

Coastal Program

		2006 Actual	2007 CR	2008			Change From 2007 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Coastal Program	(\$000)	12,954	12,984	+293	0	13,277	+293
	<i>FTE</i>	69	70			70	0

Program Overview

The Coastal Program is the Service’s on-the-ground program that works cooperatively with states; tribes; governmental and non-governmental organizations; industry, and private landowners to conserve our nation’s coastal trust resources. Our Nation’s coasts provide important fish and wildlife habitat, far beyond their limited geographic extent. Coastal ecosystems comprise less than 10 percent of the Nation’s land area, but support far greater proportions of our living resources. Specifically, coastal areas support a much higher percentage of the Nation’s threatened and endangered species fishery resources, migratory songbirds, and migrating and wintering waterfowl.

Today, these species and their habitats face serious threats in coastal regions from human population growth and the development and disturbance that are often a consequence of growth. Population projections indicate that our coastlines will continue to receive the majority of the Nation’s growth and development, promising to compound today’s habitat losses.

As habitat is degraded, reduced or eliminated, plants and animals suffer population losses that can lead to the need for protection under the Endangered Species Act. The Service’s Coastal Program is working to avoid further species declines by enhancing its efforts within the Nation’s coastal areas and securing funding for conservation, including habitat restoration efforts.

The Coastal Program integrates all Service activities in high priority coastal ecosystems to:

- Identify the most important natural resource problems and solutions;
- Influence the planning and decision-making processes of other agencies and organizations with the Service’s living resource capabilities;
- Implement solutions on-the-ground in partnership with others; and
- Instill a stewardship ethic, and catalyze the public to help solve problems, change behaviors, and promote ecologically sound decisions.

Since the great majority of the Nation’s coastal areas are in private hands, conservation of these ecologically important habitats is vital to protecting coastal natural resources. The key is to find solutions that ensure self-sustaining natural systems despite conflicting demands on our natural resources.

The Program provides technical and financial assistance in 22 high-priority coastal areas in the form of cost sharing with partners in support of restoration and protection of coastal habitats. The Coastal Program is a prime example of the Service’s implementation of the President’s Management Agenda, which calls for a government that is citizen-centered and results-oriented; one that promotes efficiency and innovation, removes barriers to change, and recognizes citizens as full partners.

Examples of projects include collaborating with the Environmental Protection Agency's National Estuary Program and the National Wildlife Refuge System on habitat restoration and protection efforts. It supports the implementation of the National Coral Reef Action Strategy through public outreach and aquatic education, coral disease studies, reef area surveys and geographic information system (GIS) data synthesis. The Program also directly supports priority actions in the U.S. Ocean Action Plan and the President's Wetlands Initiative.

The Coastal Program also supports the Service's responsibilities under the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA). CBRA takes a market-based approach to conservation by restricting federal funding that encourages development in hurricane-prone and biologically sensitive coastal habitats which provide essential spawning, nesting, nursery, and feeding areas for a variety of fish and wildlife species thereby reducing the intensity of development in these habitats.

Coastal Program base funds available to administer CBRA have remained the same since FY 2000, while the workload associated with CBRA has increased. Coastal Program base funds support general CBRA administration, which includes maintaining the official maps of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) and making the maps available for public inspection; consulting with other Federal agencies that propose spending funds within the CBRS; and determining whether or not certain private properties are located within the CBRS. Service field offices conduct numerous CBRA consistency consultations annually with agencies such as the Department of Transportation, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In addition, the Service conducts hundreds of property determinations annually in the Washington Office and in the field, in support of FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program.

In FY 2006, the Office of Management and Budget conducted an evaluation of the Habitat Conservation Program, including the Coastal Program using the Performance Assessment Rating Tool (PART). The Program received a positive review. Two changes have resulted from this review. The first is identification of efficiency measures and strategies to make the program more effective in supporting its performance outcome. The second is focusing activities to recover listed and candidate species and thereby increase the number of self-sustaining Trust Species populations.

Long-term Vision – *To support voluntary stewardship efforts that contribute to sustainable populations of threatened and endangered species, migratory birds, and inter-jurisdictional fish (Federal trust species).* The desired outcome is to increase the number of self-sustaining Federal trust species populations. An average of three non-Federal dollars is leveraged for every Federal dollar spent.

Strategic Plan – In FY 2008, the Program will be operating according to a revised Coastal Program National Strategic Plan which was finalized in 2007. The Plan will provide (1) clearly defined national and regional habitat goals, (2) collaboratively-established, geographic focus areas in which to prioritize program resources, and (3) processes for improved accountability for federal expenditures. The Coastal Program supports the DOI Strategic Goal of *Resource Protection by working cooperatively with partners to improve the health of watersheds, landscapes, and marine resources by restoring and maintaining proper function to waters and landscapes, which in-turn helps sustain biological communities.*

Use of Cost and Performance Information

The Coastal Program continues to achieve mission results via performance-based management on several fronts, in conformance with the Departmental Strategic Plan:

- The Coastal Program will begin operating under the new Strategic Plan developed with stakeholder input that redefined program priorities and goals.
- The Coastal Program is working to improve **accountability** by beginning the process to establish regularly scheduled objective, independent evaluations of the program.
- In accordance with **activity-based costing** and in an effort to improve information transfer, the Coastal Program continues to improve the web-based accomplishment reporting system (Habitat Information Tracking System).

2008 Program Performance

The Coastal Program plans to restore 3,634 acres of wetlands, 1,909 acres of upland, 60 miles of riparian corridor, and remove 10 barriers to fish passage. Technical assistance to communities will help permanently protect 6,931 acres of wetlands, 12,403 acres of upland, and 19 miles of riparian and stream habitat through 214 landowner and cooperative agreements.

Projects initiated in FY 2008 will address the goals in the Coastal Program Strategic Plan, such as increasing the number of voluntary, community-based stewardship efforts for fish and wildlife conservation, and produce outcomes that can be reported under one or more performance measures of the DOI Strategic Plan. The Coastal Program contributes to the DOI Strategic Goal of *Resource Protection by working cooperatively with coastal communities to improve the health of our coastal watersheds by restoring and maintaining biological communities.*

The National Summary Document (Part Three of the Strategic Plan) will identify priority habitat restoration and protection projects that support efforts to recover listed and candidate species and increase self-sustaining populations of Federal Trust Species. The Coastal Program will: (1) coordinate with the Service's Endangered Species, Fisheries, and Migratory Bird Programs and other federal and state partners to identify on-the-ground projects to restore and protect coastal habitats that contribute to the recovery of listed and candidate species, and other Federal Trust Species; (2) prioritize restoration projects that contribute to recovery of listed and candidate species; (3) restore coastal wetlands in hurricane damaged regions that provide unique wildlife habitat and protect communities; and (4) increase the number of wetland acres restored across the country. The Program will also collaborate with its federal and state partners and complement the on-going restoration and recovery efforts.

Restore wetlands that provide unique habitat and protect communities from storms:

The Coastal Program will work in close cooperation with other Service programs, its federal and state partners, and other stakeholders to identify wetland restoration projects that will contribute to recovery of listed and candidate species, and increase the number of self-sustaining populations of Trust species. In addition to providing unique habitat for Federal Trust Species, coastal wetlands also provide protection from storms to millions of people who live in the coastal zone.

Guard against endangered species listing and support delisting of recovered species:

The Coastal Program will continue to work with its federal and state partners to provide non-regulatory support for habitat restoration and protection efforts that benefit the recovery of threatened, endangered,

and candidate species. Efforts will focus on increasing self-sustaining populations of Federal Trust Species and precluding the listing of candidate species.

Coastal Barrier Resources Act Administration

The maps that currently depict the CBRS need to be updated and corrected. Since 1999, the Service has worked with Congress and interested property owners to review potential mapping errors, correct errors using digital technology, and enact revised digital maps with new technical correction legislation. Since 1999, the Service has completed draft digital maps for approximately 2-4 CBRA areas per year. The Service currently has a backlog of approximately 50 CBRA areas that need to be reviewed and potentially remapped using digital technology.

Recognizing the challenges associated with the existing maps, the 2000 CBRA reauthorization (P.L. 106-514) directed the Secretary of the Interior to complete a Digital Mapping Pilot Project, including draft digital maps of 50-75 CBRA areas and a report to Congress explaining the costs and feasibility associated with creating digital maps for the entire CBRS. In FY 2002-2006, the Service was able to direct discretionary funds towards this pilot project (and to prepare digital maps for technical correction legislation as mentioned above). In FY 2006, the Service completed draft maps for 70 CBRA areas as part of the pilot project. The Service anticipates transmitting these maps and the accompanying report to Congress in FY 2007. The 2005 CBRA reauthorization (P.L. 109-226) directs the Secretary to finalize the pilot project maps by conducting a public review and to modernize the remainder of the CBRS maps using digital technology.

The Service has expended the discretionary funds used to create the pilot project maps and the digital maps for past technical correction legislation. With the existing base funds available to administer CBRA, the Service will focus in FY 2008 and beyond on increasing the efficiency of our general CBRA administration, which includes conducting property determinations and consistency consultations, rather than creating a limited number of draft digital maps each year. The Service will not produce any additional draft digital maps in FY 2008.

Program Performance Overview

	2004 Actual	2005 Actual	2006 Plan	2006 Actual	2007 Plan	2007 Change from 2006	2008 Plan	Change from 2007 Plan to 2008 Plan ⁴
Long-term outcome Measures:								
Percent of focal Migratory Birds that are at healthy and at sustainable levels (PART)	--	--	--	--	--	--	62%	+62%
Percent of sustained populations of aquatic species (PART)	--	--	--	--	--	--	31%	+31%
Output Measures:								
Wetland acres restored - #of coastal wetlands acres enhanced or restored through voluntary partnerships (SP)	18,325	13,830	3,563	21,962	3,115	-18,847	3,634	+519
Wetland acres protected - #of coastal wetlands acres protected through voluntary partnerships	28,590	70,138	6,795	6,109	7,090	+981	6,931	-159
Upland acres restored - # of coastal uplands acres enhanced or restored through voluntary partnerships (SP)	1,630	5,749	1,872	18,976	1,652	-17,324	1,909	+257
Upland acres protected - # of coastal uplands acres protected through voluntary partnerships (SP)	309,449	309,206	12,160	4,594	26,767	+22,173	12,403	-14,364
Stream & shoreline miles restored - # of coastal stream/shoreline miles enhanced or restored through voluntary partnerships (SP)	154	179	59	180	25	-155	60	+35

	2004 Actual	2005 Actual	2006 Plan	2006 Actual	2007 Plan	2007 Change from 2006	2008 Plan	Change from 2007 Plan to 2008 Plan ⁴
Stream & shoreline miles protected - # coastal stream/shoreline miles protected through voluntary partnerships (SP)	0	49	18	29	62	33	19	-43
Number of fish barriers removed	4	22	10	71	20	-51	10	-10
Number of in-stream miles reopened to fish passage ⁵	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	41	n/a	41	+41
Wetland Acres Assessed - # of coastal wetland acres assessed through technical assistance ²	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	baseline	baseline
Upland Acres Assessed - # of coastal upland acres assessed through technical assistance ²	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	baseline	baseline
Stream & Shoreline miles assessed - # of stream/shoreline miles assessed through technical assistance ²	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	baseline	baseline
Cumulative acres of CBRA areas with draft digital maps ³	63,934	64,507	295,808	362,063	362,063	0	362,063	0
Cumulative percent of CBRA areas (3,112,691 ac.) with draft digital maps ³	2.1% or 63,934 ac.	2.1% or 64,507 ac.	9.5% or 295,808 ac.	11.6% or 362,063 ac.	11.6% or 362,063 ac.	0	11.6% or 362,063 ac.	0

² New Strategic Plan measures. A baseline will be established in FY 2008.

³ The performance targets related to "cumulative acres of CBRA areas with draft digital maps" differ from those in the 2007 Budget Request because: (1) the completion of 70 draft digital maps for the Digital Mapping Pilot Project in 2006 allowed the Service to make more accurate acreage calculations for the affected areas; (2) the Service was directed by Congress in 2006 to prepare draft digital maps for two CBRA areas that the Service had not planned for; and (3) the Service has determined that the creation of additional draft digital maps in 2008 and beyond will not be possible using existing base funds.