

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Program Elements	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Enacted	FY 2007			Change From 2006 (+/-)
			Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	7,761	7,656	-	-	7,656	-

Program Overview

Congress created the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (Foundation) in 1984 to foster partnerships between the private sector and government for the conservation and management of 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 federally appropriated dollars the Foundation awards; it has averaged more than 2:1 in recent years. With Federal dollars from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), the Foundation has supported 2,955 grants among 1,453 conservation partners, leveraging over \$136 million in Service funds into \$436.7 million, for projects that benefit conservation in all 50 states. This appropriation is not used to support the Foundation's administrative expenses and all of the funding goes directly to on-the-ground conservation.

The Foundation challenge grant model calls for multiple collaborators on each of its grants: the Service and/or the grantee, the (matching) private funding providers and the Foundation. The Foundation also requires that each project be reviewed by five diverse external reviewers (federal, state, non-profit, educational, and private sector) and detailed evaluation protocols are included. By building partnerships among conservation organizations, government businesses, private organizations, and individuals, the Foundation stimulates new support for on-the-ground conservation, an important niche in conservation funding. The Foundation's pooling of public-private funds creates an incentive-based partnership environment for strategic natural resource investments.

The FY 2007 budget request for National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is \$7,656,000, which the same as the 2006 enacted level. The Service continues to support this program and to integrate lessons learned from Foundation partnerships into other Service grant programs.