts contribute to the future conservation of CITES-listed species and further strengthen our collaboration with partners.

The Service is committed to addressing unsustainable trade that is decimating lesser known species. For example, pangolins, prized for their meat and scales, are believed to be the most heavily trafficked mammal in the world.



Temminck's ground pangolin Credit: Tikki Hywood Trust

The Service is concerned that without concerted and strategic international cooperation and action, pangolins and other lesser known animals and plants threatened by illegal trade will disappear. In 2015, the Service mobilized international cooperation to plan critical conservation actions for pangolins, including funding the first Pangolin Range States Meeting in Da Nang, Vietnam. The Service has been instrumental in prompting CITES leadership to review and assess potential problems in implementation of the treaty with respect to two African pangolin species. The Service supports efforts to strengthen capacity of emerging conservation leaders and to improve the security of Central Africa's wildlife, including activities designed to reduce threats and/or target recovery of priority species, such as pangolins.

In the United States, the Service continues to set an example for conservation leadership, with actions that range from crushing ivory to addressing demand for illegal wildlife products that contribute to the decimation of wildlife populations in range states. In 2016 and 2017, the Service plans to expand public-private partnerships as a means to expand reach, raise awareness, and galvanize broad support for global wildlife conservation.

Conserving Priority Species and Habitat across Landscapes

Fish, wildlife, plants and the habitats they depend on are dynamic, responding to ecological events and processes occurring at multiple scales which range from local to global. The need for international collaboration has never been greater as species survival depends on the health of habitats that extend across political boundaries and require a landscape-level approach. Thousands of species throughout the world are currently facing the threat of extinction due to heavy poaching, illegal wildlife trade, human-wildlife conflict, disease, climate change, and disappearing habitats. The Service's landscape level approach promotes, facilitates, and supports vital conservation efforts across the globe in order to preserve the planet's rich diversity of wildlife for generations to come. Examples of Service grant support in 2015 include:

- Partnering with Gabon's National Park Service, to safeguard forest elephants and great apes, protect the resilience of tropical forests and biodiversity, and conserve ecologically important marine ecosystems as part of a five-year cooperative agreement;
- Supporting efforts to combat active fires in Indonesia to protect species dependent on at-risk forests;
- Partnering with the Organization of American States as part of the MESOAMERICA 2020 regional program to secure measurable progress towards the protection of Mesoamerica's five largest wild places by 2020;
- Strengthening transnational cooperation between Peru and Ecuador to combat wildlife trafficking in the tropical Andes through a shared database and stronger law enforcement protocols;



College students from 'Tiger' schools across the country come together to save their mascot through the National Tigers for Tigers Coalition. Credit: T4T Coalition

- Supporting a Central and West Africa regional coalition of improved wildlife law enforcement efforts through a cooperative agreement with the Eco Activists for Governance and Law Enforcement (EAGLE) Network, which has resulted in nearly 1,200 arrests and more than 900 convictions for wildlife crimes;
- Establishing a new national park in the Lomami Basin, Democratic Republic of the Congo in collaboration with local communities to protect bonobos, forest elephants, and other species.



Jaguar. Credit: Fabienne Lefevre Ya'axche/Conservation Trust

Collaboration, on-the-ground conservation, and capacity building continue to be priority areas for the Service in the Western Hemisphere and in Africa. For example, The Service is training young indigenous leaders in Mexico to teach their communities techniques for restoring the Lacandon and Calakmul rain forests using both traditional knowledge and ecological science. We are mitigating hunting pressure from the wild meat trade in Ecuador's Yasuni National Park and working with

the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management to conserve the black-footed ferret across the borders of Canada, the U.S., and Mexico.

In partnership with U.S. Government agencies and island governments, the Service is working on a major Caribbean-wide effort to develop a wildlife enforcement network (CaribWEN) to increase wildlife cooperation in the Caribbean. The development and implementation of multilateral wildlife enforcement networks is a key element in improving law enforcement and intelligence cooperation, and increasing enforcement success. This effort will deliver positive results for the Caribbean, as well as contribute to the Service's Caribbean Landscape Conservation Cooperative efforts.

Wildlife disease and wildlife trafficking is the focus of the Amphibians in Decline Fund, the only federal fund dedicated to addressing the precipitous declines and extinctions of global amphibian populations. In partnership with the University of Massachusetts - Boston, this project will test a new method of mucosal vaccination against chytrid fungus in the critically endangered Panama Golden Frog with the ultimate goal of developing a field trial for reintroductions.



*Grand Cayman ground iguana
Credit: Bruce Weissgold/USFWS*

The Service's responsibility to protect species from unsustainable harvest and trade has led to developing both regulatory and non-regulatory approaches to conserving 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 in 32 countries, including a number of species that play an important role in the health of our ecosystems and also the economy, such as:

- **Freshwater turtles:** 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, and traditional medicines. In 2016, the Service will finalize CITES listings for four native turtle species. As well, the Service will review the implementation of CITES listings for other native turtles to ensure that trade is legal and is not posing a threat to their survival. In 2017, the Service will engage with sState wildlife agencies and industry partners to ensure effective implementation of these new CITES listings.
- **North American paddlefish:** Highly prized for their roe (eggs), paddlefish are found in 22 States that are part of the Mississippi River basin. The Service has focused on improving the conservation of the species, including development of basin-wide management recommendations. In 2016, the Service will continue to work with partners with the aim of achieving the management of paddlefish at sustainable harvest levels across its range and ensure that caviar exports are not detrimental to the species' survival.
- **Wild American ginseng:** American ginseng roots are highly sought after for international trade due to their medicinal properties and are vulnerable to overexploitation. In 2016 and 2017, the Service will expand its efforts with partners to develop and implement management recommendations based on the results of genetic studies to ensure that stewardship activities provide maximum benefit. In light of recent reality television programs that depict ginseng as the "new gold" to Appalachian communities, the Service will also expand its 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.



American ginseng fruit Credit: Gary Kauffman/USFS

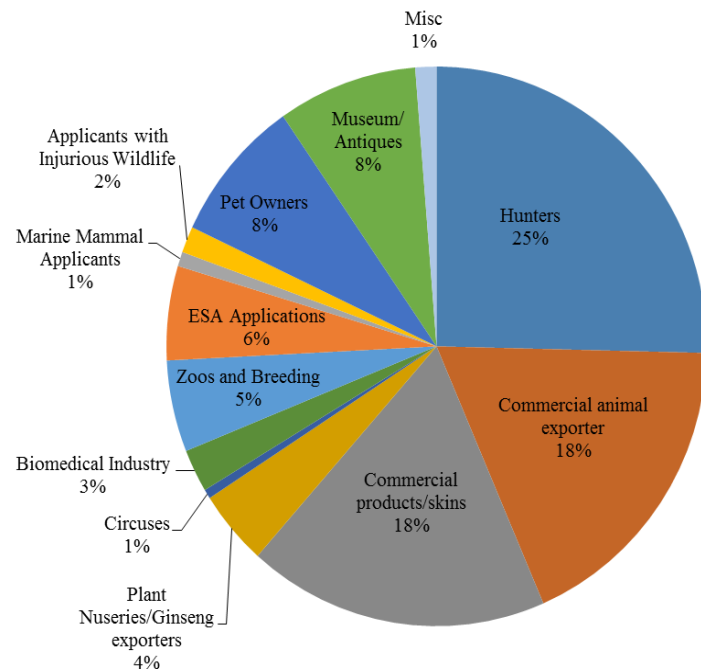
Conserving Species and Habitats through International Agreements

The Service has more than 40 years of experience 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 conserving fauna and flora, both in halting the trade in species threatened with extinction and in fostering sustainable use of other vulnerable species. The Service has long been a strong leader in CITES fora to advance international wildlife conservation, often chairing international working groups and serving in leadership roles on technical and advisory committees.

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 legal wildlife trade, currently valued in billions of dollars annually. 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 permitting system to regulate this trade is critical to ensure that 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 permit applicants 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 enhance the survival and not jeopardize the continued existence 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 help ensure that plant and animal trade is sustainable.

Breakdown of Permit Applications by Type



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 using these mechanisms to take firm actions to encourage conservation, the Service will ensure that CITES remains an effective and valuable tool to combat illegal and unsustainable trade.

Wildlife poaching and the trafficking of protected species, their parts, and products are a significant conservation challenge that the Service seeks to address partially by partnering and capacity building efforts. In 2013, in an effort to stem this escalating crisis, the President issued Executive Order 13648 to combat wildlife trafficking. The Executive Order established an interagency Presidential Task Force responsible for creating the *National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking*. The Service played an integral role in the development of the National Strategy, announced on February 11, 2014, as well as the subsequent implementation plan, announced one year later. The Strategy strengthens U.S. leadership to address the serious and urgent conservation and global security threats posed by illegal trade in wildlife. The strategy sets several key priorities: strengthening domestic and global enforcement, including

assessing the related laws, regulations and enforcement tools; reducing demand for illegally traded wildlife; and building international cooperation and public-private partnerships.

The Service has made great strides on all of these priorities, particularly with regard to assessing and tightening controls on domestic trade of African elephant ivory. On July 25, 2015, the Service announced proposed regulations to help ensure the United States is not contributing to the scourge of poaching that is decimating elephant populations and destabilizing governments. These regulations would prohibit interstate commerce in ivory, with specific, limited exceptions for certain pre-existing manufactured items such as antiques, musical instruments, furniture pieces, and firearms that contain less than 200 grams of ivory.



Confiscated wildlife items on display at the Crime & Punishment Museum. Credit: USFWS

The administration of the Ramsar Convention in the United States is a means by which the Service works with international conventions and treaties. The U.S. delegation co-chaired the reform of the Ramsar Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel to streamline the priorities, composition and activities of this panel to better support the Contracting Parties. In 2016, the program will prioritize the designation of underrepresented wetland ecosystem types, especially marine areas.

Motivating Conservation Actions by Raising Awareness and Support

In 2015, the Service established an Office of Outreach & Communications within the International Affairs Program to increase awareness about conservation issues of global concern and drive individual actions to protect wildlife and their habitats. By utilizing different forms of social media and adapting to new technologies, the Service is able to demonstrate its leadership in protecting wildlife and highlight successful projects that can serve as models for conservation. Through targeted communications campaigns, the Service engages with stakeholder groups to inform them of legal protections that exist for species and how to avoid potential violations of the law by clarifying which activities may require a permit.

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 in November 2013, sending a clear message to poachers and smugglers that the United States will not tolerate wildlife trafficking.



Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell delivers remarks at the U.S. Ivory Crush in Times Square Credit: Kelsey Williams USFWS

This action sparked global discussion and encouraged a number of other countries to follow suit. On June 19, 2015, the Service held its second ivory crush in Times Square, New York City, and destroyed ivory from seizures and cases that had been resolved since the first crush in 2013. Approximately one ton of elephant ivory was destroyed including full tusks, carved tusks, hundreds of smaller carvings, and other objects. The Service will continue the positive impacts of the U.S. Ivory Crush by using the crushed ivory to raise awareness about the poaching crisis and reduce demand for illegal wildlife products. A global design challenge was launched calling on students, artists, conservationists, advertising agencies and design professionals, to create an educational tool or exhibit using the crushed ivory. The winning designs will be produced and replicated for use in zoos and aquariums, as well as airports, schools and other public facilities across the United States, using the crushed ivory to connect with the public in a visceral, emotional way.

2017 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 and public awareness campaign will help reduce demand. As the implementing agency for both

domestic and international wildlife trade laws, the Service plays a leading role in domestic consumer demand-reduction communications and outreach.

The Service will continue to work with importers and exporters of wildlife products to ensure compliance with the law and to educate on the permitting process. The Service will continue to engage with specific industry and interest groups, including musical instrument manufacturers, musicians, veterinarians, fishermen, pet owners, hunters, captive breeders, the travel industry, and animal welfare and environmental nongovernmental organizations. Further, the Service plans to finalize its efforts to move to a paperless permitting process to facilitate the U.S. Government's "single window" procedures for all imports and exports.

Much of 2017 will be spent implementing decisions made at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17) to CITES. Those decisions are likely to include significant recommendations for iconic species impacted by wildlife trafficking such as elephants, rhinos, tigers, and polar bears, as well as lesser known species such as pangolins, American eel, nautilus, African softshell turtles, pygmy chameleons, goldenseal, and African grey parrots. CITES provides the necessary framework for global cooperation to combat wildlife trafficking now and far into the future, yet its success hinges on proper implementation by all Parties. To that end, the Service will continue to expand its capacity-building activities, providing financial and technical assistance to foreign CITES authorities.



Polar bear Credit: Terry Debruyne/USFWS

In 2017, the Service will continue to support the most promising and innovative on-the-ground conservation projects and build the capacity of conservationists to reduce threats to wildlife. This effort will include support for securing habitats and monitoring species, improving anti-poaching patrols and enhancing wildlife law enforcement in range countries, and reducing illegal and unsustainable demand for protected wildlife.

The Service continues to use treaties and conventions to conserve wetlands and the migratory species of the Western Hemisphere. In 2015, the Service developed monitoring guidance to build a better evidence base for conservation, providing examples of indicators of program performance for key threats and suggested conservation actions to address these threats. The Service developed a results-based vision for conservation in Central Africa in 2015 and is now finalizing strategic plans for its Western Hemisphere and Eurasia programs. These strategic plans complement the inherent strategies outlined in the legislation of the Multinational Species Conservation Funds.

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. Further, the Service will work with partners and key stakeholder groups to ensure that Service initiatives have a strong communications, outreach, and educational component to raise awareness of Service conservation efforts and their local and global importance.

International Affairs – Combined Program Change and Overview Table

Performance Goal	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Target	2017 PB	Change from 2016 Target to 2017 PB
CSF 10.1 - Number of international species of management concern whose status has been improved in cooperation with affected countries (GPRA)	36	36	36	40	35	35	0
CSF 10.2 - Influence the conservation of X species of international concern through the wildlife trade permitting program (GPRA)	179	179	179	179	179	179	0
CSF 10.3 - Facilitate the conservation of X species through federal assistance awards and leveraged funds or in-kind resources (GPRA)	32	32	32	44	44	44	0

Fish and Aquatic Conservation

FISH AND AQUATIC CONSERVATION

Activity: Fish and Aquatic Conservation

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Change From 2016 Enacted (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
National Fish Hatchery Operations	(\$000)	52,860	53,418	+341	0	0	53,759	+341
	FTE	331	331	0	0	0	331	0
Maintenance and Equipment	(\$000)	17,920	19,920	0	0	+3,000	22,920	+3,000
	FTE	63	72	0	0	0	72	0
Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation	(\$000)	71,198	74,918	+453	0	+779	76,150	+1,232
	FTE	277	334	0	0	+3	337	+3
Total, Fish and Aquatic Conservation	(\$000)	141,978	148,256	+794	0	+3,779	152,829	+4,573
	FTE	671	737	0	0	+3	740	+3

Summary of 2017 Program Changes for Fish and Aquatic Conservation

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Deferred Maintenance	+3,000	0
• Fish Passage Improvements	+1,500	0
• Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention	+669	+3
• Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement	-1,390	0
Program Changes	+3,779	+3

Program Mission

The Fish and Aquatic Conservation program works to recover and restore endangered, threatened and imperiled species, fulfill Tribal trust and mitigation responsibilities, and conserve fisheries and other aquatic resources. The Service works to restore habitat across landscapes, prevent and control invasive species, assist Native American Tribes and other partners in managing their fish and wildlife resources, advance fisheries and aquatic sciences and technologies, foster outdoor recreational opportunities, educate the public on the economic and ecological benefits of aquatic species and their habitats, and address new and emerging challenges such as climate change.

Program Elements

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

- National Fish Hatchery System –propagates healthy, genetically diverse aquatic species to help re-establish wild populations, conducts applied scientific research, diagnoses aquatic animal health, conducts monitoring and evaluation of hatchery products needed to support operations, and develops mathematical management models to conserve fisheries in the face of climate change.
- Maintenance and Equipment – provides significant maintenance and upkeep for the 72 National Fish Hatcheries, one historic fish hatchery, and 65 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices to carry out the mission of the Service and ensure the safety of employees and visitors.

- Habitat Assessment and Restoration – improves habitat for aquatic organisms through programs, such as the National Fish Habitat Partnership and National Fish Passage Program, coordinated through the Fish and Aquatic Conservation Offices.
- Population Assessment and Cooperative Management – works in cooperation with Federal, State or Tribal partners to understand current and emerging challenges faced by our Nation’s aquatic resources and proactively manage these complex systems. The Fish and Aquatic Conservation Offices are the on-the-ground fish conservation arm of the Service.
- Aquatic Invasive Species – prevents or reduces the introduction and spread of invasive species, a primary threat to the Nation’s natural resources. This is accomplished through leadership in the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, Injurious Wildlife Listings, and several national invasive species campaigns.

Applicable Laws, Acts, and Orders

The Service’s Fish and Aquatic Conservation program is authorized by and operates under a wide range of statutes, treaties, compacts, court orders, mitigation agreements, and cooperative agreements. The most relevant statutory authorities include: the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, which directs the implementation of fisheries programs in support of the inherent right of every citizen and resident to fish, while also maintaining and increasing opportunities for the recreational use of fish and wildlife resources; the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, which authorizes the use of water project lands by the Service and requires mitigation measures to be considered as an integral part of a Federal or federally-licensed water project; the Endangered Species Act, which provides for the propagation of endangered and threatened species at National Fish Hatcheries; the Mitchell Act, which established and authorizes funding for salmon culture stations in the Columbia River Basin, which includes many facilities operated by the Service; and, the Colorado River Storage Project Act, which directs the Secretary of the Interior to mitigate losses to habitat and improve conditions for fish and wildlife within the Upper Colorado River Basin. Additionally, the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, created under provisions of the National Invasive Species Act, coordinates nationwide activities to deal with aquatic nuisance species, while the Lacey Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to regulate the importation and transport of injurious species.

Program Overview

The Nation’s fisheries are among the most abundant and diverse in the world and provide scientific, aesthetic, recreational, commercial, subsistence, cultural, social, and economic benefits to the American people. However, many aquatic organisms and habitats are declining at alarming rates, outpacing conservation efforts. Almost 400 aquatic animal and plant species now require special protection in some part of their natural range, largely due to 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 the temperature, timing, and amount of stream flows.

The growing complexity of fisheries and aquatic habitat conservation underscores the need for the Service to focus its resources to best address the Nation’s highest priority conservation needs. Conservation of aquatic resources is built on a foundation of sound science, strategic implementation, and broad collaboration through partnerships. The Service is working with other Federal, State, tribal, non-governmental organizations, and industries to identify and address the highest-priority conservation actions, with the goals of developing self-sustaining populations of native aquatic species and healthy, contiguous, intact habitats.

To address the challenges facing trust aquatic resources, the Service employs over 700 professional staff in an integrated network of 154 facilities, including 72 National Fish Hatcheries, one historic fish hatchery, 65 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices, nine Fish Health Centers, seven Fish Technology Centers, and the Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership Program.



Wild coastal brook trout being held in net pens prior to spawning. Credit: USFWS

Service professionals perform scientific assessments of the health, status, and trends of populations of priority species; measure the quantity and ecological function of important aquatic habitat; identify specific pathways for potential movement of invasive species and disease-causing pathogens; and work through

partnerships to manage and conserve aquatic habitats. The Service works with partners to implement cost-effective, corrective conservation measures to restore habitat, such as restoring fish passage and reconnecting fragmented streams. Service hatcheries raise native fishes, mussels, crustaceans, amphibians, and imperiled aquatic plants for recovery, to preclude the need for listing under the Endangered Species Act, and to help sustain recreational, commercial, and Tribal fisheries.

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 America's Great Outdoors (AGO), a Presidential initiative by working with partners to benefit urban watersheds and underserved Americans.

The Service's recently released *Strategic Plan for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program: FY 2016-2020* (Plan) to address today's conservation challenges. Most notably, these include: habitat loss, fragmentation, and degradation of habitat; overharvest; competition for water; introduction and establishment of invasive species; and climate change. Collectively, these conservation challenges not only continue to pose significant risks to the Nation's freshwater aquatic and other natural resources, but increasingly jeopardize the ecological, recreational, and economic benefits those resources provide to the Nation. This Plan provides a framework for guiding the FAC program over the next five years. In the near-term, it will help focus limited resources and capacity on the highest priorities of the Service and its partners. However, the Plan, as a living document, should continue to incorporate new information in meeting both current and emerging conservation challenges.

Economic Benefits

The economic value of fisheries conservation is substantial and well documented. *Net Worth: The Economic Value of Fisheries Conservation, Fall 2011*¹, an economic study published by the Service's Division of Economics, revealed that work completed by FAC contributes the following benefits to the American economy:

¹ <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/fisheries/Lowres2USFWSEconomicReport11-2%20b.pdf>

- Generates \$3.6 billion in annual total economic impact contributions to the American economy;
- Annually generates \$28 in economic return for each Federal dollar invested;
- Creates 68,000 jobs in a multitude of businesses; and
- Returns benefits 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 revenue from recreational angling.

The positive environmental, social, and economic effects stemming from the Service’s work are of growing importance to communities nationwide, as the health and well-being of Americans are linked to the health and well-being of nature. The Service’s work to improve or restore aquatic habitats, by extension fish populations, is directly linked to increases in angling opportunities and fishing success. These improvements, which lead to increased public participation in aquatic based recreational activities, serve as a primary means of connecting children and adults with aquatic habitat and resources and enjoyment of the outdoors. Fishing is a multi-cultural, multi-generational experience, and is a gateway activity for engagement in conservation.



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

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Change From 2016 Enacted (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
National Fish Hatchery Operations	(\$000)	52,860	53,418	+341	0	0	53,759	+341
	FTE	331	331	0	0	0	331	0

Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for the National Fish Hatchery Operations is \$53,759,000 and 331 FTE, no program change from the 2016 Enacted.

Program Overview

The National Fish Hatchery System (NFHS) consists of 72 National Fish Hatcheries, one historic National Fish Hatchery, nine Fish Health Centers, seven Fish Technology Centers, and the Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership Program. The NFHS operates under the authority of numerous treaties and consent decrees, statutes, and recovery and restoration plans. 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 Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs).

A unique network of highly-skilled scientists that work with hundreds of State, tribal, international and non-governmental organizations, and private citizens to conserve federally-listed and non-listed aquatic species. The NFHS also provides emergency refugia for sensitive aquatic populations threatened by wildfire, drought, and other events exacerbated by climate change and ensures that new aquatic animal drugs are safe, effective, and approved for use in conservation and commerce to sustain fish population health and prevent diseases spreading in aquatic communities.

In 2015, 60 fish species (listed and non-listed) and 31 species of amphibians, arthropods, mollusks, plants, and others were propagated and distributed from 67 NFHS facilities. Among this network, 52 facilities implemented 385 recovery actions as called for in approved Recovery Plans and Biological Opinions, benefitting 81 Federally-listed species. These facilities also provided refugia for 30 listed species facing catastrophic events such as wildfires, droughts, or floods. To help avoid further declines and ESA-listings, NFHS facilities also implemented over 1,500 tasks benefitting 70 non-listed species, as called for in Fisheries Management Plans and other agreements in FY 2015.

The Service’s NFHS provides water and habitats along lakes, rivers, and streams on many hatcheries that attract a wide range of bird species, especially during annual migrations and the nesting season. Stations near the arid U.S./Mexico border are especially important because they

Conservation Genetics Laboratories

These laboratories support conservation and management needs of the FWS and its partners, including using genetic DNA methods to meet real-time fishery needs to conserve and manage species. For example, in 2015 the Abernathy Fish Technology Center used genetic markers to compare late returning coho to the hatchery stocks and to adjacent wild populations of coho salmon. Understanding the impacts of hatchery operation on adjacent wild populations is critical for the conservation of the species and has implications for commercial fish production as well.

protect waters and the surrounding natural areas that are vital to migrating birds. These sites also provide wildlife viewing opportunities, often enhanced by birding societies or Friends groups.

Science and Technology

The Fish Technology Centers (FTCs) provide the scientific foundation for recovery and restoration programs, and enable fisheries professionals to more effectively carry out their work. The seven FTCs conduct applied research in the areas of animal culture biology, genetics, ecological physiology, nutrition, and cryopreservation. Professional staff provides expertise in biometrics and modeling that aid in management decisions, ready access to cost effective applied research tools to solve problems, and answer pressing conservation questions. The diverse research and analytical capabilities and knowledge gained through FTC studies inform future conservation actions. Service FTCs have published nearly 1,000 papers in peer reviewed journals over the last 30 years, including 34 papers in 2015. These publications cover a broad range of topics, which allow their findings to have an impact well beyond the Service.



Nathan Eckert, Mussel Propagation Biologist at the Genoa NFWF was awarded the 2014 Rachel Carson Award for Scientific Excellence Credit: USFWS

Aquatic Animal Health

Aquatic animal health biologists housed in nine Fish Health Centers (FHCs) detect, monitor, and mitigate disease-causing pathogens. Their findings inform conservation decisions concerning captive fishes at hatcheries and in the wild. Fish health professionals also investigate emerging health issues, such as expected threats from global climate change, which could increase the introduction or spread of dangerous aquatic pathogens.



*Sampling wild caught American shad for disease testing
Credit: Patricia Barbash/USFWS*

The FHCs are at the hub of the Service's aquatic animal health program. They guide the Service's implementation of the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service and the Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. The FHCs are also an integral part of the Nation's aquatic animal health testing system: the National Animal Health Laboratory Network. This network of standardized testing facilities serves as the preeminent source of information on the status of aquatic animal pathogens in the wild and facilitates interstate and international commerce of aquatic animals, while protecting the natural resources of the U.S.

The Aquatic Animal Drug Partnership (AADAP) program was established in 1994 to ensure Service compliance with the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act and to ensure the health and fitness of Service-released and wild fish. AADAP works with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and other Federal agencies, State agencies, Tribes, academic institutions, and private partners to obtain FDA

approval of safe and effective new drugs needed for aquaculture and fisheries management. AADAP is the only program in the country singularly focused on obtaining critically needed new drugs for use in aquatic species, the nationally recognized leader in such collaborative efforts.

AADAP's National Investigational New Animal Drug (INAD) Program provides fisheries professionals across the country with legal access to a variety of experimental drugs that AADAP is working on in pursuit of FDA approval, but would otherwise be unavailable. In FY 2015, AADAP generated data and coordinated partnership efforts to support the future approval of 14 drugs that are currently in the "approval-pipeline." These drugs are critical to the health and fitness of fish held in captivity and in the wild, many of which are key to restoration, recovery, recreational fishing, and other management activities by the Service and its many partners. In addition to Service facilities, over 250 non-Service facilities (e.g., Federal, State, tribal, and private) in 45 States receive direct benefits by participating in this unique program each year.

In addition to Federal appropriations, the program receives financial support from cost-reimbursable dollars generated by the National INAD Program and FDA research grants. In FY 2015, the Service strived to make AADAP even more financially self-sufficient by obtaining significant additional funding from research grants and increasing INAD fees, which had remained unchanged since 1999.

Recreation

Conservation of fishes and their habitats enhances angling opportunities. The Service's responsibilities and authorities for native fish and recreational fishing are established in a variety of laws and executive orders that support the activities of more than 58 million recreational anglers. According to the 2011 peer-reviewed economic report, *Conserving America's Fisheries, An Assessment of Economic Contributions from Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation*², recreational angling resulting from NFH stocking programs annually generates approximately \$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.



*Kid's Fishing Derby and Watershed Festival, Bozeman, MT.
Credit: USFWS*

Conservation Education

Hatcheries are integral parts of the communities in which they are located. Through the NFHS Volunteer Act of 2006, the Service offers outdoor classroom opportunities for over one million youth each year. The Service provides hands-on experiences, opportunities for discovery, and improves the public's understanding for the need to conserve America's unique and diverse aquatic species and habitats. The Program delivers a wide array of formal and informal conservation education programs, both on and off Service property.

² <http://www.fws.gov/home/feature/2011/pdf/FisheriesEconomicReport.pdf>

The National Fisheries Friends Partnership supports the Service in the regions and helps 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 almost 75 FTEs.



*(YCC) employees helping with the grading of Lake Sturgeon
Credit: USFWS*

The Service works 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 centers, minorities, and women. The Pathways program, rural and Tribal Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) programs, and the Biologist-in-Training Program complement these early learning experiences to encourage youth to consider 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 and understanding about teamwork, the local natural environment, and conservation practices. Several former YCC participants are now employed by the Service.

Mitigation

Through the NFHS, the Service supplies fish for partner agencies to mitigate the adverse effects of Federal water development projects constructed by other Federal agencies. Following direction from Congress and the Office of Management and Budget, the Service announced in FY 2012 that it no longer intended to fund fish production operations to mitigate for impacts associated with Federal water development projects. Mitigation propagation programs to address the impacts of these projects are now funded in part through a user-pay system and depend on outside funding to reimburse the Service for most costs. Over the past several years, the Service and its partners, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tennessee Valley Authority, and others, have successfully developed agreements to help cover most of the costs associated with mitigation fish production.

National Fish Hatchery System Overview Table

Performance Goal	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Target	2017 PB	Change from 2016 Target to 2017 PB
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)	17% (39 of 233)	24% (45 of 185)	24% (44 of 183)	24% (45 of 186)	23% (43 of 184)	23% (43 of 184)	0%
5.1.2.3 - % of populations of native aquatic non-T&E species that are self-sustaining in the wild, as prescribed in management plans - NFHS	1% (20 of 1,487)	1% (20 of 1,523)	1% (22 of 1,490)	1% (22 of 1,492)	2% (23 of 1,468)	2% (23 of 1,468)	0%
5.3.1.3 - % of tasks implemented, as prescribed in management plans - NFHS	30% (1,601 of 5,305)	25% (1,709 of 6,773)	24% (1,679 of 7,095)	25% (1,862 of 7,464)	27% (2,156 of 8,004)	27% (2,156 of 8,004)	0%
5.3.8 - # of data-related submissions made to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to complete technical section requirements for the approval of new animal drugs for use in aquatic species for which FDA assigns a Document Control Number.	123	67	70	107	96	96	0
CSF 7.21 - Percent of populations of aquatic threatened and endangered species (T&E) that are self-sustaining in the wild	11% (80 of 711)	11% (75 of 680)	12% (85 of 698)	12% (85 of 710)	12% (85 of 711)	12% (85 of 711)	0%
7.21.1.3 - % of populations of aquatic threatened and endangered species (T&E) that are self-sustaining in the wild - NFHS	3% (21 of 711)	3% (22 of 680)	3% (22 of 698)	3% (22 of 710)	3% (22 of 711)	3% (22 of 711)	0%
7.21.5.3 - % of tasks implemented as prescribed in Recovery Plans - NFHS	28% (419 of 1,471)	24% (401 of 1,670)	26% (410 of 1,588)	25% (434 of 1,707)	25% (469 of 1,900)	25% (469 of 1,900)	0%
13.1.5 - % of NFHS historic structures in FWS inventory that are in good condition (GPRA)	70% (26 of 37)	71% (27 of 38)	84% (32 of 38)	87% (33 of 38)	87% (33 of 38)	87% (33 of 38)	0%
13.2.3 - % of NFHS cultural collections in FWS inventory are in good condition (GPRA)	100% (1 of 1)	100% (1 of 1)	100% (1 of 1)	100% (1 of 1)	100% (1 of 1)	100% (1 of 1)	0%
15.4.1.3 - % of mitigation tasks implemented as prescribed in approved management plans - NFHS	106% (86 of 81)	73% (94 of 129)	74% (104 of 140)	63% (99 of 157)	66% (99 of 149)	66% (99 of 149)	0%

Performance Goal	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Target	2017 PB	Change from 2016 Target to 2017 PB
15.4.6.3 - % of fish populations at levels sufficient to provide quality recreational fishing opportunities - NFHS	3% (46 of 1,322)	6% (64 of 1,154)	4%(47 of 1,149)	4% (47 of 1,160)	5% (58 of 1,150)	5% (58 of 1,150)	0%
15.4.8 - # of aquatic outreach and education activities and/or events	2,909	2,930	2,548	5,072	2,275	2,275	0
15.4.12 - Total # of visitors to NFHS facilities	2,236,661	1,469,545	1,552,448	1,316,950	1,183,810	1,183,810	0
52.1.2 - # of volunteer participation hours are supporting Fisheries objectives for Hatcheries	110,835	97,732	101,036	85,381	74,418	74,418	0
CSF 18.1 - Percent of planned tasks implemented for Tribal fish and wildlife conservation as prescribed by Tribal plans or agreements	68% (367 of 538)	63% (366 of 586)	62% (416 of 668)	60% (480 of 798)	61% (500 of 820)	60% (591 of 982)	-1%
18.1.2 - % of planned tasks implemented for Tribal fish and wildlife conservation as prescribed by Tribal plans or agreements - NFHS	28% (186 of 670)	29% (180 of 630)	32% (204 of 629)	29% (221 of 761)	22% (220 of 982)	22% (220 of 982)	0%

Activity: Fish and Aquatic Conservation
Subactivity: Maintenance and Equipment

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Budget Request	Change From 2016 Enacted (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
National Fish Hatchery Maintenance and Equipment	(\$000)	17,402	19,402	0	0	+3,000	22,402	+3,000
	FTE	63	72	0	0	0	72	0
FWCO Maintenance and Equipment	(\$000)	518	518	0	0	0	518	0
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total, Maintenance and Equipment	(\$000)	17,920	19,920	0	0	+3,000	22,920	+3,000
	FTE	72	72	0	0	0	72	0

Summary of 2017 Program Changes for Maintenance and Equipment

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Deferred Maintenance	+3,000	0
Program Changes	+3,000	0

Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for Maintenance and Equipment is \$22,920,000 and 72 FTE, a program change of +\$3,000,000 and +0 FTE from the 2016 Enacted.

Deferred Maintenance (+\$3,000,000/+0 FTE)

The Service uses Deferred Maintenance funding on constructed assets to address the backlog of deferred maintenance projects that are too large and complex to be addressed with Annual Maintenance funding. At the end of FY 2015, the deferred maintenance backlog for the NFHS totaled \$168 million. The requested increase in the 2017 Budget will help reduce the overall backlog and slow the degradation of the NFHS’s aging infrastructure. This will ensure the health and safety of our employees and visitors, improve the condition of our mission critical water management assets, and allow the Service to maintain NFHS capabilities for production of fish and other aquatic species. With the requested increase, the Service anticipates funding approximately nine additional projects. Projects may include replacing a furnace at the North Attleboro NFH, repairing the air ventilation/exhaust system to correct a mold and mildew issue at the Craig Brook NFH, or rehabilitating the electrical system to install a new hydro-electric plant at Hotchkiss NFH.

Program Overview

Properly functioning assets and equipment used in water delivery and outflow in the NFHS are essential to conservation and safety of Service employees and visitors. A comprehensive, proactive asset management system ensures adequate water flow and quality to sustain captive aquatic populations to meet recovery, restoration, and tribal trust responsibilities identified in Recovery Plans, Fishery Management Plans, and other agreements.

National Fish Hatchery System Maintenance and Equipment

Maintenance and Equipment funds allow the Service to provide timely upkeep of hatchery property and equipment; purchase maintenance-related supplies; and repair, rehabilitate, or replace constructed assets. The Service's ability to accomplish its mission is largely determined by the condition of key assets associated with water delivery, aquatic species culture, and effluent management. These assets deliver, treat, and discharge water from hatcheries and regulate the environment to maximize and optimize survival of aquatic organisms. Although the reliability of these assets is especially important with respect to threatened and endangered species, three-fourths of the NFHS' \$2.4 billion of real property assets are considered mission-critical water management assets.



*Snow removal at Pendills Creek NFH, Michigan.
Credit: USFWS*

Environmental concerns and energy costs have increased over time, prompting the Service to also track energy use by station and, in some cases, by asset. To help reduce the Service'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 technologies, and renewable energy systems. Annual analysis of the greatest energy-consuming stations, along with metering, will help significantly reduce energy use. Required energy audits every five years have continued to focus our attention on wisely utilizing energy.

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

Annual Maintenance

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

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. A rigorous condition assessment process ensures that repair needs are determined objectively and associated costs are appropriately estimated using industry standards. The Service's Asset Management Plan and Regional Asset Business Plans are used to manage assets, address repair needs, and dispose of assets that are low in priority or excess to the Government's needs.

Service Asset & Maintenance Management System (SAMMS)

Under the auspices of the Occupational Safety and Health Act and DOI standards, the Service developed an Asset Management Plan that guides management of the NFHS' \$2.4 billion in essential real and personal property inventories, including systematic and objective tracking, evaluation, reporting of asset condition, and prioritization of asset management. Using the Service Asset Maintenance Management System (SAMMS), an integrated web-based information system, the Service standardizes asset management, corroborates deferred maintenance needs with objective condition assessment data, identifies short- and long-term maintenance needs, and analyzes annual operating and maintenance expenditures.

Deferred Maintenance

Three-fourths of NFHS assets are mission-critical water management assets that are currently in fair condition. Fully functional properties and equipment are key to the long-term success of the NFHS. 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 the Service's care. The Service has identified \$168 million in current deferred maintenance needs for the NFHS. The 5-Year Deferred Maintenance/Construction Plan prioritizes the projects of greatest need.

Equipment: Routine Maintenance, Repair, and Replacement

Equipment is also 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) require routine maintenance. With proper storage, operation, and maintenance by qualified personnel, equipment can remain in a safe, operating condition.

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 the Service's equipment operators from Refuges may work on hatcheries, saving costs.

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 specialized fisheries 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.



Field equipment is disinfected to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. Credit: USFWS

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

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Change From 2016 Enacted (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Habitat Assessment and Restoration	(\$000)	28,321	28,641	+79	0	+110	28,830	+189
	FTE	96	103	0		0	103	0
Population Assessment and Cooperative Management	(\$000)	30,821	30,821	+339	0	0	31,160	+339
	FTE	141	164	0	0	0	164	0
Aquatic Invasive Species	(\$000)	12,056	15,456	+35	0	+669	16,160	+704
	FTE	40	67	0	0	+3	70	+3
Total, Aquatic Habitat & Species Conservation	(\$000)	71,198	74,918	+453	0	+779	76,150	+1,232
	FTE	277	334	0	0	+3	337	+3

Summary of 2017 Program Changes for Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Fish Passage Improvements	+1,500	0
• Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement	-1,390	0
• Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention	+669	+3
Program Changes	+779	+3

Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation is \$76,150,000 and 337 FTE, a program change of +\$779,000 and +3 FTE from the 2016 Enacted.

Fish Passage Improvements (+\$1,500,000/+0 FTE)

This increase will improve the quality of water resources for aquatic life and human communities through the implementation of fish passage projects that reconnect fragmented aquatic habitat—helping to restore natural ecosystem function—and also improve road conditions.

The Service's focus will be on projects with the potential to reconnect large portions of the watershed to benefit fish and aquatic species, producing the largest return on investment. The Service plans to select projects for funding in conjunction with local and State partners, using the best available science to evaluate ecological benefits of these projects. Projects funded will improve fish passage, increase flood resiliency, and reduce the construction of new and unnecessary barriers. For example, in one potential project, the Service would restore habitat for the endangered bull trout and—if successful—prevent listing of the westlope cutthroat trout by working with partners and private landowners on a voluntary basis to address fish passage issues on their small water diversions in the upper Clark Fork River in Montana. In a separate proposed project, the Service would work to address the four remaining impediments to fish passage for the endangered Lahontan cutthroat trout on the Truckee River in Nevada. Restoring passage at these four barriers would allow migrating Lahontan cutthroat trout to access Lake Tahoe, their natural spawning ground, for the first time since 1903 and would build on a major

conservation victory for this species in 2014, when the Lahontan cutthroat had its first recorded natural spawning migration in 76 years.

Klamath Basin (-\$1,390,000/+0 FTE)

Funds will be redirected to higher priority habitat assessment and restoration work while still providing habitat monitoring, planning, and restoration activities to those species most critically in need in the Klamath Basin.

Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention (+\$669,000/+3 FTE)

Preventing aquatic invasive species from entering an aquatic system and becoming established is the most cost-effective and efficient way to prevent the deleterious impacts of non-native species on trust resources, other native plants and animals, recreational opportunities, and communities.

The Service will use this requested increase as follows:

- \$200,000 for conducting risk assessments to evaluate potentially invasive species. These assessments provide the public, industry, and State and Federal decision makers with valuable information to better prioritize and manage the greatest threats;
- \$400,000 for using risk assessment results to improve Federal regulatory processes and enable the Service to more effectively manage invasive species, especially those that are new to the U.S.; and,
- \$69,000 for enhancing collaborative and voluntary partnerships with industry and States to yield sustainable and less environmentally costly business practices, such as Habitattitude™ (a consumer awareness campaign), industry “no trade” agreements, and new boat design and construction.

Program Overview

The 65 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices (Fisheries offices) are the on-the-ground fisheries management capacity for the Service. In addition to managing and restoring nationally significant fish populations, they monitor and assess aquatic populations and their habitats to provide essential information in managing these resources. These data inform resource management decisions and yield on-the-ground conservation actions as Fisheries offices collaborate with partners, States, Tribes, and other Federal agencies.

A 2008 report by a U.S. Geological Survey-led team documented a substantial decline among 700 freshwater fishes in North America³. Among other factors, sea-level rise, temperature elevations, and precipitation changes are causing devastating effects in the Nation’s fisheries. The work of Fisheries offices provides an understanding of current conditions and stressors; establishes trends and addresses environmental impacts on fisheries; identifies sensitive



*Fishery Biologist with Gulf Sturgeon.
Credit: Kayla Kimmel/USFWS*

³ 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.

aquatic ecosystems, key processes, and critical information gaps; and leads to the implementation of management plans and projects.

Habitat Assessment and Restoration Program Overview

Fisheries offices play an especially important role in the implementation of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (Action Plan) and the National Fish Passage Program, two habitat assessment and restoration programs vital in meeting the Service’s mission. Through its network of Fisheries offices, the Service organizes and implements projects with partners, provides technical expertise, enlists voluntary efforts of landowners and local communities, and delivers cost-shared resources to complete projects that improve environmental conditions and restore ecological connectivity to strengthen the resiliency of our Nation’s aquatic resources against future threats.

Although the Action Plan and the Fish Passage program are the primary tools for project delivery and funding streams available to Fisheries offices, they also work with LCCs, Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Coastal Program, and other agencies to deliver science and restoration projects using an adaptive management approach with the understanding that water is the common thread that binds these critical habitats together.

National Fish Habitat Action Plan

The Action Plan links thousands of people and organizations across America in a common effort to improve the science and effectiveness of aquatic habitat conservation. The Action Plan 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: large, connected, healthy aquatic areas that improve the economy and quality of



life for the American people. Nineteen 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 habitat conditions. Utilizing these broad stakeholder groups, which are instrumental to fully implementing the program, the Service increases public understanding and commitment to conservation.

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 Fish Habitat Partnerships, all of which have governance structures, strategic plans, scientific capabilities, and sponsor projects to protect, restore, or enhance aquatic habitats.

Since 2006, the Service has provided \$27.7 million of Action Plan funds to support 744 fish habitat conservation projects in all 50 States, leveraging \$87.2 million in partner contributions. These projects improved the resiliency of vulnerable species to the effects of climate change and other perturbations by protecting or improving flow, connectivity, or other physical habitat conditions, as well as developed monitoring or decision support tools to support biological planning and aquatic conservation by partners, including LCCs.

- | <u>Action Plan Objectives</u> |
|--|
| 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 |

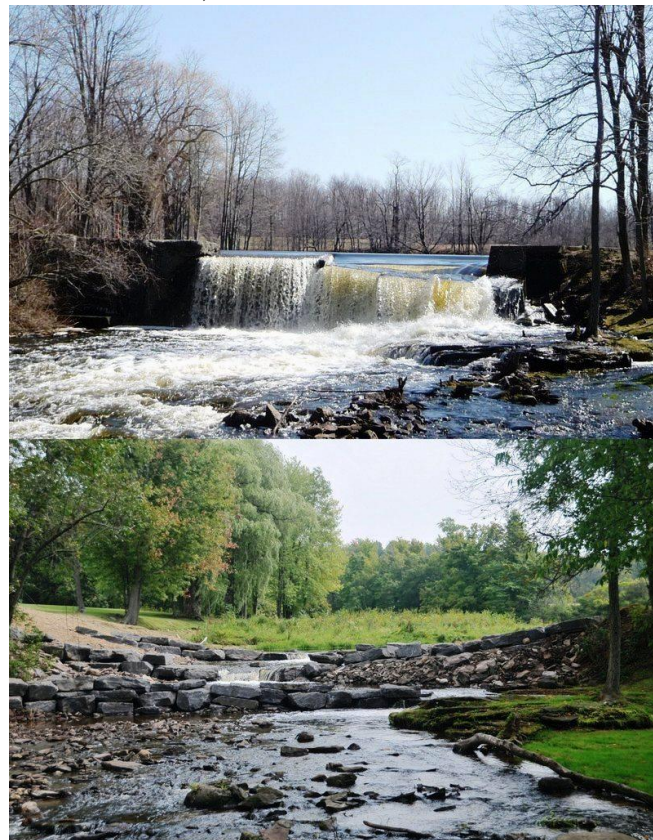
A goal of the Action Plan is to utilize funding on a set of priorities to provide the greatest conservation return. The key to setting meaningful priorities is scientific knowledge of habitat conditions and causative factors on the landscape. The work of partners is vital to building this needed base of scientific knowledge.

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 2006. Building upon the signed Action Plan, the Secretaries of the Interior, Commerce, and Agriculture signed a memorandum of understanding in 2012 to strengthen their commitment to the Action Plan. It is through this commitment that the collaboration between LCCs and Fish Habitat Partnerships has grown significantly and resulted in joint projects that gathered and analyzed information on instream flow, landscape level threats to fish habitat, and the efficacy of projects to protect and restore fish habitat.

National Fish Passage Program

Approximately six million dams, poorly-designed culverts, and water diversions fragment rivers and watersheds across the nation. Fragmentation of our watersheds is a leading cause of aquatic habitat degradation and loss of natural function of watersheds across the country. When healthy, these natural ecosystems provide a variety of functions for humans and nature, such as flood water attenuation and nutrient filtration. When these ecosystems are compromised, the loss of natural function leads to a long term loss in native aquatic species resiliency and human community resiliency when faced with flooding and drought events. This has been noted in flooding events from Hurricane Sandy, flooding in Colorado and Alaska, and Tropical Storm Irene in Vermont, where evidence suggests that areas with more intact natural systems bore less damage than areas without⁴.

The Service works with Federal agencies and State governments, private landowners, Tribes, and community organizations to restore aquatic connectivity through removing or bypassing barriers. Projects range in size from large-scale dam removals to the repair or removal of culverts and agricultural water diversions. Since the Fish Passage program's inception in 1999, cooperative efforts have provided substantial benefits to communities and aquatic species through restoration of natural flows, reduced sediment inputs, increased road infrastructure resilience to flooding, and restored connectivity, which allows fish to move freely and safely between the habitats needed for survival and self-sustainability.



Rice Creek before and after the removal of Fallbrook Dam, NY. Credit: Gian Dodici/USFWS

⁴ N. Gillespie, A. Unthank, L. Campbell, P. Anderson, R. Gubernick, M. Weinhold, D. Cenderelli, B. Austin, D. McKinley, S. Wells, J. Rowan, C. Orvis, M. Hudy, A. Bowden, A. Singler, E. Fretz, J. Levine, R. Kirm. 2014. Flood Effects on Road-Stream Crossing Infrastructure: Economic and Ecological Benefits of Stream Simulation Designs. *Fisheries* 39(2):62-76.

In cooperation with its partners, the Service has removed or bypassed over 1,530 barriers and reconnected 21,401 miles of river and 166,751 wetland acres across the Nation. The resulting increase in resilience to environmental pressures and urbanization has benefited more than 90 species of fish and freshwater mussels. The projects also help communities prepare for the impacts anticipated with climate change; for example, projects to upgrade road crossings to benefit aquatic species also help reduce flood risks posed by rainfall increases expected due to climate change. Fish Passage projects have had a significant environmental and economic impact, including leveraging Federal funding at a 3:1 ratio based on Service tracking (www.fws.gov/fisheries/whatwedo/NFPP/).

Another important asset of the Fish Passage program is its comprehensive fish passage engineering and technical assistance capacity. Fish Passage engineers and technical specialists in Fisheries offices ensure that passage projects are strategically selected and structurally sound; meet restoration goals for large, connected natural areas; and benefit surrounding communities. They have been called upon by partners, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to assist in design work for infrastructure that affects the aquatic environment. The Fish Passage program achieves restoration goals through the use of the Service's Strategic Habitat Conservation model on a regional scale; incorporating local and landscape level decision support tools to identify areas of most conservation need for species; and determining where fish passage would be most beneficial for aquatic species and people.

Population Assessment and Cooperative Management Program Overview

Fishery offices activities focus on management, restoration, inventory and monitoring to maintain self-sustaining, healthy, and diverse populations of fish and other aquatic species. The Service's Fisheries offices 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.

Fisheries offices work with partners to develop and implement resource management plans for Federal trust species on Federal, State, and local land and water properties. Service biologists collect and evaluate population data and develop models to estimate population trends and inform management actions such as harvest limits. Restoration activities on large, connected natural areas and the monitoring and assessment of the Service's propagation programs are an important component in developing and maintaining self-sustaining aquatic populations. Fisheries biologists play a critical role in fighting the spread of aquatic invasive species by suppressing populations of injurious plants and animals, including sea lamprey and Asian carp.

As part of the Service's trust responsibilities, Fisheries offices work with tribal resource agencies to manage fish and wildlife on 56 million acres of tribal trust lands and 44 million

Fisheries offices in Action: The Columbia River Fisheries Restoration

The Pacific Northwest is highly dependent on the Columbia River basin. It not only supports diverse fish and wildlife populations, but is also used for power production, irrigation, navigation, flood control, water supplies, and recreational activities. In order to preserve and restore this valuable resource, a multi-agency collaborative has embarked on one of the most comprehensive ecosystem management efforts aimed at balancing development demands with salmon and native trout restoration activities. The Service contributes to the effort by providing population restoration expertise, habitat restoration, and hatchery production that meets propagation mandates.

One of the Service's most dynamic offices, the Columbia River Fisheries Program Office, is responsible for research, monitoring and evaluation programs that support the population rebuilding and recovery goals. The office studies and monitors propagated salmon and steelhead populations using coded wire tags and Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags; redd surveys; and other fishery assessment studies. This work is essential for supporting fisheries management, meeting obligations to tribes, and hatchery reform. It is also necessary to avoid potential impacts of hatchery propagated salmon on wild populations in the Columbia and Snake River basins.

acres of Alaska Native lands. Fish and wildlife conservation on tribal lands is advanced through cooperative management with the Tribes, specifically by providing technical assistance, training, financial support, and equipment.

Fisheries offices in the Midwest and Northeast Regions work closely with tribal, State, Provincial, and other valued partners to restore lake trout in the Great Lakes. The Service monitors these populations by marking all hatchery-produced individuals with coded-wire tags. Tags are recovered through cooperation with partners and returned to Fishery offices for extraction and analysis. These data help the Service to understand population trends, assess program success, and inform management decisions in the cooperative effort to restore this highly valuable native species.

The Service also works with the Department of Defense, stewards to millions of acres of land used for national defense purposes, to protect and enhance natural areas on military installations. Cooperative conservation programs are conducted under the auspices of the Sikes Act and other authorities. For example, Service biologists guide U.S. Air Force natural resource managers on management decisions affecting: listed species; development and implementation of integrated natural resources management plans; wildland fire support; conservation law enforcement activities; and recreational hunting and fishing programs. This strategy aids in the delivery of landscape-level conservation on Department of Defense lands.

Alaska Subsistence Management Program

Based on a 2010 economic assessment by the Service⁵, over 135,000 people in over 270 communities in rural Alaska are entitled to subsistence fishing, hunting, and trapping on Federal lands. The average subsistence harvest in Alaska is approximately 375 pounds of food per person, or 50 million pounds of food per year. The Alaska Fisheries Subsistence Management Program provides a direct benefit to rural subsistence users on more than 237 million acres of Federal lands encompassing 66 percent of Alaska's land area and 52 percent of Alaska's rivers and lakes.

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

Aquatic Invasive Species

Invasive species significantly affect the health of native species and natural areas. They are second to habitat destruction as the leading cause of declining fish, wildlife, and habitat in the U.S. Nearly half of the imperiled species in the U.S. are threatened by invasive species⁶. Species such as Asian carp, quagga mussel, giant salvinia, lionfish, and brown tree snake cause tens of billions of dollars of economic and ecological impacts each year in diminished agricultural productivity, personal property values, human health and safety, public utility capacity, and recreational opportunities.⁷ The ease of travel and the global economy provide increased pathways for the intentional or unintentional transport of live foreign

⁵ Charbonneau, Joseph John, Ph.D. and James Caudill, Ph.D., September 2010. *Conserving America's Fisheries: An Assessment of Economic Contributions from Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation*. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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.

organisms that can become invasive. In addition, natural areas already stressed by climate change are more susceptible to harm from invasive species than healthy ecosystems.

Aquatic invasive species are insidious and especially troublesome because they are not always readily detected, their pathways are not always obvious, and their effects can be difficult to project. Most problematic is that they are difficult, often impossible, to eradicate once they become established, as they can persist and spread widely even after their pathways of introduction are interrupted.

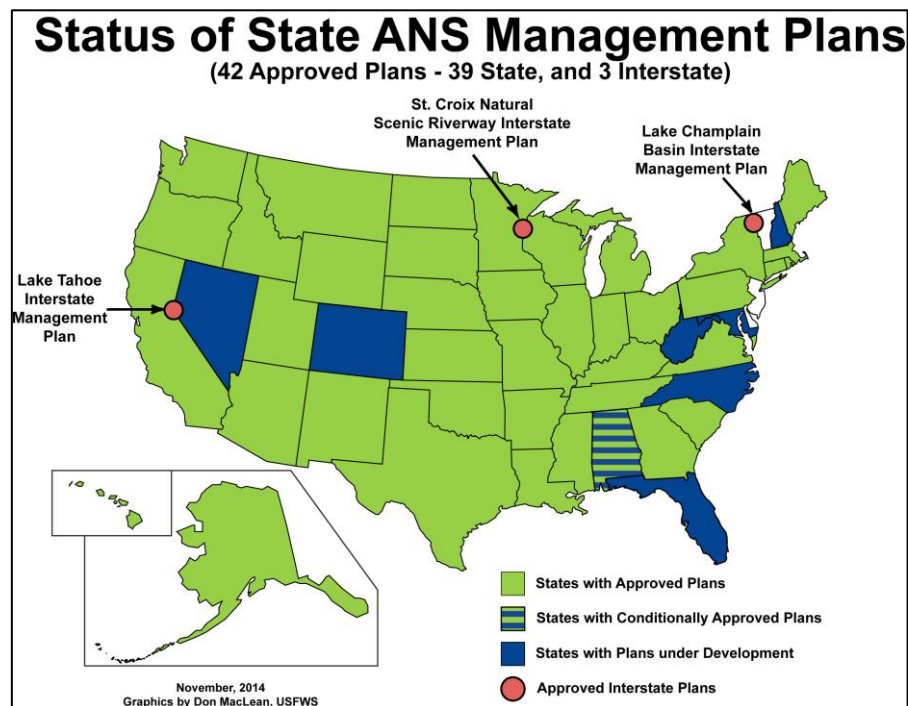
Though the risks invasive species pose to the Service's mission and the Nation's natural resources are significant, the Service has had to devote most of its invasive species resources on those known species expected to cause significant and immediate harm if their spread continues: zebra and quagga mussels and Asian carp. As a result, prevention, control, and management activities for other introduced species have been lower priorities, despite the fact that those species may have the potential to become extremely invasive and to pose even greater costs to the Nation. However, the Service has made significant strides in recent years to strengthen partnerships and modernize scientific approaches needed to more quickly identify and prevent threats before they become severe.

The Service's Aquatic Invasive Species Program consists of three components: national coordination, prevention, and control and management. Service personnel offer critical leadership and scientific techniques on aquatic invasive species threats and provide a vital regional and field presence on the ground.

National Coordination

National coordination is achieved in part through the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. The task force, composed of 13 Federal and 13 ex-officio organizations, was established in 1991 under Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act. The task force, which the Service co-chairs with NOAA, is the only intergovernmental organization dedicated to preventing and controlling invasive species. The task force provides a national infrastructure and forum for collaborative discussion

and decision making, both at the Task Force and within its six regional panels. These panels are uniquely positioned to coordinate and prioritize regional invasive species management issues and to provide crucial recommendations back. For example, the AIS Program is working with regional panel members, the American Boat and Yacht Council (an industry association), and other stakeholders to provide manufacturers of boats and associated equipment with guidelines and best practices that will reduce the likelihood of spreading AIS through the recreational boating pathway. This process could potentially lead to design standards for "AIS Safe" boats.



The Service also meets national coordination needs by supporting the funding and implementation of 42 State/Interstate Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plans that address State and Tribal priorities through cost-sharing and technical assistance. If all 42 eligible plans receive funding in FY 2016, each would be allocated about \$46,000. Relying on these funds, the State aquatic invasive species programs coordinate with their partners to prevent the introduction and spread of unwanted organisms and have planned, directed, and accomplished significant regional and landscape-level invasive species prevention and management resource outcomes. As a result, the cost-share grants between the Service, States, and Tribes allow the 42 State and interstate programs to accomplish far more than the Service could ever accomplish on its own.

The Task Force approved seven national species control and management plans. These plans, key elements of the DOI effort to limit the spread of aquatic invasive species, provide comprehensive guidance to the Service and its partners as they focus their resources on specific species. In 2015, the Task Force re-approved the *Quagga-Zebra Mussel Action Plan for Western U.S. Waters*, which addresses the western spread of these invasive mussels. The plan was developed through the coordinated efforts of numerous Federal, State, and non-governmental organization representatives. In 2015, the Service supported efforts such as training in state-of-the-art inspection and decontamination procedures by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. Funding also enabled the Nevada Department of Wildlife to provide free boat decontamination and inspection at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, a region vital for recreation and containing the spread of quagga and zebra mussels. In 2015 the State of Nevada received funding to finalize its State Management Plan, which makes it eligible for additional funding, once approved by the ANSTF.

Prevention

Proactive prevention is the most cost-effective strategy to minimize the long-term risk of impacts of invasive species to the American people and trust resources. New introductions pose significant economic costs to the Nation, so the Service is taking a leadership role in this arena. The Service supports efforts at the national, regional, and local levels to prevent introductions such as public awareness campaigns, to develop and implement risk assessment and risk mitigation tools, and to identify and prevent species introduction into the country or between States.

For example, the national “Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!” campaign targets recreational users and engages with them to become part of the solution by cleaning their equipment every time they leave the water. This campaign relies upon partners to help spread the prevention message and actively involve citizens to address this global threat. More than 1,000 organizations have joined the campaign, including State fish and wildlife, parks and recreation, agriculture, and environmental protection agencies, businesses, and many conservation and watershed protection organizations. The emblematic stop sign has become ubiquitous around the country.

Injurious wildlife are specified under the Lacey Act as species that are injurious to the interests of human beings, agriculture, horticulture, forestry, wildlife, or wildlife resources of the U.S. The Service is the only agency in the country that can put species on the Federal list

of injurious wildlife. By promulgating rules under the authority of the Lacey Act, the Service designates species as injurious and thereby prevents the introduction and spread of new invasive species by regulating the importation and interstate movement of injurious wildlife. The Service evaluates species for listing by using a newly developed rapid screening model and making use of several databases that



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

reduce the time needed to search for relevant information. In late FY 2015, the AIS Program also completed a multi-year effort to help streamline and expedite the listing process.

The Service recognizes the need to focus efforts on high-priority species, further improve the listing process, and expedite listing decisions through improved development of risk assessment and other analytical tools, and more efficient administrative action. To prevent new introductions, the Service is engaged with industry and other partners through a memorandum of understanding to identify and voluntarily restrict the trade of harmful species not yet in commerce, but that may have a potential market in the U.S.

Control and Management

The AIS program continues to target quagga and zebra mussels and Asian Carp as high-priority species, leveraging containment, prevention, and outreach resources among Federal, State, local, and non-government partners. In 2017, more than half of the AIS Program's funding will be directed toward continued management of Asian carp and quagga and zebra mussels. These efforts focus on the control of existing populations and preventing the further spread of these organisms.

Eradicating existing populations of invasive quagga and zebra mussels is not possible with current technologies. Therefore, emphasis will continue to be placed on containing the invasion within the Lower Colorado River Basin, the primary source for further invasion in the waters of the western U.S. Actions in FY 2016 will minimize the number of trailered boats carrying invasive mussels to other waters by promoting public compliance, improving communication between partners, educating and assisting marina operators and water body managers, and facilitating heightened law enforcement.



Quagga Mussels from Lake Mead, NV
Credit: Dave Britton/USFWS

The spread of Asian carp toward the Great Lakes is one of the most acute threats facing this key natural resource and its multi-billion dollar fishery. Since 2010, the Administration has aggressively focused on preventing Asian carp from invading the Great Lakes. The Service plays a key role in coordinating across Federal agencies and with State and local partners and is helping to conduct field studies to better understand the efficacy of existing control measures, including electric fish dispersal barriers. Additional effort is needed on the upper Mississippi, Ohio, Missouri rivers, and other high-risk watersheds as identified in the National Asian Carp Surveillance Plan, finalized in 2015.

In 2017, base funding includes support for work to prevent the spread of Asian carp in the Great Lakes Basin, and the upper Mississippi and Ohio rivers. These funds support sampling waters for eDNA and with traditional gear as part of a comprehensive surveillance and monitoring program under the National Asian Carp Management and Control Plan. Funds also support coordinated early detection, rapid assessment, containment, response, and control outside the Great Lakes in high-risk ecosystems, such as the Mississippi and Ohio rivers.

While most of the focus is on Asian carp and zebra and quagga mussels, the Service will seek opportunities to manage other high-risk species where practical, in collaboration with partners. The Service provides some support for invasive species control and management through the State and Interstate Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plans. Individual species management plans have also

been developed, which target the specific species that pose the most immediate threat of further spread and damage. While the Service provides a leadership role in leveraging funds and bringing partners together, limited funding has reduced our ability to address other critical unwanted species such as ruffe, mitten crab, brown tree snake, New Zealand mudsnail, and giant apple snail. The Service will continue to work with the States and other partners to address critical pathways of introduction and spread for other aquatic invasive species where practical and feasible given available and leveraged resources.

Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation - Combined Program Change and Overview Table

Performance Goal	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Target	2017 PB	Change from 2016 Target to 2017 PB
12.2.3 - # of aquatic invasive species populations controlled/managed (annually) - FWMA	19	27	31	26	31	31	0
12.2.6 - # of activities conducted to support the management/control of aquatic invasive species - FWMA	261	212	188	274	179	179	0
12.2.7 - # of public awareness campaigns conducted and supported re: invasive species	2	2	2	2	2	2	0
12.2.9 - # of risk assessments conducted to evaluate potentially invasive aquatic species - annual	1,053	291	363	266	232	232	0
12.2.11 - # of surveys conducted for baseline/trend information for aquatic invasive species	398	342	305	468	393	393	0
12.2.12 - # of surveys conducted for early detection and rapid response for aquatic invasive species	254	224	154	165	121	121	0
12.2.13 - # of State/interstate management plans supported to prevent and control aquatic invasive species (annually)	38	39	41	41	43	42	-1
12.2.14 - # of partnerships established and maintained for invasive species tasks	452	468	416	407	338	338	0
5.1.1 - % 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)	16.7% (39 of 233)	24.3% (45 of 185)	24.0% (44 of 183)	24.3% (45 of 186)	23.4% (43 of 184)	23.4% (43 of 184)	0.0%
5.1.11 - # of fish passage barriers removed or bypassed - Fisheries	158	162	158	137	134	304	170
Comments:	Based on projected \$1.5M increase for Fish Passage Improvements in FY2017-President's Budget.						
5.1.12 - # of miles reopened to fish passage - Fisheries	2,032	3,795	2,554	1,364	1,511	4,211	2,700
Comments:	Based on projected \$1.5M increase for Fish Passage Improvements in FY2017-President's Budget.						
5.1.13 - # of acres reopened to fish passage - Fisheries	18,552	7,444	2,856	16,704	3,630	6,630	3,000
Comments:	Based on projected \$1.5M increase for Fish Passage Improvements in FY2017-President's Budget.						

Performance Goal	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Target	2017 PB	Change from 2016 Target to 2017 PB
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	35% (578 of 1,632)	36% (595 of 1,668)	37% (605 of 1,635)	37% (612 of 1,637)	38% (613 of 1,613)	38% (613 of 1,613)	0%
5.2.4 - # assessments completed	2,803	2,640	1,996	2,101	1,571	1,571	0
CSF 5.3 - Percent of tasks implemented, as prescribed in management plans	56% (2,568 of 4,600)	53% (2,639 of 5,020)	51% (2,640 of 5,176)	54% (2,936 of 5,460)	54% (2,900 of 5,400)	57% (4,559 of 8,004)	3%
5.3.1.6 - % of tasks implemented, as prescribed in management plans - FWMA	36% (2,012 of 5,568)	29% (2,049 of 7,052)	29% (2,114 of 7,367)	33% (2,574 of 7,723)	28% (2,403 of 8,465)	28% (2,403 of 8,465)	0%
CSF 7.21 - Percent of populations of aquatic threatened and endangered species (T&E) that are self-sustaining in the wild	11% (80 of 711)	11% (75 of 680)	12% (85 of 698)	12% (85 of 710)	12% (85 of 711)	12% (85 of 711)	0%
7.21.5.6 - % of tasks implemented as prescribed in Recovery Plans - FWMA	35% (517 of 1,471)	29% (492 of 1,670)	35% (551 of 1,588)	34% (566 of 1,650)	27% (512 of 1,900)	27% (512 of 1,900)	0%
CSF 15.4 - Percent of fisheries mitigation tasks implemented as prescribed in approved management plans	91% (87 of 96)	74% (93 of 125)	74% (100 of 135)	72% (97 of 136)	72% (98 of 137)	74% (110 of 149)	2%
15.4.6.6 - % of fish populations at levels sufficient to provide quality recreational fishing opportunities - FWMA	47% (677 of 1,453)	53% (676 of 1,285)	52% (664 of 1,279)	56% (706 of 1,263)	55% (701 of 1,279)	55% (701 of 1,279)	0%
15.4.9 - # of aquatic outreach and education activities and/or events	1,004	1,015	915	959	754	754	0
CSF 18.1 - Percent of planned tasks implemented for Tribal fish and wildlife conservation as prescribed by Tribal plans or agreements	68% (367 of 538)	63% (366 of 586)	62% (416 of 668)	60% (480 of 798)	61% (500 of 820)	60% (591 of 982)	-1%
18.1.3 - % of planned tasks implemented for Tribal fish and wildlife conservation as prescribed by Tribal plans or agreements - FWMA	39% (263 of 670)	41% (260 of 630)	48% (302 of 633)	56% (427 of 765)	37% (371 of 1,016)	37% (371 of 1,016)	0%
18.1.6 - # of training sessions to support Tribal fish and wildlife conservation	124	94	132	167	104	104	0
18.1.9 - # of new or modified cooperative agreements with Tribes or IPA Agreements that support Tribal fish and wildlife conservation	5	6	6	6	12	12	0
18.1.12 - # of consultations conducted to support Tribal fish and wildlife conservation	257	296	507	548	396	396	0

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Cooperative Landscape Conservation



Activity: Cooperative Landscape Conservation

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Change from 2016 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Cooperative Landscape Conservation	(\$000)	13,988	12,988	+83	0	+4,718	17,789	+4,801
	FTE	71	74	0	0	+3	77	+3

Summary of 2016 Program Changes for Cooperative Landscape Conservation

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Landscape Conservation Cooperatives	+4,718	+3
Program Changes	+4,718	+3

Justification of Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for Cooperative Landscape Conservation is \$17,789,000 and 77 FTE, a program change of +\$4,718,000 and +3 FTE from the 2016 Enacted.

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (+\$4,718,000/+3 FTE)

The Service focuses funding and support on those LCCs that are best able to deliver priority conservation outcomes as defined by each LCC, while supporting the integrated network of 22 LCCs. This additional operational capacity is needed to build and sustain LCC partnerships that address a full range of conservation challenges across the nation in collaboration with other Federal agencies, State agencies, tribes, industry, non-governmental organizations (NGO), academic institutions, Migratory Bird Joint Ventures, Fish Habitat Partnerships, U.S. Geological Survey Climate Science Centers, and the conservation community at large. This collaborative effort enhances the Service’s ability to obtain information that 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), fish passage, habitat restoration, and conservation partnerships with States for species before listing is needed, and minimizing or avoiding regulatory impacts altogether. Individually and working as a network, LCCs will inform and facilitate conservation through the following actions:

- Build, strengthen, and maintain partnerships critical to conserving natural and cultural resources across geo-political boundaries;
- Develop shared, measurable biological objectives with partners transcending geo-political boundaries for populations of priority species to guide conservation;
- Apply and refine population-habitat models and other decision-support tools that will enable partners to manage species more effectively at landscape scales;
- Apply cutting edge science at landscape scales to predict effects of climate and other stressors on fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats;
- Design and evaluate landscape-scale conservation approaches that will help populations adapt to changing conditions;

- Identify and, when necessary, design protocols and methodologies best suited to monitoring and inventorying species, habitats, and ecological functions and structures at landscape scales; and
- Identify high-priority research and technology needs.

Program Mission

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) are applied conservation science partnerships created to work together across geopolitical boundaries to take on large-scale conservation challenges. LCCs promote collaboration among their members in defining shared conservation goals. With these goals established, members 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 provide the science and technical expertise needed to address shared priorities and 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 members, LCCs are generating the tools, models, and data that managers need to design and deliver conservation using the adaptive management, Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) approach. LCCs support an ongoing 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.

To enable shared direction across all LCCs, the Landscape Conservation Cooperative Network has developed a statement of Vision and Mission that has been affirmed by the 22 LCC steering committees:

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 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;
- 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.

Applicable Laws, Acts, and Orders

- **Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956**, as amended, (16 U.S.C 742(a)-754), establishes a comprehensive national fish and wildlife policy and authorizes the Secretary to take steps required for the development, management, advancement, conservation, and protection of fisheries resources and wildlife resources through research, acquisition of refuge lands, development of existing facilities, and other means.
- **Secretarial Order 3289**, signed in 2009 and amended in 2010, states that potential climate change effects necessitate changes in how the DOI manages natural resources and requires DOI agencies to incorporate climate change in planning, prioritization, and decision-making (DOI 2009a). The Order

also established two main initiatives to address the effects of climate change on U.S. natural and cultural resources, including Climate Science Centers (CSCs) and LCCs.

- **Secretarial Order 3330** (DOI 2013b), issued in October 2013, calls for the use of a landscape-scale approach to identify and facilitate investments in conservation priorities in a region.
- **Executive Order 13653**, “Preparing the U.S. for the Impacts of Climate Change” issued in November 2013, to direct Federal agencies to take a series of steps to make it easier for American communities to strengthen their resilience to climate change.

Program Overview

The American tradition of conserving fish, wildlife, habitats, and cultural resources dates to the mid-19th century. States have long managed fish and wildlife species within their borders, whereas many early Federal conservation efforts focused on setting aside specific places as parks, sanctuaries, or reserves. Starting in the early 1900s, several Federal laws were passed to provide additional protection for individual species and particular natural resources. In recent decades, resource managers and scientists gained greater appreciation of broader ecosystem dynamics that extend beyond geographic or political boundaries, as well as the increasing stress on ecosystems due to human activities. The convergence of these trends points to the need for a conservation approach that focuses on the landscape more holistically and integrates across multiple jurisdictional boundaries, sectors, stakeholders, and conservation goals.

The landscape approach is particularly important where multiple jurisdictions are involved; where the threats to species, ecosystems, and cultural resources occur at large regional scales; and where biological and geological processes span across ecosystems. Likewise, historic and archeological properties as well as traditional practices and livelihoods, such as ranching, farming or subsistence harvest, often span public, private, and tribal lands, requiring an integrated approach to management.

In 2009, in recognition of the benefits from conservation partnerships at the landscape-scale, the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Secretary Ken Salazar issued Secretarial Order No. 3289 to establish the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs): a network of 22 self-directed conservation partnerships covering all of the United States, including Pacific and Caribbean islands, as well as parts of Canada and Mexico. The intent of the Secretarial Order was to provide a collaborative framework that could deliver the scientific information needed for effective management and catalyze conservation planning and actions across multiple jurisdictions.

Based on this Secretarial Order, the LCC Network was established with the main objectives to facilitate collaboration across jurisdictional boundaries, develop shared conservation priorities and common science needs among partners, and create conservation strategies to be implemented by participating agencies or their partners. Each LCC has its own governance structure, coordinators, and steering committee, which develops strategic conservation priorities for their region. The LCC Council, an advisory group, provides guidance on the LCC Network’s overall strategic vision and goals.

The Service has lead administrative responsibility for 17 of the 22 LCCs, and the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service, and U.S. Forest Service have lead or co-lead administrative responsibility for five LCCs. Some LCCs have staff from State fish and wildlife agencies, and LCCs with geographies crossing international borders have steering committees that include international organizations/agencies.

Commitment to the LCCs as effective and efficient partnership forums is demonstrated by the formal participation of over 280 organizations on LCC steering committees and technical committees. These

participants form a diverse consortium of Federal and state agencies, NGOs, tribes, and other organizations, and are engaged in priority setting and in providing support through financial, staffing, and other resources. LCCs help Federal agencies, including the Service, address complex resource management challenges by serving as forums to align large-scale conservation efforts. LCCs also help identify potential redundancies and opportunities to leverage resources across conservation efforts, share and interpret data, identify regional monitoring and science needs including research and modeling, and evaluate and facilitate decision-support tools.

The importance that State fish and wildlife agencies place on the LCCs is also evident in that more than two-thirds of the LCC steering committees have been chaired by State fish and wildlife agency directors or deputy directors. Furthermore, all 50 States are engaged in LCCs through participation on steering committees or working groups, providing valuable support, leadership, and insights. 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 that focus on water resources and land protection. In addition, LCCs 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. LCC staff often use existing facilities and infrastructure of conservation partners, thereby greatly reducing expenditures for space and associated costs.

The LCC Network Strategic Plan was completed in 2014 and identifies four strategic goal areas: conservation strategy, collaborative conservation, science, and communications. These support the LCC Network's Vision and Mission. By successfully addressing these four goal areas individual LCCs and the LCC Network will be able to achieve their vision of "landscapes capable of sustaining natural and cultural resources for current and future generations."

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, NGOs, academic institutions, and the conservation community at large. Building upon 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 designs and the actions needed to most effectively conserve fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats. This collaborative effort also enhances the Service's ability to collect information that can be used to improve or augment many conservation efforts such as pre-Endangered Species Act listing partnerships with States, implementation of State Wildlife Action Plans, Endangered Species Recovery Plans, National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCPs), Migratory Birds Joint Ventures, fish passage, and other habitat restoration.

The importance and value of the LCCs for the long-term conservation of natural resources is widely recognized among the scientific and resource management communities, as demonstrated within the *National, Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy*. For example, identifying a connected network of priority areas for natural resource conservation and other investments builds climate resilience and benefits wildlife management, mitigation investments, and water and air quality, among other values. LCCs provide the partnership frameworks and science that enable States, tribes, Federal agencies and other stakeholders to undertake the coordinated planning and strategic actions necessary for sustaining America's natural resources.

National Academy of Sciences Review

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) released its *Review of the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives* on December 3, 2015. The objective of the Congressionally-mandated review was to evaluate the purpose, goals, and scientific merit of the LCC program within the context of other similar

programs and to determine whether there have been measurable improvements in the health of fish, wildlife and their habitats as a result of the program.

The NAS review concluded that a landscape approach is needed to meet the nation's conservation challenges and that the LCCs provide a framework for addressing that need. The NAS found that LCCs "address landscape conservation needs at a national scale, for all natural and cultural resources, in a way that bridges research and management efforts." The NAS recognized that LCCs have the ability to create opportunities for identifying common conservation goals and leveraging efforts of diverse members at a much greater scale than any one entity could achieve alone. While LCCs are still relatively new, the NAS report pointed to many early accomplishments, including LCC-funded research and tools that are helping to improve resource management decision-making.

Opportunities for improvement were identified to enhance coordination within the partnership around shared priorities and broaden the evaluation framework to better capture the contributions made by all members at individual and network-wide scales. The NAS recommendations will help the LCCs and the LCC Network take stock of progress to ensure that, individually and collectively, the LCCs are efficiently and effectively addressing landscape- and seascape-scale conservation priorities. The LCC Network has conducted a deeper analysis of the NAS review and is currently in the process of developing an action plan for addressing the recommendations.

Examples and Accomplishments

State Wildlife Action Plans – Including SWAPs into Regional Landscape Conservation Design

The LCCs can provide a big picture context for the State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAPs), which are blueprints for wildlife conservation within individual states. SWAPs are revised every ten years, 2015 being the most recent. For example, the Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks (GCPO) LCC, recognizing SWAPs are an important planning tool for States, are working to ensure SWAPs are foundational to the GCPO's Landscape Conservation Design (a.k.a. Conservation Blueprint). The SWAP leaders from each state in the GCPO LCC are actively participating in the design process ensuring the work of the GCPO LCC is value-added to those States. The collaborative process allows integration of the different States' plans across their boundaries, filling data gaps where they occur, and shining a spotlight on how potential landscape changes could impact the ability to remove species off States' lists of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). By integrating the SWAPs and the Landscape Conservation Design (LCD) work of the LCCs, both efforts are more likely to be successful. Several other LCCs are or have worked with States in their region to integrate SWAPs in a similar manner.

Pre-listing Conservation

LCCs are working to address the conservation of declining species in priority landscapes. Until species become Federally listed, State fish and wildlife agencies generally have trust authority for these species and play a key role in providing expertise to identify the specific management needs of species/priority areas to do this work and receptive landowners.

LCC capacity helps to support pre-listing conservation by:

- Providing a forum for partners to collaborate and contribute across jurisdictions to the science needed for timely conservation efforts to keep fish and wildlife off the Endangered Species Act (ESA) list when possible;
- Identifying core areas for conservation that can provide for the needs of numerous species within the landscape; and
- Developing efficient monitoring programs to measure species and habitat outcomes across landscapes.

Greater Sage-Grouse - The sage-steppe is one of the largest ecosystems in North America and is at risk. It is home to more than 350 western wildlife species including big game, sagebrush obligates, migratory song birds and rare fish. Historically, conservation of the sage-steppe has not been a high priority because of its wide geographic distribution spanning numerous States as well as Federal and tribal lands, relative remoteness, lack of dramatic scenery and its perception as a “working landscape.” Yet, the recent documentation of greater and Gunnison sage-grouse population declines has focused long-needed attention to the landscape.



Greater sage grouse

Research now clearly shows that degradation in the quality, integrity, and connectivity of sage-steppe habitat is the primary cause for sage-grouse declines. This habitat decline also impacts a host of other species and ecosystem services in the interior west. The Great Northern, Southern Rockies, Plains and Prairie Potholes, and Great Basin LCCs contributed to sage-grouse efforts initiated at the state-level illustrating the benefits from a landscape approach. Their actions, along with efforts from many other partners, helped avert the need for listing the species under ESA. Although the Service’s greater sage-grouse status review determined that the species does not currently warrant protection under the ESA, the Service and other Federal land management agencies, western State fish and wildlife agencies, private industry and landowners, and the conservation community will continue sage-grouse and sage-steppe conservation efforts into the future as it has recognized that listing was not warranted because of these endeavors. Furthermore, the partnership will help other sensitive species in the sage-steppe ecosystem remain conserved, with the goal of avoiding imperilment.

These same LCCs are developing a new cooperative partnership with the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) to fill remaining science and information gaps for management of the sagebrush landscape by States, tribes, Federal agencies, and private landowners. LCC investments and collaboration will operate through a Sage Steppe Forum designed to facilitate partner input and increase access to new science, spatial analysis, and decision support tools. Ultimately, the cooperative partnership among the LCCs, WAFWA and the Service will result in a draft “Sagebrush Landscape Conservation Strategy” designed to assist all those interested in strategically implementing conservation actions that yield positive outcomes for fish and wildlife. The level of science, planning, and habitat conservation delivery in the sage-steppe presents a unique opportunity for the LCCs to help build a lasting and durable construct for sage-steppe conservation.

Landscape Conservation Design – The Central Valley of California

The California LCC is bringing the stakeholders together to develop climate-smart adaptation goals, strategies, and actions for the California Central Valley landscape. The Central Valley region is part of a global biodiversity hot-spot prioritized by the California LCC as needing a collaborative conservation design due to the region’s vulnerability to numerous stressors including continuing land use changes, increasing temperatures, drought, and loss of important habitats.



California Tiger Salamander - USFWS - Adam Clause

This project engages resource management stakeholders who have been working for decades on conservation in the Central Valley, including State and Federal agencies, university research centers, non-profit organizations, and existing partnerships like the Central Valley Joint Venture. The Central Valley Landscape Conservation Design (LCD) will strengthen existing efforts by developing a shared vision for the future of the Central Valley’s biodiversity, identifying common goals and strategies.

The Central Valley LCD project teams have developed a set of future scenarios to help identify conservation strategies to support natural resource management decisions. Next will be an assessment of the vulnerabilities of the priority natural resources (e.g., riparian songbirds, Chinook salmon, Western burrowing owl, blunt nosed leopard lizards, wetlands, and grasslands) and development of adaptation strategies. Products of this effort include an online tool box with an inventory of existing conservation efforts, adaptation strategies, and maps highlighting important conservation areas in the valley. The resulting LCD will provide climate-smart actions that natural resource managers and decision-makers will implement in the Central Valley.

Landscape Conservation Design – Connecticut River Watershed

In the Connecticut River watershed and across the Nation, large connected natural areas provide habitat for fish, wildlife, and plants and provide jobs, food, clean water, storm protection, recreation, and many other benefits that support people and communities. Encompassing New England's largest river system and the entire 36,000-acre Silvio O. Conte National Wildlife Refuge, the 7.2 million-acre Connecticut River watershed provides important habitat for a diversity of fish, wildlife, and plants and is a source of clean water and other public benefits for the millions of people living in Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.

The Connecticut River Watershed Landscape Conservation Design (LCD) is a collaborative effort to plan and design what a landscape should look like to support natural resources and provide public benefits into the future. Using the best available science and innovative modeling approaches from the North Atlantic LCC, representatives from the four States, Federal agencies, and private organizations created a vision for the watershed that will sustain important fish and wildlife habitat, ecosystems, and benefits in the face of changing development and environmental patterns. For the first time, the LCC incorporates multiple interests and goals from a wide variety of partners into a complex, model-based optimization that defines a conservation pattern to achieve multiple objectives in the watershed.

The North Atlantic LCC is in the process of expanding a conservation design across the entire 13-State Northeast Region using the approach developed in the Connecticut River watershed. The underlying data on habitats, ecosystems, and environmental change have already been developed and were compiled by the LCC for the entire Northeast Region.



Connecticut River

Aquatic Connectivity – Optimizing Connectivity in the Great Lakes Basin to Restore Native Fish Migrations While Controlling Invasive Species

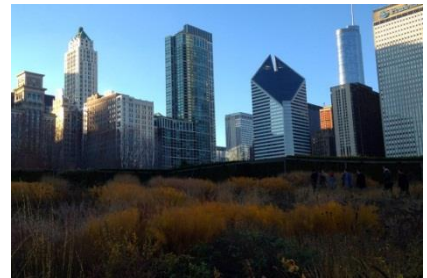
Streams and rivers across the Great Lakes basin are harnessed by dams, bridges, and culverts to meet societal needs for transportation, hydropower and other demands. This infrastructure often creates barriers that block the necessary movement of economically, culturally, and ecologically important Great Lakes migratory fish species. Removal or modification of barriers for the benefit of native aquatic species, however, increases access to invasive species, like the sea lamprey. Recognizing the complexity of decision making relating to barrier removal and retention, the Upper Midwest and Great Lakes LCC formed an Aquatic Habitat Connectivity Collaborative (AHCC). Led by the Fish and Wildlife Service's Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, The Nature Conservancy, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the collaborative works with both the conservation and infrastructure sectors to identify and pursue species-based objectives and connectivity priorities. This includes working across Service regions with adjoining LCCs, such as the North Atlantic LCC.

To help equip the AHCC and decision makers across the basin, LCC participants, including the Service, supported development of a tool that optimizes the amount of new habitat made available when a portfolio of barriers is removed, based on a given budget. This tool is currently aiding decision making, but an upgrade is underway to include the potential spread and growth of sea lamprey and other invasive species populations that would occur with barrier removal and adding the monetary costs of controlling these species. These upgrades, scheduled to be completed late 2017, will allow Federal and State fish managers to target dam and culvert removals that maximize the benefits for important fish species, while managing the costs associated with controlling the impacts of aquatic invasive species.

Urban Conservation – Ecological Places in Cities (EPiC)

The Eastern Tallgrass Prairies and Big Rivers LCC and the Upper Midwest and Great Lakes LCC developed the *Ecological Places in Cities* (EPiC) to form an interconnected network of cities and landscapes to: revitalize communities through reconnecting people with nature in urban areas, establish ecologically resilient urban communities, and demonstrate the social and economic benefits of natural landscapes. For many participants, EPiC represents the first regional-scale collaborative effort to address urban conservation across diverse sectors.

The multi-LCC Urban Monarch Landscape Conservation Design (LCD) represents the first pilot project of the EPiC collaboration. Preliminary research from a U.S. Geological Survey and the Service co-led study indicates the importance of habitat restoration in most landcover types for stabilizing monarch butterfly populations – highlighting a unique conservation opportunity in urban areas. The Service, joining with other LCC participants and the Chicago Field Museum, is developing an innovative approach to map ecological and social drivers for strategically targeting restoration and outreach activities. Field Museum biologists and anthropologists will develop an urban LCD and related map-based products for Chicago, Minneapolis/St Paul, Kansas City and Austin, TX.



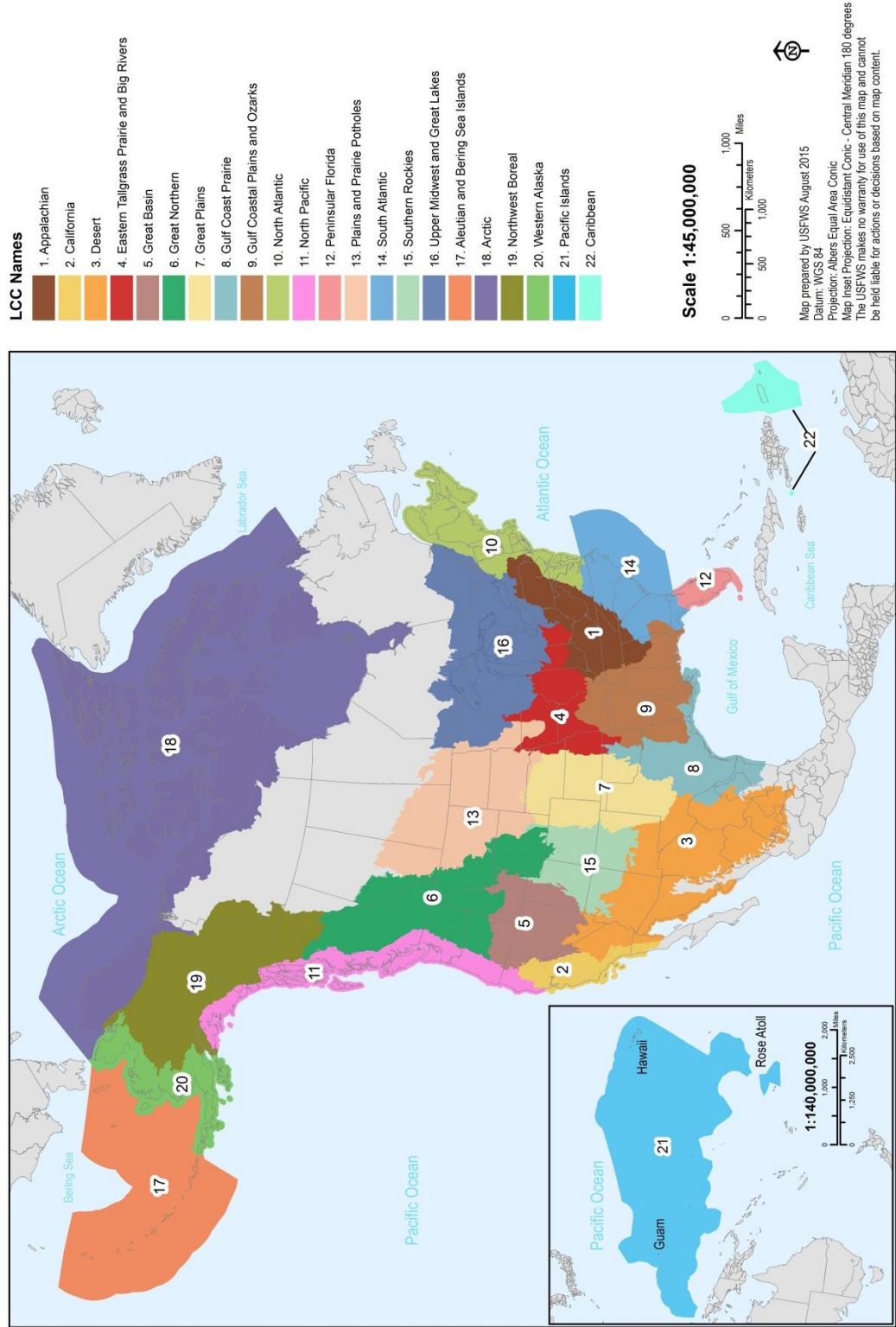
The Service, LCC participants, and the Chicago Field Museum are developing and innovative map of Chicago's Natural areas.

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC) Network Map

Landscapes capable of sustaining natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.



LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVES



2017 Program Performance

In accordance with accomplishment reporting requirements of Circular A-11 and the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), the Service establishes performance measures and tracks results from its programs. The current measure is: *The number of Landscape Conservation Designs (LCDs) available to inform management decisions.*

LCDs provide a foundation for collective impact in achieving individual and shared goals, meeting objectives for priority resources, and developing a network of large-scale geographies that provide functional habitat for fish, wildlife and plants. This measure counts the number of LCDs available to support multi-scale management strategies and decisions tied to landscape-level objectives. These LCDs consist of an assessment of a landscape's current conditions; an assessment of the potential future conditions of the landscape using quantifiable biological, physical, and socio-economic objectives; and a high-level plan with recommendations on how to move the landscape from the current to a desired future condition.

Cooperative Landscape Conservation Overview Table

Performance Goal	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Target	2017 PB	Change from 2016 Target to 2017 PB
4.8.7 - The number of Landscape Conservation Designs available to inform management decisions (GPRA)	NA	NA	0	7	15	22	7

Science Support



Activity: Science Support

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Budget Request	Change from 2016 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
Adaptive Science	(\$000) FTE	10,517 5	10,517 5	+5 0	0 0	+1,000 +3	11,522 8	+1,005 +3
Service Science	(\$000) FTE	6,468 16	6,468 16	+19 0	-35 0	+2,570 0	9,057 16	+2,589 0
Total, Science Support	(\$000) FTE	16,985 21	16,985 21	+24 0	-35 0	+3,570 +3	20,579 24	+3,594 +3

Summary of 2017 Program Changes for Science Support

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• SHC Planning and Design	+1,000	+3
• Service Science Activities	+2,570	0
Program Changes	+3,570	+3

Program Mission

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) Science Support activity addresses science needs using Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) as a guiding framework.

While SHC 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 a growing variety of threats. The SHC framework includes setting measurable objectives, making deliberate resource management investments and decisions, systematically assessing results against expected outcomes, then making adjustments for future strategies and actions. Careful monitoring of outcomes from management actions and other events advances scientific understanding, helps adjust policies or operations, and ensures future decisions are not made simply by “trial-and-error,” but on the basis of experience, data, and the best available science.

Program Elements

The Science Support program is comprised of the following program elements:

- Adaptive Science – supports the work of the network of Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC) to better manage natural resources across landscape scales.
- Service Science – supports the needs of Service programs for information that can improve decision-making for refuge management, endangered species listing and recovery, data management, and other conservation priorities.

The kinds of science the Service needs to achieve critically-important outcomes for species and habitats

Species Risk and Vulnerability Assessments – These assessments are the essential first step in deciding where to strategically focus conservation activities and where additional scientific information is necessary for conservation.

Inventory and Monitoring – Inventory and monitoring activities acquire the data required to understand status and trends, evaluate assumptions, and inform models that link fish and wildlife populations to their habitats and other limiting factors. The Service coordinates its inventory and monitoring activities with other Bureaus, especially the National Park Service, and integrates its data and results with those of other agencies.

Population and Habitat Assessments – These assessments improve the Service’s understanding of the relationship among species as well as between species and their habitats at various spatial scales. This information is used 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 specialized expertise, training and tools, and the use of statistical methods and modeling. The Service is establishing targets and objectives, examining management options, identifying their strengths and weaknesses, and ultimately identifying the mix of conservation actions that have the greatest likelihood of achieving the desired biological and ecological outcomes (i.e., Landscape Conservation Designs).

Management Evaluation and Research – The Service uses scientific learning to provide essential feedback for adaptive management. Science funding supports evaluations and research to answer questions that arise from habitat and species responses to management actions. Targeted research enables the Service to fill information gaps and reduce uncertainty.

Data Management – Data management is the development and execution of architectures, policies, practices and procedures in order to manage the information lifecycle needs of an enterprise. Data are valued assets and data management is part of every science endeavor. Effective data management enables the Service to make better decisions based on defensible, high-quality scientific information and to comply with the Open Data Policy and Data Transparency Act by providing public access to government data.

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.

Applicable Laws, Acts, and Orders

- **Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956**, as amended, (16 U.S.C 742(a)-754)), establishes a comprehensive national fish and wildlife policy and authorizes the Secretary to take steps required for the development, management, advancement, conservation, and protection of fisheries resources and wildlife resources through research, acquisition of refuge lands, development of existing facilities, and other means.
- **Secretarial Order 3289**, signed in 2009 and amended in 2010, states that potential climate change effects necessitate changes in how the DOI manages natural resources and requires DOI agencies to incorporate climate change in planning, prioritization, and decision-making (DOI 2009a). The Order also established two main initiatives to address the effects of climate change on U.S. natural and cultural resources, including Climate Science Centers (CSCs) and LCCs.

- **Secretarial Order 3330** (DOI 2013b), issued in October 2013, calls for the use of a landscape-scale approach to identify and facilitate investments in conservation priorities in a region.
- **Executive Order 13653**, “Preparing the U.S. for the Impacts of Climate Change”, issued in November 2013 to direct Federal agencies to take a series of steps to make it easier for American communities to strengthen their resilience to climate change.

Activity: Science Support
Subactivity: Adaptive Science

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017				Change from 2016 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Adaptive Science	(\$000)	10,517	10,517	+5	0	+1000	11,522	+1,005
	FTE	5	5	0	0	+3	8	+3

Summary of 2017 Program Changes for Adaptive Science

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• SHC Planning and Design	+1,000	+3
Program Changes	+1,000	+3

Justification of Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for Adaptive Science is \$11,522,000 and 8 FTE, a program change of +\$1,000,000 and +3 FTE from the 2016 Enacted.

Strategic Habitat Conservation Planning and Design (+\$1,000,000/+3 FTE)

This proposed increase will be directed to the LCCs that are best able to deliver additional Landscape Conservation Designs (LCDs). LCDs enable the Service to define, invest in, and deliver measurable improvements to populations of targeted species, and increase our ability to prioritize efforts and focus limited resources on conservation actions that make the greatest difference to the species we are charged to conserve. Working in cooperation with State fish and wildlife agencies and established partnerships such as the Migratory Birds Joint Ventures, this work will focus on priority species and landscapes identified in State Wildlife Action Plans, Joint Venture plans, or other cooperative planning efforts. By using these existing priorities and plans as foundations for LCDs and other conservation tools and strategies, the LCCs will improve coordination, avoid redundancies, and build synergy for more comprehensive large-scale conservation success.

Program Overview

Adaptive Science supports the work of the LCC Network, which was created to convene diverse stakeholders to work together across geopolitical boundaries to address large-scale conservation challenges, which no one entity can manage alone. LCCs develop shared priorities and then provide or further develop the underlying science capacity needed to address those priorities. The 22 LCC partnerships work with six Interior bureaus, a diverse suite of other Federal agencies, state natural resource agencies, tribes, and other public and private partners to identify and implement landscape-scale conservation solutions to address on-the-ground conservation management questions. [See *Cooperative Landscape Conservation Activity*.]

This funding provides for the 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. Working collaboratively, LCCs tackle large conservation challenges through a variety of activities including: setting shared priorities across jurisdictional boundaries, identifying best practices, connecting efforts, and addressing science gaps.

LCCs enable the Service to work cooperatively with the U.S. Geological Survey, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and other Federal agencies to ensure that conservation science funding is used most efficiently, is not duplicative, but is shared and coordinated.

Key Examples and Accomplishments

Vulnerability Assessments – Gulf Coast

The Gulf Coast Vulnerability Assessment was initiated by the four LCCs that cover the Gulf of Mexico: Gulf Coast Prairie, Gulf Coastal Plains & Ozarks, South Atlantic, and Peninsular Florida. The Gulf Coast region supports some of the most diverse species and ecosystems in the world and faces many of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time. The assessment helps identify and assess areas that are susceptible to climate change and other stressors while working with partners (NOAA, the Northern Gulf Institute, the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, and U.S. Geological Survey) to protect and conserve this ecological safe haven for generations to come.



*American Oystercatcher - Amanda Boyd
- USFWS*

The assessment comprehensive report, released in November 2015, evaluates the effects of climate change, sea level rise, and urbanization on Gulf Coast ecosystems and the species that depend on them. The assessment will guide future conservation and restoration efforts by helping conservation partners across the Gulf identify vulnerable areas where they can focus critical resources. In addition, the assessment is being used to evaluate the future sustainability of projects associated with ongoing Gulf Coast restoration efforts resulting from the Deep Water Horizon oil spill settlement.

Climate Resiliency – Adapting to Coastal Change in Rural Alaska

Alaska coastal communities must adapt to some of the most rapidly changing coastlines in the country. Threats include dramatic erosion of coastlines and community flooding during increasingly frequent powerful coastal storms. Residents in remote coastal communities are particularly at risk because of impacts to homes, critical infrastructure, and the fishing and wildlife resources they depend on for subsistence lifestyles. LCCs in Alaska are working to help communities and managers better understand current and projected coastal changes to help support adaptation efforts and minimize impacts to coastal residents.



Kivalina, Alaska – ShoreZone

Kivalina, and hundreds of other coastal communities in western Alaska, adapt and become more resilient to the effects of climate change.

For example, the 400 residents of Kivalina depend on marine mammals for subsistence. They are already encountering difficulty harvesting seals, walrus, and whales due to changes in the thickness and timing of freeze-up and thawing of the ice pack. Fall storms that used to blow harmlessly across a frozen sea now bring pounding waves and storm surges that threaten to flood the village. Scientists predict that Kivalina could fall below sea level as soon as 2025. Three Alaskan LCCs — Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands, Western Alaska, and Arctic — recently initiated a project to help the residents of

In partnership with State and Federal agencies, Alaska Native Tribes and tribal organizations, Alaska's LCCs have assisted in the development of information, tools and maps to help residents understand inundation risks from flooding during storms and coastal erosion rates throughout western Alaska. LCCs will be developing a series of products and trainings to put these tools into the hands of those who need them most: resource managers and communities on the front lines of coastal change. Alaska's LCCs will host a workshop in Nome in 2016, and are currently working with Alaska Native association partners to secure additional funding to expand these workshops to other coastal communities.

Stream Temperature Database & Modeling in the Northwest (NorWeST)

Ensuring viable populations of salmon, Pacific lamprey, and trout that support local economies and native cultures in the Northwest requires an understanding of future stream temperatures under a changing climate. Stream temperature projections provide natural resource managers with the ability to assess future scenarios for managing wide-ranging species at a landscape scale. Obtaining this information often comes with a giant price tag, and can even result in duplicated efforts. To address this, NorWeST, an online stream temperature database, was collaboratively developed by the Great Northern and North Pacific LCCs, including partners such as the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and California Fish Passage Forum to provide this information to managers.

NorWeST has grown as a comprehensive, online interagency database and now provides access to stream temperature data, climate vulnerability, and monitoring coordination for streams and rivers across the western U.S. For example, the U.S. Forest Service's Cold-Water Climate Shield for Native Trout is using the data to forecast climate refuge locations in streams for bull trout and cutthroat trout. On another project, the Service is using NorWeST to assess how climate change is affecting the vulnerability of Pacific lamprey and determining which populations will be most resilient to these changes.

Through continued LCC support of NorWeST, multiple agencies are more effectively able to develop coordinated stream monitoring strategies at lower costs. In 2015, NorWeST expanded to include stream temperature data from California, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico. Future plans include incorporating stream temperature data from British Columbia, which will help inform fish management in Washington, Idaho, and Montana. The LCC-supported NorWeST project has not only resulted in millions of dollars in savings, but also exemplifies a successful partnership working effectively across landscapes and jurisdictions while carrying out the mission of the LCC Network to sustain natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.

Grassland Management Inventory Tool (G-MIT) -- Enhancing Habitat Connectivity and Integrity for Grassland Birds Across the Southern Prairies

Diverse grasslands across Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana serve as habitat for Northern Bobwhite, Eastern Meadowlark, monarch butterflies and other iconic grassland species. These habitats are becoming degraded and fragmented, causing notable declines in wildlife including the loss of up to 90 percent of the Texas Northern Bobwhite population.



*Williams Prairie – Katy Prairie
Conservancy*

To enable strategic and coordinated action, the Gulf Coast Prairie LCC developed the Grassland Management Inventory Tool (G-MIT) and a data set platform enabling managers, landowners and other conservation practitioners to record and share management actions over time. The G-MIT and the data sets can be easily accessed on the Conservation Planning Atlas, a multi-LCC platform that allows users to discover, access, and integrate existing spatial data layers and maps for use in analysis and conservation planning.

This information is actively being used by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture (OPJV) in their Grassland Restoration Incentive Program that works with landowners in the most strategic places to restore grasslands. In FY 2014, its first year, approximately \$550,000 was spent on conservation practices totaling over 36,000 acres of habitat improvement in Texas. In FY 2015, OPJV received additional funds to target monarch conservation as part of its habitat improvement efforts. Other grassland conservation partners are taking note, and excited about using these tools advanced by the Gulf Coast Prairie LCC to enhance grassland connectivity and restoration across coastal, cross-timber and upland prairies.

2017 Program Performance

In accordance with accomplishment reporting requirements of Circular A-11 and the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), the Service establishes performance measures and tracks results from its programs. The current measure is: *Number of landscapes with surrogate species identified to support conservation actions.*

Landscape Conservation Designs (LCDs) provide a foundation for collective impact in achieving individual and shared goals, meeting objectives for priority resources, and developing a network of large-scale geographies (landscapes) that provide functional habitat for fish, wildlife and plants. The objective of this performance measure is to quantify the number of landscapes with identified surrogate species as conservation targets. Surrogate species are being used as a way to become more efficient in planning conservation actions and monitoring results on a landscape – it is too costly and almost impossible to evaluate and work on all species individually, so surrogates are being used to prioritize and focus conservation efforts in critical areas to make better use of our limited resources.

Adaptive Science – Combined Program Change and Overview Table

Performance Goal	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Target	2017 PB	Change from 2016 Target to 2017 PB
4.8.8 - Number of landscapes with surrogate species identified to support conservation actions (GPRA)	NA	NA	0	22	26	26	0

Activity: Science Support
Subactivity: Service Science

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Change from 2016 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Service Science	(\$000)	6,468	6,468	+19	-35	+2,570	9,057	+2,589
	FTE	16	16	0	0	0	16	0

Summary of 2017 Program Changes for Service Science

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Service Science Activities	+2,570	0
Program Changes	+2,570	0

Justification of Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for Service Science is \$9,057,000 and 16 FTE, a program change of +\$2,570,000 and +0 FTE from the 2016 Enacted.

Service Science (+\$2,570,000/+0 FTE)

This increase will provide funding to obtain the scientific information and tools needed by the Service to make management decisions. It will be applied to strategically identified priorities that reflect the needs of decision-makers across the agency. An evaluation team, led by the Assistant Director for Science Applications, will solicit, evaluate, and prioritize the projects for funding. The Service will partner with the U.S. Geological Survey, universities, 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. Funding will support a cross-programmatic partnership to develop and support management actions addressing current and future threats to candidate and other at-risk species in landscapes with the highest concentration of these species. A clear emphasis of this capacity will be to develop applied science in the short- to mid-term time horizon that helps solve conservation questions and advance high priorities for the Service, states, and other partners. This additional science capacity will address critical issues such as:

- Evaluating impacts to species and other natural resources from the development of wind, hydroelectric, solar, oil and gas energy production;
- Developing information to help conserve priority species with states and other partners before Endangered Species Act listing is a consideration;
- Developing decision tools and models, including risk assessments, for priority terrestrial and aquatic species and ecosystems;
- Determining best management practices for combating invasive species; and
- Developing an international conservation strategy to address the 90% decline in monarch butterfly numbers over the past 20 years.

Program Overview

Service Science funding is used to address science needs in support of on-the-ground management and conservation outside of the LCC Network. To be effective in its mission-delivery, the Service requires 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 to defend its regulatory

decisions, biological opinions, and species and habitat conservation recommendations to land managers. Service Science supports the needs of Service programs for information that can improve decision-making for refuge management, endangered species listing and recovery, data management, and other activities that support science excellence.

The Service partners with the U.S. Geological Survey, other Federal and state agencies, tribes, universities, and scientific institutions for acquiring scientific knowledge to answer these imminent and important natural resource management questions and provide near-term solutions to address urgent and emerging issues. Service Science funding is used to conduct studies, develop models, and secure scientific expertise to help managers interpret and apply the best knowledge available. Priorities in this area include:

- White-Nose Syndrome—research, monitoring/management, and outreach to help save imperiled bats;
- Cooperative and Endangered Species Recovery;
- Climate Adaptation and Resilience;
- Pre-listing Conservation Partnerships with States;
- Invasive Species;
- Emerging Wildlife Health Issues (e.g., chytrid & *B. salamandrivorans* fungus); and
- Monarch Conservation.

Key Examples and Accomplishments

White-Nose Syndrome

Since white-nose syndrome (WNS) was discovered in 2007, the Service has led the national response to the disease by funding and coordinating a network of state and Federal agencies, tribes, organizations, institutions and individuals to investigate the source, spread and cause of WNS; monitor the impacts of the disease on bat populations; and develop management strategies to contain and reduce impacts of the disease.

In FY 2015, the Service's \$2.5 million was met with over \$1.2 million in match and in-kind contributions by others conducting the work on these projects. As in other years, most Service Science WNS funding will be used to support grants to universities, other Federal agencies, and states for WNS research and response. A lesser portion of the funding will support the Service's WNS team salaries and equipment and help keep the WNS community and the public informed about the disease through the White-Nose Syndrome.org website and annual workshops.



Indiana Bat

Grant recipients have improved our understanding of the disease and its impact on bat populations, and developed tools to manage WNS and conserve bats, including possible treatments on bats. For example:

- Biologists in New York and Vermont have found up to 50 percent of marked little brown bats at test sites surviving from one winter to the next in recent years, giving some hope that this species might one day be able to recover. However, little brown bat populations at these sites remain at less than 10 percent of their pre-WNS size;
- Scientists have developed new ways to detect the fungus (*Pseudogymnoascus destructans*) that causes white-nose syndrome on bats and in the environment, including using UV light and molecular analyses;
- Researchers have made significant strides in understanding disease response of hibernating bats and factors that influence bat vulnerability to WNS;

- Studies of natural bacteria and skin chemistry of bats have led to new lines of research for treatments using biological or non-chemical agents for bats at risk of WNS infection;
- Other treatments under investigation include changing temperature and humidity in hibernation areas to slow fungus growth or improve bat survival, and vaccines to boost resistance to WNS;
- Researchers are looking into molecular and genetic tools to reduce the ability of *P. destructans* to cause disease; and
- The Service and partners have developed a new, comprehensive monitoring strategy (the North American Bat Monitoring Program – NABat) for estimating trends in distribution and abundance for all North American bat species.

Cooperative Recovery Initiative

Along with other Service programs, Service Science funding supports this cross-programmatic initiative to address current threats to endangered and threatened species on and around National Wildlife Refuges. The Cooperative Recovery Initiative (CRI) focuses on implementing recovery actions for species near delisting or reclassification from endangered to threatened, and actions that are urgently needed to prevent extinctions. The goal is to make measurable steps toward achieving recovery, starting with the lands and habitats managed by the Service where relatively small investments can make a big impact.

The Service has been streamlining the internal process for soliciting and selecting CRI proposals, improving systems for tracking progress, and ensuring accountability through new reporting and data management approaches. CRI projects are required to show demonstrable success on the ground, and new guidelines emphasize the need for a clear monitoring plan and sustained investment in documenting project outcomes. In addition, revised selection criteria will ensure that CRI projects are planned within the larger context of Service landscape conservation priorities, and that the potential long-term sustainability of project outcomes is adequately considered.

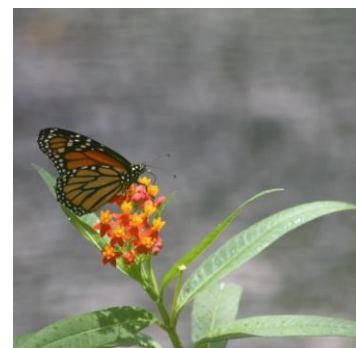
Oregon Chub – CRI funds received in 2013 were used to remove invasive species to ensure the persistence of Oregon Chub population on Ankeny NWR, and secure Willow Marsh on Ankeny NWR from future floodwater intrusions. On February 18, 2015, the Service announced the removal of the Oregon chub, and its critical habitat, from the list of Endangered and Threatened Species, and the Oregon chub became the first fish ever to be delisted due to recovery.

Columbian White-tailed Deer – On October 6, 2015, the Service proposed to downlist the Columbian white-tailed deer from endangered to threatened. CRI funds awarded in 2013 were used to develop secure sites for deer within and outside of the counties adjacent to the Columbia River, enhance habitat to improve both cover and food resources, translocate deer from flood-prone, unprotected habitat to secure National Refuges, monitor populations, and control predators as necessary. These efforts have contributed to the species recovery by expanding the deer’s distribution, increasing the number of subpopulations, and stabilizing existing populations at sustainable levels.

Monarch Conservation

The monarch butterfly population has precipitously declined to a fraction of its previous size. In August 2014, the Service received a petition to list the monarch as a threatened species under the ESA. Early investments in science are critical to build our knowledge base, to support a Strategic Habitat Conservation approach, and to inform the Service response to the ESA petition review process.

Science Applications, working with other Service programs, States, and the Monarch Conservation Science Partnership, will convene and



Monarch Butterfly

coordinate a process for prioritizing investments for future research. These investments will address both Eastern and Western Monarch populations. In addition, FY 2017 funds will support the completion of a multivariate analysis for monarchs overwintering in Mexico. This effort analyzes and compares the relative importance of variables in determining over-wintering monarch population levels (climate, habitat loss, reproduction, and parasitism). Results from this statistical modeling effort will provide better understanding of the cause-effect relationships driving monarch population outcomes and the development of urban monarch landscape conservation designs.

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General Operations



Activity: General Operations

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Change from 2016 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Central Office Operations	(\$000)	39,985	40,722	+286	-153	+1,294	42,149	+1,427
	FTE	245	268	0	0	+1	269	+1
Regional Office Operations	(\$000)	37,722	37,722	+478	0	+3,154	41,354	+3,632
	FTE	375	381	0	0	0	381	0
Servicewide Bill Paying	(\$000)	35,227	35,177	-387	0	+988	35,778	+601
	FTE	14	14	0	0	0	14	0
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	(\$000)	7,022	7,022	0	0	0	7,022	0
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
National Conservation Training Center	(\$000)	21,965	22,414	+115	0	+2,600	25,129	+2,715
	FTE	122	127	0	0	0	127	0
Total, General Operations	(\$000)	141,921	143,057	+492	-153	+8,036	151,432	+8,375
	FTE	756	790	0	0	0	791	+1

Summary of 2017 Program Changes for General Operations

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Regional Office Operations	+3,154	0
• Central Office Operations	+1,294	+1
• National Conservation Training Center	+2,600	0
• Servicewide Bill Paying	+988	0
Program Changes	+8,036	+1

Program Mission

The General Operations Program provides the management and support that allows the Service’s programmatic activities and organizations to accomplish their goals and mission. Primarily, it provides headquarters, regions, and field offices with the resources (e.g., people, funding, facilities, access to data, etc.) they need to carry out the work of the Service. General Operations also ensures that the Service is in compliance with legal, regulatory, and Departmental policies for all administrative areas and functions.

Program Subactivities

Five subactivities comprise the General Operations Program:

- Central Office Operations – Seven Headquarters offices provide the Service with the leadership, strategic direction, and necessary resources to accomplish mission priorities and goals. The offices in this subactivity are the Office of the Director; Office of Diversity and Inclusive Workforce Management; Office of Native American Programs Coordination; 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 and Technology Management.

- Regional Office Operations – The Service’s eight Regional Offices provide front line, daily support to over 700 geographically diverse field offices by managing Regional leadership, Budget and Administration, and External Affairs functions. The Service delegates many aspects of management and operation to the field office level; however, functions that require extensive training, certification (e.g., contracting warrants), or specialized knowledge (e.g., personnel policies and authorities) are centralized regionally for cost and operational efficiencies.
- Servicewide Bill Paying – This subactivity provides a means to centrally budget and pay for nationwide operational support and infrastructure costs that the Service incurs in the course of accomplishing its mission. A non-exhaustive list of expenses paid from this subactivity include Information Technology (IT) and communication needs, payments to the DOI Working Capital Fund (WCF), mail delivery and distribution, and printing.
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) – NFWF runs a competitive challenge grant program with a statutory non-Federal matching requirement of 1:1 for all awards of federally appropriated funds. However, in recent years the non-Federal match has been closer to 3:1, greatly multiplying the impact of the Service’s funding for on-the-ground conservation projects.
- National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) – Opened in 1997 and located on 533 acres along the Potomac River in Shepherdstown, WV, NCTC is the Service’s primary training facility. In addition to training Service employees, NCTC provides training on a reimbursable basis to conservation professionals from DOI, other Federal, State and local governments, not-for-profit conservation organizations, private landowners and the business community. In this way, NCTC programs expand their reach and impact and help Service professionals build collaborative partnerships for conservation.

Activity: General Operations
Subactivity: Central Office Operations

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Change from 2016 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Central Office Operations	(\$000)	39,985	40,722	+286	-153	+1,294	42,149	+1,427
	FTE	245	268	0	0	+1	269	+1

Summary of 2017 Program Changes for Central Office Operations

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Central Office Operations	+1,294	+1
Program Changes	+1,294	+1

Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for Central Office Operations is \$42,149,000 and 269 FTE, a program change of +\$1,294,000 and +1 FTE from the 2016 Enacted.

Central Office Operations (+\$1,294,000 / +1 FTE)

Central Office Operations provide bureau-wide leadership and direction for the Service and fund the organizational support required to carry out the Service’s mission. The requested funding increase will maintain Central Office Operations at a level sufficient to keep pace with the rising costs incurred by and demands placed on this office. The increase supports a wide range of activities—from providing regular reports requested by Congress, such as quarterly unobligated balances, to fulfilling management and oversight functions that ensure the Service operates in compliance with Federal rules and regulations to avoid any misconduct in critical areas, including personnel and travel management, communications support, financial management, and other applicable laws, directives, or mandates. This funding will allow the Service to continue delivering quality support to its programs.

Program Overview

Descriptions of the seven offices that comprise Central Office Operations follow:

Office of the Director

The Office of the Director includes the Director, Deputy Directors, and staff specialists, who provide policy direction and support for program and management activities of the Service. Goals for this office include promoting a national network of lands and waters for conserving fish and wildlife, protecting endangered species, migratory birds and inter-jurisdictional fish, and facilitating partnerships to conserve fish and wildlife for present and future generations.

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. The ODIWM provides direction, policy formulation, and oversight of the Service’s Diversity and Inclusion Implementation Plan with regard to applicable civil rights laws and directives.

Office of Native American Programs Coordination

The Office of Native American Programs Coordination serves as a key point of contact for Native American Tribes, and works to expand the Service’s capacity to work cooperatively with Tribes to further the Service’s conservation mission. 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.

External Affairs

The Assistant Director for External Affairs (EA) formulates national policy and directs operations in the Divisions of Communications, Congressional and Legislative Affairs, and Program and Partnership Support. EA responds to congressional inquiries, coordinates briefings and meetings with Congressional Members and their staff, and prepares Service personnel for hearings. In addition, they develop Service positions on legislation, testimony, and other matters pending before Congress. EA also is responsible for the Service's outreach program, which informs the public, constituent organizations, and employees about current policies, programs, and actions.

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 Conservation Business Management. BPHC works with Service programs and the Directorate to formulate budget proposals and workforce and succession planning to support its mission and goals. BPHC provides expertise to reengineer Service functions, such as recruitment and hiring, and manages the Servicewide Strategic Performance Management system, which sets performance measure targets and reports performance accomplishments. BPHC manages the publication of notices and regulations in the Federal Register and programmatic Internal Controls under OMB Circular A-123, and is the liaison with the General Accountability Office and the Office of the Inspector General.

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 provides the Service and Department with audit assistance, risk management and internal controls, and financial reporting. They also develop policy and manage programs for Servicewide acquisition, personal property, Government quarters, space leasing, and the motor vehicle fleet. Additionally they help contain workers' compensation costs through injury prevention initiatives and through special emphasis programs such as watercraft and diving safety. BMO also manages the Service's construction, dam, bridge, and seismic safety, energy management, and environmental compliance and management programs. They provide Servicewide direction for the Emergency Support Function (ESF), which addresses engineering and construction support needs as part of the Federal response to natural disasters and other emergencies.

Information Resources and Technology Management (IRTM)

The Assistant Chief Information Officer (ACIO) provides secure, efficient and effective management of information resources and technology that allows the Service to accomplish its mission. IRTM provides reliable mission essential connectivity for email, internet, network applications, and Land Mobile Radios across the Service. The IRTM security program maintains and monitors network security subsystems to ensure a stable and dependable environment for the network and its users. The ACIO also plays a pivotal role ensuring that the Service is in compliance with all Federal IT laws, regulations, and requirements.

Activity: General Operations
Subactivity: Regional Office Operations

	(\$000)	2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017				Change from 2016 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Regional Office Operations		37,722	37,722	+478	0	+3,154	41,354	+3,632
	FTE	375	381	0	0	0	381	0

Summary of 2017 Program Changes for Regional Office Operations

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Regional Office Operations	+3,154	0
Program Changes	+3,154	0

Justification of 2017 Program Changes



FWS Regional Offices are located in Alaska, Oregon, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Georgia, Minnesota, and Massachusetts

The 2017 budget request for Regional Office Operations is \$41,354,000 and 381 FTE, a program change of +\$3,154,000 and +0 FTE from the 2016 Enacted.

Regional Office Operations (+\$3,154,000 / +0 FTE)

Regional Office Operations provide a wide spectrum of services to Service programs. They perform core administrative functions (e.g., hiring, purchasing, finance, safety, IT) in the regions and tackle more complex tasks, such as reporting on fleet management, conducting safety trainings, and implementing internal controls. Regional Office Operations work hard behind the scenes, to ensure their work does not impact programs' output. Despite

implementing operational efficiencies, the cost of providing these services in the regions has outpaced existing funding sources (i.e., base funding and program assessments). This increase eliminates the need to increase program assessments for common shared services which would impact program effectiveness and output. This funding also will ensure program resources remain focused on meeting Service mission goals without delays in accomplishing base administrative functions.

Program Overview

Regional Office Operations funding supports the following organizational components.

Regional Directors – Regional Directors (RDs) advise the Service Director and develop recommendations on national and regional policies, plans, and procedures. In addition, the RDs serve as liaisons to State, local and Tribal governments, civic and interest groups, and the public within their geographic jurisdictions.

Budget and Administrative Offices – The Budget and Administrative (BA) offices provide the overall management and execution of administrative support throughout each Region. They advise RDs on administrative matters and provide day-to-day operational management for budget, finance, contracting, human resources, diversity, safety, and information technology. In addition, BA offices provide organizational support services, such as office equipment leasing, facility maintenance, reproduction and copying, telephone and computer connectivity, and service contracts. These offices also supervise the Engineering Division (discussed in more detail in the Construction Appropriation section of the President’s Budget justification). A more detailed explanation of the divisions that comprise regional BA offices follows.

- *Division of Budget and Finance* – coordinates business operations and provides financial information to RDs and other BA divisions. This office ensures that regional internal controls (including those from internal and external audits) are in place; manages charge card and travel management systems; oversees real property accounting processes; provides support to and training on DOI accounting system (FBMS); coordinates vendor payments; and monitors agreements with external partners to ensure full cost recovery of delivering conservation services.
- *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); management of fleet, quarters, personal property, leasing, and office space; coordination of facility operations; and issuing grants and agreements where external partners assist the Service in meeting conservation goals.
- *Division of Human Resources* – implements Service personnel policies, programs, and procedures; and provides support services to program managers on human resource issues. The office assists in position management, recruiting and hiring, special employment programs, employee relations, performance management and recognition, retirement and benefits administration, training, labor relations, ethics, workers’ compensation, security clearances, and payroll services.
- *Division of Diversity and Civil Rights* – manages regional compliance with applicable civil rights laws, ensuring a workforce as diverse as possible. The office specializes in managing programs in diversity policy and reporting, such as Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) policy and reporting, Federally Assisted Programs (FAP), Federally Conducted Programs (FCP), special emphasis, disability/reasonable accommodation assistance, EEO complaints, conflict resolution, limited English proficiency, and environmental justice.
- *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.
- *Division of Information Resources and Technology Management* – oversees regional IT requirements. This includes providing regional help-desk support (both physical and virtual), supporting various IT networks, monitoring IT security, managing communication devices (e.g., office phones, cell phones, tablets), providing web services, developing IT purchase/spend plans, and acquiring and installing IT hardware and software. This office also helps coordinate the implementation of Departmental IT transformation efforts in the Regions.
- *Division of External Affairs* – administers a multifaceted program that provides technical expertise in the areas of Congressional affairs, press releases, media inquiries, special event planning, communication plans, education, outreach, website design, and regional social media efforts. This office employs these skills to support how field stations interact with the public, interest groups, and local, State, Federal, and Tribal governments.

Activity: General Operations
Subactivity: Servicewide Bill Paying

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Budget Request	Change from 2016 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
Servicewide Bill Paying	(\$000)	35,227	35,177	-387	0	+988	35,778	+601
	FTE	14	14	0	0	0	14	0

Summary of 2017 Program Changes for Servicewide Bill Paying

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• DOI Working Capital Fund	+693	0
• Assistant Secretary – Fish, Wildlife, and Parks	+200	0
• Document Tracking	+50	0
• Memberships	+45	0
Program Changes	+988	0

Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for Servicewide Bill Paying is \$35,778,000 and 14 FTE, a program change of +\$988,000 and +0 FTE from the 2016 Enacted.

Working Capital Fund (+\$693,000/+0 FTE)

- **Technical Correction (+\$592,000)** Rescissions and sequestration have eroded the set-aside funding for paying the Service’s portion of Department-wide programs and oversight, such as Aviation Management and Information Technology. Funding will be used to address Working Capital Fund Centralized Bills to reduce the amount assessed from programs.
- **Indian Water Rights (+\$101,000)** This increase will improve coordination and application of expertise across the Department, Indian tribes, States, and other stakeholders to reach Indian water settlements more effectively and expediently. The budget proposes to expand the duties and responsibilities of the Secretary’s Indian Water Rights Office (SIWRO) to achieve an integrated and systematic approach to Indian water rights negotiations that considers the full range of economic, legal, and technical attributes of proposed settlements. The budget includes funding for additional SIWRO staff to reflect the expanded duties.

Assistant Secretary Support (+\$200,000 / +0 FTE)

This increase restores support for the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks closer to the pre-sequestration level.

Document Tracking (+\$50,000 / +0 FTE)

This increase restores funding for the Data Tracking System (DTS) closer to the pre-sequestration level. The Department uses DTS to assign correspondence for action, route correspondence to officials for their review and concurrence, and track correspondence and other packages. Developed by the Service, DTS is used across all bureaus of the Department.

Memberships (+\$45,000 / +0 FTE)

This funding represents a request for additional resources to pay for the Service’s various memberships (e.g., professional, scientific, conservation, etc.). The requested funding restores the sequestration cuts and includes an additional amount for inflationary increases in membership fees.

Program Overview

The Servicewide Bill Paying subactivity covers costs in the areas that follow.

Information Technology (IT) and Communication Needs

Expenses in this category include payments for domestic and international network services; costs associated with land, wireless, radio, and satellite communications; Certification and Accreditation (C&A) costs for IT systems; providing security for IT systems; and improving compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements.

DOI Working Capital Fund (WCF)

The Department of the Interior provides centralized administrative and business services and systems to Interior bureaus and offices and to other customers. The Service requests funding for its portion of the WCF bill.

Mail Delivery and Distribution

Expenses in this category include contract charges for Intra-Agency and Departmental courier and mailroom services.

Servicewide Workers' Compensation and Unemployment Compensation Costs

Workers' compensation includes costs of compensating injured employees and dependents of employees who suffer accidental deaths while on duty. Unemployment compensation costs represent the estimated annual costs of paying unemployment compensation claims.

Printing (under the domain of Assistant Director – External Affairs)

Despite having reduced printing costs by favoring electronic media over printed publications, the Service still incurs costs for printing copies of certain documents, such as the Code of Federal Regulations, Congressional Bills and Hearings, Federal Register indexes and related documents, and all employee products produced by the Office of Personnel Management which must remain available as hard copies.

Reimbursable Support Agreements (RSAs)

Expenses in this category relate to support services provided by the Department and external agencies. Examples include the Employee Assistance Program, administration of the Flexible Spending Plan, and storage services provided by the National Archives and Records Administration.

Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks (AS-FWP)

The Service contributes funding to cover costs of salary, benefits, and travel for activities directly related to the Service.

Economic Studies (under the domain of the Assistant Director – Business Management and Operations)

Expenses in this category relate to contract costs for conducting socio-economic reviews and analyses on relevant issues to the Service. Examples include 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 (under the domain of the Assistant Director – Business Management and Operations)

Expenses in this category relate to overall Service administration of PRISM, the acquisition module in the Financial Business Management System (FBMS). Examples of specific costs include maintenance of requisitioning infrastructure, helpdesk and workflow processing, acquisition management reviews, software optimization, and training support.

Data Tracking System (DTS) (under the domain of the Office of the Director)

Expenses in this category relate to the costs for administration and technical support for DTS, the electronic system for managing and tracking official correspondence.

Activity: General Operations

Subactivity: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Change from 2016 (+/-)	
				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 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is \$7,022,000 and 0 FTE, with no program change from the 2016 Enacted.

Program Overview

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 that NFWF awards. In recent years NFWF has averaged a 3:1 match. All grantee matching funds are non-Federal funds provided in cash or as in-kind services. In FY 2015, NFWF awarded \$7 million in FWS appropriated funds. The FWS funds support strategic conservation efforts focusing on at-risk species, habitat enhancement and community based stewardship. The partnership seeks to increase populations of targeted species by promoting the restoration of landscape-level habitats. Targeted species include Hawaiian Forest Birds, American Oystercatcher, Southeast Native Bass, Russian River Coho, and River Herring. Focal areas include early successional forest, Southeast aquatic ecosystems, Atlantic shorebird habitats, Alaska’s Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Northern Great Plains, and the Klamath Basin in the Pacific Northwest. One hundred percent of the congressionally appropriated funds provided to NFWF by the Service is directed to on-the-ground projects and is not used to support NFWF’s administrative expenses. NFWF uses the funding to leverage additional commitments of resources from corporations, foundations, and conservation partners. The funds are invested through outcome-focused grant programs guided by conservation business plans developed in partnership with FWS. Individual projects are reviewed by diverse outside reviewers (e.g., Federal, State, non-profit, educational and private sector), NFWF, and FWS.

Activity: General Operations**Subactivity: National Conservation Training Center**

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Change from 2016 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
National Conservation Training Center	(\$000)	21,965	22,414	+115	0	+2,600	25,129	+2,715
	FTE	122	127	0	0	0	127	0

Summary of 2017 Program Changes for National Conservation Training Center

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Annual Maintenance	+2,600	0
Program Changes	+2,600	0

Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) is \$25,129,000 and 127 FTE, a program change of +\$2,600,000 and +0 FTE from the 2016 Enacted.

Annual Maintenance (+\$2,600,000/ +0 FTE)

This increase reflects the reality that NCTC is nearly 20 years old and requires a greater level of annual maintenance to keep the campus safe for employees and students and to prevent training cancellations or interruptions, development of a maintenance backlog, and more costly emergency repairs. The requested increase will be used to repair or replace failing infrastructure and systems such as environmental controls, roofing, fire annunciation, and water delivery/sanitation systems.

Program Overview**Training Programs**

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 staff work closely with Service leaders, headquarters, and the field to develop and deliver training to address needs identified in the Service's Human Capital Plan, program strategic plans, and ongoing program-based needs assessments. NCTC is fully committed to upholding and adhering to the highest standards of scientific integrity. NCTC hosts workshops, conferences and meetings that support Service and partner agency strategic priorities. These events address key initiatives such as Strategic Habitat Conservation, Climate Change, and capacity-building for Landscape Conservation Cooperatives. NCTC leverages the expertise of partner agencies, academic institutions and NCTC's library resources to provide the most extensive and scientifically up-to-date training available.

NCTC manages all training-related Servicewide systems, including the DOI learning management system, to create efficiencies, standardization, and coordination of all training delivery. Courses are delivered on-site at NCTC, off-site at regional and field offices, and thru synchronous and asynchronous distance learning offerings. There are over 200 courses available and they are organized into three primary areas.

- *Conservation Science and Technology* – Courses in this area include topics that teach the latest science related to the Service's trust resources. This includes classes in biology, ecology, and management of species, technology, statistics, and modeling. NCTC manages four fully-equipped laboratories that support biological, chemical, and aquatic resources training.

- *Applied Landscape Conservation and Policy* – Courses in this area include topics related to policy and regulations that Service employees need to fulfill regulatory responsibilities, such as those related to the Endangered Species Act. Additionally, training classes in this area equip Service employees with the tools to guide current and future conservation actions.
- *Conservation Leadership and Communication* – Courses in this area include topics in leadership, supervision, and management. NCTC staff base curricula for these courses on the Service's Leadership Competency Development Model and the U.S. Office of Personnel and Management's 28 Executive Core Qualifications. Additionally, courses that focus on communication, outreach and visitor services, and overview of key Service programs, policies, and issues are part of this area.

Building the Next Generation of Conservation Professionals

NCTC is a leading force for the Service to accomplish the Secretary's priority of engaging, educating, and employing the Next Generation of conservation professionals. NCTC is focused on three key strategies for achieving this goal:

Coordination and Collaboration

NCTC supports and works with a wide range of FWS, DOI, and NGO partners on partnerships and efforts to prepare the next generation of conservation professionals that reflects the makeup of the nation. NCTC continues to develop, implement, and administer effective programs and collaboration efforts for sharing resources across DOI that target specific audiences including the DOI Youth Portal (YouthGo.gov) and the Inter-tribal Youth Climate Leadership Congress, presented in partnership with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

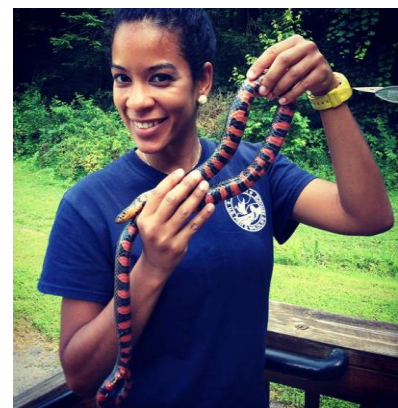
Professional Development

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 in environmental education, youth outdoor skills, diversity and inclusion training, and youth leadership provide Service and Department employees with the skills needed to engage, educate, promote volunteer service, and hire young people from the Millennial generation. This includes supporting regional implementation of the Department's Diversity Change Agent Program, which provides training for FWS Diversity Change Agents located across the country; and facilitates the exchange of resources, all to build a more inclusive hiring environment.

Career Awareness

NCTC supports the Service by coordinating efforts to engage an inclusive next generation of conservation professionals in various Service entry-level employment programs that reach diverse communities and by tracking program success.

NCTC has a key role in the execution of the Directorate Resource Assistant Fellowship Program (DFP). This high profile initiative provides 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. Management may directly hire a DFP Fellow who has successfully completed the fellowship program and the requirements for their degree program. Fellowship opportunities for the DFP may be established and approved at the Service's Headquarters, Regional Offices, or field levels. This program assists 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). Additionally,



*DFP Fellow conducting fieldwork
Credit: NCTC*

the DFP assists the Service with its disability and veterans hiring initiatives.

NCTC also works with regions to engage universities across the nation with the Conservation Career Symposia (CCS) program, where diverse groups of students interested in conservation careers work with Service professionals to discuss ways to prepare for and apply for careers in the Service. CCS programs have been held at Colorado State University, the University of Delaware, and Yale University to name only a few. Participating students can follow up with Service professionals for career advice and assistance through direct contact and a robust social media presence.

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.

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 that could result in more costly emergency repairs.

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; [\$23,687,000]\$23,740,000, to remain available until expended. (*Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016.*)

Applicable Laws, Acts, and Orders

The Service has the legal mandate and responsibility to ensure its inventory of assets, facilities, and infrastructure is safe and adequate to accomplish its conservation mission. There are more than 24 laws, statutes, and executive orders that govern what the Construction program must do with the funding it receives from Congress. Governing authorities are discussed below.

Recreation Use of Conservation Areas Act of 1962 (16 U.S.C. 460k-460k-4). Commonly known as the Refuge Recreation Act of 1962, this act 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 conduct cleanup and/or 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.

Flood Plain Management Act of 1977, as amended by E.O. 11998, and E.O. 13690 Federal Flood Risk Management and Standard and a Process for Further Soliciting and Considering Stakeholder Input (January 2015). Amends the existing Executive Order 11988 on Floodplain Management and adopts a higher flood standard for future federal investments in and affecting floodplains, which will be required to meet the level of resilience established in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard.

National Dam Safety Program Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-121). 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.

(16 U.S.C. 695k-695r). Provides for limitations on reduction of areas by diking or other construction in California and Oregon in the case of migratory waterfowl and other refuges, as well as other construction provisions.

(16 U.S.C. 760-760-12). Provides for the construction, equipping, maintenance, and operation of several named fish hatcheries.

(23 U.S.C. 144 and 151). Requires bridges on public highways and roads to be inspected.

Executive Orders

Presidential Memorandum of October 4, 1979. Directs all Federal agencies to adopt and implement the Federal Guidelines for Dam Safety as prepared by the Federal Coordinating Council for Science, Engineering, and Technology. (Secretary of the Interior Order No. 3048, implements and assigns responsibility for a Department-wide dam safety program in accordance with the President's memorandum).

Executive Order 12088, Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards (October 13, 1978). Requires agencies to ensure that facilities comply with applicable pollution control standards; ensure that sufficient funds for environmental compliance are requested in their budgets; and include pollution control projects in an annual pollution abatement budget plan.

Executive Order 12941 for Seismic Risk Safety (December 1, 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 (January 5, 1990). 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 13, 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.

Executive Order 13653, Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change (November 1, 2013). Improves the preparedness and resilience of Federal agencies by promoting: engaged and strong partnerships and information sharing at all levels of government, risk-informed decision-making, adaptive learning, and preparedness planning. Requires Federal agencies to integrate considerations of the challenges posed by climate change effects into their programs, policies, rules, and operations to ensure they continue to be effective, even as the climate changes. Agencies must develop, implement, and update comprehensive plans that integrate consideration of climate change into agency operations and overall mission objectives, and agencies must report on progress made on and updates made to Adaptation Plans (through their Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan, as required under Executive Order 13693).

Executive Order 13693, Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade (March 19, 2015). Expands and updates Federal environmental performance goals with a clear overarching objective of reducing greenhouse gas emissions across Federal operations and the Federal supply chain over the next decade while at the same time fostering innovation, reducing spending, and strengthening the communities in which Federal facilities operate. To improve environmental performance and Federal sustainability, priority should first be placed on reducing energy use and cost, then on finding renewable or alternative energy solutions. New Implementing Instructions (June 10, 2015), provide Federal agencies with clarifying guidance for implementing Executive Order 13693.

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

Fixed Cost Changes and Projections	2016 Total or Change	2016 to 2017 Change
Change in Number of Paid Days This column reflects changes in pay associated with the change in the number of paid days between 2016 and 2017.	+29	-55
Pay Raise The change reflects the salary impact of the 1.6% programmed pay raise increases as provided in the June, 2015 Circular A-11.	+96	+108
Rental Payments The amounts reflect changes in the costs payable to General Services Administration (GSA) and others for office and non-office space as estimated by GSA, as well as the rental costs of other currently occupied space. These costs include building security; in the case of GSA space, these are paid to Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Costs of mandatory office relocations, i.e. relocations in cases where due to external events there is no alternative but to vacate the currently occupied space, are also included.	+0	+0

Appropriation: Construction

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017				Change from 2016 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfer s (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Nationwide Engineering Services	(\$000)	7,161	7,161	+53	0	0	7,214	+53
Bridge, Dam, and Seismic Safety	(\$000)	1,972	1,972	0	0	0	1,972	0
Line-Item Construction Projects	(\$000)	6,554	14,554	0	0	0	14,554	0
Total, Construction	(\$000)	15,687	23,687	+53	0	0	23,740	+53
	<i>FTE</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>0</i>

Mission

The Construction program’s mission is to provide exceptional engineering design and construction, facility maintenance, and environmental compliance services in support of the Service's mission to conserve, protect, and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Program performs this wide range of functions for the Service’s entire inventory of assets, facilities, and infrastructure that include 562 refuges, 72 fish hatcheries and one historic fish hatchery, and 65 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices. The Program accomplishes its mission in accordance with more than 24 applicable laws, statutes, and executive orders, in addition to Departmental and Service priorities. For example, water scarcity and concerns over sustainability and energy usage have given rise to mandates and initiatives to minimize consumption and maximize use of energy efficient techniques and renewable resources. The Service is exemplary in meeting and exceeding these requirements.

Activities

There are three activities that comprise the Construction appropriation:

- Nationwide Engineering Services (NES) – This activity manages the numerous construction and maintenance projects undertaken each year, ensures operations comply with environmental laws, and oversees mandated energy and greenhouse gas accounting and reporting. NES ensures Service facilities are structurally and environmentally safe, require minimal resources to operate, and maximize energy efficiency.
- Dam, Bridge, and Seismic Safety – This activity assures the safety and security of the Service’s dams, bridges, and buildings. This primarily is accomplished through routine inspections and assessments, monitoring, rehabilitation, design, and mitigation. Much of the activities carried out in this activity are prescribed by law.
- Line-Item Construction – This activity contains the specific construction projects that will be funded in any given year. These projects reconstruct, repair, rehabilitate, and replace existing buildings or other structures/facilities, such as bridges and dams. New buildings and structures/facilities may also be included. Funding may be used for project-specific planning, design and construction management; construction, demolition, site work, and land acquisition; and the purchase of furniture, fixtures, and equipment.

Appropriation: Construction**Activity: Nationwide Engineering Services**

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Change from 2016 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Core Engineering Services	(\$000)	6,063	6,063	+53	0	0	6,116	+53
Environmental Compliance	(\$000)	998	998	0	0	0	998	0
Waste Prevention	(\$000)	100	100	0	0	0	100	0
Total, NES	(\$000)	7,161	7,161	+53	0	0	7,214	+53
	FTE	50	57	0	0	0	57	0

Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for the Nationwide Engineering Services activity is \$7,214,000 and 57 FTE, no program change from the 2016 Enacted.

Program Overview

The Nationwide Engineering Services (NES) activity supports implementation of construction and maintenance projects; the three program elements that comprise this activity are discussed below.

Core Engineering Services – Funding in this program element provides the management, administration, and technical oversight of many construction and maintenance projects undertaken each year. Headquarters staff develop policy, oversee budget formulation and execution, and provide technical expertise.

Environmental Compliance – Through this program element, the Service conducts environmental compliance audits of more than 700 field locations within a five-year cycle, to ensure that Service facilities and activities comply with new and existing environmental laws and regulations at all levels (i.e., Federal, State, local, etc.). This program element also promotes resource stewardship and workplace health and safety through the provision of Service-wide technical assistance and training for large-scale environmental contamination cleanup projects and issues related to environmental compliance regulations, policy, and audits.

Waste Prevention, Recycling and Environmental Management Systems –The staff funded by this program element are responsible for ensuring that the Service is meeting sustainability requirements contained in Executive Order 13693 (Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade, March 2015), the DOI Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan, and a number of other related laws and policies.

Appropriation: Construction
Activity: Dam, Bridge, and Seismic Safety

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017				Change from 2016 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Dam Safety and Security	(\$000)	1,113	1,113	0	0	0	1,113	0
Bridge Safety	(\$000)	739	739	0	0	0	739	0
Seismic Safety	(\$000)	120	120	0	0	0	120	0
Total, Dam, Bridget, and Seismic Safety	(\$000) FTE	1,972 0	1,972 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	1,972 0	0 0

Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for the Dam, Bridge, and Seismic Safety activity is \$1,972,000 and 0 FTE, no program change from the 2016 Enacted.

Program Overview

The Dam, Bridge, and Seismic Safety activity supports assuring the safety and security of the Service’s dams, bridges, and buildings; the three program elements that comprise this activity are discussed below.

Dam Safety and Security – Funding in this program element seeks to assure the safety and security of the nearly 300 dams owned by the Service. Located on refuges and hatcheries for the purpose of resource or facility management, these dams provide vital benefits such as boating, habitat, flood risk reduction, irrigation, wetland creation, water supply for hatcheries, nesting habitat for waterfowl, and fishing. Funding supports a variety of activities to make certain that new and existing dams are designed and constructed, and properly operated and maintained, to protect human life, property, and the valuable natural resources on Service lands.

The development of Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) for dams that threaten downstream populations, as required by Federal law, is one example of the work done by these staff. EAPs provide site-specific guidance for detection and mitigation of conditions that may cause dam failures; communication protocols for notifying and evacuating downstream populations also are provided in the EAPs. Another example of work done in this area are the periodic Safety Evaluation of Existing Dams (SEED) inspections, which include performing and reassessing hazard classifications—based upon estimates of loss of life and property damage should a dam fail. The Service uses the hazard classification, a risk assessment, and the overall condition of the dam to identify and prioritize dam repair and rehabilitation projects.

During FY 2017, the Service will conduct approximately 70 SEED inspections; additionally, an estimated 15 initial inspections will be conducted on dams added to the Service’s inventory. The Service requests funding to complete needed dam safety repair projects separately in its line-item construction activity. The Service’s Dam Safety Officer provides close supervision of major repair/rehabilitation or new construction projects. Consistent with practice from past years, unobligated funding from dam safety projects may be used to address ongoing Dam Safety and Security needs (e.g., additional SEED inspections, minor dam safety repairs) or used for emergency construction projects.

Bridge Safety – This funding provides for the safety and integrity of the Service’s approximately 700 bridges through the application of technically current design guidelines and a comprehensive inspection, appraisal, and inventory program. Bridge inspections are conducted at statutorily required time intervals and scheduled according to their condition. During bridge inspections Service staff determine and verify safe load-carrying capacity; identify and recommend mitigation of unsafe conditions; and identify maintenance, rehabilitation, or reconstruction needs. Similar to dam safety projects, funding for bridge safety projects is requested as part of the line-item construction activity. In FY 2017, the Service will inspect approximately 340 bridges, satisfying Federal Highway Administration National Bridge Inventory requirements.

Seismic Safety – This program element funds assessments of the seismic safety of the Service’s more than 6600 buildings. The work performed by this program fulfills the requirements of Executive Order 12941 (Seismic Safety of Existing Federally Owned or Leased Buildings, December 1994) and allows the Service to identify and mitigate buildings designed or constructed without adequate strength to meet current seismic standards. Program staff screen Service-owned buildings to identify those that are exceptionally high risk. Any building found to be exceptionally high risk undergoes a rigorous engineering analysis, which includes developing a cost estimate to mitigate any found deficiencies. Engineering analyses have confirmed there currently are 50 seismically deficient buildings that have the potential to sustain life threatening damage in a seismic event. Preliminary screenings indicate another 300 exceptionally high risk buildings may pose a similar risk. Engineering analyses and mitigation projects are funded via the line-item construction activity.

Appropriation: Construction
Activity: Line-Item Construction

	2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017				Change from 2016 (+/-)
			Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Total, Line-Item Construction	6,554	14,554	0	0	0	14,554	0
<i>FTE</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for the Line-Item Construction activity is \$14,554,000 and 0 FTE, no program change from the 2016 Enacted.

Program Overview

A list of the proposed line-item projects for FY 2017 is provided below. A Project Data Sheet (PDS) for each project is provided that includes key information about the purpose, justification, cost, and schedule. Additionally, after the individual PDSs, a Summary PDS for FYs 2017-2021 lays out the Service’s five-year construction plan and shows how we plan to direct funding to the most critical needs (i.e., health, safety, or natural resource). The Service selects and ranks projects in accordance with DOI and Service guidance and priorities.

2017 Construction Project Listing by Program					
DOI Rank Score	Region	Station	State	Project Title/Description	Request (\$000)
National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS)					
90	Midwest	Crab Orchard NWR	IL	Dam Safety Program - Repair Concrete at Three Dams - Phase II of III	400
90	Southwest	Valle de Oro NWR	NM	Construct Visitor Center, South Valley of Albuquerque, NM [cc]	3,063
76	Northeast	Edwin B. Forsythe NWR	NJ	Replace Co-located Field Office Building [ic]	3,387
52	Midwest	Crab Orchard NWR	IL	Demolish Warehouse Buildings and Restore Habitat	780
Subtotal, NWRS					7,630
National Fish Hatchery System (NFHS)					
80	Northeast	Harrison Lake NFH	VA	Rehabilitate Water Delivery Infrastructure and Provide Well Water Treatment [p/d/cc]	842
80	Northeast	Harrison Lake NFH	VA	Reconfigure and Rehabilitate Pond Complex [p/d/cc]	997
70	Mountain-Prairie	Hotchkiss NFH	CO	Replace Sand Settling Basin [p/d/cc]	500
60	Southwest	San Marcos Aquatic Resources Center	TX	Install Water Reuse System [p/d/cc]	1,620
Subtotal, NFHS					3,959
Other					
90	Headquarters	Clark R. Bavin National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory	OR	Replace Leased Space with Secured Storage Building [cc]	2,500

2017 Construction Project Listing by Program					
DOI Rank Score	Region	Station	State	Project Title/Description	Request (\$000)
70	Headquarters	Branch of Dam Safety	N/A	Dam Safety Program - Evaluations of Newly Acquired Dams - Phase I of III	250
70	Headquarters	Branch of Dam Safety	N/A	Nationwide Seismic Safety Investigations	215
Subtotal, Other					2,965
SUBTOTAL, CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS					14,554

Notes: p = planning, d = design, ic = initiate construction, cc = complete construction

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
PROJECT DATA SHEET

Total Project Score/Ranking:	90
Planned Funding FY:	2017
Funding Source:	Construction

Project Identification

Project Title: Replace Leased Space with Secured Storage Building [cc]			
Project Number: 2010109554	Unit/Facility Name: Clark R. Bavin National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory		
Region/Area/District: Headquarters	Congressional District: 2	State: OR	

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id#	API	FCI-Before	FCI-Projected
	99030	100	1.0	0.00

Project Description:

This project will complete construction of a 7,000 square feet (SF) finished Forensic Standards Warehouse adjacent to the existing Wildlife Forensic Laboratory (Lab) to store wildlife morphological specimens from threatened and endangered animals worldwide (parts, pieces, and whole animal carcasses). The current 4,000 SF leased space is nearly full and, without increased space to store these reference standards, the Lab would have difficulty accepting and storing new specimens that are critical to analysis and law enforcement needs. The specimens are used as analytical standards in research and forensic analysis. One small area of the warehouse will house Lab maintenance equipment. The increase in owned warehouse space will be offset completely through a combination of reduced leased warehouse space (OA #AOR03838) and demolition of other FWS assets (10002010). The warehouse will at least meet the Guiding Principles for High Performance and Sustainable Buildings and Federal energy requirements. The analysis of evidence seized during law enforcement investigations and research to develop analysis methodologies directly depend on the wildlife morphological standards collected from thousands of species worldwide and warehoused in this building. Additionally, the collection is not stored in conditions favorable for preservation and is deteriorating due to water leaks and inadequate climate control. The collection would be difficult or impossible to replace because of the rarity of many of the specimens and work of the lab would be jeopardized. In a 2008 audit, Interior recognized these specimens as irreplaceable, and assigned the Lab a heightened security level to better protect these assets.

Scope of Benefits (SB):

Project aligns with the FWS mission of conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish, wildlife, and plants, and with the FWS Office of Law Enforcement's strategic goals of protecting the Nation's fish, wildlife, and plants from unlawful exploitation, industrial hazards, habitat loss, and illegal import and export.

Investment Strategy (IS):

The cost of leased warehouse space being replaced is \$35,952/year and estimated costs for utilities in the new building are \$5,000/year, saving \$30,000/year in program costs. This new warehouse will protect scientifically priceless wildlife materials, including rare casework specimens collected over 25 years from around the world.

Consequence of Failure to Act (CFA):

The current environmental conditions are poor and adversely impacting the collection. Failure to build the new space would require the Lab to seek a new lease for FY18, and if not found at reasonable costs and location, may require the Service to renew a lease that is unsuitable to the needs of the lab.

Ranking Categories: Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1B)

API/FCI (40%)	API	100	FCI	1.0	Score = (.40 x $\frac{75}{100}$) =	<u>30</u>
SB (20%)					Score = (.20 x $\frac{100}{100}$) =	<u>20</u>
IS (20%)					Score = (.20 x $\frac{100}{100}$) =	<u>20</u>
CFA (20%)					Score = (.20 x $\frac{100}{100}$) =	<u>20</u>

Combined 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:	<u>YES</u>	Total Project Score:	<u>90</u>
VE Study Required (Y/N):	<u>Y</u> Scheduled:	<u>17</u> Completed:		

Project Costs and Status

Project Cost Estimate: (this PDS)	\$'s	%	Project Funding History: (entire project)	\$'s
Deferred Maintenance Work:	\$ 2,500,000	100	Appropriated to Date:	\$ 450,000
Capital Improvement Work:	\$ 0	0	Requested in FY 17 Budget:	\$ 2,500,000
Total:	\$ 2,500,000	100	Future Funding to Complete Project:	\$ 0
			Total:	\$ 2,950,000

Class of Estimate (circle one)	A	<u>B</u>	C	Planning and Design Funds: \$'s
Estimate Escalated to FY: (mm/yy)		<u>01/17</u>		Planning funds received in FY _____ \$ _____
				Design funds received in FY _____ \$ _____

Dates: (QTR/YY)	Sch'd	Actual	Project Data Sheet:	(mm/yy)	DOI Approved:
Construction Award/Start	<u>01/17</u>	_____	Prepared/Last Updated:	(04/15)	YES
Project Complete	<u>04/19</u>	_____			

Annual Operations & Maintenance Costs \$

Current: \$ 35,952	Projected: \$ 5,000	Net Change: \$ -30,952
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
PROJECT DATA SHEET

Total Project Score/Ranking:	90
Planned Funding FY:	2017
Funding Source:	Construction

Project Identification

Project Title: Dam Safety Program Repair Concrete at Three Dams Phase II of III			
Project Number: 2014242162	Unit/Facility Name: Crab Orchard NWR		
Region/Area/District: Midwest	Congressional District: 12	State: IL	

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id#	API	FCI-Before	FCI-Projected
40162000	10013507	100	1.0	0.00

Project Description:

The three high hazard dams at Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge were constructed in the 1940s. The concrete of these dams' features (spillways, training walls, non-overflow sections, etc.) has deteriorated and must be repaired. The repairs require lowering the lake levels, affecting the valuable resources of the refuge. The repairs will be performed in three phases over a three-year period to minimize operational impacts.

Scope of Benefits (SB):

The conditions of the spillways, training walls, and non-overflow sections of the dams have deteriorated and increase the risk of potential dam failures. The repairs are needed to prevent further deterioration and adverse impacts to the operation of the dams.

Investment Strategy (IS):

This project represents a necessary investment that provides net savings when including the potential loss of valuable resources, costs of dam failures, and more expensive repairs if this proposed work is delayed.

Consequence of Failure to Act (CFA):

Over 12,000 people in the local community around the dams are at risk from dam failure flooding because the dams are deteriorated and need repair. The dams provide significant downstream flood control benefits.

Ranking Categories: Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1B)

API/FCI (40%)	API	100	FCI	1.0	Score = (.40 x $\frac{75}{100}$) =	<u>30</u>
SB (20%)					Score = (.20 x $\frac{100}{100}$) =	<u>20</u>
IS (20%)					Score = (.20 x $\frac{100}{100}$) =	<u>20</u>
CFA (20%)					Score = (.20 x $\frac{100}{100}$) =	<u>20</u>

Combined 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
VE Study Required (Y/N): N Scheduled: _____ Completed: _____

Total Project Score: 90

Project Costs and Status

Project Cost Estimate: (this PDS)			\$'s	%	Project Funding History: (entire project)		\$'s	
Deferred Maintenance Work:	\$	400,000	400,000	100	Appropriated to Date:	\$	0	
Capital Improvement Work:	\$	0	0	0	Requested in FY 17 Budget:	\$	400,000	
Total:	\$	400,000	400,000	100	Future Funding to Complete Project:	\$	0	
					Total:	\$	400,000	
Class of Estimate (circle one)				A	B	<u>C</u>		
Estimate Escalated to FY: (mm/yy)				01/17		Planning and Design Funds: \$'s		
						Planning funds received in FY	\$ _____	
						Design funds received in FY	\$ _____	
Dates: (QTR/YY)			Sch'd	Actual	Project Data Sheet: (mm/yy)			
Construction Award/Start			01/17	_____	Prepared/Last Updated: (04/15)			
Project Complete			04/19	_____	DOI Approved:			
						YES		

Annual Operations & Maintenance Costs \$

Current: \$	4,961	Projected: \$	2,500	Net Change: \$	-2,461
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
PROJECT DATA SHEET

Total Project Score/Ranking:	90
Planned Funding FY:	2017
Funding Source:	Construction

Project Identification

Project Title: Construct Visitor Center, South Valley of Albuquerque, New Mexico [cc]			
Project Number: 2014247423	Unit/Facility Name: Valle de Oro NWR		
Region/Area/District: Southwest	Congressional District: 01	State: NM	

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id#	API	FCI-Before	FCI-Projected
40162000	22525	100	N/A	0.00

Project Description:

This project completes the construction of the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center located in the South Valley of Albuquerque, NM, within 90 minutes of 70 percent of the population of New Mexico. The Visitor Center will provide environmental education and interpretation. The project has overwhelming support from within the local community. The Visitor Center will meet Federal energy requirements, and fulfill the Guiding Principles for High Performance and Sustainable Buildings, and reflect the historical, cultural, and wildlife heritage of the Middle Rio Grande. Site development will include parking for staff and visitors, a small sewage treatment system, and utility connections for water, telephone, and electric service.

Scope of Benefits (SB):

The Visitor Center will provide a base of operations for a new national wildlife refuge (established in September 2012) and enable the refuge to engage an underserved diverse urban population with recreational and environmental education opportunities. This Urban Refuge Initiative supports the America's Great Outdoors and Engaging the Next Generation Secretarial priorities and will enhance the quality of life for a nearby urban population.

Investment Strategy (IS):

Many State and local partners are assisting in the acquisition and development of this new national wildlife refuge. The Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority has contributed to land acquisition (\$1.8 million) and refuge planning (\$150,000). Bernalillo County, through the Southwest Region's Transportation Scholar's efforts, has secured a Federal Lands Access Program Grant for \$3 million to construct a multi-use trail providing access to the refuge for urban residents and connectivity for local neighborhoods. The Visitor Center will be an energy efficient, sustainable facility that supports energy efficiency goals in Executive Order 13693, Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade; the Energy Independence and Security Act; and the Energy Policy Act.

Consequence of Failure to Act (CFA):

This recently established national wildlife refuge will not have on-site staff and the visiting public from a major urban area will not have environmental education and interpretation activities available to enrich their lives.

Ranking Categories: Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1B)

API/FCI (40%)	API	100	FCI	N/A	Score = (.40 x $\frac{75}{100}$) =	<u>30</u>
SB (20%)					Score = (.20 x $\frac{100}{100}$) =	<u>20</u>
IS (20%)					Score = (.20 x $\frac{100}{100}$) =	<u>20</u>
CFA (20%)					Score = (.20 x $\frac{100}{100}$) =	<u>20</u>

Combined 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:	<u>YES</u>	Total Project Score:	90
VE Study Required (Y/N):	<u>Y</u> Scheduled:	<u>17</u> Completed:		

Project Costs and Status

Project Cost Estimate: (this PDS)	\$'s	%	Project Funding History: (entire project)	\$'s
Deferred Maintenance Work:	\$ 0	0	Appropriated to Date:	\$ 3,458,000
Capital Improvement Work:	\$ 3,063,000	100	Requested in FY 17 Budget:	\$ 3,063,000
Total:	\$ 3,063,000	100	Future Funding to Complete Project:	\$ 0
			Total:	\$ 6,521,000

Class of Estimate (circle one)	A	B	C	Planning and Design Funds: \$'s
Estimate Escalated to FY: (mm/yy)	<u>01/17</u>			Planning funds received in FY _____ \$ _____
				Design funds received in FY _____ \$ _____

Dates: (QTR/YY)	Sch'd	Actual	Project Data Sheet:	(mm/yy)	DOI Approved:
Construction Award/Start	<u>01/17</u>	_____	Prepared/Last Updated:	(04/15)	YES
Project Complete	<u>04/19</u>	_____			

Annual Operations & Maintenance Costs \$

Current: \$ 0	Projected: \$ 6,000	Net Change: \$ 6,000
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
PROJECT DATA SHEET

Total Project Score/Ranking:	80
Planned Funding FY:	2017
Funding Source:	Construction

Project Identification

Project Title: Rehabilitate Water Delivery Infrastructure and Provide Well Water Treatment [p/d/ic]			
Project Number: 2007717958	Unit/Facility Name: Harrison Lake NFH		
Region/Area/District: Northeast	Congressional District: 03	State: VA	

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id#	API	FCI-Before	FCI-Projected
40710400	10020306	100	0.21	0.00

Project Description:

An engineering feasibility study recommended a series of infrastructure changes to mission-critical water delivery assets, including the water intake and main water supply canal from Harrison Lake. This is the hatchery's primary water source used to rear fish for restoration efforts. Surface water gravity flow from Harrison Lake is the preferred water source for filling hatchery rearing ponds because there are no associated electrical costs with its use. However, the intake structure frequently clogs with debris, risking massive fish kills at the hatchery. Reconstructing the intake further from the shoreline with an improved design will minimize debris accumulation and reduce risk. The quantity of water supplied to the hatchery ponds is limited by losses associated as the water flows from the lake to the hatchery ponds through an unlined earthen canal. The project will construct a 12-inch diameter, 4,000-foot long, smooth walled, high density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe from the new lake intake structure to the hatchery ponds, doubling the volume of lake water available for hatchery use. Additionally, the facility's well water has elevated potassium and sodium levels, which are harmful to the aquatic species reared at the facility. The project will add membrane filtration to allow continued use of the wells as a water supply source.

Scope of Benefits (SB):

Construction will ensure water supply to rear American shad, river herring, and striped bass. The project will reduce the risk of a massive fish kill from unexpected loss of water and substantially reduce the hatchery's electricity usage by increasing the volume of gravity fed water available. This project addresses a number of performance measures in the Service's operational plan, including four measures under DOI 54 (Advance Modernization/Integration. Performance Budget Integration), and three measures under DOI 5 (fish species of management concern).

Investment Strategy (IS):

The project completion reduces the hatchery's electricity usage (an estimated cost savings of \$5,000 annually) and will dramatically reduce the risk of a fish kill from intake failure.

Consequence of Failure to Act (CFA):

Without the improved intake, the hatchery's work of rearing fish for restoration is jeopardized by unexpected water loss, and without the replacement pipe the hatchery will continue to lose water as it is delivered through the unlined canal.

Ranking Categories: Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1B)

API/FCI (40%)	API	100	FCI	0.21	Score = (.40 x $\frac{75}{100}$) =	40
SB (20%)					Score = (.20 x $\frac{100}{100}$) =	20
IS (20%)					Score = (.20 x $\frac{50}{50}$) =	10
CFA (20%)					Score = (.20 x $\frac{50}{50}$) =	10

Combined 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:	<u>NO</u>	Total Project Score:	80
VE Study Required (Y/N):	<u>N</u> Scheduled:	Completed:		

Project Costs and Status

Project Cost Estimate: (this PDS)	\$'s	%	Project Funding History: (entire project)	\$'s
Deferred Maintenance Work:	\$ 400,000	48	Appropriated to Date:	\$ 0
Capital Improvement Work:	\$ 442,000	52	Requested in FY 17 Budget:	\$ 842,000
Total:	\$ 842,000	100	Future Funding to Complete Project:	\$ 0
			Total:	\$ 842,000

Class of Estimate (circle one)	A	B	C	Planning and Design Funds: \$'s
Estimate Escalated to FY: (mm/yy)		<u>01/17</u>		Planning funds received in FY _____ \$ _____
				Design funds received in FY _____ \$ _____

Dates: (QTR/YY)	Sch'd	Actual	Project Data Sheet: (mm/yy)	DOI Approved:
Construction Award/Start	<u>01/17</u>		Prepared/Last Updated: (04/15)	YES
Project Complete	<u>04/19</u>			

Annual Operations & Maintenance Costs \$

Current: \$ 2,855	Projected: \$ 0	Net Change: \$ -2,855
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
PROJECT DATA SHEET

Total Project Score/Ranking:	80
Planned Funding FY:	2017
Funding Source:	Construction

Project Identification

Project Title: Reconfigure and Rehabilitate Pond Complex [p/d/cc]			
Project Number: 2012215270	Unit/Facility Name: Harrison Lake NFH		
Region/Area/District: Northeast	Congressional District: 03	State: VA	

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id#	API	FCI-Before	FCI-Projected
40500200	10020290	100	0.16	0.00

Project Description:

This project will rehabilitate the fish rearing pond complex consisting of 23 conjoined ponds. Sediment accumulation has reduced the pond's volume and interferes with operations and fish harvesting, diminishing the hatchery's production of fish (striped bass, American shad). Erosion and undercutting of the levees is a safety issue as vehicles access the ponds by driving on the levee. Degraded levee slopes create hazardous conditions, and risk for employee injury themselves. The project includes sediment removal, reshaping the bottom and sides of the ponds, and covering surfaces with gravel rip rap and a clay liner to improve quality of effluent discharge. Additionally, the deteriorated pond kettle, 8-inch gate, concrete steps, and outdated electric panel box will be replaced. Several kettles are a safety hazard as crumbling concrete creates unstable footing. These deficiencies were noted during an FY 2006 Comprehensive Condition Assessment.

Scope of Benefits (SB):

Repairing this pond complex will address critical safety issues, extend the operational life for 20 years, prevent the disruption of fish rearing activities for striped bass and American shad and reduce the deferred maintenance backlog. The project supports four performance measures in OP 5 (Managing Fish to Self-Sustaining levels) and two measures in OP 54 (Condition of Assets as Measured by FCI) within the Service Operational Plan.

Investment Strategy (IS):

The reconfiguration of these ponds includes the demolition of 11 of the existing conjoined units, reducing the deferred maintenance backlog by \$2 million, more than the project cost of approximately \$1 million.

Consequence of Failure to Act (CFA):

Erosion and undercutting of the levees is a safety risk for vehicles servicing the ponds. Left unaddressed, the pond complex will deteriorate further and may expose buried underground electrical lines that will make the ponds unusable due to health and safety risks.

Ranking Categories: Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1B)

API/FCI (40%)	API	100	FCI	0.16	Score = (.40 x $\frac{75}{100}$) =	40
SB (20%)					Score = (.20 x $\frac{50}{100}$) =	10
IS (20%)					Score = (.20 x $\frac{50}{100}$) =	10
CFA (20%)					Score = (.20 x $\frac{100}{100}$) =	20

Combined 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
VE Study Required (Y/N): N Scheduled: _____ Completed: _____

Total Project Score: 80

Project Costs and Status

Project Cost Estimate: (this PDS)			Project Funding History: (entire project)		
	\$'s	%		\$	\$'s
Deferred Maintenance Work:	\$ 997,000	100	Appropriated to Date:	\$	0
Capital Improvement Work:	\$ 0	0	Requested in FY 17 Budget:	\$	997,000
Total:	\$ 997,000	100	Future Funding to Complete Project:	\$	0
			Total:	\$	997,000

Class of Estimate (circle one)

A B **C**

Estimate Escalated to FY: (mm/yy) 01/17

Planning and Design Funds: \$'s

Planning funds received in FY \$ _____
Design funds received in FY \$ _____

Dates: (QTR/YY)

Sch'd Actual
Construction Award/Start 01/17 _____
Project Complete 04/19 _____

Project Data Sheet: (mm/yy)

Prepared/Last Updated: (01/16) **DOI Approved:**
YES

Annual Operations & Maintenance Costs \$

Current: \$ 8,690	Projected: \$ 1,800	Net Change: \$ -6,890
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
PROJECT DATA SHEET

Total Project Score/Ranking:	76
Planned Funding FY:	2017
Funding Source:	Construction

Project Identification

Project Title: Replace Co-located Field Office Building [ic]			
Project Number: 00110312		Unit/Facility Name: Edwin B. Forsythe NWR	
Region/Area/District: Northeast		Congressional District: 02	State: NJ

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id#	API	FCI-Before	FCI-Projected
35100000	10022009	70	1.00	0.00

Project Description:

This project will construct the administrative headquarters for a co-located staff at the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge. The existing facility is overcapacity and, due to age, deteriorating and becoming a health and safety concern. The replacement facility (12,565 square feet) meets future needs of the 11 refuge FTE, as well as 19 New Jersey Field Office employees, two officers from the Service's Office of Law Enforcement, and one member of the refuge's friends group. This building will meet the 180 SF per person standard. The request will complete 5,590 SF of included space, and 6,317 SF excluded space for a library, a laboratory, electrical and mechanical, circulation room, as well as law enforcement needs of evidence, interview and secured storage rooms. The future construction includes utilities, and equipment, entrance road and parking lot, A/E construction administration, engineering and inspection services.

Scope of Benefits (SB):

The replacement facility will meet current and future needs for the refuge and co-located staffs. Continued co-location reduces administrative costs and improves outreach and planning.

Investment Strategy (IS):

The project eliminates the need for nearly 10,000 SF of leased space and saves \$210,000/year in lease costs. The new facility reduces the square footage per FTE versus the existing leased space and as an energy efficient, sustainable facility, will require reduced operation and maintenance expenses. This project supports the goals of the Department of the Interior Real Property Cost Savings and Innovation Plan by designing the administrative wing to replace a higher-cost lease.

Consequence of Failure to Act (CFA):

The existing building has deteriorated to the point that significant investments are required to ensure the health and safety of the employees, as there are voids in the structure that facilitate water and rodent intrusion. Failure to replace the building will result in additional costs to the Service for the continued reliance on leased space, increased future costs for further building rehabilitation and mold and pest remediation.

Ranking Categories: Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1B)

API/FCI (40%)	API	70	FCI	1.0	Score = (.40 x $\frac{40}{100}$) =	<u>16</u>
SB (20%)					Score = (.20 x $\frac{100}{100}$) =	<u>20</u>
IS (20%)					Score = (.20 x $\frac{100}{100}$) =	<u>20</u>
CFA (20%)					Score = (.20 x $\frac{100}{100}$) =	<u>20</u>

Combined 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:	<u>YES</u>	Total Project Score:	<u>76</u>
VE Study Required (Y/N):	<u>Y</u> Scheduled:	<u>17</u> Completed:		

Project Costs and Status

Project Cost Estimate: (this PDS)			Project Funding History: (entire project)	
	\$'s	%		\$'s
Deferred Maintenance Work:	\$ 3,387,000	100	Appropriated to Date:	\$ 523,000
Capital Improvement Work:	\$ 0	0	Requested in FY 17 Budget:	\$ 3,387,000
Total:	\$ 3,387,000	100	Future Funding to Complete Project:	\$ 2,213,000
			Total:	\$ 6,123,000
Class of Estimate (circle one) A <u>B</u> C			Planning and Design Funds: \$'s	
Estimate Escalated to FY: (mm/yy)	<u>01/17</u>		Planning funds received in FY	\$ _____
			Design funds received in FY	\$ _____
Dates: (QTR/YY) Sch'd Actual			Project Data Sheet: (mm/yy)	
Construction Award/Start	<u>01/17</u>	_____	Prepared/Last Updated:	(04/15)
Project Complete	<u>04/19</u>	_____	DOI Approved:	
			YES	

Annual Operations & Maintenance Costs \$

Current: \$ 11,945	Projected: \$ 11,945	Net Change: \$ 0
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
PROJECT DATA SHEET

Total Project Score/Ranking:	70
Planned Funding FY:	2017
Funding Source:	Construction

Project Identification

Project Title: Dam Safety Program - Evaluations of Newly Acquired Dams - Phase I of III			
Project Number: 2010137169	Unit/Facility Name: Branch of Dam Safety		
Region/Area/District: Headquarters	Congressional District: Various	State: Various	

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id#	API	FCI-Before	FCI-Projected
	98510	N/A	N/A	N/A

Project Description:

The FWS dam inventory is growing as more dams are identified through field investigations at facilities and cross-checks with the Real Property Inventory asset database. Many dams have not been evaluated for hazard classification potential, dam failure consequences, risk analyses, or compliance with Service dam safety standards.

Scope of Benefits (SB):

This project provides required engineering evaluations and risk analyses of dams added to the inventory to identify any unsafe structures and to assess the hazard classification potential, structural deficiencies, and response to potential dam failure modes. This information will be used to categorize the new dams, prioritize remedial actions, prepare emergency action plans and standard operating procedures, and estimate future needs for operation and maintenance (O&M) and inspections.

Investment Strategy (IS):

This project is a necessary investment that provides net savings when including the potential loss of valuable resources, costs of dam failures, and more expensive repairs if work is delayed.

Consequence of Failure to Act (CFA):

People in the local community are at risk when dams deteriorate and need repair. Dams also provide significant downstream flood control benefits.

Ranking Categories: Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1B)

API/FCI (40%)	API	N/A	FCI	N/A	Score = (.40 x $\frac{75}{100}$) =	30
SB (20%)					Score = (.20 x $\frac{100}{100}$) =	20
IS (20%)					Score = (.20 x $\frac{0}{100}$) =	0
CFA (20%)					Score = (.20 x $\frac{100}{100}$) =	20

Combined 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:	<u>NO</u>	Total Project Score:	70
VE Study Required (Y/N):	<u>N</u>	Scheduled: _____ Completed: _____		

Project Costs and Status

Project Cost Estimate: (this PDS)			Project Funding History: (entire project)	
	\$'s	%		\$'s
Deferred Maintenance Work:	\$ 250,000	100	Appropriated to Date:	\$ _____
Capital Improvement Work:	\$ 0	0	Requested in FY 17 Budget:	\$ 250,000
Total:	\$ 250,000	100	Future Funding to Complete Project:	\$ 500,000
			Total:	\$ 750,000
Class of Estimate (circle one)	A	B	Planning and Design Funds: \$'s	
		C	Planning funds received in FY	\$ _____
Estimate Escalated to FY: (mm/yy)	01/17		Design funds received in FY	\$ _____
Dates: (QTR/YY)	Sch'd	Actual	Project Data Sheet:	(mm/yy)
Construction Award/Start	01/17	_____	Prepared/Last Updated:	(04/15)
Project Complete	04/19	_____	DOI Approved:	YES

Annual Operations & Maintenance Costs \$

Current: \$ 0	Projected: \$ 0	Net Change: \$ 0
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
PROJECT DATA SHEET

Total Project Score/Ranking:	70
Planned Funding FY:	2017
Funding Source:	Construction

Project Identification

Project Title: Nationwide Seismic Safety Investigations			
Project Number: 2012218269	Unit/Facility Name: Branch of Dam Safety		
Region/Area/District: Headquarters	Congressional District: Various	State: Various	

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id#	API	FCI-Before	FCI-Projected
	98510	N/A	N/A	0.00

Project Description:

Preliminary screening level assessments have identified more than 50 Service buildings as having significant seismic risks of collapse. Engineering evaluations are required to confirm the seismic hazard and determine mitigation options.

Scope of Benefits (SB):

This project supports necessary efforts to identify buildings that are at risk of collapse due to an earthquake, and identify mitigation options and preliminary cost estimates to reduce the risk.

Investment Strategy (IS):

The project will evaluate risk from earthquakes and identify retrofit strategies that will result in earthquake-resistant buildings that withstand small earthquakes with reduced damage.

Consequence of Failure to Act (CFA):

The Service buildings to be evaluated under this project have been identified as having an unacceptably high possibility 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)

API/FCI (40%)	API	N/A	FCI	N/A	Score = (.40 x $\frac{75}{100}$) =	30
SB (20%)					Score = (.20 x $\frac{100}{100}$) =	20
IS (20%)					Score = (.20 x $\frac{0}{100}$) =	0
CFA (20%)					Score = (.20 x $\frac{100}{100}$) =	20

Combined 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:	<u>NO</u>	Total Project Score:	70
VE Study Required (Y/N):	<u>N</u>	Scheduled: _____	Completed: _____	

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:	\$ 645,000
Capital Improvement Work:	\$ 0	0	Requested in FY 17 Budget:	\$ 215,000
Total:	\$ 215,000	100	Future Funding to Complete Project:	\$ 215,000
			Total:	\$ 1,075,000
Class of Estimate (circle one)	A	B	Planning and Design Funds: \$'s	
		C	Planning funds received in FY	\$ _____
Estimate Escalated to FY: (mm/yy)	01/17		Design funds received in FY	\$ _____
Dates: (QTR/YY)	Sch'd	Actual	Project Data Sheet:	(mm/yy)
Construction Award/Start	01/17	_____	Prepared/Last Updated:	(04/15)
Project Complete	04/19	_____	DOI Approved:	YES

Annual Operations & Maintenance Costs \$

Current: \$ 0	Projected: \$ 0	Net Change: \$ 0
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
PROJECT DATA SHEET

Total Project Score/Ranking:	70
Planned Funding FY:	2017
Funding Source:	Construction

Project Identification

Project Title: Replace Sand Settling Basin [p/d/cc]			
Project Number: 2012215298		Unit/Facility Name: Hotchkiss NFH	
Region/Area/District: Region 6		Congressional District: 03	State: CO

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id#	API	FCI-Before	FCI-Projected
40161200	10032960	90	1.00	0.00

Project Description:

The project will replace the settling basin with a baffled basin to slow the flow of water, allowing sand to settle before the water reaches the raceways. In the summer of 2011, the spring that feeds the hatchery experienced unusually high flow rates accompanied unusually high sand loads, damaging pumps and compromising fish health. Sand had to be mechanically removed from active raceways. Installing a baffled settling basin will reduce the amount of sand reaching the raceways and, consequently, reduce operation and maintenance costs.

Scope of Benefits (SB):

Effective fish production requires the incoming water to be fresh and with minimal sand infiltration. Keeping the facility's equipment clean and in good working order allows the hatchery to fulfill stocking request in a timely manner.

Investment Strategy (IS):

The baffled settling basin will help protect fish health by keeping the incoming water clear and clean. The installed baffled basin will allow the hatchery to better deal with high flow events.

Consequence of Failure to Act (CFA):

Incoming sand can cause gill irritation and negatively impact fish health, which, in turn, would limit the station's ability to fulfill stocking requests. The station would use limited resources to remove sand from the raceways, and repair or replace damaged pumps and equipment.

Ranking Categories: Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1B)

API/FCI (40%)	API	90	FCI	1.00	Score = (.40 x $\frac{100}{90}$) =	40
SB (20%)					Score = (.20 x $\frac{100}{100}$) =	20
IS (20%)					Score = (.20 x $\frac{0}{100}$) =	0
CFA (20%)					Score = (.20 x $\frac{100}{100}$) =	10

Combined 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
VE Study Required (Y/N): N Scheduled: _____ Completed: _____

Total Project Score: 70

Project Costs and Status

Project Cost Estimate: (this PDS)			Project Funding History: (entire project)		
	\$'s	%		\$	\$'s
Deferred Maintenance Work:	\$ 500,000	100	Appropriated to Date:	\$	0
Capital Improvement Work:	\$ 0	0	Requested in FY 17 Budget:	\$	500,000
Total:	\$ 500,000	100	Future Funding to Complete Project:	\$	0
			Total:	\$	500,000
Class of Estimate (circle one) A B C			Planning and Design Funds: \$'s		
Estimate Escalated to FY: (mm/yy) <u>01/17</u>			Planning funds received in FY \$ _____		
			Design funds received in FY \$ _____		
Dates: (QTR/YY)		Sch'd	Actual		Project Data Sheet: (mm/yy)
Construction Award/Start		<u>01/17</u>	_____		Prepared/Last Updated: (01/16)
Project Complete		<u>04/19</u>	_____		DOI Approved:
YES					

Annual Operations & Maintenance Costs \$

Current: \$ 0	Projected: \$ 0	Net Change: \$ 0
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
PROJECT DATA SHEET

Total Project Score/Ranking:	60
Planned Funding FY:	2017
Funding Source:	Construction

Project Identification

Project Title: Install Water Reuse System [p/d/cc]			
Project Number: 2007731871		Unit/Facility Name: San Marcos Aquatic Resource Center	
Region/Area/District: Southwest		Congressional District: 21	State: TX

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id#	API	FCI-Before	FCI-Projected
40710300	10051468	100	0.05	0.00

Project Description:

This project will add necessary components to complete water reuse system at San Marcos Aquatic Resource Center to implement the FWS's biological opinion requiring San Marcos to reduce pumping from the Edwards Aquifer. Water distribution lines, drain lines, pumps, and buildings were constructed in 2004, but project funding did not include a water reuse system. Adding necessary components and redesigning the effluent chlorination system, including right-sizing pumps and injectors to ensure adequate chlorine retention time will complete the water reuse system and allow for the culture of listed species that. San Marcos provides refugia and conducts research on (fountain darter, Devils River minnow, San Marcos salamander, Comal Springs salamander, Texas blind salamander, Barton Springs salamander, Comal Springs riffle beetle, and Texas wildrice).

Scope of Benefits (SB):

This project supports GPR measures PEM.1.0.9.0412 (Number of surface and ground water systems directly managed or influenced by the Service that are protected and/or restored, as specified in management plans and by working with State and local resource managers, as appropriate, to meet ecological needs) and PEM.2.0.1A.0712 (Percent of fish species of management concern that are managed to self-sustaining levels, in cooperation with affected States and others, as defined in approved documents).

Investment Strategy (IS):

Installation of additional components will complete a water reuse system. Operation and maintenance cost may increase as a result; however, system completion will increase water conservation from the Edwards Aquifer.

Consequence of Failure to Act (CFA):

Until the water reuse system is completed, reuse water cannot be used for the culture of listed species; additionally, San Marcos will not be able to implement the Biological Opinion's requirement of reducing the amount of water pumped from the Edwards Aquifer.

Ranking Categories: Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1B)

API/FCI (40%)	API	100	FCI	0.05	Score = (.40 x $\frac{75}{100}$) =	<u>30</u>
SB (20%)					Score = (.20 x $\frac{100}{100}$) =	<u>20</u>
IS (20%)					Score = (.20 x $\frac{0}{100}$) =	<u>0</u>
CFA (20%)					Score = (.20 x $\frac{100}{100}$) =	<u>10</u>

Combined 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:	<u>NO</u>	Total Project Score:	<u>60</u>
VE Study Required (Y/N):	<u>Y</u>	Scheduled: <u>2017</u> Completed: <u>2017</u>		

Project Costs and Status

Project Cost Estimate: (this PDS)			Project Funding History: (entire project)	
	\$'s	%		\$'s
Deferred Maintenance Work:	\$ <u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Appropriated to Date:	\$ <u>0</u>
Capital Improvement Work:	\$ <u>1,620,000</u>	<u>100</u>	Requested in FY 17 Budget:	\$ <u>1,620,000</u>
Total:	\$ <u>1,620,000</u>	<u>100</u>	Future Funding to Complete Project:	\$ <u>0</u>
			Total:	\$ <u>1,620,000</u>
Class of Estimate (circle one) A B <u>C</u>			Planning and Design Funds: \$'s	
Estimate Escalated to FY: (mm/yy)	<u>01/17</u>		Planning funds received in FY	\$ _____
			Design funds received in FY	\$ _____
Dates: (QTR/YY)	Sch'd	Actual	Project Data Sheet:	(mm/yy)
Construction Award/Start	<u>01/17</u>	_____	Prepared/Last Updated:	(01/16)
Project Complete	<u>04/19</u>	_____	DOI Approved:	YES

Annual Operations & Maintenance Costs \$

Current: \$	23,706	Projected: \$	30,000	Net Change: \$	6,294
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
PROJECT DATA SHEET

Total Project Score/Ranking:	52
Planned Funding FY:	2017
Funding Source:	Construction

Project Identification

Project Title: Demolish Area D Warehouse Buildings and Restore Habitat			
Project Number: 2015264343		Unit/Facility Name: Crab Orchard NWR	
Region/Area/District: Midwest		Congressional District: 12	State: IL

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id#	API	FCI-Before	FCI-Projected
35740100	33610	40	0.08	0.00

Project Description:

This project proposes to demolish approximately 23,000 square feet of Area D Warehouse buildings constructed in 1940 and are no longer suitable for use, due to contaminants in piping, plumbing, HVAC, electrical system, roof, and siding. The warehouses are not safe to occupy. All structures in the project area will be demolished and remediated to mitigate the impact of hazardous building materials (lead, asbestos, and other contaminants)

Scope of Benefits (SB):

The project will remove hazardous materials that pose a threat to employee health and safety, and to reduce the risk of storms spreading these contaminated materials to surrounding properties as the structure deteriorate. The project will restore wildlife habitat on the former warehouse sites.

Investment Strategy (IS):

The warehouses are not mission-critical and continued maintenance to repair and upkeep these warehouses are not cost effective. Environmental compliance cleanup costs to remediate building debris, if a building collapses or debris is spread by storms, will exceed 300 percent of the cost to proactively remediate and demolish the buildings.

Consequence of Failure to Act (CFA):

Removal of the warehouses is part of a policy to reduce the number of non-mission critical assets. Failure to remediate and demolish the buildings will result in a much more costly environmental remediation action if buildings collapse or contaminated debris is spread to the surrounding properties.

Ranking Categories: Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1B)

API/FCI (40%)	API	40	FCI	0.08	Score = (.40 x $\frac{5}{100}$) =	<u>2</u>
SB (20%)					Score = (.20 x $\frac{50}{100}$) =	<u>10</u>
IS (20%)					Score = (.20 x $\frac{100}{100}$) =	<u>20</u>
CFA (20%)					Score = (.20 x $\frac{100}{100}$) =	<u>20</u>

Combined 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:	<u>No</u>	Total Project Score:	<u>52</u>
VE Study Required (Y/N):	<u>N</u>	Scheduled: <u>--</u>		

Project Costs and Status

Project Cost Estimate: (this PDS)			Project Funding History: (entire project)	
	\$'s	%		\$'s
Deferred Maintenance Work:	\$ 680,000	87	Appropriated to Date:	\$ 0
Capital Improvement Work:	\$ 100,000	13	Requested in FY 17 Budget:	\$ 780,000
Total:	\$ 780,000	100	Future Funding to Complete Project:	\$ 0
			Total:	\$ 780,000

Class of Estimate (circle one)	A	B	<u>C</u>	Planning and Design Funds: \$'s	
Estimate Escalated to FY: (mm/yy)	<u>01/17</u>			Planning funds received in FY	\$ <u>0</u>
				Design funds received in FY	\$ <u>0</u>

Dates: (QTR/YY)	Sch'd	Actual	Project Data Sheet:	(mm/yy)	DOI Approved:
Construction Award/Start	<u>01/17</u>		Prepared/Last Updated:	(01/16)	YES
Project Complete	<u>04/19</u>				

Annual Operations & Maintenance Costs \$

Current: \$	1,538	Projected: \$	0	Net Change: \$	-1,538
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**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Summary Project Data Sheet for 2017-2021 Construction**

Plan Fund Year	Priority	Region/Area/District	Facility or Unit Name	Project Title	State	Congressional District	Total DOI Score	Scoring Categories				Project Cost Distribution				
								API/FCI	SB	IS	CFA	DM (\$000)	CI (\$000)	Total (\$000)		
2017	1	Headquarters	Clark R. Bavin National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory	Replace Leased Space with Secured Storage Building [cc]	OR	02	90	30	20	20	20	\$2,500	\$0	\$2,500		
2017	2	Midwest	Crab Orchard NWR	Dam Safety Program - Repair Concrete at Three Dams - Phase II of III	IL	12	90	30	20	20	20	\$400	\$0	\$400		
2017	3	Southwest	Valle de Oro NWR	Construct Visitor Center, South Valley of Albuquerque, NM [cc]	NM	01	90	30	20	20	20	\$0	\$3,063	\$3,063		
2017	4	Northeast	Harrison Lake NFH	Rehabilitate Water Delivery Infrastructure and Provide Well Water Treatment [p/d/cc]	VA	03	80	40	20	10	10	\$400	\$442	\$842		
2017	5	Northeast	Harrison Lake NFH	Reconfigure and Rehabilitate Pond Complex [p/d/cc]	VA	03	80	40	10	10	20	\$997	\$0	\$997		
2017	6	Northeast	Edwin B. Forsythe NWR	Replace Co-located Field Office Building [ic]	NJ	02	76	16	20	20	20	\$3,387	\$0	\$3,387		
2017	7	Headquarters	Branch of Dam Safety	Dam Safety Program - Evaluations of Newly Acquired Dams - Phase I of III	*	*	70	30	20	0	20	\$250	\$0	\$250		
2017	8	Headquarters	Branch of Dam Safety	Nationwide Seismic Safety Investigations	*	*	70	30	20	0	20	\$215	\$0	\$215		
2017	9	Mountain-Prairie	Hotchkiss NFH	Replace Sand Settling Basin [p/d/cc]	CO	03	70	40	20	0	10	\$500	\$0	\$500		
2017	10	Southwest	San Marcos Aquatic Resources Center	Install Water Reuse System [p/d/cc]	TX	21	60	30	20	0	10	\$1,620	\$0	\$1,620		
2017	11	Midwest	Crab Orchard NWR	Demolish Warehouse Buildings and Restore Habitat	IL	12	52	2	10	20	20	\$680	\$100	\$780		
											Total for Fiscal Year 2017			\$10,949	\$3,605	\$14,554

p = Planning
d = Design
ic = Initiate construction
cc = Complete construction
* = Located in multiple Congressional Districts that are to be determined.

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Summary Project Data Sheet for 2017-2021 Construction**

Plan Fund Year	Priority	Region/Area/District	Facility or Unit Name	Project Title	State	Conf. District	Total DOI Score	Scoring Categories				Project Cost Distribution		
								API/FCI	SB	IS	CFA	DM (\$000)	CI (\$000)	Total (\$000)
2018	12	Midwest	Crab Orchard NWR	Dam Safety Program - Repair Concrete at Three Dams - Phase III of III	IL	12	90	30	20	20	20	\$300	\$0	\$300
2018	13	Midwest	Pendills Creek NFH	Replace 24" Water Supply Pipeline to Traveling Screen Building [p/d/cc]	MI	01	90	40	20	20	10	\$550	\$450	\$1,000
2018	14	Alaska	Alaska Maritime NWR	Rehabilitate Tiglax Ocean Vessel	AK	AL	90	30	20	20	20	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
2018	15	Pacific Southwest	Don Edwards SF Bay NWR	Wetland Restoration - South Bay [p/d]	CA	06	80	30	20	20	10	\$600	\$0	\$600
2018	16	Midwest	Jordan River NFH	Replace Inadequate Storage Space with Distribution Truck Storage and Disinfection Bay [p/d/cc]	MI	01	70	30	20	10	10	\$592	\$128	\$720
2018	17	Southwest	Alchesay NFH	Design an Effluent Treatment System [p/d]	AZ	06	70	30	20	0	20	\$150	\$0	\$150
2018	18	Headquarters	Branch of Dam Safety	Nationwide Seismic Safety Investigations	*	*	70	30	20	0	20	\$215	\$0	\$215
2018	19	Headquarters	Branch of Dam Safety	Dam Safety Program - Evaluations of Newly Acquired Dams - Phase II of III	*	*	70	30	20	0	20	\$250	\$0	\$250
2018	20	Southwest	Tishomingo NFH	Install Effluent Treatment System [p/d/cc]	OK	02	70	30	20	0	20	\$600	\$0	\$600
2018	21	Southeast	St. Marks NWR	Tier 2 Energy Improvements [p/d/cc]	FL	02	70	30	20	20	0	\$1,900	\$0	\$1,900
2018	22	Midwest	Sullivan Creek NFH	Demolish Residence [p/d/cc]	MI	01	56	16	10	10	20	\$60	\$0	\$60
2018	23	Pacific	Bear Lake NWR	Remove 3,878 Square Foot Shop/Storage Building	ID	02	52	12	20	20	0	\$50	\$0	\$50

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Summary Project Data Sheet for 2017-2021 Construction**

Plan Fund Year	Priority	Region/Area/District	Facility or Unit Name	Project Title	State	Cong. District	Total DOI Score	Scoring Categories				Project Cost Distribution		
								API/FCI	SB	IS	CFA	DM (\$000)	CI (\$000)	Total (\$000)
2018	24	Pacific	Inland Northwest NWRC	Remove 5 buildings totaling 2,927 SF (1,715 SF Warehouse) at Little Pend Oreille and Turnbull	WA	00	50	30	20	0	0	\$70	\$0	\$70
2018	25	Pacific	Mid-Columbia River NWRC	Remove 3 Buildings totaling 1,356 SF (616 SF Warehouse) at Conboy Lake and Schoolhouse Foundations at McNary	WA	04	40	30	10	0	0	\$55	\$0	\$55
2018	26	Southeast	Okefenokee NWR	Demolish CCC Office/Headquarters Building - 2,000 SF	GA	26	36	16	10	0	10	\$80	\$0	\$80
2018	27	Pacific	Toppemish NWR	Remove 2,100 Square Foot Granary at Residence	WA	04	30	0	20	10	0	\$50	\$0	\$50
2018	28	Midwest	Mingo NWR	Remediate Underground Storage Tank [p/d/cc]	MO	08	20	0	0	0	20	\$0	\$800	\$800
2018	29	Pacific	Midway Atoll NWR	Infrastructure Demolition and Habitat Restoration	MQ	N/A	10	0	10	0	0	\$2,654	\$0	\$2,654
											Total for Fiscal Year 2018	\$13,176	\$1,378	\$14,554

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Summary Project Data Sheet for 2017-2021 Construction

Plan Fund Year	Priority	Region/Area/District	Facility or Unit Name	Project Title	State	Comp. District	Total DOI Score	Scoring Categories				Project Cost Distribution		
								API/FCI	SB	IS	CFA	DM (\$000)	CI (\$000)	Total (\$000)
2019	30	Midwest	Neosho NFH	Replace Deteriorated Feed Storage and Vehicle Storage Building	MO	07	90	40	20	10	20	\$500	\$0	\$500
2019	31	Pacific Southwest	Don Edwards SF Bay NWR	Wetland Restoration - South Bay [cc]	CA	06	80	30	20	20	10	\$3,442	\$0	\$3,442
2019	32	Midwest	Pendills Creek NFH	Replace 18" Water Supply Pipeline [p/d/cc]	MI	01	80	40	20	10	10	\$536	\$364	\$900
2019	33	Pacific Southwest	Lahontan NFH	Rehabilitate Water Reuse System [p/d/cc]	NV	02	80	40	20	10	10	\$500	\$0	\$500
2019	34	Midwest	Swan Lake NWR	Flood Management and Hydrology Site Investigation Swan Lake [p/d]	MO	06	80	30	20	20	10	\$804	\$0	\$804
2019	35	Pacific Southwest	Sacramento NWR	Rehabilitate Headquarters Building for Fire Safety and Energy Efficiency [p/d/ic]	CA	03	72	12	20	20	20	\$100	\$0	\$100
2019	36	Headquarters	Branch of Dam Safety	Dam Safety Program - Evaluations of Newly Acquired Dams - Phase III of III	*	*	70	30	20	0	20	\$500	\$0	\$500
2019	37	Pacific Southwest	Lahontan NFH	Replace Fish Ladders at Marble Bluff Fish Research Facility [p/d/cc]	NV	02	70	30	20	10	10	\$2,375	\$0	\$2,375
2019	38	Pacific	Nisqually NWR	Remove Eight Buildings	WA	09	70	30	20	20	0	\$350	\$0	\$350
2019	39	Alaska	Tetlin NWR	Convert Building to Solar at Tok, AK [p/d]	AK	AL	70	30	20	20	0	\$115	\$0	\$115
2019	40	Northeast	Great Dismal Swamp NWR	Replace Lake Drummond East Ditch [p/d/cc]	VA	04	60	0	20	20	20	\$1,000	\$17	\$1,017
2019	41	Midwest	Iron River NFH	Rehabilitate Visitors Center [p/d/cc]	WI	07	60	30	10	20	0	\$261	\$0	\$261

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Summary Project Data Sheet for 2017-2021 Construction

Plan Fund Year	Priority	Region/Area/District	Facility or Unit Name	Project Title	State	Congressional District	Total DOI Score	Scoring Categories				Project Cost Distribution		
								API/FCI	SB	IS	CFA	DM (\$000)	CI (\$000)	Total (\$000)
2019	42	Pacific	Umatilla NWR	Consolidate Office Buildings [p/d/cc]	OR	02	60	0	20	20	20	\$865	\$85	\$950
2019	43	Midwest	Crab Orchard NWR	Demolish Warehouse Buildings and Restore Habitat	IL	12	52	2	10	20	20	\$400	\$50	\$450
2019	44	Midwest	Iron River NFH	Demolish Dilapidated Milking Barn [p/d/cc]	WI	07	40	0	10	10	20	\$30	\$0	\$30
2019	45	Midwest	Upper Mississippi River NWR	Demolish Warehouse Buildings and Restore Habitat	IL	17	26	16	10	0	0	\$250	\$100	\$350
2019	46	Pacific	Willapa NWR	Remove 1,920 Square Foot Bear River Barn	WA	01	20	0	20	0	0	\$35	\$0	\$35
2019	47	Pacific	Midway Atoll NWR	Infrastructure Demolition and Habitat Restoration	MQ	N/A	10	0	10	0	0	\$1,875	\$0	\$1,875
								Total for Fiscal Year 2019				\$13,938	\$616	\$14,554

p = Planning
d = Design
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* = Located in multiple Congressional Districts that are to be determined.

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Summary Project Data Sheet for 2017-2021 Construction**

Plan Fund Year	Priority	Region/Area/District	Facility or Unit Name	Project Title	State	Congressional District	Total DOI Score	Scoring Categories				Project Cost Distribution		
								API/FCI	SB	IS	CFA	DM (\$000)	CI (\$000)	Total (\$000)
2020	48	Mountain-Prairie	Huron WMD	Replace Headquarters Building [p/d/cc]	SD	AL	90	30	20	20	20	\$3,487	\$400	\$3,887
2020	49	Mountain-Prairie	Long Lake NWR	Install Culvert Bridges [p/d/cc]	ND	AL	80	30	20	20	10	\$600	\$0	\$600
2020	50	Alaska	Togiak NWR	Renovate Quarters with Alaska Star Energy Elements	AK	AL	80	30	20	20	10	\$275	\$225	\$500
2020	51	Midwest	Iron River NPH	Develop Multipurpose Native Fish Production Facility [p/d/cc]	WI	07	80	30	20	20	10	\$0	\$4,931	\$4,931
2020	52	Southeast	Okfenokee NWR	Replace Headquarters Building [p/d]	GA	02	80	30	20	10	20	\$544	\$0	\$544
2020	53	Pacific Southwest	Sacramento NWR	Rehabilitate Headquarters Building for Fire Safety and Energy Efficiency [cc]	CA	03	72	12	20	20	20	\$600	\$0	\$600
2020	54	Mountain-Prairie	Saratoga NPH	Rehabilitate Water Treatment Facilities [p/d/cc]	WY	AL	70	40	10	10	10	\$551	\$0	\$551
2020	55	Pacific Southwest	San Diego Bay NWR	Restore Seabird Nesting Habitat	CA	51	70	30	20	10	10	\$801	\$0	\$801
2020	56	Alaska	Tetlin NWR	Convert Building to Solar at Tok, AK [p/d]	AK	AL	70	30	20	20	0	\$925	\$0	\$925
2020	57	Pacific	Hawaiian Islands NWR	Remove debris, Storm-damaged Buildings, and Associated Outbuildings on Tern Island	HI	02	60	30	20	0	10	\$1,175	\$0	\$1,175
2020	58	Southwest	Williams Creek NPH	Demolish Residence	AZ	01	36	16	10	10	0	\$60	\$0	\$60
							Total for Fiscal Year 2020				\$8,998	\$5,556	\$14,554	

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d = Design
ic = Initiate construction
cc = Complete construction
* = Located in multiple Congressional Districts that are to be determined.

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Summary Project Data Sheet for 2017-2021 Construction**

Plan Fund Year	Priority	Region/Area/District	Facility or Unit Name	Project Title	State	Congressional District	Total DOI Score	Scoring Categories				Project Cost Distribution		
								API/FCI	SB	IS	CFA	DM (\$000)	CI (\$000)	Total (\$000)
2021	59	Mountain-Prairie	Alamosa NWR	San Luis Valley Complex Replace HQ/Visitor Area [p/d/cc]	CO	03	90	30	20	20	20	\$3,090	\$10	\$3,100
2021	60	Mountain-Prairie	Fish Springs NWR	Design and Install Ground Water Monitoring Systems [p/d/cc]	UT	04	90	30	20	20	20	\$500	\$0	\$500
2021	61	Alaska	Koyukuk/Nowitna NWR	Replace Leased Maintenance Shop [p/d/cc]	AK	AL	90	30	20	20	20	\$3,360	\$0	\$3,360
2021	62	Northeast	Craig Brook NFW	Update Waste Water Treatment Plant [p/d/cc]	ME	02	80	30	20	10	20	\$500	\$0	\$500
2021	63	Northeast	Green Lake NFW	Complete Construction Wastewater Treatment Compliance [cc]	ME	02	80	30	20	10	20	\$800	\$0	\$800
2021	64	Southeast	Okefenoke NWR	Replace Headquarters Building [p/d]	GA	02	80	30	20	10	20	\$2,000	\$500	\$2,500
2021	65	Southwest	McFaddin NWR	Replace Wild Cow Bayou Water Control Structure [cc]	TX	14	70	30	20	10	10	\$980	\$0	\$980
2021	66	Pacific	Makah NFW	Replace Diversion Dam and Fish Barrier - Phase II of II	WA	06	52	2	20	10	20	\$2,031	\$0	\$2,031
2021	67	Southwest	Mora NFW	Construct Solar Ventilation Air Preheating Systems [p/d/cc]	NM	03	42	12	10	10	10	\$60	\$0	\$60
2021	68	Alaska	Yukon Delta NWR	Remove BIA Transferred Facilities Bethel [p/d/ic] - Phase I of II	AK	AL	40	0	20	0	20	\$723	\$0	\$723
							Total for Fiscal Year 2021				\$14,044	\$510	\$14,554	

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d = Design
ic = Initiate construction
cc = Complete construction
* = Located in multiple Congressional Districts that are to be determined.

Summary of Requirements Appropriation: Construction <i>(Dollars in Thousands)</i>												
	2015 Actual	2016 Enacted		Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers		Program Changes (+/-)		2017 Budget Request		Change from 2016 (+/-)	
		FTE	Amount		FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Nationwide Engineering Services												
Core Engineering Services	6,063	57	6,063	+53	0	0	0	0	57	6,116	0	+53
Waste Prevention and Recycling	100	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0
Environmental Compliance	998	0	998	0	0	0	0	0	0	998	0	0
Subtotal, Nationwide Engineering Services	7,161	57	+7,161	+53	0	0	0	0	57	7,214	0	+53
Dam, Bridge, and Seismic Safety												
Dam Safety Inspections	1,113	0	1,113	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,113	0	0
Bridge Safety Inspections	739	0	739	0	0	0	0	0	0	739	0	0
Seismic Safety	120	0	+120	0	0	0	0	0	0	120	0	0
Subtotal, Habitat Conservation	1,972	0	+1,972	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,972	0	0
Line-Item Construction	6,554	0	14,554	0	0	0	0	0	0	14,554	0	0
Total, Construction	15,687	57	23,687	+53	0	0	0	0	57	23,740	0	+53

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CONSTRUCTION			
Program and Financing (in million of dollars)	2015	2016	2017
Identification Code 010-18-14-1612	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Combined Schedule (X)			
<u>Obligations by program activity:</u>			
0001 Line item construction projects	37	23	20
0002 Nationwide engineering service	7	8	8
0003 Bridge, dam and seismic safety	1	2	2
0100 Total, Direct program:	45	33	30
0799 Total direct obligations	45	33	30
0801 Construction (Reimbursable)	0	1	1
0900 Total new obligations	45	34	31
<u>Budgetary resources:</u>			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	56	28	21
1021 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	1	1	1
1050 Unobligated balance (total)	57	29	22
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, discretionary:			
1100 Appropriation	16	24	24
1160 Appropriation, discretionary (total)	16	24	24
Spending authority from offsetting collections, discretionary:			
1700 Collected	0	2	2
1701 Change in uncollected payments, Federal sources	0	0	0
1750 Spending auth from offsetting collections, disc (total)	0	2	2
1900 Budget authority (total)	16	26	26
1930 Total budgetary resources available	73	55	48
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	28	21	17
<u>Change in obligated balance:</u>			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	34	36	34
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	45	34	31
3020 Outlays (gross)	-42	-35	-30
3040 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations, unexpired	-1	-1	-1
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	36	34	34
Uncollected payments:			
3060 Uncollected pymts, Fed sources, brought forward, Oct 1	-3	-3	-3
3070 Change in uncollected pymts, Fed sources, unexpired	0	0	0
3090 Uncollected pymts, Fed sources, end of year	-3	-3	-3
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	31	33	31
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	33	31	31

Standard Form 300 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CONSTRUCTION			
Program and Financing (in million of dollars)	2015	2016	2017
Identification Code 010-18-14-1612	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Budget authority and outlays, net:			
Discretionary:			
4000 Budget authority, gross	16	26	26
Outlays, gross:			
4010 Outlays from new discretionary authority	5	7	7
4011 Outlays from discretionary balances	37	28	23
4020 Outlays, gross (total)	42	35	30
Offsets against gross budget authority and outlays:			
Offsetting collections (collected) from:			
4030 Federal sources	0	-2	-2
4033 Non-Federal sources	0	0	0
4040 Offsets against gross budget authority and outlays (total)	0	-2	-2
Additional offsets against gross budget authority only:			
4050 Change in uncollected pymts, Fed sources, unexpired	0	0	0
4070 Budget authority, net (discretionary)	16	24	24
4080 Outlays, net (discretionary)	42	33	28
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	16	24	24
4190 Outlays, net (total)	42	33	28

Object Classification			
Direct obligations:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	4	4	4
11.3 Other than full-time permanent	1	1	1
11.9 Total personnel compensation	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	8	7	7
25.3 Other goods and services from Federal sources	19	14	11
25.4 Operation and maintenance of facilities	4	4	4
32.0 Land and structures	6	1	1
99.0 Subtotal, obligations, Direct obligations	44	33	30
Reimbursable obligations:			
25.3 Other goods and services from Federal sources	0	1	1
99.5 Adjustment for rounding	1	0	0
99.9 Total new obligations	45	34	31

Employment Summary			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	50	57	57

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Land Acquisition

Land Acquisition

Appropriations Language

For expenses necessary to carry out chapter 2003 of title 54, United States Code, 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, [\$68,500,000,] \$58,655,000, to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and to remain available until expended[, of which, notwithstanding section 200306 of title 54, United States Code, not more than \$10,000,000 shall be for land conservation partnerships authorized by the Highlands Conservation Act of 2004, including not to exceed \$320,000 for administrative expenses: 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 (*Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016*).

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, 2018.

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	2016 Total or Change	2016 to 2017 Change
Change in Number of Paid Days This column reflects changes in pay associated with the change in the number of paid days between 2016 and 2017.	+38	-75
Pay Raise The change reflects the salary impact of the 1.6% programmed pay raise increases as provided in the June, 2015 Circular A-11.	+122	+148
Rental Payments The amounts reflect changes in the costs payable to General Services Administration (GSA) and others for office and non-office space as estimated by GSA, as well as the rental costs of other currently occupied space. These costs include building security; in the case of GSA space, these are paid to Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Costs of mandatory office relocations, i.e. relocations in cases where due to external events there is no alternative but to vacate the currently occupied space, are also included.	+0	+0

Appropriation: Land Acquisition

	2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017 Request				Change from 2016 Enacted (+/-)
			Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Land Acquisition Management (\$000)	12,613	12,773	+73	0	+109	12,955	+182
Land Protection Planning (\$000)	0	465	0	0	0	465	0
Exchanges (\$000)	1,500	1,500	0	0	0	1,500	0
Inholdings / Emergencies and Hardships (\$000)	5,351	5,351	0	0	0	5,351	0
Highlands Conservation Act (\$000)	3,000	10,000	0	0	-10,000	0	-10,000
Sportsmen and Recreational Access (\$000)	0	2,500	0	0	0	2,500	0
Federal Refuges/Projects (\$000)	25,071	35,911	0	0	-27	35,884	-27
Subtotal, Land Acquisition-Discretionary (\$000)	47,535	68,500	+73	0	-9,918	58,655	-9,845
FTE	75	78	0	0	0	78	0
<u>LWCF Mandatory Legislative Proposal</u>							
Land Acquisition Management (\$000)	0	0	0	0	+3,000	3,000	+3,000
Land Protection Planning (\$000)	0	0	0	0	+1,541	1,541	+1,541
Exchanges (\$000)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inholdings / Emergencies and Hardships (\$000)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Refuges/Projects (\$000)	0	0	0	0	+74,426	74,426	+74,426
Land Acquisition – Mandatory (\$000)	0	0	0	0	+78,967	78,967	+78,967
FTE	0	0	0	0	+16	16	+16
Total, Land Acquisition (\$000)	47,535	68,500	+73	0	+69,149	137,622	+69,122
FTE	75	78	0	0	+16	94	+16

Summary of 2017 Program Changes for Land Acquisition (Discretionary)

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Land Acquisition Management	+109	0
• Land Acquisition Projects	-27	0
• Highlands Conservation Act	-10,000	0
Program Changes	-9,918	0

Justification of 2016 Program Changes

The 2017 discretionary budget request for Land Acquisition is \$58,655,000 and 78 FTE, a net program change of -\$9,918,000 and +0 FTE from the 2016 Enacted.

Land Acquisition Management (+\$109,000/+0 FTE)

Land Acquisition Management funds support 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. These additional funds will help the Service keep pace with growing costs, particularly those for physical security and IT security.

Land Acquisition Projects (-\$27,000/+0 FTE)

The Service is requesting \$35,884,000 for Land Acquisition Projects in discretionary, which will fund 16 projects in 19 states. The project descriptions later in this section provide more detail about the natural resource values of the proposed projects and how they will further support the Department's network of connected conservation lands.

Highlands Conservation Act (-\$10,000,000/+0 FTE)

This funding is used to match conservation partnership grants to acquire lands for conservation in four states that make up the Highlands States (CT, NJ, NY, and PA). Projects are first identified by the Highlands States and then selected by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture. These projects incur overhead costs to award, monitor, and close out individual grants for up to three years after the final grant is approved. The Service will shift this funding to higher priority conservation projects across the country as identified by the Targeted Resource Acquisition Comparison Tool (TRACT) that have ready and willing sellers and support from partners and other stakeholders.

Legislative Proposal – LWCF Mandatory Appropriation

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 2018, \$900 million annually in mandatory funds would be available. During the transition to full mandatory funding in 2018, the budget proposes \$900 million in total LWCF funding in FY 2017, comprised of \$425 million in mandatory and \$475 million in discretionary funds. The amounts requested include the authorized levels for the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture. In 2017, the proposal includes \$58.66 million in discretionary funding and \$78.97 million in mandatory funding for the Service's Federal land acquisition program.

Program Overview

The Service uses Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) monies appropriated by Congress to acquire and protect important fish, wildlife, and plant habitats. Acquired lands and waters become part of the National Wildlife Refuge System or National Fish Hatchery System. When acquired in fee title, these lands and waters provide the public opportunities to hunt, fish, observe and photograph wildlife, and enjoy environmental education and interpretation.

The Service's 2014 Strategic Growth Policy identifies conservation targets for the strategic growth of the National Wildlife Refuge System to prioritize what lands or waters should be added to the Refuge System. The Policy directs the Service to focus on acquiring lands and waters that support three conservation priorities:

1. Recovery of threatened and endangered species;
2. Implementing the North American Waterfowl Management Plan; and
3. Conserving migratory birds of conservation concern.

Using these three priorities, a Service interdisciplinary team developed the Targeted Resource Acquisition Comparison Tool (TRACT). The TRACT provides a biological, science-based, transparent process for ranking proposed Refuge System land acquisitions by generating separate rankings for each of the three priorities, for each proposed acquisition. TRACT does not assign weights to the three priorities and does not produce a single numerical ranking that combines all of the Service's priorities. The TRACT's rankings are intended to provide decision makers with an objective analysis that is grounded in the best available science; it is a decision support tool to inform the decision maker, but does not make the decision.

As the oldest Federal conservation agency, the Service is uniquely positioned to protect our fish, wildlife, and plants for the American people. We do so by protecting land and waters in two ways—through fee acquisition of property that we then own and manage as part of our National Wildlife Refuge System or National Fish Hatchery System, and through conservation easements on land that remains privately owned but protected for the public's benefit. The Refuge System is intended to serve as a connected network of lands and waters, and each new refuge was strategically added to give migrating birds safe havens on their journeys, provide fish with clean waters when they return to spawn, or ensure our grandchildren have wild places to explore. The lands the Service proposes to acquire in FY 2017 are those that fit within this strategy and help move the needle in protecting specific fish, wildlife, and/or plants, while also having willing sellers interested in working with the Service to provide those environmental benefits. We purchase the minimum interest necessary to meet the Service's mission; if conservation easements will meet biological objectives, then typically the Service will pursue those rather than buying the land in fee. Conservation easements are often an attractive option when landowners are interested in conserving their lands, but want to continue ranching and farming while having the option of passing their land on to the next generation. For every project for which the Service requests LWCF funding, the Service has an approved Land Protection Plan and has completed the required National Environmental Policy Act review process.

The Land Acquisition appropriation includes the land acquisition management activity, five targeted land acquisition activities, and an activity for general land acquisition requests. Each of these elements is described below.

Land Acquisition Management

This activity applies to the acquisition of lands throughout the National Wildlife Refuge System. Funding in this activity supports all costs for staff and the administration, implementation, coordination, and evaluation of the Service's Federal land acquisition program in our Headquarters, Regional, and field offices. It also includes about \$2 million for the land acquisition program's share of Servicewide infrastructure needs, including lease space and information technology investments.

The staff provide specialty support for several realty-based functions, including:

- Assisting refuge staff in the preparation of land use plans;
- Providing guidance and assistance in the preparation of land acquisition requests;
- Working with willing sellers from the initial explanations of federal acquisition options to the final acquisition;
- Preparing responses to official information requests from a variety of sources;
- Investigating and resolving encroachment issues;
- Developing and maintaining tools that inform the decision-making process;
- Working collaboratively with the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and (Forest Service) to acquire land for the protection and conservation of large, connected natural areas; and
- Creating, maintaining, and updating geospatial maps and supporting biological databases.

Land Protection Planning

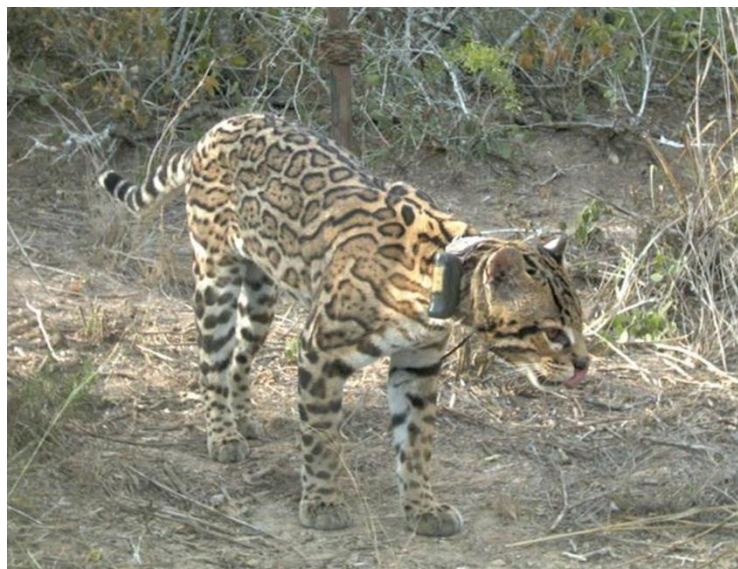
Service staff evaluate potential land acquisitions to support the strategic growth of the National Wildlife Refuge System. This activity supports the development of Land Protection Plans (LPPs), a key function in implementing the Service’s Strategic Growth Policy. The LPP process does not necessarily result in recommending the fee acquisition of land; often acquisition of conservation easements can accomplish habitat conservation goals.

The LPP process may begin when refuge field stations, local governments, and other conservation partners suggest areas for added protection for migratory birds and other important species. If there is enough local support and interest, the Service may start the process for developing an LPP. In some cases, LPPs will be prepared to establish new refuges or, more likely, to expand existing refuges to address the needs of fish, wildlife, and plant communities. Specific activities include gathering background data; coordinating with State and local entities; involving the public; analyzing ecological, legal, and financial issues; and printing and distributing draft and final plan documents. By using 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 our conservation partners can accomplish much more than by working as separate entities.



Moosehorn NWR, ME—In 2015, the Service acquired a 277-acre tract that abuts Hobart Stream. This acquisition will enhance Service efforts to restore this former salmon spawning stream.

The Planning program is complemented by the Service’s Partners for Fish and Wildlife program, through



Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR, TX—In FY 2015, the Service acquired a conservation easement through a multi-partner land exchange. The Conservation Fund and the Friends of the Wildlife Corridor have been long-term conservation partners and were instrumental in the Service’s exchange of an isolated 2,701-acre tract with marginal wildlife value for a 7,428-acre conservation easement containing an expanse of woodlands, open pasture, and numerous pothole wetlands. Securing this property not only benefits resident wildlife and migratory birds, but it also is one of the most significant actions taken for the recovery of the critically endangered ocelot in Texas. The property supports one of the last two remaining breeding populations of ocelots, and provides important corridor connections to more than 10,000 acres of Service and privately-owned properties that in recent years have supported ocelots.

which the Service 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.

Exchanges

Land exchanges provide unique opportunities to work in partnership with other Federal agencies and State and local governments, private landowners and organizations, and local and national conservation groups. Land exchange projects leverage the collective expertise of these partners to conserve critical habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife within the Refuge System, decrease habitat fragmentation, and provide public access to natural areas to hunt, fish, photograph and observe wildlife, and participate in environmental education and interpretation.

The Service estimates that \$1,362,500 will be needed for acquisition costs for exchanges of at least 274,600 acres. Exchanges may involve on-going expenditures over a period of years.

A table following land acquisition project descriptions lists the National Wildlife Refuge, Waterfowl Production Area, Wetland Management District, and Alaska Native Corporation properties that are part of ongoing land exchange projects or are potential 2017 land exchange projects.

Inholdings / Emergencies and Hardships

The Service uses funding in this activity to expedite purchases of smaller tracts of land from willing sellers for three categories: inholdings, emergencies, and hardships. The Service defines any land within an approved acquisition boundary as an inholding. The Service frequently uses inholdings funding to purchase lands that connect with private or State-conserved lands to create larger contiguous blocks of protected wildlife habitat. An emergency that may be best addressed with land acquisition from a willing seller could be a proposed subdivision development or a conversion to agricultural uses that would result in the permanent loss of wildlife habitat. Funding is also used to purchase lands where the owner is experiencing financial hardship and must quickly sell his or her land that is within an approved refuge acquisition boundary. Historically, hardship cases include Alaskan Native Corporations that need to raise additional Tribal funds and older couples who faced significant medical expenses and needed to raise money by selling their land. This small amount of funding allows the Service to capitalize on emergent opportunities to conserve habitat.



Buenos Aires NWR, AZ—In July 2015, the Service purchased 5.46 acres of grassland and savannah habitat with Inholding Funds. The parcel is surrounded on all sides by Refuge lands. Because of this acquisition, the Service can more efficiently and effectively manage its land interest at the Refuge. In addition, the parcel has the potential for supporting a self-sustaining population of endangered masked bobwhite.

Use of Residual LWCF Funds

Federal land acquisition projects sometimes have small amounts of funds remaining after land has been acquired. These residual funds are insufficient to acquire additional land. The Service reallocates residual project funds of less than \$50,000 to the Inholdings line item to be used to protect other lands

that do not have project funding. This shift enables the Service to acquire valuable wildlife habitat within approved refuge acquisition boundaries that becomes available for acquisition between appropriations cycles. (Projects funded in 2009 and some 2010 projects are excluded from the policy due to existing reprogramming restrictions.)

Sportsmen and Recreational Access

This activity provides funding for acquisition of small parcels of land to conserve important wildlife habitat that also provide recreational opportunities, including hunting and fishing. Refuges that do not have project funding, but have willing sellers, may request funds to acquire land to provide public access for wildlife-dependent recreation, such as wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation. The Service will be able to acquire choice lands quickly and make them accessible to young people and the country's growing urban population that lives within an hour's drive of a national wildlife refuge.

Federal Refuges/Projects

This activity funds individual land acquisition projects. Each year the Service acquires land in fee title or conservation easement through LWCF. The acquired lands provide habitat for wildlife and often enhance resource management capability. Fee title acquisitions generate economic benefits for local communities and provide the public with opportunities to hunt, fish, observe and photograph wildlife, and enjoy environmental education and interpretation.

FY 2015 acquisition highlights include:

Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont

The Service, with help from the National Wildlife Refuge Association, established the Mascoma River Division of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge in Canaan, New Hampshire. The 762-acre conservation easement was acquired through a combination of project funding and a donation from the landowner, Bear Hill Conservancy Trust.



Silvio O. Conte NF&WR—A 762-acre conservation easement near Canaan, NH, will protect wildlife habitat and provide public recreational opportunities.

The property is nestled within a large, unfragmented forest block containing a suite of rare species, exemplary natural communities, and valuable habitat for migrating and breeding birds. It is dominated by northern hardwood forest interspersed with small amounts of wetland, grassland, and open water habitat. The addition is within a core area or range of many species of conservation concern, including brook trout, American woodcock, black-throated blue warbler, blackburnian warbler, purple finch, black-throated green warbler, wood thrush, Canada warbler, and chestnut-sided warbler. The Service acquired the right to manage the habitat for wildlife and provide public access for compatible wildlife-dependent outdoor recreation.

Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge, Iowa and Minnesota

The Service, in cooperation with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, acquired a 150-acre tract in northwestern Iowa that permanently conserves 121 acres of remnant tallgrass prairie, 14 acres of wetland, and 1.25 miles of the Little Sioux River. In the 1940s, the Little Sioux River area was identified as one of the best native prairie sites in Iowa, and remains significant today. The tract holds potential for monarch butterfly habitat, recovery of the threatened prairie bush clover that exists in a county-protected area north of the acquired tract, and many nesting grassland birds such as dickcissel.

Willapa National Wildlife Refuge, Washington

The Service acquired 392 acres of timberland at the southernmost end of Willapa Bay, which will contribute to the protection and overall health of the Willapa Bay watershed, the second largest estuary on the Pacific coast. This property also has great potential for western red cedar forest restoration to achieve late-successional, old-growth quality, creating habitat that would benefit a wide variety of species.

The property encompasses areas of riparian forest and some forested wetlands. The forested areas provide habitat for the marbled murrelet, currently federally listed as threatened, as well as the northern spotted owl, black bear, black-tailed deer, Roosevelt elk, bats, bobcats, and grouse. The cool, wet climate makes the area a hotspot of amphibian diversity.



View of Willapa Bay from newly acquired property. Credit: Charles Parrott, USFWS.

Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge, New Jersey

The Service acquired over 18 acres of wetland, forest, and open field habitat at Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge. The tract's relatively small size belies its importance to wildlife and water quality in the area. The natural spring-fed pond and upland wetlands on the newly acquired tract are integrally linked to the wetland ecosystem on adjacent existing refuge lands. The tract's wetlands drain onto meadowlands on the refuge, which provide ideal habitat for the federally threatened bog turtle. Forested habitats surround and buffer the pond and wetlands, helping maintain high water quality. The tract's open fields also provide habitat for a variety of nesting grassland bird species.

Land Acquisition Projects for FY 2017

The FY 2017 request includes 34 proposed land acquisition projects totaling almost 105,000 acres that are funded from discretionary and mandatory sources. The projects represent two selection processes: Collaborative Landscape Planning (CLP) and Core.

Collaborative Landscape Planning (CLP)

The national CLP priority projects contained in this document reflect the collaborative efforts between the Departments of Interior and Agriculture in specific focal areas.

As part of the landscape program, Interior bureaus collaborated extensively with the Forest Service and with government and local community partners to plan projects to achieve the highest priority shared landscape-scale conservation goals. An interagency team of BLM, FWS, NPS, and USFS experts

identified a number of ecosystems throughout the Nation where high priority shared conservation goals could be achieved based on existing locally-driven conservation efforts. The prospective projects were evaluated according to criteria that included:

- Process: Ensure proposals are community-driven, collaborative, and cost-effective;
- Outcome: Ensure proposals contribute to informed, science-based, important local landscape-scale outcomes, so that Federal resources strategically achieve land management objectives;
- Urgency: Ensure funding decisions acknowledge where funds much be spent sooner rather than later to achieve outcomes or prevent harm, versus areas where outcomes could be achieved even if funding were postponed; and,
- Contribution to National/Regional Priorities: Ensure outcome goals contribute to regional and national priorities.

After analyzing the results of this process, bureau directors advised the Secretary on the development of the final CLP acquisitions to be incorporated in the integrated land acquisition lists.

Core Projects

The Service uses several tools, including conservation design, to implement its 2014 Strategic Growth Policy. Conservation design combines geospatial data with biological information and models to create maps and other tools that evaluate every acre of habitat's potential to support a fish, wildlife, or plant population. The Service also works collaboratively with conservation partners to determine the kind, quality, and configuration of the needed habitat. With these tools and data, the Service can determine the current habitat-acre capability and what it needs to achieve specific biological objectives or outcomes.

The land acquisition projects proposed for the FY 2017 Budget reflect additional important factors, including contribution of leveraged funds, conservation partner participation, and urgency of project completion to protect natural areas from development or other incompatible uses. The proposed projects support the Service's mission-oriented priorities.

The list below is the current set of land acquisition proposals, in priority order, that has been vetted and approved by Service and Departmental leadership to meet the high priority programmatic needs of the Service. The project descriptions following the list provide details about the resource values of the lands and waters proposed for addition to the Department's network of conservation lands.



Everglades Headwaters NWR and CA, FL—The Service acquired nearly 1,500 fee acres and over 4,200 conservation easements acres in 2015 through donation and purchase. The preservation of a variety of habitats benefits many species, including sandhill cranes.

FY 2017 LWCF Discretionary Funding				
Rank	State(s)	Collaborative Landscape or Core\Project Name	Requested Funding	Type of Project
1	CLP: Islands Forest at Risk			
	HI	CLP: Islands Forest at Risk: Hakalau Forest NWR	\$6,200,000	CLP
2	ND/SD	Dakota Grassland Conservation Area	\$8,000,000	Core
3	CLP: High Divide			
	MT	CLP: High Divide: Red Rock Lakes NWR	\$2,000,000	CLP
4	ND/SD	Dakota Tallgrass Prairie Wildlife Management Area	\$3,000,000	Core
5	CLP: Rivers of the Chesapeake			
	MD	CLP: Rivers of the Chesapeake: Blackwater NWR	\$1,200,000	CLP
	VA	CLP: Rivers of the Chesapeake: James River NWR	\$900,000	CLP
6	FL	Everglades Headwaters NWR and Conservation Area	\$2,500,000	Core
7	CLP: National Trails System			
	PA	CLP: National Trails System: Cherry Valley NWR	\$2,200,000	CLP
8	AR	Cache River NWR	\$1,406,000	Core
9	IA/ MN	Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR	\$500,000	Core
10	TX	Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR	\$1,500,000	Core
11	CLP: Florida-Georgia Longleaf Pine			
	FL	CLP: Florida-Georgia Longleaf Pine: St. Marks NWR	\$2,500,000	CLP
12	NC/TN	Mountain Bogs NWR	\$478,000	Core
13	MA/NH/CT/VT	Silvio O. Conte NFWR	\$1,009,000	Core
14	Pathways to the Pacific			
	WA	CLP: Pathways to the Pacific: Willapa NWR	\$991,000	CLP
15	MT	Montana NWRs	\$1,500,000	Core
Subtotal, Line Item Projects (Core)			\$19,893,000	
Subtotal, Line Item Projects (CLP)			\$15,991,000	
Total Line Item Projects - Discretionary			\$35,884,000	

Department of the Interior
 LWCF Project Data Sheet
 Revised September 2015

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Budget Justification FY2017

Priority: 1

Project / Unit: Islands Forest at Risk: Hakalau Forest NWR

Discretionary

Mandatory

State(s): HI

Congressional District(s): HI-2

Location: The Hakalau Forest Unit is 22 miles north of Hilo, as the crow flies, on the windward side of the Island of Hawai'i, and the Kona Forest Unit is near Honaunau on the leeward side of the island.

Proposed for FY 2017	
Acres	\$
7,591	\$6,200,000
Acquired to Date	
38,047	\$26,239,165
Remaining to be Acquired	
26,552	\$33,573,075

Project Description:

Funding will enable fee title acquisition of the final 3,126 acres of a 10,034 acre-site in the Kona Forest Unit of Hakalau Forest NWR. This site has significance for recovery of listed plants and endangered forest birds and their habitats. It provides important watershed values, including groundwater recharge and prevention of siltation of nearby marine environments. This area supports small but biologically important populations of rare native birds, including 'akiapoia'au, 'akepa, 'io, and Hawai'i creeper, as well as abundant populations of native 'elepaio, 'i'iwi, 'amkihi, and 'apapane. This property would provide additional acreage for the potential reintroduction of the Federally-listed endangered 'Alalā.

Funding will also enable fee title acquisition of one tract of 4,465 acres within the Hakalau Forest NWR approved refuge boundary, on the windward side of the Island of Hawai'i. Acquisition and management of this site will help recover listed plants and endangered forest birds and their habitats by supporting groundwater recharge and enhanced potential for ungulate and other invasive species removal. This high-elevation property is ideal habitat for palila, Federally listed as endangered, which depend on the mamane and manane/naio forests located near 7,550 feet elevation. Recovery criteria derived from the Revised Recovery Plan for Hawaiian Birds Forest (2006) for palila are based partly on increased mamane tree recruitment and growth resulting from ungulate eradication and removal and protection from predators and food competitors, and from fire, weeds, and other disturbances. These efforts require extensive land management, which will be provided following land acquisition. The northern and eastern slopes of Mauna Kea (where this property is located) were identified in the Recovery Plan as ideal locations for habitat protection.

Purpose / Need:

To protect and enhance populations of numerous threatened and endangered plant and forest bird species and the biological integrity, diversity, and environmental health of wet and or moderately wet forest ecosystems. Of note, this property includes land where the 'Alalā was last seen in the wild and land identified as critical habitat for the palila, an endangered finch-billed honeycreeper that is dependent on green mamane tree pods for 90 percent of its food. One of the identified elements of the Revised Recovery Plan for the 'Alalā includes the identification, protection, and management of suitable habitat, and the reduction of threats at the selected release sites, followed by reintroduction into the wild at suitably managed sites. The Revised Recovery Plan for Hawaiian Forest Birds identifies the need to establish at least two more areas for viable palila populations to be reintroduced or bolstered. Acquiring these properties will help advance the Recovery Plan and also protect the biological integrity, diversity, and environmental health of wet ecosystems or those requiring a moderate water supply, such as mesic forests.

Cooperator(s): McCandless Ranch, The Nature Conservancy

Estimated O&M Savings: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$0
 Estimated O&M Costs: Start-up: \$80,000 Annual: \$70,000

Project / Unit: Islands Forest at Risk: Hakalau Forest NWR

Describe O&M: The service anticipates an initial expense of \$40,000 for boundary marking and sign posting for each property. Long term O&M would include \$70,000 for one maintenance FTE who would manage ungulate removal and boundary monitoring.

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 Revised September 2015

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Budget Justification FY2017

Priority: 2

Project / Unit: Dakota Grassland Conservation Area

Discretionary

Mandatory

State(s): ND SD

Congressional District(s): ND-AL, SD-AL

Location: North Dakota and South Dakota, lying east of the Missouri River

Proposed for FY 2017	
Acres	\$
14,500	\$8,000,000
Acquired to Date	
44,416	\$20,498,175
Remaining to be Acquired	
1,881,084	\$940,241,509

Project Description:

Funding the Dakota Grassland Conservation Area (DGCA) will enable the Service to acquire easements on approximately 14,500 acres of grassland and wetland habitat. The DGCA is part of a landscape-scale habitat conservation effort in the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR) to protect a highly diverse and endangered ecosystem. This ecosystem consists of large, unique grassland and wetland complexes that provide habitat for migratory birds, shorebirds, grassland birds, the endangered piping plover, and other wildlife. This ecosystem includes ranching and farming communities.

The PPR is threatened with habitat fragmentation and loss of grasslands and wetlands because of conversion of native prairie to cropland. Acquisition of perpetual easements will protect the landscape from habitat fragmentation and preserve the integrity of the native habitat, while maintaining traditional ranching and farming operations.

Purpose / Need:

Purchase perpetual wetland and grassland easements to protect wildlife habitats of native grassland and associated wetlands in the Prairie Pothole Region.

Cooperator(s): North Dakota Game and Fish Department, North Dakota Natural Resources Trust, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., The Nature Conservancy, South Dakota Grassland Coalition, and private landowners.

Estimated O&M Savings: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$0

Estimated O&M Costs: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$0

Describe O&M:

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 LWCF Project Data Sheet
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Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Budget Justification FY2017

Priority: 3

Project / Unit: High Divide: Red Rock Lakes NWR

Discretionary
 Mandatory

State(s): MT

Congressional District(s): MT-AL

Location: 28 miles east of Monida, MT

Proposed for FY 2017	
Acres	\$
4,600	\$2,000,000
Acquired to Date	
74,960	\$21,331,851
Remaining to be Acquired	
22,302	\$7,918,660

Project Description:

The mountains, valleys, and rivers of the High Divide are a fragile wildlife landscape along the spine of the continent in Idaho and Montana that links the world's first National Park, Yellowstone region, to Idaho's Frank Church Wilderness. In the heart of Montana's portion of the High Divide, Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge provides core habitat and linkage corridors for elk, moose, pronghorn, grizzly, greater sage grouse, and grayling.

With its location, Red Rocks Lakes NWR is a critical component of the larger High Divide landscape. The High Divide Collaborative is a community-based partnership with landscape perspectives. Socially and economically, the High Divide supports a ranching way of life and fosters vital wildland recreation where youth can connect to nature. Ecologically, the High Divide is a continentally-scaled linkage between large core habitats. Culturally, the High Divide values ancient pathways, including the Nez Perce and Lewis & Clark National Historic Trails, the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, and the Oregon Trail.

With the requested funds, the Service will acquire a perpetual conservation easement on one tract of 4,600 acres within Red Rock Lakes NWR in the heart of the High Divide landscape. The easement will protect native wet meadows, wetlands, uplands, and mountain foothills for migratory birds, including waterfowl and trumpeter swans, and other wildlife, including grizzly bears, greater sage grouse, and grayling.

Purpose / Need:

There is increasing pressure to subdivide and develop this landscape for second home development and commercial uses. Development threatens to sever the critical wildlife corridors and undermine the traditional ranching economy of the High Divide. Protecting this tract with a conservation easement will prevent fragmentation and protect trust species habitat in one of the nation's best remaining intact ecosystems, all while maintaining the traditional ranching way of life.

Cooperator(s): The Conservation Fund; The Nature Conservancy; Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Montana DNRC; Montana Wilderness Association; and Montana Audubon Society.

Estimated O&M Savings: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$0
 Estimated O&M Costs: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$1,000

Describe O&M: The Service estimates that annual monitoring and inspection of the 4,600 easement acres would require approximately \$1,000 annually.

Department of the Interior
 LWCF Project Data Sheet
 Revised September 2015

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Budget Justification FY2017

Priority: 4

Project / Unit: Dakota Tallgrass Prairie Wildlife Management Area

Discretionary

Mandatory

State(s): ND SD

Congressional District(s): ND-AL, SD-AL

Location: North Dakota and South Dakota, lying east of the Missouri River

Proposed for FY 2017	
Acres	\$
3,500	\$3,000,000
Acquired to Date	
66,559	\$12,377,551
Remaining to be Acquired	
119,941	\$51,101,289

Project Description:

With the requested funds, the Service will acquire perpetual conservation easements on approximately 3,500 acres of tallgrass prairie from willing sellers. Tallgrass prairie once covered 90 percent of the Dakotas. Today, less than three percent remains. The rate of conversion of this unique habitat to agricultural production has only accelerated over the last few years, and the rate of loss and the resulting fragmentation of the remaining tallgrass prairie continue to be 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, animal, and insect 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.

Purpose / Need:

To protect the Prairie Pothole Region's northern tallgrass prairie ecosystem and associated wildlife.

Cooperator(s): States of North Dakota and South Dakota, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., The Nature Conservancy, South Dakota Grassland Coalition, and private landowners.

Estimated O&M Savings: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$0

Estimated O&M Costs: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$0

Describe O&M:

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Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Budget Justification FY2017

Priority: 5

Project / Unit: Rivers of the Chesapeake: Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge

Discretionary
 Mandatory

State(s): MD

Congressional District(s): MD-1

Location: Blackwater NWR is located 65 miles south of Baltimore, on the south central portion of Dorchester County on Maryland's eastern shore.

Proposed for FY 2017	
Acres	\$
683	\$1,200,000
Acquired to Date	
28,894	\$22,809,331
Remaining to be Acquired	
30,348	\$32,963,768

Project Description:

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge's mosaic of tidal marsh and creeks, forested wetlands, and upland forests provide habitat for several high-priority species, including American black duck, prothonotary warbler, wood duck, mallard, brown-headed nuthatch, and wood thrush. The refuge is home to the largest remaining natural population of recently-delisted Delmarva Peninsula fox squirrels, and is also home to the largest breeding population of American bald eagles on the east coast, north of Florida. The refuge contains one third of Maryland's tidal wetlands, which makes it an ecologically important area within the state. The wetlands also provide storm protection to lower Dorchester County, including the town of Cambridge. The refuge was recognized as a Wetland of International Importance by the Ramsar Convention; was named a priority wetland in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan; and was designated as an Internationally Important Bird Area. The refuge has been referred to as the "Everglades of the North," and has been called one of the "Last Great Places" by The Nature Conservancy.

The Service will acquire and protect two tracts totaling 683 acres; these tracts have been identified as being resilient to sea level rise in a climate change adaptation study conducted by several partners, including the National Wildlife Refuge Association and The Conservation Fund. The largest tract is 550 acres and within the boundary of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument and its acquisition will help keep this historic landscape intact. Protection of both tracts will enhance compatible public recreational opportunities on the refuge.

Purpose / Need:

The acquisitions will protect high-quality habitat for the Delmarva fox squirrel (formerly listed as endangered) along with nesting and wintering habitat for the American bald eagle, migratory waterfowl, colonial waterbirds, shorebirds, and forest interior-dwelling bird species.

Cooperator(s): Chesapeake Conservancy, Department of Defense, The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and National Park Service.

Estimated O&M Savings: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$0

Estimated O&M Costs: Start-up: \$10,000 Annual: \$3,000

Describe O&M: Start-up for boundary posting and annual \$3,000 for signage and boundary markings.

Department of the Interior
 LWCF Project Data Sheet
 Revised September 2015

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Budget Justification FY2017

Priority: 5

Project / Unit: Rivers of the Chesapeake: James River National Wildlife Refuge

Discretionary
 Mandatory

State(s): VA

Congressional District(s): VA-4

Location: James River NWR is located on the James River in Prince George County, VA.

Proposed for FY 2017	
Acres	\$
50	\$900,000
Acquired to Date	
4,324	\$10,379,922
Remaining to be Acquired	
174	\$802,400

Project Description:

James River NWR was established in 1991 and provides important breeding and roosting habitat for resident and migrating eagles, and supports hundreds of native plant and animal species in its forests, wetlands, and grasslands. The refuge is mostly forested riparian habitat, with tidal inlets supporting a bald cypress swamp as well as prothonotary warbler, wood thrush, Louisiana waterthrush, whip-poor-will, and other species of high or highest priority as identified by migratory bird conservation plans (Bird Conservation Region 30, Partners in Flight). The refuge is located in an area that boasts several sites with special conservation status, including the following:

- Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance: This site, including the refuge, was listed based on its rich diversity of estuarine habitats and associated fish and wildlife.
- Lower James River Important Bird Area: The 118,000-acre corridor supports an unusually large number of avian species. The oligohaline (low salinity brackish) waters, coupled with mature forest shorelines, offer high habitat value to fish-eating bird populations, including eagles, osprey, herons, and cormorants.
- Anadromous Fish Use Area: Several anadromous fish species, including alewife, American shad, Atlantic sturgeon, striped bass, blueback herring, yellow perch, and hickory shad, live in the James River next to the refuge.
- Other Designated Areas: Bald Eagle Concentration Area and the National Park Service's Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.

With funding from this request, the Service will acquire a 50-acre tract on the James River that is one of the two remaining tracts that would complete the refuge. This land is currently being marketed as a development property.

Purpose / Need:

The acquisition at James River NWR will protect roosting and breeding habitat for bald eagles; protect and manage habitat for breeding forest birds of conservation concern; and provide compatible recreational opportunities, particularly deer hunting.

Cooperator(s): Chesapeake Conservancy, Department of Defense, The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Richmond Audubon Society, Chickahominy Tribe, James River Association, and the National Park Service.

Estimated O&M Savings: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$0
 Estimated O&M Costs: Start-up: \$10,000 Annual: \$3,000

Describe O&M: Both start-up and annual costs are for signage and boundary markings.

Project / Unit: Rivers of the Chesapeake: James River National Wildlife Refuge

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 Revised September 2015

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Budget Justification FY2017

Priority: 6

Project / Unit: Everglades Headwaters NWR and Conservation Area

Discretionary

Mandatory

State(s): FL

Congressional District(s): FL-12, FL-15, FL-16

Location: Approximately 50 miles south of Orlando and 75 miles east of Tampa, in the counties of Polk, Osceola, Okeechobee, and Highlands.

Proposed for FY 2017	
Acres	\$
1,000	\$2,500,000
Acquired to Date	
1,502	\$2,745,000
Remaining to be Acquired	
148,498	\$461,825,791

Project Description:

With these funds the Service will acquire fee title on approximately 1,000 acres from one willing seller to help protect a large landscape of diverse and high-quality habitat, including habitat for the federally endangered Florida grasshopper sparrow. Acquisition of fee title on this property would protect the headwaters, groundwater recharge, and watershed of the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, and Lake Okeechobee region, and improve water quantity and quality in the Everglades watershed, supporting the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan goals and protecting the water supply for millions of people.

Purpose / Need:

To protect 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.

Cooperator(s): 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, Florida Cattlemen's Association, and Florida Farm Bureau.

Estimated O&M Savings: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$0

Estimated O&M Costs: Start-up: \$10,000 Annual: \$3,000

Describe O&M: The Service anticipates annual costs of up to \$3,000 for habitat management and restoration, including prescribed burning, hunting, and public use management.

Department of the Interior
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Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Budget Justification FY2017

Priority: 7

Project / Unit: National Trails System: Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Discretionary
 Mandatory

State(s): PA

Congressional District(s): PA-11, PA-15, PA-17

Location: Cherry Valley NWR lies approximately 60 miles northwest of New York City, and 60 miles north of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in the southeastern section of Monroe County, Pennsylvania and just north of Northampton County, Pennsylvania.

Proposed for FY 2017	
Acres	\$
3,273	\$2,200,000
Acquired to Date	
335	\$1,800,000
Remaining to be Acquired	
15,552	\$10,451,000

Project Description:

With the requested funds, the Service will acquire mostly forested habitat along the Appalachian Trail to protect the Trail and its viewshed, as well as, threatened and endangered plants, fish, and wildlife. This project will ensure the resiliency and connectivity of terrestrial and watershed ecosystems. Cherry Valley protects a combination of wetland and upland habitat supporting several nationally-rare ecosystems. The area is home to several Federally-listed threatened and endangered species, a wealth of migratory birds, and numerous plant and animal species listed as threatened or endangered by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Cherry Valley is recognized as one of the most unique and important areas for the Federal-listed threatened bog turtle, and Cherry Valley NWR is located in the Delaware Recovery Unit of the Bog Turtle Northern Population Recovery Plan, within the Delaware-West subunit. The refuge was established in 2010 specifically to help protect the bog turtles through ownership and management of habitats currently supporting healthy metapopulations. The Delaware Recovery Unit contains the highest densities of roads and major urban areas and has the highest number of lost bog turtle sites range-wide. Urban sprawl and habitat fragmentation are major conservation challenges, as is maintaining groundwater quality and quantity. Bog turtle experts indicate that Cherry Valley may be the most important site in the northern half of the species' range (from Maryland to Massachusetts).

The Kittatinny Ridge is recognized as a globally significant flyway, supporting up to 20,000 migrating raptors each fall. An historical record for Indiana bat, as well as appropriate summer foraging and roosting habitat and the proximity of bat hibernacula, are strong indicators that the species may still be present in the Valley. Of the Species of Conservation Concern listed in Pennsylvania's State Wildlife Action Plan, as many as 61 occur within or near the valley study area boundary, including at least 13 of the 37 species identified as species of greatest concern.

Purpose / Need:

The acquisition of land owned by PA American Water Company offers a rare opportunity to work with a variety of land conservation partners to protect the unique habitats of Cherry Valley at a fraction of the total cost. A number of important partnerships among the Service, The Nature Conservancy, the Pocono Heritage LandTrust, private landowners, and others have resulted in successful bog turtle habitat restoration projects. This proposal will enlarge these partnerships and management opportunities.

Cooperator(s): The Conservation Fund, The Nature Conservancy, The National Park Service, Pocono Natural Heritage Trust, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the Open Space Institute.

Project / Unit: National Trails System: Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Estimated O&M Savings:	Start-up: \$0	Annual: \$0
Estimated O&M Costs:	Start-up: \$10,000	Annual: \$0

Describe O&M: The Service anticipates minimal additional costs associated with these acquisitions other than posting the boundary as the properties are located within the Refuge boundary and would create little additional workload.

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 Revised September 2015

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Budget Justification FY2017

Priority: 8

Project / Unit: Cache River National Wildlife Refuge

Discretionary
 Mandatory

State(s): AR

Congressional District(s): AR-1

Location: Adjacent to the White and Cache Rivers, 75 miles northeast of Little Rock in Monroe, Prairie, Woodruff, Jackson, Cross, and Poinsett counties.

Proposed for FY 2017	
Acres	\$
639	\$1,406,000
Acquired to Date	
64,178	\$64,727,246
Remaining to be Acquired	
221,867	\$431,533,067

Project Description:

With these funds, the Service will acquire fee title to three tracts totaling approximately 639 acres from willing sellers. One tract consists of floodplain forest along Bayou Devew, a riparian corridor of critical importance to the Refuge and contains regenerating bottomland hardwood forest subject to annual flooding. The tract contains highly valuable waterfowl breeding, migrating and wintering habitat. One of the tracts is on a flood prone site with three streams flowing through the site, and this tract would be restored to bottomland hardwood forest flooding annually providing excellent habitat for migrating and wintering waterfowl, waterbirds, raptors, and neotropical migrant songbirds in addition to other native wildlife. The other tract consists of a combination of floodplain forest, regenerating hardwood forest, moist soil management, grassland/shrub, agriculture. The agriculture portion will be reforested and is subject to annual flooding from Bayou Devew hosting a wide variety of nesting, migrating, wintering waterfowl species, wading birds, forest and grassland nesting birds, and other native wildlife. All three tracts are located near a state highway or county road providing excellent public access that will expand public use for hunting, fishing, and wildlife observation and photography.

Purpose / Need:

Acquisition of these tracts will 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 Cache River Refuge project area is 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. This project will also provide public opportunities for hunting, fishing, and other wildlife-dependent recreation.

Cooperator(s): The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, Ducks Unlimited, and Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

Estimated O&M Savings: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$0
 Estimated O&M Costs: Start-up: \$5,000 Annual: \$500

Describe O&M: The Service anticipates initial costs for posting and fencing, which the Service would fund from Refuge System base funding. Annual costs would be for maintenance.

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 Revised September 2015

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Budget Justification FY2017

Priority: 9

Project / Unit: Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge

Discretionary

Mandatory

State(s): IA MN

Congressional District(s): IA-2, IA-3, IA-4, MN-1, MN-7

Location: Located in portions of 48 counties in MN and 37 in IA, the Refuge is bounded by the US-Canada border to the north and Des Moines, IA, to the south. The Refuge boundary weaves through the Tallgrass Aspen Parklands and Agassiz Beach Ridges of northwest MN and the Prairie Coteau regions of southwest MN and northwest IA.

Proposed for FY 2017	
Acres	\$
150	\$500,000
Acquired to Date	
8,233	\$6,486,491
Remaining to be Acquired	
68,617	\$173,570,805

Project Description:

The Service will acquire approximately 150 fee title acres or easement acres in western Minnesota and/or northwestern Iowa with these requested funds. The Service will develop stewardship agreements and provide management assistance in the interest of preserving the prairie landscape regardless of ownership. The project conserves and restores the rarest and most fragmented prairie/grassland ecosystem in America and one of the most important waterfowl production areas.

The Service's goal for the Refuge is to preserve 77,000 acres, about 25 percent of the remaining native prairie, across portions of 85 counties in western Minnesota and northwestern Iowa.

Federally threatened and endangered species on the Refuge include four plant and seven animal species, including western prairie fringed orchid, prairie bush clover, Dakota skipper and piping plover. The Refuge has nationally significant habitat for breeding migratory birds, such as the marbled godwit and the yellow rail, and waterfowl, including mallards and northern pintail. The Refuge is important habitat for American wigeon, cackling goose, canvasback, greater and lesser scaup, ring-necked duck, wood duck and blue-winged teal. Approximately 243 species of birds are known to regularly use the northern tallgrass prairie region at some period during the year including 152 breeding species. Grassland nesting birds present at the Refuge include black-billed cuckoo, bobolink, red-headed woodpecker, Connecticut warbler, dickcissel, and upland sandpiper. Several globally rare species can also be found here, including the last remaining populations of the Dakota skipper, and regal fritillary butterflies which are in steep decline. These grasslands also support native pollinators such as bumblebees and monarch butterflies.

Purpose / Need:

To protect, restore, and enhance the remaining northern tallgrass prairie habitat, one of the most rare and fragmented ecosystems in America, and conserve associated prairie wildlife species.

Cooperator(s): Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 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.

Estimated O&M Savings: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$0

Estimated O&M Costs: Start-up: \$10,000 Annual: \$0

Describe O&M: Initial restoration and enhancement work (spraying, mowing, prescribed burns, public access signs). Annual

Project / Unit: Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge

O&M depends on whether property is acquired in fee or easement.

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Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Budget Justification FY2017

Priority: 10

Project / Unit: Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Discretionary
 Mandatory

State(s): TX

Congressional District(s): TX-15, TX-28, TX-34

Location: South Texas; Lower Rio Grande Valley - Starr, Hidalgo, Cameron, and Willacy Counties.

Proposed for FY 2017	
Acre	\$
800	\$1,500,000
Acquired to Date	
96,956	\$79,788,343
Remaining to be Acquired	
34,744	\$50,986,218

Project Description:

The Lower Rio Grande Valley (Valley) region has lost about 95 percent of its native Tamaulipan thornscrub habitat due to agriculture, urban expansion, and industrial development, and 99 percent of the native brush in riparian areas has been destroyed. The area is extremely rich in flora and fauna because of the climatic gradient that ranges from tropical to semi-arid. Eighteen federally-listed endangered or threatened species, including the ocelot and jaguarundi, nearly 400 birds, 300 butterflies, and over 1,100 plant species, are all found on the Refuge. The Valley is also a focal point of the Central Flyway for tens of thousands of birds migrating between North and South America each year. Many Mexican bird species, found nowhere else in the U.S., reach their northern range within the Refuge. To assist with recovery of endangered species, such as the ocelot, sustainably protect the Valley's rich plant and animal life, and fulfill the Refuge's purpose, the remaining lands containing native vegetation must be acquired before they are gone.

The Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR is part of the South Texas Refuges Complex, which includes the Laguna Atascosa and Santa Ana NWRs. The Refuge protects important biotic communities within four counties and has a land acquisition boundary of about 3.3 million acres. Strategic land acquisition is focused on acquiring lands within the specific wildlife corridor, primarily focusing on the Rio Grande and coastal areas, and creating connections between ranch lands in the northern regions of Hidalgo and Willacy Counties. The creation of north-south corridors is critical for wildlife movement from the Rio Grande to the northern areas of the Valley and beyond. Strategic land acquisition takes into account the impacts of anticipated sea-level rise and climate change, potential offsets through carbon sequestration from the Refuge's extensive brush restoration program, current and predicted road networks, needs for wildlife crossings, urban growth, outdoor recreation opportunities for the public, international border issues, private and conservation ownerships, landscape conservation cooperatives, and the needs of trust resources.

With these requested funds, the Service will acquire several large parcels (approximately 2,100 acres), including areas along the Rio Grande that will connect existing Refuge tracts with Texas Parks and Wildlife and the North American Butterfly Association lands in Hidalgo County, and, in Cameron County, create an additional north-south corridor for wildlife movement from the Refuge to Laguna Atascosa NWR. Anticipated impacts to habitat from climate-change and sea-level rise make it clear that wildlife corridors need to be expanded. Acquisition of these lands will enable the Refuge to enhance vegetational bridges for wildlife movement between existing areas of native habitat within the Valley.

Purpose / Need:

This proactive conservation endeavor aims to strategically provide the best long-term protection for many trust resources, while establishing a larger conservation footprint for the Refuge within the National Wildlife Refuge System. The pace of economic growth in the Valley has far out paced the Service's ability to acquire and protect enough lands to establish wildlife travel corridors, especially for threatened and endangered species. As the human population in the Valley continues to increase by four percent annually, large-acreage properties are going to give way to development, further reducing the Service's chances of creating safe havens for long-term conservation.

Project / Unit: Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge

There are several organizations in Texas that support the project, including Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Department of Transportation, and the Friends of the Wildlife Corridor.

Cooperator(s): The Conservation Fund; The Nature Conservancy; National Audubon Society; Ducks Unlimited; North American Butterfly Association; Natural Resources Conservation Service; Comision Nacional de Areas Naturales Protegidas; The Valley Land Fund; The Peregrine Fund; and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Estimated O&M Savings:	Start-up: \$0	Annual: \$0
Estimated O&M Costs:	Start-up: \$20,000	Annual: \$1,000

Describe O&M: Fencing and posting of refuge boundaries is estimated at \$20,000, which the Service would fund from Refuge System base funding. Any habitat restoration needs will be conducted by Refuge cooperative farmers, resulting in minimal expense to the Service. Once completed, the properties will be managed as part of the overall refuge management program including law enforcement and public use activities, volunteer programs, and other refuge programs.

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 Revised September 2015

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Budget Justification FY2017

Priority: 11

Project / Unit: Florida-Georgia Longleaf Pine: St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge

Discretionary

Mandatory

State(s): FL

Congressional District(s): FL-4

Location: In the Florida Panhandle, 24 miles south of Tallahassee, Florida, in Wakulla County.

Proposed for FY 2017	
Acres	\$
1,000	\$2,500,000
Acquired to Date	
71,954	\$10,437,514
Remaining to be Acquired	
39,293	\$97,336,351

Project Description:

The Service will acquire approximately 1,000 fee acres from one willing seller with the requested funds. Acquisition will 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. This project will help preserve a tapestry of Federal, State, and private forest lands that provide over 1 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.

Purpose / Need:

To conserve populations of threatened, endangered, rare, and imperiled plants and animals and their native longleaf pine habitats; restore former slash pine plantations to native longleaf pine; provide suitable black bear habitat, including corridors to link critical habitat for major population centers; provide high-quality habitat for migratory birds, shorebirds, waterbirds, and marshbirds; and provide public opportunities for hunting, fishing, and other wildlife-dependent recreation.

Cooperator(s): Sam Shine Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Florida Chapter of the Wildlife Society, The Florida Natural Areas Inventory, St. Marks Refuge Association, Florida Trail Association, Blue Goose Alliance, Apalachee Audubon Society, and Florida Wildlife Federation.

Estimated O&M Savings: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$0

Estimated O&M Costs: Start-up: \$50,000 Annual: \$20,000

Describe O&M: The Service estimates annual costs of up to \$20,000 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.

Department of the Interior
 LWCF Project Data Sheet
 Revised September 2015

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Budget Justification FY2017

Priority: 12

Project / Unit: Mountain Bogs National Wildlife Refuge

Discretionary
 Mandatory

State(s): NC

Congressional District(s): NC-5, NC-11

Location: Located in Henderson, Ashe, and Watauga Counties within the southern Blue Ridge Mountains and the Appalachian Mountains of western North Carolina

Proposed for FY 2017	
Acres	\$
56	\$478,000
Acquired to Date	
36	\$0
Remaining to be Acquired	
23,386	\$93,270,000

Project Description:

With the requested funds, the Service will acquire about 56 fee title and easement acres from five willing sellers. About 90 percent of the area's mountain bogs have been lost, and acquiring these lands will protect geographically isolated mountain bogs and portions of their watersheds within the Mountain Bogs NWR, a President's America's Great Outdoors initiative project. These acquisitions will protect the most critically important mountain bogs, which support numerous federally-listed species, and will aid in the recovery of these federally-listed species:

- Bog Turtle (threatened): Four tracts will protect wetlands where bog turtles occur or have been known to occur.
- Bunched arrowhead (endangered): Bogs containing two colonies within one of the 11 extant populations will be permanently protected as directed in the Recovery Plan.
- Mountain sweet pitcher (endangered): Bogs containing two of the four (50 percent) North Carolina populations will be protected as directed in the Recovery Plan.
- Swamp pink (threatened): Acquisition will permanently protect one population.

Acquisitions will help prevent listing of the purple pitcher plant (petitioned; two tracts); golden-winged warbler (petitioned; one tract); and eastern hellbender (petitioned; one tract). Acquisitions will also protect reservoirs of biological diversity identified as Portfolio sites in the Southern Blue Ridge Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC and SAFC 2000) and land targeted as a priority for conservation by the Southern Blue Ridge Forest Matrix Plan (TNC 2012).

Purpose / Need:

The purchase of these lands will;

- 1) Help achieve Land Protection Objectives of Mountain Bogs National Wildlife Refuge and NC State Wildlife Action Plan.
- 2) Provide landscape-level conservation by connecting or adding to existing conservation lands.
- 3) Protect critically endangered mountain bogs and high elevation forest habitats and their associated rare endemic species.
- 4) Help meet recovery objectives for threatened and endangered species, and help prevent listing of species of concern, petitioned species, and other rare species.
- 5) Protect Partners in Flight priority birds and their habitats.

Cooperator(s): The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, Senator Richard Burr, North Carolina Natural Heritage Program, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

Estimated O&M Savings: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$0

Estimated O&M Costs: Start-up: \$5,000 Annual: \$10,000

Describe O&M: The Service estimates cost for travel, law enforcement, habitat improvement, hydrology restoration, and invasive plant removal to be covered by Refuge funds.

Department of the Interior
 LWCF Project Data Sheet
 Revised September 2015

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Budget Justification FY2017

Priority: 13

Project / Unit: Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge

Discretionary

Mandatory

State(s): CT MA NH VT

Congressional District(s): CT-1, CT-2, CT-3; MA-1, MA-2; NH-2; VT-AL

Location: The Refuge boundary encompasses the entire Connecticut River Watershed.

Proposed for FY 2017	
Acres	\$
1,009	\$1,009,000
Acquired to Date	
36,881	\$33,193,513
Remaining to be Acquired	
41,017	\$36,297,487

Project Description:

Funds will be used to acquire 1,009 acres in four Refuge divisions located within the Connecticut River watershed. Potential properties include: 350 acres of riparian habitat within the Westfield River Division (MA); 600 acres near the Mascoma River Division (NH) where unfragmented forest blocks are home to a variety of rare species, exemplary natural communities, and valuable habitat for migrating and breeding birds; 41 acres at Nulhegan Basin (VT) that would protect nesting songbird habitat and provide the public opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation; and 18 acres in the Refuge's Salmon River Division (CT), which contain extensive freshwater tidal marshes used by migrating and wintering waterfowl.

Acquisition of these tracts, in partnership with others, will enhance connectivity across area, elevation, latitude, aspect, and process within the 7.2 million-acre Connecticut River watershed. Improving connectivity across the landscape will help waterfowl (27 species), other migratory birds (247 species), and threatened and endangered species (9 species) be resilient to temperature, precipitation, and water level changes in their habitats. Connecting lands under Refuge stewardship within an extensive and expanding conservation mosaic will also promote representation, redundancy, and resiliency within the watershed. These benefits provide a robust foundation for nationally significant and vital wildlife habitat that will sustain high quality hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation opportunities for generations to come. The proposed acquisitions make clear and valuable contributions to each of the six legislated purposes for the Refuge while strategically integrating Service investments into the larger landscape.

Purpose / Need:

To protect fisheries and wildlife resources and provide public access to Refuge lands.

Cooperator(s): The Trust for Public Land, The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, the Kestrel Land Trust, the Middlesex Land Trust, the Connecticut River Watershed Council, Inc., and the National Wildlife Refuge Association.

Estimated O&M Savings: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$0

Estimated O&M Costs: Start-up: \$7,000 Annual: \$0

Describe O&M: The Service anticipates minimal additional costs associated with these acquisitions other than posting because the properties are located within the Refuge boundary and would create little additional workload.

Department of the Interior
 LWCF Project Data Sheet
 Revised September 2015

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Budget Justification FY2017

Priority: 14

Project / Unit: Pathways to the Pacific: Willapa National Wildlife Refuge

Discretionary
 Mandatory

State(s): WA

Congressional District(s): WA-3

Location: Pacific County, WA, near the community of Long Beach, WA.

Proposed for FY 2017	
Acres	\$
194	\$991,000
Acquired to Date	
16,952	\$16,692,927
Remaining to be Acquired	
6,188	\$17,972,000

Project Description:

Willapa NWR encompasses many diverse ecosystems, including salt marsh, muddy tidelands, forest, freshwater wetlands, streams, grasslands, coastal dunes, and beaches. This rich mix of habitats provide places for more than 200 bird species, including more than 30 species of waterfowl (ducks and geese) and more than 30 species of shorebirds, to rest, nest, and winter.

Funds will be used to acquire tracts adjacent to the main unit of Willapa NWR, in two ownerships. The tracts will contribute to the protection and overall health and function of the watershed, which supports a healthy Willapa Bay and the aquatic species within it, and will create an opportunity to restore and enhance western red cedar forests, to re-establish late successional old-growth function for the benefit of many migratory birds and other species listed as threatened and endangered. 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 marbled murrelet within its threatened range (Raphael, et al, 2008).

Purpose / Need:

To protect, restore, and manage areas of forests, 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.

Cooperator(s): The Nature Conservancy, Columbia Land Trust, and Forterra.

Estimated O&M Savings: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$0
 Estimated O&M Costs: Start-up: \$15,000 Annual: \$5,000

Describe O&M: Start-up costs associated with these acquisitions would include a boundary survey and marking. The Service anticipates minimal additional operations or maintenance costs associated with this acquisition because the parcels are located within Refuge boundaries and would add no additional workload. The Service would benefit from our cooperative relationship with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) 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.

Department of the Interior
 LWCF Project Data Sheet
 Revised September 2015

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Budget Justification FY2017

Project / Unit: **Montana Refuges (Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Area/Blackfoot Valley Conservation Area/Swan Valley Conservation Area)**

Priority: 15
 Discretionary
 Mandatory

State(s): MT

Congressional District(s): MT-AL

Location: 65 miles northwest of Great Falls, MT

Proposed for FY 2017	
Acres	\$
3,000	\$1,500,000
Acquired to Date	
122,506	\$46,145,761
Remaining to be Acquired	
283,994	\$127,490,069

Project Description:

With the requested funds, the Service will acquire perpetual conservation easements on three tracts totaling 3,000 acres primarily in three Conservation Areas (Rocky Mountain Front, Blackfoot Valley, and Swan Valley) within Montana's Crown of the Continent ecosystem. The diversity of the landscape includes sage steppe and mixed grass prairie, montane forests, lakes, rivers, and glaciers of the northern Rocky Mountains. This landscape is home to the highest density of Canada lynx in the Lower 48 and also provides key critical habitat for grizzly bear, gray wolf, and bull trout. Other species of special concern that depend on habitats within portions of the Crown include westslope cutthroat trout, yellow-billed cuckoo, and Sprague's pipits.

There is increasing pressure to subdivide and develop this landscape for second home development and commercial uses. Protecting these tracts with conservation easements would prevent fragmentation and protect wildlife habitat in one of the nation's best remaining intact ecosystems, while maintaining working lands and the traditional ranching economy. The Crown of the Continent is one of only 23 intact areas worldwide that has not suffered any vertebrate extinctions in the past 200 years; it is through proactive acquisitions that the Service ensures this will continue to hold true.

Purpose / Need:

To support long-term viability of fish and wildlife habitat on a large landscape-scale basis in the Crown of the Continent. Acquisition of perpetual conservation easements preserves habitat where existing plant and animal communities are functioning well and maintains the traditional rural economies for present and future generations of Americans.

The proposed acquisitions support the community-based conservation efforts within the Crown to build resiliency in ecological systems and communities, so that, even as climate conditions change, this collaborative area will continue to support a full range of native biodiversity. Building ecological resiliency includes maintaining intact, interconnected landscapes. The planned acquisitions complement the conservation goals of Montana's State Wildlife Action Plan and protect threatened and endangered wildlife, fish, and plant habitats and connectivity while fostering watershed health. The projects enhance cultural conservation and support working farms, ranches, and forests. The protection of the incredible wealth of water, wildlife, and recreation resources is critical to the economic well-being and quality of life within the landscape.

Cooperator(s): The Conservation Fund/Mellon Foundation; The Nature Conservancy; Rocky Mountain Front Landowner Advisory Group; Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks; Lewis & Clark, Powell and Missoula County Commissioners; Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation; and Montana Wilderness Association.

Estimated O&M Savings: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$0
 Estimated O&M Costs: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$1,000

Describe O&M: The Service estimates that annual monitoring and inspection of the 3,000 easement acres would require approximately \$1,000 annually.

FY 2017 LWCF Mandatory Funding				
Rank	State(s)	Collaborative Landscape or Core\Project Name	Requested Funding	Type of Project
16	CLP: Islands Forest at Risk			
	HI	CLP: Islands Forest at Risk: Hakalau Forest NWR	\$8,000,000	CLP
17	FL	Everglades Headwaters NWR and Conservation Area	\$1,457,000	Core
18	CA	North Central Valley Wildlife Management Area	\$1,500,000	Core
19	MT	Montana NWRs	\$4,500,000	Core
20	KS	Flint Hills Conservation Area	\$1,500,000	Core
21	CLP: Rivers of the Chesapeake			
	VA	CLP: Rivers of the Chesapeake: Rappahannock River Valley NWR	\$8,500,000	CLP
22	MA/NH/CT/VT	Silvio O. Conte NFWR	\$4,328,000	Core
23	ND/SD	Dakota Grasslands Conservation Area	\$5,032,000	Core
24	CLP: National Trails System			
	ID	CLP: National Trails System: Grays Lake NWR	\$1,000,000	CLP
25	ND/SD	Dakota Tallgrass Prairie Wildlife Management Area	\$5,000,000	Core
26	MN/IA/WS/IL	Upper Mississippi River NWFR	\$2,000,000	Core
27	CLP: Florida-Georgia Longleaf Pine			
	FL	CLP: Florida-Georgia Longleaf Pine: St. Marks NWR	\$4,500,000	CLP
28	ID/UT/WY	Bear River Watershed Conservation Area	\$5,000,000	Core
29	CLP: Southern Blue Ridge			
	NC/TN	CLP: Southern Blue Ridge: Mountain Bogs NWR	\$12,600,000	CLP
30	TX	Balcones Canyonlands NWR	\$4,500,000	Core
31	Pathways to the Pacific			
	WA	CLP: Pathways to the Pacific: Steigerwald Lake NWR	\$2,649,000	CLP
	OR	CLP: Pathways to the Pacific: Tualatin River NWR	\$2,000,000	CLP
	WA/OR	CLP: Pathways to the Pacific: Julia Butler Hansen Refuge for the Columbian White-Tailed Deer	\$360,000	CLP
Subtotal, Line Item Projects (Core)			\$34,817,000	
Subtotal, Line Item Projects (CLP)			\$39,609,000	
Total Line Item Projects - Mandatory			\$74,426,000	

Department of the Interior
 LWCF Project Data Sheet
 Revised September 2015

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Budget Justification FY2017

Priority: 16

Project / Unit: Islands Forest at Risk: Hakalau Forest NWR

Discretionary

Mandatory

State(s): HI

Congressional District(s): HI-2

Location: The Hakalau Forest Unit is 22 miles north of Hilo, as the crow flies, on the windward side of the Island of Hawai'i, and the Kona Forest Unit is near Honaunau on the leeward side of the island.

Proposed for FY 2017	
Acres	\$
13,230	\$8,000,000
Acquired to Date	
38,047	\$26,239,165
Remaining to be Acquired	
20,913	\$31,773,075

Project Description:

Funding will enable fee title acquisition of 13,230 acres within the Hakalau Forest NWR approved refuge boundary, on the windward side of the Island of Hawai'i. The Service will acquire one parcel reaching seaward down the east face of Mauna Kea, adjacent to the Refuge. Acquisition and management of this parcel will help recover listed plants and endangered forest birds and their habitats by supporting groundwater recharge and enhancing the potential for ungulate and other invasive species removal. Acquisition will also enhance the wildlife corridor connecting lower elevations to the already-protected areas of the Refuge, allowing species to migrate and adapt in the face of climate change and avian diseases.

Purpose / Need:

Funding of this fee title acquisition will provide protection and enhance populations of numerous threatened and endangered plant and forest bird species and the biological integrity, diversity, and environmental health of wet and moderately wet forest ecosystems.

Cooperator(s): The Trust for Public Land

Estimated O&M Savings: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$0

Estimated O&M Costs: Start-up: \$50,000 Annual: \$70,000

Describe O&M: The Service anticipates an initial expense of \$50,000 for boundary marking and sign posting. Long term O&M would include \$70,000 for one maintenance FTE who would manage ungulate removal and boundary monitoring.

Department of the Interior
 LWCF Project Data Sheet
 Revised September 2015

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Budget Justification FY2017

Priority: 17

Project / Unit: Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area

Discretionary
 Mandatory

State(s): FL

Congressional District(s): FL-12, FL-15, FL-16

Location: Approximately 50 miles south of Orlando and 75 miles east of Tampa, in the counties of Polk, Osceola, Okeechobee, and Highlands.

Proposed for FY 2017	
Acres	\$
583	\$1,457,000
Acquired to Date	
1,502	\$2,745,000
Remaining to be Acquired	
148,915	\$462,868,791

Project Description:

With these funds, the Service will acquire fee title on approximately 583 acres from one willing seller to help protect a large landscape of diverse and high-quality habitat, including habitat for the federally endangered Florida grasshopper sparrow. Acquisition of fee title on this property protect the headwaters, groundwater recharge, and watershed of the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, and Lake Okeechobee region, and improve water quantity and quality in the Everglades watershed, supporting the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan goals and protecting the water supply for millions of people.

Purpose / Need:

To protect 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.

Cooperator(s): 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, Florida Cattlemen's Association, and Florida Farm Bureau.

Estimated O&M Savings: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$0
 Estimated O&M Costs: Start-up: \$7,500 Annual: \$2,500

Describe O&M: The Service anticipates annual costs of up to \$2,500 for habitat management and restoration, including prescribed burning, hunting, and public use management.

Department of the Interior
 LWCF Project Data Sheet
 Revised September 2015

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Budget Justification FY2017

Priority: 18

Project / Unit: North Central Valley Wildlife Management Area

Discretionary

Mandatory

State(s): CA

Congressional District(s): CA-1, CA-3, CA-9, CA-11

Location: The Central Valley floor between the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Red Bluff, California.

Proposed for FY 2017	
Acres	\$
333	\$1,500,000
Acquired to Date	
17,845	\$26,425,934
Remaining to be Acquired	
26,293	\$146,482,821

Project Description:

The funding will support the acquisition of easements on two tracts totaling approximately 333 acres. These easements will continue the Service's effort to protect important remaining wetlands and restored wetlands suitable for waterfowl and other wetland-dependent species, including threatened and endangered species. This wetland community is one of the most important wildlife habitats in California and North America, and was identified as a priority habitat area in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan of 1986 and the Central Valley Joint Venture Implementation Plan of 2006. The continued acquisition of lands within this project boundary will secure over 44,000 additional wetland acres in the northern Central Valley and will be the Service's contribution to the successful completion of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture Implementation Plan.

Purpose / Need:

To preserve wetland habitat for wintering waterfowl and other wetland-dependent species, including threatened and endangered species.

Cooperator(s): The cooperators include the public and non-governmental organizations of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture and cooperating private landowners.

Estimated O&M Savings: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$0
 Estimated O&M Costs: Start-up: \$2,000 Annual: \$1,500

Describe O&M: Estimated startup O&M would consist of one-time administrative, cartography, and logistical work to initiate the management of new easement properties in the Sacramento NWR Complex. Annual O&M costs would be annual on-site compliance visits, annual aerial compliance flights, and any follow up compliance or wildlife management actions.

Department of the Interior
 LWCF Project Data Sheet
 Revised September 2015

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Budget Justification FY2017

Project / Unit: **Montana Refuges (Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Area/Blackfoot Valley Conservation Area/Swan Valley Conservation Area)**

Priority: 19
 Discretionary
 Mandatory

State(s): MT

Congressional District(s): MT-AL

Location: 65 miles northwest of Great Falls, MT

Proposed for FY 2017	
Acres	\$
9,000	\$4,500,000
Acquired to Date	
122,506	\$46,145,761
Remaining to be Acquired	
277,994	\$124,490,069

Project Description:

With the requested funds, the Service will acquire perpetual conservation easements on three tracts totaling 9,000 acres primarily in three Conservation Areas (Rocky Mountain Front, Blackfoot Valley, and Swan Valley) within Montana's Crown of the Continent ecosystem. The diversity of the landscape includes sage steppe and mixed grass prairie, montane forests, lakes, rivers, and glaciers of the northern Rocky Mountains. This landscape is home to the highest density of Canada lynx in the Lower 48 and also provides key critical habitat for grizzly bear, gray wolf, and bull trout. Other species of special concern that depend on habitats within portions of the Crown include westslope cutthroat trout, yellow-billed cuckoo, and Sprague's pipits.

There is increasing pressure to subdivide and develop this landscape for second home development and commercial uses. Protecting these tracts with conservation easements would prevent fragmentation and protect wildlife habitat in one of the nation's best remaining intact ecosystems, while maintaining working lands and the traditional ranching economy. The Crown of the Continent is one of only 23 intact areas worldwide that has not suffered any vertebrate extinctions in the past 200 years; it is through proactive acquisitions that the Service ensures this will continue to hold true.

Purpose / Need:

To support long-term viability of fish and wildlife habitat on a large landscape-scale basis in the Crown of the Continent. Acquisition of perpetual conservation easements preserves habitat where existing plant and animal communities are functioning well and maintains the traditional rural economies for present and future generations of Americans.

The proposed acquisitions support the community-based conservation efforts within the Crown to build resiliency in ecological systems and communities, so that, even as climate conditions change, this collaborative area will continue to support a full range of native biodiversity. Building ecological resiliency includes maintaining intact, interconnected landscapes. The planned acquisitions complement the conservation goals of Montana's State Wildlife Action Plan and protect threatened and endangered wildlife, fish, and plant habitats and connectivity while fostering watershed health. The projects enhance cultural conservation and support working farms, ranches, and forests. The protection of the incredible wealth of water, wildlife, and recreation resources is critical to the economic well-being and quality of life within the landscape.

Cooperator(s): The Conservation Fund/Mellon Foundation; The Nature Conservancy; Rocky Mountain Front Landowner Advisory Group; Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks; Lewis & Clark, Powell and Missoula County Commissioners; Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation; and Montana Wilderness Association.

Estimated O&M Savings: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$0
 Estimated O&M Costs: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$3,000

Describe O&M: The Service estimates that annual monitoring and inspection of the 9,000 easement acres would require approximately \$3,000 annually.

Department of the Interior
 LWCF Project Data Sheet
 Revised September 2015

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Budget Justification FY2017

Priority: 20

Project / Unit: Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Area

Discretionary

Mandatory

State(s): KS

Congressional District(s): KS-1, KS-2, KS-4

Location: The Flint Hills of eastern Kansas run north-south in a long, narrow band.

Proposed for FY 2017	
Acres	\$
3,750	\$1,500,000
Acquired to Date	
6,214	\$2,164,450
Remaining to be Acquired	
1,090,036	\$436,155,800

Project Description:

With the requested funds, the Service will acquire perpetual conservation easements on 3,750 acres of tallgrass prairie from several different willing sellers. With less than four percent of the original acreage remaining, tallgrass prairie is one of the most endangered ecosystems in the United States. Residential, commercial, and industrial development and woody vegetation encroachment have all fragmented this important habitat. Acquisition of perpetual conservation easements from willing sellers provides permanent protection for tallgrass prairie and fosters landscape-level conservation, while maintaining traditional ranching communities. Landowner interest is high, and the Service will focus on lands with high quality tallgrass habitat and minimal fragmentation and woody vegetation encroachment. Conservation easements also protect habitat important for the threatened Topeka shiner and a wide variety of grassland-dependent birds. The Service will use these easements to ultimately protect 1,100,000 acres of the remaining Flint Hills tallgrass prairie.

Purpose / Need:

To protect the Flint Hills tallgrass prairie ecosystem and associated grassland-dependent wildlife species.

Cooperator(s): The Nature Conservancy, Kansas Land Trust, The Ranchland Trust of Kansas, Tallgrass Legacy Alliance, and the local community.

Estimated O&M Savings: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$0

Estimated O&M Costs: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$0

Describe O&M:

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 LWCF Project Data Sheet
 Revised September 2015

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Budget Justification FY2017

Priority: 21

Project / Unit: Rivers of the Chesapeake: Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Discretionary

Mandatory

State(s): VA

Congressional District(s): VA-1

Location: The property is located in Richmond County, VA, on the Northern Neck, the northernmost of three peninsulas on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay. The area is bounded on the north by the Potomac River and on the south by the Rappahannock River.

Proposed for FY 2017	
Acres	\$
977	\$8,500,000
Acquired to Date	
8,719	\$16,906,570
Remaining to be Acquired	
10,304	\$27,793,430

Project Description:

The Fones Cliff area is listed among the highest priorities for conservation in the Land Protection Plan for the Rappahannock River Valley Refuge. 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 eagles 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. Several of these bird species are listed as species of conservation concern by the Service or the Commonwealth of Virginia. They include: 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.

The site is also rich in cultural and historical resources. The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail passes by the property and Fones Cliff is the site of a documented interaction between John Smith's party and the Rappahannock Tribe. An adjacent boat ramp operated by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries was recently renovated, offering the public direct river access. This offers great potential for educational and interpretive opportunities for visitors once the property is protected.

Purpose / Need:

To provide nesting and roosting habitat for bald eagles, waterfowl, and other migratory birds by protecting forested bluffs above the Rappahannock River shore. Protection and management of this site would contribute to the goals of Executive Order 13508, Chesapeake Bay Protection and Restoration, in terms of both ecosystem conservation and increased public access. Currently, the property is proposed to be developed into 718 single family residences, a 116-room lodge, a restaurant, a golf course, and other "improvements." The landowner recently received approval for a rezoning request for this property. The Trust for Public Land has agreed to work with the landowner toward a conservation alternative to his development plans.

Cooperator(s): The Trust for Public Land, Chesapeake Conservancy, Department of Defense, The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, Northern Neck Land Conservancy, Essex County Countryside Alliance, Virginia Outdoors Foundation, Commonwealth of Virginia, and the National Park Service.

Estimated O&M Savings: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$0

Estimated O&M Costs: Start-up: \$10,000 Annual: \$3,000

Describe O&M: The Service estimates annual O&M costs at \$3,000 from NWRS base funding for signage and boundary markings and start-up for boundary posting.

Department of the Interior
 LWCF Project Data Sheet
 Revised September 2015

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Budget Justification FY2017

Priority: 22

Project / Unit: Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge

Discretionary

Mandatory

State(s): CT MA NH VT

Congressional District(s): CT-1, CT-2, CT-3; MA-1, MA-2; NH-2; VT-AL

Location: The Refuge boundary encompasses the entire Connecticut River Watershed.

Proposed for FY 2017	
Acres	\$
4,328	\$4,328,000
Acquired to Date	
36,881	\$33,193,513
Remaining to be Acquired	
37,698	\$32,978,487

Project Description:

Funds will be used to acquire 4,328 acres in seven Refuge divisions located within the Connecticut River watershed. Potential properties include: 305 acres of riparian habitat within the Westfield River Division (MA) and the Mill River Division (MA); 2,400 acres near the Mascoma River Division (NH) where unfragmented forest blocks are home to a variety of rare species, exemplary natural communities, and valuable habitat for migrating and breeding birds; 75 acres of northern boreal forest that includes 35 acres in Pondicherry, 40 acres in the Mohawk River Division (NH); 1,530 acres at Nulhegan Basin (VT) that will protect nesting songbird habitat and provide the public opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation; and 18 acres in the Refuge's Salmon River Division (CT), which contain extensive freshwater tidal marshes used by migrating and wintering waterfowl.

Acquisition of these tracts, in partnership with others, will enhance connectivity across area, elevation, latitude, aspect, and process within the 7.2 million-acre Connecticut River watershed. Improving connectivity across the landscape will help waterfowl (27 species), other migratory birds (247 species), and threatened and endangered species (9 species) be resilient to temperature, precipitation, and water level changes in their habitats. Connecting lands under Refuge stewardship within an extensive and expanding conservation mosaic will also promote representation, redundancy, and resiliency within the watershed. These benefits provide a robust foundation for nationally significant and vital wildlife habitat that will sustain high quality hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation opportunities for generations to come. The proposed acquisitions make clear and valuable contributions to each of the six legislated purposes for the Refuge while strategically integrating Service investments into the larger landscape.

Purpose / Need:

To protect fisheries and wildlife resources and provide public access to Refuge lands.

Cooperator(s): The Trust for Public Land, The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, the Kestrel Land Trust, the Middlesex Land Trust, the Connecticut River Watershed Council, Inc., and the National Wildlife Refuge Association.

Estimated O&M Savings: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$0

Estimated O&M Costs: Start-up: \$15,000 Annual: \$0

Describe O&M: The Service anticipates minimal additional costs associated with these acquisitions other than posting

Project / Unit: Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge

because the properties are located within the Refuge boundary and would create little additional workload.

Department of the Interior
 LWCF Project Data Sheet
 Revised September 2015

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Budget Justification FY2017

Priority: 23

Project / Unit: **Dakota Grassland Conservation Area**

Discretionary

Mandatory

State(s): ND SD

Congressional District(s): ND-AL, SD-AL

Location: North Dakota and South Dakota, lying east of the Missouri River

Proposed for FY 2017	
Acres	\$
9,100	\$5,032,000
Acquired to Date	
44,416	\$20,498,175
Remaining to be Acquired	
1,886,484	\$943,209,509

Project Description:

Funding the Dakota Grassland Conservation Area (DGCA) will enable the Service to acquire easements on about 9,100 acres of grassland and wetland habitat. The DGCA is part of a landscape-scale habitat conservation effort in the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR) to protect a highly diverse and endangered ecosystem. This ecosystem consists of large, unique grassland and wetland complexes that provide habitat for migratory birds, shorebirds, grassland birds, the endangered piping plover, and other wildlife. This ecosystem includes ranching and farming communities.

The PPR is threatened with habitat fragmentation and loss of grasslands and wetlands because of conversion of native prairie to cropland. Acquisition of perpetual easements will protect the landscape from habitat fragmentation and preserve the integrity of the native habitat, while maintaining traditional ranching and farming operations.

Purpose / Need:

Purchase perpetual wetland and grassland easements to protect wildlife habitats of native grassland and associated wetlands in the Prairie Pothole Region.

Cooperator(s): North Dakota Game and Fish Department, North Dakota Natural Resources Trust, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., The Nature Conservancy, South Dakota Grassland Coalition, and private landowners.

Estimated O&M Savings: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$0

Estimated O&M Costs: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$0

Describe O&M:

Department of the Interior
 LWCF Project Data Sheet
 Revised September 2015

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Budget Justification FY2017

Priority: 24

Project / Unit: National Trails: Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge

Discretionary
 Mandatory

State(s): ID

Congressional District(s): ID-2

Location: Approximately fifty miles east of Pocatello, Idaho.

Proposed for FY 2017	
Acres	\$
2,514	\$1,000,000
Acquired to Date	
20,125	\$2,345,993
Remaining to be Acquired	
11,102	\$18,330,591

Project Description:

Located in the shadow of the historic Caribou Mountain (9,803 feet), Grays Lake NWR provides breeding habitat for more than 200 species of mammals, fish, amphibians, and waterfowl and other migratory birds. The refuge 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 also hosts a large nesting population of greater sandhill cranes with as many as 1,200 individuals are counted in the valley during migration and staging times. The Refuge also attracts large numbers of ducks, Canada geese, and trumpeter swans, and provides important habitat for a variety of other native plant and wildlife species. The California National Historic Trail, which led more than 250,000 gold-seekers to the gold fields of California during the 1840s and 1850s, is located within the project area.

Funding will be used for fee acquisition both in the lakebed and uplands. The acquisitions will protect plants, fish, and wildlife; enable the Service to restore sagebrush habitat for the benefit of sagebrush-obligate species, including the Greater Sage grouse; help protect working farms, ranches, and forests; and protect special landscapes and historic and cultural resources.

Purpose / Need:

To protect and restore the historic Grays Lake marsh and provide nesting and feeding habitat for migrating waterfowl by maintaining and protecting the existing integrity of functional native habitat and restoring the natural range of degraded habitats. The acquisition will also provide essential forage for waterfowl and landbirds within the Pacific and Rocky Mountain migratory corridors.

Cooperator(s): Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, State of Idaho, Senator James Risch, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Teton Land Trust, Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust, Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy.

Estimated O&M Savings: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$0
 Estimated O&M Costs: Start-up: \$10,000 Annual: \$3,000

Describe O&M: Negligible, consolidation of DOI (FWS/BIA) ownership of lakebed lands requires minimal infrastructure.

Department of the Interior
 LWCF Project Data Sheet
 Revised September 2015

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Budget Justification FY2017

Priority: 25

Project / Unit: Dakota Tallgrass Prairie Wildlife Management Area

Discretionary

Mandatory

State(s): ND SD

Congressional District(s): ND-AL, SD-AL

Location: North Dakota and South Dakota, lying east of the Missouri River

Proposed for FY 2017	
Acres	\$
5,800	\$5,000,000
Acquired to Date	
66,559	\$12,377,551
Remaining to be Acquired	
117,641	\$49,101,289

Project Description:

With the requested funds, the Service will acquire perpetual conservation easements on approximately 5,800 acres of tallgrass prairie from willing sellers. Tallgrass prairie once covered 90 percent of the Dakotas. Today, less than three percent remains. The rate of conversion of this unique habitat to agricultural production has only accelerated over the last few years, and the rate of loss and the resulting fragmentation of the remaining tallgrass prairie continue to be 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, animal, and insect 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.

Purpose / Need:

To protect the Prairie Pothole Region's northern tallgrass prairie ecosystem and associated wildlife.

Cooperator(s): States of North Dakota and South Dakota, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., The Nature Conservancy, South Dakota Grassland Coalition, and private landowners.

Estimated O&M Savings: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$0

Estimated O&M Costs: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$0

Describe O&M:

Department of the Interior
 LWCF Project Data Sheet
 Revised September 2015

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Budget Justification FY2017

Priority: 26

Project / Unit: Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge

Discretionary
 Mandatory

State(s): MN IL IA WI

Congressional District(s): MN-1, IA-1, IA-4, IL-16, IL-17, WI-3

Location: 261 miles along the Mississippi River from Wabasha, MN to Rock Island, IL

Proposed for FY 2017	
Acres	\$
500	\$2,000,000
Acquired to Date	
209,474	\$7,124,910
Remaining to be Acquired	
20,984	\$62,952,000

Project Description:

The Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge stretches along the Mississippi River and includes Districts in Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Illinois. Established in 1924, the 240,000-acre Refuge covers 261 miles of the River valley from Wabasha, Minnesota, to Rock Island, Illinois and is divided into four districts: the Savanna, Winona, McGregor, and LaCrosse Districts.

The Refuge includes broad pools, islands, braided channels, extensive bottomland forest, floodplain marshes, and occasional sand prairie. These habitats are critical to mammals, waterfowl, songbirds, raptors, amphibians, and reptiles. Over 160 bald eagle nests and a yearly average of 15 active heron colonies with a total of 5,000 nests exist on the Refuge. The Refuge and the River support 119 fish species, which make up a strong commercial and recreational fishery.

With the requested funds, the Service will acquire 500 acres in fee title in multiple counties in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa to protect floodplain and bluff land habitat for migrating waterfowl such as lesser and greater scaup, as well as green-winged teal and mallard, both Service-identified surrogate species. Habitat protected within the Refuge will also be important for shorebird use, in particular lesser yellowlegs, and use by inter-jurisdictional fish, including paddlefish and shovelnose sturgeon. Habitat on the Refuge is recognized as continentally significant, a globally Important Bird Area, a Wetland of International Importance, and in some areas, critical habitat for federally endangered freshwater mussels.

Purpose / Need:

To protect, restore, and manage grassland and wetland habitat for migratory birds, including waterfowl, resident wildlife, federal and state threatened and endangered species, and public recreation.

Cooperator(s): U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, the Minnesota DNR, Wisconsin DNR, Iowa DNR, Illinois DNR, Friends of the Refuge Headwaters (Winona), Upper Mississippi River Interpretive Association (LaCrosse), Friends of Pool 9 (McGregor), Friends of Pool 10 (McGregor).

Estimated O&M Savings: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$0

Estimated O&M Costs: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$10,000

Describe O&M: The Service estimates a cost of \$10,000 from Refuge base funds for restoration and enhancement work (spraying, mowing, burning, fencing supplies, and signage).

Department of the Interior
 LWCF Project Data Sheet
 Revised September 2015

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Budget Justification FY2017

Priority: 27

Project / Unit: Florida-Georgia Longleaf Pine: St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge

Discretionary

Mandatory

State(s): FL

Congressional District(s): FL-4

Location: In the Florida Panhandle, 24 miles south of Tallahassee, Florida, in Wakulla County.

Proposed for FY 2017	
Acres	\$
1,800	\$4,500,000
Acquired to Date	
71,954	\$10,437,514
Remaining to be Acquired	
38,493	\$95,336,351

Project Description:

The Service will acquire 1,800 fee acres from one willing seller with the requested funds. Acquisition will 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. This project will help preserve a tapestry of Federal, State, and private forest lands that provide over 1 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.

Purpose / Need:

To conserve populations of threatened, endangered, rare, and imperiled plants and animals and their native longleaf pine habitats; restore former slash pine plantations to native longleaf pine; provide suitable black bear habitat, including corridors to link critical habitat for major population centers; provide high-quality habitat for migratory birds, shorebirds, waterbirds, and marshbirds; and provide public opportunities for hunting, fishing, and other wildlife-dependent recreation.

Cooperator(s): Sam Shine Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Florida Chapter of the Wildlife Society, The Florida Natural Areas Inventory, St. Marks Refuge Association, Florida Trail Association, Blue Goose Alliance, Apalachee Audubon Society, and Florida Wildlife Federation.

Estimated O&M Savings: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$0

Estimated O&M Costs: Start-up: \$90,000 Annual: \$36,000

Describe O&M: The Service estimates annual costs of up to \$36,000 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.

Department of the Interior
 LWCF Project Data Sheet
 Revised September 2015

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Budget Justification FY2017

Priority: 28

Project / Unit: Bear River Watershed Conservation Area

Discretionary
 Mandatory

State(s): ID UT WY

Congressional District(s): ID-2, UT-1, WY-AL

Location: Northeastern corner of Utah, extending into southeastern Idaho and southwestern Wyoming.

Proposed for FY 2017	
Acres	\$
6,173	\$5,000,000
Acquired to Date	
0	\$0
Remaining to be Acquired	
913,827	\$740,200,000

Project Description:

The Service will acquire perpetual conservation easements on approximately 6,173 acres in the Bear River watershed with the requested funds. 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 essential to the Bonneville cutthroat trout's survival. Existing refuges and adjacent protected lands in the watershed provide habitat for over 270 different species, and the acquisition of conservation easements for the Conservation Area would improve connectivity among these protected lands. 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.

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.

Purpose / Need:

To conserve aquatic, riparian, wetland, and upland habitats; provide wildlife habitat connectivity and migratory corridors; maintain healthy populations of native wildlife species; protect and maintain water quality and quantity; increase the watershed's resiliency during climate and land use changes; conserve the area's working landscapes, and promote partnerships for a coordinated watershed-level conservation. Conservation partners are working to preserve this landscape that, in some areas, is undergoing rapid conversion to residential development.

Cooperator(s): The Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited, Western Rivers Conservancy, local Audubon chapters, PacifiCorp, State and local land trusts, soil and water conservation districts, State agencies, tribes, and other Federal agencies.

Estimated O&M Savings: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$0
 Estimated O&M Costs: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$5,000

Describe O&M: Easement monitoring and enforcement.

Department of the Interior
 LWCF Project Data Sheet
 Revised September 2015

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Budget Justification FY2017

Priority: 29

Project / Unit: Southern Blue Ridge: Mountain Bogs National Wildlife Refuge

Discretionary
 Mandatory

State(s): NC

Congressional District(s): NC-5, NC-11

Location: Located in Henderson, Ashe, and Watauga Counties within the southern Blue Ridge Mountains and the Appalachian Mountains of western North Carolina

Proposed for FY 2017	
Acres	\$
3,155	\$12,600,000
Acquired to Date	
36	\$0
Remaining to be Acquired	
20,287	\$81,148,000

Project Description:

The requested funds will acquire about 3,155 acres of Long Hope Valley from a willing seller. Acquisition will protect 13 percent of the land targeted for acquisition within the Mountain Bogs NWR (a President's America's Great Outdoors initiative project), and will help achieve land protection objectives for the North Carolina State Wildlife Action Plan. Long Hope Valley is considered the crown jewel of the Refuge. The complex of southern Appalachian mountain bogs and high elevation forests are critically endangered ecosystems that contain numerous endemic species. Long Hope Valley supports ten high-quality natural communities, and is one of the most important mountain bogs, including the highest quality bogs known in the South. The North Carolina Natural Heritage Program has identified this area as a top conservation priority for over 30 years. Long Hope Valley supports and would conserve an Exceptional (R1) State Natural Area: Long Hope Valley/Elk Knob/The Peak. Long hope Valley is an Action and Portfolio Site within the Southern Blue Ridge Ecoregional Plan (TNC and SAFC 2000), and also lies within the Amphibolite Mountains, a priority (T1) forest matrix (TNC 2010). It is within a golden-winger warbler focal area and an Audubon Important Bird Area. The acquisition area lies adjacent to Elk Knob State Park, a North Carolina Plant Conservation preserve, a North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Gameland, and a Nature Conservancy preserve. The total conserved lands would represent more than 50,000 contiguous acres of protected habitat.

Acquisition of the acquired acreage would secure a habitat stronghold for the endangered Carolina Northern flying squirrel, helping to meet its recovery objectives and ensuring its long-term viability in the southern Appalachians. Acquisition would also conserve bog turtle-occupied habitat as well as six Federal species of concern and 53 other rare species.

Acquisition would protect trout designated streams, including Long Hope Creek and Pine Orchard Creek, as well as the Upper New River Headwaters (north and south fork).

Purpose / Need:

- The purchase of these lands will;
- 1) Help achieve Land Protection Objectives of Mountain Bogs National Wildlife Refuge and NC State Wildlife Action Plan.
 - 2) Provide landscape-level conservation by connecting or adding to existing conservation lands.
 - 3) Protect critically endangered mountain bogs and high elevation forest habitats and their associated rare endemic species.
 - 4) Help meet recovery objectives for threatened and endangered species, and help prevent listing of species of concern, petitioned species, and other rare species.
 - 5) Protect Partners in Flight priority birds and their habitats.

Cooperator(s): The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, Senator Richard Burr, North Carolina Natural Heritage Program, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

Estimated O&M Savings: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$0
 Estimated O&M Costs: Start-up: \$5,000 Annual: \$10,000

Project / Unit: Southern Blue Ridge: Mountain Bogs National Wildlife Refuge

Describe O&M: The Service estimates cost for travel, law enforcement, habitat improvement, hydrology restoration, and invasive plant removal to be covered by Refuge funds.

Department of the Interior
 LWCF Project Data Sheet
 Revised September 2015

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Budget Justification FY2017

Priority: 30

Project / Unit: **Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge**

Discretionary

Mandatory

State(s): TX

Congressional District(s): TX-10, TX-25, TX-31

Location: Approximately 35 miles northwest of Austin, Texas

Proposed for FY 2017	
Acres	\$
1,000	\$4,500,000
Acquired to Date	
24,457	\$31,040,862
Remaining to be Acquired	
21,543	\$25,129,123

Project Description:

The Balcones Canyonlands NWR is in a region known as the Texas Hill Country. The region includes oak-juniper woodlands, post-oak grassland savannahs, and deciduous forests, as well as stream-bottom riparian forests, prairie areas, and low shrub communities. The Canyonlands area supports a wide range of wildlife and provides critical nesting habitat for the endangered golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo. More than 270 bird species have been recorded in or near the refuge. At least 40 mammal species, 50 species of amphibians and reptiles, and 80 species of fish are also found in the area. The Central Flyway, one of the four major bird migration routes in North America, passes through this region. The area is also important for monarch migration.

Funding will be used to acquire several tracts including the Peaceful Springs Ranch. The proposed acquisition of the 525-acre Peaceful Springs Ranch containing public outdoor facilities will encourage greater public use and participation in activities, such as, hunting, wildlife viewing, and hiking. Acquisition of the ranch and other tracts will protect important habitat for the federally listed endangered native golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo, and serve as migratory habitat for the monarch butterfly. By acquiring these lands, the refuge will prevent fragmentation of habitat from urban development, while providing recreational opportunities for residents of nearby Austin.

Purpose / Need:

To protect important habitat for the federally-listed endangered native songbirds, including the golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo, and provide migratory habitat for the monarch butterfly, and important habitat for numerous other wildlife and plants. There are also underground karst ecosystems and forested limestone hills that are a unique feature on the properties and the Refuge. Numerous endemic invertebrate species are found in these karst features.

Cooperator(s): The Trust for Public Land, Friends of Balcones Canyonlands NWR.

Estimated O&M Savings: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$0

Estimated O&M Costs: Start-up: \$2,000 Annual: \$0

Describe O&M: The Service estimates there will be a one time cost of \$2,000 associated with the posting of refuge boundaries, which the Service would fund from Refuge System base funding.

Department of the Interior
 LWCF Project Data Sheet
 Revised September 2015

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Budget Justification FY2017

Priority: 31

Project / Unit: Pathways to the Pacific: Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge

Discretionary
 Mandatory

State(s): WA

Congressional District(s): WA-3

Location: Steigerwald Lake NWR is approximately 14 miles from Portland, OR, in Clark County, WA.

Proposed for FY 2017	
Acres	\$
249	\$2,649,000
Acquired to Date	
1,046	\$2,763,000
Remaining to be Acquired	
450	\$1,188,671

Project Description:

Steigerwald Lake NWR provides habitat for more than 20 species of mammals, 15 species of reptiles and amphibians, and a wide variety of insects and plants. Much of the surrounding economy depends on recreation, fishing, resource industries, and tourism, all of which are affected by ecosystem health and public access.

The proposed acquisitions will fill crucial gaps in the region's network of conserved private and public lands; protect native wildlife, fish, and migratory bird habitat; and improve public access to wildlife-dependent recreation. The proposed acquisitions will also help protect threatened and endangered species, including 13 salmon and steelhead species.

Purpose / Need:

The acquisition helps link a system of conserved and restored lands in order to stabilize and recover 17 listed species, including 16 fish stocks. Iconic species such as the Columbia white-tailed deer will benefit through targeted habitat protection and restoration. Considering threats from population growth and climate change, a successful conservation strategy for a riverine system targets acquisitions that support habitat resiliency by protecting key tributaries and estuaries from incompatible human uses and by promoting compatible and improved public recreation opportunities.

Cooperator(s): US Army Corps of Engineers, Columbia Land Trust, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, and Friends of the Columbia River Gorge.

Estimated O&M Savings: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$0
 Estimated O&M Costs: Start-up: \$20,000 Annual: \$0

Describe O&M: Start-up cost includes survey and marking; most of the restoration work is funded by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Department of the Interior
 LWCF Project Data Sheet
 Revised September 2015

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Budget Justification FY2017

Priority: 31

Project / Unit: Pathways to the Pacific: Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

Discretionary

Mandatory

State(s): OR

Congressional District(s): OR-1

Location: Tualatin River NWR is approximately 11 miles southwest of Portland, OR, in Washington County, OR.

Proposed for FY 2017	
Acres	\$
144	\$2,000,000
Acquired to Date	
1,384	\$9,107,550
Remaining to be Acquired	
1,647	\$10,607,399

Project Description:

The 144-acre acquisition at Tualatin River NWR will protect and enhance almost two miles of river frontage and riparian corridor, and will complete the largest continuous block of about 600 acres in conservation in that part of the Willamette Valley. This property could also be considered for expansion of the youth recreation program at the Refuge, which is located near the largest urban population in Oregon.

Much of the surrounding economy depends on recreation, fishing, resource industries, and tourism, which are all affected by ecosystem health and public access. The proposed acquisition will fill a crucial gap in the region's network of conserved private and public lands to help stop and reverse the impacts to native wildlife, fish, and migratory bird habitat, and will improve public access.

Purpose / Need:

The acquisition helps link a system of conserved and restored lands in order to stabilize and recover 17 listed species, including 16 fish stocks. Considering threats from population growth and climate change, a successful conservation strategy for a riverine system targets acquisitions that support habitat resiliency by protecting key tributaries and estuaries from incompatible human uses and by promoting compatible and improved public recreation opportunities.

Cooperator(s): US Army Corps of Engineers, Columbia Land Trust, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, and Friends of the Columbia River Gorge.

Estimated O&M Savings: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$0

Estimated O&M Costs: Start-up: \$544,000 Annual: \$16,800

Describe O&M: Start-up costs would include riparian and mixed forest restoration. The annual costs are estimated at \$16,800.

Department of the Interior
 LWCF Project Data Sheet
 Revised September 2015

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Budget Justification FY2017

Project / Unit: **Pathways to the Pacific: Julia Butler Hansen Refuge for the Columbian White-Tailed Deer (JBH)**

Priority: 31
 Discretionary
 Mandatory

State(s): OR WA

Congressional District(s): WA-3, OR-1

Location: Julia Butler Hansen Refuge is approximately 16 miles west of Longview, WA, in Clatsop and Columbia Counties, OR.

Proposed for FY 2017	
Acres	\$
161	\$360,000
Acquired to Date	
6,056	\$4,135,661
Remaining to be Acquired	
727	\$496,471

Project Description:

Originally established in 1971 to protect and manage endangered Columbian white-tailed deer, Julia Butler Hansen Refuge contains more than 6,000 acres of pastures, forested tidal swamps, brushy woodlots, marshes, and sloughs along the Columbia River in both Washington and Oregon. The diverse habitats that support the deer also benefit a large variety of wintering and migratory birds, Roosevelt elk, river otter, reptiles and amphibians (including painted turtles and red-legged frogs), and nesting bald eagles, great horned owls, and osprey.

The proposed fee title acquisition of the 161-acre tract will support the delisting of the Columbia white-tailed deer by increasing valuable habitat. The acquisition will also ensure connectivity of terrestrial/water ecosystems and enhance public recreational access.

Purpose / Need:

These acquisitions help link a system of conserved and restored lands in order to stabilize and recover 17 listed species, including 16 fish stocks. Iconic species such as the Columbia white-tailed deer will benefit through targeted habitat protection and restoration. Considering threats from population growth and climate change, a successful conservation strategy for a riverine system targets acquisitions that support habitat resiliency by protecting key tributaries and estuaries from incompatible human uses and by promoting compatible and improved public recreation opportunities.

Cooperator(s): US Army Corps of Engineers, Columbia Land Trust, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, and Friends of the Columbia River Gorge.

Estimated O&M Savings: Start-up: \$0 Annual: \$0
 Estimated O&M Costs: Start-up: \$50,000 Annual: \$50,000

Describe O&M: Start-up costs would include survey and marking; annual costs for managing and monitoring.

2017 Potential Land Exchange Projects

STATE	POTENTIAL EXCHANGES	ACRES TO BE ACQUIRED	MANAGEMENT COSTS
ALASKA	Arctic NWR - Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation	2,000	\$10,000
ALASKA	Izembek NWR - State of Alaska	52,000	\$150,000
ALASKA	Kenai NWR - CIRI	3,000	\$10,000
ALASKA	Selawik NWR - NANA Corp.	30,000	\$80,000
ALASKA	Yukon Delta NWR - Aniak	Undetermined	\$10,000
ALASKA	Yukon Delta NWR - Cherfornak	40,000	\$10,000
ALASKA	Yukon Delta NWR - Chevak	30,000	\$15,000
ALASKA	Yukon Delta NWR - Kotlik	Undetermined	\$25,000
ALASKA	Yukon Delta NWR - Napakiak	55,000	\$65,000
ALASKA	Yukon Delta NWR - Napaskiak	45,000	\$15,000
ALASKA	Yukon Delta NWR - NIMA Corp	5,000	\$10,000
ALASKA	Yukon Delta NWR - Scammon Bay	3,600	\$10,000
ARKANSAS	Cache River NWR	255	\$10,000
ARKANSAS	Felsenthal NWR	44.27	\$15,000
ARKANSAS	Felsenthal NWR	185	\$20,000
CALIFORNIA	Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR	7	\$20,000
COLORADO	Arapaho NWR	45	\$10,000
COLORADO	Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR	10	\$10,000
FLORIDA	Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee NWR	2,586	\$20,000
GEORGIA	Bond Swamp NWR	188	\$10,000
GEORGIA	Savannah NWR	10	\$5,000
ILLINOIS	Cypress Creek NWR	109	\$20,000
ILLINOIS	Cypress Creek NWR	109	\$20,000
INDIANA	Patoka River NWR	16	\$20,000
INDIANA	Patoka River NWR	Undetermined	\$20,000
LOUISIANA	Big Branch Marsh NWR	5	\$5,000
LOUISIANA	Bogue Chitto NWR	4	\$2,000
LOUISIANA	Delta NWR	816	\$10,000
MAINE	Moosehorn NWR	1,500	\$50,000
MAINE	Rachel Carson NWR	47	\$5,000
MASSACHUSETTS	Monomoy NWR	2	\$25,000
MASSACHUSETTS	Oxbow NWR	20	\$10,000
MICHIGAN	Shiawassee NWR	302	\$50,000
MINNESOTA	Pope County WPA	40	\$10,000
MINNESOTA	Stearns County WPA	20	\$10,000
MINNESOTA	Tamarac NWR	10	\$10,000
MINNESOTA	Upper Mississippi River NW&FR	2	\$10,000

STATE	POTENTIAL EXCHANGES	ACRES TO BE ACQUIRED	MANAGEMENT COSTS
MISSOURI	Neosho NFH	2	\$10,000
MONTANA	Pablo NWR	2	\$10,000
NEVADA	Stillwater NWR	272	\$20,000
NEW JERSEY	E. B. Forsythe NWR	1	\$10,000
NEW JERSEY	Wallkill NWR	10	\$10,000
NORTH CAROLINA	Mackay Island NWR	383	\$10,000
NORTH DAKOTA	Various North Dakota WPAs & WMAs	100	\$80,000
OREGON	Hart Mountain NAR	40	\$40,000
SOUTH DAKOTA	Various South Dakota WPAs & WMDs	160	\$55,000
TEXAS	Lower Rio Grande Valley - Hidalgo Co Irrigation District #3	5	\$5,000
TEXAS	Lower Rio Grande Valley Cameron County CCRMA	73	\$10,000
TEXAS	Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR - Brownsville (207)	17	\$5,000
TEXAS	Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR - Champion Bend (284)	82	\$10,000
TEXAS	Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR - Shuster	80	\$20,000
TEXAS	Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR - Jeronimo Banco (286)	288	\$15,000
TEXAS	Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR - Jeronimo Banco (286a)	11	\$5,000
TEXAS	Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR - Palo Blanco (253)	30	\$5,000
TEXAS	Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR - Phillips Banco (279)	338	\$20,000
TEXAS	Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR - Villanueva	405	\$20,000
TEXAS	Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR FM 800	6	\$2,000
TEXAS	Trinity River NWR - Sheppy Land Company	4	\$2,500
UTAH	Bear River MBR	21	\$10,000
VERMONT	Silvio O. Conte NFWR	100	\$25,000
WASHINGTON	Willapa NWR	86	\$71,000
WISCONSIN	Dane County WPA	13	\$10,000
WISCONSIN	Necedah WMA (Legacy/Youngs)	61	\$25,000
WISCONSIN	Necedah WMA (Eagle's Nest)	5	\$10,000
WISCONSIN	Necedah WMA (Wetherby)	107	\$15,000
WISCONSIN	Upper MS River NWFR - WI DOT	Undetermined	\$25,000
Total Exchange Acres and Management Costs		274,633.93	\$1,362,500

Standard Form 300 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE LAND ACQUISITION			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) Identification Code 010-18-14-5020	2015 Actual	2016 Estimate	2017 Estimate
Combined Schedule (X)			
Obligations by program activity:			
0001 Land Acquisition Management	12	12	15
0002 Exchanges	1	1	1
0003 Emergencies, Hardships, and Inholdings	5	5	5
0004 Highlands Conservation Act	0	8	2
0005 Land Acquisitions	39	43	60
0006 Sportsmen and Recreational Access	0	2	26
0007 Land Protection Planning	0	0	1
0799 Total direct obligations	57	71	110
0801 Land Acquisition (Reimbursable)	2	1	1
0900 Total new obligations	59	72	111
Budgetary resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	46	37	36
1021 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	1	1	1
1050 Unobligated balance (total)	47	38	37
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, discretionary:			
1101 Appropriation LWCF [014-5005]	48	69	59
1160 Appropriation, discretionary (total)	48	69	59
Appropriations, mandatory:			
1221 Appropriations transferred from other acct [014-5005]	0	0	79
1260 Appropriations, mandatory (total)	0	0	79
Spending authority from offsetting collections, discretionary:			
1700 Collected	2	1	1
1701 Change in uncollected payments, Federal sources	-1	0	0
1750 Spending auth from offsetting collections, disc (total)	1	1	1
1900 Budget authority (total)	49	70	60
1930 Total budgetary resources available	96	108	176
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	37	36	65
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	22	16	23
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	59	72	111
3020 Outlays (gross)	-64	-64	-100
3040 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations, unexpired	-1	-1	-1
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	16	23	33
Uncollected payments:			
3060 Uncollected pymts, Fed sources, brought forward, Oct 1	-3	-2	-2
3070 Change in uncollected pymts, Fed sources, unexpired	1	0	0
3090 Uncollected pymts, Fed sources, end of year	-2	-2	-2

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE LAND ACQUISITION			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2015	2016	2017
Identification Code 010-18-14-5020	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	19	14	21
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	14	21	31
<u>Budget authority and outlays, net:</u>			
Discretionary:			
4000 Budget authority, gross	49	70	60
Outlays, gross:			
4010 Outlays from new discretionary authority	24	29	25
4011 Outlays from discretionary balances	40	35	43
4020 Outlays, gross (total)	64	64	68
Offsets against gross budget authority and outlays:			
Offsetting collections (collected) from:			
4030 Federal sources	-2	-1	-1
Additional offsets against gross budget authority only:			
4050 Change in uncollected pymts, Fed sources, unexpired	1	0	0
4070 Budget authority, net (discretionary)	48	69	59
4080 Outlays, net (discretionary)	62	63	67
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	0	0	79
Outlays, gross:			
4100 Outlays from new mandatory authority	0	0	32
4160 Budget authority, net (mandatory)	0	0	79
4170 Outlays, net (mandatory)	0	0	32
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	48	69	138
4190 Outlays, net (total)	62	63	99

Object Classification (O)			
<u>Direct obligations:</u>			
11.1 Full-time permanent	6	6	7
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	3	4
25.3 Other goods and services from Federal sources	2	2	2
32.0 Land and structures	43	57	93
99.0 Subtotal, obligations, Direct obligations	57	71	110
<u>Reimbursable obligations:</u>			
32.0 Land and structures	2	1	1
99.9 Total new obligations	59	72	111

Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	75	78	94

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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.]
(*Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016.*)

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

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Change from 2016 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Appropriations	(\$000)	13,228	13,228	0	0	-13,228	0	-13,228
Receipts	(\$000)	8,476	8,083	0	0	+461	8,544	+461
Total, National Wildlife Refuge Fund	(\$000)	21,704	21,311	0	0	-12,767	8,544	-12,767
	FTE	4	8	0	0	0	8	0

*The amount presented in 2015 and 2016 includes the sequestration in accordance with Sec. 251A of the BBDECA, 2 U.S.C 901a. In addition, the amounts in 2015, 2016 and 2017 include amounts previously sequestered, which are now available in accordance with said Act.

Summary of 2017 Program Changes for National Wildlife Refuge Fund

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Appropriations	-13,228	0
TOTAL Program Changes	-13,228	0

Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for National Wildlife Refuge Fund is \$0 and 0 FTE, a program change of -\$13,228,000 and +0 FTE from the 2016 Enacted.

Discretionary Appropriations (-\$13,228,000/+0 FTE)

The Service continues to propose the elimination of the entire appropriated (discretionary) portion of this program. Discretionary appropriations to the National Wildlife Refuge Fund were intended to provide communities with compensation for lost tax revenue from Federal land acquisitions. However, the continued provision of discretionary funds for this purpose is an unwise use of taxpayer dollars. Evidence shows that refuges often generate tax revenue for communities far in excess of that which was lost with Federal acquisition of the land. Additionally, refuge lands also provide many public services while placing few demands on local infrastructure such as schools, fire, and police services compared to alternative development that could occur on refuge lands. The mandatory receipts collected and allocated under the program would remain.

Refuges attract tens of millions of visitors who come to hunt, fish, observe, and photograph wildlife and are a significant boon to local economies. According to the Service’s 2013 *Banking on Nature Report*, visitors to refuges positively impact the local economies. The report details that 47 million people who visited refuges that year:

- Generated \$2.4 billion of sales in regional economies;
- Supported over 35,000 jobs; and
- Generated \$342.9 million in tax revenues at the local, county, State, and Federal level.

<i>Banking On Nature</i> report	Jobs	Output	Job Income	Tax Revenue
Economic and job benefits	35,058	\$2,441,627,000	\$792,725,000	\$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	354	\$24,116,270	\$7,927,250	\$3,429,000

Banking on Nature Report published in 2013 (<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/about/RefugeReports/>)

The Refuge System provides an additional benefit to landowners and residents in nearby communities because of the positive financial impact that its open-space amenities has on property values. As described 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 study found that homes within 0.5 miles of a refuge and within 8 miles of an urban center ranged in value 3-9 percent higher depending on the region of the country. Most importantly, in an increasingly urban world, these sanctuaries of natural beauty offer Americans priceless opportunities to connect with nature.

Mandatory Receipts - The 2017 estimate for National Wildlife Refuge Fund revenue is \$8,544,000.

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 products (e.g., timber and gravel); other privileges (e.g., right-of-way and grazing permits); and/or leases for public accommodations or facilities (e.g., oil and gas exploration and development) incidental to, and not in conflict with, refuge purposes.

Fee Lands

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 five 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 this formula, direct appropriations up to an amount equal to the difference between net receipts and full authorized payment may be authorized.

Reserved Lands

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.

Other Payments

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; and
- 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 NWRP for reimbursement to the Region.

2017 Program Performance

According to current projections, payments to counties in 2017 will equal \$5,516,000 with appropriations of \$0 and estimated receipts of \$8,000,000 less expenses and sequestration changes. 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>				
National Wildlife Refuge Fund	2015 Actual	2016 Estimate	2017 Estimate	Program Change (+/-)
Receipts / Expenses				
Receipts Collected	8,595	8,000	8,000	0
Sequestration*	-627	-544	0	+544
Recoveries	114	100	100	0
Expenses for Sales	-2,326	-2,424	-2,424	0
ANILCA Expenses	-18	-10	-10	0
Estimated User-Pay Cost Share	-131	-150	-150	0
Net Receipts –				
Available during the following year	5,607	4,972	5,516	544
Payments to Counties				
Receipts Available - collected previous year		5,607	4,972	-635
Sequestration Restored		627	544	-83
Appropriations		13,228	0	-13,228
Total Available for Payments to Counties		19,462	5,516	-13,946

*2017 amount assume no sequestration.

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FUND			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2015	2016	2017
Identification Code 010-18-14-5091	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Special and Trust Fund Receipts (N)			
0100 Balance, start of year	0	0	1
Receipts:			
1130 National Wildlife Refuge Fund [010-00-509110-0-200403]	9	9	8
2000 Total: Balance and receipts	9	9	9
Appropriations:			
2101 National Wildlife Refuge Fund [010-00-5091-0-1201]	-9	-8	-8
2103 National Wildlife Refuge Fund [010-00-5091-0-1203]	-1	-1	-1
2132 National Wildlife Refuge Fund [010-00-5091-0-1232]	1	1	0
2199 Total appropriations	-9	-8	-9
5099 Balance, end of year	0	1	0

Combined Schedule (X)			
Obligations by program activity:			
0001 Expenses for sales	3	3	1
0003 Payments to counties	18	19	8
0900 Total new obligations	21	22	9
Budgetary resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	5	6	5
1001 Discretionary unobligated balance brought fwd, Oct 1	0	0	0
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, discretionary:			
1100 Appropriation	13	13	0
1160 Appropriation, discretionary (total)	13	13	0
Appropriations, mandatory:			
1201 Appropriation (special or trust fund)	9	8	8
1203 Appropriation (previously unavailable)	1	1	1
1232 Appropriations and/or unobligated balance of appropriations temporarily reduced	-1	-1	0
1260 Appropriations, mandatory (total)	9	8	9
1900 Budget authority (total)	22	21	9
1930 Total budgetary resources available	27	27	14
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	6	5	5

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FUND			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2015	2016	2017
Identification Code 010-18-14-5091	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
<u>Change in obligated balance:</u>			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	1	1	2
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	21	22	9
3020 Outlays (gross)	-21	-21	-9
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	1	2	2
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	1	1	2
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	1	2	2
<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	9	8	9
Outlays, gross:			
4100 Outlays from new mandatory authority	2	7	7
4101 Outlays from mandatory balances	6	1	2
4110 Outlays, gross (total)	8	8	9
4160 Budget authority, net (mandatory)	9	8	9
4170 Outlays, net (mandatory)	8	8	9
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	22	21	9
4190 Outlays, net (total)	21	21	9

Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	0	1	1
26.0 Supplies and materials	1	1	1
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	18	19	7
99.0 Subtotal, obligations, Direct obligations	19	21	9
99.5 Adjustment for rounding	2	1	0
99.9 Total new obligations	21	22	9

Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	4	8	8

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 (16 U.S.C. 1535), \$53,495,000 to remain available until expended, [of which \$22,695,000 is to be derived from the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund; and of which \$30,800,000 is] to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. (*Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016.*)

Justification of Language Change

Deletion: “\$53,495,000...of which \$22,695,000 is...Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund; and of which \$30,800,000 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, 2018.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund
Justification of Fixed Costs and Internal Realignment
(Dollars In Thousands)

Internal Realignments and Non-Policy/Program Changes (Net-Zero)	2017 (+/-)
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund	
Due to fluctuating demand for the development of regional, multi-species habitat conservation plans (HCPs) from year to year, the Service proposes to realign funds from HCP Planning Assistance to address the high demand for traditional conservation grant funds.	
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund \ Conservation Grants	+2,095
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund \ HCP Assistance Grants	-2,095

Appropriation: Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Change from 2016 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Conservation Grants (\$000)		10,508	10,508	0	+2,095	0	12,603	+2,095
Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants (\$000)		9,485	9,485	0	-2,095	0	7,390	-2,095
Species Recovery Land Acquisition (\$000)		9,462	11,162	0	0	0	11,162	0
HCP Land Acquisition Grants to States (\$000)		17,938	19,638	0	0	0	19,638	0
Administration (\$000)		2,702	2,702	0	0	0	2,702	0
Total Appropriated Funds		50,095	53,495	0	0	0	53,495	0
	<i>FTE</i>	14	16	0	0	0	16	0
Permanent Funds (LWCF)		0	0	0	0	+55,000	55,000	+55,000
	<i>FTE</i>	0	0	0	0	+6	6	+6
Mandatory – Unavailable Receipts** (\$000)		73,510	67,744	0	0	-3,289	64,455	-3,289

** 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 CESCOF.

Program information may be accessed at: <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/index.html>

Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund is \$53,495,000 and 16 FTE, no program change from the 2016 Enacted.

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). In 2017, the proposal includes \$55 million in permanent funding for CESCOF.

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.

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; and
- Other natural or manmade factors affecting a species’ continued existence.



*A FY 2015 CESCOF traditional conservation grant funded Pacific walrus harvest sample analysis in Alaska
Photo credit: USFWS*

Because most listed species depend on habitat found on state and private lands, grant assistance through the CESCOF program is crucial to conserving federally-listed species. States and Territories have been extremely effective in garnering participation by private landowners.

Section 6 grants help 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 CESCOF program, States and Territories must contribute 25 percent of the estimated costs of approved projects, or 10 percent when two or more States or Territories implement a joint project. The balance of the 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

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 2015, the following were awarded:

- 11 HCP Planning Assistance Grants to States.
- 20 Recovery Land Acquisition Grants to States and Territories.
- 12 HCP Land Acquisition Grants to States.
- 220 Traditional Conservation Grants to States and Territories.

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.

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.

2017 Program Performance

Traditional Conservation Grants

The Service published a request for FY 2015 proposals in October of 2014 and made award announcements in spring-summer 2015. The Service announced a new request for proposals in January 2016 and plans to make award announcements for that FY 2016 funding in summer 2016. With the requested program funding, the Service expects an additional 35 awards will be funded in FY 2017 (assuming the average grant amount is constant with that of FY 2015, which is approximately \$60,000).

The Service awarded 220 Traditional Conservation Grants in FY 2015. Examples are listed below. Each project includes the Federal funds provided through the CESCFC program, but in all cases these funds were leveraged by State, county, city, or private matching funds.

- Bull trout population monitoring, stock assessments, and genetics in Washington, \$44,975.
- Columbia spotted frog conservation in Idaho, \$21,000.
- Status surveys for the eastern hellbender in Alabama, \$35,042.
- Endangered plant species recovery in Maine, \$15,212.
- Conservation and management of Topeka shiner and associated rare fishes in eastern South Dakota, \$12,560.
- Genetic variability of Arkansas darter populations in Kansas, \$55,690.
- Pacific walrus harvest sample analysis in Alaska, \$65,850.

- Merced Natural Reserve vernal pool grassland landscape restoration project in California, \$302,739.
- Recovery plan implementation for the Mojave population of desert tortoise and assessment of the ecology and status of gila monsters in Nevada, \$35,775.

Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants

The Service published a request for FY 2015 proposals in October of 2014 and made award announcements in August 2015. The Service announced a new request for proposals in January 2016 and expects to make award announcements for FY 2016 funding in summer 2016. With the requested program funding, the Service expects that 5 fewer grants will be funded in FY 2017 (assuming the average grant amount is constant with that of FY 2015) given fluctuating demand for the development of regional, multi-species habitat conservation plans (HCPs) from year to year.

The Service awarded 11 HCP Planning Assistance Grants in FY 2015. 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/FY%2014_project%20descriptions%20FINAL.pdf for a full list of awarded projects.

- **Statewide Habitat Conservation Plan for Florida Beaches, \$750,000.**

This grant will assist in the concluding year of this HCP planning effort. Stakeholders plan to assimilate acquired data into a final draft of the HCP. Activities in the coastal area and their threats to listed species will be analyzed. The goal of the HCP is to allow ongoing beach structure protection measures while limiting and mitigating the adverse effects to nesting loggerhead, Kemp's ridley, leatherback, green, and hawksbill sea turtles, five beach mouse subspecies, and shorebirds, including wintering piping plover. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection is leading this effort in conjunction with builders groups, municipalities, and other partners.

- **Coordination and Planning of the Kaua'i Seabird Habitat Conservation Program in Hawaii, \$559,990.**

The Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources, in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, continues to develop the Kaua'i Seabird Habitat Conservation Program to address incidental take of the endangered Hawaiian petrel, threatened Newell's shearwater, and band-rumped storm-petrel, a federal candidate for listing, due to light attraction and utility line collisions. Completion of the KSHCP will result in the implementation of landscape-scale conservation to mitigate for island-wide take of listed seabird species on Kaua'i. It is critical to the survival of the listed seabird species that landscape-scale colony management is implemented to abate the species' current decline. Without continued efforts to complete the KSHCP, the interested applicants on Kaua'i would need to develop individual HCPs or not seek coverage for incidental take. This would result in more delays in mitigating for take as well as higher costs per applicant. Preventing such delays is particularly urgent given the dramatic declines in some seabird populations, especially the Newell's shearwater.



Newell's shearwater
Photo credit: Brenda Zaun/ US FWS

- **Multi-State Habitat Conservation Plan for Cave- Dwelling Bats in Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin, \$487,350.**

This grant will enable the continued development of the multi-species HCP, associated NEPA document, and on-going studies and investigations to inform forest management practices and bat conservation in the Midwest. The project will result in a better understanding of species distribution and summer habitat use by cave dwelling bats, species currently severely threatened by an epizootic disease outbreak. The project will also develop approaches to conserve covered species while allowing sustainable forest management practices, which in-turn, will allow public and private landowners to meet economic, ecological and social goals. The covered species include the federally-listed endangered Indiana bat, the proposed northern long-eared bat, the little brown bat, and the tri-colored bat. Once the HCP is complete, the states will work with landowners and conservation groups to further the conservation of cave dwelling bats.

Recovery Land Acquisition Grants

The Service published a request for proposals in October 2014 and made award announcements in August 2015. The Service announced a new request for proposals in January 2016 and expects to make award announcements for FY 2016 funding in summer 2016. With the requested program funding, the Service expects to award a similar number of grants in FY 2017 (assuming the average grant amount is constant with that of FY 2015).

The Service awarded 20 Recovery Land Acquisition Grants in FY 2015. Examples are listed below. Each project includes the Federal funds provided through the CESCO 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/FY%2014_project%20descriptions%20FINAL.pdf for a full list of awarded projects.

- **Acquisition of Karner Blue Butterfly Habitat in Michigan, \$42,926.**

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources will acquire an 18.32-acre property that includes approximately 15 acres of savanna habitat that has supported almost 50% of the known Karner blue butterfly population on the Huron-Manistee National Forests since its discovery in 2000. The property fills a critical role in the life cycle of the butterfly, as it contains the larval host plant wild lupine, the only food consumed by Karner blue butterfly caterpillars. Acquisition would ensure the long-term protection and management for vital Karner blue butterfly habitat on the site, and contribute to recovery of a sustainable metapopulation within the Newaygo recovery unit.

- **Bog Turtle Recovery in Northern New Jersey, \$375,000.**

The State of New Jersey will acquire approximately 130 acres of property (approximately 46 different tax parcels) in Sussex County to protect confirmed critical habitat for the bog turtle in a drainage with the highest density of bog turtle populations in New Jersey. The State of New Jersey Green Acres Program is working with the New Jersey Lands Trust to protect this and adjacent properties in perpetuity. Protection of these properties will enhance existing conservation investments.

- **Deming and Sun Creek Easements in Klamath County, Oregon, \$590,431.**

This project will acquire a conservation easement on the Deming and Sun Ranches that will permanently transfer water rights. The hydrologic reconnection of Sun and Deming Creeks to the Wood and South Fork Sprague Rivers, respectively, will allow existing populations of bull trout to move upstream and complete their life cycle. This project aligns with the draft bull trout recovery plan's recovery action to "protect, restore, and maintain suitable habitat conditions for bull trout that promote diverse life history strategies and conserve genetic diversity." Oregon spotted frog, the

shortnose sucker and Lost River sucker will benefit from the additional water and changes in land management likely to accompany the water acquisition.

Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Land Acquisition Grants

The Service published a request for proposals in October 2014 and made award announcements in August 2015. The Service announced a new request for proposals in January 2016 and expects to make award announcements for FY 2016 funding in summer 2016. With the requested program funding for FY 2017, the Service expects to make a similar number (assuming the average grant amount is constant with that of FY 2015).

The Service awarded 12 HCP Land Acquisition Grants in FY 2015. 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/FY%2014_project%20descriptions%20FINAL.pdf for a full list of awarded projects.)

- **I-90 Wildlife Corridor Phase VI in Kittitas County, Washington, \$2,000,000.**

This grant will lead to the acquisition and permanent protection of 1,014 acres of habitat for four Federally-listed species: bull trout, northern spotted owl, Canada lynx, and gray wolf. In addition, it will contribute to habitat protection and improve connectivity for 60 species of terrestrial vertebrates, including wolverine, marten, and Pacific giant salamander, and enhance the effectiveness of the new fish and wildlife crossing structures on the adjacent I-90 freeway. Conservation of these properties is essential to protect habitat for animals occupying areas between the north and south Cascade Mountains. Opportunities to connect habitat in this corridor are limited due to natural landscape structure and increasing human development near the highway. These acquisitions will target critical properties within the I-90 wildlife corridor to connect habitat near Keechelus Lake with lands in the central Cascades ecosystem and the lands covered by the Cedar River Watershed HCP.

- **East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP) (Contra Costa County, California) \$2,000,000.**

These funds will purchase up to 600 acres that will provide important habitat and wildlife corridors for many of the species covered by the HCP/NCCP, including Federally-listed species such as the San Joaquin kit fox, California red-legged frog, and vernal pool tadpole shrimp. The acquisition of these properties adds to the reserve system and provides protection for lands that have rich on-site resources and support a diverse mosaic of habitat types.

- **Trumbull Creek Watershed Project in Flathead County, Montana, \$2,000,000.**

The Trumbull Creek Watershed Project conservation easement will complement conservation efforts for the landscape-scale Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation HCP. It will prevent impacts to grizzly bear and Canada lynx habitat from imminent development and ensure vital linkages for these species. This acquisition will address some of the last remaining unprotected habitat in a large partnership effort to conserve much of the Crown of the Continent, including working lands, in northwestern Montana.



*Adult Canada lynx.
Photo credit: USFWS*

Standard Form 300				
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE COOPERATIVE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND				
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)		2015	2016	2017
Identification Code 010-18-5143		Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Special and Trust Fund Receipts (N)				
0100	Balance, start of year	410	457	503
Receipts				
1140	Payment from the General Fund, Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund [010-00-514300-0-200403]	74	68	64
2000	Total: Balances and collections	484	525	567
Appropriations				
2101	Payment from the General Fund, Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund [010-18-514300-0-1101]	-27	-22	0
5099	Balance, end of year	457	503	567

Combined Schedule (X)				
Obligations by program activity:				
0001	Conservation Grants to States	13	14	15
0002	HCP Planning Assistance Grants	11	12	13
0004	Administration	3	3	5
0005	HCP Land Acquisition Grants to States	24	27	46
0006	Species Recovery Land Acquisition	16	18	19
0007	Payment to special fund unavailable receipt account	74	68	64
0900	Total new obligations	141	142	162
Budgetary resources:				
Unobligated balance:				
1000	Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	97	95	86
1001	Discretionary unobligated balance brought fwd, Oct 1	97	95	0
1021	Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	15	12	12
1050	Unobligated balance (total)	112	107	98
Budget authority:				
Appropriations, discretionary:				
1101	Appropriation LWCF special fund [145005]	23	31	53
1101	Appropriation CESCOF special fund [145143]	27	22	0
1160	Appropriation, discretionary (total)	50	53	53
Appropriations, mandatory:				
1200	Appropriation	74	68	64
1221	Appropriations transferred from other acct [014-5005]	0	0	55
1260	Appropriations, mandatory (total)	74	68	119
1900	Budget authority (total)	124	121	117
1930	Total budgetary resources available	236	228	270

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE COOPERATIVE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2015	2016	2017
Identification Code 010-18-5143	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	95	86	108
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	91	98	104
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	141	142	162
3020 Outlays (gross)	-119	-124	-130
3040 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations, unexpired	-15	-12	-12
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	98	104	124
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	91	98	104
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	98	104	124
<u>Budget authority and outlays, net:</u>			
Discretionary:			
4000 Budget authority, gross	50	53	53
Outlays, gross:			
4010 Outlays from new discretionary authority	1	5	5
4011 Outlays from discretionary balances	44	51	55
4020 Outlays, gross (total)	45	56	60
4070 Budget authority, net (discretionary)	50	53	53
4080 Outlays, net (discretionary)	45	56	60
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	74	68	119
Outlays, gross:			
4100 Outlays from new mandatory authority	74	68	70
4160 Budget authority, net (mandatory)	74	68	119
4170 Outlays, net (mandatory)	74	68	70
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	124	121	172
4190 Outlays, net (total)	119	124	130

Object Classification (O)			
<u>Direct obligations:</u>			
11.1 Full-time permanent	2	2	2
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	64	60	80
94.0 Financial transfers	74	80	78
99.0 Subtotal, obligations, Direct obligations	140	142	160
99.5 Adjustment for rounding	1	0	2
99.9 Total new obligations	141	142	162

Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	18	16	22

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.), \$35,145,000, to remain available until expended. (*Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016.*)

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
Activity: North American Wetlands Conservation Fund

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Change from 2016 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
<u>Appropriations:</u>								
North American Wetlands Conservation Fund (\$000)		34,145	35,145	0	0	0	35,145	0
<u>Receipts (Mandatory):</u>								
Migratory Bird Treaty Act Fines (\$000)		19,613	19,446	0	0	-6,746	12,700	-6,746
Total, North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	(\$000)	53,758	54,591	0	0	-6,746	47,845	-6,746
	FTE	11	11	0	0	0	11	0

* The amounts presented in 2015 and 2016 include the sequestration in accordance with Sec. 251A of the BBDECA, 2 U.S.C 901a. In addition, the amounts in 2015, 2016 and 2017 include amounts previously sequestered which are now available in accordance with said Act.

Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund is \$35,145,000 and 11 FTE, with no change from the 2016 Enacted.

Mandatory Receipts - Receipts are derived from court-imposed fines for violations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and vary greatly from year to year. The FY 2017 estimate is \$12,700,000 for this account.

Program Overview

For 26 years, NAWCA grants have supported partnerships that protect, enhance, and restore habitat for wetland-dependent birds and other wildlife. Non-federal partners on NAWCA funded projects have achieved twice the legally required 1:1 match-to-grant ratio.

NAWCA grants are catalysts for efforts 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 North American Waterfowl Management Plan and other national and international bird conservation plans;
- Help recover endangered and threatened species; and,
- Achieve the Service’s long-term goal of healthy and sustainable migratory bird populations, including waterfowl.



A 285 foot wide flow channel for the Sears Point Restoration Project along the northern shore of the San Pablo Bay in California. This is part of a 955 acre tidal marsh restoration. This channel, among a couple others, was designed to allow tidal waters into and out of the project area. Sonoma Land Trust is the lead on the project.. Credit: USFWS

NAWCA Invests in Partnerships

NAWCA funds are invested in some of our nation’s most critical natural areas. Projects are selected based on the significance of the wetland ecosystems and wildlife habitat to be conserved, migratory bird species to benefit, partner diversity, and non-federal contributions leveraged, as well as the long-term value of the conservation actions proposed.

Partners in NAWCA projects include private landowners, States, local governments, conservation organizations, national and local sportsmen’s groups, tribes, trusts, and corporations.

Thousands of public-private partnerships have leveraged NAWCA funding to protect and improve 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 natural functions in and around project areas.

Once grant funding has been awarded, the Service actively monitors to ensure project integrity and success. Consistent and thorough monitoring helps us identify areas of technical assistance needed by partners; evaluate grantee performance; ensure regulatory compliance and address any errors, irregularities, or issues of noncompliance. We strive to maintain or increase the frequency and intensity of project monitoring to help projects succeed and ensure grant program accountability.

Through FY 2015, the NAWCA program has supported over 2,500 projects in 50 U.S. States, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, 13 Canadian provinces and territories, and 31 Mexican States. More than 5,000 different partners have conserved 30.7 million acres.

NAWCA GRANT PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS 1991-2015

Country	Protected Acres	Enhanced, Restored, and Created Acres	Number of Projects
Canada	14,852,624	3,318,400*	538
Mexico	2,246,409	1,247,012	290
U.S.	5,738,447	3,866,277	1,705
All Countries	22,837,480	8,431,689	2,533

Acreages represent total proposed acres approved for funding in the U.S. and Canada from FY 1991 through FY 2015. Some acres are included in both “Protected” and “Enhanced, Restored and Created” due to multiple activities occurring on the same properties. Additionally, some protection is not perpetual. Therefore, the two categories should not be added to demonstrate total acres affected over the life of the program.

* This figure includes 413,910 acres of moist soil management completed prior to 1998.

NAWCA Supports Agency Priorities

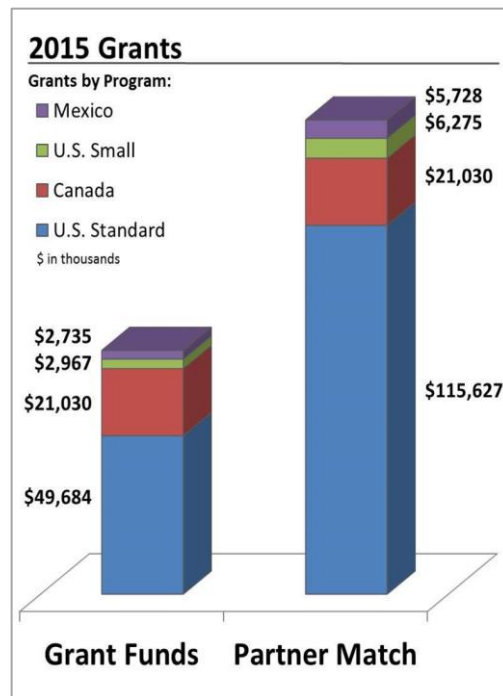
NAWCA is a critical funding source for migratory bird habitat conservation, but the program’s impact is much broader. Projects benefit a range of wetland-dependent species, and support national and international conservation priorities:

- NAWCA-supported projects complement Service conservation efforts through the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Endangered Species Act, national wildlife refuges, and other programs. The NAWCA grant program also complements and enhances actions of other agencies including the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, and Department of Defense.
- NAWCA supports the Department of the Interior’s efforts to connect people with nature by funding projects that enrich and increase outdoor recreational opportunities such as hiking, bird-watching, hunting, and fishing.

- NAWCA’s Mexico program connects youth with nature, supporting the Department’s youth initiatives. The program funds projects that train young professionals in conservation practices and educate young people through nature festivals and other outreach activities.



This is a restoration project for Teton Basin V. The picture was taken during the Teton Regional Land Trust monitoring visit. Credit: Lacy Alison.



Types of NAWCA Grants

Standard Grants are open to applicants in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. Amounts in the U.S. are typically \$750,000 to \$1,000,000. Eligible grantees must provide non-federal matching funds at least equal to the award amount.

Through 2015, NAWCA Standard Grants have supported more than 4,000 partners as they implemented 1,853 projects worth over \$4.5 billion. NAWCA contributed \$1.4 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 30.4 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.

Small Grants, available for projects only in the U.S. and limited to \$75,000 per project, allow smaller partners and projects to successfully compete for NAWCA funds. Small Grants attract new partners for wetland conservation and help diversify the types and locations of projects NAWCA funds.

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 on the availability of funds and number of qualifying projects. Through 2015, 710 projects have been approved for more than \$40.2 million in grant funds. Eligible partners have contributed more than \$134 million in *non-federal matching* funds (including in-kind contributions) to projects located in all 50 States and Puerto Rico. Such *non-federal matching* has allowed Small Grants to leverage almost \$4 for every NAWCA dollar awarded, affecting over 338,000 acres, benefitting a diversity of wetland and wetland-related habitats, and fostering new and expanded partnerships for the NAWCA program.

NAWCA Funding 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)

North American Wetlands Conservation Council and Migratory Bird Conservation Commission

The nine-member North American Wetlands Conservation Council recommends NAWCA grant projects for approval by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission. The Council comprises the FWS Director, the Secretary of the Board of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, state wildlife agency directors 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 Interior Secretary.

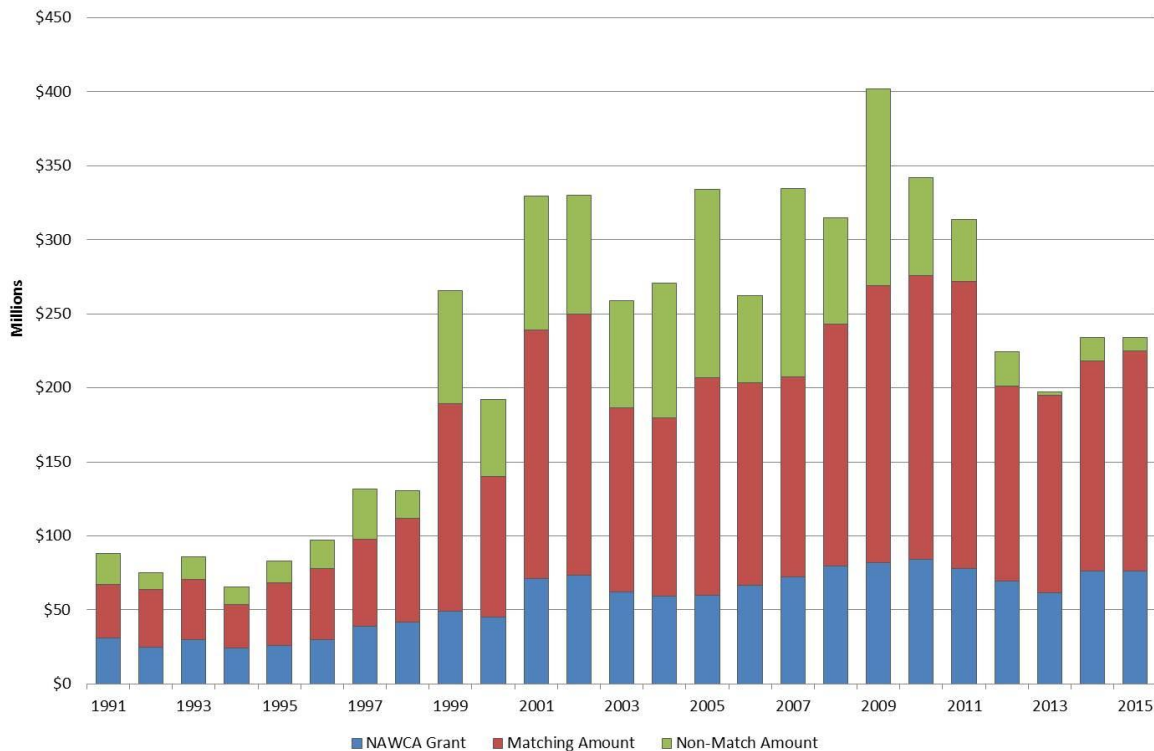


Meeting of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission.

Credit: Tami Heilemann/DOI

The Commission 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.

**Partner Funds Leveraged by NAWCA Grants
(U.S., Canada, and Mexico)**



Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION FUND			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2015	2016	2017
Identification Code 010-18-14-5241	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Special and Trust Fund Receipts (N)			
0100 Balance, start of year	21	26	19
0198 Unappropriated receipt adjustment	3	0	0
0199 Balance, start of year	24	26	19
Receipts:			
0200 Fine, Penalties, and Forfeitures from Migratory Bird Treaty Act, North American Wetlands Conservation Fund [010-00-524100-0-000000]	21	13	13
0400 Total Balances and and receipts	45	39	32
Appropriations:			
2101 North American Wetlands Conservation Funds [010-18-5241-0-1201]	-21	-21	-13
2132 North American Wetlands Conservation Funds [010-18-5241-0-1232]	1	1	0
5098 Rounding Adjustments	1	0	0
5099 Balance, end of year	26	19	19

Combined Schedule (X)			
Obligations by program activity:			
0003 Wetlands conservation projects	52	56	49
0900 Total new obligations	52	56	49
Budgetary resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	9	11	10
1001 Discretionary unobligated balance brought fwd, Oct 1	4	4	0
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, discretionary:			
1100 Appropriation	34	35	35
1160 Appropriation, discretionary (total)	34	35	35
Appropriations, mandatory:			
1201 Appropriation (special or trust fund)	21	21	13
1232 Appropriations and/or unobligated balance of appropriations temporarily reduced	-1	-1	0
1260 Appropriations, mandatory (total)	20	20	13
1900 Budget authority (total)	54	55	48
1930 Total budgetary resources available	63	66	58
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	11	10	9
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	75	83	90
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	52	56	49
3020 Outlays (gross)	-44	-49	-48
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	83	90	91
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	75	83	90
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	83	90	91

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION FUND			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2015	2016	2017
Identification Code 010-18-14-5241	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
<u>Budget authority and outlays, net:</u>			
Discretionary:			
4000 Budget authority, gross	34	35	35
Outlays, gross:			
4010 Outlays from new discretionary authority	4	5	5
4011 Outlays from discretionary balances	31	30	30
4020 Outlays, gross (total)	35	35	35
4070 Budget authority, net (discretionary)	34	35	35
4080 Outlays, net (discretionary)	35	35	35
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	20	20	13
Outlays, gross:			
4100 Outlays from new mandatory authority	3	5	3
4101 Outlays from mandatory balances	6	9	10
4110 Outlays, gross (total)	9	14	13
4160 Budget authority, net (mandatory)	20	20	13
4170 Outlays, net (mandatory)	9	14	13
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	54	55	48
4190 Outlays, net (total)	44	49	48

Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	1	1	1
32.0 Land and structures	3	3	3
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	48	52	45
99.9 Total new obligations	52	56	49

Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	11	11	11

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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.), \$11,061,000, to remain available until expended. (*Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016.*)

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, (39 U.S.C. 416 note) as amended. 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 six years.

Appropriation: Multinational Species Conservation Fund

	2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017				Change from 2016 (+/-)
			Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
African Elephant Conservation Fund (\$000)	1,582	2,582	0	0	0	2,582	0
Asian Elephant Conservation Fund (\$000)	1,557	1,557	0	0	0	1,557	0
Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund (\$000)	2,440	3,440	0	0	0	3,440	0
Great Ape Conservation Fund (\$000)	1,975	1,975	0	0	0	1,975	0
Marine Turtle Conservation Fund (\$000)	1,507	1,507	0	0	0	1,507	0
Total, Multinational Species Conservation Fund	9,061	11,061	0	0	0	11,061	0
<i>FTE</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>

Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for the Multinational Species Conservation Funds is \$11,061,000 and 4 FTE, no program change from the 2016 Enacted.

Program Mission

To provide financial and technical assistance to wildlife authorities, local communities, and non-governmental organizations in developing countries for on-the-ground conservation work to protect elephants, rhinoceroses, tigers, great apes, and marine turtles.

Program Overview

Elephants, rhinoceroses, tigers, great apes, and marine turtles occur in many developing countries. These species are among the most iconic and recognized worldwide but are also under severe threat from poaching, habitat loss, and wildlife trafficking. With growing human populations and increasing human demands that stress species and their habitat, wildlife conservation is vastly underfunded and protected areas are at risk.

The Multinational Species Conservation Funds (MSCFs) were authorized through five Congressional Acts to provide critical financial and technical assistance to government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and local communities for on-the-ground protection for some of the world's most threatened species. Without this support, vulnerable populations will continue to decline, which may ultimately result in extinction of these species. The MSCF program has the ancillary benefit of assisting foreign countries to sustainably manage their valuable natural resources and attract substantial leveraged or matched funding while also building considerable good will toward the United States. From 2011 to 2015, the MSCFs provided more than \$56 million in grants and cooperative agreements for on-the-ground conservation, leveraging more than \$91 million in additional matching funds. Since the program's

inception, the MSCFs have engaged nearly 600 domestic and foreign partners in over 54 foreign countries.

The program is highly competitive and able to direct funds to key populations and the most urgently needed activities. Priority activities include establishing protected areas; monitoring wildlife populations; assisting communities to better coexist with wildlife; improving law enforcement and prosecution to stop wildlife trafficking; reducing consumer demand for illegal wildlife products; and providing vital infrastructure, training, and equipment to effectively manage protected areas. Several of the species covered by the MSCFs, including rhinoceroses and African elephants, are under unprecedented pressure due to poaching and wildlife trafficking. These funds provide much needed emergency support to quickly and effectively respond to escalating threats.

African Elephant Conservation Fund

Since passage of the African Elephant Conservation Act in 1989, the fund has provided critical support to prevent poaching in Africa; to combat trafficking of ivory, bushmeat, and other illegal elephant products within Africa; and to reduce the demand for illegal wildlife products in consumer countries. Program activities include constructing and operating roadblocks on transit routes near protected areas; purchasing, training and deploying detection dog teams at roadblocks, airports and ports; providing training and operational costs for intelligence units to track wildlife crimes; developing genetic and forensic tools to identify the source of ivory; sponsoring joint investigations to trace ivory shipments back to point of origin; and supporting the expenses related to the prosecution of poachers and traffickers in African courts. For example, in 2015, these funds supported using innovative ivory anti-trafficking methods, developing a national management system for seized ivory, and strengthening capacity to protect elephants of South Sudan.



*Anti-poaching staff of the North Luangwa Conservation Programme, North Luangwa National Park, Zambia.
Credit: Michelle Gadd / USFWS*

Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund

The Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund has supported many protected areas in both Asia and Africa, since passage of its authorizing Act in 1994. Program activities aim to protect existing populations of rhinos and tigers; to restore animals to their original habitat; and to combat trafficking of tiger skins, bones, live animals, and rhino horn and other rhino products. In 2015, the funds were able to support the core operating expenses in six African countries (Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, and Namibia) to strengthen anti-poaching efforts and to improve detection and interception of illegally trafficked rhino horn out of Africa to consumer markets in Asia. Projects included aerial surveillance of key rhino populations in South Africa and the deployment of devices to track rhinos and their horns, if they are poached, in Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Within Asia, efforts to combat wildlife trafficking continued in 2015 with funding support provided to train and improve investigation capacity of border agents and customs officials between Nepal-China and Nepal-India. Protected areas in six tiger and three rhino range countries (Nepal, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Russia) received continued funding for anti-poaching law enforcement, innovative tools to measure the effectiveness of patrols, and human-tiger conflict mitigation.



Amur tiger. Credit: John Goodrich / Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

Asian Elephant Conservation Fund



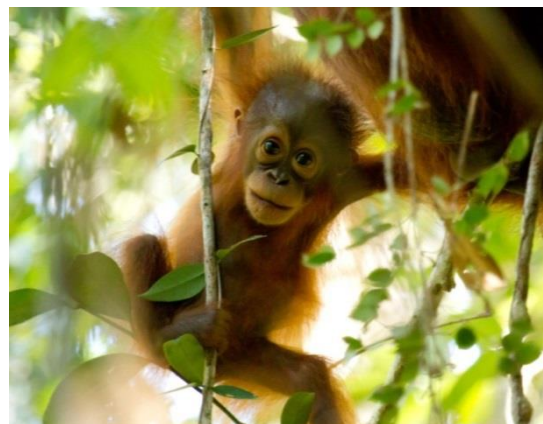
Left: Asian elephant foraging in Nagarhole National Park, India. Credit: Cory Brown / USFWS.

Right: Rangers battle fires in Way Kambas National Park (WKNP), Indonesia, with funding from the Asian Elephant Conservation Fund. As thousands of fires have devastated forests throughout Indonesia, NASA photos showed WKNP as a small green triangle, where successful fire prevention efforts offered a glimmer of hope amidst the devastation. Credit: Save Indonesian Endangered Species Conservation Fund.

The Asian Elephant Conservation Fund is a key source of funding for activities addressing the major threats to wild Asian elephant populations within range states. Program activities include law enforcement training and monitoring, public education campaigns via public television and radio programming, forest ranger and patrol training, research on population dynamics, community-based conservation and education programs, human-elephant conflict mitigation programs, developing a national ivory action plan, providing wildlife veterinary expertise and veterinary capacity building, and conducting programs to educate journalists about accurate reporting on Asian elephants in the news. In 2015, the Fund supported projects in seven of the 13 Asian elephant range countries, financing activities that will have local, national, and regional impacts. In Cambodia, a Service partner is working with government officials to launch the activities specified in the government-endorsed National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP) in its first year of implementation, which will strengthen the control of ivory trafficking through Cambodia and reduce overall demand for ivory from both Asian and African elephants.

Great Ape Conservation Fund

The Great Ape Conservation Fund supports efforts to combat poaching and trafficking in great apes, to increase habitat protection by creating national parks and protected areas, to reduce risk of disease transmission to at-risk ape populations, and to create long-term buy-in and stewardship for conservation of great apes within local communities. In 2015, the Great Ape Conservation Fund continued to help conserve globally significant populations of gibbons and orangutans in Asia. Several projects support conservation of orangutans and critical habitat in Indonesia and Malaysia, areas hard-hit by forest fires in 2015. Program activities include protecting habitats; preventing forest encroachment; mitigating threats such as road construction and human-wildlife conflict,



Bornean orangutan in Sabangau Forest. Credit: Bernat Ripoll Capilla / Ou Troup

engaging in reforestation efforts, conducting population surveys and health assessments; building support through environmental education; and strengthening conservation planning and law enforcement.



*Mountain gorilla with offspring.
Credit: Dirck Byler / USFWS*

In Cambodia, India, Myanmar and Vietnam, funds supported projects to protect populations of gibbon species by monitoring populations, preventing habitat loss, reducing poaching pressure, engaging in improved conservation planning, training environmental educators, improving law enforcement efforts, strengthening trans boundary cooperation, developing sustainable finance mechanisms for long-term community-based protection, and continuing to support the development of gibbon-based ecotourism.

In Africa, funds support conservation of gorillas, chimpanzees and bonobos. Mountain gorillas in Rwanda, Uganda, and Democratic Republic of Congo face continued threat from habitat degradation, poaching and disease transmission. Program activities in these countries include supporting an innovative human health model to reduce disease transmission from the indigenous Batwa communities to neighboring gorilla populations around Bwindi National Park, providing dawn to dusk surveillance of key gorilla populations in Rwanda, and supporting ranger patrols in Virunga National Park. Activities to conserve Africa's other highly endangered ape subspecies, the Cross River gorilla,

include a partnership with the Cameroon and Nigerian governments to implement a landscape approach to securing key habitat and developing community support. In the Republic of Guinea, funds assisted the government with wildlife law enforcement by building capacity; producing deterrents to the killing of chimpanzees, elephants and other threatened wildlife; and monitoring the illegal wildlife trade and other activities detrimental to ape survival. Activities to conserve chimpanzees also included the development of improved University programs in Liberia and Sierra Leone to train the next generation of West Africa wildlife conservationists.

Marine Turtle Conservation Fund

Since 2009, funds from the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund have supported a loggerhead sea turtle conservation project in Cape Verde, the third largest loggerhead nesting population in the world. The project now covers the most important nesting beaches on the islands of Boa Vista, Sal, and Maio which in turn encompass 95% of the nesting within Cape Verde. The project includes night time beach patrols in collaboration with the military, international volunteers, and Cape Verdeans, as well as beach cleanups, and education and outreach programs with local communities and youth. Prior to initiation of these projects, 25-40% of loggerhead females were taken on the nesting beaches each year. This project also supports an annual meeting for the Cape Verde Sea Turtle Partnership which facilitates greater cooperation among the non-governmental organizations and Cape



*Community members and staff practice sea turtle data collection methods in El Salvador.
Credit: The Ocean Foundation.*

Verdean national and local government authorities. Another project supports the East Pacific Hawksbill Initiative and other efforts to protect nests and females for the last known remaining nesting populations of the Eastern Pacific hawksbill in, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Panama. In addition to beach patrols, the project supports the development of ecotourism, as well as local outreach and education efforts, including an annual Hawksbill Festival in Nicaragua and “Day of the Hawksbill” activities in local schools.



Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp

The *Save Vanishing Species* semipostal stamp was first issued in September 2011 to raise public awareness and garner support for critically important global conservation work. The intent is to give the public an easy and inexpensive way to help conserve tigers, rhinos, elephants, great apes and marine turtles around the world. The stamp, which features the image of an Amur tiger cub, sells just slightly above the cost of first-class postage with proceeds directed to the MSCFs. Since issuance, over 25 million stamps have been sold, raising more than \$2.5 million for the conservation of international wildlife. Currently the stamp is available for sale through 2018.

Standard Form 300 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2015	2016	2017
Identification Code 010-18-1652	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Combined Schedule (X)			
Obligations by program activity:			
0001 African elephant	2	3	3
0002 Asian elephant	2	2	2
0003 Rhinoceros and tiger	3	3	3
0004 Great ape conservation	2	2	2
0005 Marine turtle	1	1	1
0799 Total direct obligations	10	11	11
0801 Multinational Species Semi Postal Stamp Act	0	1	1
0900 Total new obligations	10	12	12
Budgetary resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	1	0	0
1001 Discretionary unobligated balance brought fwd, Oct 1	1	0	0
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, discretionary:			
1100 Appropriation	9	11	11
1160 Appropriation, discretionary (total)	9	11	11
Spending authority from offsetting collections, mandatory:			
1800 Collected	0	1	1
1850 Spending auth from offsetting collections, mand (total)	0	1	1
1900 Budget authority (total)	9	12	12
1930 Total budgetary resources available	10	12	12
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	7	8	11
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	10	12	12
3020 Outlays (gross)	-9	-9	-12
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	8	11	11
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	7	8	11
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	8	11	11
Budget authority and outlays, net:			
Discretionary:			
4000 Budget authority, gross	9	11	11
Outlays, gross:			
4010 Outlays from new discretionary authority	4	3	3
4011 Outlays from discretionary balances	4	6	8
4020 Outlays, gross (total)	8	9	11
4070 Budget authority, net (discretionary)	9	11	11
4080 Outlays, net (discretionary)	8	9	11

Standard Form 300

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND**

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2015	2016	2017
Identification Code 010-18-1652	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	0	1	1
Outlays, gross:			
4101 Outlays from mandatory balances	1	0	1
Offsets against gross budget authority and outlays:			
Offsetting collections (collected) from:			
4120 Federal sources	0	-1	-1
4160 Budget authority, net (mandatory)	0	0	0
4170 Outlays, net (mandatory)	1	-1	0
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	9	11	11
4190 Outlays, net (total)	9	8	11

Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	9	11	11
Reimbursable obligations:			
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	1	1	1
99.9 Total new obligations	10	12	12

Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	4	4	4

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.), \$3,910,000, to remain available until expended. (*Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016.*)

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

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Budget Request	Change from 2016 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund	(\$000)	3,660	3,910	0	0	0	3,910	0
	FTE	1	1	0	0	0	1	0

Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund is \$3,910,000 and 1 FTE, no program changes from the 2016 Enacted.

Program Mission

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.

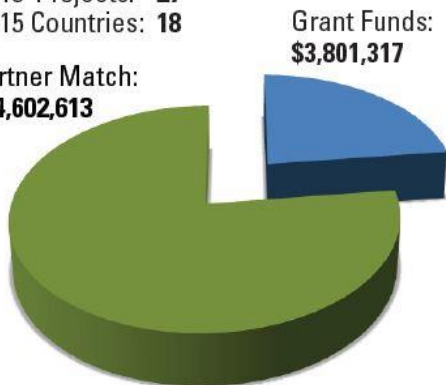
Program Overview

Over 380 species of Neotropical migratory birds breed in the United States and Canada and winter in Latin America, including warblers, thrushes, sparrows, sandpipers, and hawks. 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 sixty-two are on the Service’s list of birds of conservation concern. Conservation actions funded through this program are essential for keeping species from becoming listed under the Endangered Species Act.

2015 Grants

2015 Projects: 27
2015 Countries: 18

Partner Match: \$14,602,613



NMBCA grants perpetuate healthy migratory bird populations by supporting conservation projects that leverage 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, where resources for migratory bird conservation are scarce, the NMBCA program acts as a catalyst providing critical funds for our partners working to conserve shared bird species on their migrating and wintering grounds. Without these funds these projects would likely not happen due to [explain]. 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 local economies:

- The migratory birds conserved under the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act provide significant financial benefits to local economies through birding festivals, wildlife watching

(purchasing of bird food, 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.
- Data from 2011 showed that bird watching trip-related and equipment-related expenditures generated nearly \$107 billion in total industry output, and created 666,000 jobs, \$31 billion in employment income, and \$13 billion in local, State and Federal tax revenue. (Source: Birding in the United States: A Demographic and Economic Analysis: Addendum to the 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation).
 - The NMBCA supports and enhances the Department of the Interior'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 grants help to engage people in the great outdoors and in activities that allow them to enjoy these amazing and beautiful birds.
 - NMBCA grants fund projects that involve training young professionals and educating youth through nature festivals and other outreach activities supporting Departmental and Service goals of connecting youth with nature.
 - NMBCA funded actions provide opportunities to support people at the local level in other countries, increasing good will toward the U.S. and enhancing diplomatic efforts. Through the Southern Cone Grasslands Alliance, for example, U.S. funds support the economic livelihood of ranchers to keep them on the land and promote security, sustainability, and healthy landscapes.



The NMBCA supports multiple projects to conserve Golden-winged Warbler throughout their annual cycle at locations in Canada, USA, Nicaragua and Colombia. Credit:USDA NRCS Greg Lavaty



Cerulean Warblers benefit from NMBCA funding in 2015 that helps to protect critical habitat in Iowa and Peru. Credit: Jerry Oldenettel CC BY 2.0

NMBCA IMPACT Program

In 2012, the Service began to focus approximately 30% of NMBCA funding annually on 13 particularly threatened Neotropical migratory bird species.

The program is titled IMPACT (Identifying Measures of Performance and Achieving Conservation Targets) because 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 and priority actions to address those threats. By dedicating funding over the next 10 years to these species, the NMBCA can leverage resources where progress of the conservation actions can be measured.

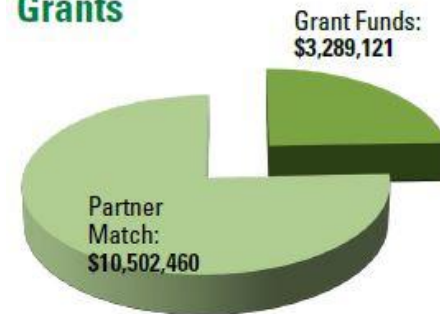
Grantees will evaluate the success of their efforts and strategically adapt their approach to conservation by measuring biological improvements in the target species, such as increased abundance or survival, or improved quality of habitat. Funded projects must include monitoring and evaluation to track these measurable objectives.

In 2015, the fourth year of the IMPACT program, the Service supported six projects taking actions on breeding and stopover or wintering grounds to conserve Bicknell's Thrush, Golden-cheeked Warbler, Hudsonian Godwit, Mountain Plover, Red Knot and Sprague's Pipit. Examples of these projects include one project in Mexico to benefit the Golden-cheeked Warbler, an endangered species, working with Mexican Federal agencies to improve their forest management programs on over 12,000 acres of forest.

Another IMPACT program project in the Dominican Republic will take steps to establish a 240 acre protected area and reforest nearly 500 acres of forest critical to Bicknell's Thrush. The project aims to increase protected habitat by 5% and will contribute to the International Bicknell's Thrush Conservation Group's Action plan whose goal is to increase the species population 25 percent by 2050.

Meanwhile, we continue to support the US-Mexico Chihuahua grassland project by expanding work with landowners to improve habitat for Sprague's Pipit and other grassland birds on 20,000 acres (adding to the 189,900 acres already under management). Partners seek 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 IMPACT program will show the return we achieve on investment of taxpayer dollars. This program is set up to create

**2012-2015
IMPACT Program****Grants****Grant Funds: \$3,289,121****Matching Funds: \$10,502,460****Match Ratio: 3.2 to 1****Projects: 26****Countries: 12**

In the Dominican Republic, the NMBCA IMPACT Program is supporting efforts to protect crucial non-breeding habitat for the Bicknell's Thrush by working with communities to improve their natural resource management practices and livelihoods.

Copyright: Kent McFarland

a significant impact for each grant dollar invested and to evaluate the value of that investment for birds.

NMBCA Project Highlights

With the 70 percent of grant funding available for all Neotropical migratory species and broader conservation efforts, the NMBCA continues to be a catalyst for conservation, supporting organizations working to address threats in areas important to migratory birds. NMBCA grants support a full range of conservation activities needed to protect and conserve Neotropical migratory bird populations, including:

- Securing, restoring, and managing wintering, migrating, and breeding habitat;
- Conducting law enforcement;
- Providing community outreach and education; and
- Conducting bird population research and monitoring.

Examples of recently completed projects supported by NMBCA in include:

- *Conserving the Bay of Panama.* The Bay of Panama Wetlands in Panama is a critical migration and wintering site for 24 North American breeding shorebirds that are of conservation concern, including 30% of the biogeographical population of Western Sandpipers. Partners carried out a hydrology study to inform the local government's land-use planning, educated and engaged key stakeholders in the local communities and developed and implemented an advocacy plan for local conservation organizations all in support of the bay's conservation plan. These actions resulted in the Bay of Panama retaining its protected area status and avoiding conversion of the wetlands.
- *Maverick Ranch Conservation Easement.* Partners in Colorado secured a conservation easement on approximately 33,294 acres on the Maverick Ranch, which abuts an easement funded by a previous Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act grant (Bader Ranch). The easement will protect grassland bird habitat, including 11,000 acres of shortgrass prairie within a matrix of piñon-juniper habitat important for Long-billed Curlew, Western Meadowlark, Cassin's Sparrow, Loggerhead Shrike and Lark Sparrow.

Through 2015, nearly \$54 million in NMBCA grant funds have supported 478 projects in 36 countries and 48 U.S. States and Territories across the Western Hemisphere. Non-federal partners have contributed more than \$205 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 protects investments in species conservation in the U.S. by making a sound and directed investment in conservation in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Canada.

Program Impacts since 2002

Grant Funding: \$53,922,317

Matching Funds: \$205,297,613

Match Ratio: 3.8 to 1

Projects: 478

Countries: 36



The Long-billed Curlew uses habitat protected in the Maverick Ranch Easement project.

Credit: Ingrid Taylar

NMBCA - Combined Performance Change and Overview Table

Performance Goal	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Target	2017 PB	Change from 2016 Target to 2017 PB
6.4.3 - # of acres restored/ enhanced of habitat in U.S./ Mexico/ Latin America through NMBCA	398,455.0	554,238.0	411,981.0	870,381.2	179,411.0	459,908.0	280,497.0
Comments:	Acres of habitat projected to be restored/enhanced are the result of projects funded from several years previous that should be completed during FY17. The change in performance targets from 2012 through 2017 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.						
6.4.4 - # of acres protected/ secured of habitat in U.S./ Mexico/ Latin America through partnerships and networked lands through NMBCA	390,133.0	155,959.0	1,216,734.0	111,134.6	85,399.0	112,750.0	27,351.0
Comments:	Acres of habitat projected to be protected/secured are the result of projects funded from several years previous that should be completed during FY17. The change in performance targets from 2012 through 2017 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)	2015	2016	2017
Identification Code 010-18-14-1696	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Combined Schedule (X)			
<u>Obligations by program activity:</u>			
0001 Neotropical Migratory Bird	4	4	4
0900 Total new obligations (object class 41.0)	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	5	5	5
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	4	4	4
3020 Outlays (gross)	-4	-4	-5
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	5	5	4
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	5	5	5
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	5	5	4
<u>Budget authority and outlays, net:</u>			
Discretionary:			
4000 Budget authority, gross	4	4	4
Outlays, gross:			
4010 Outlays from new discretionary authority	1	1	1
4011 Outlays from discretionary balances	3	3	4
4020 Outlays, gross (total)	4	4	5
4070 Budget authority, net (discretionary)	4	4	4
4080 Outlays, net (discretionary)	4	4	5
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	4	4	4
4190 Outlays, net (total)	4	4	5

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, [\$60,571,000] \$66,981,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amount provided herein, [\$4,084,000]\$6,000,000 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]\$9,981,000 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]\$15,981,000 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 [2016]2017 to any State, territory, or other jurisdiction that remains unobligated as of September 30, [2017]2018, shall be reapportioned, together with funds appropriated in [2018]2019, in the manner provided herein. (*Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016.*)

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.

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

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Change from 2016 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
State Wildlife Grants (Formula)	(\$000)	49,124	51,000	0	0	0	51,000	0
State Wildlife Grants (Competitive)	(\$000)	5,487	5,487	0	0	+4,494	9,981	+4,494
Tribal Wildlife Grants	(\$000)	4,084	4,084	0	0	+1,916	6,000	+1,916
Total, State and Tribal Wildlife	(\$000)	58,695	60,571	0	0	+6,410	66,981	+6,410
	FTE	14	14	0	0	+1	15	+1

Summary of 2017 Program Changes for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
▪ State Wildlife Grants (Formula)	0	0
▪ State Wildlife Grants (Competitive)	+4,494	+1
▪ Tribal Wildlife Grants	+1,916	0
Program Changes	+6,410	+1

Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants (STWG) is \$66,981,000 and 15 FTE, a program change of +\$6,410,000 and +1 FTE from the 2016 Enacted.

State Wildlife Grants (Competitive) (+\$4,494,000/+1 FTE)

For 2017, The Service proposes to increase funding for the competitive-driven component of this grant program to support States’ efforts to focus on larger landscape areas similar to the Service Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC) concept. As a result, work conducted with funds from these competitive grants will be increased. In FY 2017, the Service will continue to work with States to focus on increasing the resilience of wildlife and their habitats. This includes:

1. Increase the ability of State fish and wildlife agencies to anticipate and address climate-related impacts on species of greatest conservation need (SGCN). The increased STWG funds will be used for supporting projects such as one proposed in Vermont by enhancing habitat connectivity, as recommended by the *National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy*;
2. Increase acreage of natural habitats and landscapes managed by State fish and wildlife agencies to support viable populations of species of concern on State lands. The increase would deliver habitat improvements on an additional estimated 13,000 acres for high-priority species such as Columbia spotted frog (*Rana luteiventris*) and New England cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus transitionalis*), two species recently removed from the Service’s Candidate species list after targeted conservation with STWG and other funding sources demonstrated that the species populations are stable or recovering;
3. Increase the State fish and wildlife agencies’ ability to work collaboratively with the Service and the Department of the Interior in implementing the LCCs.
4. Increase capabilities of State agencies for adaptive management of SGCN and their habitats, linking management actions with scientific monitoring, deliberate learning, and sharing of project results with others

Tribal Wildlife Grants (+\$1,916,000/+0 FTE)

For 2017, the tribal component of this grant program will be increased by \$1,916,000, providing between 9-15 additional grants of up to \$200,000 on a competitive basis for federally-recognized tribes in the United States. These tribes will use the STWG funds for planning, monitoring and conserving tribal SGCN and their habitat, including culturally-significant species. The Service also will continue to work with tribes to focus on climate resiliency.

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 habitats, 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 14 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 (Plan). These Plans 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 interested stakeholders, 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 1.9 million acres of habitat enhanced for SGCN and the nearly 131,000 acres of habitat it has protected through land acquisition or conservation easements.

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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's performance reporting database, Wildlife Tracking and Reporting Actions for the Conservation of Species (TRACS.) This database allows the Service and States to consider an evidence-based approach that supports adaptive management leading to improved effectiveness of future projects. TRACS allows managers to monitor and measure efforts to address climate threats to species, and other priority needs such as pollinator conservation.

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 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 is the utilization of effective partnerships that 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 SGCN and their habitats. 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 State-identified SGCN and their habitats, and 2) leveraging Federal funding through cost-sharing provisions with State fish and wildlife agencies. Funds provided through STWG help to keep species off the Endangered Species list, and at the discretion of each State may also address conservation needs of currently listed species with insufficient population data and funding available for conservation and recovery.

State Wildlife Action Plan - Each State must have a Wildlife Action Plan, 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 reviewed and, if necessary, revised their Plans prior to October 1, 2015, and at a maximum interval of every ten years afterwards. States may choose to update their plan more frequently. Revisions to Plans must follow the guidance issued in the July 12, 2007, letter from the Service's Director and the President of AFWA.

Several States are using STWG funds to incorporate sophisticated, state-of-the-art climate science modeling into their Plans to better prepare for anticipated impacts of climate change on SGCN and their habitats. For example, in Fiscal Year 2015, the Service awarded STWG funds to the Minnesota and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources for conservation and recovery of the Karner blue butterfly, a species that has been listed by the Service as endangered since 1992. The agencies will utilize advanced climate modeling techniques to map sites for future management. This approach is being implemented to help improve resilience of the species to climate change. Most of the revised Plans submitted in FY 2015 contain new strategies for species conservation that incorporate climate change considerations. In FY 2016, the Service will continue to work with States to focus on climate resiliency.

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 habitats, 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 action 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 replaced the Federal Aid Information Management System (FAIMS), which was decommissioned in late 2012. Projects funded by STWG have been documented and displayed in Wildlife TRACS since early 2014. One of the significant new advancements in accomplishment reporting provided by Wildlife TRACS is a geospatial database that displays locations of conservation actions and other activities supported with STWG and other program funds. A Service and State team of biologists is now working to incorporate standardized results chains developed for the STWG program to assess the intermediate impacts and effectiveness of conservation actions on target species and their associated habitats. Wildlife TRACS also allows for better coordination of conservation efforts among States, their partners, and the Service, in developing a landscape-level understanding and united conservation approach. It will also provide the means to document and communicate outcomes. Intermediate impacts on SGCN will be collected and analyzed using Wildlife TRACS, creating an evidence-based, periodic summary report that describes program outcomes in terms of species population status and trends.

Activities that may be eligible for STWG:

- Conservation actions, such as research, population modeling, 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 Plan.
- Conducting environmental reviews, site evaluations, permit reviews, or similar functions intended to protect SGCN or their habitats.
- Responding to emerging issues such as wildlife disease.
- Planning activities.



Greater sage-grouse. Photo: USFWS

Activities ineligible for funding under the STWG include:

- Activities that mitigate or compensate for Program-funded activities, or are necessary to secure permits or approval of these activities.
- 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 for rental, lease, sale, or other commercial purposes.
- Wildlife damage management activities that are not critical to the conservation of SGCN or their habitats.

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 as documented in its Plan.

In the West, STWG funds are used by States to help conserve key iconic species such as greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*), which was removed from the candidate species list in September, 2015. STWG program funds have been used for a wide variety of activities to benefit sage-grouse, such as planning and population modeling, genetic analysis, and translocation. Nearly 40,000 acres of habitat have been managed and enhanced for these well-known bird species due to targeted STWG Program investments. Such direct conservation actions helped the Service determine that the primary threats to sage-grouse have been ameliorated. Through these targeted, strategic investments, STWG Program funds have helped States ensure that abundant sage-grouse populations will continue to be distributed across the western landscape into the foreseeable future. These proactive investments also help the Service and western States avoid greater long-term costs that would likely be associated with listing of this wide-ranging species.

In Oklahoma, recent large land acquisitions completed with funding from the STWG Program have secured permanent protection for a wide range of species, including the Endangered Arkansas River shiner (*Notropis girardi*), the Threatened lesser prairie-chicken (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*), and a host of other species of greatest conservation need. These projects involve purchase of more than 6,000 acres of priority conservation lands and waters within Oklahoma's Mixed Grass Prairie Conservation Landscape, defined in the agency's Plan. The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation will open these properties to the public for hunting and fishing, while ensuring that the primary purpose of the project—providing quality habitat for species of greatest conservation need—is maintained in perpetuity.

Other States are focusing on wide-ranging focal species of concern such as bobwhite quail (*Colinus virginianus*) and Blanding's turtle (*Emys blandingii*). STWG funds help maintain sustainable populations of such species through targeted land acquisition, habitat management, and direct actions such as captive breeding and release.



Columbia Spotted Frog
Photo: USFWS

The STWG program is supporting proactive conservation strategies that focus on Candidate species. Strategic program investments made in Idaho and Nevada over the past decade have yielded significant conservation successes, including protection and recovery of the Great Basin distinct population segment of the Columbia spotted frog (*Rana luteiventris*). The species has been listed as a Candidate for ESA protection since 1997. Over the past ten years, the STWG program has supported spotted frog inventories, monitoring, and range expansion through reintroduction into the species' historical range. In October, 2015 the Service removed the species from the Candidate species list. The finding was based on the identification of additional populations that were found since the species was first classified as a Candidate, and on various conservation management activities occurring throughout the species' range. Much of this work to inventory and conserve the species in the two States has been funded by the STWG program.

In the Southeast, STWG funds have supported conservation of current Candidate species such as the gopher tortoise, which is federally-listed as threatened in the western portion of its range and has been petitioned for listing in the eastern part of its range. A six-State conservation partnership including Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Carolina was awarded \$500,000 in STWG program funds in 2015. Partnering agencies will demonstrate strategic habitat conservation by focusing restoration actions on priority sites for the gopher tortoise identified in these States' Wildlife Action

Plans, and by using standardized monitoring to assess effectiveness of habitat management and translocation of tortoises into formerly occupied habitats.

In Alaska, STWG program funds were combined with Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act funding along with non-Federal match funds from Alaska to help the Alaska Department of Fish and Game reintroduce the wood bison (*Bison bison athabasca*) into portions of its historical range. The Service has listed the wood bison as threatened since 1970. In the spring of 2015, the State fish and wildlife agency released 130 wood bison in Western Alaska, from which they were extirpated over a century ago. The bison have adapted quickly to their new habitat, and several small herds of cows are protecting approximately 16 new calves born this year. This unique collaborative effort involves the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG), the Service, Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center, Safari Club International, and more than 30 other partners. ADFG and partners expect the herd to eventually grow to a harvestable population.



Wood Bison. Photo: Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center

The STWG program supports States in developing a landscape-scale understanding of fish and wildlife needs through their Wildlife Action Plans, and by incentivizing inter-State cooperation. Modifications to the Competitive subprogram in FY 2016 incentivize joint planning, landscape-level conservation design, and project implementation 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. Once basic information on species abundance and range is collected and analyzed, the partnering States can implement targeted, strategic conservation actions to restore declining populations through habitat management, translocation and related efforts.

Diamondback Terrapin. Photo: USFWS



In the Northeast Region, STWG funds are managed by a partnering non-profit organization on behalf of northeastern States to develop and implement multi-partner conservation initiatives. Many species are best conserved on a landscape or regional level, such as the northern diamondback terrapin. By combining STWG funds with non-Federal resources, States are creating new partnerships to ensure that populations of the diamondback terrapin remain healthy. For example, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources is partnering with an Ohio University researcher to evaluate survival rates of diamondback terrapins raised in classrooms by students and then released back into the wild.

Funding Planning and Implementation Grants – Since 2007, the Service has implemented new STWG 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 Plan; 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 has supported States as they shift more of their STWG 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 STWG 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 STWG Program. The Service waives 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. Tribal Wildlife Grants are competitive and tribes are not required to provide a share of project costs; however, many do, some even quite substantially.

Obligation Requirements – States must obligate STWG funds to a project by September 30 of the second Federal fiscal year after their apportionment, or the remaining unobligated dollars revert to the Service to be apportioned or awarded competitively in the next fiscal year. Reverted STWG funds lose their original fiscal year and State identity, and all States will receive them as an addition to the next year’s national apportionment. If a State obligates STWG funds to an approved grant but does not expend the funds in the grant period, the Service will deobligate the unexpended balance. Funds that are deobligated during the two-year period of availability will be reobligated to an existing or new grant to the same State.

2017 Program Performance

With the FY 2017 budget, the Service expects grantees to continue to expand their efforts to stabilize, restore, enhance, and protect SGCN, as well as their habitats. In addition, the Service will continue working with these partners to more consistently and comprehensively report accomplishments. By 2016, WSFR will track all STWG project spending using Wildlife TRACS, which captures geospatial data for all conservation actions, as well as program accomplishments and outcomes. The system will be useful in tracking and reporting priority conservation actions, such as addressing climate change threats to species or identifying projects that address pollinator conservation.

Since its inception, the STWG program has provided a crucial funding source enabling State and tribal fish and wildlife agencies to protect, restore, and enhance the 14,769 species that are identified by States as having the greatest need of conservation. Some examples of activities currently being implemented by State fish and wildlife agencies include:

- In Idaho and Washington, partnering State fish and wildlife agencies will collaborate with a non-governmental organization to compile and synthesize historical and contemporary monarch butterfly and milkweed occurrence data. This will help spatially define the distribution and relative abundance of these species in the Northwest.



Monarch Butterfly Photo: USFWS

The partners will identify key habitats essential to monarch conservation and identify threats that may adversely affect them. Information, data, and tools developed by the partners will be shared with decision-makers, land managers, researchers and other stakeholders to facilitate on-the-ground action to support the conservation of monarch butterflies and other pollinator species.

- The STWG program supports States in their efforts to build species resilience and adaptation to climate change. For example, in 2015 Nebraska Game and Parks Commission was awarded a grant through the STWG program to identify adaptation measures for species that are expected to be most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The agency will accomplish this by evaluating climate-related risk factors to develop models, maps, and decision support tools leading to the design of adaptation measures for targeted species. This information will be incorporated in the next version of the Nebraska Wildlife Action Plan, and shared broadly with partners and contributors.

- Conservation of the New England cottontail rabbit will continue in six States in the Northeast, with support from the STWG program. In September, 2015, U.S. Secretary of the Interior announced that a public-private partnership uniting foresters, farmers, birdwatchers, biologists, hunters and other conservationists has saved the New England cottontail from needing protection under the Endangered Species Act. The New England cottontail was classified as a Candidate for Endangered Species Act protection in 2006, prompting the State fish and wildlife agencies in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island, Connecticut and the Narragansett Indian Tribe to take action. The partners established biological objectives for each of the States and the tribe, utilizing STWG Program funds and other resources to manage key habitats for the rabbit. Approximately 10,000 New England cottontails now live in identified priority areas across these States, bringing the recovery effort three-quarters of the way toward the goal of 13,500 cottontails in healthy, young forest landscapes by 2030. In total, the State/WSFR partnership has dedicated more than \$9 million in the past five years for conservation of this species.



New England Cottontail Rabbit. Photo: USFWS

- Projects utilizing STWG Program funds in southern California are targeting a variety of State priority species including the Mohave ground squirrel (*Xerospermophilus mohavensis*), which is listed by the State of California as a threatened species due to rapid urban development and other threats. This imperiled species is little understood by the conservation community, so initial efforts to protect and restore the species have focused on addressing knowledge gaps, research and developing a collaborative conservation strategy. Key accomplishments supported by the STWG Program include habitat suitability modeling, genetic analysis, and assembly of a technical advisory group that is currently developing goals and recommendations for management. Future STWG Program funds will help the California Department of Fish and Game to proactively protect and enhance habitat, helping to keep the species from being listed under the Endangered Species Act.



Mohave Ground Squirrel Photo: Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History

Standard Form 300 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE STATE AND TRIBAL WILDLIFE GRANTS			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) Identification Code 010-18-14-5474	2015 Actual	2016 Estimate	2017 Estimate
Combined Schedule (X)			
Obligations by program activity:			
0001 State wildlife grants	51	51	55
0002 State competitive grants	5	8	8
0003 Tribal Wildlife Grants	5	5	5
0004 Administration	3	4	4
0900 Total new obligations	64	68	72
Budgetary resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	42	41	38
1021 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	4	4	4
1050 Unobligated balance (total)	46	45	42
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, discretionary:			
1100 Appropriation	59	61	67
1160 Appropriation, discretionary (total)	59	61	67
1930 Total budgetary resources available	105	106	109
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	41	38	37
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	132	126	122
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	64	68	72
3020 Outlays (gross)	-66	-68	-72
3040 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations, unexp	-4	-4	-4
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	126	122	118
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	132	126	122
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	126	122	118
Budget authority and outlays, net:			
Discretionary:			
4000 Budget authority, gross	59	61	67

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE STATE AND TRIBAL WILDLIFE GRANTS			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2015	2016	2017
Identification Code 010-18-14-5474	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Outlays, gross:			
4010 Outlays from new discretionary authority	11	13	15
4011 Outlays from discretionary balances	55	55	57
4020 Outlays, gross (total)	66	68	72
4070 Budget authority, net (discretionary)	59	61	67
4080 Outlays, net (discretionary)	66	68	72
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	59	61	67
4190 Outlays, net (total)	66	68	72

Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	1	1	1
12.1 Civilian personnel benefits	1	1	1
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	62	66	70
99.9 Total new obligations	64	68	72

Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	14	14	15

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.

Applicable Statutes

The Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act of 1950, now referred to as the *Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act* (16 U.S.C. 777 et seq.), as amended by the Deficit Reduction and Control Act of 1984 (P.L. 98-369), the *Surface Transportation and Uniform Relocation Act of 1987* (P.L. 100-17), the *Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1987* (P.L. 100-448), the *Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century* (P.L. 105-178), the *Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000* (P.L. 106-408), the *Surface Transportation Act of 2003* (P.L. 108-88), SAFETEA-LU, and the *Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act* (P.L. 114-94), which expires in Fiscal Year 2021, authorizes assistance to the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands 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. The *Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act* (P.L. 114-94), authorizes funding for the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act through Fiscal Year 2021.

The Clean Vessel Act of 1992, (16 U.S.C. 777c), Section 5604, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide grants to the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands for the construction, renovation, operation, and maintenance of sewage pumpout stations and dump stations, as well as for educational programs designed to inform boaters about the importance of

proper disposal of their onboard sewage. Section 5604 also amended the *Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act* to provide for the transfer of funds out of the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund for use by the Secretary of Homeland Security (U.S. Coast Guard) to fund State recreational boating safety programs. The *Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act* (P.L. 114-94) authorizes funding for the Clean Vessel Act of 1992 through Fiscal Year 2021.

The Sportfishing and Boating Safety Act of 1998, (16 U.S.C. 777c-777g), authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to develop national outreach plans to promote safe fishing and boating, and to promote conservation of aquatic resources through grants and contracts with States and private entities. The Act contains provisions for transferring funds to the U.S. Coast Guard for State recreational boating safety programs. In addition, it authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide funds to the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands to construct, renovate, and maintain tie-up facilities with features for transient boaters in vessels 26 feet or more in length, and to produce and distribute information and educational materials under the Boating Infrastructure Grant program. The *Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act* (P.L. 114-94) authorizes funding for boating infrastructure improvement through Fiscal Year 2021.

The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000, (P.L. 106-408) amends the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act. It authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide funding under the Multistate Conservation Grant program for wildlife and sport fish restoration projects identified as priority projects by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. These high priority projects address problems affecting States on a regional or national basis. It also provides \$200,000 each to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, and the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission; and \$400,000 to the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council. The Act provides 12 allowable cost categories for administration of the Act, 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 Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, December 4, 2015 (P.L. 114-94) changes several sections of the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act. It amends Sections 3 and 4 of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 777b and 16 U.S.C. 777c), changing the funding distribution percentages, and extends funding authorizations for Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act, Boating Infrastructure Improvement (combining funding for the Clean Vessel Act of 1992 and the Boating Infrastructure Grants), and the National Outreach and Communications program through Fiscal Year 2021.

Appropriation: Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration

		2015 Actual	2016 Estimate	2017			Budget Request	Change from 2016 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
Payments to States	(\$000)	346,096	355,527	0	0	+2,026	357,553	+2,026
Administration	(\$000)	10,775	10,849	0	0	+808	11,657	+808
Boating Infrastructure Improvement	(\$000)	[0]	[24,738]	0	0	[+137]	[24,875]	[+137]
- Clean Vessel	(\$000)	12,144	12,369	0	0	+69	12,438	+69
- Boating Infrastructure Grant Program	(\$000)	12,144	12,369	0	0	+68	12,437	+68
National Outreach	(\$000)	12,144	12,369	0	0	+68	12,437	+68
Multistate Conservation Grant Program	(\$000)	2,997	3,015	0	0	+189	3,204	+189
Coastal Wetlands	(\$000)	16,849	17,311	0	0	+107	17,418	+107
Fishery Commissions	(\$000)	799	804	0	0	+50	854	+50
Sport Fishing & Boating Partnership Council	(\$000)	400	402	0	0	+25	427	+25
Subtotal	(\$000)	414,348	425,015	0	0	+3,410	428,425	+3,410
	FTE	60	53			+0	53	+0
North American Wetlands	(\$000)	16,849	17,311	0	0	+107	17,418	+107
	FTE	5	5	0	0	0	5	0
TOTAL, Sport Fish	(\$000)	431,197	442,326	0	0	+3,517	445,843	+3,517
	FTE	65	58			+0	58	+0

*The amount presented in 2015 and 2016 includes the sequestration in accordance with Sec. 251A of the BBDECA, 2 U.S.C 901a. In addition, the amounts in 2015, 2016 and 2017 include amounts previously sequestered, which are now available in accordance with said Act.

Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget estimate for the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act programs is \$445,843,000 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 65 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 Activities, Clean Vessel, Boating Infrastructure, Coastal Wetlands (including North American Wetlands), and National Outreach and Communications.

The Sport Fish Restoration grant program, widely recognized as one of the most successful conservation efforts in the world, 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 can participate in this

grant program through their respective fish and wildlife agencies. Since its inception in 1950, this program has awarded more than \$8.3 billion to State fish and wildlife agencies, allowing them to develop comprehensive fisheries conservation programs and increase public boating access.

The Sport Fish Restoration grant program is based on a formula apportionment that distributes program funds to States based on the number of licensed anglers in a State (60%) and its land and water area (40%). 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 Fiscal Year 2016 and 2017 Sport Fish Restoration apportionment to States.

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 program, which does not require a cost share. The core value of the program 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."

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 the grants, while 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 include 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 **Clean Vessel Act** 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. This program directly addresses the Secretary of the Interior's priority of assuring sustainable, secure water supplies. Table 2 provides the Fiscal Year 2015 Clean Vessel Act grant program awards.

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. Tables 3 and 4 provide the Fiscal Year 2015 Boating Infrastructure Grant awards. As a result of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act (P.L. 114-94), funding for the Clean Vessel Act and Boating Infrastructure Grants will be combined into one program, entitled Boating Infrastructure Improvement, for Fiscal Years 2016 through 2021.

The **National Coastal Wetlands Conservation** grant program provides grants to States 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 diversity of agencies and organizations concerned about natural resources, leveraging program funds for broad conservation benefits. Table 5 provides the Fiscal Year 2015 National 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. This 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. Table 6 provides the FY 2015 North American Wetlands Conservation Act 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), is the recipient of this nationally-competitive grant program.

2017 Program Performance

In FY 2017, the States will continue to conduct conservation projects, similar to those below, with funds provided from the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act:

- 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.



*Aquatic Education Program
“Creek Kids” in Alabama
Credit: Alabama Department of
Natural Resources*

Examples of the types of activities planned by State fish and wildlife agencies in Fiscal Year 2017 include:



*Fish Stocking Project
Credit: New Mexico Department of Game and
Fish*

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) will use its aquatic education grant to recruit, train, and retain a Volunteer Network of at least 500 volunteers. These volunteers will teach the Angler Education Program and assist at schools and community outreach events that will reach approximately 35,000 Texan anglers and potential anglers. TPWD provides resources for instructors and the general public, including a Tackle Loaner program.

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KYDFW) is developing the Lake Cumberland Tailwater into one of the best trout fisheries in the South. From April through November, they stock about 20,000 rainbow trout per month into the Tailwater. They also stock various strains of brown trout to evaluate stocking success and growth rate. In the Fall,

electrofishing sampling evaluates population levels. Recently, KYDFW purchased shoreline along the Tailwater to improve angler access to one of the best fishing areas. These Sport Fish Restoration efforts provide quality trout fishing to anglers from Kentucky and other States.

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources produces and stocks 500,000 fingerling and catchable size rainbow, brown, and brook trout per year in cold water rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds

across the state. As many as 50,000 trout anglers contribute approximately \$18 million to the state's economy as a result of trout angling in South Carolina.

In Massachusetts, a fishing pier is needed in Oak Bluffs on Martha's Vineyard - a recreational fishing hotspot. The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries and the Massachusetts Office for Boating and Fishing Access partnered with the Service's WSFR Region 5 (Northeast) Office to make the Oak Bluffs Recreational Fishing Pier a reality. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant sport fishing pier will extend 317 feet from the seawall into Nantucket Sound and include a 60 foot long section parallel to the shoreline. Sport Fish Restoration monies will allow us to complete a greatly needed, handicapped accessible, recreational fishing access pier in one of the state's top tourist destinations.

In Alaska, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) uses Sport Fish Restoration funds to contribute to Chinook salmon research across the state, including population assessments on rivers in Southeast Alaska. Chinook salmon management and research in Alaska focuses on spawning and juvenile abundance estimates. Spawning abundance has been estimated in several indicator stocks in Southeast Alaska since the early 1970s and estimates of juvenile abundance first began in the early 1990s. Combined, these programs produce estimates of marine survival, total harvest, harvest rate, and total run which facilitate abundance-based management as dictated through the Pacific Salmon Treaty.



*Inside a Fish Hatchery
Credit: Wisconsin Department of
Natural Resources*

Also in Alaska, the William Jack Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery sits on three acres and replaces the ADF&G's Elmendorf and Ft. Richardson hatcheries. At full capacity, it will increase historic stocking levels by 50 percent. All rearing tanks at this facility are located indoors. Hatchery programs include coho and Chinook salmon smolt, Chinook salmon catchables, rainbow trout catchables, Arctic char catchables, grayling and lake trout in addition to rainbow and Arctic char brood stock. Fish produced at this hatchery will be stocked in over 200 locations, contributing to a large number of fisheries throughout the state and annually provide approximately 400,000 angler days of fishing time for residents and visitors to the state.

Sport Fish Restoration - Program Change and Overview Table

Performance Goal	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Target	2017 PB	Change from 2016 Target to 2017 PB
15.8.13 - # of resident and nonresident fishing license holders	29,323,585	28,000,000	27,947,923	29,323,585	28,000,000	28,000,000	0

Table 1

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE		
ESTIMATED APPORTIONMENT OF DINGELL-JOHNSON		
SPORT FISH RESTORATION FUNDS		
STATE	FY2016	FY2017
ALABAMA	\$6,321,126	\$6,357,137
ALASKA	17,776,362	17,877,633
AMERICAN SAMOA	1,185,091	1,191,842
ARIZONA	6,987,791	7,027,600
ARKANSAS	5,515,448	5,546,870
CALIFORNIA	17,776,362	17,877,633
COLORADO	8,515,632	8,564,145
CONNECTICUT	3,555,272	3,575,526
DELAWARE	3,555,272	3,575,526
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	1,185,091	1,191,842
FLORIDA	11,705,885	11,772,573
GEORGIA	6,629,751	6,667,526
GUAM	1,185,091	1,191,842
HAWAII	3,555,272	3,575,526
IDAHO	6,249,025	6,284,625
ILLINOIS	6,964,922	7,004,601
INDIANA	4,521,758	4,547,518
IOWA	4,677,638	4,704,286
KANSAS	5,058,533	5,087,359
KENTUCKY	5,406,019	5,436,817
LOUISIANA	6,853,454	6,892,498
MAINE	3,555,272	3,575,526
MARYLAND	3,555,272	3,575,526
MASSACHUSETTS	3,555,272	3,575,526
MICHIGAN	11,298,685	11,363,054
MINNESOTA	13,298,385	13,374,145
MISSISSIPPI	4,191,038	4,214,914
MISSOURI	8,161,858	8,208,355
MONTANA	8,456,506	8,504,682
N. MARIANA ISLANDS	1,185,091	1,191,842
NEBRASKA	4,534,672	4,560,506
NEVADA	5,154,361	5,183,725
NEW HAMPSHIRE	3,555,272	3,575,526
NEW JERSEY	3,555,272	3,575,526
NEW MEXICO	6,166,115	6,201,247
NEW YORK	8,273,041	8,320,172
NORTH CAROLINA	10,247,239	10,305,617
NORTH DAKOTA	4,191,719	4,215,598
OHIO	7,092,172	7,132,576
OKLAHOMA	7,238,458	7,279,695
OREGON	7,964,705	8,010,080
PENNSYLVANIA	8,664,489	8,713,850
PUERTO RICO	3,555,272	3,575,526
RHODE ISLAND	3,555,272	3,575,526
SOUTH CAROLINA	5,018,098	5,046,685
SOUTH DAKOTA	4,522,245	4,548,008
TENNESSEE	7,762,911	7,807,136
TEXAS	17,776,362	17,877,633
UTAH	6,466,216	6,503,053
VERMONT	3,555,272	3,575,526
VIRGIN ISLANDS	1,185,091	1,191,842
VIRGINIA	5,097,682	5,126,728
WASHINGTON	7,133,865	7,174,506
WEST VIRGINIA	3,555,272	3,575,526
WISCONSIN	11,898,597	11,966,382
WYOMING	5,369,393	5,399,989
TOTAL	\$355,527,237	\$357,552,679

Table 2

FY 2015 Clean Vessel Act Grant Program Awards

State	Coastal/ Inland	Federal Share
Alabama	Coastal	\$159,304
Alabama	Inland	\$57,186
Alaska	Coastal	\$241,062
Arkansas	Inland	\$1,046,052
Connecticut	Coastal	\$1,382,143
Connecticut	Inland	\$95,120
Florida	Coastal	\$1,491,220
Florida	Inland	\$797,840
Georgia	Inland	\$55,028
Hawaii	Coastal	\$664,907
Illinois	Inland	\$56,414
Indiana	Coastal	\$62,125
Indiana	Inland	\$248,095
Kentucky	Inland	\$71,868
Maine	Coastal	\$355,930
Maryland	Coastal	\$900,450
Massachusetts	Coastal	\$1,167,246
Michigan	Coastal	\$157,959
Missouri	Inland	\$50,000
Nevada	Inland	\$170,088
New Hampshire	Coastal	\$152,146
New Hampshire	Inland	\$44,223
New Jersey	Coastal	\$891,129
New York	Coastal	\$944,597
New York	Inland	\$152,850
North Carolina	Coastal	\$116,001
North Carolina	Inland	\$47,388
Pennsylvania	Coastal	\$44,334
Pennsylvania	Inland	\$123,486
Rhode Island	Coastal	\$270,385
South Carolina	Coastal	\$948,671
South Carolina	Inland	\$360,361
South Dakota	Inland	\$9,000
South Dakota	Inland	\$9,750
Tennessee	Inland	\$760,179
Vermont	Inland	\$100,407
Washington	Coastal	\$1,500,000
Washington	Inland	\$525,000
	Total	\$16,229,944

Table 3

FY 2015 Boating Infrastructure Grant Program – Tier 1 Awards

State	Federal Share
Arizona	\$100,000
Colorado	\$100,000
Florida	\$73,597
Georgia	\$100,000
Hawaii	\$100,000
Indiana	\$100,000
Maine	\$100,000
Maryland	\$100,000
Michigan	\$100,000
Mississippi	\$100,000
Missouri	\$100,000
New Jersey	\$99,870
North Carolina	\$32,000
Ohio	\$100,000
Oregon	\$100,000
Pennsylvania	\$100,000
Rhode Island	\$100,000
South Carolina	\$63,921
Vermont	\$100,000
Virginia	\$99,648
Washington	\$100,000
Wisconsin	\$100,000
Total	\$2,069,036

Table 4

FY 2015 Boating Infrastructure Grant Program – Tier 2 Awards

State	Project Title	Federal Share
Florida	Fort Pierce City Marina Dinghy Dock	\$190,688
Florida	Harbor View Marina Transient Slips	\$220,120
Florida	St. Petersburg Municipal Marina	\$632,000
Kentucky	City of Owensboro Boating Facility	\$1,500,000
Maine	58 Fore Street Marina Redevelopment	\$1,500,000
Massachusetts	Newburyport Visiting Boater Project	\$448,059
Massachusetts	Reed Park Infrastructure Improvement	\$360,222
Massachusetts	Solomon Jacob's Park Access	\$263,930
New Jersey	City of Somers Point	\$1,448,499
New Jersey	Sheltered Cove Marina	\$113,253
South Carolina	Bohicket Marina Expansion	\$833,120
South Carolina	City of Beaufort Day Dock	\$168,000
South Carolina	Port Royal Landing Marina	\$324,109
Tennessee	Whitman Hollow Marina	\$350,000
Texas	Pelican Rest Marina	\$1,189,440
Virginia	Gray's Creek Marina Transient Slips	\$1,392,985
Washington	City of Port Angeles Transient Moorings	\$268,575
Washington	City of Port Townsend Point Hudson Jetty (partial)	\$1,229,214
	Total	\$12,432,214

Table 5

FY 2015 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program Awards

State	Project Title	Federal Share
California	Cullinan Ranch Restoration Project Phase 2	\$399,000
California	Elkhorn Slough Tidal Marsh Restoration	\$1,000,000
California	Wood Creek Restoration Project	\$423,800
Delaware	Thousand Acre Marsh Wetland Protection	\$731,399
Florida	Apalachicola Bay/St. George Sound	\$778,110
Georgia	Altama Plantation Acquisition Phase 2	\$1,000,000
Georgia	Musgrove Plantation Acquisition Phase 1	\$1,000,000
Hawaii	Puaahala Acquisition	\$1,000,000
Maine	The Little Yarmouth Island Project	\$220,000
Maine	Weskeag River Wetlands Conservation	\$450,000
Massachusetts	The Tidmarsh Farms Restoration Project	\$790,290
Michigan	Pt. Abbaye-Huron Bay Wetlands Acquisition	\$1,000,000
New Jersey	Padgetts Creek Project	\$900,000
Oregon	Beltz Farm Acquisition	\$970,500
Oregon	China Camp Creek Project	\$1,000,000
Oregon	Kilchis Wetlands Conservation	\$1,000,000
Oregon	Scholfield Creek Wetlands Conservation	\$630,577
South Carolina	Baxter Tract Acquisition	\$850,669
Virginia	Ware Creek Wetland Protection	\$1,000,000
Virginia	York River Wetland Protection	\$1,000,000
Washington	Fir Island Farm Estuary Restoration	\$1,000,000
Washington	Kilisut Harbor Restoration	\$1,000,000
Washington	Long Beach Peninsula	\$914,375
Washington	Tarboo-Dabob Phase 4	\$1,000,000
Washington	Waterman Coastal Wetlands	\$1,000,000
	Total	\$21,058,720

Table 6

FY 2015 North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grant Awards

State	PROJECT	Amount
California	SF Bay Multi-Habitat Enhancement Project	\$500,000
California	Suisun Marsh Wetland Enhancement Project	\$998,400
Georgia	Flint River WMA Wetland Project	\$75,000
Indiana	Northeast Morainal Wetlands	\$1,000,000
Louisiana	Freshwater Bayou	\$800,000
Massachusetts	Great Marsh II	\$720,034
Massachusetts	Lower Angeline Brook	\$75,000
Maine	Gardiner Pond Wetlands Project	\$75,000
Maine	Knight's Pond & Blueberry Hill	\$75,000
Maine	Sheep Island in Pleasant Bay	\$75,000
Maine	Woodward Cove Wetlands Project	\$68,000
Michigan	Southeastern Lake Michigan Coastal Habitat Project II	\$1,000,000
North Carolina	Albermarle - Chowan - Currituck Wetlands Conservation Initiative	\$1,000,000
North Carolina	Northeast Cape Fear River Corridor	\$1,000,000
New Jersey	Southeast New Jersey Coastal Initiative II	\$1,000,000
New York	Cranberry Creek - St. Lawrence River / Thousand Islands	\$75,000
New York	Lake Ontario Watershed II	\$990,012
New York	St. Lawrence River / Thousands Islands	\$1,000,000
Ohio	Austinburg Lowlands	\$75,000
South Carolina	Coastal SC Wetlands Partnership	\$1,000,000
South Carolina	Coastal SC Wetlands Partnership III	\$1,000,000
South Carolina	Lowcountry Protection I	\$1,000,000
South Carolina	SC Coastal Refuges Partnership II	\$1,000,000
South Carolina	South Carolina Lowcountry Wetlands VI	\$1,000,000
South Carolina	South Carolina Wetlands Landscape III	\$1,000,000
Texas	Gulf Coast Mottled Duck Conservation Plan - Phase 10	\$61,000
Texas	Gulf Coast Mottled Duck Conservation Plan - Phase 8	\$75,000
Texas	Gulf Coast Mottled Duck Conservation Plan - Phase 9	\$64,000
Texas	Jefferson County Wetlands Improvement Project	\$1,000,000
Texas	Texas Gulf Coast XII	\$997,766
Texas	Texas Water Delivery I	\$999,396
Wisconsin	Bergstrom Waterfowl Complex	\$75,000
Wisconsin	Priority Area Restoration I	\$33,000
	Grants	\$19,906,608
	Administration (4% of \$20,702,872)	\$796,264
	Total	\$20,702,872

Standard Form 300 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE SPORTFISH RESTORATION			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2015	2016	2017
Identification Code 010-18-14-8151	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Combined Schedule (X)			
Obligations by program activity:			
0001 Payments to States for sport fish restoration	387	396	398
0003 North American wetlands conservation grants	21	20	20
0004 Coastal wetlands conservation grants	20	19	19
0005 Clean Vessel Act- pumpout stations grants	18	0	0
0006 Administration	12	11	11
0007 National communication & outreach	12	12	12
0008 Non-trailerable recreational vessel access	16	0	0
0009 Multi-State conservation activities	3	3	3
0010 Marine Fisheries Commissions & Boating Council	1	1	1
0011 Boating Infrastructure Improvement	0	30	30
0900 Total new obligations	490	492	494
Budgetary resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	200	187	183
1021 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	46	45	45
1050 Unobligated balance (total)	246	232	228
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, mandatory:			
1201 Appropriation (special or trust fund)	611	635	600
1203 Appropriation (previously unavailable)	30	32	30
1220 Appropriations transferred to other accts [096-8333]	-73	-80	-76
1220 Appropriations transferred to other accts [070-8149]	-105	-114	-108
1232 Appropriations and/or unobligated balance of appropriations temporarily reduced	-32	-30	0
1260 Appropriations, mandatory (total)	431	443	446
1930 Total budgetary resources available	677	675	674
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	187	183	180
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	504	522	539
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	490	492	494
3020 Outlays (gross)	-426	-430	-444
3040 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations, unexpired	-46	-45	-45
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	522	539	544
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	504	522	539
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	522	539	544

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE SPORTFISH RESTORATION			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2015	2016	2017
Identification Code 010-18-14-8151	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
<u>Budget authority and outlays, net:</u>			
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	431	443	446
Outlays, gross:			
4100 Outlays from new mandatory authority	129	142	134
4101 Outlays from mandatory balances	297	288	310
4110 Outlays, gross (total)	426	430	444
4160 Budget authority, net (mandatory)	431	443	446
4170 Outlays, net (mandatory)	426	430	444
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	431	443	446
4190 Outlays, net (total)	426	430	444

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	3	3	3
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	477	479	481
99.9 Total new obligations	490	492	494

Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	65	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.

Applicable 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. Public Law 114-113 amended 16 U.S.C. 669b(b)(2)(C) to extend this authority through 2026.

Appropriation: Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration

		2015 Actual	2016 Estimate	2017			Budget Request	Change from 2016 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Trans- fers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
Payments to States	(\$000)	800,495	698,845	0	0	-12,051	686,794	-12,051
Hunter Education & Safety Grants	(\$000)	7,992	8,040	0	0	+504	8,544	+504
Multistate Conservation Grants	(\$000)	2,997	3,015	0	0	+189	3,204	+189
Administration	(\$000)	10,775	10,849	0	0	+808	11,657	+808
Subtotal (\$000)	(\$000)	822,259	720,749	0	0	-10,550	710,199	-10,550
	<i>FTE</i>	48	52	0	0	+0	52	+0
Interest – NAWCF	(\$000)	673	4,139	0	0	+1,091	5,230	+1,091
	<i>FTE</i>	1	5	0	0	0	5	0
TOTAL, Pittman- Robertson Wildlife Restoration	(\$000)	822,932	724,888	0	0	-9,459	715,429	-9,459
	<i>FTE</i>	49	57	0	0	+0	57	+0

*The amount presented in 2015 and 2016 includes the sequestration in accordance with Sec. 251A of the BBDECA, 2 U.S.C 901a. In addition, the amounts in 2015, 2016 and 2017 include amounts previously sequestered, which are now available in accordance with said Act.

Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget estimate for the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration program is \$715,429,000 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 accompanying 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.

Since 1937, the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Program has contributed over \$9 billion to:

- Restore, conserve, manage, and enhance wild bird and mammal populations;
- Acquire and manage wildlife habitats;
- Provide public uses that benefit from wildlife resources;
- Educate hunters on conservation ethics and safety; and
- Construct, operate, and manage recreational firearm shooting and archery ranges.

The program is among the oldest and most successful wildlife conservation efforts in the U.S. and, perhaps, the world. It is also an important part of American heritage of which our partners, including sportsmen and women, industry partners, and State fish and wildlife agencies, as well as the Service, are immensely proud.

The Wildlife Restoration program has been a stable funding source for wildlife conservation efforts for 78 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 more than five million acres of land with these Federal funds through fee-simple acquisitions, leases, and easements. States also 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. Through the years, 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 other species of birds.

Since the late 1930s, States have acquired or leased over 5 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.

The program also supports State Hunter Education Programs that teach the skills necessary for safe and responsible hunting and recreational shooting. In FY 2017, the Service anticipates over \$100 million will be 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 have had over 3.9 million students participating in live-fire exercises over a span of 46 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.

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 2017, \$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.

Since the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration program began, the program has collected more than \$9.2 billion in manufacturers' excise taxes and awarded these to States for wildlife conservation efforts. States have provided their required match of over \$2.3 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,

ruffed grouse, peregrine falcons, elk, sea otters, caribou, prairie dogs, black bears and other wildlife 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 United States Treasury and deposited in the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Account (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 United States 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 2016 and FY 2017 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.

2017 Program Performance

For 78 years, the Wildlife Restoration program has provided a stable Federal funding source for State fish and wildlife agencies to support game species conservation and associated recreation. This funding stability is critical to the recovery of many of the Nation's wildlife species. Examples of the types of activities planned by State fish and wildlife agencies in FY 2017 include:

Kansas's Hillsdale State Park is located in the most populous area of the State. Although demand for a safe place for recreational shooting is high, opportunities to shoot are limited. The population of Miami County (where the park is located) is 28,904, but the population of Johnson County (adjacent to the park) is almost 2,000,000. Approximately 600,000 people visited Hillsdale State Park last year. The location of the park provides access to both urban and rural hunters and recreational shooters. The facility also hosts hunter education classes throughout the year, and allows students to participate in live fire experience.



*Hillsdale State Park
Credit: USFWS*

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources, in partnership with Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department, is completing construction of the Koteewi Park Archery Range. The facility includes beginner archery ranges with 10-25 yard targets, advanced archer ranges with up to 90 meter targets, practice shooter ranges, and a 3-D target shooting trail. The facility provides a safe environment to learn about archery, shooting sports, and bow hunting and serves the local, regional, and national communities.

This is one example of many ranges throughout the country that have been constructed with Wildlife Restoration funds.

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) is renovating 11 Wildlife Management Areas to benefit waterfowl. In addition to replacing and upgrading pumps and pipeline for increased water management ability, AGFC is also establishing three new moist-soil units and expanding or renovating at least 20 more. More than 1,300 acres of waterfowl habitat will be created or improved and the ability to control water levels greatly enhanced on thousands of additional acres.

In Kentucky, a Hunter Education grant certifies educators and others to teach archery and safety skills to students in grades 4 through 12. More than 550 schools conduct archery programs during regular school hours with 105,398 students. The National Archery in the Schools Program trains 555 new archery instructors in 64 Basic Archery Instructor training classes, including agency staff at three Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife conservation camps.

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) is studying urban black bears near Asheville. In the first phase of the project, the objectives focus on determination of mortality/survival, movements, and corridors likely used by bears in urban/suburban habitats. Bears are captured, collared, and released for subsequent monitoring of movement patterns. This project is a partnership between the NCWRC and North Carolina State University, with cooperation of local Asheville residents. When completed, the studies will provide information for science-based management decisions related to black bears in urban areas and associated human-bear interactions.



Black bears

Credit: LeAnne Bonner, USFWS

Since 2009, Alaska Department of Fish and Game has funded innovative research to address recent declines in Dall sheep populations through a project on ewe Dall sheep survival, pregnancy and parturition rates, and lamb recruitment in the Chugach Mountains. Dall sheep are one of the most recognized and highly valued wildlife species in Alaska, and provide important sport and subsistence hunting and non-consumptive viewing opportunities that contribute to Alaska's economy. The Chugach Mountains overlook Anchorage, and sheep in these mountains are of great importance to the State's largest population center. This project is the first systematic attempt to investigate the factors influencing Dall sheep populations in Southcentral Alaska, and attempt to quantify the relative impacts of predation, disease, habitat and nutrition, and weather on the Chugach sheep. Key findings will inform management and future assessments of this iconic and valuable resource. During the next three years, and in partnership with Alaska Pacific University, researchers will investigate how warmer and wetter winters and changing climate may be affecting sheep habitat.



Dall sheep

Credit: USFWS

Wildlife Restoration - Performance Change and Overview Table

Performance Goal	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Target	2017 PB	Change from 2016 Target to 2017 PB
4.5.6 - # of Acres of terrestrial habitat acquired and protected through fee title (GPRA)	70,917	14,682	34,419	57,068	38,825	45,500	6,675
Comments:							
15.8.14 - # of resident and nonresident hunting license holders	14,960,522	14,629,726	14,631,327	14,960,522	14,000,000	14,000,000	0
15.8.19 - # of shooting ranges constructed, renovated, or maintained that support recreational shooting.	342	411	409	434	327	350	23
15.8.20 - # of certified students that completed a Hunter Education program.	810,306	875,239	637,231	709,843	664,342	650,000	-14,342
Comments:							

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE				
ESTIMATED APPORTIONMENT OF PITTMAN-ROBERTSON				
WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016				
STATE	Wildlife	Hunter Education		Total
	Restoration	Section 4(c)	Enhanced	
ALABAMA	\$13,977,398	\$2,780,903	\$182,462	\$16,940,763
ALASKA	\$28,815,351	\$1,225,379	\$80,400	\$30,121,130
AMERICAN SAMOA	\$960,512	\$204,230	\$13,400	\$1,178,142
ARIZONA	\$13,948,445	\$3,676,135	\$241,200	\$17,865,780
ARKANSAS	\$10,788,405	\$1,225,379	\$80,400	\$12,094,184
CALIFORNIA	\$19,502,053	\$3,676,135	\$241,200	\$23,419,388
COLORADO	\$14,543,662	\$2,926,041	\$191,984	\$17,661,687
CONNECTICUT	\$2,881,535	\$2,079,449	\$136,438	\$5,097,422
DELAWARE	\$2,881,535	\$1,225,379	\$80,400	\$4,187,314
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FLORIDA	\$8,533,877	\$3,676,135	\$241,200	\$12,451,212
GEORGIA	\$12,561,370	\$3,676,135	\$241,200	\$16,478,705
GUAM	\$960,512	\$204,230	\$13,400	\$1,178,142
HAWAII	\$2,881,535	\$1,225,379	\$80,400	\$4,187,314
IDAHO	\$12,277,326	\$1,225,379	\$80,400	\$13,583,105
ILLINOIS	\$10,964,401	\$3,676,135	\$241,200	\$14,881,736
INDIANA	\$8,367,233	\$3,676,135	\$241,200	\$12,284,568
IOWA	\$9,105,346	\$1,225,379	\$80,400	\$10,411,125
KANSAS	\$11,808,564	\$1,225,379	\$80,400	\$13,114,343
KENTUCKY	\$9,896,115	\$2,524,691	\$165,651	\$12,586,457
LOUISIANA	\$11,090,589	\$2,637,566	\$173,057	\$13,901,212
MAINE	\$6,027,198	\$1,225,379	\$80,400	\$7,332,977
MARYLAND	\$3,219,090	\$3,359,116	\$220,400	\$6,798,606
MASSACHUSETTS	\$2,881,535	\$3,676,135	\$241,200	\$6,798,870
MICHIGAN	\$19,297,221	\$3,676,135	\$241,200	\$23,214,556
MINNESOTA	\$18,469,144	\$3,085,882	\$202,472	\$21,757,498
MISSISSIPPI	\$8,301,562	\$1,225,379	\$80,400	\$9,607,341
MISSOURI	\$15,392,631	\$3,484,423	\$228,621	\$19,105,675
MONTANA	\$17,464,419	\$1,225,378	\$80,400	\$18,770,197
N. MARIANA ISLANDS	\$960,512	\$204,230	\$13,400	\$1,178,142
NEBRASKA	\$10,195,033	\$1,225,378	\$80,400	\$11,500,811
NEVADA	\$11,173,653	\$1,225,378	\$80,400	\$12,479,431
NEW HAMPSHIRE	\$2,881,535	\$1,225,378	\$80,400	\$4,187,313
NEW JERSEY	\$2,881,535	\$3,676,135	\$241,200	\$6,798,870
NEW MEXICO	\$12,744,821	\$1,225,378	\$80,400	\$14,050,599
NEW YORK	\$14,256,637	\$3,676,135	\$241,200	\$18,173,972
NORTH CAROLINA	\$14,744,674	\$3,676,135	\$241,200	\$18,662,009
NORTH DAKOTA	\$9,103,824	\$1,225,378	\$80,400	\$10,409,602
OHIO	\$11,154,045	\$3,676,135	\$241,200	\$15,071,380
OKLAHOMA	\$13,995,580	\$2,182,577	\$143,204	\$16,321,361
OREGON	\$13,594,626	\$2,228,961	\$146,247	\$15,969,834
PENNSYLVANIA	\$21,868,537	\$3,676,135	\$241,200	\$25,785,872
PUERTO RICO	\$2,881,535	\$204,230	\$13,400	\$3,099,165
RHODE ISLAND	\$2,881,535	\$1,225,378	\$80,400	\$4,187,313
SOUTH CAROLINA	\$6,590,948	\$2,691,088	\$176,569	\$9,458,605
SOUTH DAKOTA	\$11,431,994	\$1,225,378	\$80,400	\$12,737,772
TENNESSEE	\$17,137,775	\$3,676,135	\$241,200	\$21,055,110
TEXAS	\$28,815,351	\$3,676,135	\$241,200	\$32,732,686
UTAH	\$11,457,764	\$1,225,378	\$80,400	\$12,763,542
VERMONT	\$2,881,535	\$1,225,378	\$80,400	\$4,187,313
VIRGIN ISLANDS	\$960,512	\$204,230	\$13,400	\$1,178,142
VIRGINIA	\$8,734,858	\$3,676,135	\$241,200	\$12,652,193
WASHINGTON	\$9,456,653	\$3,676,135	\$241,200	\$13,373,988
WEST VIRGINIA	\$6,234,563	\$1,225,378	\$80,400	\$7,540,341
WISCONSIN	\$18,218,929	\$3,308,751	\$217,095	\$21,744,775
WYOMING	\$11,269,501	\$1,225,378	\$80,400	\$12,575,279
TOTAL	\$576,307,029	\$122,537,840	\$8,040,000	\$706,884,869

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE				
ESTIMATED APPORTIONMENT OF PITTMAN-ROBERTSON				
WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017				
	Wildlife	Hunter Education		
STATE	Restoration	Section 4(c)	Enhanced	Total
ALABAMA	13,825,368	2,649,663	193,900	16,668,931
ALASKA	28,501,932	1,167,549	85,440	29,754,921
AMERICAN SAMOA	950,064	194,591	14,240	1,158,895
ARIZONA	13,796,730	3,502,647	256,320	17,555,697
ARKANSAS	10,671,061	1,167,549	85,440	11,924,050
CALIFORNIA	19,289,932	3,502,647	256,320	23,048,899
COLORADO	14,385,473	2,787,952	204,020	17,377,445
CONNECTICUT	2,850,193	1,981,313	144,990	4,976,496
DELAWARE	2,850,193	1,167,549	85,440	4,103,182
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	0	0	0	0
FLORIDA	8,441,055	3,502,647	256,320	12,200,022
GEORGIA	12,424,742	3,502,647	256,320	16,183,709
GUAM	950,064	194,591	14,240	1,158,895
HAWAII	2,850,193	1,167,549	85,440	4,103,182
IDAHO	12,143,788	1,167,549	85,440	13,396,777
ILLINOIS	10,845,148	3,502,647	256,320	14,604,115
INDIANA	8,276,224	3,502,647	256,320	12,035,191
IOWA	9,006,308	1,167,549	85,440	10,259,297
KANSAS	11,680,127	1,167,549	85,440	12,933,116
KENTUCKY	9,788,477	2,405,543	176,035	12,370,055
LOUISIANA	10,969,958	2,513,092	183,905	13,666,955
MAINE	5,961,640	1,167,549	85,440	7,214,629
MARYLAND	3,184,076	3,200,588	234,216	6,618,880
MASSACHUSETTS	2,850,193	3,502,647	256,320	6,609,160
MICHIGAN	19,087,328	3,502,647	256,320	22,846,295
MINNESOTA	18,268,258	2,940,249	215,164	21,423,671
MISSISSIPPI	8,211,267	1,167,549	85,440	9,464,256
MISSOURI	15,225,207	3,319,982	242,953	18,788,142
MONTANA	17,274,462	1,167,549	85,440	18,527,451
N. MARIANA ISLANDS	950,064	194,591	14,240	1,158,895
NEBRASKA	10,084,143	1,167,549	85,440	11,337,132
NEVADA	11,052,119	1,167,549	85,440	12,305,108
NEW HAMPSHIRE	2,850,193	1,167,549	85,440	4,103,182
NEW JERSEY	2,850,193	3,502,647	256,320	6,609,160
NEW MEXICO	12,606,198	1,167,549	85,440	13,859,187
NEW YORK	14,101,569	3,502,647	256,320	17,860,536
NORTH CAROLINA	14,584,298	3,502,647	256,320	18,343,265
NORTH DAKOTA	9,004,803	1,167,549	85,440	10,257,792
OHIO	11,032,724	3,502,647	256,320	14,791,691
OKLAHOMA	13,843,358	2,079,574	152,181	16,075,113
OREGON	13,446,759	2,123,769	155,415	15,725,943
PENNSYLVANIA	21,630,677	3,502,647	256,320	25,389,644
PUERTO RICO	2,850,193	194,591	14,240	3,059,024
RHODE ISLAND	2,850,193	1,167,549	85,440	4,103,182
SOUTH CAROLINA	6,519,259	2,564,089	187,637	9,270,985
SOUTH DAKOTA	11,307,650	1,167,549	85,440	12,560,639
TENNESSEE	16,951,370	3,502,647	256,320	20,710,337
TEXAS	28,501,932	3,502,647	256,320	32,260,899
UTAH	11,333,139	1,167,549	85,440	12,586,128
VERMONT	2,850,193	1,167,549	85,440	4,103,182
VIRGIN ISLANDS	950,064	194,591	14,240	1,158,895
VIRGINIA	8,639,850	3,502,647	256,320	12,398,817
WASHINGTON	9,353,795	3,502,647	256,320	13,112,762
WEST VIRGINIA	6,166,751	1,167,549	85,440	7,419,740
WISCONSIN	18,020,764	3,152,605	230,704	21,404,073
WYOMING	11,146,929	1,167,549	85,440	12,399,918
TOTAL	570,038,641	116,754,902	8,544,000	695,337,543

Standard Form 300				
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION				
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)		2015	2016	2017
Identification Code	010-18-14-5029	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Special and Trust Receipts (N)				
0100	Balance, start of year	883	769	710
Receipts				
1110	Excise Taxes, Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Fund [010-00-502930-0-000000]	709	662	620
1140	Earnings on Investments, Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Fund [010-00-502920-0-200403]	0	4	5
1999	Total receipts	709	666	625
2000	Total: Balances and receipts	1,592	1,435	1,335
Appropriations				
2101	Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration [010-18-5029-0-1201]	-824	-713	-667
2103	Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration [010-18-5029-0-1203]	-59	-60	-48
2132	Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration [010-18-5029-0-1202]	60	48	0
2999	Total appropriations	-823	-725	-715
5099	Balance, end of year	769	710	620

Combined Schedule (X)				
Obligations by program activity:				
0003	Multi-state conservation grant program	2	3	3
0004	Administration	10	11	11
0005	Wildlife restoration grants	774	758	749
0006	NAWCF (interest used for grants)	6	1	4
0007	Section 10 hunter education	8	8	8
0900	Total new obligations	800	781	775
Budgetary resources:				
Unobligated balance:				
1000	Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	361	427	406
1021	Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	43	35	35
1050	Unobligated balance (total)	404	462	441
Budget authority:				
Appropriations, mandatory:				
1201	Appropriation (special or trust fund)	824	713	667
1203	Appropriation (previously unavailable)	59	60	48
1232	Appropriations and/or unobligated balance of appropriations temporarily reduced	-60	-48	0
1260	Appropriations, mandatory (total)	823	725	715
1930	Total budgetary resources available	1,227	1,187	1,156
Memorandum (non-add) entries:				
1941	Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	427	406	381

Standard Form 300 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) Identification Code	2015 Actual	2016 Estimate	2017 Estimate
010-18-14-5029			
<u>Change in obligated balance:</u>			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	627	798	944
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	800	781	775
3020 Outlays (gross)	-586	-600	-632
3040 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations, unexpired	-43	-35	-35
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	798	944	1,052
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	627	798	944
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	798	944	1,052
<u>Budget authority and outlays, net:</u>			
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	823	725	715
Outlays, gross:			
4100 Outlays from new mandatory authority	164	193	179
4101 Outlays from mandatory balances	422	407	453
4110 Outlays, gross (total)	586	600	632
4160 Budget authority, net (mandatory)	823	725	715
4170 Outlays, net (mandatory)	586	600	632
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	823	725	715
4190 Outlays, net (total)	586	600	632
<u>Memorandum (non-add) entries:</u>			
5000 Total investments, SOY: Federal securities: Par value	1,114	1,880	1,954
5001 Total investments, EOY: Federal securities: Par value	1,880	1,954	1,990

Object Classification (O)			
<u>Direct obligations:</u>			
11.1 Full-time permanent	5	5	5
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	3	3	3
32.0 Land and structures	1	1	1
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	788	769	763
99.9 Total new obligations	800	781	775

Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	49	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 provide the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission and the Secretary of the Interior limited authority to increase the price of the Federal Duck Stamp to keep up with the price of inflation.

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 2014 amendment to the Act (PL 113-264) increased the price of Federal Duck Stamps from \$15 to \$25, with the \$10 increase to be dedicated to the acquisition of conservation easements for conservation of migratory birds.

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; and (2) removal of the repayment provision of the wetlands loan.

Appropriation: Migratory Bird Conservation Account

	2015 Actual	2016 Estimate	2017				Change from 2016 (+/-)
			Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Land Acquisition: Fee, Easements, and Leases (\$000)	61,928	69,399			+5,038	74,437	+5,038
U.S. Postal Service Duck Stamp Printing and Sales Costs (\$000)	625	750	0	0	0	750	0
Total, Migratory Bird Conservation Account (\$000) <i>FTE</i>	62,553 69	70,149 74	0 0	0 0	+5,038 0	75,187 74	+5,038 0

*The amount presented in 2015 and 2016 includes the sequestration in accordance with Sec. 251A of the BBDECA, 2 U.S.C 901a. In addition, the amounts in 2015, 2016 and 2017 include amounts previously sequestered, which are now available in accordance with said Act.

Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget estimate for the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund is \$75,187,000 and 74 FTE.

Legislative Proposal

Concurrent with this budget request, the Service is proposing to amend the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act to allow for limited authority for the Secretary of the Interior—with approval from the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission—to increase the price of the Federal Duck Stamp to keep pace with inflation. This language is intended to provide stability to the purchasing power of the Federal Duck Stamp. The last increase approved by Congress in 2014 came nearly 25 years since the previous price increase. During that time, the costs of land rose significantly and caused serious erosion of the purchasing power of the Duck Stamp, which has substantially constrained the Service from addressing a crisis in the prairie pothole region, where important breeding and resting habitat in the Nation’s “duck factory” is being converted to crop land at a fast pace.

The authority requested through this legislative proposal would build stability into the Duck Stamp’s purchasing power by allowing periodic price increases based on inflation, but capped at \$10. The process would require the Secretary to propose an increase justified on increased land costs to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (MBCC), which includes bipartisan members from both the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives. If the MBCC unanimously approved the proposed increase, the Secretary would publish notice of the proposed increase in the Federal Register and solicit public comment. The final increase could not exceed the proposed increase approved by the MBCC.

Program Overview

The Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (MBCF) allows the Service to acquire important waterfowl habitat. The Service pursues MBCF acquisition of lands, waters, or interests in land or water, including fee title, easements, and leases, from willing sellers, when necessary to prevent the loss of important waterfowl habitat. We leverage the best waterfowl science available, and the expertise of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) community, including Migratory Bird Joint Venture (JV) step-down plans, Migratory Bird Program and JV staff expert opinion, and input from State wildlife agencies, to identify important areas to acquire. Areas acquired become units of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and provide compatible wildlife-dependent educational and recreational opportunities that contribute to NAWMP goals as well as the Secretary’s Youth Initiative that encourages young people to play, learn, serve, and work in the outdoors.

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 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 interest in land or 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
- meets 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 cost savings or operations 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 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, and can support upwards of 200 breeding ducks per square mile. The NAWMP identified the PPR as the continent's top priority for waterfowl conservation. The accelerated conversion of waterfowl habitat to cropland in the PPR continues to spur the need for conservation and acquisition efforts to protect more waterfowl production areas (WPAs). In 2017, the Service and its partners will continue working with the MBCC to expend at least 70 percent of currently available MBCF funding in the PPR to help secure the future for waterfowl and grassland bird species. In 2015, the Service acquired 41,000 acres of WPAs, including 169 fee acres and 41,194 easement acres, for \$42 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 2015, the Migratory Bird land acquisition program has received more than \$1.3 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 2.6 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, and
- Payments from rights-of-way on refuges and sale of refuge lands.

In addition, State-reverted funds in the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration account are used for MBCF purposes.

Delivering Conservation for Migratory Birds

Since its creation, the MBCF has contributed significantly to the successful conservation of wetland-dependent migratory birds and continues to 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 2015:

- The MBCC approved two projects in Arkansas: one at Cache River National Wildlife Refuge, and one at Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge. Both refuges contain important bottomland hardwoods for wintering mallards and wood ducks. The Felsenthal NWR project involves a portion of a large ownership that straddles the Arkansas and Louisiana state lines, and acquisition will connect the Felsenthal NWR in southern Arkansas with the Upper Ouachita NWR in northern Louisiana, creating a larger corridor for wildlife and wildlife-dependent public recreation. In total, the MBCC approved the acquisition of 909 fee acres at Cache River NWR and 1,383 fee acres at Felsenthal NWR.
- The MBCC approved three projects in Texas: one at Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge; one at Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge; and one at San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge. These refuges are located in the southeastern part of the State and contain bottomland hardwoods and saltwater and freshwater marsh that are important to waterfowl and other migratory birds. In total, the MBCC approved the acquisition of 1,090 fee acres at Brazoria NWR, 1,778 fee acres at Laguna Atascosa NWR, and 360 fee acres at San Bernard NWR.



Mallards rise from a 2015 MBCC-approved acquisition of 909 fee acres at Cache River NWR in Arkansas.

2017 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. The combined acquisitions support the DOI Resource Protection goal to sustain biological communities on DOI-managed lands and waters. The table below summarizes MBCF acquisitions.

Fiscal Year	Fee and Easement Acres Acquired with the MBCF		
	Fee Acres	Easement Acres	Total Acres
2017 (Est.)	7,500	46,000	53,500
2016 (Est.)	7,500	46,000	53,500
2015	7,168	41,351	48,519
2014	11,103	43,392	54,495
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
Total	199,133	625,464	824,597

Note: FY 2014 and FY 2015 totals include acquisitions with Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration State reverted funds.

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACCOUNT			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2015	2016	2017
Identification Code 010-18-14-5137	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Special and Trust Fund Receipt (N)			
0100 Balance, start of year	4	3	4
Receipts:			
1110 Migratory Bird Hunting Stamps [010-00-513710-0-000000]	26	36	36
1110 Custom Duties on Arms and Ammunition [010-00-513720-0-000000]	36	34	35
1999 Total receipts	62	70	71
2000 Total: Balances and receipts	66	73	75
Appropriations:			
2101 Migratory Bird Conservation Account [010-18-5137-0-1201]	-62	-70	-70
2103 Migratory Bird Conservation Account [010-18-5137-0-1203]	-5	-4	-5
2132 Migratory Bird Conservation Account [010-18-5137-0-1232]	4	5	0
2999 Total Appropriations	-63	-69	-75
5099 Balance, end of year	3	4	0

Combined Schedule (X)			
Obligations by program activity:			
0001 Printing and Sale of Duck Stamps	1	1	1
0002 Acquisition of Land and Easements	65	69	70
0900 Total new obligations	66	70	71
Budgetary resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	12	9	8
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, mandatory:			
1201 Appropriation (special or trust fund)	62	70	70
1203 Appropriation (previously unavailable)	5	4	5
1232 Appropriations and/or unobligated balance of appropriations temporarily reduced	-4	-5	0
1260 Appropriations, mandatory (total)	63	69	75
1930 Total budgetary resources available	75	78	83
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	9	8	12
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	9	14	21
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	66	70	71
3020 Outlays (gross)	-61	-63	-75
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	14	21	17
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	9	14	21
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	14	21	17

Standard Form 300 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACCOUNT			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) Identification Code 010-18-14-5137	2015 Actual	2016 Estimate	2017 Estimate
<u>Budget authority and outlays, net:</u>			
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	63	69	75
Outlays, gross:			
4100 Outlays from new mandatory authority	40	44	45
4101 Outlays from mandatory balances	21	19	30
4110 Outlays, gross (total)	61	63	75
4160 Budget authority, net (mandatory)	63	69	75
4170 Outlays, net (mandatory)	61	63	75
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	63	69	75
4190 Outlays, net (total)	61	63	75
<u>Object Classification (O)</u>			
Direct obligations:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	6	6	6
12.1 Civilian personnel benefits	2	2	2
25.2 Other services from non-Federal sources	2	2	2
25.3 Other goods and services from Federal sources	2	2	2
32.0 Land and structures	53	58	59
99.0 Subtotal, obligations, Direct obligations	65	70	71
99.5 Adjustment for rounding	1	0	0
99.9 Total new obligations	66	70	71
<u>Employment Summary (Q)</u>			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	69	74	74

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Recreation Fee Program

Federal Lands Recreation Fee Program

Appropriations Language

This activity does not require appropriations language as there is authority to use the receipts through September 30, 2017 (*Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016*.)

Authorizing Statutes

Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801-6814). The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) provides the authority to establish, modify, charge, and collect recreation fees at Federal recreation land and waters. The Act seeks to improve recreational facilities and visitor opportunities and services on Federal recreational lands by reinvesting receipts from fair and consistent recreational fees and pass sales. The 2017 budget proposes legislation to permanently authorize the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, which will expire on September 30, 2017.

Appropriation: Federal Lands Recreation Fee Program

		2015 Actual	2016 Estimate	2017			Change from 2016 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)*	Budget Request	
Federal Lands Recreation Fee Program	(\$000)	5,627	5,113	0	56	5,169	56
	<i>FTE</i>	24	23	0	0	23	0

*The amount presented in 2015 and 2016 includes the sequestration in accordance with Sec. 251A of the BBDECA, 2 U.S.C 901a. In addition, the amounts in 2015, 2016 and 2017 include amounts previously sequestered, which are now available in accordance with said Act.

Program Overview

The Recreation Fee Program, authorized through September 30, 2017, allows the collection of entrance, expanded amenity, and special recreation permit fees on Federal lands and waters managed by the Department of the Interior such as national wildlife refuges.. The Service returns at least 80 percent of the collections to the specific refuge site of collection to offset program costs and enhance visitor facilities and programs. The Service has more than 166 approved Recreation Fee Program sites. An additional 28 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 FY2016 and \$5,100,000 in FY2017 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 2017 budget proposes a permanent legislation to authorize the FLREA. The program currently brings in over \$270 million in recreation fees annually under this authority and uses them to enhance the visitor experience at federal recreation facilities. 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.

The following highlights show how fee dollars were used for recreation enhancements in FY2015:

- At Aransas NWR, Texas, staff and volunteers built a new wildlife-viewing platform and a new boardwalk between two existing platforms. They also purchased and installed a new water fountain with a refillable water bottle station in the lobby of the refuge visitor center.
- At Big Oaks NWR, Indiana, temporary Park Rangers were employed to work during peak public use seasons and special events. Funds also supported special events that included Outdoor Women, Take a Kid Fishing Day, and Youth Turkey and Deer Workshops and Hunts.
- At National Bison Range, they used funds to hire three Student Conservation Association interns to help support visitor center operations such as interpretive and environmental education programs.
- At Walkill NWR, funds were used to purchase and install additional dock sections to accommodate more wheel chair bound visitors.

- At Sam D. Hamilton NWR, Mississippi, funds were used to support a Citizen Science program to help with endangered species management, the annual wildlife festival, and fishing derby.



Sam D. Hamilton NWR Fishing Derby

- At Kodiak NWR, Alaska, improvements were made at the Frazer Bear Viewing site, including better access to the public outhouse and trail upgrades. Funds also support annual maintenance of their public use cabins.



Frazer Bear Viewing site at Kodiak NWR

- At Deer Flat NWR, staff and volunteers built a several hundred yard long ADA-accessible trail to connect an accessible wildlife viewing blind with another accessible trail.
-
- At Klamath Basin NWRC, they hired three seasonal bag checkers to staff the hunter check station, post signs, rove the hunt areas, conduct bag checks and biological surveys of gamebirds harvested.

2017 Program Performance

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.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (\$000)	2015 Actual	2016 Estimate	2017 Estimate
Recreation Fee Revenues	5,627	5,113	5,169
America the Beautiful pass	[539]	[500]	[500]
Unobligated Balance Brought Forward & Recoveries	7,057	7,582	7,500
Total Funds Available	12,684	12,695	12,669
<i>Obligations by Type of Project</i>			
Facilities Routine/Annual Maintenance	904	937	982
Facilities Capital Improvements	663	715	1,033
Facilities Deferred Maintenance	768	432	445
Subtotal, asset repairs and maintenance	2,335	2,084	2,460
Visitor Services	1,434	1,548	1,964
Habitat Restoration (directly related to wildlife dependent recreation)	76	128	130
Direct Operation Costs	474	705	715
Law Enforcement (for public use and recreation)	322	340	381
Fee Management Agreement and Reservation Services	136	15	75
Administration, Overhead and Indirect Costs	374	375	375
Total Obligations	5,151	5,195	6,100

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RECREATION ENHANCEMENT FEE PROGRAM			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2015	2016	2017
Identification Code 010-18-14-5252	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Special and Trust Receipts (N)			
0100 Balance, start of year	0	0	0
Receipts:			
1130 Recreation Enhancement Fee, FWS [010-00-525210-0-200403]	6	5	5
2000 Total: Balances and receipts	6	5	5
Appropriations:			
2101 Recreation Enhancement Fee, FWS [010-18-5252-0-1201]	-6	-5	-5
5099 Balance, end of year	0	0	0

Combined Schedule (X)			
Obligations by program activity:			
0001 Recreation Enhancement Fee Program	5	5	6
0900 Total new obligations	5	5	6
Budgetary resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	7	8	8
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, mandatory:			
1201 Appropriation (special or trust fund)	6	5	5
1260 Appropriations, mandatory (total)	6	5	5
1930 Total budgetary resources available	13	13	13
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	8	8	7
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	1	2	3
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	5	5	6
3020 Outlays (gross)	-4	-4	-4
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	2	3	5
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	1	2	3
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	2	3	5

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RECREATION ENHANCEMENT FEE PROGRAM			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2015	2016	2017
Identification Code 010-18-14-5252	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
<u>Budget authority and outlays, net:</u>			
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	6	5	5
Outlays, gross:			
4100 Outlays from new mandatory authority	2	2	2
4101 Outlays from mandatory balances	2	2	2
4110 Outlays, gross (total)	4	4	4
4160 Budget authority, net (mandatory)	6	5	5
4170 Outlays, net (mandatory)	4	4	4
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	6	5	5
4190 Outlays, net (total)	4	4	4
<u>Object Classification (O)</u>			
Direct obligations:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	0	0	0
11.3 Other than full-time permanent	1	1	1
11.9 Total personnel compensation	1	1	1
25.2 Other services from non-Federal sources	0	0	0
25.3 Other goods and services from Federal sources	1	1	2
25.4 Operation and maintenance of facilities	1	1	1
99.0 Subtotal, obligations, Direct obligations	3	3	4
99.5 Adjustment for rounding	2	2	2
99.9 Total new obligations	5	5	6
<u>Employment Summary (Q)</u>			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	24	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 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

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Change from 2016 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Contributed Funds	(\$000)	4,788	4,000	0	0	0	4,000	0
	FTE	17	20	0	0	0	20	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 2015, the receipts totaled \$4.7 million.

2017 Program Performance

The Service uses contributed funds to address its highest priority needs in concert with other types of funding. The funds in 2017 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 2015:

Migratory Birds (ID and WI): The Service funded wetland and habitat enhancement projects in Idaho and Wisconsin. West Sloughs Enhancement, ID project will enhance 177 acres to increase waterfowl, waterbirds, and shorebird populations in the Upper Snake River Plain by increasing the quality and availability of migratory habitat. Mead Wetland Enhancement I, WI project will enhance a total of 1,025 acres of highly diverse and productive emergent marsh habitat in Central Wisconsin to counteract previous and ongoing wetland losses in the region; this will conserve an environment of proven importance for breeding waterfowl and other wetland species including shorebirds, birds of prey, wading birds, and songbirds. Both projects activities will occur on public land that is available for waterfowl hunting and all other compatible forms of outdoor recreation.

International Activities (Nepal): The Service funded a project in the Parsa Wildlife Reserve, Nepal. The purpose of this project is to significantly reduce human-tiger conflict through community engagement programs, establish baseline data on populations, and double the tiger population. The project will identify underlying causes of human-tiger conflict and implement conflict-reduction strategies engaging local communities, promote improved livestock husbandry practices for enhanced daily subsistence of local communities, and to minimize pressure on the buffer zone and core area, implement awareness raising activities in the buffer zone area, and implement poaching-reduction strategies.

National Wildlife Refuge System (Northern California): The Service funded the North Woods and Eastside Canal wetlands within the Modoc NWR project creating a series of small depressions throughout the 100 acres to provide open water areas for waterfowl and other waterbirds, allow for better control of canary grass, and enhance establishment of preferred marsh vegetation. Small loafing/nesting islands were created using the soil excavated from the constructed depressions to increase waterfowl production. Old canals were filled or recontoured and weedy spoil piles removed and bare dirt areas replanted with more desirable wetland vegetation and grasses. The enhanced wetlands increased the potential success of waterbirds and waterfowl nesting in the surrounding upland areas.

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CONTRIBUTED FUNDS			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2015	2016	2017
Identification Code: 010-18-14-8216	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Special and Trust Fund Receipt (N)			
0100 Balance, start of year	0	0	0
Receipts:			
1130 Deposits, Contributed Funds FWS [010-00-821610-200403]	5	4	4
2000 Total: Balances and receipts	5	4	4
Appropriations:			
2101 Contributed Funds [010-18-8216-0-1201]	-5	-4	-4
5999 Balance, end of year	0	0	0

Combined Schedule (X)			
Obligations by program activity:			
0001 Contributed Funds	4	5	5
0900 Total new obligations	4	5	5
Budgetary resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	6	7	6
Budget authority:			
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	10
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	7	6	5
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	2	2	3
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	4	5	5
3020 Outlays (gross)	-4	-4	-5
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	2	3	3
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	2	2	3
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	2	3	3

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CONTRIBUTED FUNDS			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2015	2016	2017
Identification Code: 010-18-14-8216	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
<u>Budget authority and outlays, net:</u>			
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	5	4	4
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:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	1	1	1
25.2 Other services from non-Federal sources	1	1	1
26.0 Supplies and materials	1	1	1
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	1	2	2
99.0 Subtotal, obligations, Direct obligations	4	5	5
99.5 Adjustment for rounding	0	0	0
99.9 Total new obligations	4	5	5

Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	17	20	20

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.”

Commercial Filming Fee (P.L. 106-206, 114 Stat. 314), **as amended by Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY 2000 (H.R. 154)**. This act authorizes a fee system for commercial filming activities on Federal land and to use the fees for expenditure by the Secretary, without further appropriation.

“(e) **USE OF PROCEEDS.**-(1) All fees collected under this act shall be available for expenditure by the Secretary, without further appropriation, in accordance with the formula and purposes established for the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program (Public Law 104-134). All fees collected shall remain available until expended. (2) All costs recovered under this Act shall be available for expenditure by the Secretary, without further appropriation, at the site where collected. All costs recovered shall remain available until expended.”

“(f) **PROCESSING OF PERMIT APPLICATIONS.**The Secretary shall establish a process of ensure that permit applicants for commercial filming, still photography, or other activity are responded to in a timely manner.”

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

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Budget Request	Change from 2016 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
Operations and Maintenance of Quarters	(\$000)	3,366	3,375	0	0	0	3,375	0
	FTE	4	5	0	0	0	5	0
Proceeds from Sales	(\$000)	241	350	0	0	0	350	0
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lahontan Valley & Pyramid Lake Fish and Wildlife Fund	(\$000)	540	550	0	0	0	550	0
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Film and Photography Fee Program	(\$000)	0	75	0	0	0	75	0
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Community Partnership Enhancement	(\$000)	74	100	0	0	0	100	0
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total, Miscellaneous Permanent Appropriations	(\$000)	4,221	4,450	0	0	0	4,450	0
	FTE	4	5	0	0	0	5	0

Justification of 2016 Program Changes for Miscellaneous Permanent Appropriations

The 2017 budget request for Miscellaneous Permanent Appropriations is \$4,450,000 and 5 FTE, with no program change from the 2016 Estimate.

Program Overview

Operations and Maintenance of Quarters - The Operations and Maintenance of Quarters (Quarters) Account 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 (e.g. maintaining water flow to fish rearing ponds during freezing temperatures), monitoring water management facilities, ensuring the health and welfare of visitors, responding to fires and floods, and protecting government property. To provide for these needs, the Service manages 1,081 units comprised of 876 quarters on 227 refuges, 204 quarters on 62 hatchery facilities, and 1 quarters at an Ecological Services facility.

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.

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.



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, 47,100 acre-feet of Newlands Project water rights have been acquired for Lahontan Valley wetlands to date. Of the acquired water rights; approximately 36,400 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.

Film and Photography Fee Program – This legislation gives the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service the new authority to require permits and to establish reasonable fees for commercial filming activities and certain still photography activities under Service jurisdiction. All costs recovered under this Act shall be available for expenditures by the Secretary, without further appropriation, at the site where collected, and shall remain available until expended.

Community Partnership Enhancement –

The Community Partnership fund was established to encourage volunteer programs, donations, and other contributions by persons or organizations for the benefit of a particular 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.



Volunteer leads an interpretive walk at Santa Anna NWR, TX

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.

2017 Program Performance

Operation and Maintenance of Quarters

Estimated receipts in 2016 and 2017 are expected to be approximately \$3,375,000 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 2016 and 2017 are expected to be approximately \$350,000 each year. 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 2017, receipts from land sales are estimated at \$550,000. The anticipated receipts have increased from prior years because of regional real estate market conditions.

Filming and Photography Fee Program

Anticipated receipts for 2016 and 2017 are \$75,000. The anticipated receipts may vary from year to year due to fees collected for commercial filming activities under this program.

Community Partnership Enhancement

Anticipated receipts for 2016 and 2017 are \$100,000 due to the expiration of an agreement with 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)	2015	2016	2017
Identification Code 010-18-14-9927	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Special and Trust Fund Receipt (N)			
0100 Balance, start of year	0	0	0
Receipts:			
0220 Rent and Charges for Quarters, Fish and Wildlife Service [010-00-505010-0-200403]	4	4	4
0400 Total: Balances and receipts	4	4	4
Appropriations:			
0500 Miscellaneous Permanent Appropriations [010-18-9927-0-1201]	-4	-4	-4
0799 Balance, end of year	0	0	0

Combined Schedule (X)			
Obligations by program activity:			
0001 Miscellaneous Permanents	3	5	5
0900 Total new obligations	3	5	5
Budgetary resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	7	8	7
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, mandatory:			
1201 Appropriation (special or trust fund)	4	4	4
1260 Appropriations, mandatory (total)	4	4	4
1930 Total budgetary resources available	11	12	11
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	8	7	6
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	1	1	3
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	3	5	5
3020 Outlays (gross)	-3	-3	-4
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	1	3	4
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	1	1	3
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	1	3	4

Standard Form 300
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
MISCELLANEOUS PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2015	2016	2017
Identification Code 010-18-14-9927	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
<u>Budget authority and outlays, net:</u>			
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	4	4	4
Outlays, gross:			
4100 Outlays from new mandatory authority	1	2	2
4101 Outlays from mandatory balances	2	1	2
4110 Outlays, gross (total)	3	3	4
4160 Budget authority, net (mandatory)	4	4	4
4170 Outlays, net (mandatory)	3	3	4
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	4	4	4
4190 Outlays, net (total)	3	3	4

Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	0	0	0
25.4 Operation and maintenance of facilities	1	2	2
26.0 Supplies and materials	1	2	2
99.0 Subtotal, obligations, Direct obligations	2	4	4
99.5 Adjustment for rounding	1	1	1
99.9 Total new obligations	3	5	5

Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	4	5	5

Administrative Provisions and Legislative Proposals

Administrative Provisions

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service may carry out the operations of Service programs by direct expenditure, contracts, grants, cooperative agreements and reimbursable agreements with public and private entities. Appropriations and funds available to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall be available for repair of damage to public roads within and adjacent to reservation areas caused by operations of the Service; options for the purchase of land at not to exceed \$1 for each option; facilities incident to such public recreational uses on conservation areas as are consistent with their primary purpose; and the maintenance and improvement of aquaria, buildings, and other facilities under the jurisdiction of the Service and to which the United States has title, and which are used pursuant to law in connection with management, and investigation of fish and wildlife resources: *Provided*, That notwithstanding 44 U.S.C. 501, the Service may, under cooperative cost sharing and partnership arrangements authorized by law, procure printing services from cooperators in connection with jointly produced publications for which the cooperators share at least one-half the cost of printing either in cash or services and the Service determines the cooperator is capable of meeting accepted quality standards: *Provided further*, That the Service may accept donated aircraft as replacements for existing aircraft: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may recover costs for response, assessment and damages to National Wildlife Refuge System resources from the actions of private parties, or for costs as otherwise provided by Federal, State, or local law, regulation, or court order as a result of the destruction, loss of, or injury to any living or non-living National Wildlife Refuge System resource: *Provided further*, That the damages described in the previous proviso shall include the following: 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, and shall remain available until expended, for damage assessments conducted, or for restoration and replacement of National Wildlife Refuge System resources and shall be managed under the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Fund as per 43 U.S.C. 1474b-1: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, all fees collected for non-toxic shot review and approval shall be deposited under the heading "United States Fish and Wildlife Service—Resource Management" and shall be available to the Secretary, without further appropriation, to be used for expenses of processing of such non-toxic shot type or coating applications and revising regulations as necessary, and shall remain available until expended. (*Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016.*)

Justification of Language Change

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, and shall remain available until expended, for damage assessments conducted, or for restoration and replacement of National Wildlife Refuge System resources and shall be managed under the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Fund as per 43 U.S.C. 1474b-1.

This change adds language to provide the Service with the authority, similar to that of the National Park Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to seek compensation from responsible parties who injure or destroy NWRS or other Service resources. Under current law, when system resources are injured or destroyed, the costs of repair and restoration falls 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. Unlike other land management agencies, the Service only has criminal penalties (fines) for those injuries occurring on NWRS lands. In most cases, the injuries far exceed any fines recovered by the United States Government. With this authority, the recovery of damages for injury to system resources would be used to reimburse assessment costs; prevent or minimize the risk of loss; monitor ongoing effects, and/or use those funds to restore, replace or acquire resources equivalent to those injured or destroyed. This language mirrors that authority that the National Park Service and the Natinoal Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration already have. In 2013, Refuges reported under the Annual Uniform Crime Report, seven 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.

Legislative Proposals

Concurrent with this budget request the Administration is proposing the following legislative proposals:

Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act (Duck Stamp)—Language is needed to provide stability to the purchasing power of the Federal Duck Stamp. The requested language would allow limited authority for the Secretary of the Interior to increase the price of the Federal Duck Stamp to keep pace with inflation, with the approval of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, . This language is intended to provide stability to the purchasing power of the Federal Duck Stamp. The last increase approved by Congress in 2014 came nearly 25 years since the previous price increase. During that time, the costs of land rose significantly and caused serious erosion of the purchasing power of the Duck Stamp, which has substantially constrained the Service from addressing a crisis in the prairie pothole region, where important breeding and resting habitat in the Nation’s “duck factory” is being converted to crop land at a fast pace.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)— The Department 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). During the transition to full permanent funding in 2018, the budget proposes \$900 million in total LWCF funding in FY 2017, comprised of \$425 million in mandatory and \$475 million in discretionary funds. The amounts requested include the authorized levels for the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture. In FY 2017, the proposal includes \$58.66 million in discretionary funding and \$78.97 million in mandatory funding for the Service’s Federal Land acquisition program.

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
2007 Budget Request	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

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Appendices

Section 403 Compliance

Purpose: To fulfill legislative requirements for disclosure of program assessments used to support Government-wide, departmental, or agency initiatives or general operations. H. R. 2029 / Public Law 114-113, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016:

SEC. 403. The amount and basis of estimated overhead charges, deductions, reserves or holdbacks, including working capital fund and cost pool charges, from programs, projects, activities and subactivities to support government-wide, departmental, agency, or bureau administrative functions or headquarters, regional, or central operations shall be presented in annual budget justifications and subject to approval by the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Changes to such estimates shall be presented to the Committees on Appropriations for approval.

Pursuant to the *Section 403* directive, the Service fully discloses its administrative costs as follows:

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 they consume. The funding received from Non-Resource Management Programs supplements central, regional and Servicewide support operations. Specifically, the Non-Resource Management Programs pay for their actual use of communication services and Workers' Compensation. Other costs, such as Washington and Regional office administration and Service-wide costs, such as Unemployment Compensation are measured through FTE usage.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION: The Service pays workers' compensation costs centrally through the Servicewide bill paying account. As a result, programs are not aware of the costs that result from employee injuries. Since FY 2015, workers' compensation costs have been charged to the applicable programs. The Service made this change to address an audit finding and provide incentive for programs to participate in the Department's Return to Work initiative.

ENTERPRISE-WIDE SERVICES: In order to provide the necessary level of funding for Enterprise-wide and Working Capital Fund Direct Bill services, the Service assesses its resource management programs for costs that can be directly tracked back to users. This includes software licenses, cell phone costs, personnel system costs, and the like.

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 consistently with the original appropriation.

The Service strictly adheres to the policy that Congressional priorities must be funded in their entirety and are not subject to the deferred allocation or user-pay cost share.

Below shows administrative cost estimates for FYs 2016 and 2017:

	Fiscal Year 2016
External Administrative Costs	
WCF Centralized Billings	\$23,005,000
WCF Direct Billings/Fee for Service	\$11,135,500
Program Assessments	
Holdbacks, Reserves, and Deductions	\$5,276,000
Bureau Administrative Costs/Central and Regional Operations	
Regional Common Program Services	\$10,300,000
Non-Resource Management User-Pay Cost Share	\$9,020,000
Workers' Compensation	\$592,000
Enterprise-Wide Services	\$19,683,000

	Fiscal Year 2017
External Administrative Costs	
WCF Centralized Billings	\$22,637,000
WCF Direct Billings/Fee for Service	\$11,338,500
Program Assessments	
Holdbacks, Reserves, and Deductions	\$5,572,000
Bureau Administrative Costs/Central and Regional Operations	
Regional Common Program Services	\$10,700,000
Non-Resource Management User-Pay Cost Share	\$9,040,000
Workers' Compensation	\$601,000
Enterprise-Wide Services	\$20,874,000

Employee Count by Grade
(Total Employment)

	FY 2015 Actuals	FY 2016 Estimate	FY 2017 Estimate
Executive Level V	1	1	1
SES	23	24	24
Subtotal	24	25	25
SL - 00	0	0	0
ST - 00	2	2	2
Subtotal	2	2	2
GS/GM -15	133	137	137
GS/GM -14	549	566	571
GS/GM -13	1,317	1,357	1,360
GS -12	1,772	1,827	1,876
GS -11	1,527	1,575	1,617
GS -10	9	9	10
GS - 9	977	1,008	1,047
GS - 8	125	129	132
GS - 7	623	643	676
GS - 6	233	240	247
GS - 5	536	553	588
GS - 4	215	222	228
GS - 3	113	117	120
GS - 2	17	18	18
GS - 1	4	4	4
Subtotal	8,150	8,405	8,631
Other Pay Schedule Systems	764	788	809
Total employment (actuals & estimates)	8,940	9,220	9,467

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Allocations Received from Other Accounts						
Department Program	FY 2015 Actual		FY 2016 Estimate		FY 2017 Estimate	
	Budget Authority	Outlays	Budget Authority	Outlays	Budget Authority	Outlays
Department of Agriculture:						
Forest Pest Management	343,000	271,080	343,000	343,000	343,000	343,000
Department of the Interior:						
<i>Office of Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration</i>						
Damage Assessment 8300	1,802,993	1,818,099	1,800,000	1,800,898	1,800,000	1,800,000
Restoration 9800	24,772,878	19,941,908	24,000,000	24,231,863	24,000,000	24,000,000
<i>Office of Wildland Fire Coordination</i>						
Wildland Fire Management	69,737,250	67,711,465	69,000,000	69,221,175	69,000,000	69,000,000
Disaster Relief - Hurricane Sandy (FY14)	0	20,938,948		54,222,616		23,238,264
<i>Bureau of Land Management</i>						
Central Hazardous Materials Fund	9,348,971	6,359,471	9,000,000	9,244,280	9,000,000	9,000,000
So. Nevada Public Lands Management	843,836	6,652,894	0	590,685	0	0
Energy Act - Permit Improvement	1,200,000	683,896	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000
Department of Transportation:						
Federal Highway Administration-Discretionary	215,552	6,278	200,000	210,886	200,000	200,000
Federal Highway Administration- Mandatory	7,382,592	11,477,522	7,000,000	7,267,814	7,000,000	7,000,000
TOTAL	115,647,072	135,861,561	112,543,000	168,333,218	112,543,000	135,781,264