

National Wildlife Refuge Fund

Appropriations Language

For expenses necessary to implement the Act of October 17, 1978 (16 U.S.C. 715s), [\$14,100,000]\$14,100,000.

Authorizing Statutes

Refuge Revenue Sharing Act (16 U.S.C. 715s), as amended. Authorizes payments to be made to offset tax losses to counties in which Service fee and withdrawn public domain lands are located.

Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), Section 1002 and Section 1008, 16 U.S.C. 3142 and 3148. These sections address the procedures for permitting oil and gas leases on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coastal plain (Section 1002) and other non-North Slope Federal lands in Alaska (Section 1008).

	2008 Enacted	2009 Enacted	2010			Change from 2009 (+/-)
			Fixed Costs & Related Changes* (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Appropriations (\$000)	14,202	14,100	0	0	14,100	0
Receipts (\$000)	11,102	12,000	0	0	12,000	0
Expenses for Sales (\$000)	[2,901]	[4,873]	[-1,821]	0	[3,052]	[-1,821]
ANILCA-Expenses (\$000)	[19]	[100]	0	0	[100]	0
Estimated User-Pay Cost Share (\$000)	[218]	[209]	0	0	[210]	0
Total, National Wildlife Refuge Fund (\$000) FTE	25,304 17	26,100 17	0	0 0	26,100 17	0 0

*FTE numbers in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Congressional Justification and other budget materials are updated to reflect corrections made subsequent to data entry into the Administration's MAX budget database, and do not match the FY 2009 Budget Appendix.

Summary of 2010 Program Changes for National Wildlife Refuge Fund

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Catch-up appraisal costs	-1,821	+0
Total, Fixed Cost Changes	-1,821	+0

Justification of 2010 Program Changes

The 2010 budget request for the National Wildlife Refuge Fund is \$14,100,000 and 17 FTE, a net program change of +\$0 and +0 FTE from 2009 Enacted.

Catch-up Appraisal Costs (-\$1,821,000/+0FTE)

Because the five-year cycle of refuge appraisals had fallen behind, in FY 2009, \$1,821,000 of carryover funds were used to fund catch-up appraisal costs. In several instances, the appraisal of refuge lands had not been accomplished in as much as eight years. Since these outdated appraised land values are likely to be inaccurate, their use in the calculation of revenue share payments will likely result in inaccurate

payments to counties. It is anticipated that the appraisal five-year cycle will be current by the end of FY 2009 and that in FY 2010, expenses will return to average levels.

Program Overview

The *Refuge Revenue Sharing Act*, as amended, authorizes revenues and direct appropriations to be deposited into a special fund, the National Wildlife Refuge Fund (NWRF), and used for payments to counties in which lands are acquired in fee (fee land) or reserved from the public domain (reserved land) and managed by the Service. These revenues are derived from the sale or disposition of (1) products (e.g., timber and gravel); (2) other privileges (e.g., right-of-way and grazing permits); and/or (3) leases for public accommodations or facilities (e.g., oil and gas exploration and development) incidental to, and not in conflict with, refuge purposes.

The Act authorizes payments for Service-managed fee lands based on a formula contained in the Act that entitles counties to whatever is the highest of the following amounts: (1) 25 percent of the net receipts; (2) 3/4 of 1 percent of the fair market value; or (3) 75 cents per acre. Appraisals are updated every 5 years to determine the fair market value.

If the net revenues are insufficient to make full payments for fee lands according to the formula contained in the Act, direct appropriations are authorized up to an amount equal to the difference between net receipts and full entitlement.

The refuge revenue sharing payments that are made on lands reserved from the public domain and administered by the Service for fish and wildlife purposes are always 25 percent of the net receipts collected from the reserved land in the county. If no receipts are collected, no revenue sharing payment is made. However, the Department makes Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) (31 U.S.C. 6901-6907) on all public domain lands, including Service-reserved land. The Service annually reports to the Department all of our reserved land acres and the revenue sharing amount already paid on those acres. The Department then calculates the PILT amount, subtracts the amount the Service has already paid, and makes the PILT payment to the community.

The *Refuge Revenue Sharing Act* also provides for the payment of certain expenses, for example, the field level expenses incurred in connection with revenue producing activities and the costs for appraisals and other realty operations in support of the revenue sharing program that are conducted on installations every five years. Such expenses include:

- Salaries of foresters who cruise and mark timber for sale;
- Staff salaries and supplies associated with maintenance of fences in support of grazing;
- Costs associated with sale of surplus animals and collecting refuge share of furs and crops;
- Conducting land appraisals and processing and maintaining the records.

Sections 1008 and 1009 of the *Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act* (ANILCA), 16 U.S.C. 3148, address procedures for oil and gas leasing on non-North Slope Federal lands in Alaska. Title XI of the Act, 16 U.S.C. 3161, addresses the procedures for transportation and utility systems in and across the Alaska conservation system units. The cost to process an application or administer a permit relating to utility and transportation systems or seismic exploration is paid by the applicant and deposited in the NWRF for reimbursement to the Region.

2010 Program Performance

According to current projections, payments to counties in FY 2010 will equal \$22,726,000, or 41 percent of the estimated full entitlement, based on appropriations of \$14,100,000 and \$8,626,000 of estimated

receipts less expenses. In addition to payments to counties, national wildlife refuges provide tangible and intangible benefits to communities that bring increased tax revenues that may offset the reductions. Refuge revenue sharing payments were not intended to replace possible tax loss due to Service acquisition, but to recognize the existence of federal ownership of Refuges and lessen potential short-term hardships on local communities.

The Service continues to provide numerous benefits to its county partners. Refuge lands provide many public services and place few demands on local infrastructure such as schools, fire, and police services when compared to development that is more intensive. Using a substantial share of refuge and construction dollars for visitor services and facilities brings visitors to refuges and thus increases economic benefits to local communities. For example, nearly 35 million people visited national wildlife refuges in 2006, creating almost 27,000 private sector jobs and producing about \$543 million in employment income, based on an economic analysis conducted by the Service which is entitled Banking on Nature, 2006: The Economic Benefits to Local Communities of National Wildlife Refuge Visitation. Recreation on refuges also circulates money into local economies when refuge visitors stay in local hotels. Additionally, recreational spending on refuges generated millions of dollars in tax revenue at the local, county, state and federal level.

In FY 2010, the Service expects to combine approximately \$8,626,000 in net receipts from FY 2009 with \$14,100,000 in appropriated funds to provide \$22,726,000 or about 41 percent of the revenue sharing entitlement, to the counties.

<i>(Dollars in Thousands)</i>				
National Wildlife Refuge Fund	2008	2009	2010	Program
Receipts / Expenses	Actual	Enacted	Estimate	Change (+/-)
Receipts Collected	11,102	12,000	12,000	0
Carryover Funds	0	1,821	0	-1,821
Expenses for Sales	-3,119	-5,095	-3,274	+1,821
ANILCA Expenses	-19	-100	-100	0
Estimated User-Pay Cost Share	[-218]	[209]	[210]	0
Net Receipts – available during the following year	7,964	8,626	8,626	0
Payments to Counties				
Receipts Available - collected previous year		6,143	8,626	+2,483
Current Appropriation Request		14,100	14,100	0
Total Available for Payments to Counties		20,243	22,726	+2,483
Entitlement Level		54,819	54,819	0
Percent Payment		37%	41%	+4%

The National Wildlife Refuge Fund supports the DOI Strategic Plan through the Serving Communities Mission Goal, which is to protect lives, resources, and property. The program contributes to Intermediate Outcome Strategy 4: Promote Respect for Private Property/Intermediate Outcome Measure: Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT).

2008 Receipts (\$000) by Source

Grazing	993
Haying	371
Forest Products	4,912
Raw Water	14
Mineral Resources - Oil and Gas	2,842
Mineral Resources - Sand and Gravel	20
Surplus Animal Disposal	253
Furbearers	27
Public Use Revenues (Concessions)	414
Public Use Revenues (User fees)	489
Other Special Use (Bee Hives, Raw Water)	767
Subtotal	11,102
FY 2008 Expenses for Sales (includes CAM)	-3,119
FY 2008 ANILCA Expenses	-19
Total Available for FY 2009 Payments to Counties	7,964

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
 NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FUND

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) Identification code 14-5091-0-2-806	2008 Actual	2009 Enacted	2010 Estimate
<u>Obligations by Program Activity:</u>			
00.01 Expenses for sales	3	5	3
00.03 Payments to counties	23	20	23
10.00 Total new obligations	26	25	26
<u>Budgetary Resources Available for Obligation:</u>			
21.40 Unobligated balance carried forward, start of year	9	8	9
22.00 New budget authority (gross)	25	26	26
23.90 Total budgetary resources available for obligation	34	34	35
23.95 Total new obligations	-26	-25	-26
24.40 Unobligated balance carried forward, end of year	8	9	9
<u>New Budget Authority (gross), Detail:</u>			
Discretionary:			
40.00 Appropriation (general fund)	14	14	14
Mandatory:			
60.20 Appropriation (special fund)	11	12	12
70.00 Total new budget authority (gross)	25	26	26
<u>Change in Unpaid Obligations:</u>			
73.10 New obligations	26	25	26
73.20 Total outlays, gross	-26	-25	-26
74.40 Obligated balance, end of year	0	0	0
<u>Outlays, (gross) Detail:</u>			
86.90 Outlays from new discretionary authority	14	14	14
86.93 Outlays from discretionary balances	0	0	0
86.97 Outlays from new mandatory authority	3	3	3
86.98 Outlays from mandatory balances	9	8	9
87.00 Total, outlays (gross)	26	25	26
<u>Net Budget Authority and Outlays</u>			
89.00 Budget authority	25	26	26
90.00 Outlays	26	25	26

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FUND**

Object Classification (in millions of dollars) Identification code 14-5091-0-2-806	2008 Actual	2009 Estimate	2010 Estimate
<u>Direct Obligations</u>			
Personnel compensation:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	2	2	2
25.3 Other purchase of goods and services from Gov't accounts	1	3	1
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	23	20	23
99.99 Total obligations	26	25	26

<u>Personnel Summary</u>			
Direct			
Total compensable workyears:			
1001 Full-time equivalent employment*	17	17	17
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