

Appendix R – National Wildlife Refuge System Strategic Goals and the Monument RONS and MMS Project Lists

The Refuge Operating Needs System (RONS) is a nation-wide computerized database designed to optimize the management of staffing and operation needs. It uses standardized procedures to document and prioritize needs and to report accomplishments. RONS projects are separated into two tiers, Tier 1 and Tier 2. Tier 1 projects are regionally ranked and are: 1) for essential staffing; 2) mission critical; and 3) new or significantly expanded refuges. Tier 1 projects have been locked since 2001 and cannot be modified; no new projects can be added, but they can be reprioritized. Tier 2 projects encompass all other projects and are not regionally ranked. Tier 2 projects can be modified and new projects can be added. Accomplishment reports are required when any RONS project is completed.

The Maintenance Management System (MMS) is a computerized database designed to optimize the management of deferred maintenance and capital improvement activities throughout the FWS. It uses standardized procedures to document and prioritize field facility and equipment needs and to report accomplishments. It is a management tool for planning and budgeting deferred maintenance, capital improvement, equipment repair and replacement, and construction projects. The MMS documentation begins at the ground level with identification of deferred maintenance, capital improvements, construction needs, and equipment replacement and repair needs by field station managers. The database allows generation of reports that summarize data in a variety of ways, such as by maintenance codes, facility and equipment category, project cost estimates, priorities and project expenditures. The FWS must document all deferred maintenance and construction appropriation projects in the MMS database before they are eligible for funding. The MMS documents deferred maintenance, construction, capital improvement, and equipment needs to aid management in planning and budgeting for field activities. As such, it is managed to provide timely and accurate information to the DOI, Office of Management and Budget, Congress, and other organizations.

Activities and projects listed under the 12 NWRS Strategic Goals below will be implemented as funds become available.

1. Conserve, manage, and where appropriate, restore fish, wildlife and plant resources and their habitats to fulfill refuge purposes, trust resource responsibilities, and biological diversity/ integrity.

Project Description	RONs/MMS (M) No.	Estimated Cost (Thousands)
Control invasive plant species	00013/01012/03004/03006M	128/34/66/52
Management plan for elk	00016	138
Expand habitat and wildlife monitoring	00002	138
Restore and maintain habitats	00014/00025/03002/ 03003/03005	190/163/170/ 171/156
Manage and monitor islands and shorelines	00027/01010M	38/26
Black-tailed jack rabbit inventory	01030	58
Washington and Townsend's ground squirrel studies	01027	49
Ecology of rare plants	00033	70
Western burrowing owl nesting study	01028	50
Support Ecological Services for Hanford Site issues	01036	464
BPA transmission line easement vegetation control and road maintenance	01022	151
Comprehensive vegetation survey	03008	111
Reintroduce Columbia Basin pygmy rabbits	03011	32
Wildlife and Habitat Management Plan	Proposed	150
	TOTAL	2,605

2. Provide quality environments with adequate water.

Project Description	RONs/MMS (M) No.	Estimated Cost (Thousands)
In-river contaminants	01023	501
WB-10 ponds contaminant investigation	01029	59
Wetland restoration	03007	75
	TOTAL	635

3. Ensure that unique values of wilderness, other special designation areas, and cultural resources are protected.

Project Description	RONS/MMS (M) No.	Estimated Cost (Thousands)
Manage water flows through relicensing	01021	207
Wild and scenic river suitability: Interim protection	01019	84
Native American trust responsibilities	01034/01013/01035/03001	167/151/167/26
Columbia River Salmon Agreement	01020	138
Cultural resources surveys	03009/03012/03013	86/29/80
Pre-Manhattan Project history	03014	28
Cultural Resource Management Plan	03015	170
Cultural Resource MOU with tribes	03016	55
Cultural Resource repository, curation and lab	03018	23
Mitigation due to White Bluffs sloughing	03021	22
	TOTAL	1,433

4. Welcome and orient visitors.

Project Description	RONS/MMS (M) No.	Estimated Cost (Thousands)
Entrance signs	00014M	73
Entrance gates	00018M/03001M	32/32
	TOTAL	528

5. Provide quality wildlife-dependent recreation and education opportunities.

Project Description	RONS/MMS (M) No.	Estimated Cost (Thousands)
Outreach program	01032/00023	151/167
Interpretation and Education program	00008	138
Provide on-site interpretation	00031	75
Maintain public roads	00011	183
Interpretive kiosks	00009M	117
Remove cattle guards and watering troughs	01020M	42
Interpretive pullouts	00012M	104
Replace road grader	03003M	140
Replace boundary signs	01004M/00013M	31/55
Hanford Reach overlook on the Wahluke Unit	00024M	110
Unsafe parking lot removal	01017M	42
Jet boat and trailer	01011M	26
Parking area at north Wahluke entrance	05002M	100
Public use plan	Proposed	150
Hunting plan	Proposed	100
	TOTAL	1,786

6. Volunteers, friends, and conservation partners actively contribute to the NWRS mission.

Project Description	RONS/MMS (M) No.	Estimated Cost (Thousands)
Partnership for Arid Lands Stewardship	00017	138
White Bluffs erosion and sedimentation	01024	310
Coordinate volunteers	03010	138
Survey fossils in Ringold Formation	03019	138
Geology and tectonic/cataclysmic flood events	03020/03022	27/25
	TOTAL	776

7. Protect resources and visitors through law enforcement.

Project Description	RONS/MMS (M) No.	Estimated Cost (Thousands)
LE vehicle	01008	90
Manage recreational uses	01037	151
Jet boat and trailer	00019M	55
	TOTAL	296

8. Provide infrastructure and equipment adequate to support NWRS mission, maintained in good condition.

Project Description	RONS/MMS (M) No.	Estimated Cost (Thousands)
Maintain equipment and facilities	00015	128
Adequate shop tools and equipment	01011/01025	34/29
Bulldozer	01003	95
Low ground pressure equipment for restoration	01004	47
Front end loader	01019M	61
Challenger	03004M	180
Disc	03010M	8
Disc	03013M	11
Tractor	03005M	52
Tractor	01014M	58
Mower	03002M	16
Backhoe	03014	55
Front-end loader	01019M	61
	TOTAL	835

9. Quality and useful Comprehensive Conservation Plans are completed on schedule and with the full engagement of partners.

10. Strategically grow the NWRS.

Project Description	RONs/MMS (M) No.	Estimated Cost (Thousands)
Land acquisition and transfer	01038	167
	TOTAL	167

11. Reduce wildfire risks and improve habitats.

Project Description	RONs/MMS (M) No.	Estimated Cost (Thousands)
Fire history study	00019	120
Firefighting equipment	01002	48
Water truck	01007	57
Fire effects / fire rehabilitation monitoring	03006	27
Type 6 fire engine	01007M	105
Fire bunkhouse	05001M	250
	TOTAL	607

12. Organizational excellence.

Project Description	RONs/MMS (M) No.	Estimated Cost (Thousands)
Administration	00028/00004	127/117
Operations	00007/00030	151/151
	TOTAL	546