

## National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

### Program Overview

Congress created the Foundation in 1984 to foster partnerships between the private sector and government for the conservation and management of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources of the United States. The Foundation runs a competitive challenge grant program with a statutory non-federal matching requirement of 1:1 for all Federal Dollars the Foundation awards; it has averaged more than 2:1 in recent years. With Federal dollars from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Foundation has supported approximately 2,746 grants among 1,340 conservation partners, leveraging over \$129 million in Service funds into \$412.6 million for on-the-ground projects that benefit conservation in all 50 states. Resultantly, more than 1 million acres of habitat and over 2,400 miles of stream have been restored. This appropriation is not used to support the Foundation's administrative expenses. Conservation efforts within the Foundation will contribute to the Watersheds, Landscapes, and marine Goal of the Resource Protection Mission Goal of the DOI Strategic Plan. The Foundation will make important contributions to the Intermediate outcome Strategy 1: Restore and maintain proper function to watersheds and landscapes.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation challenge grant model calls for three to four collaborators on each of its grants: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the grantee, the matching private funders and the Foundation. By building partnerships among conservation organizations, government businesses, private organizations, and individuals, the Foundation stimulates new support for on-the-ground conservation, and important niche in conservation funding. The foundation's pooling of public-private funds creates an incentive-based partnership environment for strategic natural resource investments.

### Justification of 2006 Program Change

Subactivity	2006 Budget Request	Program Change (+/-)
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	7,470	-291

The FY 2006 budget request for National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is \$7,470,000 a net program decrease of \$291,000 from the 2005 enacted level. The Service continues to support this program and to integrate lessons learned from NFWF partnerships into other Service grant programs. The proposed level of funding provides a healthy level of support for the Foundation's important activities.