

National Wildlife Refuge Fund

Appropriations Language

For expenses necessary to implement the Act of October 17, 1978 (16 U.S.C. 715s), [\$14,500,000] \$14,100,000, (Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.)

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 Authorizes payments to be made to offset tax losses to counties in which Service fee and withdrawn public domain lands are located.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).

		2009 Actual	2010 Enacted	2011			Change from 2010 (+/-)
				DOI-wide Changes & Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Appropriations	(\$000)	14,100	14,500		-400	14,100	-400
Receipts	(\$000)	6,746	10,000		0	10,000	0
Expenses for Sales	(\$000)	[3,934]	[3,000]		0	[3,000]	0
ANILCA-Expenses	(\$000)	[6]	[10]		0	[10]	0
Estimated User-Pay Cost Share	(\$000)	[222]	[287]		0	[287]	0
Total, National Wildlife Refuge Fund	(\$000) FTE	20,846 21	24,500 21		-400 0	24,100 21	-400 0

Summary of 2011 Program Changes for National Wildlife Refuge Fund

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Appropriations	-400	-
TOTAL Program Changes	-400	-

Justification of 2011 Program Changes

The 2011 budget request for National Wildlife Refuge Fund is \$24,100,000 and 21 FTE, a program change of -\$400,000 and 0 FTE from 2010 Enacted.

Appropriations (-\$400,000/+0 FTE)

In 2011, as in 2010, the Service is requesting \$14,100,000 for the National Wildlife Refuge. This level continues payments at the 2010 request level. In 2010 Congress provided unrequested funding of \$400,000 for the National Wildlife Refuge Fund which is not continued in 2011.

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 authorized payment.

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.

**2009 Receipts from National Wildlife Refuges
(\$000) by Source**

Grazing	1,071
Haying	391
Forest Products	1,843
Raw Water	56
Mineral Resources - Oil and Gas	1,486
Mineral Resources - Sand and Gravel	586
Surplus Animal Disposal	192
Furbearers	32
Public Use Revenues (Concessions)	201
Public Use Revenues (User fees)	177
Other Special Use (Bee Hives)	711
Total Actual Receipts for 2009	6,746

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;
- Costs of 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.

2011 Program Performance

According to current projections, payments to counties in 2011 will equal \$20,853,000, or 38 percent of the estimated full entitlement, based on appropriations of \$14,100,000 and \$6,753,000 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.

<i>(Dollars in Thousands)</i>				
	2009	2010	2011	Program
National Wildlife Refuge Fund	Actual	Estimate	Estimate	Change (+/-)
Receipts / Expenses				
Receipts Collected	6,746	10,000	10,000	0
Carryover Funds ¹	2,319	0	0	0
Recoveries	75	50	50	0
Expenses for Sales	-3,934	-3,000	-3,000	0
ANILCA Expenses ²	[-6]	-10	-10	0
Estimated User-Pay Cost Share	-222	-287	-287	0
Net Receipts – Available during the following year	4,986	6,753	6,753	0
Payments to Counties				
Receipts Available - collected previous year		4,986	6,753	+1, 767
Current Appropriation Request		14,500	14,100	-400
Total Available for Payments to Counties		19,486	20,853	+1,367
Authorized Level		54,819	54,819	0
Percent Payment		36%	38%	+2%

1. In 2009 Carryover Funds were used to cover Expenses for Sales to catch-up on Refuge Land Appraisals.
 2. In 2009 ANILCA expenses were fully funded from Carryover Funds since ANILCA receipts were \$0.

Standard Form 300

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

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) Identification code 14-5091-0-806	2009 Actual	2010 Estimate	2011 Estimate
Obligations by Program Activity:			
00.01 Expenses for sales	3	3	3
00.03 Payments to counties	20	20	21
10.00 Total obligations	23	23	24
Budgetary Resources Available for Obligation:			
21.40 Unobligated balance available, start of year	8	5	7
22.00 New budget authority (gross)	21	25	24
23.90 Total budgetary resources available for obligation	29	30	31
23.95 New obligations (-)	-24	-23	-24
24.40 Unobligated balance available, end of year	5	7	7
New Budget Authority (gross), Detail:			
Current:			
40.00 Appropriation (general fund)	14	15	14
43.00 Appropriation (total)	14	15	14
Permanent:			
60.20 Appropriation (special fund, indefinite)	7	10	10
70.00 Total new budget authority (gross)	21	25	24
Change in Unpaid Obligations:			
Unpaid obligations, start of year:			
72.40 Obligated balance, start of year	0	1	1
73.10 New obligations	24	23	24
73.20 Total outlays, gross (-)	-23	-23	-24
74.40 Obligated balance, end of year	1	1	1
Outlays, (gross) Detail:			
86.90 Outlays from new current authority	14	15	14
86.97 Outlays from new permanent authority	7	7	7
86.98 Outlays from permanent balances	2	1	3
87.00 Total, outlays (gross)	23	23	24
Net Budget Authority and Outlays:			
89.00 Budget authority	21	25	24
90.00 Outlays	23	23	24
Direct Obligations:			
Personnel compensation:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	1	1	1
11.9 Total personnel compensation	1	1	1
25.2 Other Services	1	1	1
25.3 Purchase of goods and services from Gov't accounts	2	1	1
14.10 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	20	20	21
99.99 Total obligations	24	23	24
Personnel Summary:			
Direct			
Total compensable workyears:			
Full-time equivalent employment	21	21	21