



Coastal Program and Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Object Class Economic Evaluation

INTRODUCTION

The Coastal Program and the Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program are among the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) most successful voluntary conservation programs. Working with landowners, conservation partners, and communities, these programs conserve vital natural habitats on both private and public lands across the United States and its Territories.

Beyond ecological benefits, the delivery of community-led conservation projects also strengthens local economies. Federal investments (e.g., salaries and project funds) support local businesses, jobs, and other economic outputs, including wages and tax revenues.

Awareness of conservation's economic benefits can strengthen public support for habitat conservation and increase appreciation for our work. It can also encourage landowners, organizations, and local governments to invest in conservation actions that advance both economic prosperity and the Service's mission to conserve fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats.

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

This economic evaluation used the methodology developed for the *Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Economic Contributions: Proof of Concept Report* and the *Economic Contributions of Partners for Fish and Wildlife and Coastal Programs: Fiscal Year 2023*. Figure 1 illustrates the three main components in estimating the total economic contributions of program expenditures.

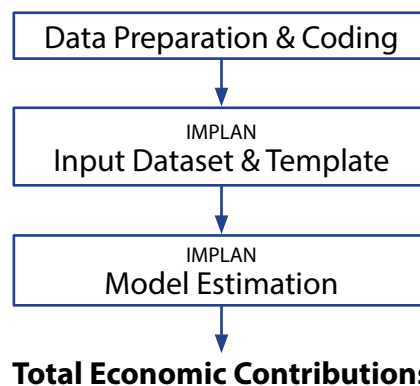
For the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 evaluation, the economists used IMPLAN[®], a regional input-output software¹, with updated 2024 industry sector models to estimate national economic outputs associated with program-enacted funding levels.

Data Preparation & Coding: Program expenditures and associated Budget Object Class (BOC) codes were compiled from the Financial and Business Management System. The economist compared BOC codes from FY 2025 and FY 2023 to check that the definitions for codes in both years were consistent and updated if necessary. For FY 2025, the Coastal Program had 99 BOC codes and the PFW Program had 140 BOC codes.

Budget Object Classification Codes

Budget Object Classification (BOC) codes categorize obligations and expenditures by the type of goods or services purchased to ensure consistent cost classification for budget execution, financial reporting, and compliance.

Figure 1.
Methodology Overview



1. IMPLAN is a regional economic analysis software and data application that is designed to estimate the impact or ripple effect of a given economic activity or the contribution of some existing activity within a specific geographic area. It utilizes an economic modeling technique called Input-Output analysis and a Social Accounting Matrix, which is a type of applied economic analysis that tracks the interdependence among various producing and consuming industries of an economy and the spending of households.



IMPLAN Input Dataset & Template: The expenditure and BOC data was then imported into IMPLAN to estimate economic impacts. For modeling purposes, program expenditures were separated into two categories: 1) Service personnel compensation, including salaries and benefits, and 2) project-allocated funds. This distinction allowed spending to be appropriately assigned to industry sectors within the software framework.

Estimates of jobs supported include both program-funded economic activity and existing Service employees. For the *Department of Interior Budget Justifications and Performance Information Fiscal Year 2025*, the Coastal Program had 43 full-time employees and the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program had 219 full-time employees.

For non-personnel expenditures, industry sectors assignments were based on industry sectors supported by program expenditures from *Restoration Returns: The Contribution of Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and Coastal Program Restoration Project to Local U.S. Economies*. For FY 2025, Coastal Program expenditures were associated with 52 industry sectors and the PFW Program expenditures were associated with 71 industry sectors.

IMPLAN Model Estimation: For FY 2025, the economists prepared four IMPLAN models for the United States – two for each program comprising one for personnel spending and one for non-personnel spending. There are two differences between the FY 2025 and the FY 2023 analysis. The FY 2023 report used a 2022 IMPLAN database with 546 sectors and the FY 2025 report uses the 2024 IMPLAN database with 528 sectors.

EVALUATION CONSIDERATIONS

In 2022, a Service-wide working group developed the BOC economic evaluation to estimate the economic benefits associated with the delivery of habitat conservation projects. Using readily available data – staff salaries and compensation and project-allocated funds (i.e., total spending minus personnel), the approach provides a practical and repeatable framework that can be applied consistently across programs. Because project funds may be spent in future years, the evaluation is considered prospective.

Unlike the evaluation conducted for *Restoration Returns: The Contribution of Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and Coastal Program Restoration Projects to Local U.S. Economies*, this approach does not account for partner contributions or matching funds used to implement projects. Consequently, the reported economic outputs understate the full benefits generated by these programs.

The evaluation also does not assign a value to natural resources and functions, such as cleaner water, flood protection, carbon storage, and wildlife habitat. Evaluation of these benefits require extensive data and are likely best measured at the scale of individual projects and specific landscapes. As a result, this evaluation does not assess these benefits.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Coastal Program, Economics Branch, and Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

EVALUATION RESULTS

Table 1 shows the total economic outputs for FY 2025 Coastal Program and PFW Program expenditures. The combined contributions for both programs show total spending/obligations of \$62.80 million, 831 jobs, \$88.89 million in labor income and \$172.57 million in economic output.

Table 1.

Total Economic Outputs for FY 2025 Coastal Program and PFW Program Expenditures (USD 2025)

Program	IMPLAN Model	Total Obligations (\$)	Employment ² (Number of Jobs)	Labor Income ³ (\$)	Value Added ⁴ (\$)	Economic Output ⁵ (\$)
Coastal Program	Personnel	7,198,380	88	10,346,029	16,207,384	20,317,029
PFW Program	Personnel	30,826,658	420	44,306,290	69,407,212	87,006,537
Coastal Program	Total Spending minus Personnel	3,928,094	55	5,428,882	6,974,215	10,345,802
PFW Program	Total Spending minus Personnel	20,844,588	301	24,989,225	37,008,951	54,900,414
Coastal Program	Total Spending	11,126,474	139	15,774,911	23,181,599	30,662,831
PFW Program	Total Spending	51,671,246	692	73,114,870	106,416,163	141,906,951
Coastal Program and PFW Program	Total Spending	62,797,720	831	88,889,781	129,597,762	172,569,782

2. Average annual number of full and part-time jobs.

3. Consists of two parts: 1) employee compensation including wages, salaries, benefits and payroll taxes; and 2) proprietor income including payments received by self-employed individuals and unincorporated business owners.

4. The difference between economic output and cost of intermediate inputs; the contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

5. Total annual production value.



Table 2 shows FY 2025 total economic contributions per \$1 million of spending. Collectively, the total spending of both programs came to \$62.80 million, 13 jobs per 1 million in spending, \$1.42 million in labor income, \$2.06 million in value added and \$2.75 million in economic output per \$1 million in program expenditures.

Table 2.

Total Economic Outputs per \$1 Million of FY 2025 Coastal Program and PFW Program Expenditures (USD 2025)

Program	IMPLAN Model	Total Obligations (\$)	Employment ⁶ (Number of Jobs)	Labor Income ⁷ (\$)	Value Added ⁸ (\$)	Economic Output ⁹ (\$)
Coastal Program	Personnel	7,198,380	12.23	1,437,348	2,251,651	2,822,594
PFW Program	Personnel	30,826,658	13.62	1,437,303	2,251,580	2,822,505
Coastal Program	Total Spending minus Personnel	3,928,094	14.77	1,382,098	1,775,513	2,633,860
PFW Program	Total Spending minus Personnel	20,844,588	15.11	1,198,869	1,773,216	2,587,643
Coastal Program	Total Spending	11,126,474	13.12	1,417,842	2,083,552	2,755,962
PFW Program	Total Spending	51,671,246	14.22	1,341,091	2,059,495	2,746,356
Coastal Program and PFW Program	Total Spending	62,797,720	13.23	1,415,112	2,063,698	2,747,926

Table 3 compares the economic contributions reported in FY 2023 and FY 2025 on a per \$1 million spending basis, with FY 2023 values adjusted to 2025 dollars to account for six percent inflation. Across both evaluations, estimates of employment, labor income, and economic output are generally comparable. However, the FY 2025 report shows a 25 percent increase in *Value Added* compared to the FY 2023 report.

The reason for this increase is not entirely clear, but a few simple explanations are possible. Added value measures what remains after the cost of materials, supplies, and other inputs are subtracted from the value of what is produced. In practical terms, the increase may mean that production generated greater value, costs were lower, or some combination of both. The result is more value added (e.g., Gross Domestic Product) associated with the same level of spending per \$1 million.

Differences between the two analyses may also play a role. The FY 2025 report was developed using the 2024 IMPLAN database, whereas the FY 2023 report relied on the 2022 database. In addition, the reports may reflect different mixes of BOC codes and associated spending patterns. The observed increase in value added likely results from one or both of these factors.

6. Average annual number of full and part-time jobs.

7. Consists of two parts: 1) employee compensation including wages, salaries, benefits and payroll taxes; and 2) proprietor income including payments received by self-employed individuals and unincorporated business owners.

8. The difference between economic output and cost of intermediate inputs; the contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

9. Total annual production value.



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Table 3.

Comparison of FY 2023 and FY 2025 Economic Contributions per \$1 Million of Total Expenditures (FY 2023 Dollars adjusted for inflation to FY 2025 Dollars)

Fiscal Year	Program	IMPLAN Model	Employment ¹⁰	Labor Income ¹¹ (\$)	Value Added ¹² (\$)	Economic Output ¹³ (\$)
2025	Coastal Program	Personnel	12.23	1,437,348	2,251,651	2,822,594
2023	Coastal Program	Personnel	13.59	1,541,909	1,938,283	2,617,547
2025	PFW Program	Personnel	13.62	1,437,303	2,251,580	2,822,505
2023	PFW Program	Personnel	14.38	1,541,909	1,938,283	2,617,547
2025	Coastal Program	Total Spending minus Personnel	14.77	1,382,098	1,775,513	2,633,860
2023	Coastal Program	Total Spending minus Personnel	14.95	1,029,333	1,518,136	2,647,301
2025	PFW Program	Total Spending minus Personnel	15.11	1,198,869	1,773,216	2,587,643
2023	PFW Program	Total Spending minus Personnel	15.55	1,052,422	1,517,365	2,592,697
2025	Coastal Program	Total Spending	13.12	1,417,842	2,083,552	2,755,962
2023	Coastal Program	Total Spending	14.3	1,274,125	1,718,787	2,633,092
2025	PFW Program	Total Spending	14.22	1,341,091	2,059,495	2,746,356
2023	PFW Program	Total Spending	14.97	1,297,447	1,728,067	2,605,137
2025 Economic Report	Coastal Program and PFW Program	Total Spending	13.23	1,415,112	2,063,698	2,747,926
2023 Economic Report	Coastal Program and PFW Program	Total Spending	13.98	1,217,566	1,625,512	2,457,923

10. Average annual number of full and part-time jobs.

11. Consists of two parts: 1) employee compensation including wages, salaries, benefits and payroll taxes; and 2) proprietor income including payments received by self-employed individuals and unincorporated business owners.

12. The difference between economic output and cost of intermediate inputs; the contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

13. Total annual production value.



RESULTS SUMMARY

Economic contributions are presented for both total economic outputs associated with FY 2025 program spending and economic outputs per \$1 million of program spending.

Total Economic Outputs:

- For FY 2025, Coastal Program expenditures supported 139 jobs and \$30.66 million in economic output nationwide.
- For FY 2025, PFW Program expenditures supported 692 jobs and \$141.91 million in economic output nationwide.

Economic Outputs per \$1 million of Program Expenditures:

- For Coastal Program, every \$1 million in FY 2025 expenditures supported 13 jobs and \$2.76 million in economic output nationwide.
- For PFW Program, every \$1 million in FY 2025 expenditures supported 14 jobs and \$2.75 million in economic output nationwide.