

National Wildlife Refuge Fund

Appropriations Language

[For expenses necessary to implement the Act of October 17, 1978 (16 U.S.C. 715s), \$13,228,000.]
(*Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016.*)

Justification of Language Changes

Deletion of all language since language is no longer needed if program is eliminated as requested.
(Mandatory portion does not require appropriations language.)

Authorizing Statutes

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 Authorizes payments to be made to offset tax losses to counties in which Service fee and withdrawn public domain lands are located.

Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), Section 1002 and Section 1008, 16 U.S.C. 3142 and 3148. These sections address the procedures for permitting oil and gas leases on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coastal plain (Section 1002) and other non-North Slope Federal lands in Alaska (Section 1008).

Appropriation: National Wildlife Refuge Fund

		2015 Actual	2016 Enacted	2017			Change from 2016 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Appropriations	(\$000)	13,228	13,228	0	0	-13,228	0	-13,228
Receipts	(\$000)	8,476	8,083	0	0	+461	8,544	+461
Total, National Wildlife Refuge Fund	(\$000)	21,704	21,311	0	0	-12,767	8,544	-12,767
	FTE	4	8	0	0	0	8	0

*The amount presented in 2015 and 2016 includes the sequestration in accordance with Sec. 251A of the BBDECA, 2 U.S.C 901a. In addition, the amounts in 2015, 2016 and 2017 include amounts previously sequestered, which are now available in accordance with said Act.

Summary of 2017 Program Changes for National Wildlife Refuge Fund

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

Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2017 budget request for National Wildlife Refuge Fund is \$0 and 0 FTE, a program change of -\$13,228,000 and +0 FTE from the 2016 Enacted.

Discretionary Appropriations (-\$13,228,000/+0 FTE)

The Service continues to propose the elimination of the entire appropriated (discretionary) portion of this program. Discretionary appropriations to the National Wildlife Refuge Fund were intended to provide communities with compensation for lost tax revenue from Federal land acquisitions. However, the continued provision of discretionary funds for this purpose is an unwise use of taxpayer dollars. Evidence shows that refuges often generate tax revenue for communities far in excess of that which was lost with Federal acquisition of the land. Additionally, refuge lands also provide many public services while placing few demands on local infrastructure such as schools, fire, and police services compared to alternative development that could occur on refuge lands. The mandatory receipts collected and allocated under the program would remain.

Refuges attract tens of millions of visitors who come to hunt, fish, observe, and photograph wildlife and are a significant boon to local economies. According to the Service’s 2013 *Banking on Nature Report*, visitors to refuges positively impact the local economies. The report details that 47 million people who visited refuges that year:

- Generated \$2.4 billion of sales in regional economies;
- Supported over 35,000 jobs; and
- Generated \$342.9 million in tax revenues at the local, county, State, and Federal level.

<i>Banking On Nature</i> report	Jobs	Output	Job Income	Tax Revenue
Economic and job benefits	35,058	\$2,441,627,000	\$792,725,000	\$342,900,000
Each \$1 million of Refuge System budget represents	71	\$4,901,681	\$1,611,230	\$696,951
Each 1% change in Refuge System visitation represents	354	\$24,116,270	\$7,927,250	\$3,429,000

Banking on Nature Report published in 2013 (<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/about/RefugeReports/>)

The Refuge System provides an additional benefit to landowners and residents in nearby communities because of the positive financial impact that its open-space amenities has on property values. As described by Amenity Values of Proximity to National Wildlife Refuges prepared by the Center for Environmental and Resource Economic Policy at North Carolina State University in April 2012, property values surrounding refuges are higher than equivalent properties elsewhere. The study found that homes within 0.5 miles of a refuge and within 8 miles of an urban center ranged in value 3-9 percent higher depending on the region of the country. Most importantly, in an increasingly urban world, these sanctuaries of natural beauty offer Americans priceless opportunities to connect with nature.

Mandatory Receipts - The 2017 estimate for National Wildlife Refuge Fund revenue is \$8,544,000.

Program Overview

The *Refuge Revenue Sharing Act*, as amended, authorizes revenues and direct appropriations to be deposited into a special fund, the National Wildlife Refuge Fund (NWRF), and used for payments to counties in which lands are acquired in fee (fee land) or reserved from the public domain (reserved land) and managed by the Service. These revenues are derived from the sale or disposition of products (e.g., timber and gravel); other privileges (e.g., right-of-way and grazing permits); and/or leases for public accommodations or facilities (e.g., oil and gas exploration and development) incidental to, and not in conflict with, refuge purposes.

Fee Lands

The Act authorizes payments for Service-managed fee lands based on a formula contained in the Act that entitles counties to whatever is the highest of the following amounts:

- 1) 25 percent of the net receipts;
- 2) 3/4 of 1 percent of the fair market value of the land; or
- 3) 75 cents per acre.

Every five years, appraisals may be updated to determine the fair market value.

If the net revenues are insufficient to make full payments for fee lands according to this formula, direct appropriations up to an amount equal to the difference between net receipts and full authorized payment may be authorized.

Reserved Lands

The refuge revenue sharing payments made on lands reserved from the public domain and administered by the Service for fish and wildlife purposes are always 25 percent of the net receipts collected from the reserved land in the county. If no receipts are collected, there is no revenue sharing payment. However, if authorized, the Department makes Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) (31 U.S.C. 6901-6907) on all public domain lands, including Service-reserved land. The Service annually reports to the Department all of our reserved land acres and the revenue sharing amount already paid on those acres. The Department then

calculates the PILT amount, subtracts the amount the Service has already paid, and makes the PILT payment to the community.

Other Payments

The *Refuge Revenue Sharing Act* also provides for the payment of certain expenses incurred in connection with revenue producing activities. Such expenses include:

- Salaries of foresters who cruise and mark timber for sale;
- Staff salaries and supplies associated with maintenance of fences in support of grazing;
- Costs associated with sale of surplus animals and collecting refuge share of furs and crops; and
- Costs of conducting land appraisals, processing, and maintaining the records.

Sections 1008 and 1009 of the *Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act* (ANILCA), 16 U.S.C. 3148, address procedures for oil and gas leasing on non-North Slope Federal lands in Alaska. Title XI of the Act, 16 U.S.C. 3161, addresses the procedures for transportation and utility systems in and across the Alaska conservation system units. An applicant pays the cost to process an application or administer a permit relating to utility and transportation systems or seismic exploration. Payments are deposited in the NWRP for reimbursement to the Region.

2017 Program Performance

According to current projections, payments to counties in 2017 will equal \$5,516,000 with appropriations of \$0 and estimated receipts of \$8,000,000 less expenses and sequestration changes. In addition to payments to counties, national wildlife refuges provide tangible and intangible benefits to communities that bring increased tax revenues that may offset the reductions.

<i>(Dollars in Thousands)</i>				
National Wildlife Refuge Fund	2015 Actual	2016 Estimate	2017 Estimate	Program Change (+/-)
Receipts / Expenses				
Receipts Collected	8,595	8,000	8,000	0
Sequestration*	-627	-544	0	+544
Recoveries	114	100	100	0
Expenses for Sales	-2,326	-2,424	-2,424	0
ANILCA Expenses	-18	-10	-10	0
Estimated User-Pay Cost Share	-131	-150	-150	0
Net Receipts –				
Available during the following year	5,607	4,972	5,516	544
Payments to Counties				
Receipts Available - collected previous year		5,607	4,972	-635
Sequestration Restored		627	544	-83
Appropriations		13,228	0	-13,228
Total Available for Payments to Counties		19,462	5,516	-13,946

*2017 amount assume no sequestration.

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FUND			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2015	2016	2017
Identification Code 010-18-14-5091	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Special and Trust Fund Receipts (N)			
0100 Balance, start of year	0	0	1
Receipts:			
1130 National Wildlife Refuge Fund [010-00-509110-0-200403]	9	9	8
2000 Total: Balance and receipts	9	9	9
Appropriations:			
2101 National Wildlife Refuge Fund [010-00-5091-0-1201]	-9	-8	-8
2103 National Wildlife Refuge Fund [010-00-5091-0-1203]	-1	-1	-1
2132 National Wildlife Refuge Fund [010-00-5091-0-1232]	1	1	0
2199 Total appropriations	-9	-8	-9
5099 Balance, end of year	0	1	0

Combined Schedule (X)			
Obligations by program activity:			
0001 Expenses for sales	3	3	1
0003 Payments to counties	18	19	8
0900 Total new obligations	21	22	9
Budgetary resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	5	6	5
1001 Discretionary unobligated balance brought fwd, Oct 1	0	0	0
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, discretionary:			
1100 Appropriation	13	13	0
1160 Appropriation, discretionary (total)	13	13	0
Appropriations, mandatory:			
1201 Appropriation (special or trust fund)	9	8	8
1203 Appropriation (previously unavailable)	1	1	1
1232 Appropriations and/or unobligated balance of appropriations temporarily reduced	-1	-1	0
1260 Appropriations, mandatory (total)	9	8	9
1900 Budget authority (total)	22	21	9
1930 Total budgetary resources available	27	27	14
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	6	5	5

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<u>Change in obligated balance:</u>			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	1	1	2
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	21	22	9
3020 Outlays (gross)	-21	-21	-9
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	1	2	2
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	1	1	2
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	1	2	2
<u>Budget authority and outlays, net:</u>			
Discretionary:			
4000 Budget authority, gross	13	13	0
Outlays, gross:			
4010 Outlays from new discretionary authority	13	13	0
4070 Budget authority, net (discretionary)	13	13	0
4080 Outlays, net (discretionary)	13	13	0
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	9	8	9
Outlays, gross:			
4100 Outlays from new mandatory authority	2	7	7
4101 Outlays from mandatory balances	6	1	2
4110 Outlays, gross (total)	8	8	9
4160 Budget authority, net (mandatory)	9	8	9
4170 Outlays, net (mandatory)	8	8	9
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	22	21	9
4190 Outlays, net (total)	21	21	9

Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	0	1	1
26.0 Supplies and materials	1	1	1
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	18	19	7
99.0 Subtotal, obligations, Direct obligations	19	21	9
99.5 Adjustment for rounding	2	1	0
99.9 Total new obligations	21	22	9

Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	4	8	8