

Endangered Species

Endangered Species		2004 Actual	2005 Enacted	Uncontrollable & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	2006 Budget Request	Change from 2005 (+/-)
Candidate Conservation	\$(000) FTE	9,785 79	9,255 77	+174	-1,176 -	8,252 77	-1,003 -
Listing	\$(000) FTE	12,135 92	15,960 102	+230	+1,941 -	18,130 102	+2,171 -
Consultation/HCP	\$(000) FTE	47,074 480	48,129 480	+1,086	+269 -	49,484 480	-1,355 -
Recovery	\$(000) FTE	67,762 518	69,870 525	+1,150	-6,777 -	64,243 525	-5,627 -
CAM (See General Business Operation Expenses)	\$(000)	[5,121]	[83]	-	-	[83]	-
Total, Endangered Species	\$(000) FTE	136,756 1,169	143,214 1,184	+2,639	-5,743 -	140,109 1,184	-3,105 -

Program Overview

The Endangered Species program is comprised of four components: Candidate Conservation, Listing, Consultation and Recovery. Each component is integral in fulfilling the Service's responsibilities under the *Endangered Species Act*.

The **Candidate Conservation** program involves a proactive and collaborative approach with states and territories, tribes, federal agencies, and the private sector to keep species from declining to the point that they warrant listing under the *Endangered Species Act*. Through this program the Service works to: (1) identify species that are on the brink of becoming listed or that face threats that make listing a possibility; (2) provide information, planning assistance, and resources to encourage partnerships for conservation measures for these species; and (3) prioritize non-listed species so those most needing protection or additional study are addressed first. The Service believes this collaborative approach is an essential conservation tool that proactively addresses species decline, remove or reduce threats, and initiate actions so that listing might not be necessary.

The **Listing** program is the mechanism through which plant and animal species are afforded the full range of protections available under the *Endangered Species Act*. These protections include: prohibitions on taking, import/export and commerce, and possession of unlawfully taken endangered species; recovery planning and implementation; and federal agency consultation requirements. Listing a species is a responsibility of the Service when, on the basis of the best available scientific information, a species is determined to be threatened or endangered. The program includes listing species under the Act, designating critical habitat and responding to petitions from the public to list species.

The **Consultation** program responds to the needs of federal agencies through section 7 of the *Endangered Species Act*, as well as meeting the needs of non-federal entities through the Habitat Conservation Planning (HCP) program (section 10 of the *Act*). The Service works with its federal partners to identify and resolve potential species conflicts in the early stages of project planning. The Service also addresses the needs of non-federal entities by participating as an equal partner in the HCP planning process. Both the section 7 and section 10 processes are used to ensure that projects will be implemented in a manner consistent with the conservation needs of listed species.

The **Recovery** program supports the ultimate goal of threatened and endangered species conservation which is to recover listed species to levels where protection under the *Endangered Species Act* is no longer required and they can be removed from the list (delisted). Restoring listed species to a point where they are secure, self-sustaining components of their ecosystem is a challenging task. The factors responsible for their endangered status may have been at work for hundreds of years, and reversing declines, stabilizing populations, and achieving recovery goals, in many cases, requires coordinated actions from many partners over a lengthy period.

During FY 2005, the Administration will review the Endangered Species Program using The Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART). The PART will examine the Program's purpose, planning, management and most importantly, its performance and results. New outcome-oriented performance goals will be developed to help measure the program's future performance.

Endangered Species – Use of Cost and Performance Information

- Beginning in FY 2000, the Service has funded listing actions individually, instead of by formula to the Regions as it did in prior years. The former formula-based allocation did not ensure that the highest priority listing actions each year were funded. For the last five years the Service has developed a national priority list, and allocated funds to the Regions based on these priorities. We have funded the regions for actions based on estimated costs developed by tracking prior year costs and revising cost estimates as necessary. This approach to allocation has ensured that our highest priority listing actions have been funded and the Regions are aware of their responsibility to complete them in a timely manner.
- Beginning in FY 2004, the Recovery Program established a process whereby high-priority needs of (1) species on the brink of extinction, and (2) species on the verge of recovery could be addressed through a competition-like approach between Service Regions. The allocation methodology is proposed to continue in FY 2006 to ensure that the highest priority needs are met.
- As part of our ongoing efforts to track implementation of recovery actions, the Service has developed the recovery implementation database that will track the endangered species program recovery actions. In FY2006, the database is planned to build linkages to other Service databases to track recovery actions between Service programs. This effort will make implementing recovery plans more efficient and accountable.
- Wildfires, especially in parts of the American West where fires near communities have been suppressed for decades, pose a significant threat to life and property. Fires can affect listed species, and at times fire management and prevention activities can also affect listed species. When carried out by federal agencies, actions to reduce hazardous fuel loads may require section 7 consultation. To ensure Service staff are available to conduct these consultations promptly, the Service, in fiscal year 2001 entered into cooperative agreements with the USFS and the BLM, which agreed to reimburse Service consultation costs for fire activities, as authorized by Congress. This approach ensured that these vital consultation needs are addressed promptly when needed, in support of the Department's and the President's fire management goals.
- In FY 2004, the Service, in cooperation with NOAA-Fisheries, BLM, USFS, and BIA, finalized section 7 counterpart regulations that allow these agencies to make "not likely to adversely affect" determinations for fuels management projects. These regulations allow the Service to focus consultation resources on those projects that are likely to have the greatest impacts on listed species, while reducing the workload burden of informal consultations on fuels management actions. The Service provides training to BLM and USFS employees throughout the country and these two agencies now have in excess of 500 staff who are qualified to make the "not likely to adversely affect" determinations.
- In FY 2004, the Service, in cooperation with NOAA-Fisheries, EPA, and USDA proposed and finalized section 7 counterpart regulations for pesticide registration and re-registration decisions under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). These regulations provide authority for qualified staff at EPA to make "not likely to adversely affect" determinations without written concurrence from the Services and also describe a system of interagency cooperation to be followed if formal consultation is required. To help meet the increased workload associated with these reviews, the Service is proposing a \$277,000 increase in FY 2006.
- In addition to the counterpart regulations described the Service has implemented streamlined Section 7 consultation processes for several kinds of activities. When we have implemented these streamlined processes, the time to complete consultations has been reduced by one-third. For example, the Service developed streamlined processes to expedite consultations on timber sales, habitat restoration, recreation activities, and other projects in the Pacific Northwest. We also are engaging the Department of Transportation on approaches to streamline endangered species review for highway and pipeline improvement projects.