

### Endangered Species Program

		2006 Actual	2007 CR	2008			Change from 2007 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Candidate Conservation	(\$000) FTE	8,619 62	8,063 63	+250 -	+322 +2	8,635 65	+572 +2
Listing	(\$000) FTE	17,630 122	17,759 123	+504 -	- -	18,263 123	+504 -
Consultation/HCP	(\$000) FTE	47,997 424	49,337 429	+1,741 -	+500 +4	51,578 433	+2,241 +4
Recovery	(\$000) FTE	73,562 450	65,879 456	+1,844 -	+344 -	68,067 456	+2,188 -
Transfer from USFS Jarbridge	(\$000)	590					
Impact of the CR	(\$000)		[+280]		[-280]	-	-
<b>Total, Endangered Species</b>	<b>(\$000) FTE</b>	<b>148,398 1,058</b>	<b>141,038 1,071</b>	<b>+4,339 -</b>	<b>+1,166 +6</b>	<b>146,543 1,077</b>	<b>+5,505 +6</b>

#### Summary of 2008 Program Changes for Endangered Species

Request Component	Amount	FTE
• Candidate Conservation	+322	+2
• Consultation/HCP	+500	+4
• Recovery	+344	0
• Impact of the CR [Non-Add]	[-280]	0
<b>Total, Program Changes</b>	<b>+1,166</b>	<b>+6</b>

#### Justification of 2008 Program Changes

The 2008 budget request for Endangered Species is \$146,543,000 and 1,077 FTE, a net program change of +\$1,166,000 and +6 FTE from the 2007 President’s budget. Requested changes and performance impacts are discussed under the individual program element discussions.

**Impact of 2007 Continuing Resolution (-\$280,000)** - The 2008 budget restores the priorities of the 2007 President’s budget by funding 2007 programmed fixed cost increases, eliminating unrequested 2006 congressional earmarks, and implementing the program enhancement and program reduction initiatives included in the 2007 President’s budget.

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### Program Overview

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The Fish and Wildlife Service's Endangered Species program is comprised of four program elements: 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, removes or reduces threats, and initiates 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 may require coordinated actions from many partners over a lengthy period.

### Endangered Species – Use of Cost and Performance Information

- In FY 2006, the Service launched a new national Tracking and Integrated Logging System (TAILS) for Federal Activities, Environmental Contaminants and Section 7 Interagency Consultations. This system replaces local, individualized workload tracking systems to allow more consistency and better accountability in reporting accomplishments at the regional and national level for GPRA and other purposes.
- The Service targeted some of its FY 2006 consultation funds to support energy development activities by other Federal agencies. Additional funding was provided to the Regions based on the anticipated energy-related consultation workload associated with petroleum development, coal mining, and hydropower. Information about the likely energy-related workload was derived from the Department of Energy. By taking this approach, instead of allocating the consultation increase by the existing formula, the Service is able to anticipate and better meet this energy-related consultation workload and further contribute to the Department's resource use goal of fostering energy development in an environmentally sound manner. The requested increase in FY 2007 funding for consultation will be directed to towards further increases in the energy-related consultation workload expected in the West.
- Starting in FY 2004, the Service has addressed the high-priority needs of (1) species on the brink of extinction, and (2) species at the verge of recovery through a competitive approach. Rather than allocating funds by formula, the Regions request funding for specific projects. This competitive approach to allocating this funding ensures that the highest priority needs are met, no matter where they occur in the country, while encouraging increased efficiency in project implementation (as among projects of roughly equal priority, lower-cost proposals are more likely to be funded).
- To ensure Service staff is available to conduct consultations promptly, the Service, in FY 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. In FY 2007, the Service will again enter into cooperative agreements with BLM and the USFS, but at a greatly reduced level from previous years due section 7 counterpart regulations that allow certain action agencies to make "not likely to adversely affect" determinations for fuels management projects. These agreements help the Service give highest priority to addressing consultation requests for projects to reduce hazardous fuel loading in support of the Department's and the President's fire management goals.
- In FY 2007, the Service will be finalizing a strategic plan for the Endangered Species Program, and developing new long-term outcome and annual output performance measures to respond to the 2005 PART findings. The Service will also work to ensure regulations and policies help improve the program's effectiveness, and develop a process and timetable for regularly scheduled, non-biased, independent evaluations of the program, or key components of the program that collectively cover the entire program, as also recommended by the 2005 PART

Program Performance Overview <sup>1</sup>

Measure	2004 Actual	2005 Actual	2006 Plan	2006 Actual	2007 Plan	2007 Change from 2006	2008 Request	2008 Change from 2007
Percent of candidate species where listing is unnecessary as a result of conservation actions or agreements (SP)**	n/a	1.2% 3/256	1.4% 4/283	1.8% 5/283	1.1% (3/278)	-0.7%	1.4% (4/278)	+0.3 %
Percent of threatened or endangered species that are stabilized or improved. (SP)*	33% (413/ 1252)	35% (442/ 1256)	34% (436/ 1269)	41% (522/ 1269)	40% (509/ 1269)	-1%	40% (509/ 1269)	0%
Percent species listed 2.5 years with approved recovery plans (9.3) (BUR) <sup>2</sup>	84% (1028/ 1227)	84.3% (1040/ 1233)	86.8% (1082/ 1247)	86.5% (1080/ 1248)	87.4% (1091/ 1248)	+0.9%	87.6% (1101/ 1257)	+0.2%
Total Actual/Projected Cost (\$000)	n/a	n/a	\$8,768	\$8,752	\$9,064	+\$312	\$9,374	+\$310
Actual/Projected Cost Per Species (whole dollars)	n/a	n/a	\$8,104	\$8,104	\$8,308	+\$204	\$8,514	+\$206
# of species for which listing is unnecessary as a result of conservation actions or agreements (BUR)*	3	3	5	3	3	4	+1	0
Number of listing/uplisting petition findings completed (90-day and 12-month) (BUR) *	n/a	Establish baseline	39	63	34	-29	25	-9
Number of species proposed to be delisted due to recovery (13.10.1) (BUR)*	2	0	3	2	6	+4	2	-4
Number of final delisting determinations made due to recovery (13.10.2) (BUR)*	n/a	1	2	0	5	+5	5	0
# of final listing determinations made (BUR) *	n/a	Establish baseline	5	15	3	-12	12	+9

Measure	2004 Actual	2005 Actual	2006 Plan	2006 Actual	2007 Plan	2007 Change from 2006	2008 Request	2008 Change from 2007
Number of species for which critical habitat is finalized (BUR) *	n/a	22	13	29	15	-14	38	+23
Percent of formal and informal energy consultations addressed in a timely manner (18.10) (BUR) <sup>3</sup>	n/a	Establish Baseline	87% (3,720/ 4289)	85% (2,886/ 3,380)	79% (2,560/ 3,224)	-6%	76% (2,438/ 3,224)	-3%
Total Actual/Projected Cost (\$000)	n/a	n/a	\$2,600	\$2,017	\$1,833	-\$184	\$1,790	-\$43
Actual/Projected Cost Per Consultation (whole dollars)	n/a	n/a	\$699	\$699	\$716	+\$17	\$734	+\$18
Number of acres covered by HCPs (cumulative) (BUR) *	n/a	40,382,682	40,549,603	48,851,164	50,213,631	+1,362,567	50,213,631	0
Percent of formal and informal "other" consultations addressed in a timely manner (BUR) *	n/a	n/a	n/a	84% (23,821/ 28,278)	80% (23,754/ 29,692)	-4%	76% (22,623/ 29,692)	-4%
Number of 5-year reviews initiated (BUR)	2	182	243	252	236	-16	248	+12

\* Cost not available for this measure.

\*\* Cost not available for this measure. Since the measure is outcome-oriented, it does not accurately capture all the work conducted during a given year, only that small amount for which a determination has been made that listing is unnecessary.

<sup>1</sup> The performance measures in this table include revised GPRA Strategic Plan performance measures and program-level workload measures. The program is developing new long-term outcome and annual output performance measures as a result of a PART review conducted in 2005. The new measures may replace or revise many of the measures included in this table.

<sup>2</sup> This percentage is expressed as the number of species with approved recovery plans divided by the total number of species listed 2.5 years or more. While the number of plans is increasing, the percentage of approved plans is only increasing in very small increments due to the increase in the number of species listed 2.5 years or more. The number of recovery plans is expected to increase by 10 in 2008 compared to 2007.

<sup>3</sup> Performance improvements will not take place in the first year of funding because funding will be dedicated to development of the Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative and other planning efforts, which will facilitate timely consultations in 2009 and later years for energy and other projects in a manner that is compatible with listed species conservation.