

## Land Acquisition

### Appropriations Language

For expenses necessary to carry out the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended (16 U.S.C. 4601-4 through 11), including administrative expenses, and for acquisition of lands or waters, or interests therein, in accordance with statutory authority applicable to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, [\$54,720,000] \$106,892,000, to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and to remain available until expended [of which, notwithstanding 16 U.S.C. 4601-9, not more than \$5,000,000 shall be for land conservation partnerships authorized by the Highlands Conservation Act of 2004, including not to exceed \$160,000 for administrative expenses]: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated for specific land acquisition projects may be used to pay for any administrative overhead, planning or other management costs. (Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012.)

### Justification of Language Change

**Deletion:** “of which, notwithstanding 16 U.S.C. 4601-9, not more than \$5,000,000 shall be for land conservation partnerships authorized by the Highlands Conservation Act of 2004, including not to exceed \$160,000 for administrative expenses...”

The budget does not request funding under the Highlands Conservation Act of 2004 in FY 2013.

### Authorizing Statutes

***The Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956***, as amended (16 U.S.C. 742a). Authorizes acquisition of additions to the National Wildlife Refuge System for the development, management, advancement, conservation, and protection of fish and wildlife resources by purchase or exchange of land and water or interests therein.

***Refuge Recreation Act of 1962***, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460). Authorizes acquisition of areas that are adjacent to or within, existing fish and wildlife Conservation Areas administered by the Department of the Interior, and suitable for (1) incidental fish and wildlife-oriented recreation development, (2) the protection of natural resources, (3) the conservation of listed, threatened or endangered species, or (4) carrying out two or more of the above.

***Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965***, as amended (16 U.S.C. 4601). Authorizes appropriations to the Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire land for National Wildlife Refuges as otherwise authorized by law. Authorization of Appropriations: Expires September 30, 2015.

***National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act of 1966*** (16 U.S.C. 668dd). Established overall policy guidance, placed restrictions on the transfer, exchange, or other disposal of refuge lands, and authorized the Secretary to accept donations for land acquisition.

***Endangered Species Act of 1973***, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1534). Authorizes the acquisition of land, waters, or interests therein for the conservation of fish, wildlife, and plants, including those that are listed as endangered or threatened species, with Land and Water Conservation Fund Act appropriations.

***Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986*** (16 U.S.C. 3901). Authorizes the purchase of wetlands, or interests in wetlands, consistent with the wetlands priority conservation plan established under the Act.

**Justification of Fixed Costs and Related Changes**

*(Dollars in Thousands)*

<b>Pay Raise and Pay-Related Changes</b>	<b>PY</b>	<b>CY Change</b>	<b>BY Change</b>
Calendar Year 2010 Quarter 4	36		
Calendar Year 2011 Quarters 1-3	-		
Calendar Year 2011 Quarter 4		+0	
Calendar Year 2012 Quarters 1-3		+0	
Calendar Year 2012 Quarter 4			+0
Calendar Year 2013 Quarters 1-3			+40
Non-Foreign Area COLA Adjustment to Locality Pay	-	+5	
Change in Number of Paid Days			+44
Employer Share of Federal Health Benefit Plans	33	+35	+53

<b>Other Fixed Cost Changes and Projections</b>	<b>PY</b>	<b>CY Change</b>	<b>BY Change</b>
<b>GSA Rental Payments</b>	6	+9	+120
<p>The adjustment is for changes in the costs payable to General Services Administration (GSA) and others resulting from changes in rates for office and non-office space as estimated by GSA, as well as the rental costs of other currently occupied space. These costs include building security; in the case of GSA space, these are paid to DHS. Costs of mandatory office relocations, i.e. relocations in cases where due to external events there is no alternative but to vacate the currently occupied space, are also included.</p>			

<b>Internal Realignments and Non-Policy/Program Changes (Net-Zero)</b>	<b>BY (+/-)</b>
<b>Land Protection Planning</b>	+3,434
<p>The National Wildlife Refuge System's Land Protection Planning Program directly supports the Land Acquisition program. The Service will transfer funding from the Resource Management Appropriation to the Land Acquisition Appropriation to better align the purpose of this program.</p>	

**Appropriation: Land Acquisition**

		2011 Actual	2012 Enacted	2013 Request		Change from 2012 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Land Acquisition Management (\$000)		10,534	10,538	+257	-56	10,739	+201
User Pay Cost Share (\$000)		1,996	1,997	0	+6	2,003	+6
Exchanges (\$000)		1,996	2,496	0	-501	1,995	-501
Inholdings (\$000)		2,495	2,246	0	+249	2,495	+249
Emergencies and Hardships (\$000)		2,495	2,246	0	+239	2,485	+239
Federal Refuges/Projects (\$000)		35,374	35,109	0	+48,632	83,741	+48,632
<b>Subtotal, Land Acquisition - Realty (\$000)</b>		<b>54,890</b>	<b>54,632</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>+48,569</b>	<b>103,458</b>	<b>+48,826</b>
	FTE	<b>86</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>0</b>
Refuge Land Protection Planning (\$000)		0	0	+3,434	0	3,434	+3,434
	FTE	0	0	+20	0	20	+20
Highlands Conservation (\$000)		0	[+4,992]	0	[-4,992]	0	[-4,992]
<b>Total, Land Acquisition (\$000)</b>		<b>54,890</b>	<b>54,632</b>	<b>3,691</b>	<b>+48,569</b>	<b>106,892</b>	<b>+52,260</b>
	FTE	<b>86</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>+20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>+20</b>

<sup>1</sup> Land Protection Planning directly supports the Land Acquisition program. In the FY 2013 budget request, \$3,434,000 and 20 FTE will be funded under the Land Acquisition Appropriation instead of Conservation Planning within the Resource Management Appropriation.

**Summary of 2013 Program Changes for Land Acquisition**

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Federal Refuges/Projects	+48,632	0
• Inholdings	+249	0
• Emergencies and Hardships	+239	0
• User Pay Cost Share	+6	0
• Land Acquisition Management	-56	0
• Exchanges	-501	0
<b>Total, Program Changes</b>	<b>+48,569</b>	<b>0</b>

**Justification of 2013 Program Changes**

The 2013 budget request for Land Acquisition is \$106,892,000 and 106 FTE, a net program change of +\$48,569,000 and +0 FTE from the 2012 Enacted.

**Federal Refuges/Projects (+48,632,000/+0 FTE)**

This increase in funding will allow the Service to acquire and conserve important wildlife habitat for more than 20 projects. The project descriptions provide details about the resource values of the lands and waters proposed for addition to the Department’s network of conservation lands.

The Service makes acquisition decisions based on the resource values of lands and waters proposed for acquisition, ecosystem considerations, the potential for landscape-level conservation, and opportunities to advance and support projects involving partnerships with both public and private conservation partners.

Acquisition of land for conservation provides public health benefits and supports the America's Great Outdoors and the Rivers and Trails initiatives. National wildlife refuge lands provide affordable public outdoor recreational activities such as birdwatching, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, interpretation, fishing, and hunting.

More than 45.5 million people visited national wildlife refuges in 2011. Recreation opportunities provided by national wildlife refuges support local tourism, which supports local economies. Visitors stay in local lodges, eat at local restaurants, and shop in local stores. Local employment increases, and additional funding goes to local, county, and state governments from the increase in tax revenues.

Land acquired through conservation easements supports the America's Great Outdoors initiative by keeping land owners on their land to continue compatible activities to protect habitat and maintain ecosystems. Local communities benefit from the ecological aspect of enhanced wildlife corridors, providing habitat for wildlife and maintaining grasslands, wetlands, and forests. The reduction in overall funding for land acquisition helps reserve funds for higher priorities that advance the mission of the Service.

As part of the Federal Refuges/Projects increase, the Service is requesting an increase to support projects listed in the Collaborative Landscape Planning. A number of ecosystems throughout the Nation where high-priority shared conservation goals can be achieved have been identified. The Service has three projects totaling over \$66 million as part of the Collaborative effort. One project is located in the Crown of the Continent, Northern Rockies, which will increase the land held in conservation easements. Two are located in the Longleaf Pine area, Florida and Georgia, and will increase fee title land ensuring increased recreation for the public. Acquiring these lands will save in the long run as future acquisition may require increased restoration funds in the future.

**Inholdings (+\$249,000/+0 FTE)**

The Service requests an increase of \$249,000 and 0 FTEs for Inholdings. Increased funding will enable the Service to acquire additional lands that become available sporadically. With the economic downturn of the past few years, the Service has received a higher number of contacts from landowners offering to sell biologically diverse properties within approved acquisition boundaries. The Service has a waiting list of these landowners offering choice parcels for addition to the National Wildlife Refuge System.

**Emergencies and Hardships (+\$239,000/+0 FTE)**

This increased funding will enable the Service to acquire additional parcels of biologically diverse land within approved acquisition boundaries. Emergencies and Hardships funding enables the Service to acquire land quickly from willing sellers who may have urgent medical or financial challenges.

**User Pay Cost Share (+6,000/+0 FTE)**

The Service requests an increase for User Pay Cost Share of \$6,000 and 0 FTE. This request is displayed in a separate line item for general business operating costs established in FY 2003. Requesting a separate User Pay Cost Share appropriation is consistent with Congressional direction.

**Land Acquisition Management (-\$56,000/ +0 FTE)**

For FY 2013, the Service requests a decrease of \$56,000 and 0 FTE. For the past several years, the Service has focused on managing the lands it already owns. Staff will work cooperatively with sister bureaus in the Department of the Interior (BLM and NPS) and the Department of Agriculture (FS) to acquire land for landscape-scale Collaborative Conservation projects.

**Exchanges (-\$501,000/+0 FTEs)** The Service requests a decrease of -\$501,000 and +0 FTEs for Exchanges. Decreased funding for Exchanges will allow the Service to concentrate efforts on acquiring biologically-rich land from willing sellers.

**Program Overview**

Through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), the Service receives funding to acquire lands, waters, and interests therein as authorized by acts of Congress. The Service acquires important fish, wildlife, and plant habitat for the conservation of listed endangered and threatened species, as additions to the existing Refuge System and the National Fish Hatchery System. The Land Acquisition Program uses alternative and innovative conservation tools, including conservation easements; implements projects that have the input and participation of the affected local communities and stakeholders; and leverages Federal dollars to the maximum extent possible.

**Refuge Land Protection Planning**

This planning function evaluates potential land acquisitions to support the strategic growth of the Refuge System. Refuge field stations work in cooperation with partners to identify and protect habitats for migratory birds and other important species. In some cases, Land Protection Plans will be prepared to establish new refuges or, more likely, to expand existing refuges to address the needs of fish, wildlife, and plant communities. Specific activities include gathering background data, coordinating with state and local entities, involving the public, analyzing ecological, legal, and financial issues, and printing and distributing draft and final plan documents.

The Service has developed three draft planning policies to guide the strategic management of the Refuge System. When finalized, these policies will be incorporated into the Service Manual as sections on Strategic Growth, Land Protection Planning, and Land Acquisition Planning. The Strategic Growth policy provides guidance on identifying areas of ecological importance for conservation and potential land acquisitions or exchanges. The Land Protection Planning policy describes the specific procedures and documents used in the conservation planning processes. The Land Acquisition Planning policy provides criteria for prioritizing approved proposals for funding.

**Strategic Outcomes and Results**

The Land Acquisition Program fulfills its goals by conserving habitat where biological communities will flourish. The Service's Land Acquisition Priority System (LAPS), a biological merit-based selection process, ranks lands for acquisition on standardized biological criteria. The LAPS quantifies the biological contributions of fisheries and aquatic resources, endangered species, migratory birds, and larger ecosystems at the refuge level. Using this information, the LAPS serves as the starting point for the prioritization of active land acquisition projects with willing sellers. It serves as an objective and biologically-based source of information for decision makers.

The America's Great Outdoors initiative will enhance the Service's science-based prioritization of land acquisition projects by focusing on landscape-scale conservation projects. The Service's projects support its mission-oriented priorities as well as potential cross-bureau collaborative conservation projects. Cross-bureau conservation focus areas include the Crown of the Continent, the Lower Mississippi Valley, the Chesapeake Bay, Grasslands/Prairie Potholes, and the Connecticut River, among others. Many

Service projects provide or enhance public outdoor recreation in close proximity to both urban and rural areas. Important factors for all projects proposed for the FY 2013 budget include contribution of leveraged funds, partner participation, and urgency of project completion, to protect ecosystems and wildlife species' habitats from development or inappropriate uses.

The Rivers and Trails initiative works in conjunction with the Land and Water Conservation Fund to increase the economic benefits to local communities through ecotourism and recreation activities. Studies have been conducted by federal government agencies and non-profit organizations on the benefits of having a Refuge in close proximity for recreation. Local economies benefit from drawing tourist dollars associated with the affordable public activities available on the refuge.

### **Means and Strategies**

It is the Service's policy to request acquisition funding only for those areas within previously established Refuge System boundaries. In every project for which the Service is requesting funding the Service has completed the necessary National Environmental Policy Act process and has an approved Land Protection Plan.

### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Lands Mapper**

The Service Lands Mapper is an internal, web-based application for viewing Service managed lands and waters. The new Service Lands Mapper Lite is a web-based application for public viewing of maps of FWS-managed lands. The Lands Mapper mapping application is designed to provide an overview of the fee title, less than fee title, and inholdings lands in the Cadastral Program in all Service Regions. All lands and boundaries depicted are considered resource-grade, and include purchase information and data about a majority of the Service interest tracts at this time.

The Service has opened access to the Lands Mapper to the public via the web. The external FWS Lands Mapper Lite shows Fee and Secondary lands.

The application enables Service employees to learn more about the land and water that the Service manages. The mapping application has been built using the Service's cadastral data and allows cadastral data to reflect the external boundaries of all fee title and less than fee title inholdings within Service-managed units, such as National Wildlife Refuges, as well as water within those boundaries.

The cadastral data is maintained by the Service's Cadastral Data Working Group. It is contained in the Service National Cadastral Geodatabase and is updated twice yearly. Additional tabular data specific to the fee title tracts of land and water is contained in the Land Records System (LRS).

Benefits of the Lands Mapper for Realty staff and other Service programs and employees at this time are:

- Display aerial photography, topographic maps, and street data for anywhere in the country.
- Search and zoom capability of Service-managed lands.
- Ability to overlay shapefiles or other web services in the mapper.
- Locate acreage information, links to station websites, and data for Service lands and the associated tracts of land or water (including the Wetland Management Districts).
- Compute measurements of distance and area.
- Print and export custom-made maps.

The Service Lands Mapper Lite mapping application will go into the NWRS Content Management System and will provide interactive maps for all NWRS Refuges for the public. It also will enable the Service to share, and directly access, data with the Department of Transportation, Federal Highway

Administration, and Federal Lands Program, and display this information on the Mapper. This application is a huge move forward in data sharing, saving time, and utilizing the resources of other federal agencies.

Working with partners and using contemporary conservation tools, land acquisition projects have added significant, biologically-valuable lands to the National Wildlife Refuge System.

**Land Acquisition Success Stories**

**Sheldon NWR**

The Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge in Nevada protects more than a half-million acres of high desert habitat at the state’s border with Oregon. These expansive tablelands of mountain big sagebrush, Wyoming big sagebrush, and mountain mahogany appear dry and rugged, but are punctuated with lush springs among rolling hills.

The Service acquired the 20-acre Ruby Pipeline Tract, a private inholding located entirely within the borders of the Refuge. The north boundary is almost completely surrounded by a Wilderness Study Area. Acquisition of this property allows the Service to manage wildlife resources located there consistent with surrounding Refuge lands. This tract is located along a drainage at Fish Creek Mountain, and is rich habitat for sage grouse, pygmy rabbit, mule deer, and scattered bands of bighorn sheep, and is important pronghorn antelope summer range habitat. The acquisition of this property prevented threatened development, which would have been detrimental to the wildlife habitat on the property as well as the Wilderness Study Area.



Ruby Pipeline Tract acquired in 2011  
Picture credit: Brian Day – Refuge Manager, Sheldon NWR

**San Bernard NWR**

The Service-- along with 24 partner organizations, agencies, and landowners-- has been working for 15 years to conserve the Columbia Bottomlands, remnants of a once 700,000-acre near-coastal forest between the Brazos, San Bernard, and Colorado Rivers, south of Houston, Texas. Principally known for its importance for migrating songbirds, the Columbia Bottomlands provides a unique and diverse habitat that is threatened by development, invasive species, and a changing climate. To date, nearly 30,000 acres have been conserved.

The Service recently partnered with Natural Resources Conservation Service on the 1,315-acre Media Luna Ranch acquisition. In addition to purchasing a conservation easement through the Wetlands Reserve Program, NRCS will restore the hydrology of the 75% of the tract that is still forested. The remaining 25% of the property will be restored to bottomland forest.

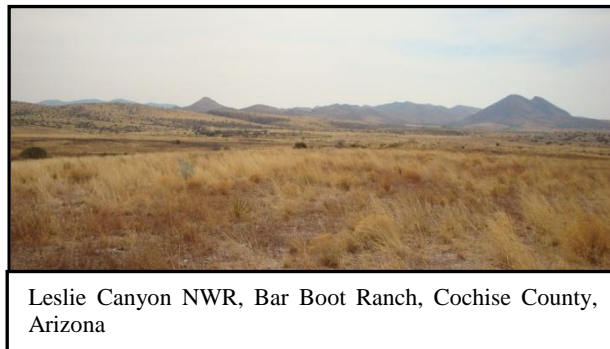


San Bernard NWR, Media Luna Ranch, Texas, Service photo by Jennifer Sanchez

After selling the initial conservation easement to NRCS, the landowner chose to sell the remaining interest to the Service. The property -- which includes one mile of Cedar Lake Creek frontage -- lies across from the Nannie M. Stringfellow Wildlife Management Area. Including the core unit of San Bernard NWR, a 35,000-acre contiguous corridor of conserved lands reaches more than nine miles inland from the Gulf of Mexico.

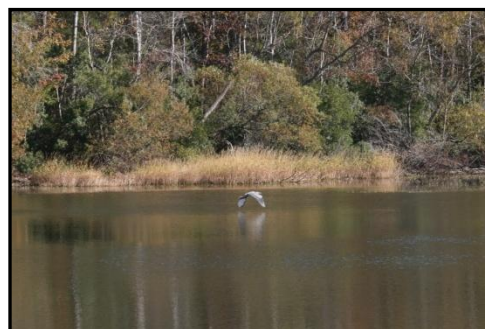
### **Leslie Canyon NWR**

In the spirit of public-private cooperation, the Service purchased a conservation easement on the Bar Boot Ranch at the Leslie Canyon National Wildlife Refuge in Cochise County, Arizona. This 3,221-acre easement tract represents the final phase of a multi-year easement acquisition totaling 13,440 acres. This conservation effort reflects a mutual goal of ensuring survival of native fish and wildlife on both the ranch and the Refuge by targeting for conservation the upstream reaches of the Leslie Creek Watershed. The easement limits subdivision and surface development on the Ranch and permits watershed restoration activities, while continuing to allow traditional ranching uses. By limiting development, this acquisition will assure continued water supplies to sustain native fish, wildlife, and plants, including federally-listed threatened and endangered species.



### **Middle Mississippi River NWR**

Wetlands America Trust, affiliated with Ducks Unlimited, donated 291 acres to the Middle Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge in Illinois. The lands -- donated as a result of a Middle Mississippi River Partnership-sponsored NAWCA grant -- provide migratory and nesting habitat for songbirds, waterfowl, and other riverfront forest obligates. These unique lands lie within the uncontrolled portion of the middle Mississippi River, below the confluence with the Missouri River where water levels are not regulated by the lock and dam system. Water levels fluctuate greatly in this "open river" section of the Mississippi, causing frequent flooding, as occurred during the flood of 1993. As natural succession is allowed to progress, roosting and foraging habitat for the Indiana bat will likely be created, as well as a green corridor along the Mississippi, connecting diverse habitats from the floodplain to hardwood uplands.



### **Waccamaw NWR**

The Service acquired 216 acres valued at more than \$1.5 million at the Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge in South Carolina. This land is located within the city limits of Conway and will support the Service's urban wildlife refuge initiative. It contains a major isolated wetlands area that is home to many migratory birds as well as a wood stork nesting rookery. This area will also provide outreach opportunities such as hiking and biking trails, as well as environmental education.

### **Santee NWR**

At Santee National Wildlife Refuge, South Carolina, the Service acquired 32.8 acres of fee lands valued at more than \$190,000. This property abuts existing Refuge lands and provides wintering and stopover habitat for migratory waterfowl, water birds, shorebirds, song birds, and at least one federal trust species, the endangered wood stork. It also supports resident breeding bird populations such as the wood duck, bald eagle, and painted bunting.



### **Silvio O. Conte NFWR**

The Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge encompasses the entire Connecticut River Watershed, and includes 10 Divisions in the four states bordering the River (Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont). The Service acquired 907 acres in 2011 – comprised of 13 separate ownerships -- at a cost of \$2,601,000. Three of the states identified the Connecticut River as being a critical centerpiece of the America's Great Outdoors initiative, while the fourth, New Hampshire, specifically cited the Conte Refuge as one of two geographic areas on which to focus a shared vision for conservation and outdoor recreation. Establishing protected wildlife habitat corridors is a primary focus of the Conte Refuge. One of the tracts acquired in partnership with The Nature Conservancy at the Pondicherry Division connects Refuge lands to the White Mountain National Forest. At the Fort River Division, the Refuge partnered with The Trust for Public Land, the Town of Hadley, the Kestrel Land Trust, and other members of the Fort River Partnership to protect a 24-acre parcel which is being restored as breeding habitat for bobolinks and other grassland birds whose populations are declining.



Picture is Silvio O. Conte NF&WR,  
Mohawk River Division, Columbia, NH

### **Umbagog NWR**

The Service acquired five tracts totaling 3,391 acres at a cost of \$3,544,000 at the Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge in New Hampshire; the most notable of which was the first phase of the Androscoggin Headwaters - Plum Creek conservation project. Acquisition of this 2,920-acre tract is the first of five planned acquisitions by both federal and state land protection agencies. The project ensures that working forests will remain a part of the landscape, while breeding habitat for loons, black ducks, osprey, and other migratory birds is protected in perpetuity. The Phase I purchase protects four undeveloped ponds and many Androscoggin River tributary streams, using funds from both the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund. The Service and New Hampshire Fish and Game aim to acquire more than 8,000 acres of the most sensitive habitat to be held as publicly-owned conservation land. The remaining 23,000 acres owned by Plum Creek will be protected with a conservation easement that ensures sustainable forestry and recreational access, but the land will remain privately owned and be managed as a commercial forest.

### **Blackwater NWR**

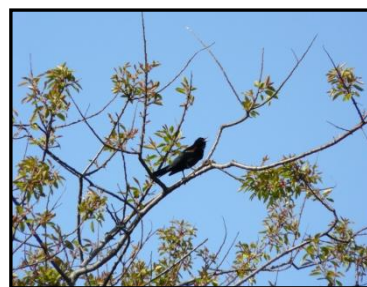
Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Maryland has historically been recognized as one of the Chesapeake Bay's most important and vibrant wildlife conservation areas. In 2011, the Service added 596 acres to the Refuge, featuring both wetlands and dry forested habitats that are ideal for various migratory bird species, including bald eagles, osprey, wood ducks, black ducks, and other forest-dwelling marsh and water birds. Located on a high ridge near the southern end of the Refuge boundary, the acquired tracts are essential for climate change adaptation. As sea levels rise, the upland portions of these properties are expected to eventually transition into emergent marsh habitat essential for wintering waterfowl.



### **Edwin B. Forsythe NWR**

Nearly 80 percent of this New Jersey refuge is tidal salt meadow and marsh, interspersed with shallow coves and bays. More black ducks winter here than any other site along the Atlantic Flyway. Working with The Trust for Public Land, the Service added 255 acres of tidal salt meadow to the Refuge. The Service also acquired a nearly 80-acre tract of forested habitat that contains an important fresh water creek flowing into Barnegat Bay. Barnegat Bay was identified by the State as the most important site in

New Jersey for land protection and recreation in the *America's Great Outdoors Fifty State Report*. More than 5,000 feet of creek frontage are now protected, and 10 acres of tidal marsh adjacent to existing Refuge lands will increase protected foraging habitat for water birds.



### **Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Area**

The Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Area was established in fall of 2011 to protect a unique and highly diverse area in eastern Kansas. Tallgrass prairie is one of the most threatened ecosystems in North America. Only about 4 percent of the once-vast tallgrass prairie remains, most of which lies within the Flint Hills of eastern Kansas and northeastern Oklahoma. Cultivation, agriculture, tree encroachment, and development activities continue to reduce the remainder, with the result that grassland birds that inhabit the area are the fastest declining group of avians in North America. However, the central core area still retains the same unobstructed views that Zebulon Pike described in his journal when he explored the Flint Hills 200 years ago. The limestone outcrops and thin soils discouraged plowing, and the predominant use of the Flint Hills since about 1860 has been cattle ranching. That ranching culture, with its use of grazing and fire, has been crucial in maintaining what is left of this fire-dependent ecosystem.

### **Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge**

With the assistance of the Western Rivers Conservancy, the Service acquired 585 acres of wetlands, marshland, grasslands, riparian areas, and grain fields for the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge in Utah. The Refuge serves a vital role in the Bear River delta ecosystem by protecting more than 41,000 acres of wetlands. The addition is an important part of the marshland ecosystem, and will allow for more efficient use of water resources on adjacent Refuge lands and support long term viability and health of wildlife habitat. The area is important to migratory bird species using both the Central and Pacific flyways. Migratory birds, waterfowl, and shorebirds, as well as resident wildlife, depend on the Refuge for feeding, breeding, and as a staging area. This acquisition will also expand opportunities for wildlife-dependent forms of public recreation.

### **Alaska Maritime NWR**

The Service purchased two tracts totaling 154 acres in the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. One tract, located near Cape Lisburne within one of the largest mainland areas of the Chukchi Sea Unit, is home to some of the largest concentrations of seabirds in the region. The other tract, located on Aiatalik Island south of Kodiak Island, is a significant cultural resource site eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

### **Yukon Delta NWR**

The Service acquired three tracts totaling 280 acres at the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. One tract is located along the Kisaralik River, which is among the most important areas on the Refuge for nesting raptors, and also supports one of the densest populations of breeding golden eagles in North America. It also supports several fish species, including Rainbow trout, Arctic grayling, and Pacific salmon. Two tracts are located on the banks of the Kwethluk River, which is a clear water tributary of the Kuskokwim River. The Kwethluk River is prime habitat for all five species of Pacific Salmon, Rainbow trout, and Dolly Varden.

### **Yukon Flats NWR**

The Service acquired five tracts totaling 480 acres within the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. One tract contains prime river frontage along the Porcupine River with cliffs containing important nesting habitat for peregrine falcon. The other tracts contain frontage along Beaver Creek, Rock Slough, and the Black River. Most of these properties contain high quality wetland complexes and were isolated inholdings surrounded by Refuge land. Acquisition of these parcels greatly benefits Refuge

wildlife management and provides a cost savings to the government due to decreased fire management expenses.

**San Joaquin River NWR**

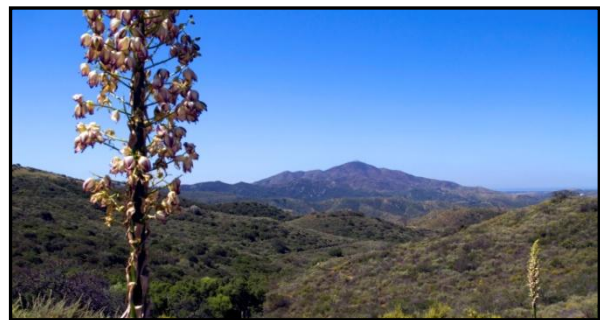
For the past 18 years, the Lyons/Mapes family has been implementing their long-term goal to protect their property in perpetuity with conservation easements. The Service acquired conservation easements on two properties totaling 197 acres. The San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge, the newest unit of the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge Complex, was established in 1987 to protect endangered species, including the wintering grounds of Aleutian Canada (cackling) geese. Since then, that particular species has seen its population significantly increase; the species has been delisted and is now a game species for sportsmen. The other major endangered species focus on the Refuge is the riparian brush rabbit -- perhaps the most endangered mammal in California.



These easements will provide long term viability to the grassland and wetland ecosystem as well as provide a safe haven for migratory birds and other wildlife species.

**San Diego NWR**

The Service added six small, but important, inholdings to San Diego National Wildlife Refuge in California. These acquisitions on Mt. San Miguel helped to consolidate federal ownership in the heart of the refuge and to protect areas of coastal sage and chaparral that support a variety of rare plants and animals. San Diego NWR is the cornerstone of conservation efforts by partners and cooperators with the State of California’s Natural Communities Conservation Planning program and the regional Multiple Species Conservation Plan. The refuge provides key habitat for the coastal California gnatcatcher, least Bell’s vireo, Quino checkerspot butterfly, and Otay tarplant, among other listed or sensitive species. It has also been designated a Globally Important Bird Area by the American Bird Conservancy.



Chaparral and sage scrub habitat of McGinty Mountain on the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge with view to Mt. San Miguel. Photo copyright Earl S. Cryer; used with permission. *Hesperoyucca whipplei* - Chaparral yucca in the foreground.

**Update on Land Exchanges for FY 2013**

The following pages list refuges, waterfowl production areas, wetland management districts, Native Corporations, and Farm Service Agency (FSA) properties that may be part of ongoing projects in the negotiation or acquisition phases of possible land exchanges. Other exchanges may be undertaken throughout FY 2013 as opportunities arise. The Service projects an estimated \$2,664,000 in acquisition costs for over 278,482 acres. Exchanges may involve on-going expenditures over a period of years.

Exchange projects have provided unique experiences to work with partners from Federal, state, and local governments, in addition to private landowners, and organizations, and local and national conservation groups. Taking advantage of the expertise of the collective groups, exchange projects have provided significant biologically valuable lands providing critical habitat for a variety of wildlife within the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Crab Orchard NWR , Illinois

The Service acquired 74.13 acres for the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge in Illinois through land-for-land exchange with Carterville Community Unit School District No. 5. The exchanged land provides habitat for the endangered Indiana bat and will protect forested habitat from future development, reducing habitat fragmentation. By divesting 8.02 acres to the School District, the District will be able to construct a secondary access road next to the new high school as an alternate route in the event of an emergency. This exchange will also allow for closure of a portion of road that is subject to illegal dumping near the Refuge boundary. Funding for the exchange equalization payment came from a Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) settlement. Since 1997, a total of \$1.76 million in NRDA funds have been spent on the Refuge for restoration work and land acquisition.

San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge, California

Large-scale tidal wetland restoration at the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge will be successful with the addition of the former Naval Communications base. Lying amid marshland on the northern edge of the refuge near Vallejo, California, the 3,310-acres is one step closer to providing quality estuarine habitat for birds and endangered species. The island is one of the largest diked wetlands that will increase the size of the 13,000-acre Refuge by a quarter and add much-needed haven in the North Bay for birds and other wildlife. Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey, a key advocate for the restoration of Skaggs Island, introduced legislation in 2008 that enabled the property to be transferred. “Thanks to great teamwork between the Navy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the support and cooperation of a lot of partners, we were able to make it happen.” said Don Brubaker, manager of the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge.



STATE	POTENTIAL EXCHANGES	ACRES TO BE ACQUIRED	MANAGEMENT COSTS
ALASKA	AK Maritime NWR - Isanotski	4,800.00	\$5,000
	AK Maritime NWR - Akutan Corp	18,800.00	\$5,000
	AK Maritime NWR - Shumagin Corp	6,700.00	\$5,000
	Alaska Peninsula NWR - Oceanside	7,375.00	\$5,000
	Izembek NWR - King Cove	52,000.00	\$850,000
	Kenai NWR - CIRI	3,000.00	\$10,000
	Selawik NWR - NANA Corp	Undetermined	\$5,000
	Tetlin NWR - TCF	508.00	\$25,000
	Yukon Delta NWR - Cherfornak	40,000.00	\$30,000
	Yukon Delta NWR - NIMA Corp	Undetermined	\$40,000
	Yukon Delta NWR - Sea Lion Corp	55,000.00	\$65,000
	Yukon Delta NWR - Toksook Bay	29,300.00	\$20,000
	Yukon Delta NWR - Bethel Native Corporation	Undetermined	\$15,000
	Yukon Delta NWR - Napaskiak	45,000.00	\$80,000
	Yukon Delta NWR - Eek	Undetermined	\$5,000
	Yukon Delta NWR - Aniak	Undetermined	\$5,000
	Yukon Delta NWR - Chevak	Undetermined	\$5,000
	CALIFORNIA	Bitter Creek NWR	297.00
Bitter Creek NWR		0.10	\$10,000
Bitter Creek NWR		3.74	\$22,000
Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR		2.98	\$75,000
COLORADO	Arapaho NWR	1,700.00	\$40,000
	Rocky Flats NWR	640.00	\$45,000
FLORIDA	Archie Carr NWR	10.00	\$5,000
	Lake Wales Ridge NWR	2.75	\$20,000
	Pelican Island NWR	47.00	\$10,000
	St. Marks	3.00	\$15,000
ILLINOIS	Meredoisia NWR - IL DOT	10.00	\$20,000
	IL River NWR	5.00	\$10,000
	Cypress Creek NWR	10.00	\$10,000
INDIANA	Patoka NWR	Undetermined	\$20,000
IOWA	Union Slough NWR	40.00	\$10,000
KENTUCKY	Clarks River NWR	100.00	\$20,000
LOUISIANA	Handy Brake NWR	38.00	\$15,000
	Red River NWR	576.00	\$55,000
	Upper Ouachita NWR	80.00	\$10,000
Maine	Rachel Carson NWR	150.00	\$50,000
	Moosehorn NWR	115.00	\$45,000

MASSACHUSETTS	Assabet River NWR	350.00	\$50,000
	Great Meadows NWR	5.00	\$15,000
	Oxbow NWR	20.00	\$10,000
MICHIGAN	Shiawassee NWR	337.00	\$50,000
	Jackson County FmHA	5.00	\$10,000
	Jackson County WPA	2.00	\$25,000
MINNESOTA	Minnesota Valley NWR - MN DNR	279.60	\$25,000
	Kandiyohi County FmHA	20.00	\$10,000
	Pope County WPA	40.00	\$10,000
	Tamarac NWR	10.00	\$10,000
	Upper Mississippi River NW&FR	2.00	\$10,000
MISSISSIPPI	St. Catherine Creek NWR	510.00	\$45,000
	Tallahatchie NWR	4.67	\$5,000
MONTANA	Pablo NWR	2.00	\$10,000
NEBRASKA	North Platte NWR	5.00	\$5,000
	Rainwater Basin WMD	160.00	\$25,000
NEVADA	Sheldon NWR - Ruby Pipeline	20.00	\$30,000
	Stillwater NWR	500.00	\$20,000
NORTH DAKOTA	Various North Dakota WPA's & WMA's	100.00	\$80,000
NEW JERSEY	E. B. Forsythe NWR	100.00	\$25,000
NEW YORK	Missisquoi NWR	262.32	\$20,000
PUERTO RICO	Vieques NWR	96.41	\$15,000
SOUTH CAROLINA	Carolina Sandhills NWR	269.00	\$10,000
	Santee NWR	32.76	\$5,000
SOUTH DAKOTA	Various South Dakota WPA's & WMD's	160.00	\$55,000
	South Dakota WMD State Land	4,022.00	\$15,000
TENNESSEE	Lower Hatchie NWR	1.73	\$10,000
TEXAS	Lower Rio Grande Valley - Hidalgo County Irrigation District #3	5.00	\$5,000
	Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR FM 800	5.60	\$2,000
	Lower Rio Grande Valley Cameron County CCRMA	73.00	\$10,000
	Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR - Agriculture Investment Associates	2,700.00	\$45,000
	Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR - Fred Shuster	80.00	\$20,000
	Neches River NWR-Tetlin-through Exxon Exchange in Alaska	516.00	\$10,000
VERMONT	Silvio O. Conte NFWR	100.00	\$25,000
WASHINGTON	Conboy Lake NWR	20.00	\$30,000
	Willapa NWR Complex	227.00	\$60,000

WISCONSIN	Neceda WMA	5.00	\$20,000
	Fondu Lac County WPA	113.36	\$15,000
	Upper MS River NW&FR - WI DOT	Undetermined	\$25,000
	Upper MS River NWFR	280.00	\$10,000
WYOMING	Cokeville Meadows NWR	657.00	\$70,000
	Cokeville Meadows NWR	70.00	\$25,000
<b>Totals</b>		<b>278,482.02</b>	<b>\$2,664,000</b>

**Land Acquisition Projects for FY 2013**

The following lists of proposed land acquisition projects is the current set of land acquisition priorities that has been vetted and approved by bureau and Department leadership to meet the high priority programmatic needs during fiscal year 2013.

**Collaborative Landscape Planning (CLP)**

The 2013 Federal Land Acquisition program builds on efforts started in 2011 and 2012 to develop a program that supports strategic interagency landscape-scale conservation projects while continuing to meet agency-specific programmatic needs. These efforts were partially initiated in response to Congressional direction to the Department and the Forest Service to jointly use LWCF land acquisition funds jointly and more strategically to protect contiguous landscapes and meet shared conservation goals. Interior bureaus collaborated extensively with the Forest Service to develop a process to coordinate land acquisition planning with government and local community partners to achieve the highest priority shared conservation goals more effectively.

To facilitate Congress’s request, the CLP process is designed to:

- use the LWCF to incentivize collaborative planning for measurable outcomes at the "landscape scale;
- invest LWCF resources in some of the most ecologically important landscapes; and "
- invest in projects that have a clear strategy to reach shared goals grounded in science-based " planning, are driven by and responsive to local community initiatives, and will make the most efficient use of federal funds.

For 2013, Interior and U.S. Department of Agriculture are initiating the CLP process with a combined request of \$108.6 million. This includes a request of \$83.6 million dollars among the three Interior bureaus and the remaining \$25.0 million by the Forest Service. The 2013 CLP projects were evaluated by a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) made up of BLM, FWS, NPS, and FS staff, and were rated according to merit based criteria in the following categories:

- Process – ensure proposals are built through Federal agency and local stakeholder collaboration and make efficient use of Federal funding. Stakeholder commitment to proposals, including broad-based community support, resources, or funding, were considered.
- Outcomes – ensure Federal resources are targeted to achieve important biological recreational, cultural and socio-economic outcomes, including improving access to public lands.
- Urgency – ensure funding is focused on outcomes that may be lost today if no action is taken " or that are particularly achievable today.
- Contribution to national priorities – ensure local proposals are important contributors to the " highest priority national conservation goals.

The joint Interior-Agriculture National Selection Committee identified a number of ecosystems throughout the Nation where high priority shared conservation goals can be achieved based on existing locally-driven conservation efforts. Through the rigorous merit based evaluation process, three ecosystems were selected for inclusion in the 2013

budget including: the Northern Rockies and the Florida-Georgia Longleaf Initiative landscapes, as well as an initial investment in the Greater Yellowstone landscape.

Investing now in these ecologically important but threatened landscapes will ensure that they remain resilient in the face of development pressures and global change. Smart investment in strategic conservation in these landscapes will prevent further ecosystem decline or collapse, which is expected to preclude the need for future investments in restoration. The proposed federal investments in these landscapes will additionally leverage significant private commitments to land and water conservation in the Crown of the Continent and Longleaf Pine ecosystems.

In the ***Northern Rockies landscape***, BLM, FWS, NPS, and FS aim to build resiliency in ecological systems and communities, so that, even as climate conditions change, this collaborative area will continue to support a full range of native biodiversity. Building ecological resiliency includes maintaining intact, interconnected landscapes and restoring fragmented or degraded habitats. The agencies have engaged in longstanding collaborations with Non-Government Organization partners, local community groups such as the Blackfoot Challenge and Rocky Mountain Front Landowner Advisory Group, and State and county government officials, to tailor a Federal conservation strategy and acquisition program that achieves a synergy between private rights, open space, traditional land uses and conservation. This shared vision, developed over years of collaboration, includes maintaining working ranches and forests by acquiring conservation easements as well as acquiring lands in fee that will provide public access and enjoyment.

The planned acquisitions will contribute to species conservation for an array of threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. The landscape, which falls within the greater Crown of the Continent ecosystem and serves as the southern “bookend” for the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative, is home to a number of large game species, including antelope, elk, deer, and moose which range throughout the acquisition area, and which can be hunted within some fee ownership acquisitions. Hunting provides recreational opportunities and vital revenue to local communities. The Federal acquisition projects will complement the conservation goals of State wildlife action plans as well as other conservation plans including Partners in Flight, Endangered Species Recovery Plans, Forest Management Plans and agency general management and Interior and Agriculture departmental level strategic plans.

Tracts identified in the ***Florida-Georgia Longleaf Initiative landscape*** are crucial to the ecological wellbeing and recovery of the diminishing longleaf pine ecosystem in the South. Long leaf pines which once covered up to 98 million acres of the Southeast have been reduced to three million acres, much of it in poor condition. Collaborative regional effort to address this decline has been underway for over 15 years, with strong public-private partnerships like the Longleaf Alliance bringing together private landowners, forest industries, state and federal agencies, conservation groups and researchers to work on collaborative solutions. Federal agencies drew from Florida wildlife habitat gap analyses, recovery plans, other Florida and Federal natural resource assessments and initiatives, and local government and general public input, to develop a plan for land acquisition that targets the most critical conservation needs. Based on this plan, State and local governments and conservation non-profit groups such as The Nature Conservancy worked closely with Federal agencies to secure these tracts to allow sufficient time for the United States to acquire them.

Although many threatened and endangered species require a longleaf pine ecosystem to survive, the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker is the keystone species for ecosystem. The BLM, FWS, FS, and the State of Florida



have collaborated over the last 20 years to dramatically grow the RCW populations and promote the recovery of the longleaf pine ecosystem through the RCW Southern Range Translocation Cooperative, and to protect and expand critical wildlife areas and the Florida National Scenic Trail corridor.

The acquisitions funded in this request address the most critical needs of each agency in support of our shared priority of longleaf pine ecosystem conservation, restoration, and Endangered and Threatened species recovery. The lands selected for this proposal are the highest priority for each unit to protect critical habitat, improve management, protect private lands from wildfire, and leverage the efforts of conservation partners to secure these tracts for Federal protection.

The Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee was formed in 1964 to provide a coordinated perspective for the ecological integrity and outstanding natural resources of the **Greater Yellowstone landscape**. This longstanding perspective allows the collaborating Federal agencies to work with NGO partners, local community groups such as the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance and Greater Yellowstone Coalition, and State and county government officials, to design a Federal acquisition program to that will complement existing landownership, honor traditional land uses and conserve this unique landscape for future generations.

The collective vision includes acquisition of land and conservation easements that will contribute to species conservation and will secure habitat connectivity for large game species including elk, deer and moose. The network of protected lands in this ecosystem supports a robust local tourism economy which draws millions of tourists annually for outdoor recreation, hunting and angling. Development of unprotected lands in this area is an urgent threat to the landscape's ecological integrity and to the rural character of the landscape which underpins the area's tourism economy.

	Bureau	Unit	Parcel Name	Cost (000's)
<b>Longleaf Pine:</b>				
Florida-Georgia Longleaf Initiative				
	BLM	Lathrop Bayou Habitat Management Area	St. Joe Timberlands	\$ 412
	FWS	St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge	Sam Shine Foundation	\$ 17,514
	FWS	St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge	The Nature Conservancy	\$ 15,398
	FWS	Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge	Forest Investment Associates	\$ 5,233
	FWS	Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge	The Conservation Fund	\$ 8,403
	USFS	Apalachicola National Forest / Osceola National Forest		\$ 6,400
<b>Crown of the Continent:</b>				
Northern Rockies				
	BLM	Blackfoot River Special Resource Management Area/Lewis & Clark National Trail	The Nature Conservancy	\$ 4,572
	BLM	Blackfoot River Special Resource Management Area/Lewis & Clark National Trail	Private Landowner	\$ 1,000
	NPS	Glacier National Park	Harrison Creek	\$ 3,323
	FWS	Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Area (CA) , Blackfoot Valley CA , Swan Vall	Private Landowner (Parcel #1)	\$ 1,008
	FWS	Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Area (CA) , Blackfoot Valley CA , Swan Vall	Private Landowner (Parcel #2)	\$ 6,142
	FWS	Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Area (CA) , Blackfoot Valley CA , Swan Vall	Private Landowner (Parcel #3)	\$ 1,170
	FWS	Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Area (CA) , Blackfoot Valley CA , Swan Vall	Private Landowner (Parcel #4)	\$ 3,360
	FWS	Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Area (CA) , Blackfoot Valley CA , Swan Vall	Private Landowner (Parcel #5)	\$ 1,425
	FWS	Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Area (CA) , Blackfoot Valley CA , Swan Vall	Private Landowner (Parcel #6)	\$ 927
	FWS	Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Area (CA) , Blackfoot Valley CA , Swan Vall	Private Landowner (parcel #7)	\$ 310
	FWS	Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Area (CA) , Blackfoot Valley CA , Swan Vall	The Nature Conservancy	\$ 5,400
	USFS	Montana Legacy Completion - Lolo/Flathead NF		\$ 14,800
Greater Yellowstone				
	NPS	Grand Teton National Park	State of Wyoming Lands	\$ 8,000
	USFS	Bridger-Teton National Forest / Caribou-Targhee National Forest		\$ 3,800

**CROWN OF THE CONTINENT  
Montana**

**Acquisition Authority:** Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956  
**FY 2011 LAPS Rank:** No. 33 of 101  
**Location:** 65 miles northwest of Great Falls, MT  
**Congressional Districts:** Montana At Large **FWS Region 6**  
**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$12,050,000  
**FY 2013 Budget Request:** \$19,742,350

**Acquisition Status:**

	<u>Ownerships</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2011	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Easement through FY 2011	4	34,564	\$12,028,500	\$348
Acquired Exchange through FY 2011	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2011	0	9,283	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2011	0	0	\$0	\$0
Total Acquired through FY 2011	4	43,847	\$12,028,500	\$274
Planned FY 2012	5	17,545	\$8,000,000	\$456
Proposed FY 2013 (easements)	8	30,685	\$19,742,000	\$643
Remaining	41	77,923	\$20,560,900	\$264
Totals	58	170,000	\$60,331,400	\$355

**Purpose of Acquisition:** Acquisition would support long-term viability of fish and wildlife habitat on a large landscape-scale basis in the Crown of the Continent. Acquisition of perpetual conservation easements preserves habitat where existing biological communities are functioning well and maintains the traditional rural economies for present and future generations of Americans.

**Project Cooperators:** The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Teton County Commission, Pondera County Commission, Lewis & Clark County Commission, Montana Wilderness Association, and Montana Audubon Society.

**Project Description:** Funds would be used to acquire perpetual conservation easements on approximately 30,685 acres for the Rocky Mountain Front, Blackfoot Valley, and Swan Valley Conservation Areas in Montana. These lands border existing protected land (owned by the Service, other federal agencies, or The Nature Conservancy) and include important habitat for grizzly bear, wolverine, lynx, goshawk, willow flycatcher, sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, burrowing owl, Lewis woodpecker, trumpeter swan, yellow-billed cuckoo, cutthroat trout, arctic grayling, and Columbia spotted frog. The Rocky Mountain Front is considered one of the best remaining intact ecosystems left in the lower 48 states, and supports nearly every wildlife species described by Lewis and Clark in 1806, with the exception of free-ranging bison. Swan Valley provides habitat for a rich diversity of species in an ecologically intact landscape, and is one of the few places in the lower 48 states where the full assemblage of large, mammalian carnivores still exists. Blackfoot Valley is one of the last, undeveloped river valley systems in Western Montana. There is increasing pressure to subdivide and develop this landscape. Protecting these tracts with conservation easements would prevent fragmentation and preserve trust species habitat in some of the nation’s best remaining intact ecosystems.

**O&M:** The Service estimates that annual monitoring and inspection of the 30,685 easement acres would require approximately 0.5 FTE of total staff time (approximately \$40,000 per year).

**FLORIDA-GEORGIA LONGLEAF INITIATIVE (ST. MARKS NWR)**

**Florida**

**Acquisition Authority:** Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

**FY 2013 LAPS Rank:** No. 7 of 101

**Location:** In the Florida Panhandle, 24 miles south of Tallahassee

**Congressional Districts:** Florida, District 2 **FWS Region 4**

**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$7,303,335

**FY 2013 Budget Request:** \$32,912,000

**Acquisition Status:**

	<u>Ownerships</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2011	41	66,240	\$5,487,813	\$83
Acquired Easement through FY 2011	5	311	\$1	\$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2011	13	2,610	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2011	5	364	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2011	1	134	\$500	\$3
Total Acquired through FY 2011	65	69,659	5,488,314	\$79
Planned FY 2012	1	2,350	\$4,000,000	\$1,702
Proposed FY 2013	2	16,456	\$32,912,000	\$2,000
Remaining	293	23,782	\$26,612,500	\$1,119
Totals	361	112,247	\$69,012,814	\$615

**Purpose of Acquisition:** Conserve populations of threatened, endangered, rare, and imperiled plants and animals and their native longleaf pine habitats. Provide suitable black bear habitat, including corridors and links to major population center habitat. Provide high-quality habitat for migratory birds, shorebirds, waterbirds, and marshbirds. Provide public opportunities for hunting, fishing, and other wildlife-dependent recreation.

**Project Cooperators:** The Nature Conservancy, Florida Chapter of the Wildlife Society, The Florida Natural Areas Inventory, St. Marks Refuge Association, Florida Trail Association, Blue Goose Alliance, Apalachee Audubon Society, and Florida Wildlife Federation.

**Project Description:** Funds would be used to acquire fee title to approximately 16,456 acres from The Nature Conservancy and the Sam Shine Foundation. Acquisition would support longleaf pine ecosystem conservation and restoration. Acquisition would also benefit federally-listed endangered species such as red-cockaded woodpecker, wood stork, and flatwood salamanders, as well as a variety of resident and migratory species such as American bald eagle, wood duck, swallow-tailed kite, and state-listed Florida black bear. The project is located in a designated Important Bird Area and a Land Management Research and Demonstration Site for Longleaf Pine Ecosystems, and is a key segment of the Florida National Scenic Trail.

**O&M:** The Service estimates annual costs of up to \$100,000 for habitat management and restoration, prescribed burning, and hunting and public use management. Acquisition may produce efficiency improvements in Service law enforcement and boundary posting, which would reduce these costs. Costs associated with restoration work could be offset by hunting fees or outside funding.

**FLORIDA-GEORGIA LONGLEAF INITIATIVE (OKEFENOKEE NWR)**

**Florida and Georgia**

**Acquisition Authority:** Migratory Bird Conservation Act  
Endangered Species Act of 1973

**FY 2013 LAPS Rank:** No. 44 of 101

**Location:** 11 miles southwest of Folkston, GA

**Congressional Districts:** Florida, District 4 **FWS Region 4**  
Georgia, District 1

**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$983,953.00

**FY 2013 Budget Request:** \$13,635,850

**Acquisition Status:**

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2011	27	368,708	\$1,851,271	\$5
Acquired Easement through FY 2011	2	46	\$0	\$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2011	2	9,273	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2011	1	23,232	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2011	3	1,860	\$0	\$0
Total Acquired through FY 2011	35	403,119	\$1,851,271	\$5
Planned FY 2012	1	2,200	\$1,375,000	\$625
Proposed FY 2013	1	16,863	\$13,636,000	\$809
Remaining	10	37,970	\$624,482,560	\$16,447
Totals	47	460,152	\$641,344,831	\$1,394

**Purpose of Acquisition:** To conserve and protect virgin bottomland hardwood migratory bird habitat and to prevent detrimental impacts caused by development on wetland habitat.

**Project Cooperators:** The Conservation Fund.

**Project Description:** Funds would be used to acquire fee title to 9,886 acres from The Conservation Fund. Funds would also be used to acquire timber, recreational, and hunting rights currently held by a timber company on 6,977 acres of Service land, providing the Service with full management rights on these lands. Acquisition would support longleaf pine ecosystem conservation and restoration. Acquisition would also help to preserve a tapestry of federal, state, and private forest lands that provide more than a million acres of unfragmented habitat for a variety of federally-listed endangered and threatened species, including red-cockaded woodpecker, wood stork, flatwoods salamander, Eastern indigo snake, and whooping crane. Finally, acquisition would significantly contribute to a multi-partner effort by the Greater Okefenokee Association of Landowners to establish a one-mile, wildfire-resilient wildlife conservation zone around the Refuge.

**O&M:** The Service estimates annual costs of up to \$100,000 for habitat management and restoration, prescribed burning, and hunting and public use management. Acquisition may produce efficiency improvements in Service law enforcement and boundary posting, which would reduce these costs. Costs associated with restoration work could be offset by hunting fees or outside funding.

**FWS Core Project List**

<b>FWS Core LWCF Project List</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Dakota Grassland CA	6	ND/SD	\$2,500,000
Dakota Tallgrass Prairie WMA	6	ND/SD	\$500,000
Everglades Headwaters	4	FL	\$3,000,000
Flint Hills Legacy CA	6	KS	\$1,951,000
Middle Rio Grande	2	NM	\$1,500,000
Neches River NWR	2	TX	\$1,000,000
Silvio O. Conte NF&WR	5	CT/NH/VT/MA	\$1,500,000
San Joaquin River NWR	8	CA	\$1,000,000
Upper Mississippi River NW&FR	3	IA/IL/MN/WI	\$1,000,000
Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR	3	IA/MN	\$500,000
Grasslands WMA	8	CA	\$1,000,000
Nisqually NWR	1	WA	\$1,000,000
St. Vincent NWR	4	FL	\$1,000,000
<b>Total for Core Project List</b>			<b>\$17,451,000</b>

**DAKOTA GRASSLAND CONSERVATION AREA**  
**North Dakota and South Dakota**

**Acquisition Authority:** Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956  
**FY 2011 LAPS Rank:** 13 of 101  
**Location:** North Dakota and South Dakota lying east of Missouri River  
**Congressional Districts:** At Large **FWS Region 6**  
**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$0  
**FY 2013 Budget Request:** \$2,500,000

**Acquisition Status:**

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost*</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2011	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Easement through FY 2011	9	2,794	\$1,445,125	\$517
Acquired Exchange through FY 2011	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2011	1	1071	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2011	0	0	\$0	\$0
Total Acquired through FY 2011	10	3,865	\$1,445,125	\$374
Planned FY 2012**	Multi	4,615	\$1,500,000	\$325
Proposed FY 2013	19	10,333	\$2,500,000	\$242
Remaining	Multi	281,187	\$48,451,475	\$172
Totals	Multi	300,000	\$53,896,600	\$180

\* Includes MB funding

\*\*Funds were originally requested as North Dakota WMA project

**Purpose of Acquisition:** Purchase perpetual wetland and grassland easements to protect wildlife habitats of native grassland and associated wetlands located in the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR).

**Project Cooperators:** North Dakota Game & Fish Department, North Dakota Natural Resources Trust, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., The Nature Conservancy, South Dakota Grassland Coalition, and private landowners.

**Project Description:** Funds would be used to acquire perpetual conservation easements on approximately 10,333 acres from 19 owners. The PPR ecosystem consists of native mixed-grass prairie intermingled with high densities of temporary, seasonal, semi-permanent, and permanent wetlands that support breeding habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, grassland birds, and the endangered piping plover. Habitat fragmentation and loss due to conversion of wetlands and grasslands to cropland is the primary threat to wildlife species in the PPR. With the protection afforded by perpetual easements, this highly productive yet fragile ecosystem will remain intact, preserving habitat where biological communities will flourish. Acquisition of these easements would help to maintain traditional farming and ranching operations while fostering landscape-level conservation.

**O&M:** The Service anticipates spending a minimal amount for annual compliance over-flights, estimated at less than \$3,500 per year, which the Service would fund out of NWRS base funding.



**DAKOTA TALLGRASS PRAIRIE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA**  
**North Dakota and South Dakota**

**Acquisition Authority:** Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956  
**FY 2011 LAPS Rank:** No. 16 of 103  
**Location:** Northeastern South Dakota and southeastern North Dakota  
**Congressional Districts:** At Large **FWS Region 6**  
**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$9,673,750 (Includes Title V funds)  
**FY 2013 Budget Request:** \$500,000

**Acquisition Status:**

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost**</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2011		0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Easement through FY 2011	201	60,997	\$9,590,414	\$157
Acquired Exchange through FY 2011		0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2011	1	160	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2011		12	\$0	\$0
Total Acquired through FY 2011	187	61,169	\$9,590,414	\$156
Planned FY 2012	Multi	3,333	\$1,500,000	\$450
Proposed FY 2013	4	1,020	\$500,000	\$490
Remaining	Multi	124,478	54,888,426	\$441
Totals	Multi	190,000	\$66,478,840	\$350

\*\* Includes incidental costs.

**Purpose of Acquisition:** To protect the northern tallgrass prairie ecosystem and associated wildlife species.

**Project Cooperators:** The Nature Conservancy and the local community.

**Project Description:** Funds would be used to acquire perpetual conservation easements on approximately 1,020 acres of tallgrass prairie. Tallgrass prairie once covered 90 percent of the Dakotas, but less than three percent remains. Habitat fragmentation and conversion to crop production are the primary threats to this ecosystem. The Service plans to use grassland easements to protect 190,000 acres of the remaining tallgrass prairie in the eastern Dakotas, including 25,000 acres in North Dakota and 165,000 acres in South Dakota. These easement acquisitions will help to maintain traditional ranching operations while fostering landscape-level conservation.

The project area has a rich variety of plant, animal, and insect species including more than 147 species of breeding birds ranging from neotropical migrants to waterfowl. Several candidate endangered species are found within the tallgrass prairie ecosystem, including Baird’s sparrow, loggerhead shrike, ferruginous hawk, and rare butterflies such as the Dakota skipper. The endangered western prairie fringed orchid also occurs in the tallgrass prairie. These large blocks of grasslands help to buffer prairie ecosystems from agricultural chemicals and invasive species, and provide the natural habitat mosaic required by prairie-dependent species. Existing prairie is a well-documented store of terrestrial carbon. Preventing conversion with grassland easements ensures this sequestered carbon is maintained.

**O&M:** A minimal amount of resources would be needed for annual compliance over-flights, estimated at less than \$1,500, which would be funded out of NWRS base funding.

**EVERGLADES HEADWATERS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE AND CONSERVATION AREA  
Florida**

**Acquisition Authority:** Land and Water Conservation Fund of 1965  
Endangered Species Act of 1973

**FY 2013 LAPS Rank:** Not Ranked

**Location:** Approximately 50 miles south of Orlando and 75 miles east of Tampa in the counties of Polk, Osceola, Okeechobee, and Highlands

**Congressional Districts:** Florida, Districts 12, 15, and 16 **FWS Region 4**

**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$0

**FY 2013 Budget Request:** \$3,000,000

**Acquisition Status:**

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2011	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Easement through FY 2011	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2011	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2011	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2011	0	0	\$0	\$0
Total Acquired through FY 2011	0	0	\$0	\$0
Planned FY 2012	0	0	\$0	\$0
Proposed FY 2013 (fee)	1	750	\$3,000,000	\$4,000
Remaining (easement)	Multi	100,000	\$200,000,000	\$2,000
Remaining (fee)	9	49,250	\$197,000,000	\$4,000
Totals	Multi	150,000	\$400,000,000	\$2,667

**Purpose of Acquisition:** To protect, restore, and conserve habitat for 278 federal and state listed species, including Florida panther, Florida black bear, Audubon’s crested caracara, Florida scrub jay, Florida grasshopper sparrow, red-cockaded woodpecker, whooping crane, and Everglades snail kite. Acquisitions would protect, restore, and conserve the headwaters, groundwater recharge and watershed of the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, and Lake Okeechobee region, and would also directly improve water quantity and quality in the Everglades Watershed, complementing the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan goals, and protecting the water supply for millions of people.

**Project Cooperators:** Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, South Florida Water Management District, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Division of State Lands, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, U. S. Air Force, Avon Park Air Force Range, The Nature Conservancy, National Wildlife Refuge Association, Florida Cattleman’s Association, Florida Farm Bureau.

**Project Description:** The proposed EHNWR has two components: a 50,000-acre fee title Acquisition Area and a 100,000-acre, easement-only Acquisition Area or Management District. Funds would be used to acquire fee title on 750 acres. This is an opportunity for the Service to protect a large landscape of

diverse and high-quality habitats, and to conserve and restore large numbers of threatened and endangered species. The America's Great Outdoors (AGO) program is one of the Secretary of the Interior's three national priorities, designed to create and conserve large functional landscapes for wildlife protection and ecosystem services protection, historic and cultural protection; and to provide the American public with outstanding wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities.

**O&M:** Initial costs would include salary, start-up, and support funding for three permanent staff, vehicles, office rental, and miscellaneous supplies estimated at \$500,000. An office and visitor center would be added at a one-time cost of \$3,000,000.

**FLINT HILLS LEGACY CONSERVATION AREA**

**Kansas**

**Acquisition Authority:** Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

**FY 2011 LAPS Rank:** 22 of 101

**Location:** In the Flint Hills Ecoregion, a long narrow band running north-south in eastern Kansas

**Congressional Districts:** Kansas, Districts 1, 2, and 4 **FWS Region 6**

**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$1,000,000

**FY 2013 Budget Request:** \$1,951,000

**Acquisition Status:**

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2011	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Easement through FY 2011	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2011	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2011	1	5	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2011	0	0	\$0	\$0
Total Acquired through FY 2011	1	5	\$0	\$0
Planned FY 2012	4	16,667	\$5,000,000	\$300
Proposed FY 2013	3	6,503	\$1,951,000	\$300
Remaining	305	1,083,328	\$323,049,000	\$298
Totals	313	1,100,000	\$330,000,000	\$300

**Purpose of Acquisition:** To protect the Flint Hills tallgrass prairie ecosystem and associated grassland-dependent wildlife species.

**Project Cooperators:** The Nature Conservancy, the Kansas Land Trust, The Ranchland Trust of Kansas, the Tallgrass Legacy Alliance, and the local community.

**Project Description:** Funds would be used to acquire perpetual conservation easements on approximately 6,503 acres of tallgrass prairie. Tallgrass prairie is one of the most endangered ecosystems in the United States, with less than four percent of the original acreage remaining. This project makes exclusive use of conservation easements to protect 1,100,000 acres of the remaining tallgrass prairie in the Flint Hills ecoregion in eastern Kansas from the threat of fragmentation. This fragmentation occurs as the result of residential, commercial, and industrial development, as well as encroachment of woody vegetation. Acquisition of perpetual conservation easements from willing sellers provides permanent protection for tallgrass prairie ecosystems and fosters landscape level conservation, while helping to maintain traditional ranching operations. Landowner interest is high, and the Service is currently identifying lands for acquisition that contain high quality tallgrass habitat with minimal fragmentation and woody vegetation encroachment. In addition to preserving some of the last remaining tallgrass prairie, conservation easements would protect habitat that is important for the threatened Topeka shiner, as well as a wide variety of grassland-dependent birds and other species.

**O&M:** Within the base funding for the Refuge System, the Service would use approximately \$1,000 for annual maintenance of the new acquisitions, mainly for easement enforcement.

**MIDDLE RIO GRANDE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

**New Mexico**

**Acquisition Authority:** Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956  
 Refuge Recreation Act of 1962

**FY 2013 LAPS Rank:** Not Ranked

**Location:** Approximately 5 miles south Albuquerque, NM

**Congressional Districts:** New Mexico, District 1 **FWS Region 2**

**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$0

**FY 2013 Budget Request:** \$1,500,000

**Acquisition Status:**

	<u>Ownerships</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2011	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Easement through FY 2011	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2011	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2011	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2011	0	0	\$0	\$0
Total Acquired through FY 2011	0	0	\$0	\$0
Planned FY 2012	0	0	\$0	\$0
Proposed FY 2013	1	100	\$1,500,000	\$15,000*
Remaining	1	470	\$11,200,000	\$23,830**
Totals	2	570	\$12,700,000	\$22,281

\* The values mentioned here are estimated and include estimated water rights.

\*\* Includes tracts that may be purchased with other funding.

**Purpose of Acquisition:** The primary purpose is to “foster environmental awareness and outreach programs and develop an informed and involved citizenry that will support fish and wildlife conservation.” Other purposes include creating a refuge that is suitable for incidental fish and wildlife-oriented recreations development, the protection of natural resources, and the conservation of endangered species or threatened species.

**Project Cooperators:** The Trust for Public Land, Bernalillo County, National Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico State Parks Department, and various foundations and corporations.

**Project descriptions:** Funds would be used to acquire fee title on 100 acres. The Refuge would be established on 570 acres of land within a 30-minute drive of 40 percent of the state’s population. Acquisition will include associated senior water rights which will provide additional protection for the endangered Rio Grande silvery minnow. The land is located in a metropolitan area near the Rio Grande, one of the longest rivers in North America. The property is adjacent to the bosque and the Rio Grande Valley State Park which will provide a buffer zone from urban development. Habitat restoration of the land will provide an additional connection on the east side of the Rio Grande for neo-tropical birds

migrating along the river's bosque. The tract will also provide cover for terrestrial species that move north and south along the river.

**O&M:** The Service estimates \$35,000 for initial posting and miscellaneous fencing of the tract.



**NECHES RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

Texas

**Acquisition Authority:** Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956  
 Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986  
 Migratory Bird Conservation Act

**FY 2013 LAPS Rank:** No. 84 of 101

**Location:** Approximately 35 miles south-southeast of Tyler, TX

**Congressional District:** Texas, District 5 **FWS Region 2**

**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$2,000,000

**FY 2013 Budget Request:** \$1,000,000

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2011	1	173	\$302,600	\$1,749
Acquired Easement through FY 2011*	1	1	\$0	\$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2011	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2011	1	30	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2011	0	0	\$0	\$0
Total Acquired through FY 2011	3	204	\$302,600	\$1,483
Planned FY 2012	2	1,258	\$2,000,000	\$1,590
Proposed FY 2013	1	640	\$1,000,000	\$1,563
Remaining	58	22,859	\$35,450,000	\$1,551
Totals	64	25,281	\$39,252,600	\$1,554

\* The easement acquired was donated

**Purpose of Acquisition:** To protect important remnant bottomland habitat and associated habitats for migrating, wintering, and breeding waterfowl, and to protect the forest’s diverse biological values and wetland functions of water quality improvement and flood control.

**Project Cooperators:** The Conservation Fund, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and various foundations and corporations.

**Project descriptions:** Funds would be used to acquire fee title to approximately 640 acres. Acquisition would provide much-needed resting habitat for neo-tropical birds migrating north in the spring after crossing the Gulf of Mexico. The Refuge was established for protection of biological diversity and as a refuge for migratory waterfowl. Bottomland habitats in east Texas are used by almost three million dabbling ducks. These same areas provide habitat for 273 bird species, 45 mammal species, 54 reptile species, 31 amphibian species, and 116 fish species. The Neches River is one of the largest Texas rivers, running roughly 420 miles. The section where the Refuge is located is one of the longest flowing portions of a Texas river. The diversity provided by the bottomlands is greater than the upland habitat types due to the diversity of floral species and the abundance of food sources.

**O&M:** The Service estimates initial costs of \$25,000 for posting and fencing.

**SILVIO O. CONTE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
**Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Vermont**

**Acquisition Authority:** The Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge Act (P.L.102-212)

**FY 2013 LAPS Rank:** No. 2 of 101

**Location:** Within the Connecticut River Watershed located in CT, MA, NH, and VT

**Congressional Districts:** Connecticut, Districts 1, 2, and 3  
 Massachusetts, Districts 1 and 2  
 New Hampshire, District 2  
 Vermont, At Large  
**FWS Region 5**

**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$21,992,668

**FY 2013 Budget Request:** \$1,500,000

**Acquisition Status:**

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2011	60	34,839	\$24,300,309	\$698
Acquired Easement through FY 2011	2	169	\$126,000	\$746
Acquired Exchange through FY 2011	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2011	5	125	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2011	0	0	\$0	\$0
Total Acquired through FY 2011	67	35,133	\$24,426,309	\$695
Planned FY 2012	17	901	\$6,500,000	\$7,214
Proposed FY 2013	8	1,041	\$1,500,000	\$1,4413
Remaining	1,919	41,872	\$27,573,691	\$659
Totals	2,010	78,907	\$60,000,000	\$760

**Purpose of Acquisition:** To protect fisheries and wildlife resources and provide public access to refuge lands.

**Project Cooperators:** The Trust for Public Land, The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, and the Kestrel Land Trust.

**Project Description:** Funds would be used to acquire fee title to approximately 1,041 acres from eight owners. Acquisition of tracts within the Refuge’s Fort River Division would contribute toward the protection of a large grassland project for the upland sandpiper and other grassland species. The Fort River is the longest unobstructed tributary to the Connecticut River in Massachusetts, providing habitat for the endangered dwarf wedge mussel and anadromous fish. In addition, acquisition of northern boreal forest tracts in the Nulhegan Basin Division, and acquisition of wetland tracts in the Pondicherry Division, would protect nesting songbirds and provide wildlife-dependent recreational and educational opportunities.

**O&M:** The Service anticipates no additional costs associated with this acquisition because the parcel is located within the refuge boundary and would create no additional workload.

**SAN JOAQUIN RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE****California****Acquisition Authority:** Endangered Species Act 1973**FY 2013 LAPS Rank:** No. 9 of 101**Location:** Approximately 10 miles west of Modesto, CA, to the north and south of Highway 132**Congressional Districts:** California, District 18 **FWS Region 8****Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$15,850,000**FY 2013 Budget Request:** \$1,000,000**Acquisition Status:**

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2011	8	7,148	\$25,725,448	\$3,599
Acquired Easement through FY 2011	4	3,486	\$17,883,254	\$5,130
Acquired Exchange through FY 2011	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2011	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2011	0	0	\$0	\$0
Total Acquired through FY 2011	12	10,634	\$43,608,702	\$4,101
Planned FY 2012	1	334	\$3,000,000	\$8,982
Proposed FY 2013	1	167	\$1,000,000	\$5,988
Remaining	2	2,780	\$22,391,298	\$8,054
Totals	16	13,915	\$70,000,000	\$5,031

**Purpose of Acquisition:** To protect native grasslands and wetlands that are essential for long-term survival of the Aleutian Canada goose, and to protect a large piece of riparian habitat valuable to a variety of wildlife species.

**Project Cooperators:** State of California CALFED Bay Delta Grant Program.

**Project Description:** Funds would be used to acquire a perpetual conservation easement on approximately 167 acres of predominantly native, irrigated pasture. The biggest threat to the Refuge is residential development and conversion from grasslands and wetlands habitat to croplands, orchards, or dairy operations that will provide little or no benefit to wildlife. Acquisition would support long-term viability to the grassland and wetland ecosystems as well as provide a safe haven for migratory birds and other wildlife species.

**O&M:** The interest to be acquired in the 167 acres is a perpetual conservation easement. For this reason there will be little to no long-term management costs associated with this acquisition.

**UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE AND FISH REFUGE  
Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin**

**Acquisition Authority:** Act of June 7, 1924; Act of March 4, 1925; Act of May 12, 1928; Act of April 10, 1928; Act of June 18, 1934; Act of June 13, 1944; P.L. 87-44; P.L. 105-312; Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986

**FY 2013 LAPS Rank:** No. 11 of 101

**Location:** 261 miles along the Mississippi River from Wabasha, MN, to Rock Island, IL

**Congressional Districts:** Minnesota, District 1 **FWS Region 3**  
Iowa, Districts 1 and 4  
Illinois, Districts 16 and 17  
Wisconsin, District 3

**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$6,018,000

**FY 2013 Budget Request:** \$1,000,000

**Acquisition Status:**

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost<sup>†</sup></u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2011	1,181	208,830	\$5,689,324	\$27
Acquired Easement through FY 2011	8	61	\$5,051	\$83
Acquired Exchange through FY 2011	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2011	23	487	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2011	4	95	\$35	\$1
Total Acquired Through FY 2011	1,216	209,473	\$5,694,410	\$27
Planned FY 2012	6	800	\$2,750,000	\$3,438
Proposed FY 2013	3	335	\$1,000,000	\$2,985
Reprogrammed FY 2008 <sup>††</sup>	0	0	\$300,000	\$0
Reprogrammed FY 2009 <sup>††</sup>	0	0	\$1,000,000	\$0
Remaining	315	21,137	\$27,530,996	\$1,303
Totals	1,540	231,745	\$38,275,406	\$165*

<sup>†</sup> Includes incidental acquisition costs and MBCF.

<sup>††</sup> Amount reprogrammed from Great River NWR to Upper Mississippi NW & FR.

\* Approximately half of the acreage was acquired by the Corp of Engineers, and is managed by the Service, hence, the low \$/acre value.

**Purpose of Acquisition:** To protect, restore, and manage grassland and wetland habitat for migratory birds, including waterfowl, resident wildlife, federal and state threatened and endangered species, and public recreation.

**Project Cooperators:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, the Minnesota DNR, Wisconsin DNR, Iowa DNR, Illinois DNR, and Friends of the Upper Mississippi Refuge.

**Project Description:** Funds would be used to acquire fee title to approximately 335 acres, in three parcels. Two contiguous parcels are located in northern Allamakee County, Iowa, and lie within the flood

plain of the Upper Iowa River. The third parcel is located in eastern Houston County, Minnesota, and is in the Mississippi River 100-year floodplain. All parcels are located within the acquisition boundary of the Upper Mississippi River NW & FR. These acquisitions would preserve critical feeding and resting habitat for waterfowl and other birds in the Mississippi Flyway. They would protect the extensive wetland complexes that function as flood control and nutrient recycling.

**O&M:** The Service estimates an initial cost of \$10,000 for restoration and enhancement work (spraying, mowing, burning, and fencing supplies and signage), which the Service would fund from Refuge base funding.

**NORTHERN TALLGRASS PRAIRIE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
**Portions of Minnesota and Iowa**

**Acquisition Authority:** Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

**LAPS Rank:** No. 20 of 101

**Location:** Eighty-five counties in western MN and northwestern IA

**Congressional District:** Minnesota, Districts 1, 2 and 7      **FWS Region 3**  
 Iowa, Districts 2, 3, 4, and 5

**Total Appropriations:** \$5,806,657

**FY 2013 Budget Request:** \$500,000

**Acquisition Status:**

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2011	11	2,803	\$4,319,393	\$1,541
Acquired Easement through FY 2011	44	2,452	\$1,672,903	\$683
Acquired Exchange through FY 2011	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2011	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2011	0	0	\$0	\$0
Total Acquired through FY 2011	55	5,255	\$5,992,296	\$1,141
Planned FY 2012	3	500	\$1,500,000	\$3,000
Proposed FY 2013	3	166	\$500,000	\$3,000
Remaining	789	72,411	\$17,007,704	\$235
Totals	850	77,000	\$25,000,000	\$325

**Purpose of Acquisition:** To protect, restore, and enhance the remaining northern tallgrass prairie habitats and associated wildlife species.

**Project Cooperators:** Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, The Nature Conservancy, Minnesota Waterfowl Association, several county conservation boards, and several local Chambers of Commerce.

**Project Description:** Funds would be used to acquire 166 acres throughout western Minnesota and northwestern Iowa. The project will include prairie preservation and restoration, which will not only protect the prairie ecosystem, but also benefit grassland birds such as dickcissel, bobolink, grasshopper sparrow, and sedge wren. This project has strong support from the Iowa congressional delegation.

Rather than acquiring a contiguous boundary with the aim of eventual ownership of all lands, the Service has set a goal of acquiring 77,000 acres, spreading land acquisition across all or portions of 85 counties. The Service will acquire fee and easement lands to reach this goal. The Service will work with private landowners to develop stewardship agreements, and provide incentives and management assistance in the interest of preserving the prairie landscape regardless of ownership.

**O&M:** Annual operation and maintenance costs are expected to be approximately \$30,000 for initial restoration and enhancement work (spraying, mowing, burning, and signage).

**GRASSLANDS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA  
California**

**Acquisition Authority:** Emergency Wetlands Resource Act of 1986

**FY 2013 LAPS Rank:** No. 32 of 101

**Location:** Located in the Pacific Flyway between the Cities of Los Banos and Gustine, California

**Congressional Districts:** California, District 18 **FWS Region 8**

**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$11,276,332

**FY 2013 Budget Request:** \$1,000,000

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2011	8	14,970	\$18,066,228	\$1,207
Acquired Easement through FY 2011	167	77,678	\$42,577,190	\$548
Acquired Exchange through FY 2011	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2011	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2011	0	0	\$0	\$0
Total Acquired through FY 2011	175	92,648	\$60,643,418	\$655
Planned FY 2012	3	798	\$3,000,000	\$3,759
Proposed FY 2013	1	247	\$1,000,000	\$4,572
Remaining	237	39,637	\$181,225,769	\$4,572
Totals	416	133,330	\$245,869,187	\$1,844

**Purpose of Acquisition:** To protect important wintering area for the Pacific Flyway waterfowl populations.

**Project Cooperators:** State of California.

**Project Description:** Funds would be used to acquire a perpetual conservation easement on one 247-acre tract. This property is predominantly low lying, irrigated pasture and will be protected by means of a perpetual conservation easement. The biggest threat is residential development and the conversion of grasslands, wetlands, and riparian habitat to croplands, orchards, or dairy operations that will provide little or no benefit to wildlife. The acquisition of this property will provide long-term viability to the grassland ecosystem as well as provide a safe haven for migratory birds and other wildlife species.

**O&M:** The interest to be acquired in the 247 acres is a perpetual conservation easement. For this reason there will be little long-term management costs associated with this acquisition.



**NISQUALLY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

**Washington**

**Acquisition Authority:** Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, as amended

**FY 2013 LAPS Rank:** No. 38 of 101

**Location:** Approximately eight miles NE of Olympia, Washington

**Congressional Districts:** Washington, Districts 3 and 9 **FWS Region 1**

**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$0

**FY 2013 Budget Request:** \$1,000,000

**Acquisition Status:**

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2011	38	3,787	\$12,649,845	\$3,340
Acquired Easement through FY 2011	8	33	\$4,024	\$122
Acquired Exchange through FY 2011	1	10	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2011	5	168	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2011	1	486	\$0	\$0
Total Acquired through FY 2011	53	4,484	\$12,653,869	\$2,822
Planned FY 2012	7	119	\$1,500,000	\$12,605
Proposed FY 2013	4	208	\$1,000,000	\$4,808
Remaining	284	2,985	\$20,127,855	\$6,743
Totals	348	7,796	\$35,281,724	\$4,526

**Purpose of Acquisition:** Preservation and enhancement of wintering and migration habitat for migratory birds and anadromous fish, including federally-listed threatened Chinook salmon, within the Nisqually River Delta and of wetland habitat vital to conservation and protection of freshwater species, including the state-listed Oregon Spotted Frog and a diversity of migratory birds and anadromous fish along the Black River.

**Project Cooperators:** Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, the Friends of Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, the Cascade Land Conservancy, and the Capitol Land Trust.

**Project Description:** Funds would be used to acquire fee title to approximately 208 acres of riparian and upland habitat from four owners. Acquisition would promote habitat connectivity, river corridor protection, and rare and threatened species recovery, and would increase resilience in the face of climate change. Acquisition would also enhance the quality of habitat and facilitate management of existing refuge lands in support of migratory birds, anadromous fish, and fresh water wetland species, including the state-listed Oregon Spotted Frog. The Nisqually River and Delta are considered key Puget Sound habitats, and the Black River supports important rearing and spawning habitat for anadromous fish in the second largest watershed in Washington State. In these rapidly urbanizing watersheds, fee title acquisition of desirable waterfront property will facilitate restoration and conservation along vital habitat corridors, protecting this landscape from incompatible development. Development pressure on this

landscape is intense, so time is critical to provide sufficient land protection to these relatively intact river systems.

**O&M:** The Service will initially use approximately \$18,000 for fencing and posting refuge and tract boundaries. Base refuge funds will be used for these expenses.

**ST. VINCENT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

**Florida**

**Acquisition Authority:** Migratory Bird Conservation Act

**FY 2013 Budget Priority:** Not Ranked

**Location:** An undeveloped barrier island in Franklin County, FL, just offshore from the mouth of the Apalachicola River, in the Gulf of Mexico

**Congressional Districts:** Florida, District 2 **FWS Region 4**

**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$0

**FY 2013 Budget Request:** \$1,000,000

**Acquisition Status:**

	<u>Ownerships</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2010	2	12,404	\$2,035,000	\$164
Acquired Easement through FY 2010	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2010	1	86	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2010	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2010	0	0	\$0	\$0
Total Acquired through FY 2010	3	12,490	\$2,035,000	\$163
Proposed FY 2013	1	5	\$1,000,000	\$200,000
Remaining	10	927	\$3,708,000	\$4,000
Totals	14	13,422	\$7,093,000	\$528

**Purpose of Acquisition:** To restore and manage sensitive habitats along St. Vincent Sound for migratory birds, neotropical migratory songbirds, wintering waterfowl, arctic peregrine falcon, and bald eagle, among others.

**Project Cooperator:** The Trust for Public Land

**Project Description:** Funds would acquire fee title to approximately five acres of the only suitable deep-water mooring site in the vicinity, a property owned by The Trust for Public Land. Acquisition of the site is necessary for access and management of the St. Vincent Island Unit. Acquisition of this tract would allow restoration and management of sensitive habitats along St. Vincent Sound for migratory birds, neotropical migratory songbirds, wintering waterfowl, arctic peregrine falcon, and bald eagle, among others. It would also improve habitat conditions for the Florida black bear by protecting occupied bear habitat and connecting existing conservation lands to ensure protection of travel corridors.

**O&M:** The Service estimates initial costs of \$20,000 for boundary marking which the Service would fund from Refuge System base funding. There may be an initial dredging/rehabilitation cost which the Service would also fund from Refuge System base funding.

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE LAND ACQUISITION			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)			
Identification code 14-5020-0-2-302	2011 Actual	2012 Estimate	2013 Estimate
<b>Obligations by program activity:</b>			
Direct program:			
0001 Acquisition management	11	11	11
0002 Emergencies and hardships	3	2	3
0003 Exchanges	2	3	2
0004 Inholdings	3	2	2
0005 User Pay Cost Share	2	2	2
0006 Federal refuges (refuge land payments)	56	40	77
0007 Land Protection Planning			3
0100 Total, direct program	77	60	100
0009 Total new obligations	77	60	100
<b>Budgetary resources available for obligation:</b>			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	41	21	17
1012 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	2	1	1
1050 Unobligated balance (total)	43	22	18
<b>New budget authority (gross), detail:</b>			
Discretionary:			
1101 Appropriation (special fund)	55	55	107
1160 Total new budget authority (gross)	55	55	107
1930 Total budgetary resources available	98	77	125
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)			
Identification code 14-5020-0-2-302	2011 Actual	2012 Estimate	2013 Estimate
<b>Change in obligated balances:</b>			
3000 Unpaid obligations brought forward, Oct 1 (gross)	31	34	15
3030 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	77	60	100
3040 Total outlays, gross (-)	-72	-78	-96
3080 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	-2	-1	-1
7440 Obligated balance, end of year	34	15	18
<b>Outlays, (gross) detail:</b>			
4010 Outlays from new discretionary authority	41	33	64
4011 Outlays from discretionary balances	31	45	32
4020 Total outlays (gross)	72	78	96
<b>Net budget authority and outlays:</b>			
4070 Budget authority	55	55	107
9000 Outlays (net)	72	78	96
Object classification (in millions of dollars)			
Identification code 14-5020-0-2-302	2011 Actual	2012 Estimate	2013 Estimate
<b>Direct obligations:</b>			
Personnel compensation:			
1111 Full-time permanent	7	7	9
1121 Civilian personnel benefits	2	2	3
1231 Rental payments to GSA	1	1	1
1232 Rental payments to others	1	0	0
1252 Other services	4	5	5
1253 Purchases of goods and services from federal sources	1	2	2
1320 Land and structures	57	43	80
1410 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	2		
1990 Subtotal, direct obligations	75	60	100
9995 Below reporting threshold	2	0	0
9999 Total new obligations	77	60	100
<b>*Personnel Summary</b>			
Identification code 14-5020-0-2-302	2011 Actual	2012 Estimate	2013 Estimate
<b>Direct:</b>			
Total compensable workyears:			
1001 Full-time equivalent employment	86	86	106