



Appropriations Language

The budget proposes to eliminate discretionary funding for this program. Therefore, appropriations language is not necessary.

Authorizing Statutes

Refuge Revenue Sharing Act (16 U.S.C. 715s). Authorizes payments to be made to offset tax losses to counties in which Service fee and withdrawn public domain lands are located.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) Sections 1002 and 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).

Appropriation: National Wildlife Refuge Fund

		2019 Actual	2020 Estimate	2021			Change from 2020 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Appropriations	(\$000)	13,228	13,228	0	0	-13,228	0	-13,228
Receipts*	(\$000)	7,882	8,007	0	0	+465	8,472	+465
Total, National Wildlife Refuge Fund	(\$000)	21,110	21,235	0	0	-12,763	8,472	+12,763
	FTE	4	4			-0	4	-0

*The amount presented in 2019 and 2020 includes the sequestration in accordance with Sec. 251(a) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act, 2 U.S.C 901(a). In addition, the amounts in 2019, 2020, and 2021 include amounts previously sequestered, which are now available in accordance with said Act.

Summary of 2021 Program Changes for National Wildlife Refuge Fund

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Appropriations	-13,228	0
TOTAL Program Changes	-13,228	0

Program Overview

The purpose of the Refuge Revenue Sharing Act is to share revenues derived from refuge lands with counties and other units of local government to compensate for lost tax revenues from Federal land acquisitions. The Act 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 for fish and wildlife purposes, minus any associated costs. These revenues are typically between \$6-\$8 million each year, and are derived from the sale or disposition of products (e.g., timber and gravel); other privileges (e.g., rights-of-way and grazing permits); and/or leases for public accommodations or facilities (e.g., oil and gas exploration and development) incidental to, and not in conflict with, refuge purposes.



*Oil and gas revenues from reserved lands are deposited into the U.S. General Treasury. Oil and gas revenues from fee lands are deposited in the National Wildlife Refuge Fund to be shared with counties and other units of local government.
Credit: Pedro Ramirez, Jr., USFWS.*

The Act authorizes payments for Service-managed fee lands based on a formula that entitles counties to whichever 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 of the land; or 3) 75 cents per acre.

The refuge revenue sharing payments made on lands reserved from the public domain and administered by the Service are always 25 percent of the net receipts collected from the reserved land in the county. If no receipts are collected, there is no revenue sharing payment. However, the Department of the Interior makes Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) (31 U.S.C. 6901-6907) on all public domain lands, including Service-

reserved lands. The Service reports to the Department annually on all Service reserved land acres and the revenue sharing amounts already paid on those acres. The Department then calculates the PILT amounts, subtracts the amounts the Service has already paid, and makes the PILT payments to the local governments.

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) addresses procedures for oil and gas leasing on non-North Slope Federal lands in Alaska and for transportation and utility systems in and across the Alaska conservation system units. Applicants pay the costs to process applications or administer permits relating to utility and transportation systems or seismic exploration. These payments directly reimburse the Service for its management costs.

Justification of 2021 Program Changes

Discretionary Appropriations (-\$13,228/ +0 FTE)

The Service is not requesting funding for the appropriated (discretionary) portion of the National Wildlife Refuge Fund in order to support higher priorities.

Mandatory Receipts: The 2021 estimate for National Wildlife Refuge Fund revenue is \$8,472,000 with revenue producing activities. The table below shows how the Service derives the funding amount available for payments to counties and other units of local government. This Fund was intended to compensate communities for lost tax revenue from Federal land acquisitions, but fails to take into account the economic benefits refuges provide to communities.

<i>(Dollars in Thousands)</i>				
National Wildlife Refuge Fund	2019 Actual	2020 Estimate	2021 Estimate	Program Change (+/-)
Receipts / Expenses				
Receipts Collected	7,733	8,000	8,000	0
Sequestration*	-479	-472	0	+472
Recoveries	0	100	100	0
Expenses for Sales	-2,584	-2,514	-2,514	0
ANILCA Expenses	0	-60	-60	0
Estimated User-Pay Cost Share	-50	-60	-60	0
Net Receipts				
Available during the following year	4,620	4,994	5,466	+472
Payments to Counties				
Receipts Available - collected previous year		4,620	4,994	+374
Sequestration Restored		479	472	-7
Appropriations		13,228	0	-13,228
Total Available for Payments to Counties		18,327	5,466	-12,861

*2021 amount assumes no sequestration.