

Will the FWS charge a fee to process my FOIA request?

There is no initial fee required to submit a FOIA request, but the FOIA does provide for the charging of certain types of fees in some instances. The FWS charges for processing requests under the FOIA in accordance with [43 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart G](#) and the [OMB Fee Guidelines](#). We will ensure that we conduct searches, reviews, and duplication in the most efficient and least expensive manner possible.

You may always include in your request letter a specific statement limiting the amount that you are willing to pay in fees. If you agree to pay fees for a records search, be aware that you may be required to pay such fees even if the search does not locate any responsive records or, if records are located, even if they are determined to be entirely exempt from disclosure.

You may also request a waiver of fees. Under the FOIA, fee waivers are limited to situations in which a requester can show that the disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations and activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester. (See [43 C.F.R. 2.45](#).)