

Habitat Conservation

		2006 Actual	2007 CR	2008			Change From 2007 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Partners for Fish and Wildlife	(\$000)	50,151	42,660	+969	+4,725	48,354	+5,694
	FTE	251	254	0	+6	260	+6
Project Planning	(\$000)	30,605	30,163	+1,023	0	31,186	+1,023
	FTE	245	248	0	0	248	0
Coastal Programs	(\$000)	12,954	12,984	+293	0	13,277	+293
	FTE	69	70	0	0	70	0
National Wetlands Inventory	(\$000)	4,647	4,702	+136	0	4,838	+136
	FTE	30	30	0	0	30	0
Impact of the CR			[+180]		[-180]		
Total, Habitat Conservation	(\$000)	98,357	90,509	+2,421	+4,725	97,655	+7,146
	FTE						

Summary of 2008 Program Changes for Habitat Conservation

Request Component	Amount	FTE
Program Changes		
• Partners for Fish and Wildlife	+4,725	+6
• Impact of the CR [Non-Add]	[-180]	0
Total, Program Changes	+4,725	+6

Program Overview

The Fish and Wildlife Service provides technical assistance regarding fish and wildlife management and habitat restoration to other federal agencies, states, industry, and the public through the Habitat Conservation Program. Through this cooperative program, the Service promotes the conservation of fish and wildlife habitats as Americans utilize and develop the Nation’s land and water resources. By working with and providing technical assistance to its partners, the Service safeguards public and environmental health by protecting and restoring the Nation’s natural resources.

The Service’s primary habitat conservation tools consist of:

- Forming partnerships for habitat restoration, protection, and conservation;
- Providing habitat planning and technical assistance for natural resource use and extraction;
- Coordinating Service responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act;
- Protecting, restoring, and inventorying coastal habitats; and
- Inventory mapping and assessment of the Nation’s wetlands.

Service regional and field office personnel provide project sponsors with on-the-ground assessments of the potential impacts to fish and wildlife habitats resulting from proposed development, and offer technical assistance to avoid or minimize these impacts. They also work hand-in-hand with private landowners and communities to protect and conserve pristine habitat, and to restore degraded habitats such as wetlands, streams, grasslands and woodlands. Finally, the Service provides the public with high

quality and easily accessible information about wetlands via the Internet through its National Wetlands Inventory program.

In 2006, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) evaluated the Service's Habitat Conservation Program using the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART). The PART is designed to assess and improve program performance so that the Federal Government achieves better results and service to the American people. The Habitat Conservation Program received a positive review of 'adequate'. An important aspect of this PART review was establishment of a set of three robust Service outcome and complimentary Habitat Conservation performance output measures.

The Habitat Conservation Program will contribute to efforts including other Resource Management programs to accomplish the following three Service Outcomes pursuant to the PART:

- The percent of migratory bird species that are at healthy and sustainable levels;
- The percent of threatened and endangered species habitat needs met; and
- The percent of native aquatic non-threatened or endangered species that are self-sustaining in the wild.

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Coastal, and Project Planning programs have developed PART performance measures to document their respective contributions to accomplishing the Service Outcomes, as each program is involved in on-the-ground resource management or assistance actions to help manage fish and wildlife habitat. The Coastal Barrier Resources Act and National Wetlands Inventory programs also contribute through documentation of coastal and wetlands habitats. In sum, the collective contributions of the Service's Habitat Conservation Program are to sustain and restore federal trust species for the benefit of the American people.

Impact of the 2007 Continuing Resolution (-\$180,000): The 2008 budget restores the priorities of the 2007 President's budget by funding 2007 programmed fixed costs increases, eliminating unrequested 2006 congressional earmarks, and implementing the program enhancement and program reduction initiatives included in the 2007 President's Budget.