

**Activity: Migratory Birds, Law Enforcement and International Conservation**  
**Subactivity: Migratory Bird Management**

		2011 Actual	2012 Enacted	2013			Change from 2012 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Conservation and Monitoring	(\$000) FTE	30,974 145	29,193 144	+291 0	+182 0	29,666 144	+473 0
Avian Health and Disease	(\$000) FTE	3,855 17	3,828 17	+18 0	-980 -5	2,866 12	-962 -5
Permits	(\$000) FTE	3,609 35	3,564 35	+28 0	0 0	3,592 35	+28 0
Federal Duck Stamp	(\$000) FTE	847 5	843 5	+4 0	0 0	847 5	+4 0
North American Waterfowl Management/Joint Ventures	(\$000) FTE	12,890 47	14,025 47	+45 0	+22 0	14,092 47	+67 0
<b>Total, Migratory Bird Management</b>	<b>(\$000) FTE</b>	<b>52,175 249</b>	<b>51,453 248</b>	<b>+386 0</b>	<b>-776 -5</b>	<b>51,063 243</b>	<b>-390 -5</b>

**Program Overview**

The Service is directed by Congress to ensure the perpetuation of migratory bird populations and their habitats for future generations. We coordinate and consult with science partners in the development and implementation of our focal species strategies, and support international partners to expand and manage shared migratory bird resources for continental-scale programs. The Service works closely with outside partners to implement the tenets of Strategic Habitat Conservation, which can increase the effectiveness of migratory bird programs on the landscape, improve overall bird conservation, and prioritize management decisions for species conservation.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918, as amended (16 U.S.C. 703-712) is the legal mandate for migratory bird conservation planning and management. The MBTA implements four international treaties that affect migratory birds common to the United States, Canada, Mexico, Japan and the former Soviet Union, and establishes federal responsibility for protection and management of migratory birds, including the establishment of hunting seasons, bag limits, and other regulations, as well as the issuance of permits to band, possess or otherwise make use of migratory birds. Except as allowed by implementing regulations, the Act makes it unlawful to pursue, hunt, kill, capture, possess, buy, sell, purchase, or barter any migratory bird, including the features or other parts, nests, eggs, or migratory bird products.

The Division of Migratory Bird Management, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Regional Migratory Bird offices, Joint Ventures, the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Office and the FWS Office of Aviation Management comprise the Service’s Migratory Bird Program. These units work cooperatively to improve the number of migratory bird populations that are at healthy and sustainable levels, prevent other bird populations from declining requiring further protection under the Endangered Species Act, and conserve habitats necessary to support these populations. Migratory Bird Program staff routinely:

- Develop and implement surveys and other monitoring and assessment activities to determine the status of numerous migratory bird populations;
- Formulate regulations and administer the issuance of permits to organizations and individuals that participate in migratory bird activities, such as hunting, scientific research, rehabilitation of injured birds, education, falconry, and taxidermy, as well as control of overabundant species;
- Manage grants across the Western Hemisphere that implement on-the-ground habitat conservation and other activities for the benefit of migratory birds;
- Support biological planning, design of conservation or management actions, project implementation, and evaluation at regional, national, and international scales to achieve migratory bird program objectives;
- Coordinate efforts to reduce bird mortalities resulting from collisions with equipment and structures, such as communication towers, wind turbines, transmission lines, as well as fisheries by-catch, pesticides, and other human-related causes;
- Participate in international treaty negotiations related to migratory birds;
- Promote the engagement of children and adults in bird conservation activities and continue to provide opportunities for bird-related recreation through efforts such as International Migratory Day, the Junior Duck Stamp Program, Urban Bird Conservation Treaties, and managed harvest opportunities;
- Develop and maintain collaborative partnerships with Federal, State, and municipal agencies and non-government organizations to further migratory bird conservation, education, and recreational opportunities; and
- Participate in early detection and response planning programs intended to address a broad spectrum of infectious and noninfectious diseases impacting all migratory bird species.

The Service is proposing a cooperative recovery initiative, which has the objective of promoting projects that result in the recovery of endangered species on and around refuges. The Endangered Species, Refuges, Migratory Birds, Partners, Science and Fisheries programs will work together to complete priority projects for recovering endangered species in landscapes where refuges are located. Using all the tools available in a coordinated manner, the Service will work on refuges surrounding private and state lands to restore and conserve habitat and remove threats to species. The Service will work using our Strategic Habitat Conservation approach, and in consultation with regional Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, to focus on identifiable threats to listed species. The funding for these projects will not be allocated according to normal allocation formulas, but will be proposal-driven.

*Birders, young and old at Chincoteague  
National Wildlife Refuge, VA.  
Photo by Jennifer Wheeler, USFWS*



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

		2011 Actual	2012 Enacted	2013			Change from 2012 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Conservation and Monitoring	(\$000) FTE	30,974 145	29,193 144	+291 0	+182 0	29,666 144	+473 0

**Summary of 2012 Program Changes for Migratory Bird Conservation and Monitoring**

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Renewable Energy	+750	+6
• General Program Activities	-568	-6
<b>Program Changes</b>	<b>+182</b>	<b>0</b>

**Justification of 2013 Program Changes**

The 2013 budget request for Conservation and Monitoring is \$29,666,000 and 144 FTE, a net program change of +\$182,000 and 0 FTE from the 2012 Enacted.

**Renewable Energy (+\$750,000 /+6 FTE)**

Energy development is a strategic priority for the Service as the nation seeks to address economic, environmental, and national security challenges related to energy. This funding will help the Service address increasing requests from the renewable energy industry for regulatory and conservation guidance. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 and the American Revitalization and Restoration Act provided financial incentives to accelerate the development, testing, and deployment of alternative energy technologies. An unintended consequence of these measures was a dramatic increase in workload for Service field offices responding responsibly to permit requests for compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) from the energy industry. In order to expedite technical assistance and consultation, requested funds will be used to address this burgeoning workload to ensure renewable energy projects are planned, developed, and operated in ways that are compatible with conservation of federal trust resources. The Service will develop decision tools, such as the Rapid Assessment Methodology (RAM), as well as information on species ranges and best management practices, that can be integrated into the Service’s Information Planning and Consultations (IPaC) system. This will assist in assessing impacts, proper siting, and determining appropriate conservation measures for best management practices. These efforts will contribute to several of our performance measures, including the number of management actions taken to reduce the incidental take of migratory birds.

**General Program Activities (-\$568,000 /-6 FTE)**

To fund higher priority conservation activities elsewhere in the budget request, the Service proposes to redirect some of its general program funds to meet the specific needs of permitting energy facilities.

**Program Overview**

Conservation, monitoring, and assessment are the integral activities that define the Service’s key role in addressing our treaty mandates for migratory birds. Monitoring is a basic component of the Service’s trust responsibility for North America’s migratory birds, and the Service is a world-renowned leader. Monitoring is essential to a science-based approach to bird conservation, and has special relevance to the evaluation of the Service’s ongoing efforts to improve the status of Birds of Management Concern,

including focal species. The Service's ability to monitor bird populations and understand the effectiveness of management actions, as well as shifts due to climate change and other factors, will allow the Service to make informed decisions. In addition, monitoring provides key information required for assessing impacts associated with energy and other development activities.

Survey and assessment information is also critical to the conservation and management of migratory birds. Resource Managers, researchers and other conservation professionals both with government and non-government organizations depend upon the Service's survey activities to provide accurate, comprehensive status and trend information. States rely heavily on the results of the annual bird surveys for management and budgeting activities associated with both hunted and non-hunted migratory birds within their own boundaries. Survey data are critical to identify and prioritize management actions and research needs, and provide a scientific, informed basis for effective migratory bird conservation and management on a national and international scale.

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, specifically delegated with the responsibility to address the range-wide spectrum of issues, problems, and interests related to migratory bird protection, conservation, and management. The Migratory Bird Program partners with other Federal agencies to develop Memoranda of Understanding associated with Executive Order 13186 - *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies To Protect Migratory Birds* that promotes the federal stewardship of migratory birds.

The importance of public agency partnerships (both at the Federal and State level) was underscored recently in the 2011 "State of the Birds, Report on Public Lands and Waters", our nation's first assessment of the distribution of birds on public lands and waters. This report demonstrates the tremendous potential for federal and state agencies to work together to sustain the diversity and abundance of the nations' birds. More than 1,000 species of birds rely on our public lands and waters for nesting, foraging, or resting, and there is encouraging evidence that targeted conservation efforts are making a difference for species that had been declining.

Sound management of our public lands is essential to adequately protect birds and other wildlife, as well as preserve many of our nation's most spectacular landscapes for future generations. For example, for more than four decades, the Service has restored seabird habitat at the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge and seabird monitoring data has indicated increases in seabird populations.

Based on the Service's long legacy of waterfowl surveys, migratory bird program staff is working closely with partners from other federal agencies, States, NGOs, and academia, to lead monitoring efforts that provide vital information to important continental landscape questions. For example secretive marshbirds, such as rails, and other diverse species that rely on emergent wetlands, are threatened by loss of their habitats across the United States. The Service and its partners are collaborating on a multi-faceted investigative program that will guide informed decision making to implement Biological Planning and Conservation Delivery to benefit these and other birds. The data will help inform the regulation of harvest for hunted marshbirds, and the interventions and investments needed for some of these highly imperiled species.

### **2013 Program Performance**

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In FY 2013, the Service will continue to work with partners in the development and implementation of conservation plans that contribute to improving the health of migratory bird species and their habitats. These plans which are critical to the program's success include: the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, Partners in Flight, the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, Waterbird Conservation for the Americas, and migratory game bird management plans developed by the Flyway Councils. These

plans were developed jointly by Federal and State agencies, tribal entities, foreign governments, non-governmental organizations, industry, academia, and private individuals who are committed to the conservation of birds.

The Migratory Bird Program will continue to work on the implementation of activities that have the greatest potential to influence future operational performance. Given the current fiscal restraints, we anticipate there will be a decrease in the number of individual management actions supporting bird conservation efforts. For example, 6.1.3.1, the number of management actions taken that address focal species will be reduced at the national roll-up level by 9 actions from our FY2012 target.

Also, the number of management actions, taken that annually address Birds of Management Concern, excluding focal species is anticipated to decrease by 15 actions at the national level from our FY2012 target.

**Migratory Bird Conservation and Monitoring – Combined Performance Change and Overview Table**

Performance Goal	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Plan	2013 PB	Change from 2012 Plan to 2013 PB	Long Term Target 2016
CSF 6.1 Percent of all migratory bird species that are at healthy and sustainable levels (GPRA)	62.3% (568 of 912 )	62.3% (568 of 912 )	72.0% (725 of 1,007 )	72.1% (726 of 1,007 )	72.1% (726 of 1,007 )	72.1% (726 of 1,007 )	0%	71.2% (728 of 1,022 )
Comments	During FY 2010, the List of Migratory Birds published in the Code of Federal Regulations (50 CFR § 10.13) was updated. The change reflects an update of best scientific understanding and taxonomic organization of bird species and is used to determine how many species are defined as "migratory birds" for this measure.							
6.1.3.1 # of management actions taken that address focal species	0	94	148	147	139	130	-9	135
Comments	We anticipate the number of individual management actions addressing focal species will be reduced.							
6.1.5 Number of management actions completed to reduce incidental take of migratory birds	0	39	70	116	126	126	0	60
Comments	We estimate the number of management actions addressed to reduce incidental take to remain high. Technical assistance and conservation consultation remain priority action items.							

**Migratory Bird Conservation and Monitoring – Combined Performance Change and Overview Table**

<b>Performance Goal</b>	<b>2008 Actual</b>	<b>2009 Actual</b>	<b>2010 Actual</b>	<b>2011 Actual</b>	<b>2012 Plan</b>	<b>2013 PB</b>	<b>Change from 2012 Plan to 2013 PB</b>	<b>Long Term Target 2016</b>
6.1.6 # of management actions taken that annually address Birds of Management Concern, excluding focal species actions	0	198	282	244	225	210	-15	245
Comments	We anticipate the number of individual management actions addressing Birds of Management Concern will be reduced.							

**Subactivity: Migratory Bird Management**  
**Program Element: Avian Health and Disease**

		2011 Actual	2012 Enacted	2013			Change from 2012 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Avian Health and Disease	(\$000) FTE	3,855 17	3,828 17	+18 0	-980 -5	2,866 12	-962 -5

**Summary of 2013 Program Changes for Avian Health and Disease**

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Avian Health and Disease	-980	-5
<b>Program Changes</b>	<b>-980</b>	<b>-5</b>

**Justification of 2013 Program Changes**

The 2013 budget request for the Avian Health and Disease Program is \$2,866,000 and 12 FTE, with a program change of -\$980,000 and -5 FTE from the 2012 Enacted.

**Avian Health and Disease Program (-\$980,000/-5 FTE)**

To fund higher priority conservation activities, the Service proposes to reduce funding for the Avian Health and Disease Program, which was established in 2006, in response to concerns that migratory birds may play a key role in the movement and spread of the H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. This linkage was investigated through surveillance, monitoring, and testing of wild birds and their interactions with poultry and human populations. In 2011, the program was redesigned to address all avian disease concerns in an effort to break the cycle of short-term, reactionary approaches to one disease emergency at a time by providing a stable, long-term, prepared, and proactive resource. This decrease will reduce cooperative efforts with states and diminish the geographic coverage of this work. The work focuses on the impact of infectious and non-infectious disease on wild bird populations, especially those populations that may be influenced or stressed by a changing climate. The objectives of the program are to conduct health and disease surveillance of wild bird populations in order to: establish avian health baselines, identify existing and emerging avian health and disease risks, ensure disease preparedness and prevention, and develop, guide, and implement appropriate and effective management actions. Program base-funded actions will focus on core priority activities.

**Program Overview**

Diseases pose a serious threat to wild bird populations. When combined with habitat fragmentation, changes in land-use patterns, and changes in climate, this threat becomes even more serious. These changes create new opportunities for the spread of avian diseases, placing pressure on bird populations already stressed by other anthropogenic factors.

The Migratory Bird Program has built upon its avian influenza surveillance activities of the previous few years to establish a nationwide Avian Health and Disease Program that supports the avian conservation,



*Male common eider in Massachusetts killed by the newly discovered Wellfleet Bay virus. Photo by Samantha Gibbs, USFWS*

surveillance, and management goals of the Service. This nationwide program focuses on monitoring of infectious and non-infectious diseases within wild bird populations, especially those that may be influenced by a changing climate. The objectives of the program are to conduct health and disease surveillance of wild bird populations in order to: 1.) establish avian health baselines, 2.) identify existing and emerging avian health and disease risks, 3.) ensure disease preparedness and prevention, and 4.) develop, guide, and implement appropriate and effective management actions. In addition to providing information on avian health, this program serves as an early warning system for diseases which have the potential to impact humans, as well as poultry and livestock agri-businesses.

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

		2011 Actual	2012 Enacted	2013			Change from 2012 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Permits	(\$000)	3,609	3,564	+28	0	3,592	+28
	FTE	35	35	0	0	35	0

**Justification of 2013 Program Changes**

The 2013 budget request for the Permits Program is \$3,592,000 and 35 FTE, with no net program change from the 2012 Enacted.

**Program Overview**

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



*Juvenile golden eagle in flight, Las Vegas NWR, NM. The Service's objective is to maintain stable or increasing populations of golden eagles as we transition to newer renewable forms of energy.*  
 Photo by Brian Millsap, USFWS

The regulation of take is a primary Service activity that uses current data and coordination with the states and Tribes to evaluate the status of migratory bird populations. For example, various regulatory options for game bird species are considered each year during the well-defined regulations-setting cycle that results in the regulations governing migratory bird sport hunting and subsistence hunting each year.

The mission of the Migratory Bird Permits Program is to promote the long-term conservation of migratory bird populations while providing opportunities for the public to study, use, and enjoy migratory birds consistent with the provisions of the MBTA and the BGEPA. Regulations authorizing take and possession of migratory birds focus on a limited number of allowable activities: scientific study, depredation control, falconry, raptor propagation, rehabilitation, education, taxidermy, waterfowl sale, religious use of eagles, and other purposes. The permits are administered by the eight Regional Migratory Bird Permit Offices, which process over 14,000 applications annually. Native American eagle feather

possession permits are valid indefinitely; most other permits are valid for 1 to 5 years. Approximately 49,000 permits are valid at any time.

The Service is working with other federal and state agencies to develop new regulations, which address sustainable renewable energy development, particularly wind and solar energy facilities. The Service is currently developing guidance to assess and minimize the potential impacts of project on migratory birds, particularly golden and bald eagles. Entities that follow Service guidance consistent with the provisions of the MBTA and BGEPA enable the Service to provide permits for these activities.

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

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

		2011 Actual	2012 Enacted	2013			Change from 2012 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Federal Duck Stamp	(\$000)	847	843	+4	0	847	+4
	FTE	5	5	0	0	5	0

**Justification of 2013 Program Changes**

The 2013 budget request for the Federal Duck Stamp Program is \$847,000 and 5 FTE, with no net program change from the 2012 Enacted.

**Program Overview**



The Federal Duck Stamp program, an internationally recognized and emulated program, supports conservation of important migratory bird habitat within the National Wildlife Refuge System through the design and 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 or older to possess a valid Federal Duck Stamp. Many non-hunters also buy Federal Duck Stamps to support wetlands conservation.

In 2010, Duck Stamps sales totaled nearly \$25 million, and since 1934, the stamps have raised more than \$750 million for the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, enabling the protection of more than 5.3 million acres of prime waterfowl habitat. Lands acquired with Duck Stamp dollars also provide Americans with opportunities to enjoy the outdoors by engaging in activities such as hunting, fishing, hiking and wildlife watching, key components of the Administration’s America’s Great Outdoors Initiative.

The Administration’s FY 2013 budget request proposes to increase the price of the Federal Duck Stamp from \$15 to \$25. Since the last price increase in 1991, land prices have increased, but the buying power of the Duck Stamp has not kept pace. If the price of the Duck Stamp were to increase to \$25, the Service could acquire approximately 7,000 additional waterfowl habitat acres in fee and approximately 10,000 additional conservation easement acres annually.

The 2011-2012 Duck Stamp (pictured above) features Minnesota artist James Hautman’s painting of a pair of white-fronted geese. The 2011 stamp was also the fourth year the Service continued to sell Duck Stamps in eight participating states through the Electronic Duck Stamp (E-Stamp) pilot. The E-Stamp program is a valuable customer service tool, making Duck Stamps available in a quick and convenient manner. The acceptance of the this initiative has been clearly demonstrated by the growth in E-Stamp sales from 58,000 in the pilot’s first year (2007) to more than 350,000 in 2010 with another increase expected in 2011.

Since 1989, the Junior Duck Stamp Program has provided an art and science-based environmental education curriculum to help teach wildlife conservation to American schoolchildren. As our nation's population becomes more urban, children are becoming disconnected from and uninterested in the outdoors and the natural world, a cultural phenomenon termed "nature deficit disorder." To promote an increased appreciation for the outdoors and foster environmental stewardship, the Junior Duck Stamp program provides educators the tools to teach about nature and encourage conservation activities.

In FY 2010, the Service initiated an update of the Junior Duck Stamp curriculum. This new curriculum will include resources for using state-of-the-art technology, social networking tools, and current scientific information (for example, the impacts of rising sea levels on coastal wetland habitats). Additionally, it will be multi-culturally relevant and will incorporate information about careers in nature and conservation. It will also maintain its heritage with the opportunity for students to submit artwork in a National Junior Duck Stamp art competition. Illinois native Abraham Hunter's painting of a pair of ring-necked ducks (pictured above) took top honors at the 2011 National Junior Duck Stamp Contest held at the Service's John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum, near Philadelphia.



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

		2011 Actual	2012 Enacted	2013			Change from 2012 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
North American Waterfowl Management/Joint Ventures	(\$000)	12,890	14,025	+45	+22	14,092	+67
	FTE	47	47	0	0	47	0

**Summary of 2013 Program Changes for North American Waterfowl Management Plan/JVs**

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Joint Ventures	+22	+0
<b>Program Changes</b>	<b>+22</b>	<b>+0</b>

**Justification of 2013 Program Changes**

The 2013 budget request for North American Waterfowl Management Plan/Joint Ventures is \$14,092,000 and 47 FTE, a net program increase of \$22,000 and +0 FTE from the 2012 Enacted.

**Joint Ventures (+\$22,000/ +0 FTE)**

The 2013 proposed budget increase will enable the Service to maintain level funding for all 21 Joint Ventures. This funding request permits Joint Ventures to continue support of ongoing landscape conservation planning and habitat projects that benefit populations of migratory birds, maintain the application of regionally-based adaptation strategies among multiple partners including state agencies, local governments, private corporations and landowners, as well as non-profit organizations, and develop effective adaptation strategies for migratory birds in response to threats resulting from habitat loss, climate change, and other impacts on the landscape.

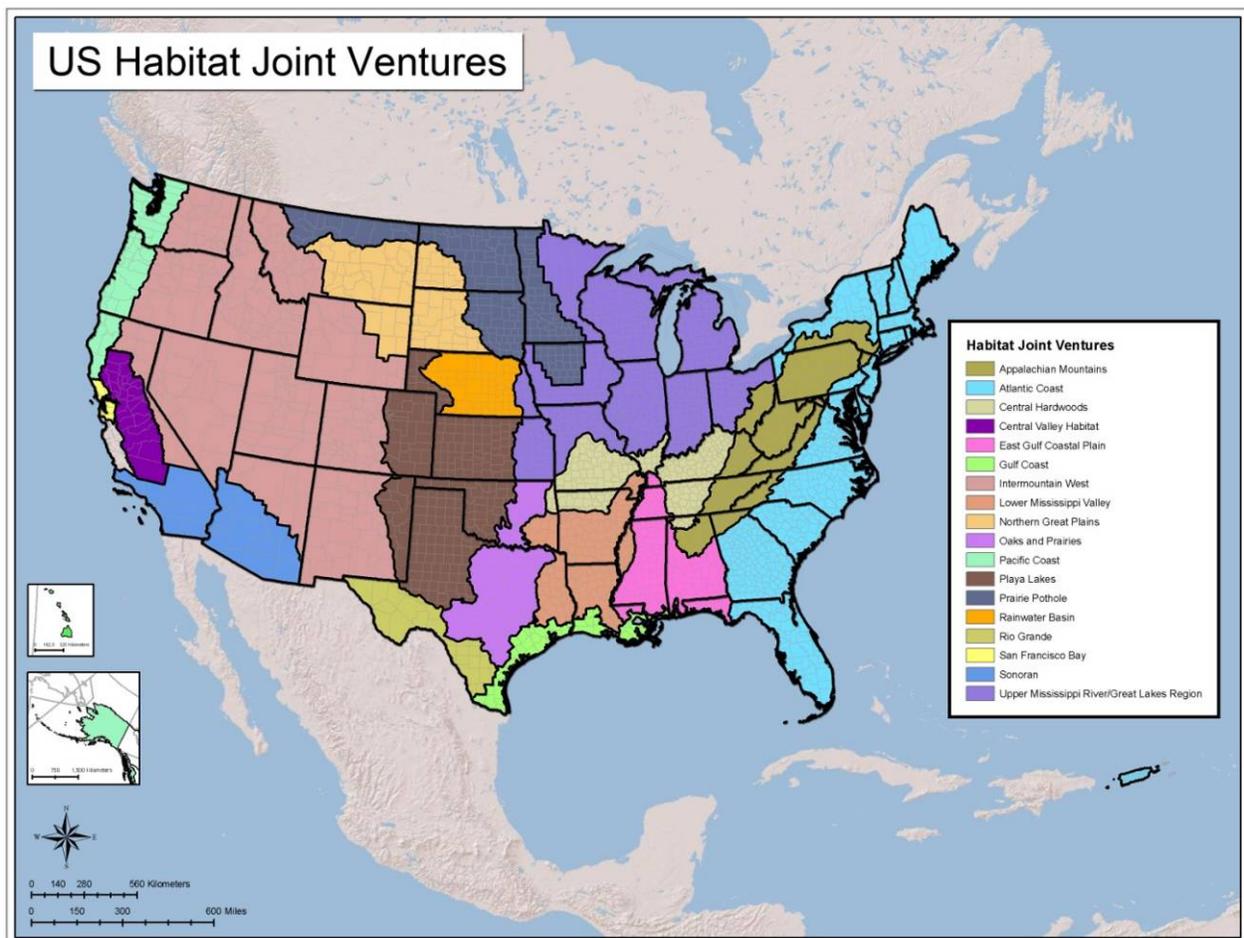
**Program Overview**

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP or Plan) is an international accord signed in 1986 by the U.S. Secretary of Interior and the Minister of Environment Canada, and in 1994 by the Secretario de Desarrollo Social of Mexico, that addresses waterfowl management across the North American continent. For 25 years, the NAWMP has helped to sustain abundant waterfowl populations by conserving landscapes through partnerships that are guided by sound science.

The habitat goals of the Plan are primarily implemented by migratory bird Joint Venture partnerships, which are regional, self-directed organizations involving Federal, State, and local governments, corporations, and a wide range of non-government conservation groups. Currently there are 18 U.S. habitat-based Joint Ventures, and three that are species-specific, addressing multiple local, regional, and continental goals for sustaining migratory bird populations by developing scientifically based landscape conservation plans and habitat projects. Joint Ventures are active partners in the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs), contributing their quarter-century of experience with partnership development, conservation planning, and habitat delivery for migratory birds to the collective science and capacity of the LCCs. LCCs are now beginning to address Joint Venture priority science needs. For example, the North Atlantic LCC is funding a scientifically-based, landscape-scale conservation design project that will benefit the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture by enabling partners to estimate habitat capacity, set meaningful population objectives, and develop optimal, spatially explicit, conservation strategies across

the landscape. By catalyzing partnerships to conserve wildlife habitat, Joint Ventures also support community-level efforts to conserve outdoor spaces and provide recreational opportunities that are helping to reconnect Americans to the outdoors.

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



Joint Ventures use a science-based, adaptive framework for setting and achieving habitat conservation objectives at multiple scales. This framework is particularly well suited to strategically address the problems migratory birds face on their breeding, migration (stopover), and wintering grounds. Called Strategic Habitat Conservation, the framework is based on the principles of Adaptive Management and uses the best available scientific information to predict how bird populations respond to habitat conservation and other management activities.

The products of biological planning -- often maps or models -- are utilized by Joint Ventures to design landscape conservation strategies that can direct habitat management resources where they will have greatest effect and lowest relative cost. This strategy enables Joint Venture partners to focus their conservation programs and resources on the highest priority areas in the amounts needed to sustain healthy populations of migratory birds.

### **2013 Program Performance**

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In 2013 existing Joint Ventures will continue to develop models linking bird population objectives to habitat objectives as part of their biological planning. They will continue to use this biological planning information to inform their conservation design process which in turn provides the strategic guidance necessary for Joint Ventures partners to efficiently and effectively target their conservation delivery programs to achieve healthy bird populations. Established Joint Ventures will remain actively involved in the conservation delivery and monitoring efforts to evaluate management actions and improve on their biological plans. Newer Joint Ventures will rely on partner funding to develop their biological plans and conservation designs for priority bird species. . In addition, the partnership based organizational structures of Joint Ventures and LCCs across ecological landscapes and the intersection of Joint Venture and LCC boundaries inherently provide opportunities for collaboration on existing conservation actions without duplicating efforts. As LCC partners, Joint Ventures have helped develop individual LCC operating plans, define LCC priorities, and coordinate efforts with LCCs towards meeting both Joint Venture and LCC objectives. For example, the Great Plains LCC is working with the Playa Lakes Joint Venture to map playa complexes, one of the highest priorities for the two combined partnerships.

Two performance measures are in place to assess Joint Venture results. The measures are the number of birds of management concern with habitat needs identified at eco-regional scales and percent of habitat needs met to achieve healthy and sustainable levels of migratory birds. These measures record performance results at the endpoint of a planning, development, and implementation cycle that is often several years in length. Hence, funding in a particular fiscal year will not fully yield results attributable to that funding for at least 2-3 years.

Based on level funding to the existing 21 Joint Ventures, performance will increase program-wide due to the maturation of capacity built following a funding increase for Joint Ventures in 2012. The number of acres of bird habitat needs identified will increase as individual Joint Ventures begin to utilize the enhanced conservation capacity and partnerships developed under budget increases, and continue to implement effective adaptation strategies to deliver habitat conservation for birds and other wildlife. Migratory Bird Program focal species, a subset of the Birds of Management Concern, will be given priority for existing Joint Venture planning. The habitat needs of those species will be given priority in Joint Venture habitat objectives and conservation strategies, which will result in a more narrow focus on the acres of habitat identified for those priority species, and an increased efficiency of habitat delivery for conservation. Improvements in habitat performance measures will continue in out-years as the impacts to habitat conditions develop over time.

NAWMP/Joint Ventures – Combined Performance Change and Overview Table

Performance Goal	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Plan	2013 PB	Change from 2012 Plan to 2013 PB	Long Term Target 2016
CSF 6.4 Percent of habitat needs met to achieve healthy and sustainable levels of migratory birds - cumulative	51.5% (230,334,330 / 447,161,217)	52.3% (233,903,136 / 447,209,213)	57.2% (296,983,282 / 519,506,615)	49.6% (257,569,902 / 519,655,943)	50.1% (260,516,248 / 519,665,916)	51.9% (270,000,000 / 520,000,000)	1.8%	49.4% (308,530,460 / 624,104,643)
6.4.1 % of habitat needs met to achieve healthy and sustainable levels of migratory birds - cumulative	51.5% (230,334,330 / 447,161,217)	52.3% (233,903,136 / 447,209,213)	57.2% (296,983,282 / 519,506,615)	49.6% (257,569,902 / 519,655,943)	50.1% (260,516,248 / 519,665,916)	51.9% (270,000,000 / 520,000,000)	1.8%	49.4% (308,530,460 / 624,104,643)
Comments	The level of funding requested in 2013 will result in a modest increase in both habitat needs met and habitat needs identified following the maturation of conservation planning and habitat delivery work initiated in with the budget increase for 2012 from established joint ventures.							
6.4.5 # of BMC with habitat management needs identified at eco-regional scales	323	390	379	442	465	475	10	490
Comments	BMCs with management needs identified will increase slightly due to the maturation of capacity built following a funding increase for joint ventures in 2012.							