

LANDOWNER INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Appropriation Language

For expenses necessary to carry out the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended (16 U.S.C. 4601-4 through 11), including administrative expenses, and for private conservation efforts to be carried out on private lands, [\$24,000,000] \$24,400,000, to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and to remain available until expended: Provided, That the amount provided herein is for a Landowner Incentive Program established by the Secretary that provides matching, competitively awarded grants to States, the District of Columbia, federally recognized Indian tribes, Puerto Rico, Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa, to establish or supplement existing landowner incentive programs that provide technical and financial assistance, including habitat protection and restoration, to private landowners for the protection and management of habitat to benefit federally listed, proposed, candidate, or other at-risk species on private lands. (Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006.)

PL 109-148 (rescission)

Of the unobligated balances available under this heading, \$2,000,000 are rescinded. (Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act to Address Hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico and Pandemic Influenza, 2006.)

Authorizing Statutes

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544). Prohibits the import, export, or taking of fish and wildlife and plants that are listed as threatened or endangered species; provides for adding species to and removing them from the list of threatened and endangered species, and for preparing and implementing plans for their recovery; provides for interagency cooperation to avoid take of listed species and for issuing permits for otherwise prohibited activities; provides for cooperation with States, including authorization of financial assistance; and implements the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES). Authorization of Appropriations: Expired September 30, 1992.

Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, as amended (16 U.S.C. 742(a)-754). Establishes a comprehensive national fish and wildlife policy and authorizes the Secretary to take steps required for the development, management, advancement, conservation, and protection of fisheries resources and wildlife resources through research, acquisition of refuge lands, development of existing facilities, and other means.

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 661). The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to provide assistance to, and cooperate with, Federal, State, and public or private agencies and organizations in the development, protection, rearing, and stocking of all species of wildlife, resources thereof, and their habitat, in controlling losses of the same from disease or other causes, in minimizing damages from overabundant species, in providing public shooting and fishing areas, including easements across public lands for access thereto.

		FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Enacted	FY 2007			Change From 2006 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Landowner Incentive State Grants	\$(000)	18,939	18,915	0	+2,386	21,301	+2,386
Landowner Incentive Tribal Grants	\$(000)	2,104	2,102	0	+265	2,367	+265
Administration	\$(000)	651	650	0	+82	732	+82
	FTE	7	7	0	0	7	0
User-Pay Cost Share		[69]	[96]			[97]	
Total, Landowner Incentive Program							
	\$(000)	21,694	21,667	0	+2,733	24,400	+2,733
	FTE	7	7	0	0	7	0

Summary of FY 2007 Program Changes for Landowner Incentive Program

Request Component	Amount	FTE
Program Changes		
• State Grants	+2,386	0
• Tribal Grants	+265	0
• Administration	+82	0
TOTAL, Program Changes for Landowner Incentive Program	+2,733	0

Justification of FY 2007 Program Changes

The FY 2007 budget request for Landowner Incentive Grants is \$24,400,000 and 7 FTE, a net program increase of \$2,733,000 and 0 FTE from the 2006 enacted level.

Landowner Incentive Program Grants (+\$2,733,000)

The proposed increase will provide additional grants to states and tribes. Grants funded with these additional funds may include projects covered under the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plans prepared by states and approved by the Service. In past years, the Service has received state proposals from all states and territories. Currently, the Service is requesting proposals from the states for evaluation, ranking, and award in FY 2006.

Program Overview

The Landowner Incentive Program provides grants to state and tribal conservation agencies to help landowners restore habitats of listed, proposed, candidate, or other species determined to be at risk on private and tribal lands. The competitively awarded grants leverage Federal funds through cost-sharing provisions with state, territorial, and tribal fish and wildlife agencies. The Service requires a 25-percent non-Federal share of project costs for this program. The Landowner Incentive Program is based on the Secretary’s Four C’s program to enhance conservation work through communication, consultation, cooperation, and conservation.

The Landowner Incentive Program began in FY 2002 and is funded from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Since its inception, Congress has provided over \$112 million for the Landowner Incentive Program. The grant program features two tiers of competition and funding. Tier 1 grants are capped at a maximum of \$180,000 per state and are intended to provide a base for states to fund staff

and their associated support to develop new or to enhance existing landowner incentive programs. Tier 2 grants are intended for actual, on-the-ground implementation of landowner incentive projects. They provide technical or financial assistance to private landowners through a variety of means for these implementation projects. The Tier 2 awards are capped at 5 percent per state of the total funds available.

Because Federal funding for wildlife conservation activities on private lands has historically been limited, the additional funding provided by the Landowner Incentive Program is allowing many states and territories to begin implementing conservation actions that they previously were unable to fund. See the FY 2006 program performance section below for examples of conservation projects under the Landowner Incentive Program.

Use of Cost and Performance Information	
<p><i>The Landowner Incentive Program has been using performance based information for several years in its resource allocation process.</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Service is ensuring that successful grant applicants define the benefits of their programs and have in place mechanisms that monitor project actions for program efficiency and effectiveness. LIP award criteria were recently revised to clarify and address this need. • To improve program accountability and encourage more rapid obligation of grant funds, the Service has increased communications with program stakeholders regarding grant and financial information on their awards. This is being accomplished by data sharing between regional Service offices and state wildlife agencies. • The use of Activity Based Costing will provide the appropriate avenue to report our accomplishments and accurately document our efforts while further aiding our identification, prioritization, and utilization of our recognized expertise. 	

Total Performance Change		4 additional miles of stream shoreline restored 69 acres made available for recreation through management 9 fishing access sites developed or renovated			
	A	B	C	D=B+C	E
Overall Performance Changes from 2006 to 2007					
Measure	2006 Enacted Performance	2007 Base Performance	2007 Impact of Program Change on Performance	2007 Budget Request Performance	Out-year Impact of 2007 Program Change on Performance
#13.8.3 # of stream/shoreline miles achieving habitat/biologic community goals through voluntary agreements - SP	9	9	+0	9	+0
# 13.8.4 # of acres achieving habitat/ biologic community goals through voluntary agreements - SP	17,168	17,168	+0	17,168	+2,060
<p>Column B: The performance level expected to be achieved absent the program change (i.e., at the 2006 request level plus/minus funded fixed cost/related changes); this would reflect, for example, the impact of prior year funding changes, management efficiencies, absorption of fixed costs, and trend impacts. Column E: The out-year impact is the change in performance level expected in 2008 and Beyond of ONLY the requested program budget change; it does <u>not</u> include the impact of receiving these funds again in a subsequent outyear.</p>					

2007 Program Performance Estimates

The Service will continue to work with the states so that they can take full advantage of the funds available to them through this program. The Service will also work with grant recipients in an attempts to increase the rate of obligation for the committed funding. The Service will continue to provide Tier 1 grants to states in its continued support for state staffing and infrastructure needs. All other grant funds will be directed to Tier 2 grants which support specific on-the-ground projects.

2006 Planned Program Performance

In FY 2006, the Service will continue to work with the states to review and process grant applications. Now that the States have submitted their Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plans, they will have opportunities to increase their emphasis on finding and executing on-the-ground conservation projects on private lands. The Service expects the FY 2006 grant cycle to start in February 2006 with a request for proposals in the Federal Register. There will be a 60-day period for the states to submit proposals. Ranking of these proposals will occur in April and the list of approved projects is planned for May.

Several of the projects started in FY 2005 will continue in FY 2006. Examples of Tier 2 program undertakings include: Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife has implemented 30 projects on private lands statewide to benefit at-risk species. In one project, the Nantucket Conservation Foundation, Inc., received LIP funds to restore more than 200 acres of permanently-protected conservation land at their Head of the Plains property on Nantucket Island. The property includes imperiled natural communities that support many at-risk species including the New England blazing star, a Federally endangered plant. LIP funds were used to remove woody vegetation in preparation for a prescribed burn to restore sandplain grassland, sandplain heathland, and scrub oak barrens habitats.



View of sandplain grassland and heathland and removal of woody vegetation from Head of the Plains property, Nantucket Island, Massachusetts. (Photo courtesy of Ken MacKenzie, Mass. Wildlife)

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) is working with private landowners to reduce erosion along stream banks and improve water quality and habitat for fish and freshwater mussel species considered to be at-risk. This work is taking place in five watersheds: upper Tennessee River, Rivanna River, upper Roanoke River, upper James River, and lower New River. Working in cooperation with the property owner, the Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Rivanna Conservation Society, DGIF restored approximately 1,000 linear feet of streambank along Stillhouse Creek, a tributary to the Rivanna River. The restoration will improve habitat conditions for the James spiny mussel, a Federal and state endangered species.

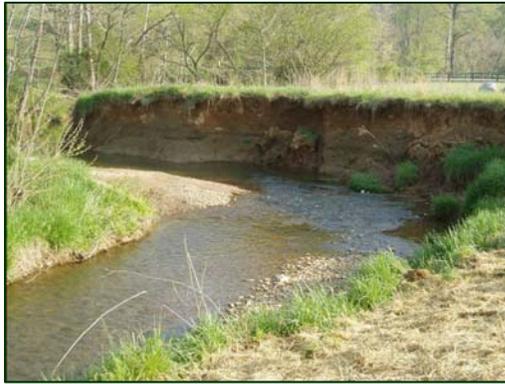


Fig 1: Eroding banks along Stillhouse Creek in the Rivanna River watershed, Albemarle County, VA



Fig 2: Excavator being used to slope stream bank to 3:1 grade.



Fig 3: Installing coir fiber matting for short-term bank stability



Fig 4: Stream bank after being seeded, mulched, and planted to ensure long-term stability

2005 Program Performance Accomplishments

FY 2005 marked the second year in which significant conservation activities occurred as a result of this program. Below are several examples of Tier 2 projects:

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife – The Washington State agency has used LIP funds to restore and protected approximately 500 acres of riparian habitat, 4,356 acres of estuary/near shore habitat, 426 acres of wetland habitat, 4.2 miles of in stream habitat, 204 acres of prairie habitat, 327 acres of oak woodland habitat and 2,330 acres of shrub steppe habitat. In addition, approximately 50 miles of fish habitat have become available to anadromous fish resulting from LIP fish passage projects.

The Wyoming Department of Game and Fish – The Wyoming agency is focusing on black-tailed prairie dogs, swift fox, and the Upland Sandpiper in the Grassland Ecosystem; Greater Sage Grouse, Sage Sparrow, and Brewer’s Sparrow in the Sagebrush Ecosystem; and other species of greatest conservation need in the prairie aquatic ecosystem. The State plans to conduct prescribed burning and implement grazing strategies on 2,000 acres annually for a total of 10,000 acres as well as controlling

noxious and invasive plants, especially cheatgrass, on 5,000 acres in the Thunder Basin National Grasslands region and throughout southeast Wyoming, over a 5-year period.

Colorado Division of Wildlife – The Colorado agency is working to protect and restore 2,000 acres of habitat critical to the recovery of the Gunnison sage grouse. It is also working to protect and manage 5,000 acres of short, mid, and tall grass prairie habitat that represent a mosaic necessary to prevent the listing or provide for the downlisting or de-listing of wildlife species in the prairie grassland communities. These species include mountain plover, Black-tailed prairie dog, Burrowing Owl, Ferruginous Hawk, Lesser Prairie Chicken, Long-billed Curlew, and Cassin’s sparrow.

Program Performance Overview

Measure	2005 Plan	2005 Actual	Change from 2005 Plan	2006 Enacted	2006 change from 2005 Actual	2007 Request	2007 Change from 2006
# of stream/shoreline miles achieving habitat/biologic community goals through voluntary agreements (SP)	--	--	--	9	--	9	0
# of acres achieving habitat/biologic community goals through voluntary agreements (SP)	1,350	1,948	+598	17,168	+15,220	17,168	0

Note: The large increase in reported planned acres in FY 2006 is due to improving reporting of accomplishments

Landowner Incentive Program			
Tier 1 and Tier 2 Funding			
FY 2005			
State	Tier 1	Tier 2	Total
AL	\$180,000	0	\$180,000
AK	0	0	0
AR	180,000	0	180,000
AS	0	0	0
AZ	180,000	475,000	655,000
CA	157,787	0	157,787
CO	0	314,446	314,446
CN	180,000	0	180,000
DC	0	0	0
DE	180,000	475,000	655,000
FL	180,000	475,000	655,000
GA	180,000	0	180,000
GU	0	0	0
HI	0	314,446	314,446
IA	180,000	475,000	655,000
ID	180,000	0	180,000
IL	180,000	525,000	705,000
IN	0	0	0
KS	180,000	0	180,000
KY	180,000	525,000	705,000
LA	180,000	0	180,000
MA	180,000	475,000	655,000
MD	180,000	725,000	905,000
ME	180,000	475,000	655,000
MI	180,000	475,000	655,000
MN	180,000	725,000	905,000
MO	180,000	240,900	420,900
MS	180,000	525,000	705,000
MT	180,000	0	180,000
NC	180,000	0	180,000
ND	0	0	0
NE	180,000	600,000	780,000
NH	180,000	525,000	705,000
NJ	180,000	475,000	655,000
NM	180,000	0	180,000
NV	0	0	0
NY	180,000	0	180,000
OH	0	0	0
OK	180,000	0	180,000
OR	180,000	525,000	705,000
PA	180,000	0	180,000
PR	0	0	0
RI	180,000	0	180,000
SC	0	0	0
SD	0	0	0
TN	180,000	0	180,000
TX	180,000	525,000	705,000
UT	180,000	525,000	705,000
VA	180,000	0	180,000
VI	75,000	0	75,000
VT	180,000	0	180,000
WA	180,000	0	180,000
WV	180,000	0	180,000
WI	179,643	525,000	704,643
WY	180,000	766,959	946,959
Total	\$7,432,430	\$11,686,751	\$19,119,181

Standard Form 300

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
LANDOWNER INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

Program and Financing (in thousands of dollars)			
Identification code 14-5496-0	2005 Actual	2006 Estimate	2007 Estimate
Obligations by program activity:			
00.01 Landowner Incentives Grant Program	16,919	22,000	25,000
00.02 Administration	956	990	1,025
10.00 Total obligations	17,875	22,990	26,025
Budgetary resources available for obligation:			
21.40 Unobligated balance available, start of year	34,482	39,148	37,805
22.00 New Budget authority (gross)	22,000	24,000	24,400
21.00 Recoveries	847		
40.36 Rescission of FY 2002 Unobligated Balances			
40.36 Rescission of Authority [P.L. 108-447]	-306		
40.36 Rescission of Authority [P.L. 109-54]		-114	
40.36 Rescission of Authority [P.L. 109-148 - ATB]		-239	
40.36 Rescission of Authority [P.L. 109-148 - Unobl Bal.]		-2,000	
23.90 Total budgetary resources available for obligation	57,023	60,795	62,205
23.95 New obligations (-)	-17,875	-22,990	-26,025
24.40 Unobligated balance available, end of year	39,148	37,805	36,180
New budget authority (gross), detail:			
Discretionary:			
40.20 Appropriation (Special Fund) LWCF	22,000	22,000	24,400
Change in unpaid obligations:			
Unpaid obligations, start of year:			
72.40 Obligated balance, start of year	30,459	37,133	46,123
73.10 New obligations	17,875	22,990	26,025
73.20 Total outlays, gross (-)	-10,354	-14,000	-18,000
73.45 Recoveries	-847		
74.40 Obligated balance, end of year	37,133	46,123	54,148
Outlays, (gross) detail:			
86.97 Outlays from new discretionary authority	1,000	7,000	7,000
86.98 Outlays from discretionary balances	9,354	7,000	11,000
87.00 Total outlays (gross)	10,354	14,000	18,000
Net budget authority and outlays:			
89.00 Budget authority	22,000	22,000	24,400
90.00 Outlays	10,354	14,000	18,000

Object Classification (in thousands of dollars)			
Direct obligations:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	557	579	602
11.3 Other than full time permanent	11	11	12
11.5 Other personnel compensation	13	14	14
11.9 Total personnel compensation	581	604	628
12.1 Civilian personnel benefits	166	173	180
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons	52	53	54
22.0 Transportation of things	15	15	16
23.1 Rental Payments to GSA	66	67	69
23.2 Rental payments to others	1	1	1
24.0 Printing	1	1	1
25.2 Other Payments	20	20	21
25.3 Purchases of goods and services from Gov't Accts	47	48	49
25.7 Operation and maintenance of equipment	0	0	0
26.0 Supplies and materials	3	3	3
31.0 Equipment	4	4	4
41.0 Grants, subsidies and contributions	16,919	22,000	25,000
99.9 Total obligations	17,875	22,990	26,025
Personnel Summary			
Direct:			
Total compensable work years:			
1001 Full-time equivalent employment	7	7	7

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