

The Core of Conservation: The Past, Present and Future of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) traces its lineage back to two predecessor bureaus, both pioneers in the early American conservation movement. The first, the U.S. Fish Commission, was established on February 9, 1871 under the Department of Commerce, in reaction to a collapse in the nation's food fishes from overharvesting. It was renamed the Bureau of Fisheries on July 1, 1903. The second predecessor bureau was the Office of Economic Ornithology and Mammalogy established in 1885 under the Department of Agriculture. In 1896, it was renamed the Division of Biological Survey and in 1905 renamed again the Bureau of Biological Survey. The Biological Survey was responsible for the protection of all non-fish species in the U.S. The nation was particularly concerned at that time about the decline in migratory birds. In 1900, the Biological Survey pioneered the Federal role in wildlife law enforcement with the passage of the *Lacey Act*. In 1903, as a result of an executive order by President Theodore Roosevelt, the Biological Survey began to administer the Pelican Island Bird Reservation, the first unit of what has become the modern National Wildlife Refuge System.

As part of President Franklin Roosevelt's "New Deal" for conservation, in 1939 the Bureau of Biological Survey and the Bureau of Fisheries were merged and then transferred to the Department of the Interior. One year later, the merged Bureau officially became the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In 1956, the Service was once again divided into two bureaus, the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. However, in 1970, the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries was moved back to the Department of Commerce and renamed the National Marine Fisheries Service. The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife remained in the Department of the Interior and four years later reclaimed the title of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, after passage of the Endangered Species Act in 1973.

Although at least three departments governed the bureau and many name changes occurred the Service's mission has remained remarkably consistent for the last 139 years. The Service mission is to work with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. A wide range of federal legislation and executive orders provide the Service with principal trust responsibility to protect and conserve migratory birds, threatened and endangered species, certain marine mammals, and inter-jurisdictional fisheries.

Over its 139 year history, the Service has adapted to the nation's changing needs to become a leader in protecting and enhancing America's biological natural resources. In the face of escalating challenges such as land-use conversion in the face of population growth, invasive species, water scarcity, and a range of other complex issues all of which are amplified by accelerated climate change, the Service needs to adapt again. Today the Service is in the midst of that adaptation, and will focus on meeting the climate change, water, invasive species and population growth challenges with a strategic approach.

To do this the Service must build shared scientific and technical capabilities with others, and work more collaboratively than ever before. It must develop and use 21st century organizational, management, and scientific tools and approaches.

One of the Service's first steps has been to focus on the need for geographically-based, landscape-scale conservation planning. This undertaking will build a shared vision with our partners of where we need to focus conservation delivery on the ground. With Climate Change funding from FY 2010, the Service has begun, with its partners, to put in place Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

(LCCs). These geographically-based centers will take a lead role in regional conservation planning along with the Department's regional Climate Science Centers (CSCs).

The CSCs and the LCCs will conduct and communicate research and monitoring to improve the understanding and forecasting of which elements of Interior managed land, water, marine, fish, wildlife, and cultural heritage resources are most vulnerable to climate change impacts and how to make them more resilient in the face of those impacts. The CSCs will provide basic climate change science associated with broad regions of the country and LCCs will focus more on applied science at the landscape level. Both CSCs and LCCs will be involved in integrating and disseminating data and helping resource managers develop adaptation strategies.

The Service will establish 9 LCCs by the end of FY 2010, and this budget will fund the establishment of 3 more. LCCs will enable resource management agencies and organizations to collaborate in an integrated fashion within and across land ownerships. LCCs will provide scientific and technical support to inform conservation using adaptive management principles. LCCs will engage in biological planning, conservation design, inventory and monitoring program design, and other types of conservation-based scientific research planning and coordination. LCCs will play an important role in helping partners establish common goals and priorities, so they can be more efficient and effective in targeting the right science in the right places.

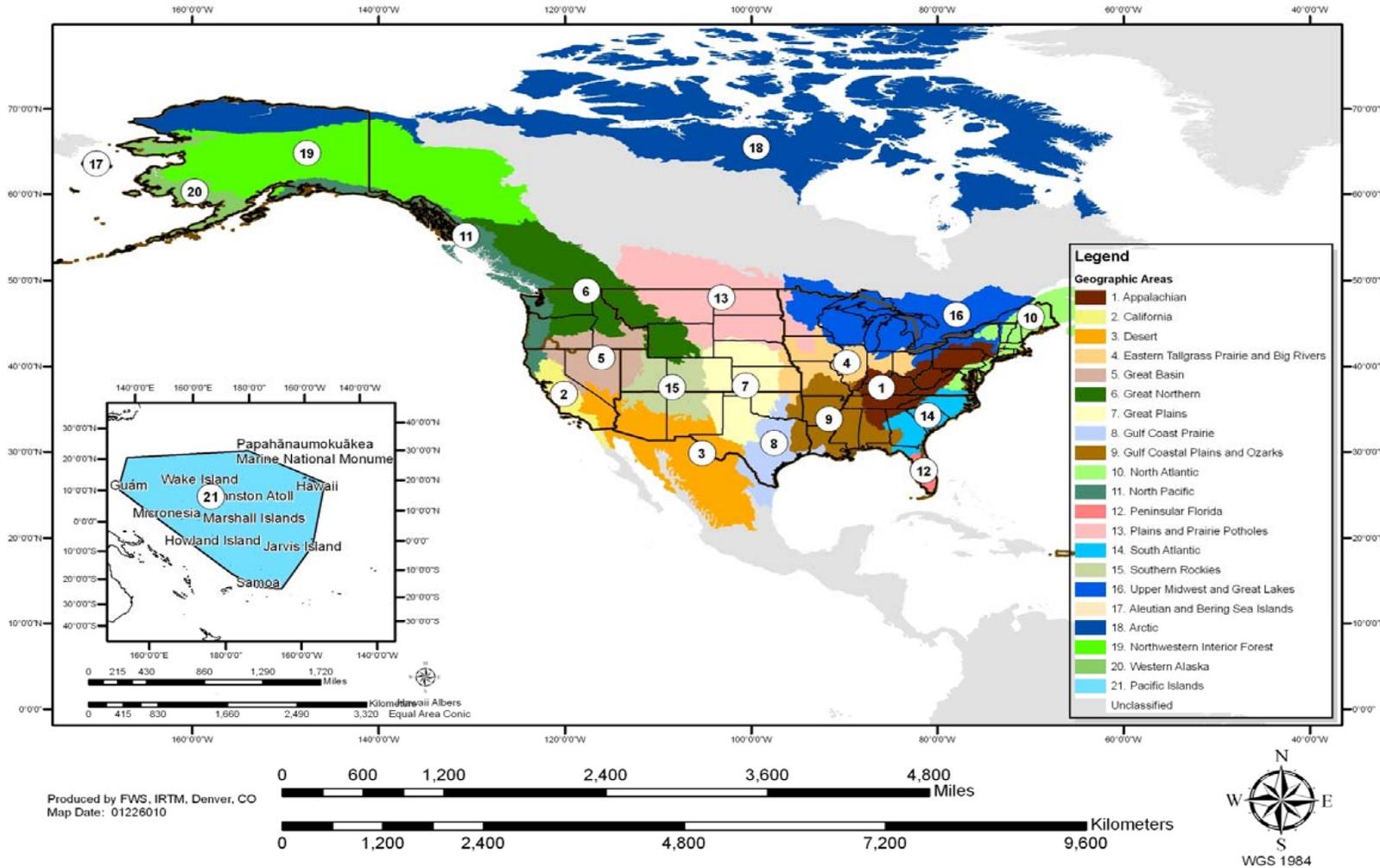
LCCs will comprise a seamless national network focused on helping conservation agencies and organizations maintain landscapes capable of sustaining abundant, diverse and healthy populations of fish, wildlife and plants. LCCs will reflect the principles and practices of adaptive management in all of their activities, especially in developing conservation strategies, evaluating their effectiveness, and revising them. LCCs will use decision-support systems and products to determine the most effective conservation actions to achieve shared conservation objectives.

The Service, in consultation with USGS, has developed a map defining geographic areas that provide a spatial frame of reference for building and targeting science capacity and planning. LCCs will be located in each of these 21 geographic areas. Just as flyways have provided an effective spatial frame of reference to build capacity and partnerships for international, national, state and local waterfowl conservation, this geographic framework will provide a continental platform upon which the Service can work with partners to connect project- and site-specific efforts to larger biological goals and outcomes. The map below depicts these geographic areas.



U.S. Department of the Interior

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives - Interim Geographic Framework

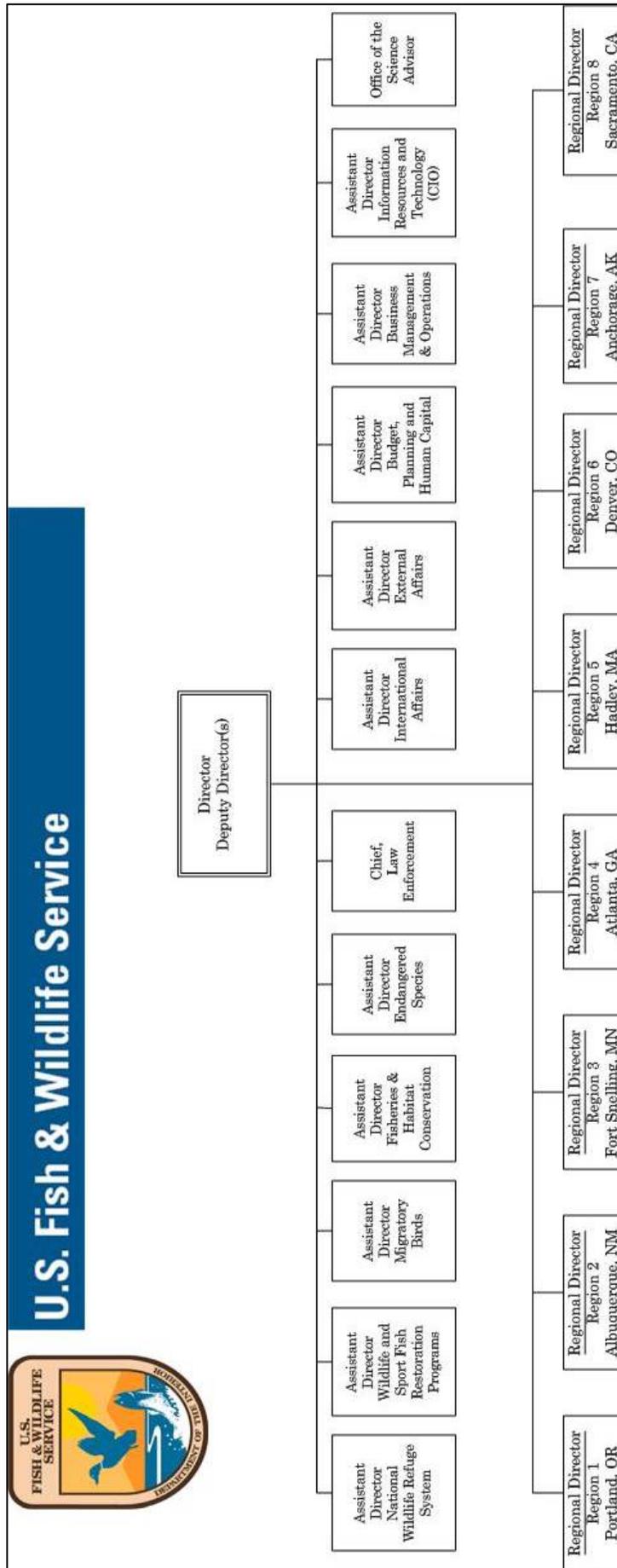


The Service's Organization

Today, the Service achieves its mission through its 551 units of the National Wildlife Refuge System, 81 Ecological Services Field Stations, 70 National Fish Hatcheries, 1 historical hatchery (D.C. Booth in South Dakota), 65 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices, 9 Fish Health Centers, 7 Fish Technology Centers, and waterfowl production areas in 206 counties managed within 37 Wetland Management Districts and 49 Coordination Areas, all encompassing more than 150 million acres. The Service works with diverse partners, including other federal agencies, state and local governments, tribes, international organizations, and private organizations and individuals.

The Service headquarters is co-located in Washington, D.C. and Arlington, Virginia; with field units in Denver, Colorado, and Shepherdstown, West Virginia; and eight regional offices. The Director reports to the Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and has direct line authority over the headquarters and eight regional offices. Assistant Directors provide policy, program management, and administrative support to the Director. The Science Advisor's Office is being expanded to administer the Climate Change program within the Service. The Regional Directors guide policy and program implementation through their field structures and coordinate activities with partners.

(See organizational chart, next page)



Overview of FY 2011 Budget Request

(Dollars in Thousands)

Budget Authority	2009 Actual	2009 Recovery Act	2010 Enacted	2011 Request	2011 Request Change from 2010
Discretionary	1,442,919	280,000	1,646,832	1,642,234	-4,598
Mandatory	992,131	0	1,117,506	1,230,373	+112,867
Total	2,435,050	280,000	2,764,338	2,872,607	+108,269
<i>FTEs</i>	<i>8,846</i>	<i>79</i>	<i>9,400¹</i>	<i>9,156²</i>	<i>-244</i>

1 FY 2010 FTE estimates include the net impact of changes due to additional Recovery Act hiring, delayed hiring to fill 2009 vacancies, and proposed program changes in FY 2010.

2 FY 2011 FTE estimates include the net impact of changes due to separations following completion of Recovery Act activities and proposed program changes in FY 2011.

Overview

The 2011 request for current appropriations totals \$1.64 billion, a decrease of \$4.6 million compared to the FY 2010 Enacted Budget. The budget also includes \$1.2 billion available under permanent appropriations, most of which will be provided directly to States for fish and wildlife restoration and conservation. Employee pay, fixed costs, and other inflation increases are will be funded from within totals.

The Service is a key participant in four Department-wide initiatives. Landscape-scale ecological realities and the Principles and Priorities of the Service's innovative and adaptive approaches to the conservation of species and ecological processes are echoed strongly in these Departmental Initiatives. They include: Climate Change Adaptation, New Energy Frontier, Youth in Natural Resources, and Treasured Landscapes. The Service's contributions under these initiatives are discussed below. A broader discussion of all of the Service's efforts towards achieving the goals of these initiatives can be found in the Department of the Interior 2011 Budget in Brief.

The FY 2011 budget proposal for the Fish and Wildlife Service represents a continuing shift in focus to prepare for landscape-level challenges over the next five years and beyond. Major Initiatives within the FY 2011 budget request include:

Climate Change Adaptation (+\$18.75 million): This will allow the Service to build on the FY 2010 request, continuing priority climate science activities: climate change planning and support of regional landscape conservation cooperatives, Refuge System climate science inventory and monitoring, as well as activities on private lands through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program. Base funds will also support the National Fish Habitat Action Plan.

The 2011 budget request will allow the Service and its partners identify landscapes, habitats, and species that are most vulnerable to climate change; acquire key scientific information needed to properly inform planning and design; define clear conservation objectives; and focus management actions where they will be most effective on the landscape. To accomplish this work, the budget proposes to use \$3.75 million of the increase to establish additional Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs), to conduct climate planning and design conservation strategies for additional areas across the country. The Service is implementing nine LCCs in 2010, and these proposed funds will enable us to implement an additional three LCCs. To address climate change, the Service has additional pressing science needs, and \$5 million in additional funding is requested to provide downscaled climate models, species and habitat assessments,

and other information needed to make management decisions. The initiative also includes \$8.0 million for a monitoring program for our National Wildlife Refuge System and \$2.0 million for private lands conservation through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program.

New Energy Frontier (+\$4.0 million): This initiative includes funding for conservation planning assistance (+2.0 million) for technical assistance in project design and Endangered Species Act consultation (+\$2.0 million) of renewable energy projects.

Energy development is a strategic priority for the Service as the nation seeks to address economic, environmental, and national security challenges related to energy. These activities have a direct impact on fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats, and have the potential to affect public recreational opportunities and experiences on national wildlife refuges. In terms of the Department's goal to "...increase approved capacity for production of renewable (solar, wind, and geothermal) energy resources on Department of Interior managed lands, while ensuring full environmental review..." the Service's role is clearly focused on the environmental review. The Service's ability to conduct consultations and planning activities are critical to ensuring that the nation can expand the production of renewable energy without compromising environmental values.

Youth in Natural Resources (+\$2.5 million): This initiative provides funding for jobs in natural resources for America's youth, including Youth Conservation Corps positions in wildlife refuges and other positions

Workforce planning studies suggest that the bureaus are now competing for candidates who bring new competencies to the U.S. workforce. The Service must act now to ensure that talented and capable young people are ready to enter public service as natural resource professionals. The \$2.5 million increase for this initiative includes \$2.0 million for the National Wildlife Refuge System to hire youth through programs such as the Youth Conservation Corps; and \$1,000,000 through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. These increases are partially offset by a reduction to the Urban Bird Treaties program. The 2010 budget requested an increase of \$250,000 for the Urban Bird Treaties program, and Congress provided an additional \$500,000 over the request. The Service's 2011 budget proposes to eliminate this FY 2010 Congressional add in order to fund other higher priorities.

The Service has worked with the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) to introduce young Americans to conservation opportunities at National Fish Hatcheries, National Wildlife Refuges and Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices across the country since inception of the program in 1970. The Service will increase its hiring of youth to provide a quality, cost-effective outdoor work experience to a diverse pool of our Nation's youth. The Service's hires will contribute to High Priority Performance Goal's targeted increase of 50% (from 2009 levels) of employment of youth in the conservation mission of the Department.

The 2011 budget request includes an increase of \$1,000,000 for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to implement a competitive grant program to develop new or expand existing youth conservation job programs. The Foundation will work with the Service to develop a public-private partnership by leveraging the Federal funding with at least an equal amount of private contributions. Funds will be awarded to Refuges, Fish Hatcheries, Friends groups, Youth Conservation Corps, and non-governmental organizations and others who seek to develop innovative conservation employment opportunities for youth. The primary focus of the program will be to support Refuges, Fish Hatcheries and priority species on both public and private lands. Summer employment opportunities will be specifically targeted, and after-school and weekend employment programs will also be considered.

Treasured Landscapes: Secretary Salazar has placed an emphasis on treasured landscapes, implementing wise stewardship, science based decisions, and forward looking policies that will help protect the Nation's land, water, and wildlife for future generations.

The Service's 2011 budget request includes \$106.3 million, an increase of \$20.0 million, for Federal land acquisition. The Budget also includes \$15.8 million to provide resources needed by the Service to continue restoring and conserving nationally significant ecosystems such as the Everglades, Gulf Coast, Chesapeake Bay, and San Francisco Bay Delta.

- The \$1.78 million requested for Everglades will support landscape-scale conservation and restoration in the Florida Everglades.
- The \$5.0 million requested for Chesapeake Bay will support implementation of Executive Order 13508 to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay. The Executive Order calls for Federal leadership "...to protect and restore the health, heritage, natural resources, and social and economic value of the Nation's largest estuarine ecosystem and the natural sustainability of its watershed."
- The \$4.0 million requested for Bay Delta will support implementation of the Interim Federal Action Plan for the California Bay-Delta (Work Plan) signed December 22, 2009. The Work Plan describes a variety of actions and investments the Administration is undertaking to address California's current water supply and ecological crisis. The Work Plan supports and complements the recently-enacted State law that addresses water supply needs within the State.
- The \$5.0 million Gulf Coast effort in 2011 will enable the Service, as part of a larger effort with State and Federal partners, to implement restoration projects on refuges and enable the Service to provide its expertise to multi-agency planning of projects. These projects are needed to mitigate, in part, the effects of ongoing wetlands losses along the Central Gulf Coast of Louisiana and Mississippi.
- The increase of \$20.0 million in funding requested for land acquisition will allow for the acquisition of important lands with high value habitat. Proposed projects address the protection of 106,751 acres of high priority wildlife habitat and will make investments in significant river and riparian habitat that will protect aquatic and terrestrial species that are dependent on these habitats. These key acquisitions will simultaneously benefit many trust species while providing additional outdoor recreational opportunities for current and future generations of the American people.

Fixed Costs (-\$14.6 million)

Absorption of 2011 Fixed Costs Increases: To provide the maximum funding possible for priority program needs, the FY 2011 President's Budget Request does not include an increase for anticipated increases in fixed costs in 2011. Programs will absorb these costs. Details on the estimates for FY 2011 fixed costs absorptions are included immediately following the Budget at a Glance. Pay- and benefits-related costs will be absorbed by the programs proportionally to the numbers of FTE employed. Rent cost increases will be absorbed by the programs occupying rental space. The Department's Working Capital Fund costs assigned to the Service decline by \$80,000 because of a reassessment of needs in FY 2010 and is reflected with a corresponding funding reduction.

DOI-wide Efficiency Reductions

In 2009, the President established SAVE Award program, to challenge Federal employees across the government to submit their ideas for efficiencies and savings as part of the annual budget process. The goal of the SAVE Award is to produce ideas that will yield savings and improve government operations. The Department of the Interior received thousands of submissions on a variety of topics during the SAVE Award process which are being reviewed by the Bureaus. The FY 2011 budget assumes \$62.0 million in savings from implementing SAVE Award proposals in three areas: travel, information technology, and strategic sourcing, which are described below.

Disposal of Excess Property Reduction — The Service will generate savings of \$500,000 through the disposal of excess property.

Travel Reduction — The Service is participating in a Department-wide effort to reduce travel and relocation expenditures through adoption of new technologies and efficiency improvements accounting. Bureaus are implementing new teleconferencing, videoconferencing, shared Web sites, and other technologies that will enable real-time communications and shared access to documents that will enable more meetings to be conducted remotely and electronically. The proposed reduction also includes a decrease in funding for permanent change of station expenses, in response to an Office of Inspector General finding that suggests a need for greater control over management of these costs. The overall travel reduction would decrease the Department's spending on travel and relocation to a level commensurate with actual 2008 travel and relocation expenditures. The Service's share of this reduction is \$3.98 million.

Information Technology (IT) Reduction — The Service Chief Information Officer has been working collaboratively with the other Interior CIOs on an approach to achieve improved effectiveness and efficiencies in information technology. The Department anticipates savings from the Department-wide implementation of a common e-mail system and the consolidation of servers, data centers, and help desks. Although this is a multi-year effort, it is feasible to expect \$20 million in savings in 2011, of which, the Service's share is \$2.45 million.

Secretary Salazar is committed to information technology reforms that will improve the effectiveness and efficiency of operations within the Department including a common email system. Detailed planning information exists from earlier efforts to deploy a common email system that provide a foundation for an accelerated effort, beginning in the current fiscal year. The Department has conducted inventories and evaluations of servers, data centers, and help desks. All of the information indicates significant potential savings from the consolidation and reduction of this infrastructure. The Department will be working throughout FY 2010 to develop plans, begin deployments, and implement changes so as to realize savings beginning in 2011.

Strategic Sourcing Acquisition Reduction — The Service's Division of Contracting and Facilities Management has been working collaboratively with other acquisition offices across the Department to prepare an Acquisition Improvement Plan. Interior is proposing a reduction of \$30 million in real savings to help offset other program priorities in the budget request, of which, the Service's share is \$4.64 million. One option for achieving this savings is the expanded use of strategic sourcing.

Currently, strategic sourcing is used for enterprise acquisitions for software and hardware. Expansion of strategic sourcing to other types of acquisitions has the potential to achieve additional savings for the bureaus and offices in Interior. The Office of Acquisition and Property Management, working with a team of bureau representatives, has developed a set of options for strategic sourcing, including: telecommunications, relocations, copiers/printers, heavy equipment, recycled paper, shuttle services, furniture, wireless communications, and training.

The Department has a track record with successful strategic sourcing and plans to expand its use based on the advice and guidance from the Strategic Sourcing Executive Council. During 2010, DOI would develop its plans and begin to implement expanded strategic sourcing to realize the targeted savings in 2011. To achieve this level of savings, all of the bureaus would be required to participate. The leadership in the Department is committed to participation in this initiative. The savings realized from this initiative would be included in the Department's Acquisition Improvement Plan.

While the Service has only spread these reductions through Resource Management programs in this request's presentation, depending on Congressional action the Director of the Service may redistribute these reductions to other Service programs that incur significant costs in these areas when executing the FY 2011 budget.

Service-wide Efficiency Reductions

Energy Cost Savings Reduction — The Service is committed to energy conservation practices in its buildings. The Service has taken steps to retrofit existing buildings with energy efficiency improvements, and to construct new buildings to an energy conservation standard. For the conversions and construction the Service has completed, the Service expects to save a total of \$50,000 in FY 2011.

Competitive Sourcing Reduction — The Service anticipates saving overhead costs as a result of the termination of competitive sourcing for certain positions. The Service expects to save approximately \$425,000 through this effort.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) funding provided the Service with an unprecedented opportunity to accelerate work on planned construction and deferred maintenance projects. The Service used a merit-based process to select the construction and maintenance project to fund with the \$280 million provided to Service in the ARRA. Many projects will improve building energy efficiency by updating windows, doors, insulation and mechanical systems and retrofit other buildings with renewable energy systems. To further support the renewed focus on reducing energy and water consumption, ARRA funds will also complete numerous energy and water evaluations at the Service's largest, most energy-consuming facilities. ARRA funds will contribute to the Service's goal of improving the condition of its facility assets. In addition many habitat restoration projects on Service and private lands will also be accelerated and completed through the use of ARRA funds.

Performance Planning

In accordance with the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 and with OMB policy and direction, the DOI Strategic Plan is currently undergoing the required triennial review and update. The Department is reviewing the organization and construct of the Strategic Plan in light of the Administration's priorities, goals, and objectives. Therefore, this budget request does not directly reference the existing DOI Strategic Plan mission areas, but does continue to report on performance goals and accomplishments associated with the current slate of end outcome goals and related performance measures.

Summary of Request

Resource Management

The FY 2011 budget request for the Service's main operations account totals \$1,266,410,000, a decrease of (-\$2,996,000) from the FY 2010 Interior Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (Appropriations Act) and an increase of \$125,448,000 from the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act.

Ecological Services

The Service requests a total of \$314,802,000, an increase of \$3,847,000 from the FY 2010 Appropriations Act.

Endangered Species

The Service requests a total of \$181,326,000, an increase of \$2,017,000 from the FY 2010 Appropriations Act. The program funding will support operations that enhance implementation of the Endangered Species Act, one of the Nation's most significant environmental conservation laws.

Candidate Conservation – The Service requests \$11,471,000, which is a reduction (-\$1,109,000) from the FY 2010 Appropriations Act. Reductions include (-\$1,000,000) for a congressional earmark for Idaho Sage Grouse.

Listing – The Service requests \$20,945,000, a decrease of \$1,158,000 from the FY 2010 Appropriations Act. Reductions include (-\$1,000,000) for unrequested funding received in FY 2010 for critical habitat designations.

Consultation/HCP – The Service requests \$63,299,000, an increase of \$3,992,000 from the FY 2010 Appropriations Act. Increases include for consultations related to renewable energy planning and development (+\$2,000,000), Everglades restoration (+\$700,000), Atlantic Salmon (+\$220,000), Bay Delta Ecosystem (+\$1,220,000), and the Gulf Coast Ecosystem (+\$500,000).

Recovery – The Service requests \$85,611,000, an increase of \$292,000 from the FY 2010 Appropriations Act. The net change includes increases for the Recovering Imperiled Species and Restoring the Everglades (+\$900,000), Attwater's prairie chicken (+\$1,095,000), Atlantic salmon (+\$110,000), Bay Delta Ecosystem (+\$620,000), and Declining Species (+\$4,000,000). Decreases are a result of eliminating unrequested funding received in FY 2010 for wolf livestock loss demonstration program (-\$1,000,000), Endangered Species grants for salmon (-\$1,500,000), Lahontan cutthroat trout (-\$350,000), whooping crane facilities in Louisiana (-\$500,000), Stellers and speckled eider recovery in Alaska (-\$350,000), and monitoring for white nose bat syndrome (-\$1,900,000).

Habitat Conservation

The Service requests a total of \$119,547,000 for Habitat Conservation programs, an increase of \$1,888,000 from the FY 2010 Appropriations Act.

Partners for Fish and Wildlife - The Service requests \$59,771,000, which is a net decrease of \$363,000 from the FY 2010 Appropriations Act. The net changes include an increase for climate change adaptation (+\$2,000,000) and Chesapeake Bay (+\$400,000). The net change also includes decreases for unrequested funding received in FY 2010 for Maine lakes milfoil Invasive project (-\$500,000), Hawaii invasive species management (-\$1,000,000), Georgia streambank restoration (-\$500,000), and a natural resources enterprise program (-\$350,000).

Conservation Planning Assistance – The Service requests \$38,883,000, an increase of \$2,932,000 from the FY 2010 Appropriations Act. The net increase includes increases for Consultation (+\$2,000,000), Bay Delta Ecosystem (+\$620,000), and Gulf Coast Ecosystems (+\$1,500,000). These increases are partially offset by decreases for unrequested funding received in FY 2010 for Sacramento-San Joaquin Water Study (-\$750,000).

Coastal Program – The Service requests \$15,556,000, a decrease of \$375,000 from the FY 2010 Appropriations Act. This includes increases for Chesapeake Bay (+\$500,000) and Gulf Coast Ecosystem (+\$250,000). There is also a decrease of unrequested general program funds received in FY 2010 of (-\$500,000).

National Wetlands Inventory – The Service requests \$5,337,000, a decrease of \$306,000 from the FY 2010 Appropriations Act. This includes a reduction for unrequested general program activity funding received in FY 2010 (-\$250,000).

Environmental Contaminants – The Service requests \$13,929,000, a decrease of \$58,000 from the FY 2010 Appropriations Act. There are increases for the Treasured Landscapes Initiative as follows: Everglades (+\$175,000), Chesapeake Bay (+\$180,000) and Gulf Coast Ecosystem (+\$250,000). There is also a decrease for unrequested general program funds received in FY 2010 (-500,000).

National Wildlife Refuge System

The Service requests \$499,546,000, a net decrease of \$3,259,000 from the FY 2010 Appropriations Act.

National Wildlife Refuge System Wildlife and Habitat Management – For this subactivity, the Service requests \$232,235,000, an increase of \$1,457,000 from the FY 2010 Appropriations Act. Requested increases include climate science (+\$8,000,000), Chesapeake Bay (+1,460,000), Bay Delta Ecosystem (+\$180,000), Gulf Coast Ecosystem (+\$750,000). The net increase is partially offset by decreases for unrequested funding received in FY 2010 for Palmyra Atoll rat eradication (-\$1,200,000), general operations (-\$3,637,000), and termination of the Challenge Cost Sharing Partnerships program (-\$4,096,000).

National Wildlife Refuge System Visitor Services – In this subactivity the Service requests \$76,056,000, a decrease of \$3,917,000 from the FY 2010 Appropriations Act. There is an increase of (+\$360,000) for Chesapeake Bay. Decreases include unrequested funding received in FY 2010 for volunteers (-\$1,000,000), and the termination of the Challenge Cost Sharing Partnerships program (-\$2,404,000).

National Wildlife Refuge System Refuge Law Enforcement – The Service requests \$38,211,000, a decrease of \$473,000 from the FY 2010 Appropriations Act.

National Wildlife Refuge System Conservation Planning – The Service requests \$11,871,000, a decrease of \$1,150,000 from the FY 2010 Appropriations Act. This decrease is largely for unrequested funding received in FY 2010.

National Wildlife Refuge System Maintenance – The Service requests \$141,173,000, an increase of \$824,000 from the FY 2010 Appropriations Act.

Migratory Bird Management, Law Enforcement and International Affairs

The Service requests \$129,131,000 for Migratory Bird Management, Law Enforcement, and International Affairs, a net decrease of \$5,509,000 from the FY 2010 Appropriations Act.

Migratory Bird Management

The Service requests \$52,738,000 for migratory bird management, a net decrease of \$1,745,000 from the FY 2010 Appropriations Act.

Conservation and Monitoring – The Service requests \$30,186,000, a net decrease of \$824,000. Changes include an increase for Chesapeake Bay (+\$100,000) and a decrease for unrequested funding received in FY 2010 for Urban Bird Treaties (-\$500,000).

Joint Ventures – The Service requests \$13,214,000, a net decrease of \$840,000 from the FY 2010 Appropriations Act. There is an increase for Chesapeake Bay (+\$285,000) and a decrease for unrequested funding received in FY 2010 (-\$1,000,000).

Law Enforcement

The Service requests \$63,300,000, a net decrease of \$2,478,000 from the FY 2010 Appropriations Act. There is an increase for Chesapeake Bay (+\$140,000) and a decrease for unrequested funding received in FY 2010 for general program activities (-\$2,000,000).

International Affairs

The Service requests \$13,093,000, a net decrease of \$1,286,000 from the FY 2010 Appropriations Act, including decreases to eliminate the Caddo Lake Center earmark (-\$150,000) and unrequested funding received in FY 2010 general program activities (-\$1,000,000).

Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation (Fisheries)

The Service requests \$142,477,000, a net decrease of \$5,737,000 from the FY 2010 Appropriations Act.

National Fish Hatchery System Operations – The Service requests \$50,307,000, a net decrease of \$4,063,000 from the FY 2010 Appropriations Act. Program changes include an increase for the California Bay Delta Ecosystem (+\$740,000) and decreases for earmarks and unrequested funding received in FY 2010 including freshwater mussel recovery (-\$500,000), Great Lakes fishery mass marking (-\$1,000,000), review of California hatcheries (-\$2,150,000), and general program activities of (-\$500,000).

Maintenance and Equipment – The Service requests \$18,214,000, a net decrease of \$136,000 from the FY 2010 Appropriations Act.

Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation – The Service requests \$73,956,000, a net decrease of \$1,538,000 from the FY 2010 Appropriations Act. This includes an increase in Habitat Assessment and Restoration for Treasured Landscapes Chesapeake Bay (+\$1,430,000) and Bay Delta Ecosystem (+\$310,000). In Population Assessment and Cooperative Management there is an increase of (+\$310,000) for Treasured Landscapes Bay Delta Ecosystem offset by a decrease of (-\$1,300,000) for the FY 2010 earmark for West Virginia fisheries office. For Aquatic Invasive Species, the Service requests \$6,335,000, a decrease of (-\$1,909,000) as compared with the FY 2010 Appropriations Act. Program changes include an increase for Treasured Landscapes Chesapeake Bay (+\$145,000) and a decrease for unrequested funding for quagga and zebra mussel control (-\$2,000,000). The Service requests \$5,944,000 for Marine Mammals, an increase of \$134,000 from the FY 2010 Appropriations Act. This includes an increase for Polar bear (+\$380,000) and a reduction for sea otters and Steller sea lion conservation in Alaska (-\$200,000). The budget proposes to make Aquatic Invasive Species and Marine Mammals program elements under the Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation subactivity.

Climate Change and Science Capacity

The Service requests \$28,750,000, a net increase of \$8,750,000 from the FY 2010 Appropriations Act.

Climate Change Planning

The Service requests \$13,750,000, a net increase of \$3,750,000 from the FY 2010 Appropriations Act, including an increase of (+\$750,000) for Gulf Coast Ecosystem.

Climate Science Capacity

The Service requests \$15,000,000, a net increase of \$5,000,000 from the FY 2010 Appropriations Act, including an increase of (+\$1,000,000) for Gulf Coast Ecosystem

General Operations

The Service requests \$151,704,000 a net decrease of \$1,088,000 from the FY 2010 Appropriations Act for Central Office Operations, Regional Office Operations, Service-wide Administrative (Operational) Support, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), and National Conservation Training Center. There is an increase of (+\$1,000,000) for a new youth oriented program administered by NFWF, and a decrease of (-\$80,000) for the Service's Working Capital Fund. There is also a decrease for unrequested funding received in FY 2010 for annual maintenance at the NCTC (-\$750,000).

Construction

The FY 2011 request for current appropriations totals \$23,737,000 a reduction of \$13,702,000 from the FY 2010 Appropriations Act. The Service requests \$9,161,000 to support the Nationwide Engineering, Seismic Safety, and Environmental Compliance programs, with no change from the FY 2010 Appropriations Act. The request totals \$14,576,000, a reduction of (-\$13,702,000) for construction projects, when compared to the FY 2010 Appropriations Act.

Land Acquisition

The Service requests \$106,340,000 for high-priority acquisition of land and conservation easements from willing sellers. This request represents an increase of (+\$20,000,000) when compared to the FY 2010 Appropriations Act. Proposed projects reflect the Service's highest priority projects.

North American Wetlands Conservation Fund

The Service requests \$42,647,000 for the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund, \$5,000,000 below the FY 2010 Appropriations Act. In addition, the Service estimates that mandatory funds will be \$1,000,000, a reduction of (-\$4,834,000) from FY 2010.

State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Fund

The Service requests \$90,000,000, identical to the FY 2010 Appropriations Act, for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants.

National Wildlife Refuge Fund

The FY 2011 National Wildlife Refuge Fund request for current appropriations totals \$14,100,000 a decrease of (-\$400,000) from the FY 2010 Appropriations Act.

Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

The Service requests \$85,000,000 for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (CESCF), identical to the FY 2010 Appropriations Act. In addition, the Service estimates that the 5% equivalent payment to CESCF will be \$64,847,000, an increase of (+\$5,896,000) from FY 2010.

Multinational Species Conservation Fund

The Service requests \$10,000,000 for the Multinational Species Conservation Fund in FY 2011, a reduction of (-\$1,500,000) from the FY 2010 Appropriations Act comprised of unrequested funding received in FY 2010 for Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund (-\$500,000), Great Ape Conservation Fund (-\$500,000), and Marine Turtle Conservation Fund (-\$500,000).

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund

The Service requests \$4,000,000 for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Fund, a reduction of (-\$1,000,000) from the FY 2010 Appropriations Act.

Permanent Appropriations

In FY 2011, the Service's permanent appropriations are projected to total \$1,230,373,000. Permanent appropriations are projected to increase for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund, the Migratory Bird Conservation Account and Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Account. The Recreation Fee Account, Miscellaneous Permanent Appropriations, and Contributed Funds permanent appropriations are projected to remain identical in FY 2011 to those in FY 2010. Permanent appropriations are projected to decrease for the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund and the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Fund.

Migratory Bird Conservation Account

Receipts are expected to increase with a legislative language change providing an additional (+\$14,000,000) in funding compared to FY 2010 for a total of \$58,000,000.

Sport Fish Restoration Account

Receipts are expected to decrease by a net of (-\$22,619,000) from FY 2010, providing a total of \$455,210,000. Tax receipts and interest earned are available for obligation in the year following deposit into the Aquatic Resources Trust Fund. The decrease is due to anticipated reduced consumer spending on taxed goods that provide receipts for this fund in FY 2010 when compared to FY 2009. The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, which authorizes the grant programs: Clean Vessel; Boating Infrastructure; Coastal Wetlands; and National Outreach and Communications, has expired. Reauthorization currently is pending before Congress.

Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Account

Tax receipts available in FY 2011 for Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration projects are expected to increase by (+\$120,424,000) above FY 2010 level, providing a total of \$628,021,000 for FY 2011.

U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE							
MAJOR ACCOUNT SUMMARY OF FISCAL YEAR 2011 REQUEST							
Account		2009 Actual	2010 Enacted	DOI-wide Changes & Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	Change From 2010 (+/-)
<u>Current Appropriations</u>							
Resource Management 1/	\$000	1,143,462	1,269,406	-12,036	+9,040	1,266,410	-2,996
	FTE	6,806	7,094	17	73	7,184	90
Construction	\$000	35,533	37,439	0	-13,702	23,737	-13,702
	FTE	97	97		+	97	0
Land Acquisition	\$000	42,455	86,340	0	+20,000	106,340	+20,000
	FTE	75	87		+	87	0
National Wildlife Refuge Fund	\$000	14,100	14,500	0	-400	14,100	-400
	FTE	0	0		0	0	0
North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	\$000	42,647	47,647	0	-5,000	42,647	-5,000
	FTE	12	12		0	12	0
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund	\$000	75,501	85,000	0	0	85,000	+0
	FTE	19	19		0	19	0
Multinational Species Conservation Fund	\$000	10,000	11,500	0	-1,500	10,000	-1,500
	FTE	4	4		0	4	0
Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation	\$000	4,750	5,000	0	-1,000	4,000	-1,000
	FTE	1	1		0	1	0
State and Tribal Wildlife Grants	\$000	75,000	90,000	0	0	90,000	+0
	FTE	21	23		0	23	0
Private Stewardship Grants	\$000	0	0	0	0	0	+0
	FTE	1	0		0	0	0
Landowner Incentive Program Grants	\$000	0	0	0	0	0	+0
	FTE	4	2	-2	0	0	-2
Wildlife Appreciation and Conservation	\$000	-529	0	0	0	0	+0
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL, Current Appropriations	\$000	1,442,919	1,646,832	-12,036	7,438	1,642,234	-4,598
	FTE	7,040	7,339	15	73	7,427	88
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)	\$000	280,000	0	0	0	0	+0
(Res Mgmt/Construction)	FTE	79	280	-280	0		-280
TOTAL, Current Appropriations (w/ARRA)		1,722,919	1,646,832	-12,036	7,438	1,642,234	-4,598
		7,119	7,619	-265	73	7,427	-192

1/ FY 2009 Include \$2.5 M new BA transfer from USAID for Congo Basin Great Apes program.

U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE							
MAJOR ACCOUNT SUMMARY OF FISCAL YEAR 2011 REQUEST							
Account		2009 Actual	2010 Enacted	DOI-wide Changes & Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	Change From 2010 (+/-)
Permanent and Trust Accounts							
Federal Lands Recreational Enhancement Act	\$000	4,783	4,800	0	0	4,800	0
	FTE	28	28			28	
Migratory Bird Conservation Account	\$000	52,380	44,000	0	14,000	58,000	14,000
	FTE	62	62		10	72	
National Wildlife Refuge Fund	\$000	6,746	10,000	0	0	10,000	0
	FTE	21	21			21	
North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	\$000	799	5,834	0	-4,834	1,000	-4,834
	FTE	0	0			0	
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund	\$000	54,479	58,951	0	5,896	64,847	5,896
	FTE	0	0			0	
Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration	\$000	497,280	477,829	0	-22,619	455,210	-22,619
	FTE	67	53		0	53	
Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration	\$000	367,051	507,597	0	120,424	628,021	120,424
	FTE	47	52			52	
Miscellaneous Permanent Appropriations	\$000	4,105	4,495	0	0	4,495	0
	FTE	3	3			3	
Contributed Funds	\$000	4,508	4,000	0	0	4,000	0
	FTE	16	16			16	
Subtotal, Permanent Appropriations	\$000	992,131	1,117,506	0	112,867	1,230,373	+112,867
	FTE	244	235	0	10	245	10
Reimbursements and Allocations from others							
Reimbursable (1900 series)	FTE	723	733	-10		723	
Offsetting Collections 1800 series	FTE	164	164			164	
Offsetting Collections 4000 series	FTE	28	28			28	
Wild land Fire Management	FTE	544	518		-52	466	
Southern Nevada Lands	FTE	13	13			13	
Federal Aid - Highway	FTE	13	13			13	
NRDAR	FTE	55	55			55	
Central HAZMAT	FTE	7	7			7	
Forest Pest	FTE	1	1			1	
Energy Act - Permit Processing	FTE	14	14			14	
Subtotal, Other		1,562	1,546	-10	-52	1,484	-62
TOTAL FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE							
w/o ARRA	\$000	2,435,050	2,764,338	-12,036	+120,305	2,872,607	+108,269
	FTE	8,846	9,120	5	31	9,156	36
TOTAL FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE with ARRA							
	\$000	2,715,050	2,764,338	-12,036	+120,305	2,872,607	+108,269
	FTE	8,925	9,400	-275	31	9,156	-244

FY 2009 Appropriations include -\$5,083 M for cancellation of PY Balances.

FY 2009 Appropriations include +\$2.5 M transfer from USAID for Congo Basin

High Priority Performance Goals and Secretarial Initiative

New Energy Frontier High Priority Performance Goal

The High Priority Performance Goal: Increase approved capacity for production of renewable (solar, wind, and geothermal) energy resources on Department of the Interior managed lands, while ensuring full environmental review, by at least 9,000 megawatts through 2011.

Bureau Contribution

The New Energy Frontier Initiative is funded at a total of \$3 million in FY 2010 and \$7 million is requested in FY 2011.

As the Nation seeks to address economic, environmental, and national security challenges related to energy supply, securing diverse energy sources to support a growing economy and protect our national interests has become a priority for the Nation. Through responsible development of federally-managed resources, the Department of the Interior can play a central role in moving the Nation toward a clean energy economy. The transition to a renewable and emission-free energy infrastructure places demands on the Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure that new technologies and energy projects have minimal impact on fish and wildlife resources. While generally regarded as clean energy, renewable energy projects - including wind, solar, wave, and geothermal - often require large geographic areas to be commercially viable. These facilities and accompanying transmission infrastructure pose complex conservation issues on a landscape-level for migratory birds, fish and other wildlife.

The Fish and Wildlife Service's primary contribution will be in supporting these project proposals through formal and informal Endangered Species Consultations and in providing expert technical assistance and conservation recommendations, to facilitate the siting, construction, and operation of renewable energy projects to avoid or mitigate significant impacts to fish and wildlife and their habitats.

Implementation Strategy

With the requested FY 2011 increase of \$2 million for **Conservation Planning Assistance (CPA)**, the Service will be positioned to provide expert technical assistance and conservation recommendations to facilitate the siting, construction, and operation of a broad and growing spectrum of energy and transmission projects in order to avoid or mitigate significant impacts to fish and wildlife and their habitats. Program field biologists will be able to effectively participate in additional landscape-level habitat conservation efforts with the States, industry and other conservation stakeholders to protect and conserve key fish and wildlife habitats as the Nation charts a course towards a clean energy future. In 2011, CPA anticipates at the request level an additional increase in key program performance measures as follows:

- Participating in about 11 additional landscape-level planning efforts;
- Conserving approximately 1,070 acres of wetlands; 1,600 acres of upland habitats; 400 acres of coastal/marine habitats; and 270 acres of riparian and stream shoreline habitats; and opening about 135 instream miles for fish passage.

The Department of Energy, State Fish and Game agencies, Bureau of Land Management, and State Energy Commissions have expressed a need for expedited multispecies conservation strategies accompanied by appropriate permits to comply with Endangered Species Act (ESA). The increase of \$2

million for the **ESA Consultations and HCPs** program will enable Service biologists to work on developing these conservation strategies to provide for effective protection and conservation of natural resources while allowing solar and other qualified renewable energy development in a manner that avoids, minimizes, or mitigates environmental impacts. To complete these plans, biologists and energy specialists must develop, collect, process and interpret geographic, biological, land use, and other environmental data for the entire plan area. Multiple stakeholder meetings and reviews will be necessary during plan development to ensure the resulting plan is consensus-based to the extent feasible and implementable. This effort will require intense, focused, and dedicated attention from consultation staff for renewable projects in the foreseeable future. The Service anticipates an estimated increase of 1,089 additional requests for endangered species consultations for new energy projects and an estimated 30 additional landscape-level habitat conservation efforts involving endangered species related to renewable energy with States, industry and other conservation stakeholders.

Performance Metrics

The Department is developing a set of internal measures and milestones to monitor and track achievement of the High Priority Performance Goals. Progress in these areas will be reported and reviewed throughout the year by the Deputy Secretary's Principal's Operations Group to identify and address any need for enhanced coordination or policy measures to address barriers to the achievement of the HPPG.

Climate Change Adaptation High Priority Performance Goal

The High Priority Performance Goal: By 2012, the Department will identify the areas and species ranges in the U.S. that are most vulnerable to climate change, and begin implementing comprehensive climate change adaptation strategies in these areas.

Bureau Contribution

The Climate Change Adaptation Initiative is funded at a total of \$40 million in FY 2010 and \$58.75 million is requested in FY 2011. The Fish and Wildlife Service primary contribution will be in leading the implementation of many Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs.) These LCCs will be the primary mechanism utilized by the Service to both conserve fish, wildlife and their habitats across America's landscapes and help these resources adapt to climate-changed environments.

In September 2009, Secretary Salazar issued a Secretarial Order 3289 addressing the impacts of climate change on America's natural resources. In that order, the Secretary announced that the establishment of Department of the Interior Climate Science Centers and multi-partner LCCs would form the basis of the Department's strategy for addressing climate change, emphasizing that efforts to help fish, wildlife and their habitats adapt to climate-changed environments must be undertaken and coordinated at landscape-scales. Secretary Salazar describes this effort this way, "...across the United States, we are standing up a network of LCCs that – together with other federal agencies, local and state partners, and the public – will craft practical, landscape-level strategies for managing climate change impacts," and emphasizing that "no one government or one landowner alone can solve these problems."

The Service will also continue efforts begun in FY 2010 in developing and implementing an enhanced Inventory & Monitoring program within the nation's National Wildlife Refuges and implementation of specific habitat projects to start helping wildlife adapt to changing climatic conditions.

Implementation Strategy

The implementation strategy for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service assume bureau participation and contributions to establish a coordinated infrastructure of Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, supported by DOI Climate Science Centers and integrated climate monitoring approach. Early in FY 2010, the Service has already generated significant momentum and initiated the creation of at least one LCC in each Service Region. LCCs are founded on the principle that truly interdependent partnerships of federal, state, local, and private governments and organizations are necessary to achieve conservation in this age of accelerating climate change. To that end, the Service has undertaken an unprecedented level of outreach to partners at federal, state, local, and private levels, through workshops, web seminars, and other venues. Progress achieved to date illustrates not only the commitment, enthusiasm and dedication with which the Service has pursued this task, but also the success the Service has achieved in attracting partners to participate in LCCs. This vision will be expanded in FY 2011 as we stand up additional LCCs.

The strategy also will continue building the landscape-scale, long-term inventory and monitoring network to support the National Wildlife Refuge System that the Service began in FY 2010. A primary emphasis would be working to build a data architecture that can store and serve the necessary large datasets. Inventories will cover biodiversity, vegetative communities, and the underlying abiotic features that support fish and wildlife populations. Finally, there will also be targeted on-the-ground habitat restoration or assessment activities that will directly benefit fish and wildlife species that are impacted by climatic changes.

The U.S. Geological Survey, the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service have committed funding and staff support beginning in 2011 to the CSCs in order to encourage collaborative sharing of research results and data and to provide a direct link with the on-the-ground work taking place in the LCCs. These partners and others will leverage resources available for climate change science.

Changes in FY 2011

The requested funding increase in **Climate Change Planning** General Program Activities of \$3.0 million in FY 2011 will enable the Service to continue working with partners to develop the shared scientific and technical capacities needed to conduct landscape-scale biological planning, conservation design and conservation delivery by expanding the network of LCCs.

The Service will use the requested funding increase to establish and provide leadership for three additional LCCs. These LCCs will inform and facilitate conservation of populations of fish, wildlife and plants at landscape scales through the following actions:

- develop explicit and measurable biological objectives for populations of focal species to guide conservation design and delivery;
- apply and refine dynamic population-habitat models and other decision-support tools to inform various types of plans that will enable partners to manage species at landscape scales;
- apply down-scaled climate models to predict effects on fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats;
- identify areas of converging climate and non-climate stressors;
- design and evaluate short- and long-term wildlife adaptation approaches that will help conserve populations at landscape scales;
- identify and, when necessary, design protocols and methodologies best suited to monitoring and inventorying species, habitats, and ecological functions and structures at landscape scales; and
- identify high-priority research and technology needs.

The requested funding increase in **Climate Change Science Capacity** General Program Activities of \$4.0 million in FY 2011 will provide LCCs fundamental science capacity to: 1) drive landscape-scale planning; 2) produce biological assessments (plans) and conservation designs that incorporate specific

strategies and actions that will help fish, wildlife and plants adapt to changing habitats; and 3) position member organizations of LCCs and other conservation organizations to act decisively and confidently to implement those strategies on-the-ground.

Climate change will affect some species more adversely than others. The Service will conduct up to three additional risk and vulnerability assessments to predict the threats posed to trust species and their habitats. Vulnerability assessments, for example, depend on the availability of good scientific information about species and their habitats. The Service will implement up to 20, an increase of 5 over 2010, scientifically rigorous inventory and monitoring protocols to be used consistently among the regions of the Service. These protocols will enable the Service to collect critically important data needed to detect changes in fish and wildlife populations and their habitats over time resulting from climate change. Up to twelve, an increase of three over 2010, biological planning and conservation design projects will be initiated to examine alternative management options, identify their strengths and weaknesses, and ultimately identify a mix of conservation actions that has the greatest likelihood of achieving the desired biological and ecological outcomes.

The total requested funding for the **Gulf Coast** science efforts (\$1.75 million) will enable the Service to work with our partners through the Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks LCC to leverage their contributions of funds, facilities, expertise and technology, to develop shared scientific and technical capacity for biological planning and conservation design to address landscape scale conservation issues and their impacts on fish and wildlife resources along the northern Gulf Coast in Louisiana (LA) and Mississippi (MS).

The funds will allow the Service to directly develop, or contract for, the science it needs to support biological planning and conservation design to address landscape scale conservation issues and their associated impacts on fish and wildlife resources along the northern Gulf Coast in LA and MS. Efforts will be made to leverage Service resources with those from USGS and others, to capitalize on each others' expertise and capacities to develop information and tools to help ensure restoration efforts maximize ecosystem and fish and wildlife resource sustainability.

The requested \$8 million increase to support the **Refuge Climate Inventory and Monitoring Program** will be used to continue building the landscape-scale, long-term inventory and monitoring network that the Service began in FY 2010. The Service anticipates over 100 new inventories of fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats will be completed. These inventories will cover biodiversity, vegetative communities, and the underlying abiotic features that support fish and wildlife populations. Detecting climate-driven changes in these resources is important to help focus our strategic response to climate change at multiple landscape scales and adaptation efforts on those species most in need. These inventory, monitoring, and data collection efforts would be coordinated with the USGS and data would be shared with the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service through LCCs.

In 2011 the Service will use \$2,000,000 of its Climate Change Science Capacity and \$1 million of its Refuge inventory and monitoring funding for staff support and collaboration on land management science priorities at the Department's Climate Science Centers (CSCs). Service support of and participation in the CSCs will help prioritize research topics to address the most pressing land management needs and provide an interface to step down broad-scale research results to the applied research and monitoring activities of the LCCs, individual Interior bureaus, programs and land managers.

The requested increase of \$2 million will allow the **Partners for Fish and Wildlife** program to help achieve explicit population and habitat objectives established at landscape scales for species the Service considers most vulnerable and sensitive to climate change. The program will expand direct technical and financial assistance to private landowners and implement cost-effective projects to restore, enhance, and

manage fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats on private land. Emphasis will be placed on assistance to private landowners that implements climate change relevant projects. These high priority projects will be designed to help achieve population and habitat objectives established at landscape scales for species the Service considers most vulnerable and sensitive to climate change. At the requested funding level, the Service will restore an additional 1,900 acres of priority wetlands, 8,100 acres of priority grassland and upland habitat, and 12 miles of degraded stream and riparian habitat that will benefit high-priority fish and wildlife resources dependent on private lands.

Performance Metrics

The Department is developing a set of internal measures and milestones to monitor and track achievement of the High Priority Performance Goals. Progress in these areas will be reported and reviewed throughout the year by the Deputy Secretary's Principal's Operations Group to identify and address any need for enhanced coordination or policy measures to address barriers to the achievement of the HPPG.

Youth in Natural Resources High Priority Performance Goal

High Priority Performance Goal: By 2012, increase by 50% (from 2009 levels) the employment of youth between the ages of 15-25 in the conservation mission of the Department.

Bureau Contribution

For the Youth in Natural Resources Initiative \$2.5 million is requested in FY 2011.

The Service has worked with the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) to introduce young Americans to conservation opportunities at National Fish Hatcheries, National Wildlife Refuges and Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices across the country since inception of the program in 1970. The Fish and Wildlife Service's primary contribution will be pursuing a goal of a 50% increase in Youth Employment. In FY 2011, the Service will continue its goal of engaging youth. These youth will represent a diverse pool of our Nation's youth and be provided a quality, cost-effective outdoor work experience. The Service's hires will directly contribute to High Priority Performance Goal's targeted increase of 50% (from 2009 levels) of employment of youth in the conservation mission of the Department.

Implementation Strategy

With the requested increase of \$2 million in FY 2011, the Service's National Wildlife Refuge System will continue building upon existing proven programs with new and creative approaches to offer public service opportunities. Hundreds of national wildlife refuges offer employment, education and recreation opportunities that connect youth with the outdoors. These youth programs also provide opportunities to educate youth about career opportunities and promote public service as part of a life-long commitment to natural resource conservation. These programs are managed through mentoring and partnerships with Friends organizations, volunteers, educational institutions, and local conservation organizations.

The Fisheries Program will also continue supporting the Secretary's initiative to create a 21st Century Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) initiative by emphasizing new and creative ways to get the Nation's youth out into nature, specifically underrepresented groups such as those in urban environments, minorities, and women. The Service's SCEP/STEP program, rural and Tribal YCC programs, and the

Biologist-in-Training Program complement these early learning experiences to mold future conservation stewards and advance youth into careers in conservation and natural resources management.

The 2011 budget request includes an increase of \$1,000,000 for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to implement a competitive grant program to develop new or expand existing youth conservation job programs. Summer employment opportunities will be specifically targeted, and after-school and weekend employment programs will also be considered.

Performance Metrics

The Department is developing a set of internal measures and milestones to monitor and track achievement of the High Priority Performance Goals. Progress in these areas will be reported and reviewed throughout the year by the Deputy Secretary's Principal's Operations Group to identify and address any need for enhanced coordination or policy measures to address barriers to the achievement of the HPPG. For the Youth HPPG, the metrics will track the number of youth employed in various categories.

Treasured Landscapes Secretarial Initiative

Focus of Initiative: The Treasured Landscapes initiative is a priority effort designed to enhance the preservation of landscapes in parks, refuges, and other public lands.

Bureau Contribution

The request for Treasured Landscapes will enable the Service to work toward preserving some of America's most treasured landscapes. Funding will be focused on key areas: addressing fish and wildlife habitat needs in several treasured ecosystems including the Chesapeake Bay, the Everglades, the Gulf Coast, etc.; and protecting our nation's National Wildlife Refuge System through key land acquisitions. Although not officially a "High Priority Performance Goal," nevertheless, the Treasured Landscapes initiative is a priority effort designed to enhance the preservation of landscapes in parks, refuges, and other public lands. Efforts will be directed to address critical fish and wildlife needs in habitat restoration and protection, understanding the threats faced by wildlife, and other priorities.

Implementation Strategy

Treasured Landscapes – Land Acquisition

The single largest component, by dollars, is a requested increase for **Land Acquisition** for Federal Refuges Projects, and associated land acquisition management. The increased funding would provide a significant number of acres and interests in lands to the Service's land base and continue to support a strong land acquisition program. The additional funds would allow the Service to acquire biologically significant land from willing sellers to add to the biological diversity of the land base of the Service.

Treasured Landscapes – Specific Ecosystems

The Service will also focus increased efforts on a set of specific ecosystems including the Chesapeake Bay, the Everglades, the San Francisco Bay Delta, and the Gulf Coast ecosystem. Efforts will be directed to address critical fish and wildlife needs in these areas.

Treasured Landscapes – Chesapeake Bay

The Chesapeake Bay is one of America's most treasured landscapes, and the largest estuary in the United States. The Bay and its tributaries support more than 2,700 plant and animal species, including nationally notable trust fish and wildlife resources. Despite significant efforts by federal, State, and local governments, water pollution and habitat degradation continue to threaten the environmental health of the Bay ecosystem upon which fish, wildlife, and people depend.

The Service's **Fisheries** program will intensify work and collaboration with the States and conservation stakeholders in the watershed to protect and restore the crucial living resources and habitats of Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The Service will assess five populations, remove or bypass two barriers, conduct four habitat assessments, reopen two river miles, and conduct two applied science and technology tasks. Additional funding will also be used for increased monitoring, evaluation and law enforcement efforts needed to prevent both intentional and unintentional introductions of aquatic invasive species. The Service will establish and maintain two aquatic invasive partnerships, will conduct one survey for baseline/trend information for aquatic invasive species, and one survey for early detection and rapid response for aquatic invasive species.

The **Partners for Fish and Wildlife** Program will expand direct technical and financial assistance to private landowners to restore, enhance, and manage fish and wildlife habitats on private lands in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The Service will help improve habitats for priority species through restoration and management on private lands. At the request level, the Program will restore five miles of riparian habitat, 0.5 stream/shoreline miles, 350 acres of uplands, and 200 acres of wetlands to build sustainable populations of priority trust species, such as the Delmarva fox squirrel, black duck and dwarf wedge mussel.

The requested funding would be used to improve habitat for Service priority fish and wildlife trust species through restoration and management on 14 **National Wildlife Refuges** within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Much of the work would be done by expanding partnerships that have already proven effective at developing up to 19 population and habitat models to determine the ability of Chesapeake Bay lands and waters to conserve priority populations of aquatic species, endangered and threatened species, migratory birds, and other Federal trust resources. Funding would also be used to better control invasive species.

Treasured Landscapes - Gulf Coast Ecosystem

The proposed funds will enhance the Service's capacity to assist the Corps of Engineers (Corps), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration -Fisheries, National Park Service, U.S. Geological Survey, the States of Louisiana and Mississippi, and other

stakeholders to design and implement an accelerated Gulf Coast restoration program. The northern Gulf Coast contains some of the world's most diverse and productive ecosystems including a large percentage of the Nation's estuaries, barrier islands, and fresh and saltwater marshes. The barrier islands, rivers, inland bays, and coastal flatlands provide essential habitat for numerous threatened and endangered species such as the Mississippi sandhill crane, piping plover, wood stork, Louisiana black bear, pallid and Gulf sturgeon, and sea turtles.

Increased funding will enable the Service to develop and provide improved scientific information needed to evaluate impacts and benefits derived from proposed restoration efforts to ensure long term sustainability of wetlands and the fish and wildlife resources that depend upon them. This increase will enable the Service to become a full participant in the LA/MS Coastal Ecosystem Restoration Working Group. Efforts will include **Conservation Planning Assistance** biologists participating with the other agencies in conducting comprehensive studies and planning for management of the Lower Mississippi River Delta; identify criteria, locations, and designs for new and expanded freshwater diversions to deliver fresh water and sediments to deteriorating coastal wetlands; assess the impacts of past, ongoing, and projected future land losses along the coast; and evaluate opportunities for expanded use of dredged material for restoration purposes.

The Service's Section 7 consultation workload in LA and MS has grown significantly as a result of hurricane protection and restoration efforts being planned subsequent to hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The requested increase in funding will allow the Service's **Endangered Species Consultation** biologists to provide the necessary technical assistance and work with federal action agencies and their applicants to design and/or modify Gulf Coast hurricane protection and ecosystem restoration projects to minimize impacts to listed species.

There are also many pressures on wildlife resources along the Gulf Coast including the ongoing effects of hazardous materials and toxic chemicals released from facilities destroyed by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and potential contaminant issues associated with proposed Gulf Coast hurricane protection and ecosystem restoration efforts. The Service's **Environmental Contaminants** program will use new funds to address contaminant issues and contribute directly to designing and implementing an accelerated Gulf Coast restoration program.

The FY 2011 request would support the restoration of key fish and wildlife habitat along the Gulf Coast of Louisiana and Mississippi. There are 10 **National Wildlife Refuges** along this coast, protecting more than 300,000 acres. The Refuge system manages a considerable portion of this area as coastal marsh that needs restoration and protection from sea level rise and impacts of storms and climate change. Funds would be used to support direct restoration projects on and off refuge lands, inventory and monitoring protocols and studies, and various other work.

The requested for the **Gulf Coast Science** efforts will enable the Service to work with our partners, leveraging their contributions of funds, facilities, expertise and technology, to develop shared scientific and technical capacity for biological planning and conservation design to address landscape scale conservation issues and their impacts on fish and wildlife resources along the northern Gulf Coast.

Treasured Landscapes – Bay Delta Recovery

The proposed funding will assist in implementing the Interim Federal Action Plan for the California Bay-Delta (Work Plan) signed December 22, 2009, that describes a variety of actions and investments the Administration is undertaking to address California's current water supply and ecological crisis. The Work Plan supports and complements recently-enacted State law that addresses water supply needs within the State. The Work Plan identifies the following Federal priorities: (1) commit to work with the

State and local agencies; 2) develop a smarter supply and use of Delta water; 3) ensure healthy ecosystems and improved water quality, and 4) provide for drought relief and flood management.

To ensure the water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration outlined in the Federal Work Plan, the Service's **Endangered Species** program will need to expedite development, review, permitting, and the implementation of high-priority conservation measures in the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. Many species are in decline and species like the delta smelt are hovering on the brink of extinction. Support will allow the Service to expedite the actions needed to recover species and collaborate with the other partners to help guide recovery activities.

In the Service's **Fisheries** programs, experts will coordinate and implement habitat restoration work in the Delta and upstream to help restore delta smelt and wild salmon populations, and assess the effect of aquatic invasive species on native populations. The Service will also initiate delta smelt restoration propagation as specified in the Federal Work Plan, by expanding necessary propagation efforts, and supporting studies to identify delta smelt stressors in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The Service will implement two applied science and technology tasks, and conduct two health evaluations on captive populations of Delta smelt to establish baseline health parameters. The Service will complete five habitat assessments, remove or bypass one barrier, reopen two miles to fish passage, assess 10 miles of stream/shoreline habitat, and complete two surveys for early detection and rapid response for aquatic invasive species.

Funding is also targeted to coordinate **National Wildlife Refuge** water supply and delivery, threatened and endangered species recovery, and migratory bird habitat needs with Bay Delta conservation planning. This increase will enable the Service's **Conservation Planning Assistance** program to lead collaboration of key environmental reviews, help streamline final permitting and decision-making, plan and implement water supply, water quality, and flood relief projects as part of the Work Plan so as to minimize habitat impacts to federal trust species and sustain ecosystem integrity.

Treasured Landscapes –Restoring the Everglades

The Service is charged with recovering 67 imperiled species in the Everglades region, including some of the greatest species recovery challenges in the Nation such as the Florida panther, Cape Sable seaside sparrow, and Everglade snail kite. A portion of these funds will enable work with many partners to conserve birds and other species during the transitional period between today and the completion of Everglades restoration and beyond. This funding will enable completion of ten priority recovery actions for imperiled species and to take steps toward the goal of controlling an invasive species (Burmese python) threat to listed species in Florida.

The section 7 and section 10 consultation processes under the Endangered Species Act are particularly important in the Everglades to build upon recent landscape-level partnerships to:

- develop conservation plans for 150,000 acres of Florida panther habitat;
- develop and implement interim plans to protect highly endangered birds during the transition to Everglades restoration;
- create a State-wide conservation strategy for sea turtles; and
- develop conservation strategies for highly imperiled species in the low lying Florida Keys - an area that is particularly vulnerable to climate change and sea level rise.

This funding will support the Performance Measure: Percent of prioritized listed species showing improvement in their status indicators. This funding will increase the percentage of formal/informal other non-energy consultations addressed in a timely manner by 20 percent for the South Florida Ecological Services and Everglades Restoration program.