

Fiscal 2015 Budget Sets Refuge System at \$474 Million

The \$1.1 trillion omnibus spending bill passed by Congress funds all federal government agencies except the Homeland Security Department through September 30, 2015. The bill funds the National Wildlife Refuge System operations and maintenance budget at \$474 million, \$2 million more than the fiscal year 2014 enacted budget level. It funds the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at \$1.4 billion, \$12 million more than in FY 2014.

In addition, a policy “rider” in the bill prohibits the Service from putting the sage-grouse on the endangered species list. The bill does not address federal transportation funding authority, which expires on May 31, and directly affects the Refuge System roads program.