



BUDGET The United States
Department of the Interior

JUSTIFICATIONS

and Performance Information
Fiscal Year 2018

**U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE
SERVICE**

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

Fiscal Year 2018 President’s Budget

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Executive Summary

Conserving the Nature of America

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is the oldest Federal conservation agency, tracing its lineage back to 1871, and the only agency in the Federal government whose primary responsibility is management of natural resources for the American public. The Service helps ensure a healthy environment for people by providing opportunities for Americans to enjoy the outdoors and our shared natural heritage.



Kids fishing at Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge. Credit: USFWS

Over 90 million Americans, or 38 percent of the U.S. population 16 years old and older, enjoy some form of fishing, hunting, or wildlife-associated recreation¹. National parks, wildlife refuges, monuments, and other public lands managed by the Department of Interior hosted an estimated 443 million recreational visits in 2015—up from 423 million in 2014—and these visits alone supported \$45 billion in economic output and about 396,000 jobs nationwide². Outdoor recreation is a huge contributor to our Nation’s economy, with annual expenditures of \$145 billion. This spending creates thousands of jobs, supports local communities, and provides vital funding for conservation³.

At the Service, recreation programs have a direct impact on the local economies of hundreds of communities where refuges and hatcheries are located because visitors spend money for gas, lodging, meals, and other purchases. The Refuge System supports 37,000 jobs and \$2.4 billion in visitor expenditures annually. The most popular visitor attractions are hiking trails, wildlife auto routes, and wildlife observation programs, including bird watching⁴.

Of all the wildlife in the United States, birds attract the largest following. In 2011, there were 47 million birdwatchers 16 years of age and older in the United States, which amounts to about 20 percent of the population⁵. National Wildlife Refuges are wonderful places to observe birds, especially during festivals that coincide with spring or fall migrations. The Festival of the Cranes, Swan Day Festival, Eagle Festival, and Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival are just a few examples of the 44 bird festivals held and planned at refuges in 2017.⁶

Waterfowl hunting is also an important, traditional outdoor way of life. The Service provides nationwide opportunities for waterfowl hunting experiences, and it ensures that this form of recreation can be

¹ *National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation*, US Fish & Wildlife Service, 2012.

² *Economic Report for Fiscal Year 2015*, Department of the Interior, located at <https://my.usgs.gov/doidv>

³ Survey, op. cit.

⁴ *Banking on Nature*, US Fish & Wildlife Service, 2013 <https://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/Banking-on-Nature-Report.pdf>

⁵ *Birding in the United States: A Demographic and Economic Analysis, Addendum to the 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated*, US Fish & Wildlife Service.

⁶ <https://www.fws.gov/refuges/news/SuperBirdFests2017.html>

practiced for years to come through sustainable harvests. Of the 566 refuges, 337 (60 percent) are open to some type of hunting, and 275 (49 percent) are open to fishing. Over 2.4 million hunters and over 6.9 million recreational anglers visited these refuges last year.

As we have seen, conservation can provide economic benefit – for example, property values surrounding refuges are higher than equivalent properties elsewhere⁷. And developed areas with green spaces are more valuable to people than areas without such spaces. Pollinators, including bees and butterflies, are necessary to pollinate food crops. As many as one-third of the world’s food production relies directly or indirectly on insect pollination⁸.

In addition, people widely appreciate the beauty of nature, and enjoy the abundance of wildlife and plants in our natural spaces.

Because of the public’s interest in conservation, the Service has been tasked by Congress with responsibility for implementing some of our Nation’s most important and foundational environmental laws, such as the Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Lacey Act, and international agreements like the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

The Service utilizes a cooperative approach to conservation and works through partnerships with landowners and others on strategic conservation of habitat. The Service endeavors to preserve healthy landscapes for the benefit of species and of agriculture, ranching, and other traditional uses. The Service has several tools to help private landowners be good stewards of their lands, and has worked with landowners across the west to preserve habitat. For example, the Service has worked with the Blackfoot Challenge in Montana on conservation easements to preserve working ranchlands.



Festival of the Cranes
Credit: Refuge Volunteer John Olson

The Service’s Organization

The Service has headquarters in Washington, D.C. and Falls Church, Virginia, eight regional offices, and over 860 field stations. These stations include 566 units of the Refuge System; seven National Monuments; 80 Ecological Services Field Stations; 72 National Fish Hatcheries; one historical National Fish Hatchery (D.C. Booth in South Dakota); nine Fish Health Centers; seven Fish Technology Centers;

⁷Economic and Environmental Benefits of Biodiversity, David Pimentel; Christa Wilson; Christine McCullum; Rachel Huang; Paulette Dwen; Jessica Flack; Quynh Tran; Tamara Saltman; Barbara Cliff BioScience, Vol. 47, No. 11. (Dec., 1997), pp. 747-757. <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0006-3568%28199712%2947%3A11%3C747%3AEAEBOB%3E2.0.CO%3B2-H>

⁸ Kathuri et al. 1993

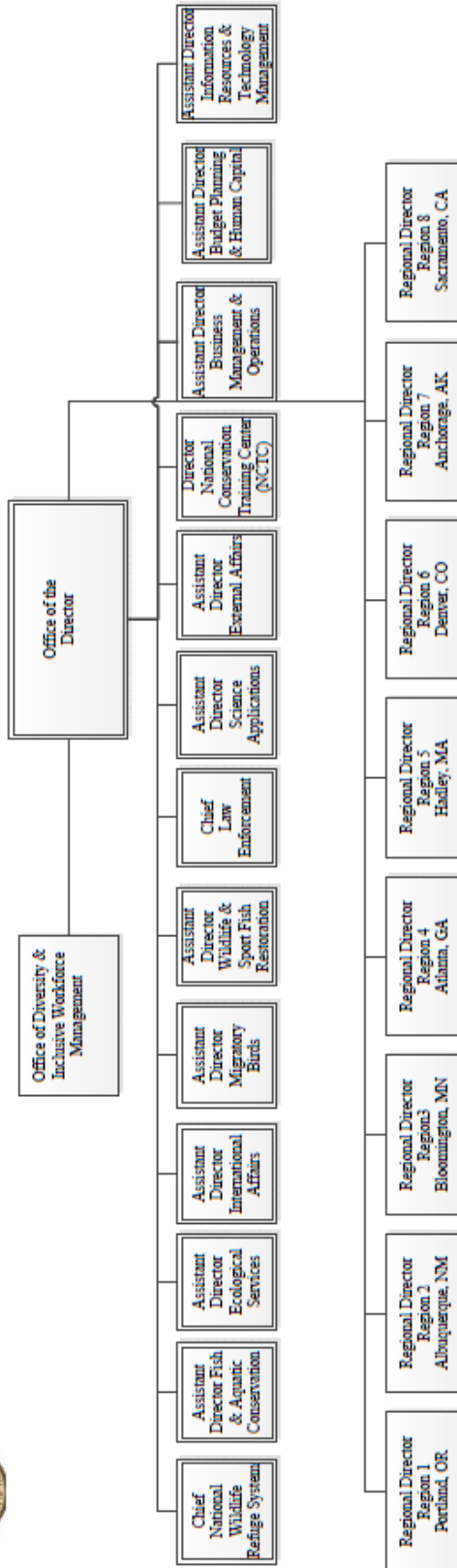
65 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices; 18 designated Ports of Entry; and waterfowl production areas in 209 counties managed within 38 Wetland Management Districts and 50 Coordination Areas, all-encompassing more than 855 million acres of land and waters. The Service works with diverse partners to accomplish its conservation mission, including other Federal agencies, State and local governments, Tribes, international organizations, and private organizations and individuals.

The Director reports to the Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and has direct line authority over headquarters and eight Regional Directors. Headquarter-based Assistant Directors provide policy, program management, and administrative support to the Director. The Regional Directors guide policy and program implementation, supervising the field structures, and coordinating activities with partners.

(See organizational chart, next page)



U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE



Overview of FY 2018 Budget Request

Budget Authority	<i>FY 2016 Actual</i>	2017 CR Baseline	2018 Request	Change from 2017 (+/-)
Discretionary	1,508,368	1,505,501	1,302,619	-202,882
Mandatory	1,351,933	1,399,427	1,463,536	+64,109
Total \$\$\$	2,860,301	2,904,928	2,766,155	-138,773
Discretionary	6,805	6,856	6,558	-298
Mandatory	247	231	231	+0
Transfers/Alloc.	1,500	1,508	1,482	-26
TOTAL FTEs	8,552	8,595	8,271	-324

Overview

The 2018 President's Budget request for the Service totals \$2.8 billion, including current appropriations of \$1.3 billion. The discretionary request is a decrease of \$202.9 million compared to the 2017 CR Baseline. The Budget also includes \$1.5 billion available under permanent appropriations, most of which will be provided directly to States for fish and wildlife restoration and conservation. The Service estimates staffing will equal 8,271 full time equivalents (FTE) in 2018, a decrease of 324 FTE from the 2017 CR Baseline level.

National Wildlife Refuge System. Through the National Wildlife Refuge System, the Service continues the American tradition, started by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1903, to protect fish and wildlife and their habitats and to provide recreation opportunities for hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation. The proposed FY 2018 funding level for the Refuge System is \$470.1 million. The proposed budget maintains a commitment to provide outdoor recreational opportunities in both rural and urban or suburban settings, as well as to support the vital role of volunteers on our Refuges.

Included in the Refuge System request is \$136.2 million for improving the Service's maintenance backlog and to take care of the American public's investments in facilities and infrastructure that the Service manages. Of this amount, \$41.0 million is to address the backlog in deferred maintenance. The commitment with this funding is to reduce the maintenance backlog in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Ecological Services. A total of \$225.2 million is proposed to implement the Endangered Species Act and related programs under the Service's Ecological Services Program, of which \$79.6 million is for recovery of species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. A focus on recovery has recently resulted in the delisting and downlisting of several high-profile species, including the the West Indian manatee.

Included in the Ecological Services request is \$98.8 million to facilitate planning and consultation that will support economic recovery and job creation in the United States. Timely evaluations of proposed infrastructure, energy, and other development projects contribute to job creation and economic growth, while ensuring that impacts to native wildlife and habitat are avoided and minimized to the greatest degree possible. Funding will allow the Service to expedite project reviews and work with project proponents on appropriate mitigation and avoidance measures.

Migratory Birds. Birds are important to Americans in many ways. Birdwatching generates \$43 billion in economic activity yearly. Hunting of migratory waterfowl is a traditional recreational pastime. In 2015, the most recent year in which the Service conducted the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, migratory bird hunting generated \$1.8 billion in economic activity, much of it in rural America. Included in the budget request is \$6.3 million for monitoring waterfowl populations, which provides critical data for annual migratory bird hunting frameworks that States rely on to establish hunting seasons. In total, the budget includes \$44.0 million for migratory bird management, a reduction of \$3.4 million below the 2017 level, to support cooperation with States on migratory bird management and environmental reviews required for energy development and other infrastructure projects.



Hunters at Mingo National Wildlife Refuge.

Credit: USFWS

Fish and Aquatic Conservation. The Fish and Aquatic Conservation full budget request is \$136.4 million. The budget provides \$51.9 million in funding for National Fish Hatchery Operations, which provides fish to States and Tribes, and also serves as propagation and refugia facilities for endangered aquatic species. Last year, 58 fish species and 24 other aquatic species were propagated and distributed from Service hatcheries. Hatchery deferred maintenance is requested at \$19.4 million, equal to the FY 2017 level.

The budget proposes \$64.6 million for Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation, a decrease of \$10.2 million below the 2017 level. Funding is maintained at the FY 2017 level for management of subsistence fishing in Alaska and fishery monitoring, management, and restoration across the country. The request reduces funding by \$4.0 million for fish passage activities that support revisions to culverts and other infrastructure to enable fish movement and improve resilience to flooding while the Service completes an analysis of opportunities to cooperate with other Federal agencies to increase effectiveness.

Among the greatest threats to native fish and wildlife are invasive species, which cost our economy billions of dollars each year. To continue its commitment to addressing this important issue, the Administration is proposing to continue funding for programs that focus on preventing the spread of Asian carp, quagga and zebra mussels, and sea lamprey. Funding for combating aquatic invasive species includes \$7.9 million to target Asian carp and \$2.0 million to control invasive mussels mainly in Western States.

Law Enforcement. The request for the Office of Law Enforcement is \$73.0 million. The recent escalation in poaching of protected species and the illegal trade in wildlife poses an urgent threat to conservation and global security. Wildlife trafficking generates billions of dollars in illicit revenues each year, contributing to the illegal economy, fueling instability, and undermining regional security. Poaching operations themselves have expanded beyond small-scale, opportunistic actions to become coordinated activities commissioned by armed and organized criminal syndicates that see wildlife trafficking as a low-risk, high-reward crime.

International Affairs. The Service's international program is funded at \$14.2 million, nearly level with

FY 2017 level. The program provides grants and technical assistance for the international conservation of endangered and threatened species.

Cooperative Landscape Conservation and Science Support. The budget eliminates funding for Cooperative Landscape Conservation and Science Support activities, saving \$29.9 million, so that higher priority, long-standing programs receive adequate funding. Through its other programs, the Service will continue working with external stakeholders to support conservation efforts, share information, and help natural communities thrive.

General Operations. The General Operations budget totals \$130.4 million, a decrease of \$12.3 million below the 2017 level. The request prioritizes on-the-ground management capability by reducing funding for headquarters and regional offices by \$6.4 million. The request includes \$36.4 million for Service-wide expenses, \$5.0 million for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to support conservation projects, and \$18.4 million for the operation and maintenance of the National Conservation Training Center.

Construction – The 2018 Construction budget totals \$15.8 million, a decrease of \$7.8 million below the 2017 level. The budget includes \$9.1 million for line-item construction projects. The specific refuge and fish hatchery projects funded within the request are ranked as the top priorities by the Service using a merit-based process to identify projects in the five-year construction plan.

Land Acquisition – Funding for land management priorities is supported in part by reductions in lower priority activities such as new major acquisitions of Federal land. The 2018 budget includes \$17.1 million for Service land acquisition, a decrease of \$51.3 million below the 2017 level. The budget provides resources necessary to continue enacted acquisition projects. In 2018, the Service will focus on acquiring inholdings that enhance operational efficiency and effectiveness across the Refuge System.

Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund – The budget requests \$19.3 million for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund, a decrease of \$34.1 million below the 2017 level. The budget requests \$10.5 million for conservation grants to States, \$6.5 million for Habitat Conservation Planning assistance grants, and \$2.3 million for administrative costs. The budget does not provide funding for land acquisition grants in order to focus resources on land management priorities.

National Wildlife Refuge Fund – The request eliminates the current discretionary funding contribution to the National Wildlife Refuge Fund, a reduction of \$13.2 million below the 2017 level.

North American Wetlands Conservation Fund – The 2018 budget is \$33.6 million for the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund, a decrease of \$1.5 million below the 2017 level. Funded projects are leveraged more than one-to-one with partners for wetlands and waterfowl conservation to support conservation and important sportsmen activities.

Multinational Species Conservation Fund – The 2018 budget includes \$9.0 million for the Multinational Species Conservation Fund, a decrease of \$2.0 million below the 2017 level. These grants leverage funds from partners to nearly triple available funding for the protection of African and Asian elephants, rhinos, tigers, great apes, and marine turtles from threats including those linked to illegal wildlife trafficking.

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund – The 2018 request includes \$3.9 million for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, roughly equal to the 2017 level. Grants for the conservation of migratory birds are matched at least three-to-one by partners throughout the western hemisphere.

State and Tribal Wildlife Grants – The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants request is \$52.8 million, a decrease of \$7.6 million below the 2017 level. These grants support and leverage State management of non-game species and also improve the resiliency of State and Tribal natural resources in the face of natural hazards such as drought and coastal flooding.

Administrative Provisions Language Change

In FY 2018, the Service is requesting language providing the authority, similar to that of the National Park Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to seek compensation from responsible parties who injure or destroy Refuge System or other Service resources. Today, when Refuge System resources are injured or destroyed, the costs of repair and restoration falls upon the appropriated budget for the affected refuge, often at the expense of other refuge programs. Competing priorities can leave Service resources languishing until the refuge obtains appropriations from Congress to address the injury. This delay may result in more intensive injuries, higher costs, and long-term degradation of publicly-owned Service resources. The public expects that refuge resources, and the broad range of activities they support, will be available for future generations.

In 2013, the Refuge System reported seven cases of arson and 2,300 vandalism offenses. Monetary losses from these cases totaled \$1.1 million. Other reported offenses often lead to resource injury and number in the thousands, including trespass, and other natural resources violations. Specific examples suitable for damage recovery under this provision include a case of illegally creating roads through Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge in Oklahoma including burning acreage and damming a creek; and abandonment of property on numerous refuges.

Legislative Proposals

Concurrent with this budget request the Administration is proposing the following legislative proposals:

Recreation Fee Program

The budget proposes to permanently reauthorize the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, which currently expires in September 2018. As a precaution, appropriations language submitted with the budget will propose a one-year extension through September 2019. The revenues collected from these recreation fees—approximately \$290 million annually—are an important source of funding for land management operations, maintenance and improvements to recreation facilities on public lands.

Oil and Gas Production

A legislative proposal is included in the budget that will provide access to the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to develop the area's mineral resources. The U.S. Geologic Survey determined in 1998 that more than 5 billion barrels of economically recoverable oil lays beneath the coastal plain. The Administration will submit a legislative proposal to hold four lease sales generating an estimated \$1.8 billion over ten years.

U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE MAJOR ACCOUNT SUMMARY OF FISCAL YEAR 2018							
Account		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018			
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	Change from 2017 (+/-)
<u>Current Appropriations</u>							
Resource Management 1/	\$000	1,238,771	1,236,416	+16,324	-101,611	1,151,129	-85,287
	FTE	6,626	6,694	0	-281	6,413	-281
Construction	\$000	23,687	23,642	+70	-7,912	15,800	-7,842
	FTE	51	46	0	-10	36	-10
Land Acquisition	\$000	68,500	68,370	+127	-51,446	17,051	-51,319
	FTE	80	77	0	-3	74	-3
National Wildlife Refuge Fund	\$000	13,228	13,203	0	-13,203	0	-13,203
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund	\$000	53,495	53,393	0	-34,090	19,303	-34,090
	FTE	13	12	0	-2	10	-2
North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	\$000	35,145	35,078	0	-1,478	33,600	-1,478
	FTE	6	5	0	0	5	0
Multinational Species Conservation Fund	\$000	11,061	11,040	0	-2,040	9,000	-2,040
	FTE	3	2	0	0	2	0
Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation	\$000	3,910	3,903	0	-3	3,900	-3
	FTE	1	1	0	0	1	0
State and Tribal Wildlife Grants	\$000	60,571	60,456	0	-7,620	52,836	-7,620
	FTE	21	19	0	-2	17	-2
Landowner Incentive Program	\$000	0	0	0	0	0	0
	FTE	4	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL, Current Appropriations	\$000	1,508,368	1,505,501	+16,521	-219,403	1,302,619	-202,882
	FTE	6,805	6,856	0	-298	6,558	-298

U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE							
MAJOR ACCOUNT SUMMARY OF FISCAL YEAR 2018 REQUEST							
Account		2016 Actual	2017 Estimate	2018			
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	Change from 2017 (+/-)
Permanent and Trust Accounts							
National Wildlife Refuge Fund	\$000	11,382	8,233	0	+319	8,552	+319
	FTE	3	3	0	0	3	0
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund - Payment to Special Fund	\$000	67,744	75,900	0	-5,685	70,215	-5,685
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0
North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	\$000	19,446	11,401	0	+1,299	12,700	+1,299
	FTE	5	3	0	0	3	0
Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration	\$000	442,326	435,183	0	+20,020	455,203	+20,020
	FTE	63	58	0	0	58	0
Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration	\$000	725,526	786,317	0	+43,363	829,680	+43,363
	FTE	50	57	0	0	57	0
Migratory Bird Conservation Account	\$000	70,127	68,094	0	+4,598	72,692	+4,598
	FTE	62	62	0	0	62	0
Federal Lands Recreational Enhancement Act	\$000	5,600	5,099	0	+70	5,169	+70
	FTE	31	23	0	0	23	0
Contributed Funds	\$000	4,960	5,000	0	0	5,000	0
	FTE	20	15	0	0	15	0
Miscellaneous Permanent Appropriations	\$000	4,819	4,200	0	+125	4,325	+125
	FTE	4	3	0	0	3	0
Coastal Impact Assistance Program	\$000	0	0	0	0	0	0
	FTE	9	7	0	0	7	0
Subtotal, Permanent Appropriations	\$000	1,351,930	1,399,427	0	+64,109	1,463,536	+64,109
	FTE	247	231	0	0	231	0
Reimbursements, offsetting collections, Allocations from others							
Reimbursable (1900 series)	FTE	768	798	0	0	798	0
Offsetting Collections 1800 series	FTE	183	183	0	0	183	0
Offsetting Collections 4000 series	FTE	29	29	0	0	29	0
Wild land Fire Management	FTE	379	379	0	-23	353	-26
Southern Nevada Lands	FTE	2	3	0	0	3	0
Federal Aid - Highway	FTE	13	14	0	0	14	0
NRDAR	FTE	74	65	0	0	65	0
Central HAZMAT	FTE	8	8	0	0	8	0
Forest Pest	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disaster Relief	FTE	38	23	0	0	23	0
Energy Act - Permit Processing	FTE	6	6	0	0	6	0
Subtotal, Other		1,500	1,508	0	-23	1,482	-26
TOTAL FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE	\$000	2,860,298	2,904,928	+16,521	-155,295	2,766,155	-138,774
	FTE	8,552	8,595	0	-321	8,271	-324

Budget at a Glance

2018 Budget At A Glance						
<i>(Dollars in Thousands)</i>						
	2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	Fixed Costs	Internal Transfers	Program Changes	2018 Request
Appropriation: RESOURCE MANAGEMENT						
ECOLOGICAL SERVICES						
LISTING	20,515	20,476	+308	0	-3,662	17,122
Critical Habitat					-1,326	
Listing					-1,336	
Foreign Listing					-1,000	
PLANNING AND CONSULTATION	99,079	98,891	+1,729	0	-1,865	98,755
General Program Activities					-1,865	
CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION	32,396	32,334	+445	0	-3,004	29,775
General Program Activities					-3,004	
RECOVERY	82,016	82,013	+1,068	0	-3,518	79,563
Cooperative Recovery					-1,371	
Multi-partner Recovery Actions (Aplomado Falcon, Condor)					-499	
State of the Birds Activities					-2,495	
Wolf Livestock Demonstration Program					-998	
General Program Activities					+1,845	
ECOLOGICAL SERVICES TOTAL	234,006	233,714	+3,550	0	-12,049	225,215
HABITAT CONSERVATION						
PARTNERS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE	51,776	51,677	+532	0	-6,325	45,884
Cooperative Recovery					-822	
Environmental Data Quality and Access (WA Salmon Recovery)					-642	
WA Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups					-1,283	
General Program Activities					-3,578	
COASTAL PROGRAM	13,375	13,350	+174	0	-1,554	11,970
Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group					-184	
Long Live the Kings					-184	
General Program Activities					-1,186	
HABITAT CONSERVATION TOTAL	65,151	65,027	+706	0	-7,879	57,854
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM						
WILDLIFE AND HABITAT MANAGEMENT						
Refuge Wildlife & Habitat Management	230,343	229,905	+2,995	0	-8,007	224,893
Cooperative Recovery					-3,194	
Youth					-1,555	
General Program Activities					-3,258	
Refuge Visitor Services	73,319	73,179	+1,055	0	-3,143	71,091
Youth and Careers in Nature					-1,996	
General Program Activities					-1,147	
Refuge Law Enforcement	38,054	37,982	+566	0	-619	37,929
General Program Activities					-619	
Refuge Conservation Planning	2,523	2,518	0	0	-2,518	0
Refuge Planning					-2,518	
Refuge Maintenance	137,188	136,928	+926	0	-1,658	136,196
Maintenance Support					-1,010	
Youth Conservation Corps					-648	
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM TOTAL	481,427	480,512	+5,542	0	-15,945	470,109

2018 Budget At A Glance						
<i>(Dollars in Thousands)</i>						
	2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	Fixed Costs	Internal Transfers	Program Changes	2018 Request
CONSERVATION AND ENFORCEMENT						
MIGRATORY BIRD MANAGEMENT						
Conservation and Monitoring	30,439	30,382	+369	0	-1,470	29,281
General Program Activities					-1,470	
Permits	3,346	3,339	+53	0	-58	3,334
Duck Stamp Office	556	555	+7	0	-7	555
General Program Activities					-7	
North American Waterfowl Management Plan	13,139	13,114	+118	0	-2,401	10,831
General Program Activities					-2,401	
Migratory Bird Management Total	47,480	47,390	+547	0	-3,936	44,001
LAW ENFORCEMENT						
Law Enforcement Operations	73,815	73,675	+865	0	-2,446	72,094
General Program Activities					-2,446	
Equipment Replacement	910	908	0	0	0	908
Law Enforcement Total	74,725	74,583	+865	0	-2,446	73,002
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS						
International Conservation	7,211	7,197	+82	0	-323	6,956
General Program Activities					-323	
International Wildlife Trade	7,485	7,471	+99	0	-343	7,227
General Program Activities					-343	
International Affairs Total	14,696	14,668	+181	0	-666	14,183
CONSERVATION AND ENFORCEMENT TOTAL	136,901	136,641	+1,593	0	-7,048	131,186
FISH AND AQUATIC CONSERVATION						
National Fish Hatchery Operations	53,418	53,316	+788	0	-2,162	51,942
Youth and Careers in Nature					-1,308	
General Program Activities					-854	
Maintenance and Equipment	19,920	19,882	0	0	0	19,882
Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation	28,641	28,587	+213	0	-7,020	21,780
Habitat Assessment and Restoration					-4,000	
Fish Passage Improvements					-1,384	
Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement					-1,000	
National Fish Habitat Action Plan					-403	
Youth					-233	
General Program Activities						
Population Assessment and Cooperative Mgmt.	30,821	30,762	+436	0	-2,806	28,392
Cooperative Recovery					-745	
Youth					-923	
General Program Activities					-1,138	
Aquatic Invasive Species	15,456	15,427	+106	0	-1,116	14,417
Prevention					-116	
State Plans/NISA Implementation/Coordination					-1,000	
Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation Subtotal	74,918	74,776	+755	0	-10,942	64,589
FISH AND AQUATIC CONSERVATION TOTAL	148,256	147,974	+1,543	0	-13,104	136,413
COOPERATIVE LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION	12,988	12,963	0	0	-12,963	0
SCIENCE SUPPORT						
Adaptive Science	10,517	10,497	0	0	-10,497	0
Service Science	6,468	6,456	0	0	-6,456	0
SCIENCE SUPPORT TOTAL	16,985	16,953	0	0	-16,953	0

2018 Budget At A Glance						
<i>(Dollars in Thousands)</i>						
	2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	Fixed Costs	Internal Transfers	Program Changes	2018 Request
GENERAL OPERATIONS						
Central Office Operations	40,722	40,492	+923	0	-4,450	36,965
Regional Office Operations	37,722	37,650	+933	0	-5,009	33,574
Servicewide Bill Paying	35,177	35,110	+1,255	0	0	36,365
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation	7,022	7,009	0	0	-2,000	5,009
National Conservation Training Center	22,414	22,371	+279	0	-4,211	18,439
Youth and Careers in Nature					-3,906	
General Program Activities					-305	
GENERAL OPERATIONS TOTAL	143,057	142,632	+3,390	0	-15,670	130,352
TOTAL - RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	1,238,771	1,236,416	+16,324	0	-101,611	1,151,129
Appropriation: CONSTRUCTION						
Nationwide Engineering Services	7,161	7,147	+70	0	-1,742	5,475
Dam, Bridge and Seismic Safety	1,972	1,969	0	0	-737	1,232
Line Item Construction	14,554	14,526	0	0	-5,433	9,093
TOTAL - CONSTRUCTION	23,687	23,642	+70	0	-7,912	15,800
Appropriation: LAND ACQUISITION						
Land Acquisition Management	12,773	12,749	+127	0	-127	12,749
Land Protection Planning	465	464	0	0	0	464
Exchanges	1,500	1,497	0	0	-300	1,197
Inholdings, Emergencies and Hardships	5,351	5,341	0	0	-2,700	2,641
Sportsmen and Recreational Access	2,500	2,495	0	0	-2,495	0
Highlands Conservation Act	10,000	9,981	0	0	-9,981	0
Land Acquisition	35,911	35,843	0	0	-35,843	0
TOTAL - LAND ACQUISITION	68,500	68,370	+127	0	-51,446	17,051
Appropriation: NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FUND						
	13,228	13,203	0	0	-13,203	0
Appropriation: COOPERATIVE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND						
	53,495	53,393	0	0	-34,090	19,303
Appropriation: NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION FUND						
	35,145	35,078	0	0	-1,478	33,600
Appropriation: MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND						
	11,061	11,040	0	0	-2,040	9,000
Appropriation: NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY						
	3,910	3,903	0	0	-3	3,900
Appropriation: STATE & TRIBAL WILDLIFE GRANTS						
	60,571	60,456	0	0	-7,620	52,836
TOTAL, FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (Disc.)	1,508,368	1,505,501	+16,521	0	-219,403	1,302,619

FY 2018 Summary of Fixed Cost Changes by Appropriation

(Dollars in Thousands)

Fixed Cost Component	Resource Management	Construction	Land Acq.	TOTAL
Pay Raise	13,766	70	127	13,963
Departmental Working Capital Fund	876			876
Workers' Compensation Payments	355			355
Unemployment Compensation Payments	24			24
GSA and non-GSA Space Rental Payments	1,303			1,303
TOTAL, Fixed Costs	16,324	70	127	16,521

Resource Management



Appropriations Language

For necessary expenses of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, as authorized by law, and for scientific and economic studies, general administration, and for the performance of other authorized functions related to such resources, \$1,151,129,000 to remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$17,122,000 shall be used for implementing subsections (a), (b), (c), and (e) of section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533) (except for processing petitions, developing and issuing proposed and final regulations, and taking any other steps to implement actions described in subsection (c)(2)(A), (c)(2)(B)(i), or (c)(2)(B)(ii)), of which not to exceed \$3,270,000 shall be used for any activity regarding the designation of critical habitat, pursuant to subsection (a)(3), excluding litigation support, for species listed pursuant to subsection (a)(1) prior to October 1, 2015; of which not to exceed \$1,498,000 shall be used for any activity regarding petitions to list species that are indigenous to the United States pursuant to subsections (b)(3)(A) and (b)(3)(B); and, of which not to exceed \$501,000 shall be used for implementing subsections (a), (b), (c), and (e) of section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533) for species that are not indigenous to the United States.

Note.—A full-year 2017 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the budget was prepared; therefore, the budget assumes this account is operating under the Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2017 (P.L. 114–254). The amounts included for 2017 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution.

Authorizing Statutes

African Elephant Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 4201-4203, 4211-4214, 4221-4225, 4241-4246, 1538). Authorizes funding for approved projects for research, conservation, management or protection of African elephants. Authorizes prohibitions against the sale, importation, and exportation of ivory derived from African elephants.

Agricultural Credit Act, (P. L. 100-233). Section 616 authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to transfer lands, interest therein, to Federal or State agencies for conservation purposes. The Fish and Wildlife Service assesses inventory lands to determine when such lands would be of benefit to the National Wildlife Refuge System and makes transfer recommendations.

Airborne Hunting Act, (16 U.S.C. 742 j-1). Section 13 of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 prohibits taking or harassing wildlife from aircraft, except when protecting wildlife, livestock, and human health or safety as authorized by a Federal or State issued license or permit.

Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 410hh-3233, 43 U.S.C 1602-1784). Provides for the designation and conservation of certain public lands in Alaska, including units of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and for the continuing subsistence needs of the Alaska Natives. Sec. 42(g) of this Act makes use of such Native lands subject to refuge regulations.

Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, (43 U.S.C. 1601-1624). Provided various measures for settling the claims of Alaska Native peoples to land in Alaska, including authorization of selection and ownership of land within National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska by Native Corporations.

Anadromous Fish Conservation Act, (P. L. 89-304). Authorizes the Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce to enter into cooperative agreements with the States and other non-federal interests for the conservation, development, and enhancement of anadromous fish, including those in the Great Lakes, and to contribute up to 50 percent of the costs of carrying out such agreements.

Antarctic Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 2401-2413). Provides for the conservation and protection of the fauna and flora of Antarctica, and their ecosystems.

Archaeological Resources Protection Act, (16 U.S.C. 470aa-470mm). Provides for protection of archaeological resources and sites on public and Tribal lands and for increased cooperation between government authorities, the professional archaeological community, and private collectors with collections obtained before October 31, 1979.

Arctic Tundra Habitat Emergency Conservation Act, (P.L.106-108). Requires the Secretary of the Interior to prepare, and as appropriate implement, a comprehensive, long-term plan for the management of mid-continent light geese and conservation of their habitat.

Asian Elephant Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 4261-4266, 1538). Provides for cooperative projects for the conservation and protection of Asian elephants.

Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act, (16 U. S.C. 5151-5158). Supports and encourages development, implementation, and enforcement of effective interstate action regarding the conservation and management of Atlantic striped bass. The Act recognizes the commercial and recreational importance of Atlantic striped bass and establishes a consistent management scheme for its conservation. The three partners which share management responsibility for Atlantic striped bass are the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Every two years, NMFS and the FWS are required to produce an Atlantic Striped Bass Biennial Report to Congress on the status and health of Atlantic Coast Striped Bass Stocks. The most recent report delivered to Congress was the 2007 Biennial Report to Congress.

Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, (16 U.S.C. 668-668d). Provides for the protection of bald eagles and golden eagles by prohibiting take, possession, sale, purchase, transport, export or import of such eagles or their parts or nests. Take, possession, and transport are permitted for certain authorized purposes.

Billy Frank Jr. Tell Your Story Act, (P.L. 114-101). Establishes the Medicine Creek Treaty National Memorial within the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. The Department of the Interior must: (1) establish the boundaries of the Medicine Creek Treaty National Memorial and provide for its administration and interpretation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and (2) coordinate with representatives of the Muckleshoot, Nisqually, Puyallup, and Squaxin Island Indian Tribes in providing for that interpretation.

Chehalis River Basin Fishery Resources Study and Restoration Act, (P. L. 101-452). Authorizes a joint Federal, State, and Tribal study for the restoration of the fishery resources of the Chehalis River Basin, Washington.

Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990, (16 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.) Requires the Secretary (delegated to the Service) to maintain the maps of the Coastal Barrier Resources System, to review the system at least every 5 years for changes which have occurred as a result of natural forces, and to make minor and technical changes to the maps of the System reflecting

those natural changes. It also requires the Secretary to submit a study to Congress on the need to include the west coast in the system, and to lead an interagency task force to provide recommendations to Congress for legislative action and Federal policies on developed and undeveloped coastal barriers.

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act, (16 U.S.C. 3951-3957). Provides a Federal grant program for the acquisition, restoration, management, and enhancement of coastal wetlands of States adjacent to the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, the Great Lakes, and the Pacific, including Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Pacific U.S. insular areas. Provides that the Service update and digitize wetlands maps in Texas and conduct an assessment of the status, condition, and trends of wetlands in that State. Provides permanent authorization to appropriate receipts, coastal wetlands conservation grants and North American Wetlands Conservation projects.

Coastal Zone Management Act, (16 U.S.C. 1451-1464). Establishes a voluntary national program within the Department of Commerce to encourage coastal States to develop and implement coastal zone management plans. Activities that affect coastal zones must be consistent with approved State programs. The Act also establishes a National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS).

Colorado River Floodway Protection Act, (43 U.S.C. 1600; 42 U.S.C. 4029). Established a Task Force to advise the Secretary on the specific boundaries for and management for the area.

Colorado River Storage Project Act, (43 U.S.C. 620). Provides that facilities will be built and operated to mitigate losses of, and improve conditions for, fish and wildlife in connection with the Colorado River Storage.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, (42 U.S.C. 9601, et seq.). Provides that responsible parties, including Federal landowners, investigate and clean up releases of hazardous substances. Trustees for natural resources, which includes the Secretary of the Interior, may assess and recover damages for injury to natural resources from releases of hazardous substances and use the damages for restoration, replacement or acquisition of equivalent natural resources. Provides permanent authorization to appropriate receipts from responsible parties.

Coral Reef Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.). Promotes wise management and sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems and develop sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems and threats to them. Provides financial resources to local communities and nongovernmental organizations to assist in the preservation of coral reefs. It establishes a formal mechanism for collecting and allocating monetary donations from the private sector to be used for coral reef conservation projects.

Delaware River Basin Restoration Act, (P.L. 114-322). Establishes a Delaware River Basin restoration program and directs the Secretary to produce a basin-wide strategy that draws on existing conservation efforts, involves partners, and provides for the implementation of a shared set of science-based restoration and protection activities, including cost-effective projects with measurable results that maximize conservation outcomes with no net gain of Federal employees. Establishes a voluntary grant and technical assistance program. Sunsets on September 30, 2023. Enacted as part of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016.

Emergency Wetlands Resources Act, (P.L. 99-645; 100 Stat. 3582). Provides for the collection of entrance fees, thirty percent of which may be used for refuge operations and maintenance, and for the Secretary to establish and periodically review a national wetlands priority conservation plan for Federal and State wetlands acquisition, complete National Wetlands Inventory maps for the contiguous United States by September 30, 1998, to update the report on wetlands status and trends by September 30, 1990, and at 10-year intervals thereafter.

Endangered Species Act, (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544). Prohibits the import, export, or taking of fish and wildlife and plants that are listed as threatened or endangered species; provides for adding species to and removing them from the list of threatened and endangered species, and for preparing and implementing plans for their recovery; provides for interagency cooperation to avoid take of listed species and for issuing permits for otherwise prohibited activities; provides for cooperation with States, including authorization of financial assistance; and implements the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).

Fallon-Paiute Shoshone Indian Water Settlement Act, (P.L. 101-618). Establishes the Lahontan Valley and Pyramid Lake Fish and Wildlife Fund. Funds are administered by the Service for use in restoring Lahontan Valley wetlands and recovering the endangered and threatened fish of Pyramid Lake. Section 206(a) authorizes the acquisition of water rights for restoring wetlands in Lahontan Valley. The Act stipulates that sufficient water rights be acquired to restore and sustain, on a long term average, approximately 25,000 acres of primary wetland habitat within Nevada's Lahontan Valley.

Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA), (43 U.S.C. 2301-2306). Allows the sale of BLM lands identified for disposal, with sales proceeds used for land acquisition by the various land management agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Control Act, (7 U.S.C. 136-136y). Provides for the registration of pesticides to avoid unreasonable adverse effects to humans or the environment. Such registrations are considered Federal actions and are subject to consultations with the Service under the Endangered Species Act.

Federal Power Act, (161 S.C. 791a et seq.). Provides that each license for hydropower projects issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission includes fish ways prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior or Commerce, and that conditions for the protection, mitigation and enhancement of fish and wildlife based on recommendations of the Service and other agencies.

Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act), (33 U.S.C. 1251-1387). Section 404 (m) authorizes the Service to comment on permit applications submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the discharge of dredged or fill material into navigable waters of the United States. Section 208(i) authorizes the Service to provide technical assistance to States in developing management practices as part of its water pollution control programs and to continue with the National Wetlands Inventory. Section 320 authorizes the establishment of a State/Federal cooperative program to nominate estuaries of national significance and to develop and implement management plans to restore and maintain the biological and chemical integrity of estuarine waters.

Fish and Wildlife Act, (16 U.S.C. 742a-742j). Establishes a comprehensive national fish and wildlife policy and authorizes the Secretary to take steps required for the development, management, advancement, conservation, and protection of fisheries and wildlife resources through research, acquisition of refuge lands, development of existing facilities, and other means.

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 2901-2911). Directs the Secretary to undertake research and conservation activities, in coordination with other Federal, State, international and private organizations, to fulfill responsibilities to conserve migratory nongame birds under existing authorities. The Secretary is required, for all species, subspecies, and migratory nongame birds, to monitor and assess population trends and status; to identify environmental change and human activities; and to identify species in need of additional conservation and identify conservation actions to ensure perpetuation of these species.

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, (16 U.S.C. 661-666(e)). Directs the Service to investigate and report on proposed Federal actions that affect any stream or other body of water and to provide recommendations to minimize impacts on fish and wildlife resources.

Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act, (16 U.S.C. 777 note; Public Law 106-502). Congress reauthorized the Fisheries and Irrigation Mitigation Act (FRIMA) as part of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, P.L. 111-11. FRIMA was established in 2000 and has been an important tool for addressing fish screening and fish passage needs in the Pacific Northwest States.

Fishery Conservation and Management Act, (Magnuson-Stevens Act), (16 U.S.C. 1801-1882, 90 Stat. 331). Authorizes the conservation and management of the fishery resources found within the Exclusive Economic Zone of the United States, including anadromous species, through eight Regional Fishery Management Councils. Establishes the Service as a nonvoting member of the Councils.

Food Security Act, (16 U.S.C. 801-3945). Provides that the Secretary of Agriculture consult with the Secretary of the Interior on the identification of wetlands, determinations of exemptions, and issuance of regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act. Requires the Service to concur in wetland mitigation plans in association with minimal effect exemptions and to concur in conservation plans for lands proposed for inclusion in the Wetlands Reserve program. Establishes a program to protect and restore wetlands on Farmers Home Administration inventory property and provides for the Service to identify such wetlands.

Great Ape Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 6301-6305, 1538). Authorizes grants to foreign governments, the CITES secretariat, and non-governmental organizations for the conservation of great apes. The funds are to be a sub-account of the Multinational Species Conservation Fund.

Great Lakes Critical Programs Act, (P.L. 101-596). Authorization for Service activities is contained in title III, the "Lake Champlain Special Designation Act of 1990".

Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act, (P.L. 109-326). Provides Federal grants on a competitive basis to States, Tribes and other interested entities to encourage cooperative conservation, restoration and management of fish and wildlife resources and their habitat in Great Lakes basin, and provides authority for the Service to undertake regional restoration projects..

Great Lakes Fishery Act, (16 U.S.C. 931-939). Implements the Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries between the United States and Canada, and authorizes the Secretary and the Service to undertake lamprey control and other measures related to the Convention.

Highlands Conservation Act, (P.L. 108-421). Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assistance to the States of Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania (Highland States) to preserve and protect high priority conservation land in the Highlands region, an area depicted on a National Forest Service map entitled "The Highlands Region" dated June 2004.

Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act, (16 U.S.C. 719 et seq.). Authorizes an annual Junior Duck Stamp competition and environmental education program for school children; provides for the licensing and marketing of winning designs, with proceeds used for awards and scholarships to participants. Public Law 109-166 reauthorizes the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act of 1994.

Klamath River Basin Fishery Resources Restoration Act, (16 U.S.C.460ss et seq.). Requires the Secretary to develop and implement a restoration plan for the Klamath River Basin.

Lacey Act Amendments, (18 U.S.C. 42; 16 U.S.C. 3371-3378). Provides that the Secretary designate injurious wildlife and ensure the humane treatment of wildlife shipped to the United States. Prohibits importation, exportation, transportation, sale, or purchase of fish and wildlife taken or possessed in violation of State, Federal, Indian tribal, and foreign laws. Provides for enforcement of Federal wildlife laws, and Federal assistance to the States and foreign governments in the enforcement of non-federal wildlife laws.

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, (16 U.S.C. 1801-1882). Provides a framework for managing fisheries within the Exclusive Economic Zone and through eight Regional Fishery Management Councils. Establishes the Service as a nonvoting member of the Councils.

Marine Mammal Protection Act, (16 U.S.C. 1361-1407). Established a moratorium on taking and importing marine mammals, including parts and products. Defines the Federal responsibility for conservation of marine mammals, with management authority vested in the Department of the Interior for the sea otter, walrus, polar bear, dugong, and manatee.

Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grants, (16 U.S.C. 1421f; 114 Stat. 2765. Title II of P.L. 106-555). Amended the Marine Mammal Protection Act to authorize grants to non-governmental organizations which participate in the rescue and rehabilitation of stranded marine mammals.

Marine Turtle Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 6601-6607). Established a Marine Turtle Conservation Fund in the Multinational Species Conservation Fund. The fund is a separate account to assist in the conservation of marine turtles, and the nesting habitats of marine turtles in foreign countries.

Migratory Bird Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 715-715d, 715e, 715f-715r). Authorizes the Secretary to conduct investigations and publish documents related to North American birds, and establishes a Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (MBCC) to approve areas recommended by the Secretary for acquisition. The MBCC also approves wetlands conservation projects recommended by the North American Wetlands Conservation Council under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act (16 U.S.C. 718a-718k). This Act, commonly referred to as the Duck Stamp Act, requires waterfowl hunters, 16 years of age or older, to purchase and possess a valid Federal waterfowl hunting stamp prior to taking migratory waterfowl. The Secretary is authorized to use \$1 million from sales of migratory bird hunting and conservation stamps to promote additional sales of stamps.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act, (16 U.S.C. 703-712). Implements four international treaties that affect migratory birds common to the United States, Canada, Mexico, Japan, and the former Soviet Union. Establishes Federal responsibility for protection and management of migratory and non-game birds, including the establishment of season length, bag limits, and other hunting regulations, and the issuance of permits to band, possess or otherwise make use of migratory birds. Except as allowed by implementing regulations, this Act makes it unlawful to pursue, hunt, kill, capture, possess, buy, sell, purchase, or barter any migratory bird, including the feathers or other parts, nests, eggs, or migratory bird products.

National Aquaculture Development Act, (16 U.S.C. 2801-2810). Established a coordinating group, the Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture (JSA). The JSA has been responsible for developing the National

Aquaculture Development Plan. The plan establishes a strategy for the development of an aquaculture industry in the United States.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.). Provides that the Service examine the environmental impacts, incorporate environmental information, and use public participation in the planning and implementation of all actions; integrate NEPA with other planning requirements; prepare NEPA documents to facilitate better environmental decision making; and review Federal agency environmental plans and documents when the Service has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impacts involved.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act, (16 U.S.C. 3701-3709). Established a federally-chartered, nonprofit corporation to encourage and administer donations to benefit Service programs and other activities to conserve fish, wildlife, and plant resources.

National Historic Preservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 470-470b, 470c-470n). Directs Federal agencies to preserve, restore, and maintain historic cultural environments.

National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, (16 U.S.C. 668dd – 668ee). Provides authority, guidelines and directives for the Service to improve the National Wildlife Refuge System; administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and restoration of fish, wildlife and plant resources and habitat; ensure the biological integrity, diversity, and environmental health of refuges is maintained; define compatible wildlife-dependent recreation as appropriate general public use of refuges; establish hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education as priority uses; establish a formal process for determining compatible uses of refuges; and provide for public involvement in developing comprehensive conservation plans for refuges.

The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act, (P.L. 105-57). Spells out wildlife conservation as the fundamental mission of the refuge system; requires comprehensive conservation planning to guide management of the refuge system; directs the involvement of private citizens in land management decisions; and provides that compatible wildlife-dependent recreation is a legitimate and appropriate use that should receive priority in refuge planning and management.

National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Improvement Act, (P.L. 111-357). Authorizes cooperative agreements with nonprofit partner organizations, academic institutions, or State and local governments to construct, operate, maintain, or improve refuge facilities and services, and to promote volunteer, outreach, and education programs.

The National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Act, (P.L. 106-408). Reinforces *National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act* provisions to raise public understanding and appreciation for the refuge system; calls on the Secretary of the Interior to establish a Centennial Commission to oversee special public outreach activities leading up to and during the Centennial year, leverage resources with public and private partners for outreach efforts, and plan and host a major conference in 2003; calls on the Service to develop a long-term plan to address the highest priority operations, maintenance, and construction needs of the National Wildlife Refuge System; and requires an annual report assessing the operations and maintenance backlogs and transition costs associated with newly acquired refuge lands.

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 6101 et. seq.). Authorizes grants for the conservation of neotropical migratory birds in the United States and Latin America and the Caribbean, with 75 percent of the amounts made available to be expended on projects outside the United States. The funds are to be a sub-account of the Multinational Species Conservation Fund. Title III of P.L. 109-363, reauthorized appropriations for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act.

New England Fishery Resources Restoration Act, (P.L. 101-593). Authorizes the Service to formulate, establish, and implement cooperative programs to restore and maintain nationally significant interjurisdictional fishery resources in New England river systems.

Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Species Prevention and Control Act, as amended by the National Invasive Species Act, (NISA, 16 U.S.C. 4701 et seq.). Authorizes the Service to develop and implement a program to prevent and control infestations of zebra mussels and other nonindigenous aquatic invasive species in waters of the United States.

North American Wetlands Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 4401). Authorizes grants to public-private partnerships in Canada, Mexico and the U.S. to protect, enhance, restore, and manage waterfowl, other migratory birds and other fish and wildlife, and the wetland ecosystems and other habitats upon which they depend, consistent with the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. There is a Standard and a Small Grants Program. Both are competitive grants programs which require that grant requests be matched by partner contributions at no less than a 1-to-1 ratio. Funds from U.S. Federal sources may contribute towards a project, but are not eligible as match. Public Law 109-322 reauthorized the North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

Nutria Eradication and Control Act, (P.L. 108-16), Provides for the States of Maryland and Louisiana to implement nutria eradication or control measures and restore marshland damaged by nutria.

Oil Pollution Act, (P.L. 101-380). Provides that the Service consult with others on the development of a fish and wildlife response plan for the protection, rescue, and rehabilitation of, and the minimization of risk of damage to fish and wildlife resources and their habitat harmed or jeopardized by an oil discharge.

Partnerships for Wildlife Act, (16 U.S.C. 3741-3744). Establishes a Wildlife Conservation and Appreciation Fund to receive appropriated funds and donations from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and other private sources to assist the State fish and game agencies in carrying out their responsibilities for conservation of nongame species and authorizes grants to the States for programs and projects to conserve nongame species.

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Act, (16 U.S.C. 3771-3774). Provides for the restoration, enhancement, and management of fish and wildlife habitats on private land through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, a program that works with private landowners to conduct cost-effective habitat projects for the benefit of fish and wildlife resources in the United States.

Pelly Amendment to the Fishermen's Protective Act, (22 U.S.C. 1978). Authorizes the President to embargo wildlife products, including fish, and limit other imports from nations whose nationals are determined by the Secretary of the Interior or Commerce to be engaging in trade or take that undermines the effectiveness of any international treaty or convention for the protection of endangered or threatened species to which the United States is a party.

Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act, (P.L. 113-239). Authorizes the Service to permanently allow any State to provide hunting and conservation stamps for migratory birds (referred to as Federal Duck Stamps) electronically. The electronic stamps would remain valid for 45 days to allow for the physical stamps to arrive in the mail.

Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act, (16 U.S.C. 2602-2645) and **Energy Security Act of 1980**, (16 U.S.C. 792-828(c)). Authorizes the Service to investigate and report on effects of hydropower

development on fish and wildlife during the licensing process of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Recreational Use of Fish and Wildlife Areas, (16 U.S.C. 460k-460k-4). Commonly known as the Refuge Recreation Act of 1962, authorizes the Secretary to administer refuges, hatcheries, and other conservation areas for recreational use when such use does not interfere with the primary purpose for which these areas were established.

Refuge Recreation Act, (16 U.S.C. 460k-460k-4). Public Law 87-714, approved September 28, 1962 (76 Stat.653) as amended by Public Law 89-669, approved October 14, 1966, (80 Stat.930) and Public Law 92-534, approved October 23, 1972, (86 Stat. 1063). Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to administer refuges, hatcheries and other conservation areas for recreational use, when such uses do not interfere with the areas' primary purposes.

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

Resource Conservation Recovery Act, (42 U.S.C. 6901). Establishes standards for Federal agencies on the treatment, transportation, storage, and disposal of solid and hazardous wastes on Federal lands and facilities.

Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act, (16. U.S.C. 5301-5306, 1538). Authorizes grants to other nations and to the CITES Secretariat for programs directly or indirectly assisting in the conservation of rhinoceros and tigers. Prohibits the sale, importation, and exportation of products derived from any species of rhinoceros and tiger.

Salmon and Steelhead Conservation and Enhancement Act, (16 U.S.C. 3301, 11-15, 21-25, 31-36, 41-45). Provides for management and enhancement planning to help prevent a further decline of salmon and steelhead stocks, and to assist in increasing the supply of these stocks within the Columbia River conservation area and the Washington conservation area.

Sikes Act, (16 U.S.C. 670a-670o). Authorizes the Secretary to cooperate with the Department of Defense, Department of Energy, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Bureau of Land Management, and State agencies in planning, developing, maintaining and rehabilitating Federal lands for the benefit of fish and wildlife resources and their habitat.

Strategic Response to Asian Carp Invasion Act, (P.L. 113-121). Requires the Director of the Service, in coordination with the Army Corps of Engineers, the National Park Service and the U.S. Geological Survey, to lead a multiagency effort to slow the spread of Asian carp in the Upper Mississippi and Ohio River basins and tributaries by providing high-level technical assistance, coordination, best practices, and support to State and local government strategies, to slow, and eventually eliminate, the threat posed by such carp. Enacted in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014.

Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, (30 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.). Authorizes the Secretary to regulate surface mining and reclamation at existing and future mining areas. The Service provides technical assistance for fish and wildlife aspects of the Department of the Interior's programs on active and abandoned mine lands.

Water Resources Development Act, (90 Stat. 2921). Authorizes the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan to mitigate fish and wildlife losses caused by power generation at four Corps of Engineers dams on the Lower Snake River in Washington.

Wild Bird Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 4901-4916). Requires that all trade in wild bird involving the United States is biologically sustainable and to the benefit of the species, and by limiting or prohibiting imports of exotic birds when not beneficial to the species.

Youth Conservation Corps Act, (16 USC 1701-1706) as amended by P.L. 93-408, September 3, 1974. Expands and makes permanent the Youth Conservation Corps. The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program, started in 1971, is a summer employment program for young men and women (ages 15–18) from all segments of society who work, learn, and earn together by doing projects for the Service's National Wildlife Refuge System lands and National Fish Hatcheries. The objectives of this program (as reflected in Public Law 93-408) authorize the Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service to operate the YCC Program.

Executive Orders

The EOs listed are not an exhaustive list and are those most frequently referenced and used by the Service.

Floodplain Management, (Executive Order 11988). Requires that federally-owned floodplains be protected through restricting future activities that would harm the floodplain resource or withhold such properties from lease or disposal to non-federal public or private partners.

Migratory Birds, (Executive Order 13186). Directs Federal agencies taking actions that may have measurable negative impacts on migratory bird populations to enter into memoranda of understanding (MOU) with the Service to promote conservation of migratory bird populations and directs the Secretary of the Interior to establish a multi-agency Council for the Conservation of Migratory Birds.

Protection of Wetlands, (Executive Order 11990). Requires that federally-owned wetlands proposed for lease or conveyance to non-federal public or private parties be protected through restricting any future uses that would degrade or harm the wetland resource in the conveyance or withhold such properties from lease or disposal.

Recreational Fisheries, (Executive Order 12962). Directs Federal agencies to improve the quantity, function, and sustainable productivity, and distribution of U.S. aquatic resources for increased resources for recreational fishing opportunities. The Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service are ordered to promote compatibility and to reduce conflicts between the administration of the *Endangered Species Act* and recreational fisheries. The Secretary is directed to expand the role of the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership council to monitor specific Federal activities affecting aquatic systems and the recreational fisheries they support.

Presidential Executive Order on Enforcing Federal Law with Respect to Transnational Criminal Organizations and Preventing International Trafficking, (Executive Order 13773) Strengthens enforcement of Federal law in order to thwart transnational criminal organizations and subsidiary organizations, including criminal gangs, cartels, racketeering organizations, and other groups engaged in illicit activities, such as illegal smuggling and trafficking of wildlife, that present a threat to public safety and national security.

Expediting Environmental Reviews and Approvals for High Priority Infrastructure Projects, (Executive Order 13766). Directs agencies to make the Federal permitting and review process of infrastructure projects efficient and effective to support economic growth while ensuring the health, safety, and security of the environment and communities. Agencies are to provide transparency, consistency, and predictability in the process for both project sponsors and affected communities.

Major Treaties and Conventions

The Service is party to numerous International Treaties and Conventions, all of which cannot be listed here due to space constraints. However, those listed below are more pertinent to the daily activities of Service programs.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Flora and Fauna, (TIAS 8249). Parties who signed the Convention in March of 1973 agreed to restrict international trade in all species threatened with extinction (Appendix I species), all species which may be threatened with extinction unless trade is halted or restricted (Appendix II species), and all species which the parties identify as being subject to regulation for the purpose of preventing or restricting exploitation (Appendix III species). Many species listed under CITES are also listed under the *Endangered Species Act*. The Service is responsible for issuing all CITES permits in the United States.

Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere, (56 Stat. 1354). Signed in October of 1940, this Convention authorizes the contracting parties to establish national parks, national reserves, nature monuments, and strict wilderness reserves for the preservation of flora and fauna, especially migratory birds.

Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar), (TIAS 11084). The Ramsar Convention, ratified by over 90 nations, promotes the sustainable management of important wetlands around the world, especially as habitat for waterfowl. The Service's objective with this initiative is to strengthen worldwide collaboration regarding conservation and management of wetlands habitats which sustain resources shared by or of importance to all countries of the globe.

Summary of Requirements Appropriation: Resource Management <i>(Dollars in Thousands)</i>													
	2016 Actual		2017 CR Baseline		Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers		Program Changes		2018 Request		Change from 2017 (+/-)	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount		FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Ecological Services													
Listing	127	20,515	127	20,476	+308	0	0	-10	-3,662	117	17,122	-10	-3,354
Planning and Consultation	694	99,079	709	98,891	+1,729	0	0	0	-1,865	709	98,755	0	-136
Conservation and Restoration	182	32,396	189	32,334	+445	0	0	-20	-3,004	169	29,775	-20	-2,559
Recovery	400	82,016	425	82,013	+1,068	0	0	+25	-3,518	450	79,563	+25	-2,450
Subtotal, Ecological Services	1,393	234,006	1,450	233,714	+3,550	0	0	-5	-12,049	1,445	225,215	-5	-8,499
Habitat Conservation													
Partners for Fish and Wildlife	243	51,776	235	51,677	+532	0	0	-15	-6,325	220	45,884	-15	-5,793
Coastal Program	60	13,375	56	13,350	+174	0	0	-5	-1,554	51	11,970	-5	-1,380
Subtotal, Habitat Conservation	303	65,151	291	65,027	+706	0	0	-20	-7,879	271	57,854	-20	-7,173
National Wildlife Refuge System													
Wildlife and Habitat Management	1,433	230,343	1,425	229,905	+2,995	0	0	0	-8,007	1,425	224,893	0	-5,012
Visitor Services	525	73,319	515	73,179	+1,055	0	0	0	-3,143	515	71,091	0	-2,088
Refuge Law Enforcement	245	38,054	243	37,982	+566	0	0	0	-619	243	37,929	0	-53
Conservation Planning	18	2,523	13	2,518	0	0	0	-13	-2,518	0	0	-13	-2,518
Refuge Maintenance	576	137,188	576	136,928	+926	0	0	0	-1,658	576	136,196	0	-732
Subtotal, National Wildlife Refuge System	2,797	481,427	2,772	480,512	5,542	0	0	-13	-15,945	2,759	470,109	-13	-10,403
Conservation and Enforcement													
Migratory Bird Management	220	47,480	217	47,390	+547	0	0	-10	-3,936	207	44,001	-10	-3,389
Law Enforcement	285	74,725	339	74,583	+865	0	0	-5	-2,446	334	73,002	-5	-1,581
International Affairs	74	14,696	77	14,668	+181	0	0	-2	-666	75	14,183	-2	-485
Subtotal, Conservation and Enforcement	579	136,901	633	136,641	+1,593	0	0	-17	-7,048	616	131,186	-17	-5,455
Fish and Aquatic Conservation													
National Fish Hatchery System Operations	336	53,418	331	53,316	+788	0	0	0	-2,162	331	51,942	0	-1,374
Maintenance and Equipment	64	19,920	68	19,882	0	0	0	0	0	68	19,882	0	0
Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation	297	74,918	296	74,776	+755	0	0	-60	-10,942	236	64,589	-60	-10,187
Subtotal, Fish and Aquatic Conservation	697	148,256	695	147,974	+1,543	0	0	-60	-13,104	635	136,413	-60	-11,561
Cooperative Landscape Conservation													
Central Office Operations	67	12,988	67	12,963	0	0	0	-67	-12,963	0	0	-67	-12,963
Science Support													
Adaptive Science	10	10,517	6	10,497	0	0	0	-6	-10,497	0	0	-6	-10,497
Service Science	16	6,468	11	6,456	0	0	0	-11	-6,456	0	0	-11	-6,456
Subtotal, Science Support	26	16,985	17	16,953	0	0	0	-17	-16,953	0	0	-17	-16,953
General Operations													
Central Office Operations	243	40,722	249	40,492	+923	0	0	-20	-4,450	229	36,965	-20	-3,527
Regional Office Operations	383	37,722	383	37,650	+933	0	0	-34	-5,009	349	33,574	-34	-4,076
Service-wide Bill Paying	18	35,170	18	35,110	+1,255	0	0	0	0	18	36,365	0	+1,255
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	0	7,022	0	7,009	0	0	0	0	-2,000	0	5,009	0	-2,000
National Conservation Training Center	120	22,414	119	22,371	+279	0	0	-28	-4,211	91	18,439	-28	-3,932
Subtotal, General Operations	764	143,057	769	142,632	+3,390	0	0	-82	-15,670	687	130,352	-82	-12,280
Total, Resource Management	6,626	1,238,771	6,694	1,236,416	+16,324	0	0	-281	-101,611	6,413	1,151,129	-281	-85,287

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Resource Management Justification of Fixed Costs and Internal Realignments <i>(Dollars In Thousands)</i>		
Fixed Cost Changes and Projections	2017 Total or Change	2017 to 2018 Change
Change in Number of Paid Days This column reflects changes in pay associated with the change in the number of paid days between the CY and BY.	-5,589	+0
Pay Raise The change reflects the salary impact of the 2.1% pay raise for 2017 as signed by the President in December 2016, and the estimated 1.9% pay raise for 2018.	+14,204	+13,766
Departmental Working Capital Fund The change reflects expected changes in the charges for centrally billed Department services and other services through the Working Capital Fund. These charges are detailed in the Budget Justification for Departmental Management.	-368	+876
Worker's Compensation Payments The amounts reflect projected changes in the costs of compensating injured employees and dependents of employees who suffer accidental deaths while on duty. Costs will reimburse the Department of Labor, Federal Employees Compensation Fund, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 8147(b) as amended by Public Law 94-273.	+151	+355
Unemployment Compensation Payments The amounts reflect projected changes in the costs of unemployment compensation claims to be paid to the Department of Labor, Federal Employees Compensation Account, in the Unemployment Trust Fund, pursuant to Public Law 96-499.	-311	+24
Rental Payments The amounts reflect changes in the costs payable to the General Services Administration (GSA) and others 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 the Department of Homeland Security (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.	-2,736	+1,303
Baseline Adjustments for O&M Increases In accordance with space maximization efforts across the Federal Government, this adjustment captures the associated increase to baseline operations and maintenance (O&M) requirements resulting from movement out of GSA or direct-leased (commercial) space and into Bureau-owned space. While the GSA portion of fixed costs will go down as a result of these moves, Bureaus often encounter an increase to baseline O&M costs not otherwise captured in fixed costs. This category of funding properly adjusts the baseline fixed cost amount to maintain steady-state funding for these requirements.	+69	+0

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT			
Program and Financing (in million of dollars)	2016	2017	2018
Identification Code 010-18-14-1611	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Combined Schedule (X)			
Obligations by program activity:			
0001 Ecological Services	227	232	240
0002 National Wildlife Refuge System	484	495	516
0004 Conservation and Enforcement	177	182	166
0005 Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation	147	156	154
0006 Habitat Conservation	71	72	65
0007 Cooperative Landscape Conservation	13	14	1
0008 General Operations	148	150	149
0009 Science Support	17	19	4
0100 Subtotal, direct program	1,284	1,320	1,295
0799 Total direct obligations	1,284	1,320	1,295
0801 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative	49	45	0
0802 Reimbursable program activity all other	175	185	140
0899 Total reimbursable obligations	224	230	140
0900 Total new obligations, unexpired accounts	1,508	1,550	1,435
Budgetary resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	288	310	268
1011 Unobligated balance transfer from other acct [014-0102]	0	0	0
1021 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	21	18	18
1050 Unobligated balance (total)	309	328	286
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, discretionary:			
1100 Appropriation	1,239	1,236	1,151
1121 Appropriations transferred from other acct [072-1021]	0	0	0
1121 Appropriations transferred from other acct [096-3123]	0	0	0
1160 Appropriation, discretionary (total)	1,239	1,236	1,151
Spending authority from offsetting collections, discretionary:			
1700 Collected	254	254	254
1701 Change in uncollected payments, Federal sources	16	0	0
1750 Spending auth from offsetting collections, disc (total)	270	254	254
1900 Budget authority (total)	1,509	1,490	1,405
1930 Total budgetary resources available	1,818	1,818	1,691
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	310	268	256
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	570	568	624
3010 New obligations, unexpired accounts	1,508	1,550	1,435
3011 Obligations ("upward adjustments"), expired accounts	3	0	0
3020 Outlays (gross)	-1,481	-1,476	-1,491
3040 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations, unexpired	-21	-18	-18
3041 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations, expired	-11	0	0
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	568	624	550
Uncollected payments:			
3060 Uncollected pymts, Fed sources, brought forward, Oct 1	-289	-285	-285
3070 Change in uncollected pymts, Fed sources, unexpired	-16	0	0
3071 Change in uncollected pymts, Fed sources, expired	20	0	0
3090 Uncollected pymts, Fed sources, end of year	-285	-285	-285

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT			
Program and Financing (in million of dollars)	2016	2017	2018
Identification Code 010-18-14-1611	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	281	283	339
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	283	339	265
<u>Budget authority and outlays, net:</u>			
Discretionary:			
4000 Budget authority, gross	1,509	1,490	1,405
Outlays, gross:			
4010 Outlays from new discretionary authority	861	967	908
4011 Outlays from discretionary balances	620	509	583
4020 Outlays, gross (total)	1,481	1,476	1,491
Offsets against gross budget authority and outlays:			
Offsetting collections (collected) from:			
4030 Federal sources	-215	-198	-198
4033 Non-Federal sources	-56	-56	-56
4040 Offsets against gross budget authority and outlays (total)	-271	-254	-254
Additional offsets against gross budget authority only:			
4050 Change in uncollected pymts, Fed sources, unexpired	-16	0	0
4052 Offsetting collections credited to expired accounts	17	0	0
4060 Additional offsets against budget authority only (total)	1	0	0
4070 Budget authority, net (discretionary)	1,239	1,236	1,151
4080 Outlays, net (discretionary)	1,210	1,222	1,237
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	1,239	1,236	1,151
4190 Outlays, net (total)	1,210	1,222	1,237

Object Classification (O)			
<u>Direct obligations:</u>			
11.1 Full-time permanent	512	530	523
11.3 Other than full-time permanent	27	29	27
11.5 Other personnel compensation	23	23	22
11.8 Special personal services payments	0	0	0
11.9 Total personnel compensation	562	582	572
12.1 Civilian personnel benefits	210	217	214
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons	33	33	30
22.0 Transportation of things	6	6	5
23.1 Rental payments to GSA	48	48	48
23.2 Rental payments to others	2	2	2
23.3 Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges	28	28	28
24.0 Printing and reproduction	4	4	4
25.1 Advisory and assistance services	10	10	10
25.2 Other services from non-Federal sources	55	55	55
25.3 Other goods and services from Federal sources	36	36	36
25.4 Operation and maintenance of facilities	32	32	32
25.7 Operation and maintenance of equipment	18	18	18
26.0 Supplies and materials	46	46	46
31.0 Equipment	43	43	43
32.0 Land and structures	21	21	21
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	129	138	130
42.0 Insurance claims and indemnities	1	1	1
99.0 Subtotal, obligations, Direct obligations	1,284	1,320	1,295

Standard Form 300 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT			
Program and Financing (in million of dollars) Identification Code 010-18-14-1611	2016 Actual	2017 Estimate	2018 Estimate
Reimbursable obligations:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	38	41	30
11.3 Other than full-time permanent	11	12	12
11.5 Other personnel compensation	2	2	2
11.9 Total personnel compensation	51	55	44
12.1 Civilian personnel benefits	18	20	15
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons	4	4	4
23.1 Rental payments to GSA	1	1	1
23.3 Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges	3	3	3
25.1 Advisory and assistance services	1	1	1
25.2 Other services from non-Federal sources	18	18	18
25.3 Other goods and services from Federal sources	23	23	3
25.4 Operation and maintenance of facilities	10	10	10
25.7 Operation and maintenance of equipment	1	1	1
26.0 Supplies and materials	11	11	11
31.0 Equipment	7	7	5
32.0 Land and structures	4	4	4
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	72	72	20
99.0 Subtotal, obligations, Reimbursable obligations	224	230	140
99.9 Total new obligations, unexpired accounts	1,508	1,550	1,435

Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	6,838	6,906	6,625
2001 Reimbursable civilian full-time equivalent employment	771	798	798
3001 Allocation account civilian full-time equivalent employment	517	498	472

Ecological Services



Activity: Ecological Services

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018			Change from 2017 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Listing	(\$000) FTE	20,515 127	20,476 127	+308 0	0 0	-3,662 -10	17,122 117	-3,354 -10
Planning and Consultation	(\$000) FTE	99,079 684	98,891 709	+1,729 0	0 0	-1,865 0	98,755 709	-136 0
Conservation and Restoration	(\$000) FTE	32,396 182	32,334 189	+445 0	0 0	-3,004 -20	29,775 169	-2,559 -20
Recovery	(\$000) FTE	82,016 400	82,013 425	+1,068 0	0 0	-3,518 +25	79,563 450	-2,450 +25
Total, Ecological Services	(\$000) FTE	234,006 1,393	233,714 1,450	+3,550 0	0 0	-12,049 -5	225,215 1,445	-8,449 -5

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for Ecological Services

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Critical Habitat	-1,326	-2
• Listing	-1,336	-2
• Foreign Listing	-1,000	-6
• Planning and Consultation Activities	-1,865	0
• Conservation and Restoration Activities	-3,004	-20
• Recovery Activities	+1,845	+25
• Multi-Partner Recovery Activities	-499	0
• Wolf Livestock Demonstration Program	-998	0
• Cooperative Recovery Initiative	-1,371	0
• State of the Birds Activities	-2,495	0
Program Changes	-12,049	-5

Program Mission

Ecological Services field offices are the primary way the Service delivers its conservation services locally. Field offices provide leadership in environmental restoration and response to make communities safer from contamination; conduct timely environmental reviews of Federal projects to streamline development; lead efforts to recover species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA); permit take of listed species; work to restore species before they need to be listed; and provide technical assistance to communities for conservation. The Program works closely with our partners to meet the conservation challenges of today and tomorrow. Headquarters staff in the Program develop national policies and guidance to facilitate implementation of the Nation’s species conservation laws; prepare and review rulemakings; conduct environmental reviews with other Federal agencies; provide outreach and build partnerships to advance the Program’s goals; and provide assistance to States under the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund. The Ecological Services program recognizes that through

cooperative action we can achieve the Nation's objectives for a healthy environment and a strong economy.

Program Elements

The Ecological Services program is comprised of the following program elements:

- **Listing** – Uses the best scientific information available to identify foreign and domestic plant and animal species that are in danger of extinction or likely to become in danger of extinction within the foreseeable future and thus need protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- **Planning and Consultation** – Provides integrated advanced project planning, environmental review, and permitting assistance to proactively address environmental concerns in support of economic recovery, business growth, and demand for new infrastructure and community development.
- **Conservation and Restoration** – Delivers proactive species conservation efforts in partnership with States and landowners to prevent the need to list a species when possible; protects and restores habitat important to Federal trust species; and provides databases and mapping products that are essential tools for conservation and restoration of species and habitats by landowners, other Federal and State agencies and the public.
- **Recovery** – Guides communities and stakeholders through the recovery process for endangered and threatened species to provide certainty and knowledge to minimize or reduce threats to a listed species so the species can be removed from Federal protection.

Applicable Laws, Acts, and Orders

Under various statutes and authorities, the Ecological Services Program is charged with providing technical solutions and compliance with a variety of conservation laws, most specifically the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Emergency Wetlands Resources Act, Clean Water Act, Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA), Oil Pollution Act, Federal Power Act, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), and multiple Executive Orders. Through these operating authorities, the Service identifies potential impacts and provides solutions that prevent species and their habitats from becoming more imperiled.

Subactivity: Ecological Services
Program Element: Listing

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018				Change from 2017 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Critical Habitat	(\$000)	4,605	4,596	0	0	-1,326	3,270	-1,326
	FTE	31	31	0	0	-2	29	-2
Listing	(\$000)	12,905	12,881	+308	0	-1,336	11,853	-1,028
	FTE	78	78	0	0	-2	76	-2
Foreign Listing	(\$000)	1,504	1,501	0	0	-1,000	501	-1,000
	FTE	9	9	0	0	-6	3	-6
Petitions	(\$000)	1,501	1,498	0	0	0	1,498	0
	FTE	9	9	0	0	0	9	0
Total, Listing	(\$000)	20,515	20,476	+308	0	-3,662	17,122	-3,354
	FTE	127	127	0	0	-10	117	-10

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for Conservation and Restoration

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Critical Habitat	-1,326	-2
• Listing	-1,336	-2
• Foreign Listing	-1,000	-6
Program Changes	-3,662	-10

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for Listing is \$17,122,000 and 117 FTE, a program change of -\$3,662,000 and -10 FTE from the 2017 CR Baseline.

Critical Habitat (-\$1,326,000/-2 FTE)

The ESA requires that the Service determine critical habitat as part of the listing process. Through critical habitat designations, the Service identifies specific areas essential to the conservation of the species that may require special management considerations or protection, using the best available scientific data. For most species, the Service determines whether a critical habitat designation is prudent or determinable concurrent with the listing process. Consistent with appropriations language establishing a subcap for this activity, these funds are only used for species that have been listed for at least a year and for which the Service has not yet designated critical habitat. Given that the backlog of species without critical habitat has decreased significantly, this request proposes a reduction in dedicated funding for critical habitat determinations separate from the listing process in order to fund higher priority conservation projects.

Listing (-\$1,336,000/-2 FTE)

In FY 2018, the Service proposes to reduce funding for listing domestic species. This request seeks resources to carry out statutory listing duties, including timely proposed and final rule-makings. Adequate funding and staffing to carry out these mandatory duties supports timely and transparent decision making based on the best available scientific information, with effective public involvement, and minimizes the risk of litigation to enforce missed deadlines.

Foreign Listing (-\$1,000,000/-6 FTE)

In FY 2018, the Service proposes to reduce funding for listing of imperiled foreign species. This request seeks resources to carry out statutory listing duties for foreign species. Mandatory duties include timely

and transparent decision-making based on the best available scientific information with effective public involvement to minimize the risk of litigation that are brought to enforce missed deadlines.

Program Overview

Congress passed the ESA to prevent extinctions facing many species of fish, wildlife and plants and recover those species on the brink. The purpose of the ESA is to conserve endangered and threatened species and the ecosystems on which they depend as key components of America's heritage. Before a plant or animal species can receive the protection provided by the ESA, it must first be added to the Federal lists of threatened and endangered wildlife and plants. Placing a species on the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife (50 CFR 17.11) or the List of Endangered and Threatened Plants (50 CFR 17.12), and designating critical habitat as required under the ESA, focuses resources and efforts by the Service and its partners on recovering the species.

Through the Listing subactivity, the Service uses the best scientific information available to identify foreign and domestic plant and animal species that are in danger of extinction or likely to become in danger of extinction within the foreseeable future and thus need protection under the ESA. Species considered for listing can be identified independently by the Service or brought to the Service's attention by petitions received from the public under Section 4 of the Act. The Service has worked to increase coordination and collaboration with States during the listing process. Under new petition management guidance, petitioners must notify the State agency or agencies primarily responsible for the management and conservation of fish, plant, or wildlife resources in each State where the species is subject to the petition prior to submitting the petition to the Service. State agencies are asked to share data or information for consideration in the petition process. The Service also receives petitions for amendments to critical habitat and other actions. Under the ESA, when the Service receives a petition it must respond within specific timeframes.

Upon receipt of a petition, the Service must respond, within 90 days when practicable, with a finding as to whether the petition provided substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted. If the Service determines the petition did not provide substantial information indicating that the action may be warranted, the 90-day finding completes the petition management process for that petition. However, if the Service determines the petition provided substantial information, the Service initiates a status review and issues a finding within 12 months of the receipt of the petition.

There are three possible outcomes of the "12-month finding": 1) listing is not warranted, and no further action is taken; 2) listing is warranted, and a listing proposal is promptly prepared; or 3) listing is warranted but precluded by higher priority actions (this determination is based on the species' listing priority number and the listing workload), and preparation of a listing proposal is therefore delayed until higher priority actions are completed.

Section 4 of the ESA has strict deadlines for the processing of listing and critical habitat actions. For example, section 4(b)(6)(C) requires critical habitat to be designated at the time of listing, section 4(b)(6)(A) requires final listing rules to be promulgated no later than 12 months after the proposed rule, and section 4(b)(3)(B) requires final petition findings to be made within 12 months of a petition to list a species if a positive 90-day finding has been made.

When the Service cannot comply with a section 4 deadline, parties frequently file lawsuits under the citizen suit provision of the ESA. These missed deadline suits nearly always result in a court order or a settlement agreement requiring the Service to act, as courts have concluded that they have little or no discretion to give the Service relief from the mandatory deadlines of section 4 of the ESA.

The Service uses the following definitions for listing determinations:

ESA DEFINITIONS	
<i>Endangered</i>	<i>Threatened</i>
A species is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.	A species is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Five factors, specified in the ESA, are considered in each listing determination. These determinations must be based on the best available scientific and commercial information about the species and threats to its survival. Other factors, including economic impact, cannot be considered during a listing decision. The Service uses peer-review to ensure that decisions are based on sound science. All proposed rule-makings for listing determinations are published in the *Federal Register* and each proposed listing triggers a public comment period. Per statutory requirements, the Service must respond to public comments and complete a final rule within one year of the proposed rule. The Service’s Endangered Species Listing subactivity supports development of the recommendations to the Director for listing a species, uplisting a species from “Threatened” to “Endangered,” and designating critical habitat.

Using the best scientific and commercial data available, the listing rule and its supporting documents provide information on the species (taxonomy, historic and current range, population information, habitat requirements, etc.), an analysis of the threats faced by the species, designation of critical habitat if appropriate, an assessment of the effectiveness of applicable conservation measures, and establishes actions that would be prohibited if the species were to be listed.

Critical habitat is an often misunderstood tool that is designated if a species is listed as endangered or threatened under the ESA. Designation of critical habitat does not create a park or preserve, nor are all areas used by a species designated as critical habitat. First, the Service identifies specific areas essential to the conservation of the species and which may require special management considerations or protection, using the best available scientific data. Second, the Service conducts an economic impact analysis. Areas under consideration for critical habitat may be excluded from protection based on this analysis and other factors such as existing habitat management plans. The Service publishes a notice in the *Federal Register* for all proposals to designate critical habitat so that affected States, landowners, and interested parties can provide input to inform the decision.

Legal protections afforded under sections 7 and 9 of the ESA become effective upon listing to help prevent the decline and extinction of many species. Information sought and compiled through the rule-making process associated with the listing determination informs and streamlines subsequent section 7 consultation and section 10 permitting activities and provides information crucial for recovery planning and implementation.

The ESA authorizes listing of species not found in the U.S. to further conservation of these species where needed. The process for providing ESA protection for foreign species is the same as for domestic species. Foreign species management tools, initiated by an ESA listing, are limited to trade restrictions through section 9 and/or CITES trade prohibitions, education and public awareness, and grant monies. Direct recovery actions are not practicable. While the Service works to accomplish many of the pending actions related to listing foreign species, it believes there is a higher conservation benefit in listing domestic species. The continuation of a budget sub-cap for listing and petition findings related to foreign species allows the Service, within its existing resources, to balance its duty to protect both foreign and domestic species in a way that will not detract from its efforts to protect imperiled domestic species.

Listing 2018 Program Performance

Listing Determinations for U.S. Species*

During FY 2018, the Service projects the following determinations:

- 19 Proposed listing determinations with critical habitat for 23 species.
- 14 Final listing determinations for 17 species.
- Emergency listings as necessary.

Petition Findings

The Service intends to address all 90-day petitions as received, and anticipates publishing 12-month petition findings for 47 species in FY 2018.

Listing Determinations for Foreign Species

During FY 2018, the Service projects completing a total of 7 actions for 33 foreign species.

Endangered Species Listing - Program Change Table

Performance Goal	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Target	2016 Actual	2017 Target	2018 PB	Change from 2017 Target to 2018 PB
7.32.1 - % of final listing determinations promulgated in a timely manner	8% (8 of 95)	87% (40 of 46)	22% (2 of 9)	62% (8 of 13)	100% (5 of 5)	100% (15 of 15)	100% (14 of 14)	0% (0.0%)
Comments:	Associated with funding change in Listing							
7.32.4 - % of listing petition findings promulgated according to schedule of the national workplan						100% (5 of 5)	100% (16 of 16)	0% (0.0%)
Comments:	The current 7-year national listing workplan was finalized in September 2016 and is used as the baseline for FY18 PB's value.							

Subactivity: Ecological Services
Program Element: Planning and Consultation

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018			Change from 2017 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Planning and Consultation	(\$000) FTE	99,079 684	98,891 709	+1,729 0	0 0	-1,865 0	98,755 709	-136 0

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for Conservation and Restoration

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Planning and Consultation Activities	-1,865	0
Program Changes	-1,865	0

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for Planning and Consultation is \$98,755,000 and 709 FTE, a program change of -\$1,865,000 and +0 FTE from the 2017 CR Baseline.

Planning and Consultation Activities (-\$1,580,000/+0 FTE)

Timely evaluations and permitting of proposed infrastructure and other projects contributes to economic growth and job creation. We accomplish this work using numerous tools and authorities, including technical assistance to permitting agencies, consulting and issuing permits for projects under the ESA and other Federal laws, and working with local and State governments early to identify the best, low-impact areas for development. Without adequate funding and staff to carry out our environmental review and permitting responsibilities, project review and permitting efforts cannot proceed on schedule, which can impede the realization of economic and environmental benefits.

Program Overview

Planning and Consultation is the primary customer service component of the Ecological Services program. With this funding, the Service provides a field-based, landscape-level approach that works collaboratively with industry, agencies, Tribes, and other stakeholders to balance conservation and development needs. Service biologists work with stakeholders at the planning stages of federally-authorized, licensed, or funded projects—from highway expansions to energy development—to ensure that development has minimal impact on wildlife and habitats.

By engaging in project development and planning processes early, the Service can save taxpayers and developers money by reducing threats to species in a way that helps prevent the need to list animals as endangered or threatened in the future, streamlining the permitting process so that benefits are realized sooner, reducing paperwork, and minimizing environmental impacts of development projects.

ESA Section 7(a)(1): requires Federal agencies to use their authorities to further the purposes of the ESA by carrying out conservation programs to benefit endangered and threatened species.

ESA Section 7(a)(2): requires Federal agencies to ensure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by the agency is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or destroy or adversely modify critical habitat.

Early coordination and involvement in the project siting and design process can minimize the impacts of a project on wildlife. Through our authority for interagency

consultation under section 7 of the ESA, the Service collaborates with its partners to identify opportunities to reduce adverse impacts of development activities. If an agency action is likely to adversely affect a listed species or critical habitat, the Federal agency must initiate consultations with the Service. This requirement may affect private individuals when their action involves Federal authorization or funding. Service biologists provide technical assistance that identifies and explains ways to modify or reduce adverse effects of proposed projects on listed species so that projects can proceed on schedule and in compliance with all applicable environmental laws.

Using the Habitat Conservation Planning authority under Section 10 of the ESA, the Service provides technical assistance to non-Federal entities in the development of Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) and issues incidental take permits. The Service's incidental take permit program is a flexible process for addressing situations in which a property owner's otherwise lawful activities might result in incidental take of a listed species. Through HCPs, the Service facilitates private and other non-Federal land development with proactive species and conservation planning that addresses threats and fulfills species recovery needs. The HCP program encourages applicants to explore different methods to achieve compliance with the ESA and choose an approach that best suits their needs.

Environmental review functions constitute a significant workload for the Service, and we are continuously looking for efficiencies to improve our processes. In response, the Service is enhancing our Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) decision support system for streamlining the environmental review process. This allows for rapid identification of potential projects that will not affect listed species and expedites completion of requirements involving ESA section 7 consultations, section 10 HCPs, and other environmental review processes.

The Service provides technical assistance on major power line projects, avoiding impacts to listed species, migratory birds and other wildlife.

In recent years there has been an increase in demand for expeditious processing of permits for traditional energy development and transmission rights-of-way. The Service has worked to improve its customer service by placing an emphasis on facilitating energy project reviews. We work with industry to help ensure the

Nation's domestic energy resources are developed and delivered in an environmentally responsible way. The unparalleled drive toward domestic energy production has increased emphasis on expanding and accelerating traditional and non-traditional energy projects. For example, during the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensing and relicensing process, Service biologists work with industry to minimize aquatic and terrestrial impacts and implement effective mitigation. Conservation measures recommended by Service biologists include prescriptions for fish passage, in-stream flows, and habitat acquisition and restoration. Through an IPaC tool, project applicants can obtain information early in the planning process to guide project siting away from potential conflicts with listed species and other Federal trust resources. Demand for similar support to infrastructure projects is also growing. The Service will continue to work closely with other Federal agencies in FY 2018 to advance infrastructure projects expeditiously while minimizing adverse impacts to fish and wildlife.

Within the Planning and Consultation program, the Service also uses its technical expertise to collaborate with many internal and external partners to evaluate the impacts of contaminants on fish, wildlife and plants. These activities are conducted under the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Section 7 of the ESA, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), and the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. The Service also works closely with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on water quality standards and pesticide registrations.

Planning and Consultation 2018 Program Performance

The Service anticipates the following accomplishments and activities:

- Facilitate environmental reviews for major infrastructure projects, i.e., transportation, transmission, pipeline, renewable energy, and other significant investments, in support of Executive Order 13766, Expediting Environmental Reviews and Approvals for High Priority Infrastructure Projects.
- Work with all Federal and other customers under multiple authorities to evaluate and permit development projects that contribute to economic growth and job creation. In FY 2018, the Service anticipates completing an additional 1,898 technical assistance requests as compared to FY 2017.
- Provide web-based solutions through the Information, Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system for expediting completion of requirements involving ESA section 7 consultations, section 10 HCPs, and other environmental review processes.
- In coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service, continue to consult with the Environmental Protection Agency on the reregistration of pesticides and their effect on threatened and endangered species.

Planning and Consultation - Combined Program Change and Overview Table

Performance Goal	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Target	2016 Actual	2017 Target	2018 PB	Change from 2017 Target to 2018 PB
4.7.5 - % of requests for technical assistance completed	90% (18,762 of 20,852)	92% (16,785 of 18,306)	90% (13,251 of 14,659)	82% (4,998 of 6,132)	90% (12,143 of 13,446)	88% (10,862 of 12,289)	88% (10,862 of 12,289)	0%
7.31.1 - % of formal/informal "other non-resource-use specific" consultations addressed in a timely manner	85% (7,390 of 8,680)	83% (6,722 of 8,077)	84% (7,105 of 8,413)	81% (5,484 of 6,758)	83% (8,400 of 10,131)	79% (6,813 of 8,572)	79% (6,813 of 8,572)	0%
14.1.2 - % of formal/informal energy (non-hydropower) consultation addressed in a timely manner	87% (1,263 of 1,454)	85% (1,074 of 1,265)	87% (1,016 of 1,172)	76% (563 of 744)	73% (963 of 1,315)	68% (744 of 1,093)	68% (744 of 1,093)	0%

Subactivity: Ecological Services
Program Element: Conservation and Restoration

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018			Change from 2017 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Conservation and Restoration	(\$000)	32,396	32,334	+445	0	-3,004	29,775	-2,559
	FTE	182	189	0	0	-20	169	-20

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for Conservation and Restoration

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Conservation and Restoration Activities	-3,004	-20
Program Changes	-3,004	-20

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for Conservation and Restoration is \$29,775,000 and 169 FTE, a program change of -\$3,004,000 and -20 FTE from the 2017 CR Baseline.

Conservation and Restoration Activities (-\$3,004,000/-20 FTE)

Conservation and Restoration focuses on conservation of at-risk species, some of which are candidates for listing. These funds are used for two primary activities: conducting species assessments to determine if they should be candidates for listing and facilitating voluntary conservation efforts for species under consideration for listing under the ESA in an effort to preclude the need to list the species in the future.

In FY 2018, the Service proposes to reduce funding for facilitating voluntary conservation efforts in order to fund higher priority conservation activities elsewhere in the budget request. Under the North American Model of Conservation, the responsibility for species not listed under the ESA generally lies with the States. The Service supports States’ leadership roles in facilitating voluntary conservation efforts by private landowners and other partners for priority candidate and other species-at-risk for which potential listing is a concern. Guided by the national seven-year listing workplan, the States can leverage their expertise and relationships to provide landowners with technical and financial assistance to achieve specific conservation goals for candidate and petitioned species and thus potentially eliminate the need to list a species. For the many species whose ranges span state boundaries, States have shown a commitment to working together on candidate conservation. In the case of the New England cottontail, State agencies, along with towns, land trusts, and private landowners worked with the Service to restore habitat, precluding the need to list the species.

Remaining funding would mostly be used for candidate assessment as required by the ESA and published annually so that the States, landowners, and other partners are aware of species pending consideration for listing.

Program Overview

Through the **Conservation and Restoration** subactivity, the Service supports collaborative species conservation efforts, works to protect and restore habitats that are important to Federal trust species, and provides mapping products and databases that are essential tools for conservation and restoration of species and habitats by other Federal and State agencies and the public.

Candidate Conservation

As noted above, this subactivity focuses on conducting species assessments and facilitating voluntary conservation efforts. Annually, the Service publishes a Candidate Notice of Review (CNOR): an updated list of plant and animal species native to the United States that we regard as candidates for or have proposed for listing under the ESA. Identification of candidate species can assist environmental planning efforts by providing advance notice of potential listings, and by allowing landowners and resource managers to alleviate threats and thereby possibly remove the need to list species as endangered or threatened. By reducing threats to species and their habitats before they become critically imperiled, future conservation efforts are likely to be less costly, more flexible, and more likely to result in successful conservation over time. Even if we subsequently list a candidate species, the early notice provided can result in more options for species management and recovery by prompting earlier candidate conservation measures to alleviate threats to the species. The most recent Candidate Notice of Review (81 Federal Register 87246, December 2, 2016) identified 52 species as candidates for listing.

This subactivity also provides technical assistance for developing Candidate Conservation Agreements (CCA) and Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAA), and facilitates voluntary conservation efforts by private landowners, States, Tribes, Territories, Federal agencies, and partners for priority candidate and other species-at-risk for which potential listing is a concern. These agreements provide regulatory certainty to landowners in case the species is later listed.

For example, the Arctic grayling was removed from candidate status in August 2014 as a result of the effective collaboration of multiple partners to implement the 2006 CCAA with the Montana Departments of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and Natural Resources and Conservation, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Thirty-three ranching families enrolled in the CCAA. With the help of these and other partners, over 250 conservation projects on nearly 160,000 acres in the Upper Big Hole watershed were implemented and resulted in improved water flows, restored riparian habitat during critical times of the year, installed fencing to keep cattle out of the river, and removed barriers to grayling migration.



Arctic Grayling
Credit: USFWS

Marine Mammals

Also funded under this subactivity is the Service's work to conserve marine mammals. While NOAA is responsible for porpoises, dolphins and whales under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the Service oversees protections for walruses, manatees, otters and polar bears. Marine mammals are a resource of great cultural, aesthetic, economic, and recreational significance. Enacted in 1972, the MMPA provides protection by prohibiting (with certain exceptions): (1) "take" of marine mammals in U.S. waters and by U.S. citizens on the high seas, and (2) the import, export, and sale of marine mammals and marine mammal parts, and products in the U.S. Under the MMPA, marine mammal populations, and the health and stability of marine ecosystems upon which they depend, are required to be maintained at, or returned to, healthy levels.

Meeting the Service's mandate for the conservation of marine mammal species requires communication and cooperation with other Federal agencies, State governments, Alaska Native Organizations, scientists from numerous institutions and organizations, industry groups, and nongovernmental organizations.

Environmental Contaminants Spill Response, Damage Assessment, and Restoration of Trust Resources

This subactivity also supports Service biologists who act as key members of the Interior's Natural Resources Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR) program. The NRDAR program's mission is to restore natural resources injured by oil spills or hazardous substance releases into the environment. The purpose of the NRDAR program is to recover the costs of restoring resources damaged by spills from the responsible parties. When a spill occurs, the Service determines the extent of injury, plays a key role in settlement negotiations with responsible parties, and works with interested local, State, and national groups to complete projects that restore fish, wildlife, and habitat.

National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

Also funded by this subactivity is the Service's program to provide current and up-to-date wetland maps to the public. These maps provide information to expedite sound business decisions on siting of development projects. The Service is the principal Federal agency monitoring and reporting changes to the Nation's wetlands. Through the NWI, the Service maintains a series of maps to show wetlands and adjacent deep-water habitats. Every decade, the Service is required to report to Congress on the status and trends of wetlands.

In FY 2017, the Service launched data collection for the FY 2020 report to Congress on the status and trends of wetlands. As required by law, the upcoming decadal report provides an assessment of the health, quality, and quantity of America's wetlands.

Coastal Barrier Resources Act

In the early 1980s, Congress recognized that certain Federal actions and programs have historically subsidized and encouraged development on coastal barriers, resulting in the loss of natural resources; threats to human life, health, and property; and the expenditure of millions of tax dollars each year. To remove the Federal incentive to develop these areas, the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) of 1982 designated relatively undeveloped coastal barriers along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts as part of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS), and made these areas ineligible for most new Federal expenditures and financial assistance. The CBRA does not prohibit or restrict development conducted with non-Federal funds.

CBRA is a map-based law, and the Service continues to take significant steps to improve efficiencies and effectiveness of CBRA administration including: (1) the release of an online CBRS Mapper that makes CBRS boundary data more accessible to property owners, project proponents, and other stakeholders who need to know whether properties or project sites may be affected by the CBRA; (2) processing hundreds of official determinations as to whether individual properties are located "in" or "out" of the CBRS which is important for the issuance of flood insurance policies and real estate transactions; (3) releasing digitally converted maps for nearly the entire CBRS, and (4) submitting a Final Report to Congress that recommends final maps for 65 units in Delaware, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana. Currently, the Service is working on updating maps for the eight northeastern states affected by Hurricane Sandy.

Conservation and Restoration 2018 Program Performance

Highlights include:

- Completing candidate assessments for 28 species which provides certainty to States and landowners for critical conservation actions that preclude the need to list.
- Updating stock assessments for up to two marine mammal populations.

- In coordination with our partners, continuing to prepare for oil spill and hazardous materials releases to minimize impacts to trust resources and work with communities to restore natural resources injured during spills and releases.
- Continuing comprehensive Coastal Barrier Resources Act map modernization for eight northeastern States affected by Hurricane Sandy.
- Working with partners to add updated or revised wetlands data into the National Wetlands Inventory online database as the data becomes available.
- Initiating data collection for the 2020 Status and Trends report on wetlands in the United States.

Conservation and Restoration - Combined Program Change and Overview Table

Performance Goal	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Target	2016 Actual	2017 Target	2018 PB	Change from 2017 Target to 2018 PB
8.3.5 - % of candidate species where listing is unnecessary as a result of conservation actions, including actions taken through agreements	3% (5 of 188)	4% (6 of 143)	13% (12 of 96)	6% (3 of 51)	20% (10 of 51)	7% (2 of 30)	0% (0 of 28)	-7% (-100%)
Comments:	FY18 PB value is a baseline number calculated based on outcome of FY17 work. Reduction in candidate conservation funding will reduce the number of conservation actions that may lead to making listing unnecessary for a candidate species.							

Subactivity: Ecological Services
Program Element: Recovery

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018			Change from 2017 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Recovery	(\$000)	82,016	82,013	+1,068	0	-3,518	79,563	-2,450
	FTE	400	425	0	0	+25	450	+25

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for Recovery

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Recovery Activities	+1,845	+25
• Multi-Partner Recovery Activities	-499	0
• Wolf Livestock Demonstration Program	-998	0
• Cooperative Recovery Initiative	-1,371	0
• State of the Birds Activities	-2,495	0
Program Changes	-3,518	+25

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for Recovery of Listed Species is \$79,563,000 and 450 FTE, a net program change of -\$3,518,000 and +25 FTE from the 2017 CR Baseline.

Recovery Activities (+\$1,845,000 /+25 FTE)

The Service has made significant progress in reducing the regulatory burden of the ESA through removal of species no longer needing ESA protections (delistings) or reclassifications of species from endangered to threatened (downlistings). In FY 2016, the Service determined that seven listed species had fully recovered and were removed from the list, including the Delmarva Peninsula fox squirrel, Modoc Sucker, Johnston's Frankenia, Louisiana black bear, and three Channel Islands foxes. Additional milestones in recovery focused on reclassifying species from endangered to the less critical category of threatened included the Santa Cruz cypress and Santa Catalina Island fox. While all of these species have made remarkable progress, we recognize that effective species recovery takes time, careful planning, coordination with our partners, and monitoring and assessment. Based on recent 5-year reviews, there are additional species that are ready for delisting or downlisting; additional resources will go towards initiating or finalizing approximately 12 of those deregulatory actions and completing 5-year reviews to assess the status of additional species for potential delisting or downlisting.



Louisiana black bear.
 Credit: Pam McInnenny

Multi-Partner Recovery Actions (-\$499,000/ +0 FTE)

This reduction eliminates specific funding for multi-partner recovery actions. The Service will continue to participate in such multi-partner recovery efforts to the extent possible within existing resources and given competing recovery priorities.

Wolf Livestock Loss Demonstration Program (-\$998,000/+0 FTE)

In FY 2016, Congress provided \$1,000,000 to fund a demonstration program that gives grants to States and Tribes for livestock producers conducting proactive, non-lethal activities to reduce the risk of livestock loss due to predation by wolves and to compensate livestock producers, as appropriate, for livestock losses due to such predation. The Service proposes to discontinue funding in FY 2018 because there are other programs that are better suited to deliver this funding. The 2014 Farm Bill makes the Livestock Indemnity Payments (LIP) a permanent program and provides retroactive authority to cover eligible livestock losses back to Oct. 1, 2011. LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the Federal government or protected by Federal law, including wolves and avian predators. Funding for recovery of listed species is limited, and the Service aims to focus on preventing extinction and improving the status of listed species through on-the-ground conservation actions.

Cooperative Recovery Initiative (-\$1,371,000/ +0 FTE)

The Service began this cross-programmatic approach to restoring and recovering federally-listed species on National Wildlife Refuges in FY 2013. Since then, the Service has directed \$23.2 million to 57 projects at 70 refuges across the country benefiting 149 listed species. This reduction will allow the Service to address other priorities. Staff from across Service programs will continue collaborating to promote species recovery as resources permit.

State of the Birds Activities (-\$2,495,000/ +0 FTE)

The Service provides grants to support the recovery program for Hawaii's many endangered bird species and similar projects elsewhere in the U.S. The program funds strategic planning for avian species recovery, increased coordination with partners, and the development and implementation of conservation projects. These efforts benefit not only endangered birds but also their habitats and help to maintain non-listed bird populations, other critical wildlife, and plant resources. As a result of the reduction, the Service will not be able to award approximately eight grants to support avian species recovery projects, nor fund captive-rearing of endangered Hawaiian birds.

Program Overview

Preventing extinction and achieving recovery of listed species has always been, and will continue to be, one of the Service's highest priorities. The goal of Recovery is to minimize or remove the threats that led to the species' listing and to work toward reclassifying the species from endangered to threatened, or toward delisting the species altogether. This process requires technical leadership, monitoring, planning, and management together with close coordination with Service partners. The Service plays a vital role in guiding the recovery planning process, and in facilitating, supporting, and monitoring the implementation of recovery actions by the Service and others.

Recovery plans are required under the ESA and non-regulatory blueprints for the work that needs to be done to achieve downlisting or delisting a species under the ESA. Recovery plans are developed collaboratively with interested partners. Recovery plans may address multiple species, identify specific recovery tasks, establish downlisting and

"The Fish and Wildlife Service has worked hand in hand with State and local governments, businesses, industry, and countless stakeholders over many years to protect and restore a mammal that is cherished by people around the world. Without this type of collaboration and the commitment of State and local partners, this downlisting would not have been possible."

*Secretary Zinke
Downlisting the West Indian Manatee
March 30, 2017*

delisting criteria, and provide timetables and cost estimates. There is a public review process for each draft recovery plan.

Once a species has been listed for five years, the Service conducts a 5-year review to assess whether the species' current listing status, as endangered or threatened, is still appropriate. This assessment starts with a notice to the public initiating the review and requesting information. These documents are important tools to gather new information, assess threats to the species, and validate whether protection under the ESA is still necessary. Five year reviews also update and prioritize recovery actions to facilitate species conservation and recovery.

Service biologists use the inherent flexibility in the implementation of the ESA to support collaborative conservation actions that are advantageous, feasible, and practicable for all parties. Staff provides technical assistance to our partners to champion recovery projects on the ground. Recovery projects can range from habitat restoration to captive rearing and reintroduction to landowner agreements that will provide Safe Harbors to one or more listed species for a set period of time. Safe Harbor Agreements are an assurance that non-Federal conservation actions (e.g., habitat restoration, reintroduction), will not result in additional regulation on the landowner.

Research conducted by recovery partners using scientific permits issued under Section 10 is also vital to species' recovery. This research often provides current information about threats and their associated impacts on a listed species.



West Indian Manatee
Photo credit: Tracy Colson

Recovery of listed species is heavily dependent on working closely with land management agencies, landowners, and the States to conserve and restore the species as quickly as possible. For example, in March 2017, the Service announced the downlisting (from endangered to threatened status) of the West Indian manatee due to notable increase in manatee populations and improvements in its habitat. The March 2017 estimated population of 6,620 Florida manatees is a dramatic turnaround from the 1970s, when just a few hundred individuals remained. Actions by the FWS, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), local communities, and industry on behalf of the manatee included:

- Retrofitting water control devices such as those found at locks and levees, resulting in significant decreases in manatee fatalities.
- Power companies working cooperatively with Federal and State conservation managers to address future loss of warm water outflows where manatees winter.
- Florida counties implementing manatee protection plans and reducing boater impacts.
- Increasing manatee access to several Florida natural springs while establishing sanctuaries for the wintering manatees in those areas during winter cold snaps.
- FWS working with the U.S. Coast Guard and FWC to minimize manatee collisions with vessels during high speed marine events and other activities.
- Fishing gear cleanup and recycling programs reducing the threat from fishing gear entanglements.
- Rescue, rehabilitation, and release efforts that help save dozens of manatees annually.

Cooperative efforts like this exist for many other listed species. The Service plays a critical role in providing leadership and technical direction to our partners to restore populations and the habitats on which listed species depend so that the protections of the ESA are no longer needed.

Endangered Species Recovery 2018 Program Performance

The Service anticipates the following accomplishments and activities:

- Continue to complete 5-year reviews for species listed five years or more, resulting in over 1,355 listed species with a completed 5-year review that assess whether the species status of threatened or endangered needs to be revised.
- Provide final recovery plans for 1,126 listed species to facilitate recovery of endangered and threatened species.
- Build partnerships to help the Service implement 732 recovery actions (including habitat restoration, captive propagation, and reintroduction) for listed species.
- Continue to address approximately 59 species that have been identified for potential delisting or reclassification from endangered to threatened under the ESA based upon recent 5-year reviews, including pursuing delisting of four species presently recognized as recovered.

Endangered Species Recovery - Program Change Table

Performance Goal	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Target	2016 Actual	2017 Target	2018 PB	Change from 2017 Target to 2018 PB
7.20.1 - % of delisted species due to recovery (total)	48% (21 of 44)	50% (23 of 46)	45% (21 of 47)	49% (25 of 51)	59% (30 of 51)	65% (32 of 49)	67% (34 of 51)	+2%
Comments: Associated with funding change in Recovery								
7.30.8 - Percent of all threatened and endangered species recovery actions implemented (GPRA)	68% (24,285 of 35,678)	69% (24,621 of 35,878)	69% (24,951 of 36,109)	70% (24,380 of 34,864)	71% (24,875 of 34,864)	72% (25,087 of 34,971)	72% (24,601 of 34,378)	-0.2%
Comments: Associated with funding change in Recovery								

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Habitat Conservation



Activity: Habitat Conservation

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018			Change from 2017 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Partners for Fish and Wildlife	(\$000)	51,776	51,677	+532	0	-6,325	45,884	-5,793
	FTE	243	235	0	0	-15	220	-15
Coastal Program	(\$000)	13,375	13,350	+174	0	-1,554	11,970	-1,380
	FTE	60	56	0	0	-5	51	-5
Total, Habitat Conservation	(\$000)	65,151	65,027	+706	0	-7,879	57,854	-7,173
	FTE	303	291	0	0	-20	271	-20

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for Habitat Conservation

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Environmental Data Quality and Access	-642	0
• Cooperative Recovery Initiative	-822	0
• WA Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups	-1,283	0
• Partners for Fish and Wildlife Activities	-3,578	-15
• Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	-184	0
• Long Live the Kings	-184	0
• Coastal Program Activities	-1,186	-5
Program Changes	-7,879	-20

Program Mission

Habitat Conservation, which includes the Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program and the Coastal Program, provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners and other conservation partners to voluntarily protect, conserve, and restore their lands. By working together, we help landowners keep their working lands in traditional uses and implement habitat improvement and protection projects.

Program Elements

The PFW and Coastal Programs take a cooperative approach to deliver on-the-ground conservation in targeted geographic areas. Locally-based field staff have an intimate knowledge of the natural resource issues and conservation challenges in their communities. Through voluntary partnerships with private landowners and other stakeholders, these field staff leverage partners' resources and Federal dollars to support conservation strategies on public and private lands. These efforts help conserve America's traditional land uses for future generations and address conservation challenges like invasive species and habitat fragmentation.

A large part of the PFW work includes coordinating with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide technical assistance in the development, implementation, and evaluation of the 2014 Farm Bill

conservation programs and initiatives to meet shared conservation goals. This work also includes supporting the reauthorization of the 2018 Farm Bill.

Activity: Habitat Conservation
Subactivity: Partners for Fish and Wildlife

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018			Change from 2017 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Partners for Fish and Wildlife	(\$000)	51,776	51,677	+532	0	-6,325	45,884	-5,793
	FTE	243	235	0	0	-15	220	-15

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for Partners for Fish and Wildlife

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Environmental Data Quality and Access	-642	0
• Cooperative Recovery Initiative	-822	0
• WA Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups	-1,283	0
• Partners for Fish and Wildlife Activities	-3,578	-15
Program Changes	-6,325	-15

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The FY 2018 budget request for Partners for Fish and Wildlife is \$45,884,000 and 220 FTE, a program change of -\$6,325,000 and -15 FTE from the FY 2017 CR Baseline.

Washington Salmon Recovery/ Environmental Data Quality and Access (-\$642,000/+0 FTE)

This funding has supported a centralized web-accessible database to provide transparency and accountability for Washington State salmon recovery efforts. The database has served the general public and salmon recovery practitioners through its public portal, which provides easy access to salmon habitat project use. In the past, the majority of this funding has paid a for-profit business for the database site license fees and to support training for project sponsors on using the database. The request proposes to eliminate this funding to address higher priorities.

Cooperative Recovery Initiative (-\$822,000/+0 FTE)

The Service began this cross-programmatic approach to restoring and recovering federally-listed species on National Wildlife Refuges in FY 2013. Since then, the Service has directed \$23.2 million to 57 projects at 70 refuges across the country, benefitting 149 listed species. This reduction will allow the Service to address other priorities. Staff from Service programs will continue collaborating to promote species recovery as resources permit.

Washington Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group (-\$1,283,000/+0 FTE)

The Washington State Legislature created the RFEG in 1990 to involve the State’s citizens in the enhancement and recovery of Washington’s salmon and steelhead and their habitats. Funding from the Service supports statewide salmon recovery, including conservation planning, habitat restoration, and hatchery operations. Eliminating this program will reduce funding for the State of Washington’s salmon recovery efforts. The request proposes to eliminate this funding to address higher priorities.

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Activities (-\$3,578,000/-15 FTE)

The request proposes to reduce funding in order to address higher priorities. With the remaining funds, the Service will be able to enhance about 148 riparian miles of stream/shoreline; 12,750 acres of wetlands; and more than 88,000 acres of uplands. The Service would also be able to remove or install more than 50 fish barriers. The program will continue supporting habitat restoration efforts to benefit Federal trust species with a focus on increasing the percent of self-sustaining Federal trust species populations in priority focus areas. A majority of PFW Program funds go directly to project delivery and to support technical assistance. Funds invested in habitat conservation projects on private land typically are matched at a ratio of 4:1 or greater.

Program Overview

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program is a voluntary, citizen, and community-based stewardship program for fish and wildlife conservation on private land. Because most of our native plants and animals are found on private lands, it is important to work collaboratively with private landowners to protect habitats on their properties to successfully conserve species.

Through the PFW Program, the Service and private landowners work to implement local conservation strategies. In turn, these restored areas provide valuable benefits, including providing clean air and water, supporting tourism and recreation, protecting communities from flood damage, and supporting America’s agricultural production by conserving soil, controlling pests, and benefitting pollinators. Furthermore, money spent in support of restoration projects creates more jobs, generates tax revenues, and stimulates economic activity as wages and purchases flow through the economy. A Service report found that for every \$1 that the program contributed to a project, \$15.70 was generated in economic returns².

A focus of the PFW Program is to help neighbors of National Wildlife Refuges who wish to manage their lands with a conservation ethic. PFW staff provide technical and financial assistance to neighbors who wish to engage in complementary management of private and Federal lands. These efforts maintain and enhance American hunting and fishing traditions for generations by conserving wildlife and their habitats, providing areas to hunt and fish, and extending trails through public and private lands.

The PFW Program is highly successful because staff builds trust and credibility with landowners and partners over a long time frame, and develops strong connections with non-traditional conservation supporters. In FY 2016, the PFW Program worked with private landowners and partners to complete 3,434 projects across the Nation. Since the start of the program in 1987, PFW biologists have worked with over 20,000 private landowners and over 6,600 partner groups, leveraging program dollars at a ratio of 4:1 or greater, and leading to the voluntary restoration of over 4.5 million acres of upland habitat and 1.253 million wetland acres. In total,

PFW Program Vision

To efficiently achieve voluntary habitat restoration on private lands, through financial and technical assistance, for the benefit of Federal trust species.
Federal trust species include migratory birds, threatened or endangered species, interjurisdictional fish, marine mammals, and other species of concern.

“The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program has evolved into a highly strategic group with a focus on helping private landowners achieve their conservation goals while simultaneously helping to conserve our shared landscapes and sustain rural communities. Their voluntary and partnership-based approach has built trust and credibility across the United States and allowed them to be the premier habitat restoration and enhancement program in the USFWS. They are a shining example of how the Federal government should work collaboratively with American citizens.”
– Steve Jester, Executive Director, Partners for Conservation

the PFW Program has restored close to 5.8 million acres of habitat. These acres, along with over 13,000 miles of enhanced stream habitat, provide valuable habitat for Federal trust species. These private lands efforts have been critical in recent recovery efforts including:

- The establishment of large tracts of wooded area on private lands for Delmarva fox squirrel in Maryland and Virginia was pivotal in the species' ESA delisting in December 2015.
- Restoration work on private lands in Oregon led to the delisting of the Oregon chub, the first fish in the history of the ESA to recover and be delisted.
- In Louisiana, the restoration of forested wetland on private lands was the driving force behind the delisting of the endangered Louisiana black bear.
- Restoration of young forests on private lands in the Northeast was essential to the decision that protections for the New England cottontail were not warranted under the ESA.

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program project examples:

Prairie Management Using Proper Ranching Techniques

Barber County, Kansas

The goal of this 1,320-acre private land project located in south central Kansas was to improve habitat conditions for grassland and aquatic wildlife species while benefiting working agricultural lands and surrounding communities through increased livestock forage, water quantity, economic growth, and reduced risk of catastrophic wildfire. This project site is native mixed-grass prairie.



*In south central Kansas, the PFW Program worked with willing private landowners to restore their agricultural lands, which helped both their production and native plants and animals. Here, this cow/calf pair is using the site after restoration.
Credit: USFWS/KS PFW*

The PFW Program provided technical and financial assistance for mechanical removal of invasive trees, which helped livestock operations by improving native vegetation habitat. Additionally, the project included guidance on prescribed grazing and burning for long-term maintenance of the project site, which ultimately benefits ranching operations. The PFW Program coordinated with locally led community-based partnerships to leverage resources and develop long-term plans while incorporating goals of the ranch.

This project restored and enhanced 1,320 grassland acres, 5.8 stream miles and 22.5 wetland acres within the Red Hills of South Central Kansas, providing high quality forage for livestock and increasing suitable habitat for grassland birds, aquatic species, and pollinators. This project is an example of focusing on common ground goals to increase wildlife habitat and the bottom-line for cattle ranchers.

Drexel Town Square Project

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

The PFW Program in Wisconsin is not only working with rural landowners across Wisconsin, but also assisting project managers in urban areas to connect people and the environment, all while improving water quality and wildlife habitat. For example, in the City of Oak Creek, a suburb of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the Service worked with city planners and administrators to restore and enhance upland and wetland habitats located at the Drexel Town Square Project to create an amenity for the future redevelopment. The project site is about 85 acres of a former industrial development that is now being

redeveloped into a mixed use Town Center that will include a new City Hall and library, a large format retail store, a variety of smaller retailers, restaurants, commercial office buildings, multiple high quality residential developments, a public town square, and the enhanced wetland park and other public recreational amenities.

The project included restoring the wetland to provide recreational opportunities to the community. The quality of the wetland was enhanced by removing invasive species and dead and stressed ash trees, then restoring native plant communities. Community access for recreation and education is provided through a series of upland pedestrian paths and wetland boardwalks.



Partners collaborating on plans for a redevelopment project outside of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to include wetland restoration and new recreational opportunities. Credit: USFWS

Bull Trout Recovery

Blackfoot River Watershed, Montana

Bull trout, federally-listed as Threatened, were once common throughout the Pacific Northwest, ranging from northern California to the Bering Sea. However, their specific habitat requirements of cold, clean, complex, and connected streams have made them more susceptible to habitat degradation, competition from non-native species, and increases in water temperature. Bull trout are extinct in California and inhabit only one river system in Nevada. Oregon and Washington populations are at a high risk of extinction, as well as some Idaho populations. In Montana, Bull trout are considered secure in only 2 percent of the stream segments they inhabit.



With funding through the Cooperative Recovery Initiative, PFW staff restored Bull trout stream habitat in the Blackfoot Valley Conservation Area. Credit: USFWS

The Blackfoot River Watershed in Montana is one of the highest priority areas for Bull trout. The PFW Program worked collaboratively with the Service's Ecological Services Program and State and local partners to coordinate and implement a watershed restoration project in the Blackfoot Valley Conservation Area (BVCA), funded by the Service's Cooperative Recovery Initiative. These projects include restoring connectivity by replacing fish passage barriers and installing fish screens, improving instream flow and water quality, implementing more efficient irrigation and grazing systems, and creating complex instream habitat in the BVCA to improve almost 25 stream miles, benefiting Bull trout and other native salmonid species.

West Fork Dam Removal

Harrison County, West Virginia

The West Fork Dam removal project in Harrison County, West Virginia, is a collaborative effort to remove obsolete run-of-the-river dams, which store little to no water upstream but are a public safety hazard downstream, and impede the upstream and downstream passage of native aquatic species. The

dam removals improved public safety, reduced landowner liability, and allowed over 950 miles of streams and tributaries to be reconnected again.

In addition to what has already been completed in FY 2016, the community has plans to construct a water trail along the river. The partnership intends to seek authorization to build and manage fishing and boating access sites at each former dam location, which will increase opportunities for public outdoor recreation. The end product will provide an aesthetically pleasing recreation area for the community, a cleaner water source for its residents, and renewed populations of native birds, fish, and plant life for future generations to enjoy.



*The West Fork Dam removal and fish passage project improved public safety, reduced landowner liability, and reconnected over 950 miles of streams and tributaries.
Credit: USFWS*

Restoring Grasslands in New Mexico
Rio Arriba, New Mexico

This PFW project in the beautiful state of New Mexico involved two sites where undesirable vegetation was replaced with native grasses to restore the area for better wildlife habitat and to prevent soil erosion. A seed mixture of specialized cool and warm season native grasses were planted using a variety of techniques, including a no-till seed drill, clay seed balls, and planting grass plugs. All these techniques have been used successfully in the local area and by adjacent landowners.



*The PFW Program used many soil-friendly techniques, including no till drilling, to plant native seeds, restore this area and prevent erosion.
Credit: USFWS*

Along with the native grass plantings to control soil erosion, a series of small berms and basins will be constructed to capture runoff during rain events and increase the soil moisture. Grazing management will be a part of this project to ensure the important grass stands are allowed to thrive and improve the habitat for wildlife.

2018 Program Performance

In FY 2018, the PFW Program will continue supporting habitat restoration efforts to benefit Federal trust species with a focus on increasing the percent of self-sustaining Federal trust species populations in priority focus areas. A majority of PFW Program funds go directly to project delivery and to support technical assistance. Funds invested in habitat conservation projects on private land typically are matched at a ratio of 4:1 or greater. At the FY 2018 funding level, the Service will be able to enhance approximately 148 riparian miles of stream/shoreline; 12,750 acres of wetlands; and more than 88,000 acres of uplands. The Service will also be able to remove more than 50 fish barriers.

Activity: Habitat Conservation
Subactivity: Coastal Program

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018			Change from 2017 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Coastal Program	(\$000)	13,375	13,350	+174	0	-1,554	11,970	-1,380
	FTE	60	56	0	0	-5	51	-5

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for Habitat Conservation

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	-184	0
• Long Live the Kings	-184	0
• Coastal Program Activities	-1,186	-5
Program Changes	-1,554	-5

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The FY 2018 budget request for the Coastal Program is \$11,970,000 and 51 FTE, a program change of -1,554,000 and -5 FTE from the FY 2017 CR Baseline.

Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group (-\$184,000/+0 FTE)

The Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group is one of 14 Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEs) established by the Washington State Legislature to restore salmonid populations and habitat to their regions with the support from local communities. This request proposes to eliminate this funding to address higher priorities.

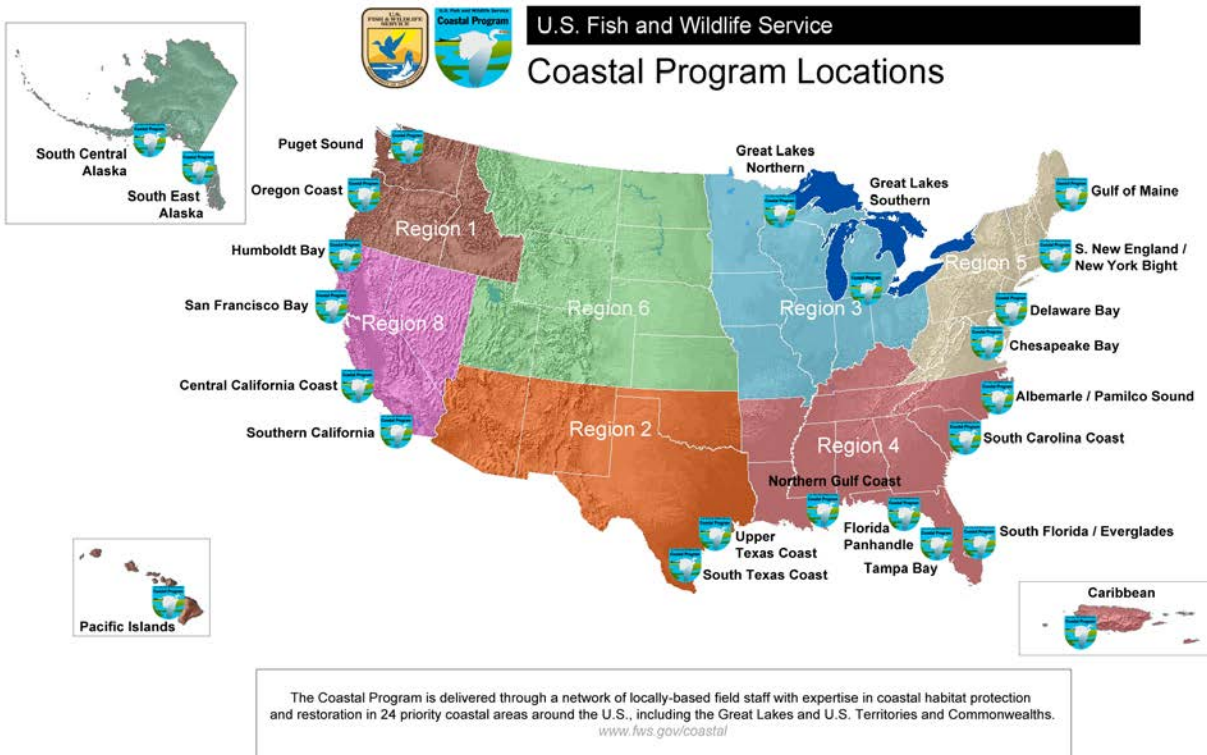
Long Live the Kings (-\$184,000/+0 FTE)

The request proposes to eliminate this funding to address higher priorities. Long Live the Kings is a nonprofit organization that works to restore wild salmon and steelhead and support sustainable fishing.

Coastal Program Activities (-\$1,186,000/-5 FTE)

The request proposes to reduce funding for the Coastal Program to address higher priorities. At the requested FY 2018 funding level, the Service would be able to restore about seven riparian miles of stream/shoreline, nearly 1,700 wetland acres, and over 3,000 acres of uplands, and remove about 12 fish barriers. The Coastal Program will continue directing resources to priority geographic focus areas identified in the Coastal Program's 5-year Strategic Plan. The Coastal Program provides technical and financial assistance to conserve treasured coastal resources and typically has a ratio of 8:1 partner dollars for every Coastal Program dollar invested in a coastal enhancement project.

Program Overview

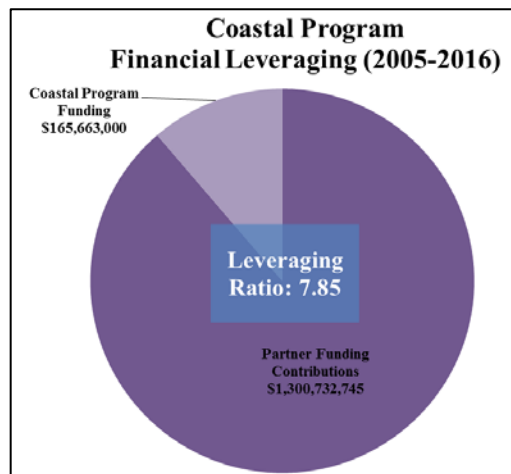


The coasts are home to a wide array of animals and plants, and many people. More than 40 percent of federally-listed species, 25 percent of migratory waterfowl, and 75 percent of all fish species live in these regions, and coastal ecosystems support one third of National Wildlife Refuges. Coastal counties make up only 10 percent of the lower 48 States but are home to almost half of the American population and are among the most rapidly developing areas. This presents a significant challenge to habitat conservation and requires innovative approaches to conservation such as those provided by the Coastal Program.

The Coastal Program conserves resources by providing technical and financial assistance to implement habitat restoration and protection projects on public and private lands in 24 priority areas along the coasts of the Atlantic, Pacific, Gulf of Mexico, Great Lakes, and U.S. Territories. The Coastal Program promotes voluntary habitat conservation that benefits coastal-dependent Federal trust species, including threatened and endangered species, migratory birds, inter-jurisdictional fish, certain marine mammals, and species of international concern. Protecting and restoring coastal habitats also supports local communities. Our work helps increase the health and resilience of ecosystems, support commercial and recreational fisheries, provide recreational opportunities for hunters, anglers, and wildlife watchers, improve water quality, and protect communities from storms and floods. Achieving these goals requires collaboration with many partners and stakeholders, including private landowners.

The Coastal Program leverages partners’ technical and financial resources by \$8 for every Federal dollar, effectively maximizing the Service’s impact. This Service effort stimulates local economies by supporting jobs necessary to deliver habitat conservation projects, including environmental consultants, engineers, construction workers, surveyors, assessors, and nursery and landscape workers. These jobs also generate indirect economic activities that benefit local hotels, restaurants, stores and gas stations. The Service estimates that the average project directly supports 12 jobs and stimulates eight businesses. Service staff also provide additional capability and capacity building to conservation partners.

The Coastal Program’s strategic plan was developed in collaboration with Federal and State agencies and other conservation stakeholders, and incorporates the goals of both national and regional conservation plans (e.g., State Wildlife Action Plans, National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plans, endangered species recovery plans, and migratory bird joint venture implementation plans). As a result, since 1985, Service staff and conservation partners have protected over 2,165,855 acres of priority coastal habitat and restored over 557,790 acres of critical wetland and upland habitat and 2,698 miles of stream habitat. From FY 2002-2016, the Coastal Program worked with thousands of partners to deliver 4,106 habitat conservation projects designed specifically to benefit Federal trust species. In 2016, the Coastal Program worked with 462 conservation partners to implement 280 habitat improvement projects that contributed to the recovery of 178 threatened and endangered species. Among these projects, 54 were on or adjacent to a National Wildlife Refuge, protecting and/or restoring 137,666 acres of important habitat. These efforts allow the American public to experience fish, wildlife, plants, and their ecosystems in one of the world’s largest networks of conserved lands and waters.

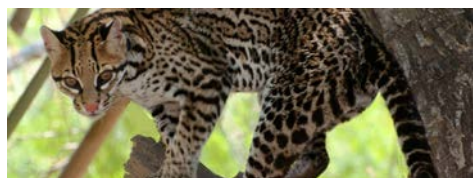


Conservation delivery is through locally-based Service staff with the technical expertise to implement habitat conservation projects that are ecologically-sound and cost-effective.

Examples of recent Coastal Program projects:

Ocelot Recovery

Once found in Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana, the endangered ocelot is now found only in southern Texas. Habitat loss and fragmentation, which cut off ocelots populations from each other, are the greatest challenges to their recovery. The Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge and Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge are leading the Service’s ocelot recovery efforts.



The Coastal Program worked with partners to improve vital habitat for the endangered ocelot. Credit: USFWS

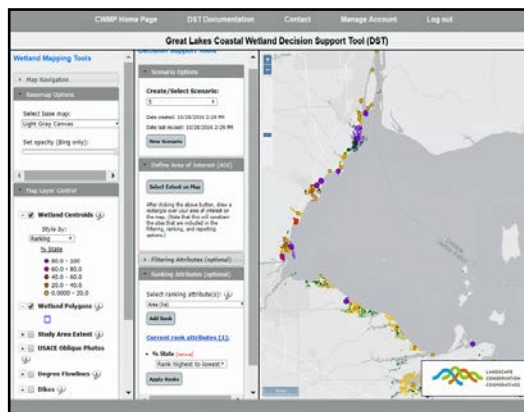
The Coastal Program worked with partners to improve nearly 134 acres of habitat in southern coastal Texas. The project involved prescribed fire to remove invasive plants and the planting of native trees. A permanent conservation easement protects the restored

habitat, which creates habitat corridors that

will allow ocelots to disperse and strengthen their genetic diversity. The Coastal Program was instrumental in designing the project, leveraging funding sources, and performing project compliance and monitoring.

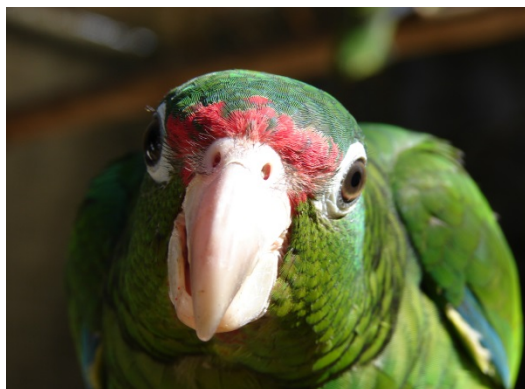
Wetland Conservation Prioritization

Through the Upper Midwest and Great Lakes Landscape Conservation Cooperative, the Coastal Program and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are



The Coastal Program develops conservation decision support tools that prioritize habitat protection and restoration.

leading the Coastal Conservation Working Group (CCWG) to develop decision support tools to guide on-the-ground wetland conservation. The Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Restoration Assessment and the Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Decision Support Tool are online mapping resources that help planners and restoration practitioners identify areas with the highest restoration potential and evaluate existing wetland characteristics. These science-based tools allow the conservation community to prioritize conservation and optimize conservation outcomes. The CCWG has established an implementation team to use the tools and guide conservation decisions that will produce meaningful benefits for fish, wildlife, and people.



*The Puerto Rican parrot benefits from shade-grown coffee farms.
Credit: Pablo Torres/USFWS*

Sun to Shade Coffee Farming

In Puerto Rico, the Coastal Program is working with farmers to convert sun-grown coffee farms into shade-grown coffee farms. Shade-grown coffee is compatible with a more diverse ecosystem that supports a healthier habitat for native plants and wildlife. This also reduces the potential for erosion and polluted runoff into streams and estuaries that can degrade fish habitat and coral reefs. By replanting the forest and improving farming practices, these projects help support Federal trust species, including the endangered Puerto Rican boa, Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk, and Puerto Rican parrot.

In the Municipality of Utuado, the Coastal Program worked with farmers and other partners to plant shade trees, restoring nearly 16 acres of forest habitat. The project creates habitat corridors connecting several important conservation areas, including the Rio Abajo Forest and Toro Negro Forest. The project also protects stream and coral reef habitats by reducing sediment and nutrient pollution. The Service participated in the project planning and management, conservation training, and project compliance and monitoring.



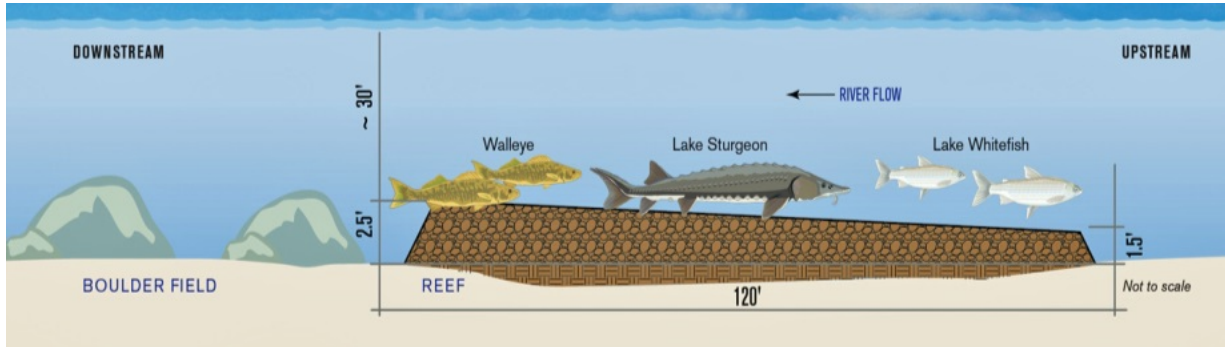
*The Coastal Program helped restore 16 acres of forest habitat in Puerto Rico, as shown here: before restoration (left), during (center), and after (right).
Photo credit: Silmarie Padron/USFWS and Lilibeth Serran/USFWS*

Lake Sturgeon Recovery

Overfishing, habitat loss, and pollution caused the decline of lake sturgeon, with only a remnant population found in the Great Lake region. One of the Service’s regional priority species, the lake sturgeon are listed as threatened or endangered across its original range. Of the 26 tributaries that currently support sturgeon, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan has identified 16 that would benefit from habitat enhancements.

The Service worked with local partners to construct the Hart’s Light Reef. The limestone cobble structure covers almost four acres, which is larger than previously constructed reefs. The Coastal Program assessed baseline conditions, supported project planning and partnership development, and post restoration monitoring.

Final adjustments to the reef were completed in 2016; however, sturgeon began spawning on the structure soon after the reef was constructed in 2014. Project monitoring, which will continue through 2017, documented sturgeon eggs on the reef for the last two years.



This lake sturgeon spawning reef is helping recover the fish.

Advanced Stream Simulation Design Course

The Service is building capacity within the conservation community by providing training, such as the Advanced Stream Simulation Design Course. This course trains restoration practitioners to design road-stream crossings that maintain fish passage and aquatic habitat connectivity, support natural stream processes, and maximize the long-term stability and safety of the structures.

Course participants typically include staff from the Service, USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation



*The Advanced Stream Simulation Design Course incorporates both indoor and outdoor classroom learning.
Credit: Jed Wright/USFWS*

Service, State environmental and transportation agencies, engineering companies, and conservation organizations. Our support of this course and other habitat improvement courses help to build conservation capacity that will benefit priority aquatic habitats and Federal trust resources.

Dune Habitat Restoration

The Coastal Program worked with partners to restore 1.5 acres of dune habitat along southern Monterey Bay, California. Over the next four years, this partnership will restore an additional 10 acres of dune habitat, which will also benefit the western snowy plover, Smith’s blue butterfly, Monterey spineflower, and the California legless lizard.

Through a partnership with Return of the Natives, this project connected people with



Volunteer planting day in Monterey, CA.

nature by educating and training 1,600 children and adults in the classroom and at volunteer planting events. By removing invasive vegetation and replanting 24,000 native flowering plants, this project will create habitat for the endangered Smith's blue butterfly, increase biodiversity and habitat connectivity, and improve coastal resiliency.

The Coastal Program will continue to assist with project design and implementation, environmental compliance, and project monitoring. Return of the Natives will continue their outreach and education efforts, and California State Parks will continue controlling invasive species and manage for the dune habitat for threatened and endangered species.

2018 Program Performance

In 2018 the Coastal Program will continue directing resources to priority geographic focus areas identified in the Coastal Program's 5-year Strategic Plan. The Coastal Program will continue to provide valuable strategic landscape design, capacity building, and other technical assistance to Service programs, Federal and State agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and coastal communities. The Coastal Program delivers important on-the-ground projects in priority areas such as the Gulf of Mexico, Florida Everglades, Great Lakes, and Chesapeake Bay.

The Coastal Program typically has a ratio of 8:1 partner dollars for every Coastal program dollar invested in a coastal enhancement project. At the requested FY 2018 funding level, the Service would be able to restore about seven riparian miles of stream/shoreline, nearly 1,700 wetland acres, and over 3,000 acres of uplands, and remove or install about 12 fish barriers.

Habitat Conservation - Combined Change and Overview Table

Performance Goal	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Target	2016 Actual	2017 Target	2018 PB	Change from 2017 Target to 2018 PB
3.1.1 - # of non-FWS riparian (stream/shoreline) miles restored, including through partnerships (includes miles treated for invasives & now restored) - PFW - annual (GPRA)	253	353	265	220	231	166	148	-18
Comments:	The PFW program utilizes strong partnerships to help leverage program dollars at a ratio of 4:1 or greater. Reduced funding results in less matching of funds or resources.							
3.1.2 - # of non-FWS riparian (stream/shoreline) miles restored, including through partnerships - CoastProg - annual (GPRA)	24	19	28	38	12	8	7	-1
Comments:	The Coastal Program leverages its partner's technical and financial resources at a ratio of 8:1 or greater. Reduced funding results in less matching of funds or resources.							
4.1.1 - # of wetlands acres enhanced/ restored through voluntary partnerships (includes acres treated for invasives & now restored) - PFW - annual (GPRA)	33,827	31,096	24,001	13,454	23,983	14,333	12,756	-1,577
Comments:	The PFW program utilizes strong partnerships to help leverage program dollars at a ratio of 4:1 or greater. Reduced funding results in less matching of funds or resources.							
4.2.1 - # of non-FWS upland acres enhanced/ restored through voluntary partnerships (includes acres treated for invasives & now restored) - PFW - annual (GPRA)	247,093	241,302	172,246	99,683	258,177	99,836	88,854	-10,982
Comments:	The PFW program utilizes strong partnerships to help leverage program dollars at a ratio of 4:1 or greater. Reduced funding results in less matching of funds or resources.							
4.3.1 - # of non-FWS coastal/marine wetlands acres enhanced/ restored through voluntary partnerships (includes acres treated for invasives & now restored) - annual (GPRA)	34,204	19,235	6,202	6,491	1,931	1,894	1,686	-208
Comments:	The Services utilizes partnerships to help leverage program dollars. Reduced funding results in less matching of funds or resources.							
4.3.2 - # of non-FWS coastal/marine upland acres enhanced/ restored through voluntary partnerships (includes acres treated for invasives & now restored) - annual (GPRA)	13,127	8,202	4,850	3,742	9,147	3,451	3,071	-380
Comments:	The Services utilizes partnerships to help leverage program dollars. Reduced funding results in less matching of funds or resources.							

National Wildlife Refuge System



Activity: National Wildlife Refuge System

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018			Budget Request	Change from 2017 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
Wildlife and Habitat Management	(\$000)	230,343	229,905	+2,995	0	-8,007	224,893	-5,012
	FTE	1,433	1,425	0	0	0	1,425	0
Refuge Visitor Services	(\$000)	73,319	73,179	+1,055	0	-3,143	71,091	-2,088
	FTE	525	515	0	0	0	515	0
Refuge Law Enforcement	(\$000)	38,054	37,982	+566	0	-619	37,929	-53
	FTE	245	243	0	0	0	243	0
Conservation Planning	(\$000)	2,523	2,518	0	0	-2,518	0	-2,518
	FTE	18	13	0	0	-13	0	-13
Refuge Operations	(\$000)	344,239	343,584	+4,616	0	-14,287	333,913	-9,671
	FTE	2,221	2,196	0	0	-13	2,183	-13
Refuge Maintenance	(\$000)	137,188	136,928	+926	0	-1,658	136,196	-732
	FTE	576	576	0	0	0	576	0
Total, National Wildlife Refuge System	(\$000)	481,427	480,512	+5,542	0	-15,945	470,109	-10,403
	FTE	2,797	2,772	0	0	-13	2,759	-13

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for the National Wildlife Refuge System

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Wildlife and Habitat Management-Youth	-1,555	0
• Cooperative Recovery Initiative	-3,194	0
• Wildlife and Habitat Management Activities	-3,258	0
• Visitor Services Activities	-1,147	0
• Youth and Careers in Nature	-1,996	0
• Law Enforcement Activities	-619	0
• Refuge Planning	-2,518	-13
• Youth Conservation Corps	-648	0
• Maintenance Support	-1,010	0
Program Changes	-15,945	-13

Program Mission

The National Wildlife Refuge System’s mission is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.

Program Elements

The Refuge System is the world’s most extensive network of public lands and waters dedicated to the conservation of fish, wildlife, and plants and receives approximately 50 million visitors a year. The Refuge System spans 855.4 million acres of lands and waters and includes 566 National Wildlife Refuges, 38 wetland management districts, 50 coordination areas, and seven National Monuments. The 855.4 million acres includes 77 million acres in the State of Alaska alone, 740.5 million acres of submerged lands and waters in Marine National Monuments within the Refuge System, and 19.1 million acres in Marine National Monuments under other authorities. These totals include fee acres, easement acres, and acres under agreement or lease.

The 566 National Wildlife Refuges include all of the Refuge System lands, waters, and interests administered by the Service as wildlife refuges, wildlife ranges, wildlife management areas, game preserves, and conservation areas. Virtually all of the 77 million acres in Alaska are open to public hunting. In the lower 48 States, the Service has primary management responsibility for 12.2 million fee acres, and 8.9 million acres are open to public hunting. There are also 1.6 million fee acres of refuge overlays on other agency lands, such as the San Andres Refuge within the U.S. Army’s White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, that are generally closed to public hunting for national security or safety reasons. Most of the remaining acres are conservation easement acres, where landowners retain possession and most property rights, including control over public access.

The Service’s 38 wetland management districts administer 3.9 million acres of waterfowl production areas (WPAs). WPAs are small natural wetlands and associated grasslands located primarily in the upper Midwest, which the Service acquires under the authority of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act. The 3.9 million acres of WPAs includes 784,347 fee acres open to public hunting as well as 3.1 million acres of private lands under Service wetland and grassland easements, where landowners retain possession and most property rights, including control over public access.

The Refuge System’s 50 coordination areas encompass 257,739 acres of Federal lands that States manage as wildlife habitat under cooperative agreements with the Service.

Protecting Refuge System lands and waters supports local and national economies, along with protecting Americans’ health and well-being. Most refuges are open to public use, including hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, outdoor education, and interpretation. Through efforts to conserve migratory birds, protect endangered species, restore and manage habitats, and combat invasive species, the Refuge System helps to improve air and water quality, reduce erosion, improve soil health

Types of Refuge System Lands
<p>National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs) include the Refuge System lands, waters, and interests administered by the Service as wildlife refuges, wildlife ranges, wildlife management areas, game preserves, and conservation areas.</p>
<p>Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) are small natural wetlands and associated grasslands located primarily in the upper Midwest that the Service acquires under the authority of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act.</p>
<p>Coordination Areas are Refuge System lands that States manage as wildlife habitat under cooperative agreements with the Service.</p>

and groundwater retention, reduce coastal impacts from hurricanes, and store excess water during storms or spring snow melts.

The Refuge System fulfills its mission by focusing efforts in five primary areas:

- Wildlife and Habitat Management: Includes refuge operations that are vital for providing scientific information needed to inform management decisions, and for the Refuge System to achieve its mission.
- Refuge Visitor Services: Welcomes over 50 million visitors to National Wildlife Refuges and builds their appreciation for wildlife and natural areas, encouraging people to become conservation stewards. Provides opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, nature photography, environmental education, and interpretation (collectively called wildlife-dependent recreation).
- Refuge Law Enforcement: Includes emergency managers, Federal wildlife zone officers, regional refuge law enforcement chiefs, field officers, training, equipment, and supplies.
- Conservation Planning and Policy: Enables the Service to successfully implement conservation efforts on-the-ground through a transparent public planning process and conservation design.
- Refuge Maintenance: Supports active management of over 3 million acres of wildlife habitat each year, and maintains nearly \$44 billion in constructed real property assets such as roads, buildings, and water management facilities. The Refuge Maintenance staff also takes care of administrative, visitor use, and maintenance facilities, and the fleet of vehicles and heavy equipment necessary to conduct wildlife and habitat management activities.

Applicable Laws, Acts, and Orders

The National Wildlife Refuge System is implemented under the following authorities:

- The Fish and Wildlife Act (16 U.S.C. 742a-742j) establishes a comprehensive national fish and wildlife policy and authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to take steps required for the development, management, advancement, conservation, and protection of fisheries resources and wildlife resources through research, acquisition of refuge lands, development of existing facilities, and other means;
- The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661-666e) directs the Service to investigate and report on proposed Federal actions that affect any stream or other body of water, and to provide recommendations to minimize impacts on fish and wildlife resources;
- The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee) provides authority, guidelines, and directives for the Service in administering the lands and waters of the National Wildlife Refuge System, including establishing six wildlife-dependent recreation activities as priority uses;
- The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act (P.L. 105-57) spells out wildlife conservation as the fundamental mission of the Refuge System, requires comprehensive conservation planning to guide management of the Refuge System, directs involvement of private citizens in land management decisions, and provides that compatible wildlife-dependent

recreation is a legitimate and appropriate use that should receive priority in refuge planning and management;

- The National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Improvement Act (P.L. 111-357) authorizes cooperative agreements with nonprofit partner organizations, academic institutions, or State and local governments to construct, operate, maintain, or improve refuge facilities and services, and promotes volunteer, outreach, and education programs;
- The Refuge Recreation Act (16 U.S.C. 460k-460k-4) authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to administer refuges, hatcheries, and other conservation areas for recreational use, when such uses do not interfere with the area's primary purposes;
- The National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Act (P.L. 106-408) reinforces National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act provisions to raise public understanding and appreciations for the Refuge System;
- The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 410hh-3233, 43 U.S.C. 1602-1784) provides for the designation and conservation of certain public lands in Alaska, including units of the Refuge System, and for the continuing subsistence needs of Alaska Natives;
- The Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 715-715d, 715e, 715f-715r) authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to conduct investigations and publish documents related to North American birds, and establishes a Migratory Bird Conservation Commission to approve areas recommended by the Secretary for acquisition;
- The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act (16 U.S.C. 718a-718k) requires waterfowl hunters 16 years of age or older to possess a valid Federal Duck Stamp;
- The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712) establishes Federal responsibility for protecting and managing migratory birds; and
- The Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131-1136) establishes a National Wilderness Preservation System for the permanent good of the whole people.

Activity: National Wildlife Refuge System
Subactivity: Wildlife and Habitat Management

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018			Change from 2017 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Wildlife and Habitat Management	(\$000)	230,343	229,905	+2,995	0	-8,007	224,893	-5,012
	FTE	1,433	1,425	0	0	0	1,425	0

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for Wildlife and Habitat Management

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Youth	-1,555	0
• Cooperative Recovery Initiative	-3,194	0
• Wildlife and Habitat Management Activities	-3,258	0
Program Changes	-\$8,007	0

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for Wildlife and Habitat Management is \$224,893,000 and 1,425 FTE, a program change of -\$8,007,000 and +0 FTE from the FY 2017 CR Baseline.

Youth (-\$1,555,000/+0 FTE)

Because of fiscal constraints and other priorities, the Service will not fund programs focused on youth in FY 2018. The Service will focus on core wildlife and habitat management activities. The Wildlife and Habitat Management program will continue providing youth engagement opportunities with base funds when practicable.

Cooperative Recovery Initiative (-\$3,194,000/+0 FTE)

The Service began this cross-programmatic approach to restoring and recovering Federally-listed species on National Wildlife Refuges in FY 2013. Since then, the Service has directed \$23.2 million to 57 projects at 70 refuges across the country, benefitting 149 listed species. This reduction will allow the Service to address other priorities. Staff from Service programs will continue collaborating to promote species recovery as resources permit.

Wildlife and Habitat Management Activities (-\$3,258,000/+0 FTE)

The FY 2018 budget request will enable the Service to continue traditional wildlife and habitat management activities, such as water level manipulation, prescriptive grazing, and selective timber harvesting to achieve desired habitat conditions for fish and wildlife. Healthy habitats are vital to ensure sustainable wildlife populations. In 2018, the Service expects to actively manage more than 3 million acres of habitat. At this funding level, the Service would restore about 40 riparian miles of stream/shoreline, 7,400 wetland acres, and 9,500 upland acres. Invasive species management includes the continuing operation of five Invasive Species Strike Teams operating across the Refuge System and focusing on early detection and rapid response to recently established infestations. With this funding, the Service would be able to treat and/or control nearly 40,000 acres infested with invasive plants, and treat and/or control about 114 invasive animal species. Together, activities not only benefit wildlife and habitat, but also support high-quality, wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities for about 50 million annual visitors.

Program Overview

This subactivity provides the basic operating funding for the National Wildlife Refuge System. As previously noted, the Refuge System spans 855.4 million acres and includes 566 National Wildlife Refuges, 38 wetland management districts, 50 wildlife coordination areas, and seven National Monuments.

The Refuge System works collaboratively internally and externally to leverage resources and achieve effective conservation. Meaningful engagement with stakeholders at a regional, integrated level adds to the effective conservation achievements of the Service, and allows individual refuges to respond more effectively to challenges.

Wildlife and Habitat Management General Program Activities

Wildlife and Habitat Management funds refuge operations that are vital for providing scientific information needed to inform management decisions, and for the Refuge System to achieve its mission. These activities include:

- Monitoring plant and animal populations;
- Restoring wetland, forest, grassland, and marine habitats;
- Managing habitats through manipulation of water levels, prescribed burning, haying, grazing, timber harvest, and planting vegetation;
- Controlling the spread of invasive species;
- Monitoring air quality;
- Assessing water quality and quantity;
- Investigating and cleaning contaminants; and
- Preventing and controlling wildlife disease outbreaks.

The Refuge System funds the bulk of our on-the-ground habitat work through the General Program Activities. Some of these programs are described below.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

The Service's integrated pest management program uses diverse tools, methods, and techniques to manage pests and invasive species while minimizing risk to public and wildlife health, the environment, and the economy. The Service's IPM program reviews nearly 3,000 diverse uses of pesticides in Service programs each year, and we embrace proven innovative technologies, including biological controls, biopesticides, and new tools.

We strive to make efficient use of all tools and partners in the public, academic, and private sectors. For example, the Service uses trained dogs to sniff out invasive nutria destroying marsh habitats in the northeast and to locate invasive snakes in the Everglades. We use paintball guns to target herbicides to invasive plants. The Service also combines high resolution aerial photography with sophisticated mapping tools to create accurate mapped inventory of invasive plants in locations that are hard to access.

Biological control agents are a non-pesticide and low risk IPM tool that uses other living organisms to effectively control invasive species. In 2016, refuges in the Northeast released biocontrol agents to target the non-native dogstrangling vine that interferes with monarch butterfly reproduction on native milkweeds as well as making it difficult to walk through infested habitats. Monitoring the biocontrol agent in spring/summer 2017 will measure over-wintering success in a harsh climate and provide an estimate potential for 2017 success at controlling the unwanted invasive plant.

Refuge System Contaminants Program

The Contaminants Program includes a number of activities, including assessments and cleanups. The Assessment Process evaluates potential or known contaminant sources on or near refuges and possible transport pathways, allowing Refuge managers to assess risks to wildlife and put response plans in place. The Contaminants Program performs regularly scheduled internal compliance audits to ensure that refuges are conforming to Federal regulations. The Refuge Cleanup Program funds five to seven projects each year, including phased, multiyear projects. The projects range from small-scale removal of contaminated soil around refuges, to larger scale restorations such as decontaminating former landfills.

Refuge Energy Program

The Service's Energy Program coordinates the management of non-federal oil and gas exploration and development within the Refuge System. We work collaboratively with States, oil and gas operators, and other partners to promote development of energy resources by ensuring the exercise of private oil and gas rights on refuges occurs under an efficient process with due regard for fish and wildlife. The Energy Program's goals are to increase management consistency and efficiency to benefit operators and the public by avoiding unnecessary impacts to trust resources and supporting prompt restoration of areas once operations are complete.



Oil and natural gas operations at Laccasine NWR (Louisiana). Almost half of all National Wildlife Refuges contain either pipelines and/or oil and gas wells.

Energy Program staff provide project level technical assistance to Refuge System field staff in their management of new oil and gas activities, such as seismic exploration surveys and drilling, ongoing production operations, and well plugging and surface reclamation.

Inventory and Monitoring

The Service embraces a scientific approach to conserving, managing, and restoring refuge lands and waters, and works to deliver conservation within the Refuge System. Inventory and monitoring (I&M) of the biological resources, ecological processes, physical environment, and human interactions with these resources are a critical component of the Service's effort to successfully deliver conservation.

The I&M program provides the information necessary to implement the Service's adaptive management framework, where planning management actions and monitoring them create an iterative process of increasing efficiency. I&M efforts are coordinated nationally through the Service's Natural Resource Program Center to ensure that collected data is consistent and relevant to all users, and that data analysis and storage achieve the highest scientific standards.

Successful integrated conservation requires intense coordination, both internally and externally. The I&M program works directly with the National Park Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and other Federal and State partners to integrate efforts across the Federal government and minimize duplication. We continue streamlining and enhancing the Service's scientific capacity through integration and

collaboration with the scientific efforts and protocols of other agencies, States, and scientific communities. Through this effort, the I&M program saves taxpayer money.

Invasive Species Management

Invasive species are one of the most serious threats to native wildlife, fish, and plants in the Refuge System, and these threats are expected to grow. In fact, invasive species are the second greatest threat to biodiversity and federally-listed threatened and endangered species, with habitat loss the first. Invasive species negatively affect native species through habitat modification, disruption of vital ecosystem functions, competition, predation, herbivory, transmission of pathogens, and by hybridizing with natives.

Based on the threats posed by invasive species, several strategic management activities are critical to preventing their introduction and spread, and controlling or eradicating them where they are established. Funds are used to prevent, detect, inventory, map, monitor, treat, control, and eradicate invasive species from refuge lands to protect and restore native ecosystems. Treatment methods can include mechanical removal, applying pesticides and biopesticides, controlled burns, flooding, sterile male releases, and biological and genetic control. Moving forward, the Service is particularly interested in working with partners on the early detection and rapid response (EDRR) of emerging invasive species and exploring new technologies for control. EDRR aims to limit the establishment or range expansion of invasive species and prevent the need for the more costly ongoing treatments often required once they are established. Finding technologies could help overcome the invasive species challenge.



In the Hawaiian Islands, feral hog fences have been erected to protect native forests. In this photo, the forest is recovering inside the fenced area on the left versus significant damage to the forest outside of the fence.

Invasive species continue to alter wildlife habitat and pose challenges to the management of refuge lands. In FY 2016, nearly 2.35 million acres of refuge lands were infested with non-native invasive plants. The Refuge System was able to treat 259,111 (about 11 percent) of these acres with the resources available. Feral hogs continue to be a major problem, greatly impacting at least 99 refuges.

Marine National Monuments

The Refuge System has management authority for four Marine National Monuments in the Pacific (Marianas Trench, Pacific Remote Islands, Papahānaumokuākea, and Rose Atoll), which include 12 National Wildlife Refuges, about 8,300 acres of land, and over 750 million acres of submerged lands and waters. These Marine



*Diver swimming at Midway Atoll Refuge within the Papahānaumokuākea National Marine Monument.
Credit: Jim Maragos*

National Monuments are considered the most unspoiled tropical ecosystems under U.S. purview and are some of our Nation's last frontiers for wildlife conservation and scientific exploration. Spanning an area larger than the Continental U.S. and covering over 20 islands, atolls, and reefs scattered across five time zones of the tropical and temperate Pacific, these areas support healthy fisheries and can act as sources for fish populations outside of the monuments. The monuments also have great scientific values as intact ecosystems—over 80 new species were discovered last year during research expeditions in the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument.

2018 Program Performance

The 2018 budget request will enable the Service to continue traditional wildlife and habitat management activities, such as water level manipulation, prescriptive grazing, and selective timber harvesting to achieve desired habitat conditions for fish and wildlife. Healthy habitats are vital to ensure sustainable wildlife populations. In 2018, the Service expects to actively manage more than 3 million acres of habitat. Invasive species management includes the continuing operation of five Invasive Species Strike Teams operating across the Refuge System and focusing on early detection and rapid response to recently established infestations.

The budget level requested will maintain the Inventory and Monitoring (I&M) program the Service began in 2010. At the requested funding level, the Service will be able to complete about 4,000 I&M surveys, a critical first step for the Service to more effectively manage habitats for wildlife and plant species. In 2018, the Refuge System plans to implement approximately 2,000 threatened and endangered species recovery actions; 1,100 population management actions; 1,800 research studies; and six refuge contaminant cleanup actions.

Activity: National Wildlife Refuge System
Subactivity: Refuge Visitor Services

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018			Change from 2017 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Refuge Visitor Services	(\$000)	73,319	73,179	+1,055	0	-3,143	71,091	-2,088
	FTE	525	515	0	0	0	515	0

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for Refuge Visitor Services

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Visitor Services Activities	-1,147	0
• Youth and Careers in Nature	-1,996	0
Program Changes	-3,143	0

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for Refuge Visitor Services is \$71,091,000 and 515 FTE, a program change of -\$3,143,000 and +0 FTE from the FY 2017 CR Baseline.

Visitor Services Activities (-\$1,147,000/+0 FTE)

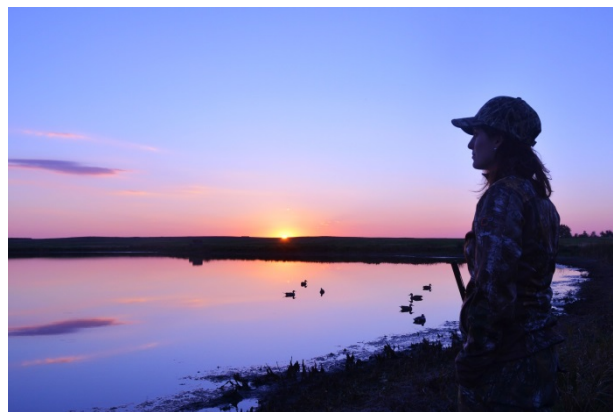
This funding level will enable Visitor Services staff to maintain most of the hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and other core wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities currently available on refuges. The Service expects to reduce the number of environmental education programs, interpretation programs, and special events, like bird festivals, by about 5 percent. We also expect that the number of archeological sites, historic structures, and museum collections in good condition will decline by about five percent.

Youth and Careers in Nature (-\$1,996,000/+0 FTE)

Because of fiscal constraints and other priorities, the Service will not fund programs focused on youth in FY 2018. The Service will focus instead on delivery of our core mission. The Visitor Services program will continue providing some youth engagement opportunities with base funds when practicable.

Program Overview

The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act (Improvement Act) clarified that providing opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, nature photography, environmental education, and interpretation (collectively called wildlife-dependent recreation) is a prominent and important goal for the Refuge System. The Improvement Act recognizes the importance of a close connection between land, water, wildlife, and the American character, and the need to conserve natural areas for future generations of Americans.



Hunting is one of the most popular recreational opportunities available at most National Wildlife Refuges, and 60 percent of all refuges are open to hunting.

The Refuge System Visitor Services program and its knowledgeable and customer-focused staff support these priorities while offering opportunities to connect children and young adults with the outdoors, providing cultural resource interpretation, and

managing a vibrant volunteer and Friends program. Additionally, the Refuge System protects 103 cultural resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places, 10 of which have been designated National Historic Landmarks, including two World War II battlefields (Attu and Midway) and numerous historic lighthouses.

In FY 2016, more than 50 million Refuge System visitors took advantage of outstanding Refuge System recreation programs, including through more than 2,700 special events at refuges nationwide. Of the 566 refuges, 337 (60 percent) are open to hunting, and 275 (49 percent) are open to fishing. Over 2.4 million hunters and over 6.9 million recreational anglers visited these refuges last year. The most current information on access to hunting opportunities is available through *Your Guide to Hunting on National Wildlife Refuges*, which is available at www.fws.gov/refuges/hunting. Similarly, fishing opportunities throughout the Refuge System are updated regularly through *Your Guide to Fishing on National Wildlife Refuges*, which is available at www.fws.gov/refuges/fishingguide.



*Young angler at Minnesota Valley NWR (Minnesota).
Credit: Joanna Gilkeson/USFWS*

Wildlife watching continues to be the most popular recreational activity on refuges, attracting roughly 31.4 million visitors. The Refuge System's extensive network of trails, auto tour routes, observation towers, platforms, and boardwalks are widely accessible to visitors, families, and school groups. The popularity of wildlife photography is increasing faster than any other activity, with 10 million visitors taking wildlife and nature pictures last year. Refuge System interpretation and environmental education programs, attracted about 2.6 million and 750,000 participants, respectively. Additionally, thousands of young Americans were provided job opportunities and career-building experiences through volunteer programs and partnerships.



*Wildlife watching continues to be the most popular recreational activity on refuges attracting roughly 31.4 million visitors such as these visitors at Big Muddy NFWR (Missouri).
Credit: Steve Hillebrand*

A 2012 peer-reviewed national visitor survey indicated that 90 percent of refuge visitors, on average, gave high marks to all facets of their experiences on refuge lands. The survey was sponsored by the Service and designed, conducted, and analyzed by researchers with the U.S. Geological Survey. Results from over 10,000 respondents indicate:

- 91% are highly satisfied with recreational activities and opportunities;
- 89% are highly satisfied with information and education about the refuge;
- 91% are highly satisfied with services provided by refuge employees or volunteers;
- 91% are highly satisfied with how refuges are conserving fish, wildlife, and their habitats; and
- Wildlife observation, birdwatching, photography, hiking, and auto-tour-route use were among the visitors' most popular refuge activities.

Economic Impacts

Refuges attract tens of millions of visitors who come to hunt, fish, observe, and photograph wildlife and are a significant boon to local economies. Of the Refuge System's \$453 million spending in FY 2013, final demand—that is, the economic impact on local communities from recreation visits—totaled \$2.4 billion, according to the *Banking on Nature 2013* report¹, which looked at 21 National Wildlife Refuges across the country. This final demand generated \$792.7 million in job income and over 35,000 jobs nationally.

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. Property values surrounding refuges are higher than equivalent properties elsewhere.² The study found that homes within 0.5 miles of a refuge and within eight miles of an urban center ranged in value three to nine percent higher depending on the region of the country.

Accessible Outdoor Visitor Facilities

Visitor Services funding helps develop, rehabilitate, and construct small-scale and cost-efficient facilities such as parking areas at trailheads, wildlife observation platforms, hunting blinds, boat ramps, kiosks, and other projects that promote access to wildlife-dependent recreation and minimize barriers for the visiting public. This program was initiated in FY 2003 to get more people outdoors and provide them with inexpensive quality visitor experiences at many refuges. Since then, the Refuge System has constructed hundreds of small-scale visitor facilities by leveraging funding from partners and youth corps to improve public access to and use of refuge lands and waters. Most visitor facility enhancements are available free of charge to local residents and out-of-town refuge visitors.



Visitor Facility enhancements include structures such as hunting blinds, fishing piers, observation decks, and boardwalks such as this one at Anahuac Refuge (Texas).

¹ <https://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/Banking-on-Nature-Report.pdf>

² *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

Welcoming Everyone

The Service clearly identifies all wildlife refuges that are open to the public for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, nature photography, environmental education, and interpretation. We ensure that visitors understand how refuges conserve and manage habitat and natural resources, and provide visitors with the information and tools to help them enjoy their visits. Welcoming and orienting visitors provides a unique brand identity that helps the public understand the Service's role in conservation and recreation. This identity recognition is heightened through clear and accurate signage, brochures, interpretive materials, uniforms, adequate and accessible recreational facilities, and knowledgeable customer-focused staff and volunteers available to answer questions and describe the role of an individual refuge within the context of the Service's mission.

Environmental Education and Interpretation

Over 750,000 students and teachers visit National Wildlife Refuges annually. Through a variety of learning activities, the Service provides environmental education programs to help young people understand the basic concepts of natural resource management. The students and educators use National Wildlife Refuges as hands-on, outdoor classrooms to learn the fundamentals of environmental science by exploring what is happening in their backyards. The Service also reaches youth groups, schools, homeschoolers, nature centers, and teachers with conservation education materials available through Service web pages and web-based educational programs such as *Conservation Connect*, produced by the Service's National Conservation Training Center (NCTC).

Interpretive programs on wildlife refuges are designed to facilitate meaningful and memorable visitor experiences, teach respect for the outdoors, encourage traditional recreational uses such as hunting and fishing, and foster interest in other popular outdoor pastimes such as birding.



Environmental education and interpretation experiences, such as this alligator program at Big Branch Marsh NWR (Louisiana), engage the public by making fish, wildlife, plants, and wildlife habitat relevant, meaningful, and accessible to the American public.

Credit: Steve Hillebrand

Birding

Refuges play a key role in attracting birds and bird enthusiasts, with fully one-third of all Important Bird Areas (IBA) in the U.S. located on our lands and waters as determined by Audubon. To make refuges more welcoming to birds and birders, the Service established the Birder-Friendly Refuge Program a few years ago, and identified 20 priority action items to connect National Wildlife Refuges, birders, and birds. By welcoming visitors and providing them bird checklists and public use facilities, offering on-site programs and activities like bird walks and bird counts, and engaging the community and inviting them onto refuges, the Birder-Friendly Refuge Program has helped make refuges a destination for avid and beginning birders alike. We also host birding programs and festivals, which generate significant revenue and create jobs for local economies by bringing more visitors to the area.

The Birder-Friendly Refuge Program developed partnerships with non-governmental organizations, such as the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, to distribute equipment and field guides for use by the visiting public. Birds and birding programs have also served as catalysts for offering more citizen science opportunities on refuges. The Audubon Christmas Bird Count and Great Backyard Bird Count are two examples that blend citizen science with the recreational pursuit of birding. In addition to connecting people to nature, these two events introduce the public to bird surveying, and the data can be used by refuge staff to monitor bird



Bird watching, is one of the most popular wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities in national wildlife refuges.

Credit: Steve Hillebrand

range expansions, reductions, and population changes over time. To date, nearly 40 percent of National Wildlife Refuges and wetland management districts open to the public are participating in the program, which is serving as a model to improve other Refuge System and Service recreation programs. For example, in FY 2017, the Service will assemble a photography team with external partners to evaluate the current state of wildlife photography in the Refuge System, and recommend improvements to attract new refuge visitors and further engage traditional supporters.

Cultural and Historic Resources

The Service ensures that significant cultural, archaeological, and historic resources are experienced, interpreted, and protected in accordance with authorizing legislation and policies. Professionally trained cultural resource specialists review projects funded or permitted by the Service for compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The NHPA regulatory reviews may include field surveys, archaeological investigations, site evaluations, and mitigation. The Service protects thousands of important cultural and archaeological sites, including 103 resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places, ten of which have been designated National Historic Landmarks. The Refuge System has identified over 20,000 archaeological and historical sites on its lands to date, with more yet to be discovered. The entire Service protects about 4.2 million museum objects in collections which are maintained in Service facilities or on loan to over 200 non-Federal repositories, such as qualified museums and academic institutions, for scientific study, public viewing, and long-term care.

Bridging a Need with History—the Duvall Bridge Restoration

Patuxent Research Refuge in Maryland has many historic landmarks, including the Duvall Bridge (Figure 1). Originally constructed circa 1907 by Anne Arundel County to replace an existing wooden bridge, the Duvall Bridge provided passage over the Patuxent River for Telegraph Road, which had been the main thoroughfare between Washington D.C. and Baltimore. The first long-distance telegraph system, constructed in 1844 by Samuel Morse, ran along this road.

The importance of the bridge to the general operations of Patuxent Research Refuge cannot be overstated. Although this road is not open to the public, it provides the only access within the refuge boundary between the north tract and the rest of the refuge. Without the bridge, the Service's response time to the north tract for law enforcement officers and other activities increases from 15 to 45 minutes.

Despite its importance, its condition warranted that it be condemned and closed to all access as a result of a structural inspection in 2009. Full restoration of the bridge was proposed and submitted as a deferred maintenance project. The project was funded for design in 2011 and the work was completed in 2013. With the completion and opening of Duvall Bridge (Figure 2), operations at the Refuge have become more manageable and the staff is excited to have a serviceable bridge to use for the next 100 years.



Figure 1. Duvall Bridge prior to restoration.



Figure 2. Restored and re-opened for operations

Connected Conservation Communities

The Service continues welcoming more visitors each year. Americans across the country are experiencing the world through digital platforms, including the anglers, hunters, photographers, and bird watchers who visit our lands and waters. To connect with the next generation of hunters, anglers, and outdoor recreationists and our refuge neighbors, we need to engage with people where they are. To better serve the American public and strengthen our engagement with local communities, the Service developed the Urban Wildlife Conservation Program. Residents are encouraged to play, relax, and enjoy nearby refuges and natural areas, which in turn adds value and benefits those local communities and economies.

With 101 refuges within 25 miles of a population center of 250,000 or more people, the Urban Program is our primary method to reach most urban dwellers. In communities without immediate access to Service land, the Service works to create opportunities through Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnerships and the Urban Bird Treaty

Cities. These two programs are successful collaborative efforts providing relevant and empowering place-based, outdoor experiences for private residents, Federal, State, Tribal, municipal agencies, and non-governmental organizations. In 2016, the Service designated the following four new Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnerships to the original 17 that were designated in previous years:

- Apple Snail Adoption Partnership (West Palm Beach, Florida)
- Mill Creek Healthy People/Healthy River Partnership (Cincinnati, Ohio)
- Greenway Renewal Project (Elizabeth, New Jersey)
- Canoemobile (Twin Cities, Minnesota)

To date, the Service has provided additional base funds to four urban refuges—SoCal Urban Wildlife Refuge Project, California; Portland-Vancouver Metro Area Urban Refuge Program, Oregon and Washington; Valle de Oro Refuge, New Mexico; and John Heinz Refuge, Pennsylvania—to reach new audiences in their communities. In FY 2016, the Service awarded funding to Valle de Oro Refuge in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and John Heinz Refuge in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to enhance their urban programs.

Valle de Oro Refuge, New Mexico

Valle de Oro Refuge is seven miles south of downtown Albuquerque and along the Rio Grande River. It is within a 30 minute drive of 45 percent of the entire population of New Mexico and within a one hour drive of nearly 70 percent of the entire state population. Because of this increased funding, the refuge was able to better connect with residents, including:

- Welcoming over 5,500 students to participate in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) based environmental education programs that focused on place-based learning, service projects, and citizen science;
- Hosting the third annual Mountain View Elementary School field day for 360 students from K-5 and their guardians and teachers. The event included 10 partner organizations focused on environmental education, personal health, and wellness;
- Working collaboratively with the New Mexico Audubon Society to present the Birds of a Feather program to 200 fourth grade students. This program uses birds to connect students to the outdoors and build future environmental stewards in the Middle Rio Grande Valley;
- Working cooperatively with the New Mexico Audubon Society, Environmental Education Association of New Mexico, and Earth Force to deliver service-based learning programs, develop STEM based programming, and create an assessment of target audience behaviors;
- Employing over 100 youth in full- and part-time jobs based out of the refuge. These jobs were created through a partnership with the Middle Rio Grande Urban Conservation Corps, the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, the National Park Service, and U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs; and
- Developing a site specific STEM app geared to teach fourth graders about the ecology of the Rio Grande in collaboration with the U.S. Forest.



Education Specialists and Friends of Valle de Oro NWR worked collaboratively with the Gutierrez Hubble House to develop "Changes Along the Rio Grande" curriculum, teaching 7th graders about cultural resources and natural resources along the Middle Rio Grande Valley. The curriculum was presented to 500 students during FY 2016.

Volunteers and Community Partnerships

Service volunteers facilitate recreation activities, habitat restoration, maintenance, administrative activities, and many other tasks as directed by the Volunteer and Community Partnership Enhancement Act. The Refuge System is dependent on these dedicated volunteers. We could not accomplish our mission without them. In FY 2016, over 40,000 Refuge System volunteers contributed nearly 1.35 million hours of volunteer service valued at almost \$32 million, and logged hours equivalent to 649 FTE. In fact, volunteers contribute nearly 20 percent of the work hours performed on refuges. Additionally, nearly 200 non-profit Friends organizations serving over 300 refuges are critical to building effective community partnerships, leveraging resources, and serving as conservation ambassadors in their communities, helping to connect volunteers to opportunities at refuges.

In return, the Service continues to support volunteers and Friends groups through on-site training, mentoring, workshops, and awards. New efforts are also underway to build a suite of citizen science programs for participation by Friends organizations, volunteers, and visitors. These programs offer volunteers and visitors new, meaningful opportunities to contribute data that can help the Service learn how to manage natural resources and protect wildlife, fish, and their habitats better.

Youth Careers & Volunteer Opportunities in Natural Resources

The Service engages young people by promoting interest in outdoor activities, and hiring for summer and seasonal positions when funding is available. We create programs and places where students can learn science, math, language arts, and social studies through hands-on learning in wetlands, forests, and prairies. We teach and promote outdoor skills such as fishing, archery, photography, and hunting and provide places for families to spend time outdoors together. We promote resource stewardship through volunteer opportunities, internships, and other youth work programs. To engaging young people, we work with Friends organizations, educational institutions, local conservation organizations, and other partners.

2018 Program Performance

The 2018 budget request will allow the Service to continue welcoming over 50 million visitors to enjoy hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, and educational or interpretive programs. The funding level requested will enable Visitor Services staff to maintain most of the hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and other core wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities currently available on refuges. Funding will be used to develop visitor programs, materials, and services that improve upon visitor satisfaction rates, currently at 90 percent, and help the Service connect with traditional and new audiences alike. In 2018, the Service expects to host more than 2,000 special events with approximately 600,000 participants. The number of environmental education programs, interpretation programs, and special events such as bird festivals is expected to be reduced by roughly 5 percent. Some visitors participate in multiple activities per visit, but the Service expects to host approximately 2.5 million hunting visits; 7 million fishing visits; 31 million wildlife observation visits; 16 million hiking visits; 11 million wildlife auto tour visits; 8 million photography visits; 3 million boating/canoe/kayak visits; 1 million bicycle visits; and nearly 1 million visits for environmental education programs.

Service staff aim to train and supervise more than 35,000 volunteers who contribute more than 1.2 million hours to conservation and recreation programs for refuges. The Service will continue supporting training programs for volunteer coordinators and provide support for refuges working with Friends organizations. In addition, the Service will provide support for many Friends groups across the country that help refuges achieve the Service mission.

Activity: National Wildlife Refuge System
Subactivity: Refuge Law Enforcement

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018			Change from 2017 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Refuge Law Enforcement	(\$000)	38,054	37,982	+566	0	-619	37,929	-53
	FTE	245	243	0	0	0	243	0

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for Refuge Law Enforcement

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Law Enforcement Activities	-619	0
Program Changes	-619	0

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for Refuge Law Enforcement is \$37,929,000 and 243 FTE, a program change of -\$619,000 and +0 FTE from the FY 2017 CR Baseline.

Refuge Law Enforcement Activities (-\$619,000/+0 FTE)

At this requested level, the funding will allow the Service to maintain current officer levels. The Refuge System’s officers will provide for the security and safety of about 50 million refuge visitors and employees, government property, and wildlife and habitats.

Program Overview

Refuge Law Enforcement includes funding for the Refuge Law Enforcement Program and the Service’s Emergency Management and Physical Security Program. This subactivity funds training, equipment, supplies, and management of the Refuge System’s Federal Wildlife Officers, Regional and Headquarters management support staff, and emergency managers.

Refuge Law Enforcement

Federal Wildlife Officers are the face of the Refuge System. They are often the first and most frequent employee that the public sees.

Federal Wildlife Officers provide safety and security for the visiting public; protect fish, wildlife, cultural, and archaeological resources on refuges; educate the public about the Service’s mission; contribute to environmental education and outreach; assist local communities with law enforcement and disaster recovery; and help protect Native subsistence rights. In FY 2016, officers had contacts with nearly 4,000 hunters and over 1,400 anglers, many of which were to assist these visitors.

Officers also participated in over 7,000 education encounters, such as school programs, Scout programs, community organizations, or otherwise educating visitors about hunting, trapping, rules, regulations, etc. They are also routinely involved with local and other Federal law enforcement agencies in cooperative efforts to combat the Nation’s drug problems, address border security issues, and aid in other security



Service Federal Wildlife Officer teaching a Junior Game Warden class to Native Alaskans

challenges. About 11 percent of all Federal Wildlife Officers are located on the U.S. southern border to assist with these efforts.



Federal Wildlife Officers work closely with State and local law enforcement agencies to ensure the safety of hunters and anglers and enforce State and Federal hunting and fishing regulations.

The Service collaborates with local, county, State, and other Federal agencies for mutual law enforcement assistance for the purpose of protecting lives, property, and resources. The Strategic Wildlife Enforcement Program (SWEP), for example, is an initiative that provides funding for enforcement activities by partnering with State and local agencies on various activities, including actions focused solely on preventing wildlife violations.

Federal Wildlife Officers are a critical link with the public in the role of conservation. We ensure the fair and legal use of wildlife resources, whether it is tagging a grizzly bear in Alaska, checking deer hunters in Mississippi, or

supporting duck hunters in California. Federal Wildlife Officers assist in biological surveys and educate the public on the importance of conservation of America’s natural resources. Our conservation efforts go far beyond recreation. Hunting and fishing is vital to many Native Alaskans as they rely on it for their day-to-day food for survival. Federal Wildlife Officers works to ensure that these resources will be available for Native Alaskans for generations to come.

At the end of FY 2016, the Service had 245 full time equivalent Federal Wildlife Officers, charged with patrolling and responding to law enforcement issues throughout the 855.4 million acres under Refuge System management. Our law enforcement officers are spread very thinly throughout the Refuge System. For example, sixteen States have only one officer. As visitation to refuges has grown more than 20 percent in the last 10 years and continues growing each year, the number of officers has remained about the same or declined. Today, each officer is responsible on average for 161,300 visitors and 29,000 hunters and anglers.



Service Federal Wildlife Officer assisting with Border Patrol activities on Service-managed lands

Emergency Management and Physical Security

The Service’s Emergency Management and Physical Security program (EMPS) provides expertise and leadership for the Service’s emergency management and physical security responsibilities nationwide and supports activities to prevent, protect against, prepare for, mitigate the effects of, respond to, and recover from all hazards that may affect any part of the bureau. The program has three major goals:

Goal 1: Promote a resilient Service, ensuring that the lands administered by the Service and the surrounding communities are able to withstand and recover from all hazards.

EMPS continuously supports thorough, direct, and open communication with all stakeholders to promote resilience in the face of emergency situations, such as oil spills, chemical releases, and wildlife-to-human disease transmission. EMPS helps these stakeholders save lives, mitigate impacts, and preserve habitats. For example, the National Response Framework is a guide to how the Nation responds to all types of disasters and emergencies. In partnership with the Department, the Service supports 13 of 15 Emergency Support Functions. In addition, EMPS sends subject matter experts to provide all hazards consultation and technical assistance to State and local authorities during and after emergencies.

Goal 2: Facilitate a significant improvement in the Service's ability to provide emergency responder capacity in times of crisis.

The Service has an agile workforce that is deployable on short notice and brings both diverse and cross functional (i.e. scientists that are pilots, divers, boat operators, etc.) skill sets to emergencies. Because these skills can be used in many situations, the Service's workforce is often thrust into the most challenging types of incidents, oftentimes requiring proficiency in the fundamentals of Emergency Management and the use of the Incident Command System (ICS). ICS is a standardized on-scene incident management tool and structure designed to meet the needs of incidents of any kind or size that is used across the Federal, State, and local governments. For example, ICS was used in 2016 for both the illegal occupation of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and the New World screwworm infestation in the Florida Keys. By increasing the number of Service employees who are qualified and able to perform in an ICS managed incident, the Service is better equipped to respond and partner on emergencies on a local, region, and national scale.

Goal 3: Institutionalizing a Whole Service approach to preparedness.

Preparedness is a shared responsibility; it calls for the involvement of the entire organization—not just EMPS practitioners. By working together from a Service-wide approach, we all take part in keeping the Service, the lands we administer, and the nation safe from harm when struck by natural and human-caused disasters.

The whole Service approach requires that all Service employees take part in awareness training, testing, and drills to strengthen the Service's ability to stay agile and ready to serve. Additionally, this approach helps us improve our community partnerships by conducting training, testing, and drills with our local partners. These efforts strengthen those vital partnerships where oftentimes the Service is the only Federal entity to interface with the community.

2018 Program Performance

In FY 2018, the Division of Refuge Law Enforcement will continue pursuing its goal of protecting human lives, wildlife, and Service assets. The FY 2018 budget request would support the current level of officers within the Law Enforcement program. These officers will provide for the security and safety of approximately 50 million refuge visitors and employees, government property, and the wildlife and habitats the Refuge System strives to protect. Federal wildlife officers anticipate documenting over 42,000 offenses and/or incidents, including natural, cultural, archaeological, and heritage resource crimes and other crimes such as drug abuse, burglary, and assault.

The FY 2018 request also includes funding to facilitate contracts and mutual-aid agreements, and provide infrastructure support to enhance the ability of the Federal Wildlife Officers to communicate with other law enforcement agencies when patrolling, verifying information on criminal suspects, and summoning aid under emergency circumstances.

Activity: National Wildlife Refuge System
Subactivity: Conservation Planning

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018				Change from 2017 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Conservation Planning	(\$000)	2,523	2,518	0	0	-2,518	0	-2,518
	FTE	18	13	0	0	-13	0	-13

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for Conservation Planning

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Refuge Planning	-2,518	-13
Program Changes	-2,518	-13

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for Conservation Planning is \$0 and 0 FTE, a program change of -\$2,518,000 and -13 FTE from the FY 2017 CR Baseline.

Refuge Planning (-\$2,518,000/-13 FTE)

Because of fiscal constraints and other priorities, the Service will not provide separate funding for refuge planning activities and staff in FY 2018. The Refuge Planning subactivity funds development of refuge planning documents such as Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCPs) and associated Step-down Management Plans, including Visitor Services plans, habitat management plans, and other plans which guide the management of a specific refuge. Individual refuges will have to fund these efforts from their base funds and with staff on hand.

Program Overview

The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act requires the Service to prepare a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for every unit of the Refuge System and revise each CCP every 15 years, as may be necessary. Refuges also develop documents such as Habitat Management Plans and Visitor Services Plans that “step down” CCP guidance and provide specificity needed to inform local conservation action.

2018 Program Performance

The FY 2018 budget request eliminates all funding for the Conservation Planning program, which will also eliminate the Headquarters and Regional planning staff who have provided technical expertise for management plans. However, the Service is still required by the Refuge Improvement Act to complete CCPs for every refuge. With this dedicated funding eliminated, individual refuges will fund these efforts from their base funds--to the extent possible with other competing priorities--and with staff on hand, many of whom may not have planning expertise. This will likely lead to delays in completing our required CCPs.

Activity: National Wildlife Refuge System
Subactivity: Refuge Maintenance

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018			Change from 2017 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	
Maintenance Support (\$000)	54,081	53,978	+926	0	-1,010	53,894	-84
Annual Maintenance (\$000)	26,350	26,300	0	0	0	26,300	0
Deferred Maintenance (\$000)	41,120	41,042	0	0	0	41,042	0
Equipment and Vehicle Management (\$000)	14,988	14,960	0	0	0	14,960	0
Youth Conservation Corps (\$000)	649	648	0	0	-648	0	-648
Refuge Maintenance (\$000)	137,188	136,928	+926	0	-1,658	136,196	-732
FTE	576	576	0	0	0	576	0

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for Refuge Maintenance

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Youth Conservation Corps	-648	0
• Maintenance Support	-1,010	0
Program Changes	-1,658	0

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for Refuge Maintenance is \$136,196,000 and 576 FTE, a net program change of -\$648,000 and +0 FTE from the FY 2017 CR Baseline.

Youth Conservation Corps (-\$648,000/+0 FTE)

Because of fiscal constraints and other priorities, the Service will not fund the Youth Conservation Corps program in FY 2018. The Service will focus instead on delivery of our core mission. The Refuge Maintenance program will continue providing some youth engagement opportunities with base funds when practicable.

Maintenance Support (-\$1,010,000/+0 FTE)

Maintenance Support funding provides for maintenance staff, supplies and materials at refuges. At the proposed funding level, the Service will retain current maintenance staffing at field stations. These staff maintain vehicles, equipment and facilities, and conduct habitat management activities. The Service will limit supplies and material support available on refuges, but enable the Service to direct funding to other higher priority needs.



*A no-till drill is used to plant native wildflower seed at Trustom NWR (Rhode Island).
 Credit: Ben Gaspar/USFWS*

Program Overview

The Refuge Maintenance subactivity underpins every management activity that occurs in the Refuge System, including wildlife and habitat management, fire management, law enforcement, and visitor services. It enables these primary capacities:

Operations: The Refuge System conserves, protects, and enhances fish, wildlife, and plants for the benefit and use of the American people on 855.4 million acres of lands and waters that are dispersed geographically throughout the U.S. and its territories.

Habitats: Active habitat management includes mowing and disking fields, selective burning, planting food crops, manipulating water levels on impoundments to ensure water flow into or out of wetland impoundments, and removing undesirable and invasive vegetation. Water levels are managed to optimize habitats and involve an extensive array of water control structures, levees, canals, and in some cases pumping structures that must be monitored and repaired to ensure appropriate water is provided and damage from storm events is ameliorated.

Public Use Opportunities: A critical function of the maintenance program is providing and maintaining safe and reliable public access to recreational and educational opportunities for over 50 million visitors. There are over 13,300 roads, trails, and bridges in the Refuge System with a combined replacement value of over \$15.6 billion. The majority of these structures are public use in nature.

Economic Benefits

Refuge maintenance activities positively impact the local economies near refuges. The purchase of local building materials and supplies, contracting with architectural and engineering firms, construction companies, and maintenance and repair contractors all support economic growth beyond the benefits associated with Refuge visitation and tourism.



*Prescribed burns are used to create appropriate habitat, such as this burn at Bear Valley NWR (Oregon).
Credit: Scott Swanson/USFWS*



*Visitor Facility Enhancements, such as this observation deck at Pea Island NWR (North Carolina) provide opportunities for the public to view wildlife.
Credit: Steve Hillebrand*

**Nationwide Portfolio of Refuge System Constructed Facility Assets
As of September 30, 2016**

Asset Grouping	Asset Count		Replacement Value		Deferred Maintenance	
	Amount	% of Total	\$ (Millions)	% of Total	\$ (Millions)	% of Total
Buildings	5,312	15.21%	\$4,039	9.24%	\$306	26.01%
Water Management Structures	8,315	23.81%	\$18,376	42.02%	\$286	24.36%
Roads, Bridges, and Trails	13,277	38.02%	\$15,588	35.65%	\$305	25.94%
Other Structures	8,015	22.95%	\$5,724	13.09%	\$279	23.69%
Total	34,919	100%	\$43,728	100%	\$1,176	100%

Business Practices

Facilities and equipment on refuges are in a constant state of degradation. While identified deficiencies are being corrected, other deficiencies develop. The International Facilities Management Association's report, *Asset Lifecycle Model for Total Cost of Ownership*, indicates a benchmark deterioration rate for a reasonably well maintained facility is approximately 2.5 percent per annum. The Service uses life cycle management considerations and financial and performance data to improve management of its facility infrastructure and mobile equipment fleet. Using principles in Executive Order 13327, Federal Real Property Asset Management, as signed by President George W. Bush, the Service is managing our portfolio of facility and mobile equipment assets in a manner that focuses on accomplishing our legislative mission and providing safe and reliable public use opportunities using the most cost effective means possible. These strategic investments, the types of infrastructure constructed and diligent maintenance completed by our workforce contain the deterioration rate of our portfolio to less than one percent of current replacement value (CRV) per year—significantly better than industry standards.

At a Glance: Maintenance of Facilities, Fleet, and Equipment

The Refuge System maintenance program optimizes the alignment between infrastructure investments and mission delivery. Enabling activities include repairing and replacing:

- Roads, trails, and visitor facilities that allow over 50 million Americans to enjoy their refuge lands and wildlife, and allow access for management purposes including fire prevention, law enforcement, and fish and wildlife management;
- On- and off-road vehicles needed to carry out everyday field activities of nearly 2,800 FTE and over 40,000 volunteers;
- An extensive fleet of agricultural and construction equipment needed to actively manage habitat and to maintain constructed real property assets; and
- A portfolio of constructed assets valued at \$43.7 billion that provides the base of operations for all refuge programs and enables all fish and wildlife management on Refuge System lands and waters that occur throughout the U.S. and its various island territories.

The Refuge Maintenance budget consists of five program elements:

Refuge Maintenance Support

Refuge Maintenance Support includes supplies, materials and salaries for maintenance and facilities management. Maintenance employees are critical in properly maintaining facility and equipment assets,

which enable the Service to accomplish habitat management and refuge operations goals, and provide the public safe and reliable recreational and educational opportunities. Maintenance employees spend about half their time maintaining functional facilities and reliable equipment, and the other half maintaining habitat.

Annual Maintenance

Annual Maintenance encompasses all ongoing non-staff expenditures needed to keep the Service’s facility portfolio and mobile equipment fleet functioning for its intended purpose. It is required to achieve the expected life of facilities and equipment. Annual maintenance includes: utilities, custodial care, and snow removal for offices, administrative, and public buildings; repair of system failures before they are deferred; and preventive maintenance—including scheduled servicing, repairs, and parts replacement—is required to achieve the expected life of facilities and equipment.

Proactively maintaining facilities through Maintenance Support and Annual Maintenance is 20 to 40 percent more cost effective on average than waiting until maintenance is deferred. These funds are critical in providing the American tax payers the maximum return on investment.

Deferred Maintenance

Deferred Maintenance projects repair, rehabilitate, dispose of, or replace constructed real property assets. Available funds are directed to the highest priority mission critical projects based upon facilities condition and asset priority in accordance with Departmental guidance. Prioritization of projects occurs through annual five-year deferred maintenance plans.



Service maintenance employee sprays invasive melaluka at Loxahatchee NWR (Florida).

**Nationwide Portfolio of Refuge System Constructed Facility Assets
As of September 30, 2016**

Asset Grouping	Project Count		Project Cost	
	Number	% of Total	\$ (Millions)	% of Total
Buildings	1,573	27.12%	306	26.01%
Water Management Structures	1,533	26.43%	286	24.36%
Roads, Bridges and Trails	1,512	26.07%	305	25.94%
Other Structures	1,182	20.38%	279	23.69%
Total	5,800	100%	1,176	100%

6-Year History of Deferred Maintenance Backlog by Four Major Categories of Assets

Category	Refuge System Deferred Maintenance (beginning of FY) (\$ millions)					
	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
Buildings	408	349	315	316	302	306
Water Management	409	404	343	299	286	286
Roads/Bridges/Trails	1,430	1,356	849	383	296	305
Other	297	289	240	286	281	279
Total	2,544	2,398	1,747	1,284	1,165	1,176

The Service uses a strategic, portfolio-based approach to manage these assets in a manner that informs decision making and maximizes efficient and effective mission delivery with an emphasis on mission-critical assets and the protection of investments through long-term life cycle management.

Reducing the Deferred Maintenance Backlog

The National Wildlife Refuge System has worked to reduce our deferred maintenance backlog through the use of Maintenance Action Teams, proactive investments, improved policies, improved data quality and increased focus on annual maintenance investments. This improved focus and investing our limited resources in areas with the largest return on investment has resulted in reducing the Refuge System’s deferred maintenance backlog by about 50 percent.

Equipment and Vehicle Management

The Refuge System requires an extensive fleet of vehicles and equipment to successfully carry out our conservation mission and provide safe and reliable public recreation and education opportunities. The Refuge System employs rental and leasing to provide a cost-effective, efficient program. Equipment and Vehicle Management funds optimize the management of fleets to meet mission needs, and serve as an example for the efficient use of public assets.



The Refuge System uses heavy equipment to maintain roads and trails, and to create and maintain healthy wildlife habitats.

Fleet Management

The majority of the 3,600 vehicles used on refuges are four wheel-drive trucks and utility vehicles for transporting personnel, equipment, materials and tools to remote sites for firefighting, wildlife and habitat management and law enforcement. The vehicles must be capable of operation under on-road and off-road conditions, which limits our ability to utilize two-wheel drive vehicles, vans, and sedans and limits the applicability of recommended annual vehicle mileage use typical of non-natural resource agencies.

Small Equipment

Specialized equipment such as all-terrain vehicles, small aircraft, boats, small tractors, snowmobiles, trailers, agricultural implements, and similar equipment are needed to access and maintain and restore habitats in remote or rugged areas. In total, the Refuge System's small equipment fleet consists of about 5,000 assets.

Heavy Equipment

Heavy equipment management includes acquisition, rental and repair of heavy equipment. Agricultural, earthmoving, and construction equipment are used to maintain wetland impoundments and roads; construct and maintain wildlife habitat; control invasive plants; and maintain and construct visitor facilities such as boardwalks, observation platforms, tour routes, and trails. The Service owns nearly 4,000 heavy equipment assets with a combined replacement value of about \$423 million.

Youth Conservation Corps

The Service has worked with the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) to introduce young Americans to conservation opportunities at National Fish Hatcheries, National Wildlife Refuges, and Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices across the country since inception of the program in 1970. While specific funding for youth programs is being eliminated to support other priorities, the Service will continue hiring youth as resources permit to provide a quality, cost-effective outdoor work experience to a diverse pool of our Nation's youth.

2018 Program Performance

The FY 2018 budget request will support maintenance staffing for field stations where maintenance employees maintain vehicles, equipment and facilities, and carry out a wide array of habitat management activities. Refuge maintenance funds will also enable annual preventive maintenance, including funds for supplies, materials, and contracts, enabling the Service to operate and repair facilities and equipment, and perform regular annual maintenance and cyclical maintenance on schedule. The deferred maintenance funding request will allow the Service to complete approximately 125 of the highest priority deferred maintenance projects to improve the condition of the repaired and replaced assets. The budget will support replacement of mobile equipment and fleet assets, further implementing an initiative to improve management of the vehicle and equipment fleet. In total, this funding level will allow the Service to continue supporting all refuge programs, including welcoming visitors with safe and reliable roads, observation decks, trails, hunting blinds, boat ramps, fishing piers, and similar visitor-focused assets.

Refuge System - Combined Program Change and Overview Table

Performance Goal	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Target	2016 Actual	2017 Target	2018 PB	Change from 2017 Target to 2018 PB
1.0.1 - Number of NWRS riparian (stream/shoreline) miles achieving desired conditions (GPRA)	310,369	310,365	310,363	310,233	310,311	310,303	304,097	-6,206
2.0.1 - # of NWRS wetland, upland, and coastal/marine acres achieving desired condition (GPRA)	140,741,380	140,232,307	145,791,353	140,001,101	145,948,626	146,229,364	143,304,776	2,924,588
11.1.1.2 - Total # of NWRS acres infested with invasive plants (GPRA)	2,558,619	2,399,819	2,245,244	2,337,279	2,337,279	2,345,638	2,439,464	93,826
12.1.1.2 - total # of invasive animal populations (GPRA)	1,900	1,701	1,699	1,745	1,745	1,700	1,768	68
CSF 13.1 - Percent of archaeological sites and historic structures on FWS inventory in good condition	22% (3,783 of 17,444)	22% (3,800 of 17,520)	22% (3,911 of 17,675)	22% (3,914 of 17,692)	22% (3,918 of 17,988)	23% (3,914 of 16,661)	23% (3,836 of 16,661)	0%
15.2.2 - % of NWRs/WMDs that have quality hunting programs, where hunting is compatible	82% (297 of 364)	81% (296 of 364)	83% (301 of 364)	84% (304 of 364)	84% (304 of 364)	82% (306 of 372)	82% (306 of 372)	0%
15.2.4 - % of NWRs/WMDs that have quality fishing programs, where fishing is compatible	74% (224 of 303)	76% (229 of 303)	76% (231 of 303)	77% (232 of 303)	79% (238 of 303)	77% (238 of 308)	77% (238 of 308)	0%
15.2.8 - % of NWRs/WMDs that have quality environmental education programs, where interpretation is compatible	74% (292 of 392)	75% (292 of 387)	73% (291 of 397)	75% (293 of 393)	75% (293 of 393)	74% (297 of 400)	74% (285 of 384)	0%
15.2.23 - Total # of visitors to NWRS - annual	47,465,286	46,912,041	48,477,661	46,694,807	50,172,483	48,166,877	48,166,877	0

Migratory Bird Management



Activity: Conservation and Enforcement
Program Element: Migratory Bird Management

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018			Change from 2017 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Conservation and Monitoring	(\$000)	30,439	30,382	+369	0	-1,470	29,281	-1,101
	FTE	138	138	0	0	-10	128	-10
Permits	(\$000)	3,346	3,339	+53	0	-58	3,334	-5
	FTE	30	30	0	0	0	30	0
Federal Duck Stamp	(\$000)	556	555	+7	0	-7	555	0
	FTE	3	3	0	0	0	3	0
North American Waterfowl Management/Joint Ventures	(\$000)	13,139	13,114	+118	0	-2,401	10,831	-2,283
	FTE	49	46	0	0	0	46	0
Total, Migratory Bird Management	(\$000)	47,480	47,390	+547	0	-3,936	44,001	-3,389
	FTE	220	217	0	0	-10	207	-10

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for Migratory Bird Management

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Conservation and Monitoring Activities	-1,470	-10
• Permits	-58	0
• Federal Duck Stamp Activities	-7	0
• North American Waterfowl Management Plan/Joint Venture Activities	-2,401	0
Program Changes	-3,936	-10

Program Mission

The Service has the legal mandate and trust responsibility to ensure the continued existence of healthy migratory bird populations for the benefit of the American public. Migratory birds are central to several traditional recreational pastimes, including hunting and birdwatching. These birds provide various ecosystem services to people, including insect and rodent control, plant pollination, and seed dispersal.

According to the 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation (National Survey), migratory birds attracted 2.6 million hunters who spent \$1.8 billion on hunting-related expenditures.



Surveying a seasonal wetland on the Hanna transect, an important waterfowl nesting area in Alberta Canada. Photo Credit: Murray Gillespie

The 2013 addendum to the National Survey titled, *Birding in the United States: A Demographic and Economic Analysis* showed that 47 million birders spent nearly \$41 billion on trip and equipment-related expenditures.

The Migratory Bird Program works to conserve birds and to preserve traditional outdoor recreational pursuits involving birds. The Program works with partners such as national sportsmen's groups, conservation organizations, Tribes, State wildlife agencies, county governments, local land trusts, and private landowners to conserve habitats needed to support these populations for future generations of Americans to enjoy.

Program Elements

Four elements comprise the Migratory Bird Management program:

- Conservation and Monitoring – Conducts surveys and other monitoring activities to determine the status and health of migratory birds, and uses the results to develop bird harvest and other regulations that secure healthy wild bird populations, while providing recreational opportunities and balancing the needs of birds with human needs.
- Permits – Provides a means to balance hunting harvest and other take of protected migratory bird species with their conservation by enabling the public to engage in legitimate wildlife-related activities through a permit or other authorization. The permit program can help biologists track the impact of these activities, and the permits ensure that such activities are carried out in a manner that safeguards migratory bird populations or promotes conservation efforts.
- Federal Duck Stamp Program – Produces the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp), which is required for hunters 16 years and older to harvest waterfowl and other protected game birds. Proceeds from the sale of the stamp are used to help protect wetland habitats, through either acquisition or the purchase conservation easements for the National Wildlife Refuge System.
- North American Waterfowl Management Plan and Migratory Bird Joint Venture Partnerships – Employs a tripartite agreement among North American nations as a basis for supporting and promoting collaborative, voluntary partnerships that restore or protect waterfowl habitat and identify, develop, and apply regionally prioritized science needed for migratory bird conservation through the Migratory Bird Joint Venture Partnerships.

Applicable Laws, Acts, and Orders

More than 25 laws, treaties, and conventions mandate that the Service sustain over 1,000 species of migratory birds and their habitats. Primary among these is the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) (16 U.S.C. 703-712), which establishes Federal responsibility for protecting and managing migratory birds. Other important laws that directly and significantly impact program activities include the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d), and the North American Wetlands Conservation (16 U.S.C. 4401-4412) and Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation (16 U.S.C. 6101-6109) Acts, which promote habitat and bird conservation across North America and throughout the western hemisphere through competitive grants. Executive Order 13186 - Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds requires that each Federal agency taking actions that have, or are likely to have, a measurable negative effect on migratory bird populations is directed to develop and implement a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Service that shall promote the conservation of migratory bird populations. Additionally, the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act (U.S.C. 718-718j) requires waterfowl hunters 16 years of age or older to possess a valid Federal Duck Stamp.

**Subactivity: Migratory Bird Management
Program Element: Conservation and Monitoring**

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018			Budget Request	Change from 2017 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
Conservation and Monitoring	(\$000)	30,439	30,382	+369	0	-1,470	29,281	-1,101
	FTE	138	138	0	0	-10	128	-10

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for Migratory Bird Conservation and Monitoring

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Conservation and Monitoring Activities	-1,470	-10
Program Changes	-1,470	-10

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for Conservation and Monitoring is \$29,281,000 and 128 FTE, a program change of -\$1,470,000 and -10 FTE from the 2017 CR Baseline.

Conservation and Monitoring Activities (-\$1,470,000/-10 FTE)

In order to fund higher priorities, the Service proposes to reduce its investment in migratory bird conservation and monitoring efforts. As previously noted, the Service works with a diverse set of partners to protect, conserve, and manage the Nation’s migratory birds and the habitat upon which they depend. States and our partners can carry out some of these efforts in the future. With the requested funding, the Service will continue working with the States to collect and analyze monitoring data that informs annual migratory bird hunting seasons and bag limits, and coordinating the cooperative decision-making process that sets those hunting regulations each year. This reduction will impact the Service’s participation in several national migratory bird partnerships (e.g., Partners in Flight, U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, and Waterbird Conservation for the Americas).



Service Employee with a Canvasback during banding season, Photo: Rob Spangler/USFWS

Program Overview

The Migratory Bird Program works with partners to conserve and monitor birds to ensure that they can be enjoyed by hunters, bird watchers, and other outdoor enthusiasts. By working together, our success and conserving birds across the country provides a model for wildlife conservation continent-wide.

Conservation

The Service’s Migratory Bird Program coordinates and supports a number of multi-partner conservation efforts, including the Migratory Bird Joint Ventures, Partners in Flight, the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, and Waterbird Conservation for the Americas. The Migratory Bird program serves as a hub for all participating partners

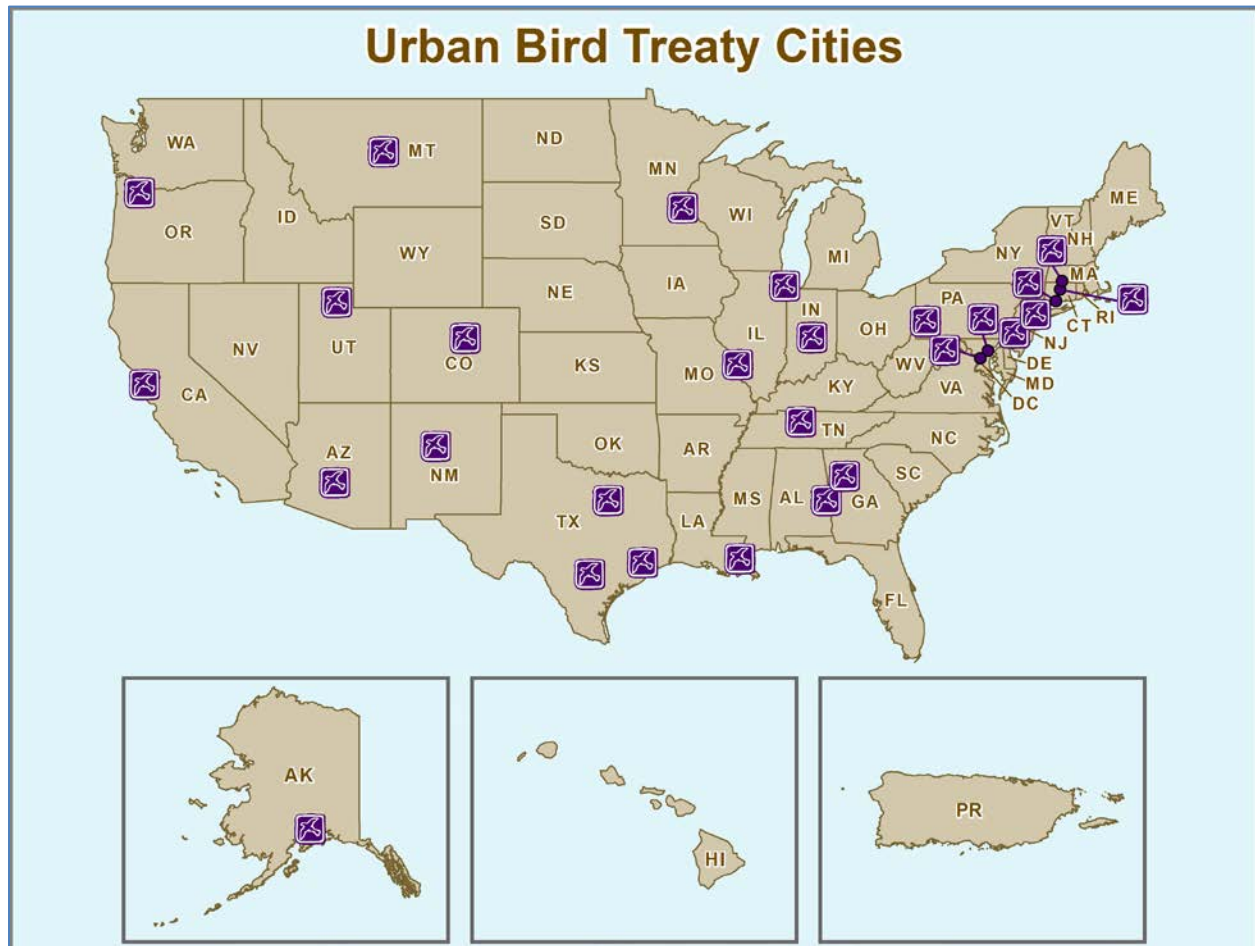
and is uniquely positioned and qualified to help share information, look for complementary—or contradictory—activities, and provide technical assistance across this diverse network of partnerships. These multi-stakeholder efforts contribute significantly to the identification of bird species that need increased attention across jurisdictional boundaries. These efforts are supported by entities and individuals who are committed to the conservation of birds across the Nation.

Among the most foundational and longstanding partnerships supporting North American migratory bird conservation and management are the four Flyway Councils. Migratory birds primarily use one of these flyways for migration, and they are mapped from north to south, across North America. These large-scale, geographic units are used to organize multi-jurisdictional migratory bird conservation and management at the continental scale and are known as the Pacific, Central, Mississippi, and Atlantic Flyway Councils. The Councils make recommendations each year to the Service for hunting season and bag limit regulations for migratory birds.

North American Migratory Bird Flyways



The Urban Bird Treaty Program. In our urban and suburban landscapes, birds are the most colorful and observable wildlife to their human neighbors. Through this program, the Service works with participating U.S. cities to promote education about birds, improve habitat, and help reduce the loss of birds to collisions with buildings or predators that are attracted to urban/suburban wild spaces. Participating cities get the distinction of becoming Urban Bird Treaty cities and receive small grants that promote bird conservation. There are currently 27 Urban Bird Treaty cities (See map below and online at: <https://www.fws.gov/birds/grants/urban-bird-treaty.php>).



Reducing Incidental Take. The Service continues to work with partners to reduce the incidental take of migratory birds by providing technical assistance and developing guidance and recommendations that are meant to empower the public, Federal agencies, and industries to seek solutions to address both direct and indirect impacts to migratory birds. Recent guidance includes recommendations for reducing bird collisions with building glass, industry or activity-specific information for environmental reviews, and a list of national conservation measures that can be employed at any project, nationwide. These resources are available from the Migratory Bird program’s webpage by anyone seeking to reduce impacts to migratory birds.

Monitoring

Monitoring is essential to the science-based, conservation approach used by the Service to ensure the sustainability of migratory bird populations and, where necessary, take actions to address declines that may lead to their listing under the Endangered Species Act. For example, each year, the Service conducts extensive migratory game bird population and habitat and harvest surveys across North America, and then produces reports that assess the status of these species. These reports include the most current data on breeding populations, production, and harvest information available for waterfowl, sandhill cranes, woodcock, dove, rail and other migratory game birds in North America, and they inform annual hunting season lengths and bag limits that can maximize hunter satisfaction while ensuring migratory and game bird conservation. These surveys and migratory bird hunting regulatory frameworks are the result of cooperative efforts with the States, the Canadian Wildlife Service and provincial agencies, and private conservation partners.

Monitoring bird populations also allows the Service to determine the need for species management, to identify conservation actions that will be effective, and to evaluate the success of actions taken to conserve a species. For example, with the increase in human demand for land and resources comes the possibility of increased conflict with wild birds. Protected species of birds that can become associated with such conflicts include double-crested cormorants, ravens, resident Canada geese, and black vultures. In FY 2018, the Service will develop a coordinated framework to identify effective approaches to monitoring these and other species, identifying emerging problems, and providing steps to prevent large-scale conflicts from arising.

Many of the Service's migratory bird monitoring databases are open to the public and shared via the Migratory Bird Data Center at <https://migbirdapps.fws.gov>. In addition, many of the Service's Population Status reports and results of other assessments can be found at: <https://www.fws.gov/birds/surveys-and-data.php>.

The ability of the Migratory Bird program to deliver hunting and other bird-dependent recreational opportunities and alleviate problems associated with birds (e.g., crop depredation, damage to buildings or equipment) depends upon the quality of its monitoring programs. In FY 2018, the Migratory Bird program will continue to modernize its data collection, management, and sharing capabilities to help provide partners with data. The Service is developing applications that will provide an opportunity for over 180,000 sampled hunters to respond to harvest surveys online. Investments such as these reduce postage costs and data processing times, and ease the reporting burden on the American public, while providing the Service with the information needed to make informed harvest management decisions. Similarly, the Service continues to invest in online tools such as the collaborative Avian Knowledge Network to provide better data access and decision support tools to the public.



The "Wing Bee" is a harvest data collection event. It provides important monitoring data and is also an opportunity to train field biologists and students on how to use hunter-harvested wings to derive estimates of the percent of species, males and females, adults and sub-adults taken during the harvest. Photo Credit: USFWS

Aviation. The Service uses its fleet of aircraft primarily for monitoring activities. The safety and training oversight of the Service's fleet of planes and pilots is presently housed within the Migratory Birds program. The Service currently operates 60 planes and one helicopter in its fleet, which represents 54 percent of the total DOI aircraft fleet. The program's Aviation Management Branch is responsible for the Service's Aviation Fire program, participates in the DOI Aviation Executive Subcommittee (Departmental Policy Development), spearheads the Unmanned Aircraft System program development

within DOI, and is the Service's and Department's Emergency Management Team (Aviation) lead. The Branch is also responsible for development of the Service's aviation policies, and for ensuring compliance. Across the Service there are nearly 60 pilots—many of whom are also biologists—who fly missions for the Service and account for approximately one-quarter of total DOI flight hours. Their safety and training is paramount. The Service has identified and is working on the implementation of six priorities that will immediately improve the Service's Aviation Enterprise: Automated Flight Following, Crew Resource Management, Improved Pilot Training program, Standardized Risk assessment processes, Aviation Management Communications, and a Kodiak Aircraft Training Plan. In FY 2017, the Service began implementing a new National Aviation Management Plan, which will standardize processes; increase effectiveness and efficiencies of aviation methods, tactics and procedures; increase safety; and, ultimately, help prevent aircraft accidents.



*Quest Kodiak 100 Amphibian lifting off from a remote lake in a boreal forest during waterfowl breeding population surveys.
Photo: USFWS*

Subactivity: Migratory Bird Management
Program Element: Permits

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018				Change from 2017 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Permits	(\$000)	3,346	3,339	+53	0	-58	3,334	-5
	FTE	30	30	0	0	0	30	0

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for Permits

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Permits	-58	0
Program Changes	-58	0

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for the Permits Program is \$3,334,000 and 30 FTE, a program change of -\$58,000 and +0 FTE from the 2017 CR Baseline.

Permits (-\$58,000/+0 FTE)

The permitting program protects the long-term sustainability of migratory bird populations while providing the public with opportunities for hunting, research, depredation management, and other uses. The proposed reduction allows the Service to address higher priorities elsewhere in the budget and is expected to have minor impacts on the Service's ability to receive, process, and respond to permit applications.

Program Overview

The mission of the Migratory Bird Permits program is to promote long-term sustainability of migratory bird populations, while providing opportunities for the public to study, use, and enjoy migratory birds consistent with the provisions of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA).

Permits authorizing take and possession of migratory birds are issued for scientific study, depredation control, falconry, raptor propagation, rehabilitation of injured birds, educational use, taxidermy, waterfowl sale, and Native American religious use. The Service processes more than 11,000 such permit applications annually. Most of these permits are valid for one to five years, but Native American eagle feather possession permits are valid indefinitely.

The Service continues to focus on streamlining permitting procedures and requirements to improve the permit applicant's experience while ensuring that the Service delivers on its trust responsibilities related to migratory birds. The Service is developing plans for a web-based platform to allow electronic submission of migratory bird application and report forms that will be available to the public at www.epermits.fws.gov. In addition, the Service will continue updating the Service's Permits Issuance and Tracking System (SPITS), which will also reduce the processing time for permits, be more user friendly for permittees, and give payment options to permittees.

**Subactivity: Migratory Bird Management
Program Element: Federal Duck Stamp Program**

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018			Change from 2017 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Federal Duck Stamp	(\$000)	556	555	+7	0	-7	555	0
	FTE	3	3	0	0	0	3	0

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for Federal Duck Stamp

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Federal Duck Stamp	-7	0
Program Changes	-7	0

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for the Federal Duck Stamp Program is \$555,000 and 3 FTE, a program change of -\$7,000 and +0 FTE from the 2017 CR Baseline.

Federal Duck Stamp (-\$7,000/+0 FTE)

The Federal Duck Stamp Program supports waterfowl conservation through the sale of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, which is required for waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older. This change will have minor impacts to the Service’s ability to implement the program.

Program Overview



2016-2017 Federal Duck Stamp



2016-2017 Junior Duck Stamp

The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (commonly known as the Duck Stamp), is required for waterfowl hunters 16 years and older. The internationally recognized Federal Duck Stamp program supports conservation of important migratory bird habitat within the National Wildlife Refuge System. In 2015, the cost of the 2015-2016 Federal Duck Stamp was increased from \$15 to \$25, the first increase since 1991. The law raising the stamp’s price—P.L. 113-264 requires the Fish and Wildlife Service to spend the \$10 per stamp increase in revenue solely on the purchase of conservation easements. Ninety-eight percent of Duck Stamp funds are used to purchase wetland and associated upland habitats. Many non-hunters buy Federal Duck Stamps to support waterfowl habitat conservation. In 2015, Duck Stamps sales totaled more than \$40 million. Since 1934, the stamps have raised over \$950 million for the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (MBCF). These monies, along with other contributions to the MBCF, have enabled the protection of almost 14 million acres of prime waterfowl habitat within the National Wildlife Refuge System. In addition to places for waterfowl to breed, stopover on migration and

overwinter, these lands also provide Americans with opportunities to enjoy the outdoors by engaging in activities such as hunting, fishing, hiking, photography, and wildlife watching.

The Service also attracts youth to the outdoors through Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program and its associated Junior Duck Stamp art contest. The Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program employs art and a science-based curriculum to teach students about wildlife conservation, waterfowl, and wetlands. After studying waterfowl anatomy and habitat, students may choose to submit artwork for their State's Junior Duck Stamp art competition. The winning artwork is often featured on the cover of the State's annual hunting regulation brochure. Each year the individual State winners compete in the national contest for the honor of having their artwork featured on that year's Junior Duck Stamp. Annually over 30,000 students participate in these competitions.

The 2016-2017 Duck Stamp features Minnesota artist Joseph Hautman's painting of a pair of trumpeter swans. The trumpeter swan is an excellent example of how States, Federal agencies, and conservationists can work together to bring back a species from the brink of extinction. The 2016 Junior Duck Stamp features California student Stacey Shen's painting of a pair of Ross's geese. This painting took top honors among the 52 State and territorial winners at the National Junior Duck Stamp art contest.

Electronic Duck Stamp Program. The issuance of the 2016 stamp marks the ninth year Duck Stamps are being sold through the Electronic Duck Stamp (E-Stamp) program. The E-Stamp program is a valuable customer service tool, making Duck Stamps available quickly and conveniently across the country. This popular program enables a person to buy a Federal Duck Stamp at any time through one of the participating State's websites and receive an immediate certification of purchase that is valid for waterfowl hunting anywhere in the United States. Interest in this program remains high, with four additional States enrolled in 2016, bringing the total number of States providing E-Stamps in 2016 to 22. The sale of E-Stamp sales has continued to grow with each successive year—from over 58,000 in 2008, to more than 712,000 in 2015. Most recently, in just the first four months, sales of the 2016-2017 E-Stamp exceeded 448,000. The Service plans to add up to 15 additional States over the next three years, expanding access to the stamp and the outdoors.

Subactivity: Migratory Bird Management
Program Element: North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP)/Joint Ventures

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018			Change from 2017 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
North American Waterfowl Management/Joint Ventures	(\$000)	13,139	13,114	+118	0	-2,401	10,831	-2,283
	FTE	49	46	0	0	0	46	0

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for North American Waterfowl Management / Joint Ventures

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• North American Waterfowl Management Plan/Joint Venture Activities	-2,401	0
Program Changes	-2,401	0

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for the North American Waterfowl Management Plan is \$10,831,000 and 46 FTE, a program change of -\$2,401,000 and +0 FTE from the 2017 CR Baseline.

North American Waterfowl Management Plan/Joint Ventures (-\$2,401,000/+0 FTE)

This funding will adequately support the 18 geographically-designated Joint Ventures (JV) participating in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. In order to fund higher priorities, the Service proposes to eliminate direct funding support for the three species-specific JV partnerships in FY 2018 (black duck, sea duck, and Arctic goose). Reduced funding to these Joint Ventures will result in a decreased ability to develop and implement landscape-level bird conservation actions that also benefit local landowners and communities. This decrease will consequently reduce the amount of non-federal funds leveraged for conservation. JV partners have historically provided more than \$30 for every federally appropriated dollar.

Program Overview

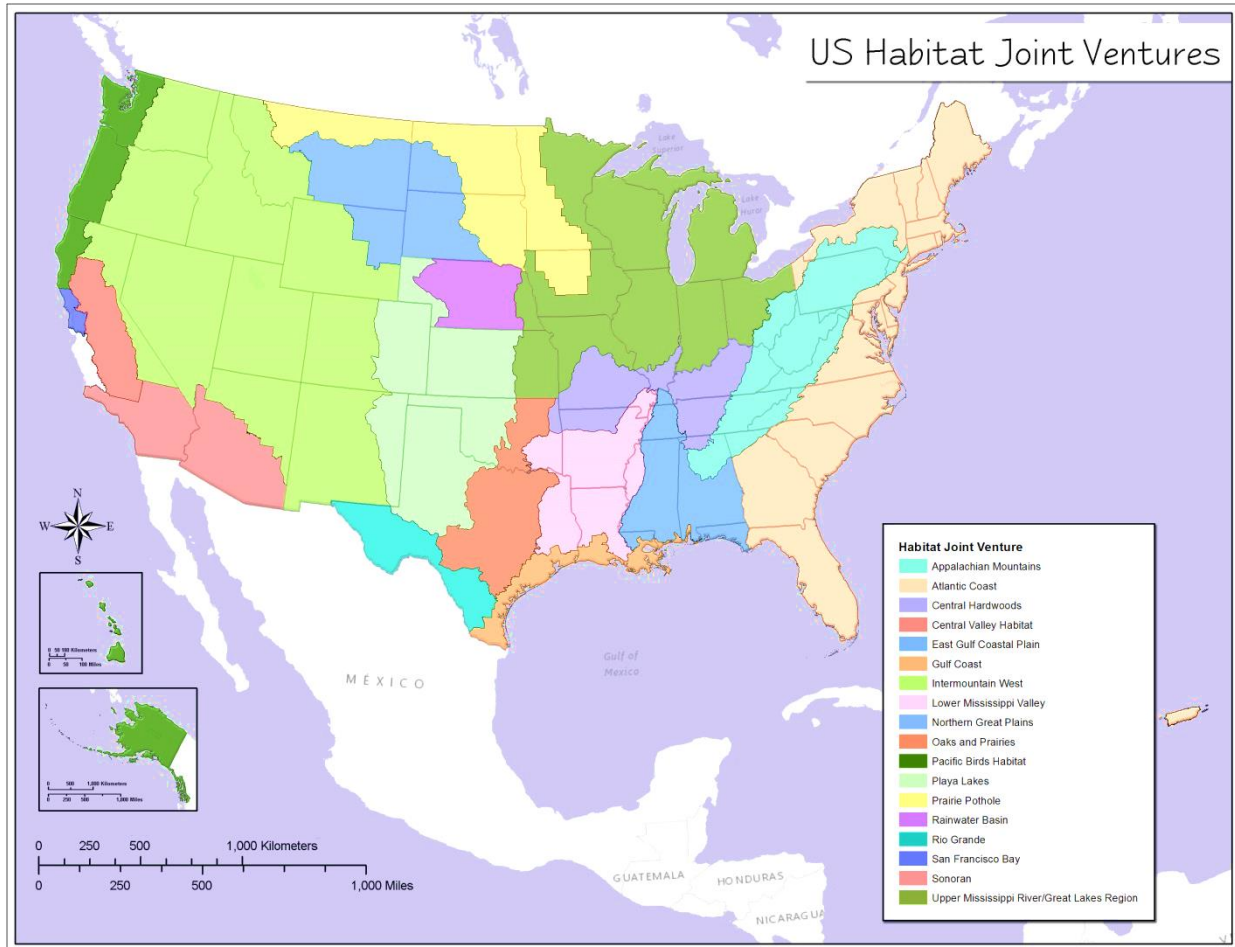
The North American Waterfowl Management Plan (Plan) is an international accord signed by the U.S. and Canada in 1986 and, in 1994, by Mexico. For the past three decades, the Plan has guided efforts to sustain abundant waterfowl and other wetland dependent bird populations across North America through voluntary partnerships driven by sound science.



Joint Ventures and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan recognize the importance of engaging an expanding community of waterfowl resource users and supporters, such as bird watchers.

The habitat goals outlined in the Plan, as well as the conservation and management priorities of national and international shorebird, waterbird, and landbird partnership initiatives, are primarily implemented by Migratory Bird JVs. These regional, self-directed partnerships include Federal, State, and local governments; corporations; individuals; and non-government conservation groups. Together, they form a network for

habitat conservation that benefits waterfowl, other wildlife, and people. There are 18 JVs focused on habitat, and three species-specific JVs focused on black duck, sea duck, and Arctic goose populations.



The JVs leverage Federal contributions with non-federal funds and in-kind contributions, and foster collaboration at the international to local scale, thereby improving the effectiveness of conservation.



One important task of JVs is to develop landscape-level bird conservation plans. Together with targeted habitat projects that spring from these plans, this effort brings a broad population-based perspective to local conservation delivery.

Joint Ventures are building relationships with traditional and non-traditional partners to make strategic, long-term investments on the landscape for the benefit of birds, other wildlife, and people.

Prairie Pothole Joint Venture – Strategic Actions for Grasslands and Grassland Birds

Across the globe, native temperate grasslands are disappearing rapidly due to habitat conversion. Consequently, migratory bird populations that rely on these grasslands are declining at a faster and more consistent rate compared to other groups of birds. Many recognize there is a looming impact of ongoing loss of grassland habitat, yet the coordination and the continental view necessary to create meaningful progress has been lacking.

Through the leadership of the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture (PPJV), a team of biologists from other joint ventures, State and Federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the Canadian Wildlife Service are developing a Grassland Bird Conservation Plan focused on four primary grassland bird species showing downward population trends. This is an action-focused plan that will be implemented to address priority needs identified by this collaborative team. Further, the PPJV, with support from industry and in collaboration with five other joint ventures and an array of State and other partners, will be leading another important effort to conduct an assessment of the grassland resource extending from Canada to Mexico. The grassland assessment will allow partners to target funding to the most critical areas in need of conservation attention, thereby protecting key grassland areas needed by declining grassland birds. Protecting key grasslands will also provide tangible benefits to both rural and urban communities through the provision of clean water and habitat for pollinators that help farmers with their crops. This effort by the PPJV showcases the utility and strength of migratory bird joint venture partnerships, and creates the perfect vehicle to successfully implement preventive conservation on grasslands that will help avoid listing of grassland-dependent bird species under the Endangered Species Act.



Chestnut-collared Longspur, which along with McCowan’s Longspur, Sprague’s Pipit, and Baird’s Sparrow, are the four primary grassland bird species showing downward population trends that are part of the PPJV-led Grassland Bird Conservation Plan. Photo: Scott Somershoe



Contiguous Grassland Habitat in the North Dakota portion of the PPJV. Photo: Casey Stemler/USFWS/PPJV

Migratory Birds Combined Change and Overview Table

Performance Goal	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Target	2016 Actual	2017 Target	2018 PB	Change from 2017 Target to 2018 PB
CSF 6.1 - Percent of all migratory bird species that are at healthy and sustainable levels (GPRA)	72% (726 of 1,007)	73% (747 of 1,026)	73% (747 of 1,026)	73% (747 of 1,026)	73% (747 of 1,026)	73% (747 of 1,026)	73% (747 of 1,026)	0%
6.4.1 - % of habitat needs met to achieve healthy and sustainable levels of migratory birds - cumulative	50% (260,976,538 of 519,675,916)	51% (265,746,680 of 520,837,443)	52% (284,923,324 of 543,258,973)	49% (268,242,836 of 543,280,973)	49% (268,449,347 of 543,280,973)	48% (263,356,234 of 543,330,973)	50% (270,000,000 of 543,330,973)	2%
Comments:	The performance increase reflects ongoing baseline activities, as well as outcomes resulting in increased capacity to support strategic habitat planning and design for migratory birds on high priority landscapes.							
CSF 15.7 - Percent of migratory bird species that may be harvested for sport hunting or falconry (according to the migratory bird treaties) for which harvest is authorized by regulation	37% (73 of 198)	37% (73 of 198)	37% (73 of 198)	37% (73 of 198)	37% (73 of 198)	37% (73 of 198)	37% (73 of 198)	0%

Law Enforcement



Activity: Conservation and Enforcement
Subactivity: Law Enforcement

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018			Change from 2017 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Operations	(\$000)	73,815	73,675	+865	0	-2,446	72,094	-1,581
Equipment Replacement	(\$000)	910	908	0	0	0	908	0
Total, Law Enforcement	(\$000)	74,725	74,583	+865	0	-2,446	73,002	-1,581
	FTE	285	339	0	0	-5	334	-5

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for Law Enforcement

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Operations	-2,446	-5
Program Changes	-2,446	-5

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for the Office of Law Enforcement is \$73,002,000 and 334 FTE, a program change of -\$2,446,000 and -5 FTE from the 2017 CR Baseline.

Operations (-\$2,446,000/-5 FTE)

The Service continues to cooperate with the State Department, other Federal agencies, and foreign governments to detect and disrupt illegal wildlife trafficking. In 2018, the Service will reduce its number of special agents but maintain sufficient capacity to enforce wildlife laws; halt the poaching of some of the world's most iconic species, such as elephants and rhinos, by stopping illicit trade; ensure sustainable legal trade; and reduce demand for illegal products.

Program Mission

The Service facilitates the expeditious movement of legal wildlife trade while working to detect and deter criminal enterprise in wildlife trafficking and related crimes. Service special agents, wildlife inspectors, intelligence analysts, and forensic scientists play a critical role in fighting wildlife crime, which is often sponsored or supported by organized criminal groups.

Applicable Laws, Acts, and Orders

The Service has the legal mandate and trust responsibility to fulfill its mission due to the Nation's wildlife and plant protection laws. Brief descriptions of the various laws follow.

- The Lacey Act (18 U.S.C. 42; 16 U.S.C. 3371-3378) prohibits the importation, exportation, transportation, sale, or purchase of fish, wildlife, or plants taken or possessed in violation of Federal, State, Tribal, and foreign laws.

- The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712) makes it unlawful to pursue, hunt, kill, capture, possess, buy, sell, purchase, or barter any migratory bird including feathers or other parts.
- The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668C) prohibits import, export, or take of bald or golden eagles, or the sale, purchase, or barter of their parts or products.
- The Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) prohibits the importation, exportation, taking, and interstate or foreign commerce of fish, wildlife, and plants that are listed as threatened or endangered species.
- The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act (16 U.S.C. 718) requires waterfowl hunters to purchase and possess a valid federal waterfowl hunting stamp before take of migratory waterfowl.
- The Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1361-1407) establishes a moratorium on the take and importation of marine mammals, including parts and products.
- The Airborne Hunting Act (16 U.S.C. 742j-1) prohibits taking or harassing wildlife from aircraft.
- The National Refuge System Administration Act (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee) provides guidelines for administration and management of all areas in the system.
- The African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4201-4245) places a moratorium on the importation of raw or worked ivory from African elephant-producing countries that do not meet certain criteria.
- The Wild Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4901) limits or prohibits the importation of exotic bird species as necessary to ensure that their populations are not harmed by international trade.
- The Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 5301-5306) prohibits the import, export, or sale of any product, item, or substance containing, or labeled or advertised as containing, any substance derived from tiger or rhinoceros.
- The Antarctic Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 2401) makes unlawful for any citizen to take, possess, or sell any native bird or mammal from Antarctica.
- The Archeological Resources Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 470aa) prohibits excavation, removal, damage, or alteration to any archaeological resource located on public or Indian lands without a permit.
- The Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt (END) Wildlife Trafficking Act (P.L. 114-231) authorizes support for law enforcement training, investigative capacity building, range state conservation programs, and other important tools to protect and sustain wild populations of imperiled species in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and other critical locations.
- The Presidential Executive Order on Enforcing Federal Law with Respect to Transnational Criminal Organizations and Preventing International Trafficking (issued February 9, 2017) strengthens enforcement of Federal law in order to thwart transnational criminal organizations and subsidiary organizations, including criminal gangs, cartels, racketeering organizations, and other groups engaged in illicit activities, such as illegal smuggling and trafficking of wildlife, that present a threat to public safety and national security.

Program Overview

The Service works to intercept smuggling and facilitate legal commerce in fish, wildlife, and plant resources by investigating wildlife crimes and monitoring the Nation's wildlife trade. Service special agents, wildlife inspectors, intelligence analysts, and forensic scientists play a critical role in fighting wildlife crime, which is often sponsored or supported by organized criminal groups. Addressing the involvement of these criminal organizations requires strong and effective law enforcement, both in the United States and abroad. The Service's focus is on detecting and disrupting illegal trade, unlawful commercial exploitation, injurious species, criminal habitat destruction, environmental contaminants, and illegal industrial hazards. Through enforcement efforts, the Service disrupts criminal networks, apprehends and prosecutes traffickers, seizes and forfeits the proceeds of the crimes, and applies penalties

to deter and prevent others from committing such crimes. Effective enforcement is critical to the Service's conservation mission to protect imperiled species and preserve protected wildlife habitat.

Combating Illegal Wildlife Trafficking

The recent escalation in poaching of protected species and the illegal trade in wildlife poses an urgent threat to conservation and global security. Wildlife trafficking is a multi-billion dollar illegal trade fueled by demand and enabled by corruption, limited legal authorities, insufficient law enforcement capabilities, and weak institutions. Wildlife trafficking generates billions of dollars in illicit revenues each year, contributing to the illegal economy, fueling global instability, and undermining regional security. Poaching operations themselves have expanded beyond small-scale, opportunistic actions to become coordinated activity commissioned by armed and organized criminal syndicates that see wildlife trafficking as a low-risk, high-reward crime. Through various law enforcement investigations, the Service has found direct links between wildlife trafficking and organized crime. For example, the Service has found Eastern European and Russian organized crime involvement in the caviar trade, Irish organized crime involvement in the rhino trade, Mexican drug organizations involvement in the totoaba trade, African gangs involved in elephant ivory poaching and smuggling, and Asian criminal groups involved in timber trafficking.

The U.S. remains one of the world's largest markets for wildlife and wildlife products, both legal and illegal. The Service upholds the Nation's responsibility to police wildlife trade and shut down domestic markets in prohibited species, detects and deters the illegal import and export of wildlife, and provides assistance to improve wildlife enforcement in other countries.

Inspection and Facilitation of Wildlife Trade

The Service's trade monitoring activities at U.S. ports provide a front-line defense against illegal wildlife trade. Service wildlife inspectors process declared shipments, intercept wildlife contraband, conduct proactive enforcement operations to catch smugglers, and work with special agents to investigate businesses and individuals engaged in illegal wildlife trafficking. Service law enforcement officers also work to prevent the introduction of invasive species via international trade and travelers. In addition, special agents and wildlife inspectors enforce prohibitions on the importation and interstate transport of injurious wildlife. The Service also maintains a wildlife detector dog program with seven wildlife inspector/canine detection teams stationed at critical ports of entry to improve the interception of smuggled wildlife. Since the program started in 2014, these highly trained K-9 teams have been successfully used for inspections of imports and exports that result in the interdiction of undeclared wildlife items (such as hunting trophies, feathers, furs, skins, raw coral, and shells) as well as wildlife parts and products (such as boots, shoes, purses, jewelry, caviar, and meats).



*The Service expanded the Wildlife Detection Dog Program. Seven K-9s assist wildlife inspectors "sniffing" out illegal wildlife products.
Credit: USFWS*

The Service's mandate to enforce wildlife trade laws encompasses a responsibility to deal fairly and efficiently with the legal import and export wildlife community. The speed and efficiency of wildlife inspection operations affect not only businesses trading in legal commodities, but also the international transportation of wildlife for purposes ranging from scientific research to public entertainment. Service officers provide guidance to individuals and businesses to help them observe wildlife laws and expedite their import and export transactions. Customer service efforts use technology to speed trade, streamline



*Squirrel monkey blood was falsely labeled as “human” blood and illegally shipped internationally.
Credit: USFWS*

communication, and improve public access to information about laws and regulations affecting trade in wildlife and wildlife products. Costs of the inspection program incurred by the Service are charged against the Service’s wildlife inspection user fee account. However, in the event that costs exceed the user fee collections, they are charged against the Law Enforcement Program’s appropriated funds account.

Law Enforcement Investigations

The Service’s investigation of wildlife trafficking disrupts and dismantles highly organized smuggling networks engaged in illegal trade around the globe. Special agents with the Service’s Office of Law Enforcement are plainclothes criminal investigators who enforce Federal wildlife laws. Agents investigate crimes by collecting evidence, interviewing witnesses, interrogating subjects, conducting surveillance, planning raids, making arrests, and helping to prepare cases for court. Agents often work undercover to infiltrate wildlife trafficking rings and other criminal groups to document violations from the “inside.” Covert investigations range from simple “buy-bust” transactions where agents arrange to purchase illegal wildlife from subjects to multi-year probes. For example of the Service’s investigation work, Operation Crash, a nationwide investigation into the trafficking in rhino horn led by special agents in the Service’s Investigations Unit, has led to over 42 arrests, 30 convictions, and 27 wildlife traffickers have been sentenced in Federal court. Though this effort, the Service and partners have seized rhino horns and elephant tusks worth an estimated \$75 million.

Additionally, the Service continues to provide subject matter expertise and related support to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) concerning import regulations for enforcement of the 2008 amendments to the Lacey Act regarding timber and wood products protected under the conservation laws of other countries. One highly complex and international investigation focused on Lumber Liquidators, Inc. Service agents, working with agents from the Homeland Security Investigations, successfully led an investigation that ended with the company pleading guilty to five charges and conceding that it had falsified import paperwork and imported timber from some of the last remaining habitat for Siberian tigers and Amur leopards in the world. As per the plea agreement, the company is to pay \$13.15 million in fines, forfeitures, and community service payments – the largest financial penalty for timber trafficking under the Lacey Act. Whenever, and wherever, illegal activity occurs, it undermines the legal trade. The Service enforces natural resource laws and regulations in support of businesses that legally produce goods and services.



Lumber Liquidators, Inc. was sentenced to pay more than \$13 million in penalties for its illegal importation of hardwood flooring. This is the first felony conviction related to the import or use of illegal timber, and is the largest criminal fine ever under the Lacey Act. Much of the flooring was manufactured in China from timber that was illegally logged in far eastern Russia in the habitat of the last remaining Siberian tigers and Amur leopards in the world. Credit: [left] USFWS; [right] Kevin Law/Wikimedia Commons

International Collaboration and Capacity Building

To detect and deter illegal wildlife trafficking, the Service must work with partners beyond our borders. To that aim, the Department of the Interior is a co-lead agency in implementing the Eliminate, Neutralize,

and Disrupt (END) Wildlife Trafficking Act which requires, on an annual basis for five years, the identification of focus countries that are a major source, transit point, or consumer of illegal wildlife products. The act, which authorizes a Presidential task force to combat wildlife trafficking, directs the task force to develop a mission assessment and strategic plan to address the threats for each focus country, and includes the authorization for support through law enforcement training, investigative capacity building, and transnational programs. Through the highly successful special agent attaché program, the Service is positioned to assist in investigations, as well as provide technical assistance and training to international governments. In 2014, the first attaché was stationed in Bangkok, Thailand. Since this initial posting, five additional attachés have been stationed at U.S. embassies in Gaborone, Botswana; Beijing, China; Libreville, Gabon; Lima, Peru; and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Attachés are the main conduit between our foreign partners and the advanced technical services the Service provides. They assist global counterparts by providing investigative expertise, as well as highly technical assistance to local governments involved in wildlife trafficking investigations. They also provide training and capacity building, coordinate among government agencies, and provide support to Wildlife Enforcement Networks throughout their areas of responsibility. The Service continues to work with the Department of State to place additional attachés in strategic global locations that are subject to high levels of wildlife poaching and trafficking. The Service plans to deploy an agent in Mexico City, Mexico; Jakarta, Indonesia; and the Hague, Netherlands by the end of 2018.



*With assistance of Service special agent attachés, Swiss authorities seized eight suitcases of African elephant ivory from Chinese smugglers.
Credit: Walter Bieri/European Pressphoto Agency*

One example of success through international collaboration, a Service-assisted international wildlife trafficking case, led to the arrest of three Chinese nationals who attempted to smuggle eight suitcases of African elephant ivory from Tanzania to China. Through collaborative intelligence sharing, the three smugglers were intercepted by Swiss authorities at the Zurich airport. In support of this investigation, the Tanzania National Transnational Serious Crime Investigation Unit requested assistance from Service attachés. Special agents from the Service's Digital Evidence Recovery and Technical Support Unit worked with Tanzanian investigators to create digital images of numerous mobile devices and computers. In addition, Service agents extracted video coverage from the airport computers that documented the subjects entering the airport in Tanzania with eight suitcases, assisted by corrupt officials. The Service's National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory assisted with the DNA analysis of a white powder that was gathered from a cutting machine (band saw) seized from one of the subject's business locations. Forensics scientists determined the powder was tusk particles from an African elephant, an endangered species. Subsequently, it was discovered that the band saw was used to cut the ivory in preparation for transport to overseas buyers. This investigation, just one of many global investigations in progress, highlights the importance of the Service having an international law enforcement presence.

Demand Reduction

While enforcement efforts increase the likelihood of detecting criminal activity and help to deter risk-averse would-be criminals, others will continue to poach wildlife and traffic in contraband as long as the potential profits, driven by consumer demand, remain high. To address consumer demand for illegal wildlife products, the Law Enforcement Program supports the Service's International Affairs Program by participating in events and educational outreach designed to dissuade consumers from purchasing illegal products. The Service began a nationwide communication campaign to reduce wildlife trafficking, including assisting in the production of a Discovery Communications public service announcement (PSA) and a short educational film with JetBlue Airways Corporation. To date, the combined total "impressions" (viewers of these messages) for the PSAs is an estimated 300,000,000 individuals around the world. Across the country, at venues ranging from zoos to schools, Service staff present educational materials that explain the illegal wildlife trade, display seized wildlife products for tactile learning, and highlight the work of the Service to bring wildlife traffickers to justice.

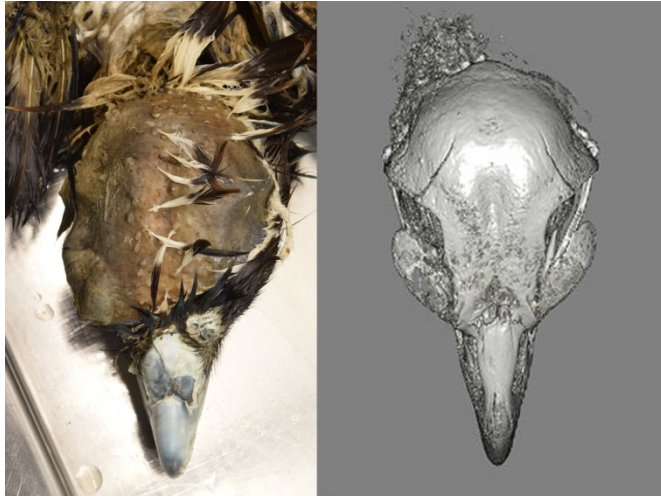
Protecting our Nation's Species

Service special agents investigate crimes involving federally-protected resources, including endangered and threatened species native to the U.S., migratory birds, eagles, and marine mammals. These enforcement efforts focus on dismantling criminal enterprises that illegally profit from prohibited trade in American wildlife and plants. For example, "Operation Broken Glass" is a multi-jurisdictional, Service-led investigation into the illegal trafficking of American eels--a unique and economically important species in river systems along the eastern coast of the U.S. that are highly valued in East Asia for human consumption. Japanese and European eels were historically harvested to meet this demand; however, overfishing has led to a decline in the population of these eels. As a result, harvesters have turned to the American eel to fill this void. Because of the threat of overfishing, harvesting is prohibited in the United States in all but three states: Maine, South Carolina and Florida, which require that individuals be licensed and report harvest information to state authorities. To date, the investigation has resulted in guilty pleas of twelve individuals for illegally harvesting, selling, transporting, or exporting eels worth more than an estimated \$2.94 million in violation of the Lacey Act. This investigation highlights an unparalleled collaboration of Federal and State law enforcement and will be used as a model for future training and investigations.

The Service's enforcement also addresses devastating threats to wildlife such as criminal habitat destruction, environmental contaminants, and industrial hazards. The Service works with industries whose activities affect American wildlife resources and their habitat to reduce hazards and secure voluntary compliance with wildlife laws. For example, the Service enforces laws and regulations where the illegal use of environmental contaminants have destroyed habitats or killed protected native U.S. species. In North Dakota, 20 tons of an anti-coagulant rodenticide was applied to over 5,000 acres of land within the external boundary of, and on adjacent lands, belonging to a Native American tribe. Service special agents, with Tribal and State law enforcement, investigated the death of over 50 bald and golden eagles from ingesting the poison.

National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory

The Service's National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory (Lab) in Ashland, Oregon, the world's only full-service crime laboratory devoted exclusively to supporting wildlife law enforcement, is vital to Service efforts to fight illegal wildlife trade. Scientists at the laboratory identify the species of wildlife parts and products seized as evidence to link suspect, victim, and crime scene through the examination of physical evidence, cause of death determinations, and crime scene analysis. The Lab provides the physical evidence analysis and supporting expert witness testimony for officials to successfully investigate and prosecute serious violations of wildlife law.



The Service Forensics Lab increased the capabilities of the Pathology and Morphology sections through the acquisition of a computed tomography (CT) scanner. The image on the right is a 3-D rendering of a CT scan of the skull. Two fractures are clearly visible extending from the eye sockets toward the back of the head.
 Credit: USFWS

The Lab can scientifically identify the species source of mammal, bird, plant, and reptile wildlife parts and products, a function frequently used by Service special agents, wildlife inspectors, and Justice Department prosecutors. Conclusive evidence of criminal activity in wildlife investigations often hinges on the investigators’ and prosecutors’ ability to establish animal or animal parts origin, often by country, making the Lab’s capacity integral to Service enforcement efforts. Wildlife populations have identifiable genetic profiles, which result in specific isotopic signatures that reflect a specific geographic location. For example, this data helps the Service determine the origin of poached elephants simply from analyzing illegal ivory or to determine the origin of poached rhinos from analyzing illegal horns, aiding efforts to prosecute criminals and stem poaching.

The Service also analyzes wood and wood products to help implement the 2008 illegal wood amendments to the Lacey Act. Species identification of logs, planks, and veneers is difficult because they lack the traditional descriptors of plants, such as leaves and flowers. The Lab is currently using macroscopic wood anatomy for determining genus of timber, and a novel tool—the Direct Analysis in Real Time (DART) Time-Of-Flight Mass Spectrometer (TOFMS)—to determine the species of wood evidence associated with criminal investigations. The Lab has also developed databases for several species protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and their “look-alikes” and is accredited under ISO 17025 (International Organization for

Standardization [ISO] standard for testing and calibration laboratories) to conduct wood identifications.



A digital forensic specialist analyzes cell phones supporting an international wildlife trafficking investigation.
 Credit: USFWS

Laboratory scientists also conducted research to develop new analytical techniques needed in wildlife forensics. For example, Service scientists developed and successfully applied new protocols for extracting amplifiable DNA from bile for use in species identification. This work will prove particularly useful in analyzing the species source of bile used in traditional Asian medicine, where as previously used methods could only identify to the family level.

Digital Evidence Recovery and Technical Support Unit

The Digital Evidence Recovery and Technical Support Unit (DERTSU) in Jacksonville, Florida, provides special agents in the field with better support for retrieval and analysis of computer-based records and advanced surveillance techniques. DERTSU is staffed by wildlife crime investigators with skills in computer forensics and technology-based investigations, as well as technical experts in these highly specialized fields. Efforts range from supporting search and seizure activities involving computers and portable electronic devices to deploying

special surveillance equipment to track suspect vehicles, vessels, packages, or people. The Unit provides a source of multi-layered expertise (both technical and investigative) to assist field officers with large-scale and complex investigations of wildlife crime.

International Affairs



Activity: Conservation and Enforcement
Subactivity: International Affairs

	2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018				Change from 2017 (+/-)
			Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
International Conservation (\$000)	7,211	7,197	+82	0	-323	6,956	-241
International Wildlife Trade (\$000)	7,485	7,471	+99	0	-343	7,227	-244
Total, International Affairs FTE	14,696	14,668	+181	0	-666	14,183	-485
	74	77			-2	75	-2

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for International Affairs

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• International Conservation	-323	-1
• International Wildlife Trade	-343	-1
Program Changes	-666	-2

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for International Affairs is \$14,183,000 and 75 FTE, a program change of -\$666,000 and -2 FTE from the 2017 CR Baseline.

International Conservation (-\$323,000/-1 FTE)

The Service will continue to focus on top conservation priorities, seek new and innovative approaches, and work with partners to leverage or match funding while also building considerable goodwill toward the United States. With reduced funding, the Service will fund fewer projects or provide less financial or technical assistance to projects and partnerships designed to conserve high-priority species and their habitats.

International Wildlife Trade (-\$343,000/-1 FTE)

The Service will continue to focus on top conservation priorities, seek new and innovative approaches, and work with partners to ensure effective implementation of international treaties and domestic laws, building considerable goodwill toward the United States.

Program Mission

The International Affairs Program leads domestic and international efforts to protect, restore, and enhance the world’s diverse wildlife and their habitats with a focus on species of international concern. The Service works to ensure wildlife trade is legal and sustainable for both the survival of species and of economic livelihoods through implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and domestic conservation laws.

Program Elements

The International Affairs program is comprised of the following program elements:

- International Conservation – Species and regional programs provide technical and financial assistance to partners around the globe to conserve high-priority species and habitats across landscapes.
- International Wildlife Trade – This program is responsible for implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in the United States and to ensure international wildlife trade does not threaten the survival of animals and plants in the wild.

Applicable Laws, Acts, and Orders

The Service has the legal mandate and trust responsibility to engage in the conservation of wildlife species beyond our borders in the context of several long-standing commitments. These obligations are contained in domestic laws, international treaties, and other multilateral agreements, such as CITES, the Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt (END) Wildlife Trafficking Act, the Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee, the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Lacey Act, the Wild Bird Conservation Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Western Hemisphere Convention, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Cartagena Convention and the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife, and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention).

Program Overview

Elephants, rhinos, tigers, marine turtles, and gorillas are just a few of the species of foreign origin that captivate the hearts and minds of the American public. More than 183 million visits are made to zoos and aquariums each year to see many of these animals, contributing more than \$17.4 billion to the U.S. economy (in 2014) and supporting 176,000 jobs.¹ Of U.S. citizens traveling abroad in 2015, 31.5 percent visited a national park or monument, 8.4 percent camped or hiked, 8 percent went on an environmental or eco-excursion, and 4.1 percent fished or hunted while in other countries.² These visitors choose to spend their free time with wildlife, sharing these experiences with family and friends, and educating their children about conservation. They, and many more Americans, care about these animals and their permanence in the wild for future generations to enjoy.



The Service, through its species programs, works to protect sea turtles around the globe. Here a sea turtle hatchling makes its way towards the ocean. Credit: Mark Sullivan/NOAA

Perhaps less charismatic, but equally important, are the native populations of bobcats, alligators, freshwater turtles, sharks, and plants such as cacti, goldenseal, and American ginseng. The international trade in these species, and many others, provides important economic opportunities for rural communities in the U.S. Ensuring that wildlife trade is legal and sustainable is important for both the survival of species and economic livelihoods.

¹ Zoo and Aquarium Statistics. (2016, September). Retrieved from <https://www.aza.org/zoo-and-aquarium-statistics>.

² US Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, National Travel and Tourism Office “2015 U.S. Resident Travel: Leisure/Visiting Friends & Relatives.” Page 4. http://travel.trade.gov/outreachpages/outbound.general_information.outbound_overview.asp



The Service has worked closely with State and Tribal governments as they establish management programs for bobcats that include a sustainable harvest.

Credit: Kramer/USFWS

The Service works to safeguard native species from the potential negative impacts of international trade and strengthen capacity within other countries to address conservation problems that affect the health and viability of species that are important to the U.S. economy and have intrinsic value to the American people. The Service works with partners to find innovative solutions to combat the most urgent threats to species survival. This work addresses rampant poaching, wildlife disease, habitat loss, illegal and unsustainable trade, and inadequate law enforcement.

Investing in People and Partners to Protect Species and Spaces

The Service's international efforts emphasize investment in people, effective partnerships, and efficient processes to deliver wildlife conservation successes. The Service works with and through strategic partners to establish networks and strengthen the individual and institutional capacity to catalyze action and achieve long-term in-country solutions to wildlife conservation challenges.

Through species and regional programs, the Service funds, facilitates, and supports vital efforts to build capacity in range countries to preserve the world's rich diversity of wildlife. Since 1989, the Service has provided more than 4,000 grants for international conservation totaling nearly \$250 million. The Service has worked with more than 700 partners in developing countries who have contributed almost \$390 million in additional, non-Federal matching support for grant projects, more than doubling the impact of our funding.



Bonobos, okapi, various primate species, and one of the last remaining elephant populations roam the Lomami Basin of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Service was integral in establishing this area as a national park in 2016.

Credit: Terese Hart/TL2 Project

The Service benefits from nearly three decades of experience working in Central Africa with foreign governments, multi-donor agencies, other U.S. government agencies, NGOs, and civil society. Building on this experience, the Service has established a strategic, results-based vision for wildlife conservation in Central Africa. This vision emphasizes direct action in the field and strengthening individual and institutional capacity, including improved law enforcement.

In partnership with Gabon's National Parks Agency (ANPN), the Service is safeguarding forest elephants and great apes, protecting the resilience of tropical forests and biodiversity, and conserving ecologically important marine ecosystems. A cooperative agreement between the Service and the Eco Activists for Governance and Law Enforcement (EAGLE) Network has resulted in nearly 1,200 arrests and more than 900 convictions for wildlife crimes. In 2016, a new national park in the Lomami Basin of the Democratic Republic of the Congo was established – a feat that would not have been possible without Service support for scientific expeditions that identified the conservation value of the area, which includes bonobos, okapi, various primate species, and one of the last remaining elephant populations in a country where more than 95% have been extirpated.



Local community support has been critical to the creation of Lomami National Park. Here, a park planning meeting takes place with community members of Ngondo, which lies east of the park's boundaries. Credit: Terese Hart/TL2 Project

In the Western Hemisphere, the Service is supporting projects to conserve five distinct Central American landscapes with high biodiversity value, while promoting regional integration for conservation. In South America, the Service is working with the Government of Peru and other key partners to curb illegal wildlife trade in the Tropical Andes region. The Service is supporting the development of Peru's first National Wildlife Strategy and expanding these efforts to other countries in the region. Working with partners such as the Wildlife Conservation Society and the Governments of Argentina and Chile, the Service is conserving Patagonia's priority landscapes and unique species. Through the "Trilateral Committee", the Service collaborates with the wildlife agencies of Mexico and Canada to implement a joint regional agenda including topics such as monarch butterfly conservation, wildlife law enforcement, CITES implementation, and conservation of shared ecosystems and migratory birds.



The guanaco is a species unique to South America. Credit: Martinez/USFWS

The Service, in partnership with other U.S. Government agencies and island governments is working on a major Caribbean-wide effort to develop a wildlife enforcement network (CaribWEN). This effort, following the example of existing wild enforcement networks, will increase information sharing, provide a platform for capacity building and training, and assist law enforcement operations for participating governments. The development and implementation of multilateral wildlife enforcement networks is a key element in improving law enforcement and intelligence cooperation, and increasing enforcement success. This effort will deliver positive conservation results and increase awareness of wildlife trafficking issues in the Caribbean.

The United States has shared conservation interests with countries across Europe and Asia, and the Service has been a conduit for information exchange, even in the face of political unrest and strained diplomatic ties. The United States shares populations of wildlife species that migrate between the U.S. and northeast Asia. The Service partners with those countries to share information and improve wildlife management. For example, the Service maintains a decades-long dialogue with wildlife managers in Russia to ensure that populations of polar bears, walrus, and migratory birds will be maintained for future generations. In China, the Service encourages improved capacity to manage wetlands and natural areas that provide habitat to rare species of concern to the American people, and to shorebirds that make epic journeys from Alaska, across Asia to as far as New Zealand.



More than 100,000 elephants were killed in a recent three-year period for their ivory tusks. Credit: Roy Strijker

Combating Wildlife Trafficking

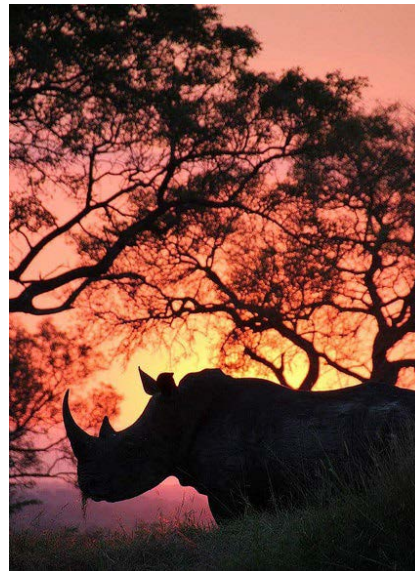
Once predominantly a crime of opportunity committed by individuals or small groups, wildlife trafficking is now the purview of organized criminal cartels that are well structured, often violent, and capable of moving commercial volumes of illegal wildlife and wildlife products. Illegal trade in elephant ivory, rhino horn, pangolin scales and meat, live turtles and birds, and a myriad other wildlife and wildlife products is a growing threat to the world’s biodiversity, economy, and security.

The collaborative nature of the Service’s international work is exemplified in efforts to combat wildlife trafficking. Since 2014, the Service has reoriented its response to combat wildlife trafficking in light of a whole-of-

government approach that is outlined in the National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking and codified by the END Wildlife Trafficking Act. To address the serious and urgent threats posed by illegal trade in wildlife, the Strategy outlines three key priorities: strengthening enforcement; reducing demand for illegally traded wildlife; and expanding international cooperation and commitment.

The Service is well-positioned to work with other agencies and intergovernmental organizations to deliver outcomes called for under the National Strategy and the END Wildlife Trafficking Act. The Service works with foreign governments to increase their implementation of CITES, the principal international agreement that addresses unsustainable and illegal wildlife trade, by providing professional training opportunities and offering technical support. As well, the Service, in partnership with the Department of State’s Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, is providing technical expertise to improve CITES implementation and law enforcement in Southeast-Asian countries, such as improving on-the-ground protection for rhinoceros and advancing wildlife forensic capabilities.

Approaching this work as a whole-of-government effort has improved efficiencies as other agencies have been able to tap into the Service’s decades of experience in combating wildlife trafficking.



Rhino poaching has increased from 13 rhinos killed in 2007 to more than 1,000 rhinos killed in each of the last 4 years. Credit: Myriam Trausch

The Service has provided technical expertise to develop strategies for combatting wildlife trafficking and improving CITES implementation for Gabon, Cameroon, Uganda, Tanzania, Thailand, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Viet Nam, and Malaysia. These strategies inform funding decisions across the U.S. Government for projects related to combating wildlife trafficking and for the Service, as the U.S. CITES Authority, for CITES capacity building efforts. In 2017, this work continues through an Embassy Science Fellowship in Togo, where the Service is leading the development of a strategy to combat wildlife trafficking. Togo has been flagged as a priority country, in part, because its port in Lome significantly expanded in 2014 and became one of the largest on the continent of Africa.



Cameroon has become a leader in pangolin conservation in Central Africa, in part because of the efforts of MENTOR-POP (Progress on Pangolins), an 18-month fellowship program developed by the Service in collaboration with the Zoological Society of London. In February 2017, the Government of Cameroon burned approximately 3 metric tons of confiscated pangolin scales to send a strong message to poachers and traffickers. Photos: (Left) Pangolin scales before being burned by the Government of Cameroon; (Right) MENTOR-POP Fellows raise awareness of the plight of pangolins.

Credit: Cameroon/USFWS

Innovative Solutions to Combat Wildlife Trafficking

In FY 2016, the Service launched a grants program to fund innovative projects to halt wildlife poaching and trafficking, awarding \$1.2 million for 12 projects in 11 countries. The funds are a lifeline to many species threatened by illegal trade that have not typically received international attention or significant resources. It also provides an opportunity to develop projects and cutting-edge technologies, which benefit many species at once. For example, a project based on the island of Sumatra to strengthen law enforcement is intended to conserve Sumatran tigers, helmeted hornbill, and Malay pangolin; the illegal trade in these species is closely linked with the same poaching syndicates and “kingpins.” In addition, evidence-based behavior change methods are being employed to better measure and reduce the demand for pangolins in southern China. Successful demand reduction in consumer countries will reduce poaching in multiple source countries, thus impacting the entire supply chain. Grant funds were also awarded to:

- Address illegal rosewood trade in Belize;
- Train law enforcement officers in Cambodia;
- Employ sniffer dogs to combat trafficking of saiga horn in Kazakhstan;
- Generate new information on trafficking networks and routes in Peru;
- Use community-based conservation initiatives to combat timber trafficking in Madagascar;
- Support partnerships with religious-based community groups to combat illegal wildlife trade in Malaysia; and
- Protect wild populations of cycads, an ancient group of cone-producing plants, in South Africa.



As part of an effort to develop a new traceability system for timber, the Belize Forest Department tagged some felled trees and was able to subsequently track the movement of the illegal rosewood and make an arrest in connection to the illegal activity. Credit: Wildlife Conservation Society

Ensuring Legal and Sustainable Wildlife Trade

The United States is one of the world’s largest importers and exporters of wildlife and wildlife products, and plays a significant role in the global legal wildlife trade, currently valued in billions of dollars annually. The Service makes critical decisions on the status of species, on wildlife trade policy, and on individual imports and exports through its permit program. An efficient, responsive permitting system to regulate this trade is critical to ensure that international trade in listed wildlife and plants is legal and will not adversely affect the biological status of the species in the wild.

In addition to combating illegal trade, the Service is tasked with facilitating legal and sustainable trade. To that end, the Service works with importers and exporters of wildlife products to ensure compliance

with the law to facilitate, streamline and educate them on the permitting process. The Service has approximately 5,200 different permit applicants and issues over 30,000 permits annually to authorize a wide variety of wildlife trade activities. The Service uses the best available biological information to make findings on whether the import or export of CITES-listed species may be detrimental to their survival, or whether the trade will enhance the survival and not jeopardize the continued existence of species listed under the Endangered Species Act. Decisions on whether to issue permits frequently must be made in close consultation with foreign CITES authorities, state wildlife agencies, other Federal agencies, the CITES Secretariat, other relevant experts, and applicants. In addition, the Service compiles and maintains trade records for U.S. imports and exports. In conjunction with reports from other CITES Parties, these data are used to monitor trade levels, determine trends over time, and help ensure that plant and animal trade is sustainable.

The international trade in CITES-listed native species such as bobcats, river otters, alligators, paddlefish, freshwater turtles, sharks, and plants such as cacti, goldenseal, American ginseng, and pitcher plants, provides livelihoods for rural communities in the United States. The Service has a mandate to ensure that this trade is legal and sustainable and we strive to work with State and Federal agencies, industry, and other stakeholders to meet this responsibility.



Once hunted to near extinction, the American alligator has made a full recovery, due to collaboration between the Federal government, State wildlife agencies, and the leather industry. Credit: USFWS

The recovery of the American alligator, together with the transformation of U.S. industry practices, is a success story that illustrates how conservation and sustainable use can go hand-in-hand. Once hunted to near extinction, the American alligator has made a full recovery, due to collaboration between the Federal government, State wildlife agencies, and the leather industry. Today, the management program for American alligators includes a sustainable harvest, supporting industry while also conserving the species. This is a model of collaboration and cooperation that the Service aims to replicate with other native species.

In 2015, the annual harvest of wild American ginseng roots exceeded 64,000 dried pounds, with most of this ginseng exported to Asia. Harvesters ('diggers'), the first tier in the economic chain for the sale and export of American ginseng, received \$300 to \$500 a pound for dried wild American ginseng roots. In 2017, the Service, in partnership with the herbal, medicinal plant industries, academic experts, United Plants Savers, Appalachian region States, and other Federal agencies, is planning a symposium to develop and implement management recommendations that promote genetic diversity and sustainability of American ginseng in its native habitats and provide long-term economic opportunities.



Chambered nautilus are among the species that received global protections at the recent CITES Conference of the Parties. In 2018, the Service will be working with foreign governments, other Federal agencies, and industries to ensure effective implementation of new listings. Credit: National Marine Fisheries Service

Much of 2018 will be spent implementing decisions that were taken at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17) to CITES. Those decisions include significant recommendations for iconic species impacted by wildlife trafficking such as elephants, rhinos, tigers, and polar bears, as well as lesser known species such as pangolins, American eel, nautilus, African softshell turtles, pygmy chameleons, goldenseal, and African grey parrots. Porbeagle shark and three species of hammerhead sharks were listed in CITES Appendix II at CoP16, and more recently at CoP17, thresher and silky sharks were added to this list. Implementation of these listings requires an innovative and holistic approach that involves management measures for the species and the cooperation of the fishing community. The Service, in partnership with the National Marine Fisheries Service, is focusing on new approaches for identification of shark products in trade, making CITES non-detriment findings, monitoring the chain of custody and traceability of these products, and the timely issuance of permits for perishable commodities.

Educating and Engaging to Motivate Conservation Action

To engage a broader public, beyond the traditional conservation community, the Service is spearheading private-public partnerships that significantly increase the reach of our

messages. In 2016, the Service and JetBlue worked together to produce an in-flight video that informs customers about responsible travel and shopping practices. Consumers, particularly international travelers, can unknowingly fuel the illegal wildlife trade by purchasing souvenirs or trinkets that are illegal to bring into the United States. This partnership seeks to protect the beauty and wildlife of the Caribbean by reducing the conservation threat from uninformed travelers, benefitting the conservation goals of the Service and the business goals of JetBlue. Discovery Communications, in conjunction with the Service and other partners, created a public service announcement (PSA), narrated by the actor Edward Norton, that airs on Discovery’s networks in the U.S. Following on the successful launch of the U.S. version of the PSA, Discovery announced plans to roll out locally customized versions on their global networks.



The final scene of a 30-second public service announcement (PSA) produced by Discovery Communications in coordination with the Service. The PSA, narrated by Edward Norton, aims to empower consumers to make informed purchasing decisions and be part of the solution to end illegal wildlife trade. Credit: Discovery Communications

Changing the Story of the World's Most Trafficked Mammal



Left: White-bellied pangolin Credit: Kohn/USFWS; Right: Front page of newspaper displayed outside of Nelson Mandela's home in Johannesburg, South Africa, after global protections were adopted for all pangolin species. Credit Kessler/USFWS

The Service and partners are changing the story of pangolins from one of tragedy to one of determined global collaboration to save them from extinction.

Pangolins, or scaly anteaters, are covered with tough overlapping keratin-based scales that are prized in traditional medicine. Experts estimate that more than 1 million pangolins have been poached from their habitats in Asia and Africa in the last decade to fuel the increasing demand from traditional medicine and luxury food markets, earning them the unfortunate title of the “world’s most trafficked mammals.”

In 2015, the Service launched several initiatives to tackle the crisis, balancing on-the-ground action to fill critical gaps in conservation coverage for the species with strategic collaboration to increase protections for pangolins under CITES.

First, the Service developed the MENTOR-POP (Progress on Pangolins) Fellowship Program through a cooperative agreement with the Zoological Society of London (ZSL). Launched in 2016, this team of nine early-career Central African and Asian conservation practitioners is championing the conservation of Central African pangolins through developing population assessment methodologies, identifying new law enforcement methods, and piloting outreach activities to reduce consumer demand for pangolins.

The Service organized and co-hosted meetings with pangolin range state governments in Asia and Africa to facilitate preparations for the 17th CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP17), and co-sponsored proposals to increase CITES protections for the eight pangolin species from Appendix II to Appendix I. The proposals were adopted at CoP17 with nearly universal support, prohibiting commercial trade in the eight pangolin species and ensuring more effective implementation of CITES protections for pangolins.

This balanced, collaborative approach is already making a difference, and the Service will continue to work with partners to build conservation capacity for pangolins across Asia and Africa.

2018 Program Performance

In 2015, the Service developed monitoring guidance to build a better evidence base for conservation, providing examples of indicators of program performance for key threats and suggested conservation actions to address these threats. The Service also developed a results-based vision for conservation in Central Africa in 2015 and a strategic plan for its Western Hemisphere program, and is now finalizing the strategic plan for its Eurasia program. These strategic plans will complement the inherent strategies outlined in the legislation of the Multinational Species Conservation Funds and other authorizing statutes.

International Affairs – Combined Program Change and Overview Table

Performance Goal	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Target	2015 Actual	2017 Target	2018 PB	Change from 2017 Target to 2018 PB
CSF 10.1 - Number of international species of management concern whose status has been improved in cooperation with affected countries (GPRA)	36	36	40	35	35	35	35	0
CSF 10.2 - Influence the conservation of X species of international concern through the wildlife trade permitting program (GPRA)	179	179	179	179	179	179	179	0
CSF 10.3 - Facilitate the conservation of X species through federal assistance awards and leveraged funds or in-kind resources (GPRA)	32	32	44	44	44	44	44	0

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Fish and Aquatic Conservation



Activity: Fish and Aquatic Conservation

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018			Budget Request	Change From 2017 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
National Fish Hatchery Operations	(\$000)	53,418	53,316	+788	0	-2,162	51,942	-1,374
	FTE	336	331	0	0	0	331	0
Maintenance and Equipment	(\$000)	19,920	19,882	0	0	0	19,882	0
	FTE	64	68	0	0	0	68	0
Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation	(\$000)	74,918	74,776	+755	0	-10,942	64,589	-10,187
	FTE	297	296	0	0	-60	236	-60
Total, Fish and Aquatic Conservation	(\$000)	148,256	147,974	+1,543	0	-13,104	136,413	-11,561
	FTE	697	695	0	0	-60	635	-60

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for Fish and Aquatic Conservation

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Hatchery Operations Activities	-854	0
• Youth and Careers in Nature	-1,308	0
• Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention	-116	-1
• Habitat Assessment and Restoration Activities	-233	-2
• Cooperative Recovery Initiative	-745	0
• National Fish Habitat Action Plan	-1,000	-4
• State Plans/NISA Implementation/Coordination	-1,000	-9
• Population Assessment and Cooperative Management Activities	-1,138	-10
• Youth	-1,326	-10
• Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement	-1,384	-2
• Fish Passage Improvements	-4,000	-22
Program Changes	-13,104	-60

Program Mission

The Fish and Aquatic Conservation (FAC) program works with partners and the public to manage fish and other aquatic resources for the continuing benefit of the American people. For over 140 years, the Service has fostered outdoor recreational opportunities and provided economic and ecological benefits of aquatic species and habitats. Since its inception as the United States Commission on Fish and Fisheries, the Service’s Fisheries Program has worked collaboratively with Native American Tribes, States, landowners, partners and stakeholders to achieve the goals of healthy, self-sustaining populations of fish and other aquatic species, and the conservation or restoration of their habitats.

Program Elements

The Fish and Aquatic Conservation program comprises the following program elements:

- National Fish Hatchery System (NFHS) – propagates healthy, genetically diverse aquatic species to help support wild populations and fulfill Tribal obligations while ensuring access to angling opportunities.
- Maintenance and Equipment – maintains property and equipment, including the repair, rehabilitation, and replacement of constructed assets, for 89 National Fish Hatchery System facilities and 65 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices. The Service’s ability to accomplish its mission and ensure safety of employees and visitors is dependent upon the condition of key assets associated with water delivery, aquatic species culture, and effluent management.
- Population Assessment and Cooperative Management – Fish & Wildlife Conservation Offices (FWCOs) are the boots on-the-ground fish conservation arm of the Service and work in close cooperation with Tribal, State, and Federal partners to analyze the status and trends of our Nation’s aquatic resources and proactively manage these complex systems.
- Habitat Assessment and Restoration – improves habitat for aquatic organisms through programs such as the National Fish Passage Program and the National Fish Habitat Partnership, coordinated through 65 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices (FWCOs) nationwide.
- Aquatic Invasive Species – prevents the introduction or reduces the spread of invasive species, a primary threat to the Nation’s natural resources and economy. This is accomplished through leadership of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, Injurious Wildlife Listings, and voluntary efforts with industry and States to educate and engage the public.

Applicable Laws, Acts, and Orders

The Service’s Fish and Aquatic Conservation program is authorized by a wide range of statutes, treaties, compacts, court orders, mitigation agreements, and cooperative agreements.

- **The Fish and Wildlife Act** (16 U.S.C. 742a-742j)—establishes a comprehensive national fish and wildlife policy and authorizes the Secretary to take steps required for the development, management, advancement, conservation, and protection of fisheries and wildlife resources through research, acquisition of refuge lands, development of existing facilities, and other means.
- **The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act** (16 U.S.C. 661-666(e))—directs the Service to investigate and report on proposed Federal actions that affect any stream or other body of water and to provide recommendations to minimize impacts on fish and wildlife resources.
- **The Endangered Species Act** (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544)—prohibits the import, export, or taking of fish and wildlife and plants that are listed as threatened or endangered species; provides for adding species to and removing them from the list of threatened and endangered species, and for preparing and implementing plans for their recovery.
- **The Mitchell Act** (16 U.S.C. 755-757)—authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to carry on activities for conservation of fishery resources in the Columbia River Basin.
- **The Colorado River Storage Project Act** (43 U.S.C. 620)—provides that facilities will be built and operated to mitigate losses of, and improve conditions for, fish and wildlife in connection with the Colorado River Storage.
- **The Sikes Act** (16 U.S.C. 670a-670o)—authorizes the Secretary to cooperate with the Department of Defense, Department of Energy, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Bureau of Land Management, and State agencies in planning, developing, maintaining and rehabilitating Federal lands for the benefit of fish and wildlife resources and their habitat.
- **The Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Species Prevention and Control Act**, as amended by the National Invasive Species Act, (NISA, 16 U.S.C. 4701 et seq.)—authorizes the Service to develop and implement a program to prevent and control infestations of zebra mussels and other nonindigenous aquatic invasive species in waters of the United States. (This creates the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force).

- **The Lacey Act Amendment**, (18 U.S.C. 42; 16 U.S.C. 3371-3378). Provides that the Secretary designate injurious wildlife and ensure the humane treatment of wildlife shipped to the United States.

Program Overview

Since 1871, the Fisheries Program of the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service has been a leader in managing species, conserving habitat, and sustaining the biological health of America's aquatic resources. The Nation's fisheries are among the most abundant and diverse in the world and provide recreational, commercial, subsistence, cultural, social, and economic benefits to the American people. However, many aquatic organisms and habitats are declining, and approximately 400 aquatic animal and plant species now require protection under the Endangered Species Act, largely due to the impact of invasive species and habitat loss or degradation. In order to maintain healthy and sustainable fish populations and the habitat they depend upon, the Service works with partners to identify and implement the highest-priority conservation actions. Management of aquatic resources is built on a foundation of sound science, strategic implementation, and broad collaboration through partnerships.

To address the challenges facing trust aquatic resources, the Service's Fish and Aquatic Conservation program employs nearly 700 professional staff in an integrated network of 154 facilities, including 72 National Fish Hatcheries, one historic National Fish Hatchery, 65 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices, nine Fish Health Centers, and seven Fish Technology Centers.

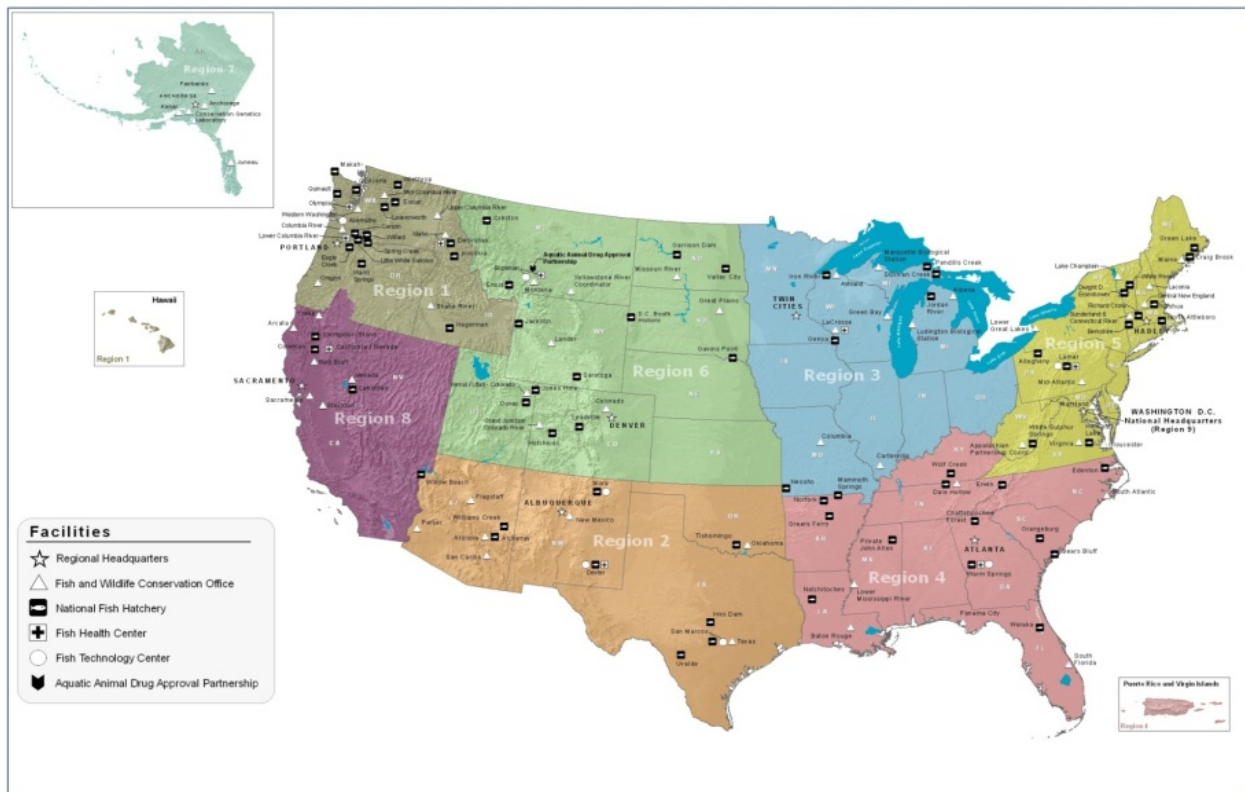
Service professionals perform scientific assessments of the health, status, and trends of populations of priority species; measure the quantity and ecological function of important aquatic habitat; identify specific pathways for potential movement of invasive species and disease-causing pathogens; and work through partnerships to manage and conserve aquatic habitats. Corrective measures include cost-effective habitat restoration such as restoring fish passage and re-connecting fragmented streams. These conservation measures produce ecological, social, and economic benefits to local communities. Service propagation facilities raise native fishes and other species to bolster populations in restored habitat; sustain recreational, commercial, and Tribal fisheries; and help preclude the need for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

A core component of fishery conservation is harnessing the power of citizen stewardship of aquatic resources. For generations, the Service has engaged families and local communities in recreational fishing to instill a love of the outdoors and a strong understanding of the economic, social, and cultural benefits derived from healthy aquatic ecosystems.

Economic Benefits

The economic value of fisheries conservation is substantial and well documented. *Net Worth: The Economic Value of Fisheries Conservation, Fall 2011*¹, an economic study published by the Service's Division of Economics, revealed that work completed by the Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program contributes the following benefits to the American economy:

- Generates \$3.6 billion in annual total economic impact contributions to the American economy;
- Annually generates \$28 in economic return for each Federal dollar invested;
- Creates 68,000 jobs in a multitude of businesses; and
- Returns benefits to local economies as a result of program activities, such as:
 - \$554 million in retail sales from recreational angling;
 - \$903 million in industrial output from angling for fish originating in the National Fish Hatchery System;
 - \$256 million in wages/salaries; and
 - \$37 million in Federal tax revenue and \$35 million in local tax revenue from recreational angling.



The positive economic, social, and ecological effects stemming from the Service's work are of growing importance to communities nationwide. The Service's work to improve or restore aquatic habitats, and by extension water quality and fish populations, is directly linked to increases in angling opportunities. Fishing and other aquatic-based recreational opportunities are multi-cultural, multi-generational experiences that bring substantial economic returns to local communities, increase jobs, and lead to improved quality of life for the American people.

¹ <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/fisheries/Lowres2USFWSEconomicReport11-2%20b.pdf>

Activity: Fish and Aquatic Conservation

Subactivity: National Fish Hatchery System Operations

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018			Change From 2017 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
National Fish Hatchery Operations	(\$000)	53,418	53,316	+788	0	-2,162	51,942	-1,374
	FTE	336	331	0	0	0	331	0

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for National Fish Hatchery System Operations

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Hatchery Operations Activities	-854	0
• Youth and Careers in Nature	-1,308	0
Program Changes	-2,162	0

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for the National Fish Hatchery Operations is \$51,942,000 and 331 FTE, a program change of -\$2,162,000 and +0 FTE from the 2017 CR Baseline.

Hatchery Operations Activities (-\$854,000/+0 FTE)

Hatcheries support recreational, commercial, and international fisheries, while upholding Tribal trust responsibilities and working to restore and recover threatened and endangered native fish and aquatic species. This change reflects reduced on-the-ground activities in light of rising costs of doing business.

Youth and Careers in Nature (-\$1,308,000/+0 FTE)

Because of fiscal constraints and other priorities, the Service will not fund programs focused on youth in FY 2018. The Service will focus instead on delivery of our core mission. The Fisheries Program will continue to provide some youth engagement opportunities with base funds if practicable.

Program Overview

The National Fish Hatchery System (NFHS) consists of 72 National Fish Hatcheries, one historic National Fish Hatchery, nine Fish Health Centers, seven Fish Technology Centers, and the Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership Program. The NFHS operates at facilities across the country under the authority of numerous treaties and consent decrees, statutes, and recovery and restoration plans.

Hatcheries raise fish to bolster or re-establish self-sustaining populations in the wild, to fulfil Tribal responsibilities, and to mitigate impacts to fish populations associated with Federal water projects.

In 2016, 58 fish species and 24 other aquatic species (amphibians, mollusks, plants, and reptiles) were propagated and distributed from Service hatcheries. Additionally, hatcheries implemented 400 recovery actions as called for in approved Recovery Plans and Biological Opinions, benefitting 75 federally-listed species. These facilities also provided refugia for 30 listed species facing catastrophic events such as wildfires, droughts, or floods. To help avoid further declines and ESA listings, NFHS facilities implemented over 1,500 tasks benefitting at least 64 non-listed species, as called for in Fisheries Management Plans and other agreements.

Fish Technology Centers

Fish Technology Centers (FTCs) provide applied science support for recovery and restoration programs. The seven Technology Centers conduct practical research in animal culture biology, genetics, ecological physiology, nutrition, biometrics and modeling, and cryopreservation for application in aquatic resource management. The knowledge gained through FTC studies informs conservation and benefits the aquaculture industry and other fish propagation efforts. Service FTCs have published nearly 1,000 papers in peer reviewed journals over the last 30 years, including 57 papers in 2016. These publications cover a broad range of topics, which have an impact well beyond the Service.

Aquatic Animal Health

Aquatic animal health biologists operating at nine Fish Health Centers (FHCs) across the Nation detect, monitor, and mitigate disease-causing pathogens. Their findings inform decisions that improve the health of captive fishes at hatcheries and of fish populations in the wild. Fish health professionals also investigate emerging health issues, such as invasive species that can be vectors for disease, to help prevent the introduction or spread of dangerous aquatic pathogens.



Scientists at Bozeman Fish Health Center analyze samples from fish kills in the State of Montana. The Center also provides fish health testing and certification for State hatcheries in Colorado. Similar programs are in place at Fish Health Centers across the U.S., providing aquatic animal health services to Federal, State, and Tribal hatcheries. Credit: USFWS

The FHCs guide the Service's implementation of the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. The FHCs are also an integral part of the Nation's aquatic animal health testing system: the National Animal Health Laboratory Network. This network of standardized testing facilities serves as the preeminent source of information on the status of aquatic animal pathogens in the wild and facilitates interstate and international commerce of aquatic animals, while protecting the natural resources of the U.S.

The Aquatic Animal Drug Partnership (AADAP) program was established in 1994 to ensure Service compliance with the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act and the health and fitness of Service-released and wild fish. AADAP is the only program in the U.S. singularly focused on obtaining access to critically needed new drugs for use in aquatic species. The AADAP program works with the U.S.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and other Tribal, State, and Federal agencies, academic institutions, and private partners to obtain FDA approval of safe and effective new drugs needed for aquaculture and fisheries management. In addition to Federal appropriations, the program receives financial support from cost-reimbursable dollars generated by the National Investigational New Animal Drug (INAD) Program and FDA research grants.

The INAD Program provides fishery managers and aquaculture facilities across the country with legal access to a variety of experimental drugs for which AADAP is pursuing FDA approval, but would otherwise be unavailable. Over 250 non-Service facilities in 45 States receive direct benefits through participation in this unique program and use of experimental drugs. In addition, the data generated from this coordinated testing of experimental drugs is used by the Service to obtain FDA drug approvals. In FY 2016 the INAD program generated data that will be used to support the approval of six new drugs. These drugs are critical to the health, fitness, and management of both wild fish and fish held in captivity and include drugs that provide sedation, safely treat parasites and disease, and induce spawning.

Recreation

Conservation of fish and their habitats directly enhances angling opportunities. The Service’s responsibilities for native fish and recreational fishing support the activities of more than 58 million recreational anglers. According to the 2011 peer-reviewed economic report, *Conserving America’s Fisheries, An Assessment of Economic Contributions from Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation*², recreational angling resulting from NFH stocking programs annually generates approximately \$554 million in retail sales; \$903 million in industrial output; 8,000 jobs; \$256 million in wages/salaries; \$37 million in Federal tax revenues; and \$35 million in local tax revenues.

Education

Hatcheries are integral parts of the communities in which they are located. Through the National Fish Hatchery Volunteer Act of 2006, Service hatcheries offer volunteer opportunities and education programs that provide hands-on experiences and opportunities for discovery which improves the public’s understanding of America’s unique and diverse aquatic species and habitats. The Program delivers a wide array of formal and informal education programs, both on and off Service property.

In 2016, 1.2 million youth and adults visited National Fish Hatcheries and nearly 11,000 youth and adults contributed 130,000 volunteer hours (the equivalent of 63 FTEs), assisting biologists in a variety of hands-on resource management activities. Hatchery “friends” groups help coordinate volunteers and businesses in local communities to assist with facility operations, special events, and outdoor classrooms for youth.



Dwight D. Eisenhower NFH staff explains fish anatomy to students. Over 1.2 million youth and adults visited NFHs in 2016. Credit: USFWS



Students release shad fry into the Neuse River, North Carolina. These fish were reared in the classroom from eggs provided by Edenton National Fish Hatchery as part of the "Shad in the Classroom" program. Participating teachers estimate that 17,185 shad fry were stocked by students in 2016. Credit: North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Mitigation

The Service supplies fish for Federal agencies to mitigate the adverse effects of Federal water development projects. These actions are funded by the water development agencies, and produced at Service hatcheries. Mitigation propagation programs are operated on a user-pay basis and are dependent on outside funding to fully reimburse the Service for its costs. The Service’s main partners include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

² <http://www.fws.gov/home/feature/2011/pdf/FisheriesEconomicReport.pdf>

National Fish Hatchery System Overview Table

Performance Goal	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Target	2016 Actual	2017 Target	2018 PB	Change from 2017 Target to 2018 PB
CSF 5.1 - Percent of fish species of management concern that are managed to self-sustaining levels, in cooperation with affected States, Tribes, and others, as defined in approved management documents (GPRA)	24% (45 of 185)	24% (44 of 183)	24% (45 of 186)	23% (43 of 184)	23% (42 of 184)	23% (42 of 183)	23% (42 of 183)	0%
Comments:								
7.21.5.4 - Number of Recovery Plan tasks implemented by the Fisheries Program - NFHS (GPRA)	401	410	434	469	449	357	353	-4
Comments:	Change due to decrease in Hatchery Operations - General Program Activities							
13.1.5 - % of NFHS historic structures in FWS inventory that are in good condition (GPRA)	71% (27 of 38)	84% (32 of 38)	87% (33 of 38)	87% (33 of 38)	87% (33 of 38)	84% (32 of 38)	84% (32 of 38)	0%
Comments:								

Activity: Fish and Aquatic Conservation
Subactivity: Maintenance and Equipment

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018			Change From 2017 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
National Fish Hatchery Maintenance and Equipment	(\$000)	19,402	19,365	0	0	0	19,365	0
	FTE	64	68	0	0	0	68	0
FWCO Maintenance and Equipment	(\$000)	518	517	0	0	0	517	0
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total, Maintenance and Equipment	(\$000)	19,920	19,882	0	0	0	19,882	0
	FTE	64	68	0	0	0	68	0

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for Maintenance and Equipment is \$19,882,000 and 68 FTE, no program change from the 2017 CR Baseline.

Program Overview

Hatcheries produce fish and other aquatic species to meet management needs and provide public access to hatchery facilities for recreation and education. Properly functioning infrastructure is essential to fish production and to the safety of Service employees and visitors. Hatcheries employ tanks, ponds, and raceways for propagation, and boats and trucks for transport. The propagation process requires a consistent water supply, heated or cooled to the correct temperature and supplied with adequate oxygen. Related hatchery assets, such as water wells, pumps, pipelines, and heating/cooling equipment must be well maintained to prevent mortality and meet production goals. Similarly, public access areas must be maintained to provide safe recreational use. A proactive asset management system helps to ensure safe, efficient, and successful hatchery operations.



Efficient hatchery operations depend upon well-maintained water delivery systems. Credit: USFWS

Service Asset & Maintenance Management System (SAMMS)

Under the auspices of the Occupational Safety and Health Act and DOI standards, the Service developed an Asset Management Plan that guides management of the NFHS’s \$2.8 billion in essential real and personal property inventories, including systematic and objective tracking, evaluation, reporting of asset condition, and prioritization of asset management. Using the Service Asset Maintenance Management System (SAMMS), an integrated web-based information system, the Service standardizes asset management, corroborates deferred maintenance needs with objective condition assessment data, identifies short- and long-term maintenance needs, and analyzes annual operating and maintenance expenditures.

National Fish Hatchery System Maintenance and Equipment

Maintenance and Equipment funds allow the Service to provide timely upkeep of hatchery property and equipment; purchase maintenance-related supplies; and repair, rehabilitate, or replace constructed assets. The Service's ability to accomplish its mission is largely determined by the condition of key water delivery assets. These assets deliver, treat, and discharge water from hatcheries and regulate the hatchery environment to optimize hatchery production and survival. Approximately \$2.1 billion of the NFHS's \$2.8 billion of real property assets are mission-critical water management assets.

The Service has developed asset performance measures and a strategy for ensuring its crucial assets remain fully functional and safe for employees and visitors. The Department measures real property asset conditions using a Facility Condition Index (FCI), a ratio of repair cost to replacement cost. A rigorous condition assessment process ensures that repair needs are determined objectively and associated costs are appropriately estimated using industry standards. The Service's Asset Management Plan and Regional Asset Business Plans are used to manage assets, address repair needs, and dispose of assets that are low in priority or excess to the Government's needs.

The Maintenance Budget includes three components: 1) Annual Maintenance, 2) Deferred Maintenance, and 3) Equipment Repair and Replacement.



Iron River National Fish Hatchery (Wisconsin) employees perform maintenance on the Simpson Trail System which has three different loops with varying adventure levels. Credit: USFWS

Annual Maintenance

Annual maintenance funds ensure timely upkeep of hatchery real property and equipment. These funds are used for salaries of our maintenance staff, and to purchase maintenance-related supplies (e.g., lumber, pipe, paint, tools, filters) and replace small equipment costing less than \$5,000. Current annual maintenance funding expenditures are focused on priority preventive maintenance needs. Through the Service Asset Maintenance Management System (SAMMS) and condition assessments, the Service can plan recurring maintenance to reduce long-term costs and foster successful operations and mission delivery.

Deferred Maintenance

Deferred maintenance projects are directed at the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of constructed assets at hatcheries. The Service's primary focus is on the health and safety of employees and visitors, as well as high-priority mission-critical water management projects that are necessary to the operation of hatchery facilities. The Service has identified \$185 million in current deferred maintenance needs for the NFHS. The 5-Year Deferred Maintenance/Construction Plan prioritizes the projects of greatest need.

Equipment: Routine Maintenance, Repair, and Replacement

Equipment is also essential for proper hatchery operations. Over \$35 million in machinery (fish pumps, tractors, loaders, backhoes, riding mowers), fish transports (trucks, tanks, oxygen containment), standard vehicles (pickups, sedans, vans), and tools (table saws, welders, and hand-held power tools) require routine maintenance. With proper storage, operation, and maintenance by qualified personnel, equipment can remain in a safe, operating condition.

The NFHS equipment funds pay for maintenance, repair, and replacement of equipment. Replacement generally targets items with a value between \$5,000 and \$30,000, and includes passenger vehicles. More expensive equipment purchases are identified in the 5-Year Deferred Maintenance Plan. To minimize the need to purchase expensive specialized equipment and to maximize efficiency, the NFHS works closely with the National Wildlife Refuge System to accomplish certain projects using Refuge equipment and personnel. If scheduling conflicts arise, specialized equipment may be leased from the private sector and operated by qualified Service personnel. This provides for cost savings over fully contracting out the work.



*Hatchery distribution trucks transport live fish for stocking.
Credit: USFWS*

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office Maintenance and Equipment

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office maintenance and equipment funds are used to purchase and maintain over \$21 million in assets such as boats, vehicles, and specialized fisheries equipment. This equipment is essential for inventory and monitoring of aquatic species and is critical to the Service’s mission to restore native aquatic populations to self-sustaining levels.



*Fish Biologists collect ultrasound images from a lake sturgeon in the St. Clair-Detroit River System to unobtrusively determine the sex on this threatened species.
Credit: USFWS*



*A staffmember at Alpena Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office lowers a flowmeter to measure water velocity in western Lake Erie near the mouth of the Detroit River.
Credit: Jennifer Johnson, USFWS*

Activity: Fish and Aquatic Conservation
Subactivity: Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018 Request			Change From 2017 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Habitat Assessment and Restoration	(\$000)	28,641	28,587	+213	0	-7,020	21,780	-6,807
	FTE	105	96	0	0	-34	62	-34
Population Assessment and Cooperative Management	(\$000)	30,821	30,762	+436	0	-2,806	28,392	-2,370
	FTE	137	144	0	0	-16	128	-16
Aquatic Invasive Species	(\$000)	15,456	15,427	+106	0	-1,116	14,417	-1,010
	FTE	55	56	0	0	-10	46	-10
Total, Aquatic Habitat & Species Conservation	(\$000)	74,918	74,776	+755	0	-10,942	64,589	-10,187
	FTE	297	296	0	0	-60	236	-60

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention	-116	-1
• Habitat Assessment and Restoration Activities	-233	-2
• Cooperative Recovery Initiative	-745	0
• National Fish Habitat Action Plan	-1,000	-4
• State Plans/NISA Implementation/Coordination	-1,000	-9
• Population Assessment and Cooperative Management Activities	-1,138	-10
• Youth	-1,326	-10
• Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement	-1,384	-2
• Fish Passage Improvements	-4,000	-22
Program Changes	-10,942	-60

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation is \$64,589,000 and 236 FTE, a net program change of -\$10,942,000 and -60 FTE from the 2017 CR Baseline.

Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention (-\$116,000/-1 FTE)

Preventing introductions of potentially harmful species is the most efficient way to reduce the threat of aquatic invasive species. This change reflects reduced on-the-ground activities in light of rising costs of doing business.

Habitat Assessment and Restoration, General Program Activities (-\$233,000/-2 FTE)

Through partnerships at all levels, the Service leads efforts to restore and enhance aquatic habitats, which support economically, culturally, and recreationally valuable fisheries. This change reflects reduced on-the-ground activities in light of rising costs of doing business.

Cooperative Recovery Initiative (-\$745,000/+0 FTE)

The Service began this cross-programmatic approach to restoring and recovering federally-listed species on National Wildlife Refuges in FY 2013. Since then, the Service has directed \$23.2 million to 57 projects at 70 refuges across the country, benefitting 149 listed species. This reduction will allow the Service to address other priorities. Program staff will continue collaborating to promote species recovery as resources permit.

National Fish Habitat Action Plan (-\$1,000,000/-4 FTE)

Requested funding will focus on the highest priority fish and aquatic habitat assessment and conservation projects. The Service is the lead Federal partner on this collaborative effort which leverages partner contributions. At this reduced funding level, it is estimated the Service will be unable to support approximately 30 planned regional projects aimed at improving resiliency of vulnerable species.

Aquatic Invasive Species, State Plans/NISA Implementation/Coordination (-\$1,000,000/-9 FTE)

In FY 2018, the Service will provide reduced support for 40 State and 3 Interstate Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plans, so that higher priorities can be addressed. The plans identify key elements and actions needed to limit the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Population Assessment and Cooperative Management Activities (-\$1,138,000/-10 FTE)

In FY2018, the Service will reduce management, restoration, inventory, and monitoring of fish and other aquatic species. These activities inform resource management actions such as harvest limits, propagation efforts, and invasive species suppression.

Youth (-\$1,326,000/-10 FTE)

The Service will not fund our programs focused on youth in FY 2018, so that funds can be focused on delivery of our core mission. The Fisheries Program will continue to provide some youth engagement opportunities with base funds if practicable.

Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement (-\$1,384,000/-2 FTE)

Funds will be redirected to higher priority habitat assessment and restoration work while still providing habitat monitoring, planning, and restoration activities to those species most critically in need in the Klamath Basin.

Fish Passage Infrastructure Improvements (-\$4,000,000/-22 FTE)

In FY 2018, the Service will reduce funding to restore connectivity of aquatic habitats. Sixty-four fewer projects will be supported in FY 2018 based on average project cost. These projects benefit fish, other aquatic species, and communities through enhanced flood resiliency, improved road conditions, and increased angling opportunities. This program works cooperatively with government partners and voluntary landowners to leverage Service funding at a 3:1 ratio of partner contributions.

Program Overview

The Fisheries Program's 65 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices (Fisheries offices) are strategically located across the Nation and play an important role in implementing the Service's fisheries and aquatic resource programs. These field offices work with a broad range of partners and utilize non-regulatory conservation tools to protect, enhance, and restore our aquatic resources. Fisheries offices are under increasing demands for their services as they provide technical and biological information to partners on the condition of the habitat and populations of fish and other species. Fisheries offices monitor and assess aquatic populations and their habitats to provide essential information for managing these resources for conservation and recreational fishing. These data inform resource management decisions and lead to on-the-ground conservation actions as Fisheries offices collaborate with private landowners, non-profit organizations and local, State, and Federal agencies. Additionally, Fisheries Office staff work closely with Tribal nations to fulfill Tribal trust responsibilities associated with fisheries and aquatic resources. The work of Fisheries offices is essential to the understanding and collaborative management of anadromous and other migratory and cross-jurisdictional species, such as Pacific salmon, Gulf coast striped bass, Lake trout, and American shad.



Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office received the 2016 Rachel Carson Award for Exemplary Scientific Accomplishment for their work pioneering new recovery techniques and significantly contributing to the recovery of the endangered Humpback chub. Credit: USFWS

Habitat Assessment and Restoration Program Overview

Fisheries offices play an important role in the implementation of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (Action Plan) and the National Fish Passage Program, two habitat assessment and restoration programs vital in meeting the Service's mission. Through its network of Fisheries offices, the Service implements projects with partners, provides technical expertise, enlists voluntary efforts of landowners and local communities, and delivers cost-shared resources to complete projects that improve environmental conditions and restore ecological connectivity to strengthen the resiliency of our Nation's aquatic resources against future threats.

Although the Action Plan and the Fish Passage program are primary tools for project delivery and funding streams available to Fisheries offices, they also work with other Service programs and other agencies to deliver science and restoration projects using an adaptive management approach.

National Fish Habitat Action Plan

The Action Plan links thousands of people and organizations across America in a common effort to improve the science and effectiveness of aquatic habitat conservation. The Action Plan delivers local fish habitat conservation projects supported by diverse national and regional partners who marshal funds, knowledge, and other resources.



Action Plan Objectives

- 1) Achieve measurable conservation results through strategic actions of Fish Habitat Partnerships
- 2) Establish a consensus set of national conservation strategies
- 3) Broaden the community of support for fish habitat conservation
- 4) Fill gaps in the national fish habitat assessment, including socio-economic information
- 5) Communicate conservation outcomes, as well as new opportunities and voluntary approaches for conserving fish habitats

The focus of the Action Plan is fish, but the mission is broader: large, connected, healthy aquatic areas that improve the economy and quality of life for the American people. Twenty regional Fish Habitat Partnerships use state-of-the-art science to set priorities that are supported by a broad cross-section of stakeholders. Fish habitat conservation projects enlist landowners, fishing clubs, school groups, and businesses to restore stream banks, plant vegetation, renovate oyster reefs, and generally improve habitat conditions.

The Service is a lead Federal partner working with all 50 States, other Federal agencies, Tribal governments, conservation groups, and the sport fishing industry. Service funds support operations of the National Fish Habitat Board and Fish Habitat Partnerships, all of which have governance

structures, strategic plans, scientific capabilities, and sponsor projects to protect, restore, or enhance aquatic habitats.

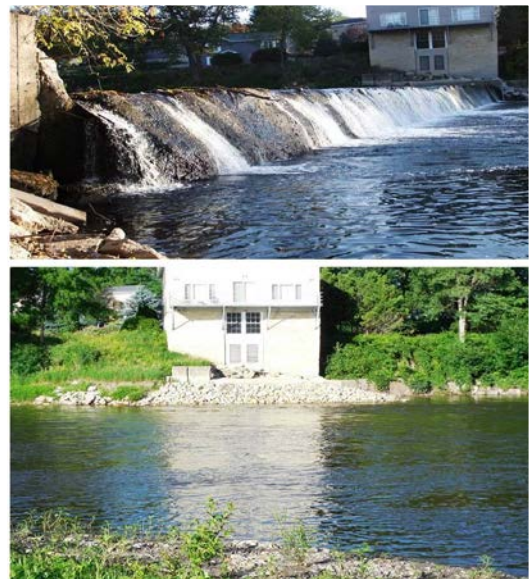
Since 2006, the Service has provided \$30.9 million of Action Plan funds to complete 749 fish habitat conservation projects in all 50 States, leveraging \$123.6 million in partner contributions. These projects improved resiliency to flooding events, improve flow conditions, and provide for fish passage and other improvements.

A goal of the Action Plan is to use the available funding on those actions that provide the greatest conservation return. The key to setting meaningful priorities is scientific knowledge of habitat conditions and causative factors on the landscape. The work of partners is vital to building this needed base of scientific knowledge.

National Fish Passage Program

Approximately six million dams, poorly-designed culverts, and water diversions have fragmented rivers and changed the flow of water, reducing connectivity within and between rivers and wetlands across the United States. These barriers often prevent fish from accessing vital habitat needed for growth and survival. Dams and other aging infrastructure are often inadequate at protecting local communities from floods and extreme storm events, as has been shown by Hurricane Sandy, Tropical Storm Irene, and localized flooding around the country. The National Fish Passage Program’s infrastructure investments contribute millions of dollars in economic value each year to local jurisdictions through improved protection of human safety and public and private property.

The Service works with partners at all levels to restore aquatic connectivity through removing or bypassing barriers. Projects range in size from large-scale dam removals to the repair or removal of culverts and agricultural water diversions. Since the National Fish Passage Program’s inception in 1999, cooperative efforts have provided substantial benefits to communities and



A National Fish Passage Program dam removal project on the Shell Rock River in Iowa (before and after): The Rockford Dam, no longer serving a purpose, was deemed a safety hazard. Its removal, completed in 2016 by the LaCrosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office, restored connectivity and fish passage, increased fish & mussel abundance and diversity throughout the river, and improved fishing and river navigation for anglers and boaters. Photo credit: Louise Mauldin, FWS

aquatic species through restoration of natural flows, reduced sediment inputs, increased road infrastructure resilience to flooding, and restored connectivity, which allows fish to move freely and safely between the habitats needed for survival and self-sustainability.

In cooperation with its partners, the Service has removed or bypassed over 1,612 barriers and reconnected 23,766 miles of river and 246,751 wetland acres across the Nation. The resulting increase in resilience to environmental pressures and urbanization has benefited more than 90 species of fish and freshwater mussels. The projects also help communities to upgrade road crossings to prevent flooding. The National Fish Passage Program projects have had a significant environmental and economic impact, including leveraging Federal funding at a 3:1 ratio based on Service tracking.³

Another important asset of the National Fish Passage Program is its comprehensive fish passage engineering and technical assistance capacity. Fish passage engineers and technical specialists in Fisheries offices ensure that passage projects are strategically selected and structurally sound; meet restoration goals for large, connected natural areas; and benefit surrounding communities. They have been called upon by partners, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to assist in design work for infrastructure that affects the aquatic environment.

Population Assessment and Cooperative Management Program Overview

The Service's Fisheries offices focus on management, restoration, and inventory and monitoring to maintain self-sustaining, healthy, and diverse populations of fish and other aquatic species. Fisheries offices evaluate the causes of species decline, determine the limiting factors for aquatic populations, and implement actions to restore those populations across habitat types and jurisdictional boundaries.

Fisheries offices work with partners to develop and implement resource management plans for Federal trust species on Federal, State, and local land and water properties. Fisheries biologists collect and evaluate population data and develop models to estimate population trends and inform management actions such as harvest limits. They implement restoration activities across the landscape with partners and private landowners and monitor the Service's propagation programs to assess program effectiveness in supporting recreational activities and maintaining self-sustaining populations. Fisheries offices also play a critical role in fighting the spread of aquatic invasive species by suppressing populations of invasive plants and animals, including sea lamprey and Asian carp.

³ www.fws.gov/fisheries/whatwedo/NFPP/

Spotlight: Colorado Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office

The Colorado Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) works in close cooperation with the Department of Defense, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, various State agencies, and National Wildlife Refuges to manage fish and wildlife resources in Kansas, Colorado, and Wyoming.

Recreational fishing provides a total economic impact of over \$1.1 billion to Colorado, so the State's economy depends on public access to healthy fish populations. In 2013, heavy rains resulted in historic flooding along Colorado's Front Range which is home to the State's most popular recreational fisheries. The Colorado FWCO leveraged resources to restore habitat and rebuild with flood-resilient infrastructure. These habitat projects have restored and enhanced populations of cutthroat trout – the iconic recreational species of the Front Range – while supporting more flood-resilient communities.



Colorado cutthroat trout

As part of the Service's trust responsibilities, Fisheries offices work with Tribal resource agencies to manage fish and wildlife on 56 million acres of Tribal trust lands and 44 million acres of Alaska Native lands. Fish and wildlife conservation on Tribal lands is advanced through cooperative management with the Tribes, specifically by providing technical assistance, training, financial support, and equipment.

For example, Fisheries offices in the Midwest and Northeast Regions work closely with Tribal, State, provincial, and other valued partners to restore lake trout in the Great Lakes. The Service monitors these populations by marking all hatchery-produced fish with coded-wire tags. Tags are recovered through cooperation with partners and returned to Fisheries Offices for extraction and analysis. These data help the Service understand population trends, assess program success, and inform management decisions in the cooperative effort to restore this highly valuable native species in support of sustainable commercial and recreational fisheries.

Conserving Military Landscapes

The Service works closely with the Department of Defense and the military services, stewards to millions of acres of land used for national defense purposes, to protect and enhance natural areas on military installations. Cooperative conservation programs are conducted under the auspices of the Sikes Act and other authorities. Increased focus on military lands has allowed the Service to improve management and protection of 400 federally-listed species and over 550 at-risk species and has improved access to recreational hunting and fishing for military communities. Fisheries Office biologists, in coordination with other Service programs, cooperate with military installation natural resource managers on decisions affecting listed species; development and implementation of integrated natural resources management plans; wildland fire support; conservation law enforcement activities; and recreational hunting and fishing programs.

Under a Service-wide, national partnership established with the Air Force in 2013, Fisheries offices provide direct conservation assistance to Air Force installations across the nation. In close collaboration with the Air Force, Fisheries offices bring to bear their unique combination of conservation expertise and tools to recover imperiled species, restore fish and wildlife habitat, and control invasive species on Air Force lands. Fisheries offices also support combat readiness by ensuring continued access to realistic habitat conditions for mission-essential testing, training and operations. As a result of this cooperation, the Air Force has improved compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, improved capacity to manage wildland fire, and now has a high level of compliance with conservation planning requirements under the Sikes Act.

Alaska Subsistence Management Program

Based on a 2010 economic assessment by the Service⁴, over 135,000 people in over 270 communities in rural Alaska are entitled to subsistence fishing, hunting, and trapping on Federal lands. The average subsistence harvest in Alaska is approximately 375 pounds of food per person, or 50 million pounds of food per year. The Alaska Fisheries Subsistence Management Program provides a direct benefit to rural subsistence users on more than 237 million acres of Federal lands encompassing 66 percent of Alaska's land area and 52 percent of Alaska's rivers and lakes.

The Service is the lead Federal agency in administering this program for the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture. Since 1999, the Service's Office of Subsistence Management has implemented an annual regulatory program and a fisheries monitoring program, supported 10 regional advisory councils, and has provided administrative and technical support to five Federal agencies and the Federal

⁴ Charbonneau, Joseph John, Ph.D. and James Caudill, Ph.D, September 2010. *Conserving America's Fisheries: An Assessment of Economic Contributions from Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation*. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Subsistence Board. The Subsistence Management Program operates with strong stakeholder participation by rural residents and the State of Alaska. The Alaska Subsistence Management Program is also funded through the Service's Refuge program.

Aquatic Invasive Species Overview

Invasive species significantly affect the health of native species and natural areas. They are second only to habitat destruction as the leading cause of declining fish, wildlife, and habitat in the United States. Nearly half of the imperiled species in the United States are threatened by invasive species.⁵ Species such as bighead carp, quagga mussel, giant salvinia, lionfish, and brown tree snake cause tens of billions of dollars of economic and ecological impacts each year in diminished agricultural productivity, personal property values, human health and safety, public utility capacity, and recreational opportunities. The problem is worsening.⁶ The ease of travel and the global economy provide increased pathways for the intentional or unintentional transport of live foreign organisms that can become invasive. In addition, natural areas already stressed by pollution and other factors are more susceptible to harm from invasive species than are healthy ecosystems.

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) can be especially troublesome because they are often not readily detected, their pathways may not be obvious, and their effects can be difficult to ascertain. Most problematic is that they are difficult, and often impossible, to eradicate once they become established. They can persist and spread widely even after their pathways of introduction are interrupted. The Service's efforts to focus mainly on several species that will cause significant and immediate harm if their spread continues: zebra and quagga mussels and four species of Asian carp. The Service has made significant strides in recent years to strengthen partnerships and modernize scientific approaches needed to identify and prevent threats before they become severe.

The Service's AIS Program consists of three components: national coordination, prevention, and control and management. Service personnel offer critical leadership and scientific techniques to address aquatic invasive species threats and provide a vital regional and field presence on the ground.

National Coordination

National coordination is achieved in part through the Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force. The ANS Task Force, composed of 13 Federal and 15 other partner organizations, was established in 1991 under Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act. Co-chaired by the Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, it is the only federally-mandated intergovernmental organization solely dedicated to preventing and controlling aquatic nuisance species. The ANS Task Force provides a national infrastructure and forum for collaborative discussion and decision making, both at the ANS Task Force level and within its six Regional Panels. These Panels are uniquely positioned to coordinate and prioritize regional invasive species management issues and to provide crucial recommendations to the ANS Task Force. For example, the AIS Program is working alongside regional panel members, the American Boat and Yacht Council (an industry association), and other stakeholders to provide manufacturers of boats and associated equipment with guidelines and best practices that will reduce the likelihood of spreading AIS through the recreational boating pathway. This process could potentially lead to design standards for "AIS Safe" boats.

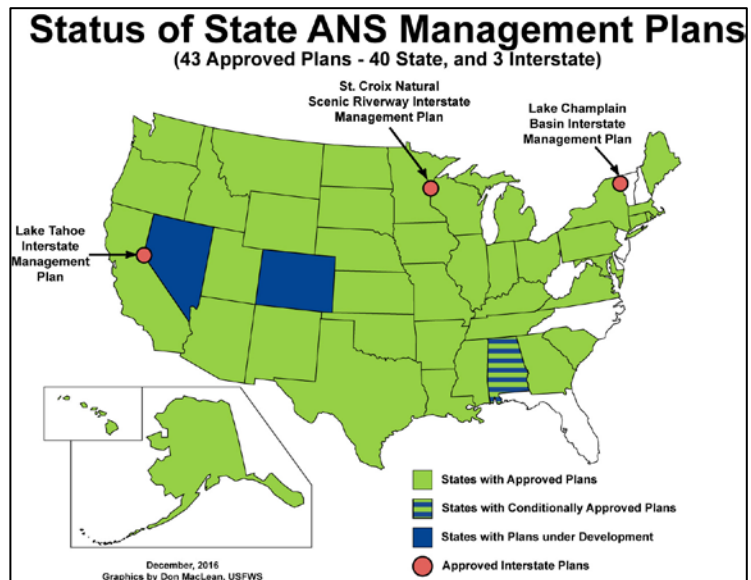
The Service also meets national coordination needs by supporting the funding and implementation of 43 State/Interstate Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plans that address State and Tribal priorities

⁵ Wilcove, D.S., Rothstein, D., Bubow, J., Phillips, A., Losos, E., 1998. Quantifying threats to imperiled species in the United States. *Bioscience* 48(8): 607-615.

⁶ Pimentel, D., Lach, L., Zuniga, R., Morrison, D., 2005. Update on the environmental and economic costs associated with alien-invasive species in the U.S. *Ecological Economics* 52:273-288.

through cost-sharing and technical assistance. Relying on these funds, the State AIS programs coordinate with their partners to prevent the introduction and spread of unwanted organisms and have planned, directed, and accomplished significant invasive species prevention and management resource outcomes. As a result, the cost-share grants between the Service, States, and Tribes allow the 43 State and interstate programs to accomplish far more than the Service could ever accomplish on its own. The State of Nevada is currently developing its State ANS Management Plan, which would make it eligible for funding once approved by the ANS Task Force.

The ANS Task Force has approved nine national species control and management plans, which are developed through the coordinated efforts of numerous Federal, State, and non-governmental organization representatives. These plans are key elements of the DOI effort to limit the spread of AIS and provide comprehensive guidance to the Service and its partners as they focus their resources on specific species. In 2016, the Service continued to support the *Quagga-Zebra Mussel Action Plan (QZAP) for Western U.S. Waters* which addresses the western spread of these invasive mussels. Quagga and zebra mussels clog water intakes and boat engines, encrust boat hulls, coat beaches with sharp shells, and upset the nutrient balance of aquatic systems. In 2016, the Service provided QZAP funding to support watercraft inspection and decontamination (WID) efforts in Arizona and Utah, as well as boater education and outreach in California and Montana. Funding to the Nevada Department of Wildlife was also continued to provide free WID to the public at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, a region so vital for recreation.



Prevention

Proactive prevention (keeping species out of the country or an area) is the most cost-effective strategy to minimize the long-term risk of impacts of invasive species to the American people and trust resources. Although not all species introduced to a new area will become invasive (spread and cause harm), the Service employs science-based models to predict which species have the greatest likelihood of doing so. Without the Service’s leadership in this arena, economic costs would increase as new introductions occur. The Service supports efforts at the national, regional, and local levels to prevent introductions such as public awareness campaigns, to develop and implement risk assessment and risk mitigation tools, and to identify and prevent species introductions into the country or between States.

For example, the national “Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!” campaign targets recreational users and urges them to become part of the solution by cleaning their equipment every time they leave the water. This campaign relies upon partners to help spread the prevention message and actively involve citizens to address this global threat. More than



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

1,000 organizations have joined the campaign, including State fish and wildlife, parks and recreation, agriculture, and environmental protection agencies; businesses; and many conservation and watershed protection organizations. The emblematic stop sign has become ubiquitous around the country.

Control and Management

In FY 2018, the AIS program will continue to target quagga and zebra mussels as high-priority species, leveraging containment, prevention, and outreach resources among Federal, State, local, and non-government partners. Eradicating existing populations of invasive mussels is not possible with current technologies. Therefore, emphasis will continue to be placed on containing the invasion within the Lower Colorado River Basin, the primary source for further invasion in the waters of the western U.S. Actions in FY 2018 will continue to minimize the number of trailered boats carrying invasive mussels to other waters by promoting public compliance, improving communication between partners, and educating and assisting marina operators and water body managers.

Asian carp also continue to be a high priority for the Service. These invasive fish are known for rapid range expansion and population increases which outcompete native species for food and habitat. When startled, silver carp jump out of the water, colliding with boaters and causing injuries. The spread of Asian carps toward the Great Lakes is one of the most acute threats facing this key natural resource and its multi-billion dollar commercial and recreational fishery. Since 2010, the Administration has aggressively focused on preventing Asian carp from invading the Great Lakes. Additional effort is needed on the upper Mississippi, Ohio, Missouri rivers, and other high-risk watersheds as identified in the National Asian Carp Surveillance Plan, finalized in 2015.

Base funding includes support for work to prevent the spread of Asian carps in the Great Lakes Basin and the upper Mississippi and Ohio rivers. These funds enable sampling with Environmental DNA (eDNA) and traditional gear as part of a comprehensive surveillance and monitoring program for Asian carp species. The eDNA process tests water samples for the genetic presence of an aquatic species with increased sensitivity. Funds also support coordinated early detection, rapid assessment, containment, response, and control outside the Great Lakes in high-risk ecosystems, such as the Mississippi and Ohio rivers.

While most of the focus is on Asian carps and zebra and quagga mussels, the Service will seek opportunities to manage other species where practical. The Service provides some support for invasive species control and management through the State and Interstate Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plans. In addition, individual species control and management plans target specific species (such as snakeheads, European green crabs, and the alga, *Caulerpa*) that pose the most immediate threat of further spread and damage. While the Service provides a leadership role in leveraging funds and bringing partners together, limited funding has reduced our ability to address other critical unwanted species such as ruffe, mitten crab, brown tree snake, New Zealand mudsnail, and giant salvinia (a plant). The Service will continue to work with the States and other partners to address critical pathways of introduction and spread for other AIS where practical and feasible given available and leveraged resources.



*Quagga Mussels from Lake Mead, NV
Credit: Dave Britton/USFWS*

Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation - Combined Program Change and Overview Table

Performance Goal	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Target	2016 Actual	2017 Target	2018 PB	Change from 2017 Target to 2018 PB
CSF 5.1 - Percent of fish species of management concern that are managed to self-sustaining levels, in cooperation with affected States, Tribes, and others, as defined in approved management documents (GPRA)	24% (45 of 185)	24% (44 of 183)	24% (45 of 186)	23% (43 of 184)	23% (42 of 184)	23% (42 of 183)	23% (42 of 183)	0%
Comments:								
7.21.5.7 - Number of Recovery Plan tasks implemented by the Fisheries Program - FWMA (GPRA)	492	551	566	512	565	419	400	-19
Comments:	Change due to reduction in Habitat Assessment / Restoration funding.							

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Cooperative Landscape Conservation



Activity: Cooperative Landscape Conservation

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018			Change from 2017 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Cooperative Landscape Conservation	(\$000)	12,988	12,963	0	0	-12,963	0	-12,963
	FTE	67	67	0	0	-67	0	-67

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for Cooperative Landscape Conservation

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Landscape Conservation Cooperatives	-12,963	-67
Program Changes	-12,963	-67

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for Cooperative Landscape Conservation is \$0 and 0 FTE, a program change of -12,963,000 and -67 FTE from the 2017 CR Baseline.

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (-\$12,963,000/-67 FTE)

The budget eliminates funding for Cooperative Landscape Conservation activities, saving \$13.0 million, in order to focus available resources on higher priority, long-standing programs. Through other Service programs, FWS will continue to work with external stakeholders to support conservation efforts, share information, and help natural communities thrive but will no longer provide staff or funding to the 22 active cooperatives.

Program Mission

Cooperative conservation has been a priority for the Department of the Interior since the early 2000’s, as there has been a growing recognition that successful conservation requires voluntary, non-regulatory partnerships that span jurisdictional boundaries. The Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC) network of 22 public-private partnerships across North America and Pacific and Caribbean Islands were established to provide a forum for collaboration on conservation challenges.

Applicable Laws, Acts, and Orders

Fish and Wildlife Act, (16 U.S.C 742(a)-754), establishes a comprehensive national fish and wildlife policy and authorizes the Secretary to take steps required for the development, management, advancement, conservation, and protection of fisheries resources and wildlife resources through research, acquisition of refuge lands, development of existing facilities, and other means.

Program Overview

A nationwide network of LCCs was established to provide a forum for collaborative conservation on the landscape scale, stretching across multiple jurisdictions. These LCCs were formed to provide diverse

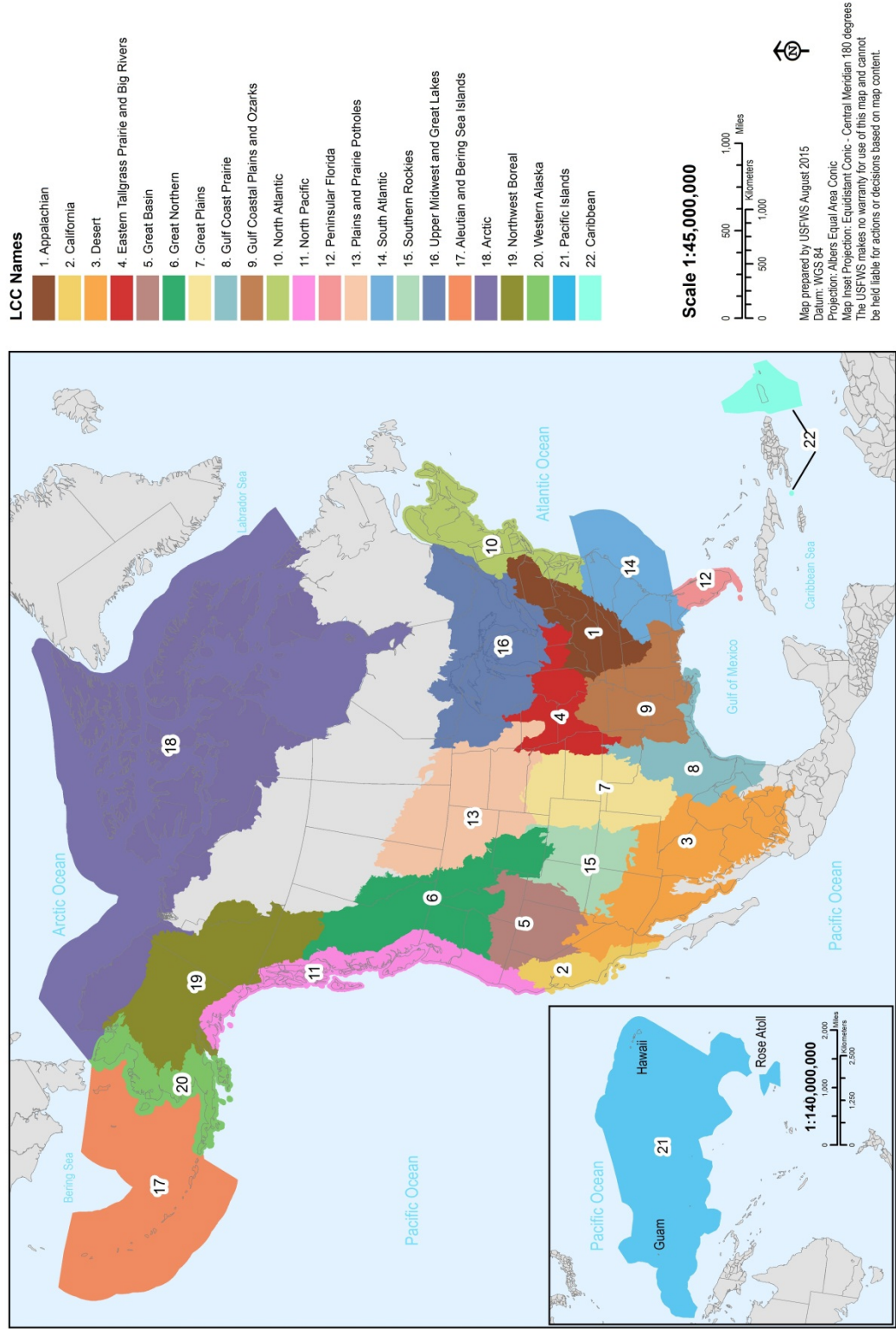
stakeholders—Federal and state agency staff, NGOs, tribes, and other partners—a collaborative environment through which shared conservation priorities and challenges can be identified and science and solutions developed.

The Service has lead administrative responsibility for 17 of the 22 LCCs, and the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service, and U.S. Forest Service have lead or co-lead administrative responsibility for five LCCs. Some LCCs have staff from State fish and wildlife agencies, and LCCs with geographies crossing international borders have steering committees that include international organizations/agencies.

In FY2018, the Service encourages other LCC participants—such as States and other entities—to assume management of LCCs in the absence of dedicate FWS funding.

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC) Network Map

Landscapes capable of sustaining natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.



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Science Support



Activity: Science Support

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018				Change from 2017 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Adaptive Science	(\$000) FTE	10,517 10	10,497 6	0 0	0 0	-10,497 -6	0 0	-10,497 -6
Service Science	(\$000) FTE	6,468 16	6,456 11	0 0	0 0	-6,456 -11	0 0	-6,456 -11
Total, Science Support	(\$000) FTE	16,985 26	16,953 17	0 0	0 0	-16,953 -17	0 0	-16,953 -17

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for Science Support

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Adaptive Science	-10,497	-6
• Service Science Activities	-6,456	-11
Program Changes	-16,953	-17

Program Mission

The Service’s Science Support program works to coordinate internal and partner efforts developing and applying science for conservation outcomes by ensuring science products are high quality, non-duplicative, and accessible to fish and wildlife managers and decision makers. Science Support staff are responsible for leading Service efforts in high priority scientific research, information quality, scientific integrity, peer review, and science adaptation to inform management decisions.

All Service programs have their part to play in improving the use of science in conservation, including the generation, sharing, and application of scientific processes and products. Nationally, regionally, and locally, Science Support staff work directly with biologists, project leaders, and others to form strategic and issue oriented networks to answer conservation-oriented questions.

The Service's goal for its science activities is to strengthen the agency's tradition of scientific excellence in the conservation of fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitat. We accomplish this by:

- Expanding our capacities to acquire, apply, and communicate scientific information;
- Promoting active involvement of the Service and our employees in the larger scientific community; and
- Encouraging strengthened partnerships between the Service and other scientific organizations.

This Service is committed to implementing science excellence throughout the agency. The Science Support program addresses science needs using Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) as a guiding framework. While SHC has been embraced by the Service for many years, its use today is even more essential as the challenges to successful conservation of fish and wildlife are compounded by a growing

variety of threats. The SHC framework includes setting measurable objectives, making deliberate resource management investments and decisions, systematically assessing results against expected outcomes, then making adjustments for future strategies and actions. Careful monitoring of outcomes from management actions and other events advances scientific understanding, helps adjust policies or operations, and ensures future decisions are not made simply by “trial-and-error,” but on the basis of experience, data, and the best available science.

Program Elements

The Science Support program is comprised of the following program elements:

- Adaptive Science – supports the work of the network of Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC) to manage natural resources across landscape scales by addressing science gaps, identifying best practices, and connecting conservation efforts and shared priorities across jurisdictional boundaries. [*See Cooperative Landscape Conservation Activity.*]
- Service Science – supports the needs of Service programs for information that can improve decision-making for refuge management, endangered species conservation, data management, and other conservation priorities.

Applicable Laws, Acts, and Orders

- **Fish and Wildlife Act**, (16 U.S.C 742(a)-754)—establishes a comprehensive national fish and wildlife policy and authorizes the Secretary to take steps required for the development, management, advancement, conservation, and protection of fisheries resources and wildlife resources through research, acquisition of refuge lands, development of existing facilities, and other means.

Activity: Science Support
Subactivity: Adaptive Science

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018				Change from 2017 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Adaptive Science	(\$000)	10,517	10,497	0	0	-10,497	0	-10,497
	FTE	10	6	0	0	-6	0	-6

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for Adaptive Science

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Adaptive Science	-10,497	-6
Program Changes	-10,497	-6

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for Adaptive Science is \$0 and 0 FTE, a program change of -\$10,497,000 and -6 FTE from the 2017 CR Baseline.

Adaptive Science (-\$10,497,000/-6 FTE)

Due to higher priorities, the Service will not fund Adaptive Science this year. Funding for LCCs for science investigations and other LCC science support is not requested.

Program Overview

The Service believes in working cooperatively with public and private partners at the local, regional, national, and international scale to achieve conservation benefits for communities and the Nation. This work includes partnering with landowners to keep working lands in production, both for the benefit of wildlife and the American people.

Adaptive Science funds provide for the development of scientific information, tools, and techniques that resource managers can apply to anticipate, monitor, and adapt to environmental changes and their effects on fish, wildlife, and cultural resources. Working collaboratively through the LCC Network, the Service supports efforts to address science gaps, identify best practices, and connect conservation efforts and shared priorities across jurisdictional boundaries.

By support scientific research needs through a network that is holistic, collaborative, adaptive, and grounded in science, the Service is working to ensure the sustainability of our economy, land, water, wildlife, and cultural resources while avoiding duplication of effort in scientific research and projects.

Activity: Science Support
Subactivity: Service Science

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018				Change from 2017 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Service Science	(\$000)	6,468	6,456	0	0	-6,456	0	-6,456
	FTE	16	11	0	0	-11	0	-11

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for Service Science

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Service Science Activities	-6,456	-11
Program Changes	-6,456	-11

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for Service Science Activities is \$0 and 0 FTE, a program change of -\$6,456,000 and -11 FTE from the 2017 CR Baseline.

Service Science (-\$6,456,000/-11 FTE)

This program provided funding for highest priority Service science needs across all Service programs. In FY 2018, this program will receive no funding, and other Service programs will fund their own science work within the resources available to them.

Program Overview

Service Science funding is used to address internal science needs in support of on-the-ground management and conservation by other Service programs. To be effective in its mission-delivery, the Service requires focused, applied science directed at high impact questions surrounding threats to fish and wildlife resources. The Service must base its decisions on the best science available to make the best and most defensible regulatory decisions, biological opinions, and species and habitat conservation recommendations to land managers. Such information can improve decision-making for refuge management, endangered species listing, consultation, and recovery questions, fisheries management, and other Service activities.

With Service Science funds, the Service partners with the U.S. Geological Survey, other Federal and State agencies, Tribes, universities, and scientific institutions for acquiring scientific knowledge to answer these natural resource management questions and provide near-term solutions to address emerging issues. Service Science funding has been used to conduct studies, develop models, and secure scientific expertise to help managers interpret and apply the best knowledge available. Priorities in this area have included:

- White-Nose syndrome—research, monitoring/management, and outreach to help save imperiled bats;
- Cooperative endangered species recovery;
- Pre-listing conservation partnerships with States;
- Invasive species;
- Data management; and
- Emerging wildlife health issues (e.g., chytrid & *B. salamandrivorans* fungus).

General Operations



Activity: General Operations

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018			Change from 2017 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Central Office Operations	(\$000) FTE	40,722 243	40,492 249	+923 0	0 0	-4,450 -20	36,965 229	-3,527 -20
Regional Office Operations	(\$000) FTE	37,722 383	37,650 383	+933 0	0 0	-5,009 -34	33,574 349	-4,076 -34
Servicewide Bill Paying	(\$000) FTE	35,177 18	35,110 18	+1,255 0	0 0	0 0	36,365 18	+1,255 0
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	(\$000) FTE	7,022 0	7,009 0	0 0	0 0	-2,000 0	5,009 0	-2,000 0
National Conservation Training Center	(\$000) FTE	22,414 120	22,371 119	+279 0	0 0	-4,211 -28	18,439 91	-3,932 -28
Total, General Operations	(\$000) FTE	143,057 764	142,632 769	+3,390 0	0 0	-15,670 -82	130,352 687	-12,280 -82

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for General Operations

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Central Office Operations	-4,450	-20
• Regional Office Operations	-5,009	-34
• National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	-2,000	0
• National Conservation Training Center	-4,211	-28
Program Changes	-15,670	-82

Program Mission

The General Operations Program provides the management and support that allows the Service’s programmatic activities and organizations to accomplish their goals and mission. Primarily, it provides headquarters, regions, and field offices with the resources (e.g., people, funding, facilities, access to data, etc.) they need to carry out the work of the Service to benefit the American people. General Operations also ensures that the Service is in compliance with legal, regulatory, and Departmental policies for all administrative areas and functions.

Program Subactivities

Five subactivities comprise the General Operations Program:

- Central Office Operations – Seven Headquarters offices provide the Service with the leadership, strategic direction, and necessary resources to accomplish mission priorities and goals. The offices in this subactivity are the Office of the Director; Office of Diversity and Inclusive Workforce Management; Office of Native American Programs Coordination; Assistant Director

for External Affairs; Assistant Director for Budget, Planning and Human Capital; Assistant Director for Business Management and Operations; and Assistant Director for Information Resources and Technology Management.

- Regional Office Operations – The Service’s eight Regional Offices provide front line, daily support to over 700 geographically diverse field offices by managing Regional leadership, Budget and Administration, and External Affairs functions. The Service delegates many aspects of management and operation to the field office level; however, functions that require extensive training, certification (e.g., contracting warrants), or specialized knowledge (e.g., personnel policies and authorities) are centralized regionally for cost and operational efficiencies.
- Servicewide Bill Paying – This subactivity provides a means to centrally budget and pay for nationwide operational support and infrastructure costs that the Service incurs in the course of accomplishing its mission. A non-exhaustive list of expenses paid from this subactivity include Information Technology (IT) and communication needs, payments to the DOI Working Capital Fund (WCF), mail delivery and distribution, and printing.
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) – NFWF runs a competitive challenge grant program with a statutory non-Federal matching requirement of 1:1 for all awards of federally appropriated funds. However, in recent years the non-Federal match has been closer to 3:1, greatly multiplying the impact of the Service’s funding for on-the-ground conservation projects.
- National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) – Opened in 1997 and located on 533 acres along the Potomac River in Shepherdstown, WV, NCTC is the Service’s primary training facility. In addition to training Service employees, NCTC provides training on a reimbursable basis to conservation professionals from DOI, other Federal, State and local governments, not-for-profit conservation organizations, private landowners and the business community. In this way, NCTC programs expand their reach and impact and help Service professionals build collaborative partnerships for conservation.

Activity: General Operations
Subactivity: Central Office Operations

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018			Budget Request	Change from 2017 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
Central Office Operations	(\$000)	40,722	40,492	+923		-4,450	36,965	-3,527
	FTE	243	249	0	0	-20	229	-20

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for Central Office Operations

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Central Office Operations	-4,450	-20
Program Changes	-4,450	-20

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for Central Office Operations is \$36,965,000 and 229 FTE, a program change of -\$4,450,000 and -20 FTEs from the 2017 CR Baseline.

Central Office Operations (-\$4,450,000/ -20 FTE)

Central Office Operations provides bureau-wide leadership and direction for the Service and funds the organizational support required to carry out the Service’s mission. The funding decrease will maintain Central Office Operations at a level sufficient for the workload expected with the Service’s overall funding request. The subactivity supports a wide range of activities—from providing regular reports requested by Congress, such as quarterly unobligated balances, to fulfilling management and oversight functions that ensure the Service operates in compliance with Federal rules and regulations.

Program Overview

Descriptions of the seven offices that comprise Central Office Operations follow:

Office of the Director

The Office of the Director includes the Director, Deputy Directors, and staff specialists who provide policy direction to guide the Service in achieving Administration priorities.

Office of Diversity and Inclusive Workforce Management

The Office of Diversity and Inclusive Workforce Management (ODIWM) manages the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Program for the Service. The ODIWM provides direction, policy formulation, and oversight of the Service’s Diversity and Inclusion Implementation Plan with regard to applicable civil rights laws and directives.

Office of Native American Programs Coordination

The Office of Native American Programs Coordination serves as a key point of contact for Native American Tribes, and works to expand the Service’s capacity to work cooperatively with Tribes to further the Service’s conservation mission. The liaison implements the Department of the Interior’s Secretarial Order on Tribal Consultation and the Tribal Wildlife Grants program, and develops policies, guidelines, and training to ensure appropriate government-to-government consultation with Tribes.

External Affairs

The Assistant Director for External Affairs (EA) formulates national policy and directs operations in the Divisions of Communications, Congressional and Legislative Affairs, and Program and Partnership

Support. EA also is responsible for the Service's outreach program, which informs the American people and employees about current policies, programs, and actions. EA also responds to congressional inquiries, coordinates briefings and meetings with Congressional Members and their staff, and prepares Service personnel for hearings.

Budget, Planning and Human Capital

The Assistant Director for Budget, Planning and Human Capital (BPHC) formulates policy and directs operations in the Divisions of Human Resources; Budget; Policy, Performance, and Management Programs; and the Office of Business Innovation and Transformation. BPHC works with Service programs and the Directorate to formulate budget proposals and workforce and succession planning to support its mission and goals. BPHC provides essential oversight to ensure the agency is following appropriations law and the guidance of our Appropriations Committees. BPHC provides expertise to reengineer Service functions, such as recruitment and hiring, and manages the Service-wide Strategic Performance Management system, which sets performance measure targets and reports performance accomplishments. BPHC manages the publication of notices and regulations in the Federal Register, the Service's directives management program, programmatic Internal Controls under OMB Circular A-123, and serves as the liaison with the Government Accountability Office and the Office of the Inspector General.

Business Management and Operations

The Assistant Director for Business Management and Operations (BMO) serves as the Service's Chief Financial Officer, Head of Contracting, and Chief Sustainability Officer. BMO provides direction, policy formulation, oversight and management, and system administration in the areas of finance, contracting and acquisition, engineering and construction, environmental compliance, energy, safety, occupational health and industrial hygiene programs, economic analyses, and other associated support functions. BMO provides the Service and Department with audit assistance, risk management and internal controls, financial reporting, and business intelligence. BMO also develops policy and manages programs for acquisition, personal property, Government quarters, space leasing, and the motor vehicle fleet. Additionally they help contain workers' compensation costs through injury prevention initiatives and through special emphasis programs such as heavy equipment, watercraft and underwater diving safety. BMO also manages the Service's construction, dam, bridge, and seismic safety, energy management, and environmental compliance and management programs.

Information Resources and Technology Management (IRTM)

The Associate Chief Information Officer (ACIO) provides secure, efficient and effective management of information resources and technology that allows the Service to accomplish its mission. IRTM provides reliable mission essential connectivity for email, internet, network applications, records and FOIA, and Land Mobile Radios across the Service. The IRTM cyber security program maintains and monitors network security subsystems to ensure a stable and dependable environment for the network and its users. The ACIO also plays a pivotal role ensuring that the Service is in compliance with all Federal IT laws, regulations, and requirements.

Activity: General Operations
Subactivity: Regional Office Operations

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018			Change from 2017 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Regional Office Operations	(\$000)	37,722	37,650	+933	0	-5,009	33,574	-4,076
	FTE	383	383	0	0	-34	349	-34

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for Regional Office Operations

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Regional Office Operations	-5,009	-34
Program Changes	-5,009	-34

Justification of 2018 Program Changes



FWS Regional Offices are located in Alaska, Oregon, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Georgia, Minnesota, and Massachusetts

The 2018 budget request for Regional Office Operations is \$33,574,000 and 349 FTE, a program change of -\$5,009,000 and -34 FTE from the 2017 CR Baseline.

Regional Office Operations (-\$5,009,000/ -34 FTE)

Regional Office Operations provides a wide spectrum of services to Regional and field offices, including core administrative functions (e.g., hiring, purchasing, finance, safety, IT), fleet management, safety training, and internal controls. Regional Office Operations staff support program workload. These reductions reflect prioritization of funding for field operations. To accommodate these reductions, the Service will explore opportunities to

consolidate travel cost preparation and share services across Regions.

Program Overview

Regional Office Operations funding supports the following organizational components.

Regional Directors – Regional Directors (RDs) advise the Service Director and develop recommendations on national and regional policies, plans, and procedures. In addition, the RDs serve the American public in geographically diverse districts.

Budget and Administrative Offices – The Budget and Administrative (BA) offices provide the overall management and execution of administrative support throughout each Region. They advise RDs on administrative matters and provide day-to-day operational management for budget, finance, contracting,

human resources, diversity, safety, and information technology. In addition, BA offices provide organizational support services, such as office equipment leasing, facility maintenance, reproduction and copying, telephone and computer connectivity, and service contracts. These offices also supervise the Engineering Division (discussed in more detail in the Service's Construction Appropriation section of the budget).

Activity: General Operations
Subactivity: Servicewide Bill Paying

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018			Budget Request	Change from 2017 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
Servicewide Bill Paying	(\$000)	35,177	35,110	+1,255	0	0	36,365	0
	FTE	18	18	0	0	0	18	0

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for Servicewide Bill Paying is \$36,365,000 and 18 FTE, no program change from the 2017 CR Baseline.

Program Overview

The Servicewide Bill Paying subactivity covers bills received by the Service for charges by the Department or other outside entities. These are fixed costs that the Service must cover.

Information Technology (IT) and Communication Needs

Expenses in this category include payments for IT items, most of which are billed by the Department. It includes domestic and international network services; costs associated with land, wireless, video, radio, and satellite communications; Certification and Accreditation (C&A) costs for IT systems; providing security for IT systems; improving compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements; and licenses of various software to support day-to-day activity within the Service.

DOI Working Capital Fund (WCF)

The Department of the Interior provides centralized administrative and business services and systems to Interior bureaus and offices and to other customers. The Service requests funding for its portion of the WCF central bill. The WCF bills are costs that the Bureaus must pay either to DOI directly or to the vendors for specific licenses needed to support Service operations.

Mail Delivery and Distribution

Expenses in this category include contract charges for Intra-Agency and Departmental courier and mailroom services.

Servicewide Workers' Compensation and Unemployment Compensation Costs

Workers' compensation includes costs of compensating injured employees and dependents of employees who suffer accidental deaths while on duty. Unemployment compensation costs represent the estimated annual costs of paying unemployment compensation claims.

Printing (under the domain of Assistant Director – External Affairs)

Despite having reduced printing costs by favoring electronic media over printed publications, the Service still incurs costs for printing copies of certain documents, such as the Code of Federal Regulations, Congressional Bills and Hearings, Federal Register indexes and related documents, and all employee products produced by the Office of Personnel Management which must remain available as hard copies.

Reimbursable Support Agreements (RSAs)

Expenses in this category relate to support services provided by the Department and external agencies. Examples include the Employee Assistance Program, administration of the Flexible Spending Plan, and storage services provided by the National Archives and Records Administration.

Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks (AS-FWP)

The Service contributes funding to cover costs of salary, benefits, and travel for activities directly related to the Service.

Economic Studies (under the domain of the Assistant Director – Business Management and Operations)

Expenses in this category relate to contract costs for conducting socio-economic reviews and analyses on relevant issues to the Service. Examples include designation of critical habitat for threatened and endangered species, regulatory impact statements, natural resource damage assessments, record of compliance statements, and hydroelectric dam re-licensing reviews.

PRISM (under the domain of the Assistant Director – Business Management and Operations)

Expenses in this category relate to overall Service administration of PRISM, the acquisition module in the Financial Business Management System (FBMS). Examples of specific costs include maintenance of requisitioning infrastructure, helpdesk and workflow processing, acquisition management reviews, software optimization, and training support.

Data Tracking System (DTS) (under the domain of the Office of the Director)

Expenses in this category relate to the costs for administration and technical support for DTS, the electronic system for managing and tracking official correspondence.

Activity: General Operations
Subactivity: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018			Change from 2017 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	(\$000)	7,022	7,009	0	0	-2,000	5,009	-2,000
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	-2,000	0
Program Changes	-2,000	0

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is \$5,009,000 and 0 FTE, with a program change of -\$2,000,000 and +0 FTE from the 2017 CR Baseline.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (-2,000,000/+0 FTE)

The request reduces NFWF funding provided to State, local, non-profit and private organizations for conservation and management of fish, wildlife and plant resources through a competitive grant program.

Program Overview

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) runs a competitive challenge grant program with a statutory non-Federal matching requirement of 1:1 for all federally-appropriated dollars that NFWF awards. In recent years NFWF has averaged a 3:1 match. All grantee matching funds are non-Federal funds provided in cash or as in-kind services. One hundred percent of the congressionally appropriated funds provided to NFWF by the Service is directed to on-the-ground projects and is not used to support NFWF’s administrative expenses. NFWF uses the funding to leverage additional commitments of resources from corporations, foundations, and conservation partners. The funds are invested through outcome-focused grant programs guided by conservation business plans developed in partnership with FWS. Individual projects are reviewed by diverse outside reviewers (e.g., Federal, State, non-profit, educational and private sector), NFWF, and FWS.

Activity: General Operations**Subactivity: National Conservation Training Center**

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018			Change from 2017 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
National Conservation Training Center	(\$000)	22,414	22,371	+279	0	-4,211	18,439	-3,932
	FTE	120	119	0	0	0	91	-28

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for National Conservation Training Center

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Youth and Careers in Nature	-3,906	-28
• General Program Activities	-305	0
Program Changes	-4,211	-28

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) is \$18,439,000 and 91 FTE, a program change of -4,211,000/-28 FTE from the 2017 CR Baseline.

Youth and Careers in Nature (-3,906,000/-28 FTE)

The reduction of \$3,906,000 would eliminate the NCTC Youth and Careers in Nature program resulting in the loss of 28 FTEs. The NCTC would eliminate approximately 75 annual training sessions that build Service capacity to engage young people in the Service's mission and conservation careers. NCTC would cease engagement in multiple national partnerships focused on topics such as youth conservation leadership training. NCTC's coordination activities and orientation programs for the Directorate Resource Assistant Fellowship Program would be eliminated.

General Program Activities (-305,000/+0 FTE)

Because of fiscal constraints and other priorities, general program activities at the NCTC will experience a reduction of \$305,000 over the 2017 CR Baseline. This reduction will impact the ability of NCTC to develop online training opportunities.

Program Overview**Training Programs**

Training for Service employees is tied directly to mission accomplishment, ensuring the workforce has the job-related knowledge, competencies, and skills necessary to accomplish organizational goals. NCTC staff work closely with Service leaders, headquarters, and the field to develop and deliver training to address needs identified in the Service's Human Capital Plan, program strategic plans, and ongoing program-based needs assessments. NCTC is fully committed to upholding and adhering to the highest standards of scientific integrity and workplace ethics. NCTC hosts workshops, conferences and meetings that support Service and partner agency strategic priorities. NCTC leverages the expertise of partner agencies, academic institutions and NCTC's library resources to provide the most extensive and scientifically up-to-date training available.

NCTC manages all training-related Service-wide systems, including the DOI learning management system, to create efficiencies, standardization, and coordination of all training delivery. Courses are delivered on-site at NCTC, off-site at regional and field offices, and through synchronous and

asynchronous distance learning offerings. There are over 200 courses available and they are organized into three primary areas.

- *Conservation Science and Technology* – Courses in this area include topics that teach the latest science related to the Service’s trust resources. This includes classes in biology, ecology, and management of species, technology, statistics, and modeling. NCTC manages a fully-equipped laboratory that supports biological, chemical, and aquatic resources training.
- *Applied Landscape Conservation and Policy* – Courses in this area include topics related to policy and regulations that Service employees need to fulfill regulatory responsibilities, such as those related to the Endangered Species Act. Additionally, training classes in this area equip Service employees with the tools to guide current and future conservation actions.
- *Conservation Leadership and Communication* – Courses in this area include topics in leadership, supervision, and management. NCTC staff base curricula for these courses on the Service’s Leadership Competency Development Model and the U.S. Office of Personnel and Management’s 28 Executive Core Qualifications. Additionally, courses that focus on communication, outreach and visitor services, and overview of key Service programs, policies, and issues help make employees leaders in the conservation field.

Education and Outreach Programs

NCTC works with all Service programs to ensure we are preparing the next generation of conservation professionals. Working with partners like the States, traditional hunting and fishing organizations, and a variety of conservation leadership programs, the NCTC provides young emerging leaders with opportunities to develop their conservation skills, knowledge, and leadership skills.

NCTC builds staff and partner capacity through youth-related curriculum development and training within the Service. A variety of classroom and distance learning programs in environmental education, youth outdoor skills, diversity and inclusion training, and youth leadership provide Service professionals and their partners with the skills needed to engage, educate, and employ young people in conservation work. This includes supporting a variety of Service diversity initiatives that work to build a more inclusive hiring environment. The NCTC also coordinates Service work with various youth organizations such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

NCTC supports the Service by engaging the next generation of conservation professionals in various Service entry-level employment programs that reach diverse communities. NCTC has a key training role in the execution of the Directorate Resource Assistant Fellowship Program (DFP). This high profile initiative provides qualified undergraduate and graduate students a rigorous, full time, 11-week fellowship on the Service’s high priority conservation projects. Management may directly hire a DFP Fellow who has successfully completed the fellowship program and the requirements for their degree program. Additionally, the DFP assists the Service with its disability and veterans hiring initiatives.

Maintenance

NCTC is a 434,000 square foot, 17 building facility on 533 acres of forest and grasslands with a northern boundary along the Potomac River. Supporting infrastructure includes a central HVAC plant, a water treatment plant, a waste water treatment plant, and a suite of emergency generators. NCTC and its functions are critical for the FWS to achieve its mission. The maintenance account supports Service programmatic activities and DOI strategic goals by keeping the national center in efficient operating condition. The costs of maintenance at NCTC continue to rise as the facility ages.

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Construction



Appropriations Language

For construction, improvement, acquisition, or removal of buildings and other facilities required in the conservation, management, investigation, protection, and utilization of fish and wildlife resources, and the acquisition of lands and interests therein; \$15,800,000, to remain available until expended.

Note—A full-year 2017 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the budget was prepared; therefore, the budget assumes this account is operating under the Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2017 (P.L. 114–254). The amounts included for 2017 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution.

Applicable Laws, Acts, and Orders

The Service has the legal mandate and responsibility to ensure its inventory of assets, facilities, and infrastructure is safe and adequate to accomplish its conservation mission. There are more than 23 laws, statutes, and executive orders that govern what the Construction program must do with the funding it receives from Congress. Governing authorities are discussed below.

Refuge Recreation Act (16 U.S.C. 460k-460k-4). Authorizes development of fish and wildlife areas for recreational use, including land acquisition and facilities construction and management.

National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee). Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to award contracts for the provision of public accommodations of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 715-715d, 715e, 715f-715r). Provides for land acquisition, construction, maintenance, development, and administration for migratory bird reservations.

Fish and Wildlife Act (16 U.S.C. 742a-742f). Authorizes the development, management, advancement, conservation, and protection of fish and wildlife resources, including the acquisition and development of existing facilities.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 9601-9675). Authorizes Federal agencies to conduct cleanup and/or recover costs associated with hazardous materials removal, remediation, cleanup, or containment activities from responsible parties.

Federal Facilities Compliance Act (42 U.S.C. 6961). Requires Federal agencies to comply with Federal, State, and local solid and hazardous waste laws in the same manner as any private party.

Pollution Prevention Act, (42 U.S.C. 13101, 13101 note, 13102-13109), as amended by P.L. 101-508. Requires pollution that cannot be prevented at the source to be recycled in an environmentally sound manner and disposal as a last resort.

Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act (42 U.S.C. 7701 -7706). Establishes an earthquake hazards reduction program.

National Dam Safety Program Act (33 U.S.C. 467). Provides for Federal agencies to implement the Federal Guidelines for Dam Safety, which established management practices for dam safety at all Federal agencies.

National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8152-8259). Establishes an energy management program in the Federal government and directs Federal agencies to perform energy surveys and implement energy conservation opportunities to reduce consumption of nonrenewable energy resources in buildings, vehicles, equipment, and general operations.

Energy Policy Act (EPAct) (P.L. 109-58). Extends previous Congressional direction to Federal facility managers with even greater goals of energy efficiency improvements in existing and new facilities, mandates increased use of renewable energy sources, sustainable building design and construction, metering of all Federal buildings, and procurement of Energy Star equipment. This legislation contains energy efficiency tax credits and new ways to retain energy savings.

Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) (P.L. 110-140). Intends to move the United States toward greater energy independence and security; increase production of clean renewable fuels; protect consumers; increase the efficiency of products, buildings, and vehicles; promote research on and deploy greenhouse gas capture and storage options; and improve the energy performance of the Federal Government.

(16 U.S.C. 695k-695r). Provides for limitations on reduction of areas by diking or other construction in California and Oregon in the case of migratory waterfowl and other refuges, as well as other construction provisions.

(16 U.S.C. 760-760-12). Provides for the construction, equipping, maintenance, and operation of several named fish hatcheries.

(23 U.S.C. 144 and 151). Requires bridges on public highways and roads to be inspected.

Executive Orders

Presidential Memorandum of October 4, 1979. Directs all Federal agencies to adopt and implement the Federal Guidelines for Dam Safety as prepared by the Federal Coordinating Council for Science, Engineering, and Technology. (Secretary of the Interior Order No. 3048, implements and assigns responsibility for a Department-wide dam safety program in accordance with the President's memorandum.)

Executive Order 11998, Flood Plain Management (January 30, 2015), as amended by E.O. 13690. Directs a higher flood standard for future Federal investments in and affecting floodplains, which will be required to meet the level of resilience established in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard.

Executive Order 12088, Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards (October 13, 1978). Requires agencies to ensure that facilities comply with applicable pollution control standards; ensure that sufficient funds for environmental compliance are requested in their budgets; and include pollution control projects in an annual pollution abatement budget plan.

Executive Order 12941, Seismic Risk Safety (December 1, 1994). Adopts minimum standards for seismic safety, requires Federal agencies to inventory their owned/leased buildings and estimate the cost of mitigating unacceptable seismic risks.

Executive Order 12699, Seismic Safety of Federal and Federally Assisted or Regulated New Building Construction (January 5, 1990). Covers the new construction portion of *The Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of (42 U.S.C. 7701-7706)*.

Executive Order 13031, Federal Alternative-Fueled Vehicle Leadership (December 13, 1996). Mandates that the Federal government demonstrate leadership in Alternative Fuel Vehicle (AFV) use and ensures that 75 percent of new light-duty vehicles leased or purchased in Fiscal Year 2000 and subsequent years in urban areas are alternative fuel vehicles.

Executive Order 13693, Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade (March 19, 2015). Expands and updates Federal environmental performance goals with a clear overarching objective of reducing greenhouse gas emissions across Federal operations and the Federal supply chain over the next decade while at the same time fostering innovation, reducing spending, and strengthening the communities in which Federal facilities operate. To improve environmental performance and Federal sustainability, priority should first be placed on reducing energy use and cost, then on finding renewable or alternative energy solutions. Implementing Instructions (June 10, 2015) provide Federal agencies with clarifying guidance for implementing Executive Order 13693.

Executive Order 13717, Establishing a Federal Earthquake Risk Management Standard (February 2016). Updates performance goals to strengthen the security and resilience of the Nation against earthquakes, to promote public safety, economic strength, and national security. New Implementation Guidelines (January 2017) provide Federal agencies with clarifying guidance for implementing Executive Order 13717.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service		
Construction		
Justification of Fixed Costs and Internal Realignment		
<i>(Dollars In Thousands)</i>		
Fixed Cost Changes and Projections	2017 Total or Change	2017 to 2018 Change
Change in Number of Paid Days This column reflects changes in pay associated with the change in the number of paid days between the CY and BY.	-39	+0
Pay Raise The change reflects the salary impact of the 2.1% pay raise for 2017 as signed by the President in December 2016, and the estimated 1.9% pay raise for 2018.	+99	+70
Rental Payments The amounts reflect changes in the costs payable to the General Services Administration (GSA) and others 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 the Department of Homeland Security (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.	+0	+0

Appropriation: Construction

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018			Change from 2017 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfer s (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Nationwide Engineering Services	(\$000)	7,161	7,147	+70	0	-1,742	5,475	-1,672
Dam, Bridge, and Seismic Safety	(\$000)	1,972	1,969	0	0	-737	1,232	-737
Line-Item Construction Projects	(\$000)	14,554	14,526	0	0	-5,433	9,093	-5,433
Total, Construction	(\$000) <i>FTE</i>	23,687 <i>51</i>	23,642 <i>46</i>	+70 <i>0</i>	0 <i>0</i>	-7,912 <i>-10</i>	15,800 <i>36</i>	-7,842 <i>-10</i>

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for Construction

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Nationwide Engineering Services	-1,742	-10
• Dam, Bridge, and Seismic Safety	-737	0
• Line-Item Construction Projects	-5,433	0
Program Changes	-7,912	-10

Mission

The Construction program's mission is to provide exceptional engineering design and construction, facility maintenance, and regulatory compliance in support of the Service's mission to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Program performs this wide range of functions for the Service's entire inventory of assets, facilities, and infrastructure that include 566 National Wildlife Refuges, 72 National Fish Hatcheries and one historic fish hatchery, and 65 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices. The Program accomplishes its mission in accordance with more than 23 applicable laws, statutes, and executive orders, in addition to Departmental and Service priorities.

Activities

There are three activities that comprise the Construction appropriation:

- Nationwide Engineering Services (NES) – This activity manages the numerous construction and maintenance projects undertaken each year, ensures operations comply with safety and environmental laws and regulations, and regulates energy conservation. NES ensures Service facilities are structurally and environmentally safe, require minimal resources to operate, and maximize resource efficiency.
- Dam, Bridge, and Seismic Safety – This activity supports the safety and security of the Service's dams, bridges, and buildings. This primarily is accomplished for the most critical structures through inspections, assessments, and monitoring. Much of the activities carried out in this activity are prescribed by law. Rehabilitation, repair, and mitigation are accomplished through line item construction.
- Line-Item Construction – This activity contains the specific construction projects requesting funding in a given year. These projects reconstruct, repair, rehabilitate, and replace existing buildings or other structures/facilities, including dams and bridges. New buildings and structures/facilities also may be included. Funding may be used for project-specific planning, design and construction management; construction, demolition, site work, and land acquisition; and the purchase of associated furniture,

fixtures, and equipment. Completed individual projects from Line-Item Construction with authority remaining may transfer unspent balances of less than \$1,000,000 into the Emergency Construction Account, regardless of the percentage of the project authority that the unspent balance represents.

Appropriation: Construction**Activity: Nationwide Engineering Services**

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018			Budget Request	Change from 2017 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
Core Engineering Services	(\$000)	6,063	6,051	+70	0	-1,333	4,788	-1,263
Environmental Compliance	(\$000)	998	996	0	0	-372	624	-372
Waste Prevention	(\$000)	100	100	0	0	-37	63	-37
Total, NES	(\$000)	7,161	7,147	+70	0	-1,742	5,475	-1,672
	FTE	51	46	0	0	-10	36	-10

Justification of 2017 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for the Nationwide Engineering Services activity is \$5,475,000 and 36 FTE, a program change of -\$1,742,000 and -10 FTE from the 2017 CR Baseline.

Nationwide Engineering Services (-\$1,742,000/-10 FTE)

With the reduction in funds, the Service will only conduct a limited number of on-site environmental compliance audits for the most critical operations. Professional engineering and general technical assistance will be provided for project-funded work, but not for minor repair, maintenance issues, or emerging requirements.

Program Overview

The Nationwide Engineering Services (NES) activity supports implementation of construction and maintenance projects regardless of funding source, and provides guidance to comply with environmental law. The three program elements that comprise this activity are discussed below.

Core Engineering Services – Funding in this program element provides technical oversight and basic management of construction and maintenance projects undertaken, regardless of funding source. Headquarters staff develops policy, oversees budget formulation and execution, and provides technical expertise. Regional engineering managers provide day-to-day supervision and technical guidance.

Environmental Compliance – This program supports resource stewardship and workplace health and safety by providing technical assistance and training for more than 700 field stations to comply with environmental laws and regulations of varying complexity at the Federal, State, local, and tribal levels. The program also provides oversight and technical assistance for the clean-up of large-scale environmental contamination of air, water and soil pollution that may adversely affect human health and the environment. Recent and ongoing clean-ups including those at Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery and Midway National Wildlife Refuge demonstrate the positive impact on wildlife and benefit to the local community.

Waste Prevention, Recycling and Environmental Management Systems – This program element supports implementation of Service-wide sustainable practices to ensure facilities minimize energy and water use, improve efficiencies in areas such as fleet management and pollution prevention, and adopt work practices that advance sustainable acquisition of goods and services.

Appropriation: Construction
Activity: Dam, Bridge, and Seismic Safety

		2016 Actual	2017 Enacted	2018				Change from 2017 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Dam Safety and Security	(\$000)	1,113	1,111	0	0	-416	695	-416
Bridge Safety	(\$000)	739	738	0	0	-276	462	-276
Seismic Safety	(\$000)	120	120	0	0	-45	75	-45
Total, Dam, Bridge, and Seismic Safety	(\$000)	1,972	1,969	0	0	-737	1,232	-737
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for the Dam, Bridge, and Seismic Safety activity is \$1,232,000 and 0 FTE. This is a program change of -\$737, 000 and +0 FTE from the 2017 CR Baseline.

Dam, Bridge, and Seismic Safety (-\$737,000/+0 FTE)

Dam Safety and Security Program will prioritize the scheduled inspection of high hazard dams; funding reductions will eliminate low hazard dam inspections and analyses in 2018. The development and exercising of Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) for dams that threaten downstream populations, as required by Federal law, will be prioritized. The Bridge Safety Program will support inspections of a prioritized subset of inspections required by law.

Program Overview

The Dam, Bridge, and Seismic Safety activity helps to assure the safety and security of the Service’s dams, bridges, and buildings. The three program elements that comprise this activity are discussed below.

Dam Safety and Security – Funding in this program element supports the safety and security of 17 high hazard dams of the Service’s 300 inventory dams. Located on refuges and hatcheries for the purpose of resource or facility management, these dams provide vital benefits such as recreation, habitat, flood risk reduction, irrigation, wetland creation, water supply for hatcheries, nesting habitat for waterfowl, and fishing. Funding supports the most critical activities to ensure existing dams are maintained, identified for rehabilitation, and are properly operated to protect human life, property, and the valuable natural resources on Service lands. Low hazard dam inspections and analyses also ensure compliance with State dam safety programs.

The EAPs provide site-specific guidance for detection and mitigation of conditions that may cause dam failures; communication protocols for notifying and evacuating downstream populations also are provided in the EAPs. Periodic Safety Evaluation of Existing Dams (SEED) inspections are another example of work in this area. SEED inspections include performing and reassessing hazard classifications— which are based upon estimates of loss of life and property damage should a dam fail. This program also funds engineering analyses of the response and safety impacts of a dam as a result of increased magnitude of flood and earthquake predictions. The Service uses the hazard classification, a risk assessment, and the overall condition of the dam to identify and prioritize dam repair and rehabilitation projects.

The Service requests funding to complete needed dam safety repair projects separately in its Line-Item Construction activity. Management of major rehabilitation or construction work is accomplished under

the supervision of the Service's Dam Safety Officer. Consistent with practice from past years, unobligated funds from dam safety projects may be used to address ongoing Dam Safety and Security needs (e.g., additional SEED inspections, minor dam safety repairs) or used for emergency construction projects.

Bridge Safety – This funding provides for the safety and integrity of the Service's approximately 700 bridges through the application of technically current design guidelines and a comprehensive inspection, appraisal, and inventory program. Bridge inspections are conducted at time intervals required by statute. During bridge inspections, Service staff determine and verify safe load-carrying capacity; identify and recommend mitigation of unsafe conditions; and identify maintenance, rehabilitation, or reconstruction needs. Similar to dam safety projects, funding for bridge safety projects is requested as part of the Line-Item Construction activity.

During FY 2018, the Bridge Safety Program will complete bridge inspections required by law. The conduct of inspections will prioritize: public use bridges in less than satisfactory condition; non-public use bridges in less than satisfactory condition; public use bridges in satisfactory condition or better; and non-public use bridges in satisfactory condition or better. Consideration also will be given, on a case-by-case basis, to approximately 30 bridges recommended for scour inspection, as a result of a 2015 Program Review recommendation.

By prioritizing inspections as described, the Service will maximize staff and public safety. This may result in greater costs in the long term because bridges in the worst condition are most costly to restore, which reduces the Service's ability to preserve and maintain bridges in good condition at a lower cost. However, safety remains the top priority for the Service, and if warranted, the Service will remove a bridge from service rather than compromise safety.

Seismic Safety – This program element funds planning and analysis of the seismic safety of the Service's approximately 6,500 buildings. The work fulfills the requirements of Executive Order 13717 (Establishing a Federal Earthquake Risk Management Standard, February 2016) and allows the Service to identify buildings that present a substantial risk to the safety of Service personnel, volunteers, and visitors in the event of a significant earthquake. Program staff screens Service-owned buildings to identify those that are *exceptionally high risk* (EHR). Any building found to meet EHR criteria undergoes a rigorous engineering analysis, which includes development of a cost estimate to mitigate seismic deficiencies. Engineering analysis has identified 50 seismically deficient Service-owned buildings that would sustain life-threatening damage in a seismic event. Preliminary screening has identified an additional 50 EHR buildings that pose a similar life-safety risk. Engineering analysis and mitigation projects are funded via the Line-Item Construction activity.

Appropriation: Construction
Activity: Line-Item Construction

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018			Change from 2017 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Total, Line-Item Construction	(\$000)	14,554	14,526	0	0	-5,433	9,093	-5,433
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for the Line-Item Construction activity is \$9,093,000 and 0 FTE. This is a change of -\$5,433,000 and +0 FTE from the 2017 CR Baseline.

Line Item Construction (-\$5,433,000/+0 FTE)

In FY 2018, Line-Item Construction focuses on the highest priority projects to ensure safety of Service employees, visitors, and the surrounding communities. These projects preclude conditions from deteriorating and increasing the maintenance backlog.

Program Overview

A list of the proposed line-item projects for FY 2018 is provided below. A Project Data Sheet (PDS) for each project is provided that includes key information about the purpose, justification, cost, and schedule. Additionally, after the individual PDSs, a Summary PDS for FYs 2018-2022 presents the Service’s five-year construction plan and shows funding directed to the most critical needs (i.e., health, safety, or natural resource). The Service selects and ranks projects in accordance with DOI and Service guidance and priorities.

2018 Construction Project Listing by Program					
DOI Rank Score	Region	Station	State	Project Title/Description	Request (\$000)
National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS)					
100	Southwest	Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge	OK	Repair Dams at Wichita Mountains	3,800
90	Alaska	Alaska Maritime NWR	AK	Rehabilitate Tiglax Ocean Vessel [d/ic]	2,235
90	Midwest	Crab Orchard NWR	IL	Dam Safety Program - Repair Concrete at Three Dams - Phase III of III	300
70	Midwest	Mingo Job Corps Center	MO	Remediate Underground Storage Tank [p/d/cc]	800
66	Southeast	Okefenokee NWR	GA	Demolish 2,000 SF CCC Office/Headquarters Building	80
56	Pacific	Bear Lake NWR	ID	Remove 3,878 Square Foot Shop/Storage Building	50
50	Pacific	Inland Northwest National Wildlife Refuge Complex	WA	Remove Five Buildings Totaling 3,421 Square Foot (1,425 Square Foot Warehouse) at Little Pend Oreille and Turnbull	70
Subtotal, NWRS					7,335

2018 Construction Project Listing by Program					
DOI Rank Score	Region	Station	State	Project Title/Description	Request (\$000)
National Fish Hatchery System (NFHS)					
70	Midwest	Pendills Creek NFH	MI	Replace 24" Water Supply Pipeline to Traveling Screen Building [p/d/cc]	1,043
Subtotal, NFHS					1,043
Other					
70	Headquarters	Branch of Dam Safety	N/A	Nationwide Seismic Safety Investigations – Phase V of V	215
70	Headquarters	Branch of Dam Safety	N/A	Dam Safety Program - Evaluations of Newly Acquired Dams - Phase II of V	250
70	Headquarters	Information Resources & Technology Management	N/A	Nationwide Radio Site Safety Investigations Phase I of V	250
Subtotal, Other					715
TOTAL, CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS					9,093

Notes: p = planning, d = design, ic = initiate construction, cc = complete construction



Since 1987, the Tiglax Ocean Vessel has been the primary means for the Alaska Maritime Refuge to manage and monitor over 5,000 miles of coast across the Aleutian islands. If the Refuge were in the lower 48 states, it would span from California to Georgia. The research vessel aided in the full recovery and delisting of the endangered Aleutian Cackling Goose in 2001 and the reintroduction of the Evermann's Rock Ptarmigan to breeding grounds on Agattu Island. Credit: USFWS

US Fish and Wildlife Service
PROJECT DATA SHEET

Total Project Score/Ranking:	100
Planned Funding FY:	2018
Funding Source:	Construction

Project Identification

Project Title: Repair Dams at Wichita Mountains NWR [cc]			
Project Number	2016278272	Unit/FacilityName:	Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge
Region/Area/District:	Southwest	Congressional District:	04
		State:	OK

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	API	Actual FCI	FCI-Projected
40161900	10008499	100	0.16	0.00

Project Description (PD):

This project will rehabilitate three high hazard dams located on Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge (Grama, Comanche and Quanah Parker Dam) to reduce unacceptable risk. Failure of these dams is expected to cause loss of life to the 300 persons at risk downstream and residences within the refuge headquarters area. Grama Dam is susceptible to earthquake loads; therefore, Comanche Dam was initially modified in 2000 to provide flood storage volume of a sunny day failure of Grama Dam. However, stability analyses have determined that Comanche Dam is unstable under recently revised seismic and hydraulic loads. In addition, surveys have verified that Comanche Dam does not have sufficient storage volume to hold the sunny day failure volume of Grama Dam. Therefore, this project will design and construct repairs to Comanche Dam and modifications to Grama Dam to make the dams stable under all loadings and reduce risk as much as possible. Quanah Parker Dam was recently classified as High Hazard Dam. This dam is a concrete arch dam that cannot pass the design flood. This project will perform analyses and conceptual designs needed for Quanah Parker Dam to safely pass the design storm and be stable under earthquake loads.

Scope of Benefits (SB):

The 2015 Safety Evaluation of Existing Dams (SEED) report found that these dams do not meet code for flooding and earthquake loading. Comanche and Grama dams are unstable under flooding and earthquake loadings. Quanah Parker dam does not have sufficient spillway capacity to safely pass the design flood event. This project will bring them up to code, reducing risk of dam failure for a population at risk of more than 300 persons.

Investment Strategy (IS):

This project will not reduce annual operation and maintenance costs. However, it represents necessary investment that will provide long-term net savings when including potential loss of valuable resources, costs to reconstruct the dam and probable loss of life.

Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):

Design plans to complete construction are needed to assure the safety of the dams during extreme flood and earthquake loadings. Failure to act would result in increased risk of dam failure, loss of valuable resources, environmental damage, and probable loss of life.

Ranking Categories: Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1A)

FCI/API (40%)	API	<u>100</u>	FCI	<u>0.16</u>	Score = (.40 x <u>100</u>) =	<u>40</u>
SB (20%)			Actual FCI	<u>0.16</u>	Score = (.20 x <u>100</u>) =	<u>20</u>
IS (20%)					Score = (.20 x <u>100</u>) =	<u>20</u>
CFA (20%)					Score = (.20 x <u>100</u>) =	<u>20</u>

Combined ranking factors = (.40 x API/FCI score) + (.20 x SB score) + (.20 x IS score) + (.20 x CFA score)

Capital Asset Panning		Exhibit 300 Analysis Required: <u>Yes</u>		Total Project Score	100
VE Study:	<u>B</u>	Scheduled (YY)	<u>17</u>		

Project Costs and Status

Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):	\$s	%	Project Funding History (entire project):	\$s
Deferred Maintenance Work:	\$ 3,800,000	100	Appropriated to Date	\$ -
Capital Improvement Work:	\$ -	0	Requested in FY: <u>2018</u>	Budget \$3,800,000
Total:	\$ 3,800,000	100	Future Funding to Complete Project:	\$ -
			Total:	\$3,800,000
Class of Estimate: A,B,C			Planning and Design Funds:	
Estimate Escalated to FY: (yy): <u>18</u>			Planning Funds Received in	
			Design Funds Received in	
Dates:			Project Data Sheet	
Scheduled			(mm/yy)	
Construction Start/Award (QTR/YY) <u>1/18</u>			Prepared/Last Update	
Project Complete: (QTR/YY) <u>4/20</u>			4/17	
			DOI Approved	
			No	

Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs (\$s)

Current	\$12	Projected	0	Net Change	-\$12
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US Fish and Wildlife Service
PROJECT DATA SHEET

Total Project Score/Ranking:	90
Planned Funding FY:	2018
Funding Source:	Construction

Project Identification

Project Title:	Rehabilitate Tiglax Ocean Vessel [d/ic]		
Project Number	2015260023	Unit/FacilityName:	Alaska Maritime NWR
Region/Area/District:	Alaska	Congressional District:	AL
		State:	AK

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	API	Actual FCI	FCI-Projected
	74501	100	0.00	0.00

Project Description (PD):

Rehabilitate the 120-foot research vessel "Tiglax" (pronounced TEKH-lah - an Unangan or Aleut word for 'Eagle'). The Tiglax launched in 1987 and has sailed over 500,000 miles in her 30-year life-span in remote and difficult sea conditions. This is a sailing distance equivalent to traveling to the moon and back to earth. The ship is the primary means the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge manages and monitors the vast reaches of Alaska's Aleutian and other islands covering almost 5,000 miles of Alaska's coast. The ship has reached its useful life of 30 years and needs to be replaced or rehabilitated. Under the current fiscal budget, it is not economically feasible to replace the ship at an estimated cost range of \$50 to 60 million. This project will be conducted in three phases. Phase I, initiated in FY16 with partner funding, cost \$75,000 and consists of a licensed marine-engineer identifying optimal solutions and preparing construction drawings for replacing major systems such as engines, generators, and pumps, as well as, investigating hull modifications which will improve ship efficiency and functions. This phase will produce the engineering report used to determine the Statement of Work for Phase II. Phase II will complete design and initial reconstruction, and Phase III will complete the reconstruction. The expected reconstruction includes replacement of worn propulsion systems including the engines, bearings, shafts, gears, and propellers, refrigeration, heating, plumbing, fire control, electrical navigation systems and ballast tank replacement, as well as overhauling the crane. The hull integrity will be examined and repaired as required.

Scope of Benefits (SB):

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 established the refuge purposes, including seabird monitoring, international marine research, and fulfilling International Treaties such as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. The ship has been the primary tool in satisfying these legal requirements by implementing a sophisticated seabird monitoring program, conducting research, and eradicating invasive species, such as non-native foxes from islands containing nesting bird species protected by international law. There is no other means to conduct this critical conservation work without this vessel.

Investment Strategy (IS):

This project leverages significant non-DOI resources to conduct Phase I of the project. The typical operating costs average \$300,000-\$350,000 per year. The more efficient modern engines, generators, and electronics will cost less to maintain and perform better for the environment. Chartering private vessels to conduct comparable work would cost the Service an estimated \$2 million per year.

Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):

Critical life-safety systems on this vessel are beyond life expectancy and need to be replaced or rehabilitated to ensure the safety of the crew and research passengers. These life safety systems include the fire control module and ballast tanks. Without this project, seabird monitoring, scientific research, invasive species eradication, care of cultural resources, and collaboration with remote Alaska Native Villages on conservation efforts are in jeopardy. The environmentally sound mechanical systems being installed during this project will ensure the marine ecosystem is not harmed by this vessel.

Ranking Categories: Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1A)

FCI/API (40%)	API	<u>100</u>	FCI	<u>0.00</u>	Score = (.40 x <u>75</u>) =	<u>30</u>
SB (20%)			Actual FCI	<u>0.00</u>	Score = (.20 x <u>100</u>) =	<u>20</u>
IS (20%)					Score = (.20 x <u>100</u>) =	<u>20</u>
CFA (20%)					Score = (.20 x <u>100</u>) =	<u>20</u>

Combined ranking factors = (.40 x API/FCI score) + (.20 x SB score) + (.20 x IS score) + (.20 x CFA score)

Capital Asset Panning

Exhibit 300 Analysis Required:	Yes	Total Project Score	90
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VE Study:	<u>D</u>	Scheduled (YY)	<u>18</u>	Completed (YY)	
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Project Costs and Status

Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):	\$s	%	Project Funding History (entire project):	\$s
Deferred Maintenance Work:	\$ 5,000,000	100	Appropriated to Date	\$ -
Capital Improvement Work:	\$ -	0	Requested in FY: 2018 Budget	\$ 2,235,000
Total:	\$ 5,000,000	100	Future Funding to Complete Project:	\$ 2,765,000
			Total:	\$ 5,000,000
Class of Estimate: A,B,C	C		Planning and Design Funds:	\$s
Estimate Escalated to FY: (yy):	18		Planning Funds Received in	\$ -
			Design Funds Received in	\$ -
Dates:	Scheduled		Project Data Sheet	(mm/yy)
Construction Start/Award (QTR/YY)	<u>1/18</u>		Prepared/Last Update	4/17
Project Complete: (QTR/YY)	<u>4/20</u>		DOI Approved	No

Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs (\$s)

Current	0	Projected	0	Net Change	0
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US Fish and Wildlife Service
PROJECT DATA SHEET

Total Project Score/Ranking:	90
Planned Funding FY:	2018
Funding Source:	Construction

Project Identification

Project Title: Dam Safety Program - Repair Concrete at Three Dams - Phase III of III			
Project Number	2014242163	Unit/FacilityName:	Crab Orchard NWR
Region/Area/District:	Midwest	Congressional District:	12
		State:	IL

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	API	Actual FCI	FCI-Projected
40162000	10013507	100.00	0.01	0.00

Project Description (PD):

Repair the three high hazard dams at Crab Orchard NWR: Crab Orchard Dam (1001350, built in 1939), Little Grassy Dam (10013508, built in 1951), and Devils Kitchen Dam (10013509, built in 1959). The 2015 Safety Evaluation of Existing Dams (SEED) report found that the concrete features of the spillways, training walls, and non-overflow sections, etc., of these dams have deteriorated and have an increased risk of potential dam failures. These repairs are needed to prevent further deterioration and adverse impacts to the operation of the dams. The concrete repairs to these dams will require lowering the lake levels, impacting the valuable resources of the refuge; and therefore the repairs will be performed in three phases over a three year period.

Scope of Benefits (SB):

The conditions of the spillways, training walls, and non-overflow sections of the dams have deteriorated and increase the risk of potential dam failures. The repairs are needed to prevent further deterioration and adverse impacts to the operation of the dams.

Investment Strategy (IS):

Project will not significantly reduce annual O&M costs. However, it is necessary investment that provides major net savings when including the potential loss of valuable resources, costs of dam failure, and more expensive repairs if this proposed work is delayed.

Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):

Over 12,000 people in the local community around the dams are a risk from dam failure flooding because the dams are deteriorated and need repair. The dam also provides significant downstream flood control benefits.

Ranking Categories: Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1A)

FCI/API (40%)	API	100	FCI	0.01	Score = (.40 x 75) =	30
SB (20%)			Actual FCI	0.01	Score = (.20 x 100) =	20
IS (20%)					Score = (.20 x 100) =	20
CFA (20%)					Score = (.20 x 100) =	20

Combined ranking factors = (.40 x API/FCI score) + (.20 x SB score) + (.20 x IS score) + (.20 x CFA score)

Capital Asset Panning	Exhibit 300 Analysis Required:	No	Total Project Score	90
VE Study:	N	Scheduled (YY)		

Project Costs and Status

Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):	\$s	%	Project Funding History (entire project):	\$s
Deferred Maintenance Work:	\$ 300,000	100	Appropriated to Date	\$ 1,000,000
Capital Improvement Work:	\$ -	0	Requested in FY: 2018 Budget	\$ 300,000
Total:	\$ 300,000	100	Future Funding to Complete Project:	\$ -
			Total:	\$ 1,300,000

Class of Estimate: A,B,C	C	Planning and Design Funds:	\$s
Estimate Escalated to FY: (yy):	18	Planning Funds Received in	\$ -
		Design Funds Received in	\$ -

Dates:	Scheduled	Project Data Sheet	(mm/yy)	DOI Approved
Construction Start/Award (QTR/YY)	1/18	Prepared/Last Update	4/17	Yes
Project Complete: (QTR/YY)	4/20			

Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs (\$s)

Current	\$8,143	Projected	\$8,143	Net Change	0
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US Fish and Wildlife Service
PROJECT DATA SHEET

Total Project Score/Ranking:	70
Planned Funding FY:	2018
Funding Source:	Construction

Project Identification

Project Title: Replace 24" Water Supply Pipeline to Traveling Screen Building [p/d/cc]			
Project Number	2013227103	Unit/FacilityName:	Pendills Creek NFH
Region/Area/District:	Midwest	Congressional District:	01
		State:	MI

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	API	Actual FCI	FCI-Projected
40710400	10010292	100	0.94	0.00

Project Description (PD):

This pipeline project will be carefully reviewed during the next Comprehensive Condition Assessment, based on the construction date of 1952 and life expectancy of 20 years for metal pipe. This project will give us an opportunity to look over the condition of the pipe. This pipeline provides the entire water source for the Pendills Creek National Fish Hatchery and is the water supply for up to 1 million lake trout yearlings for spring stocking into Lake Michigan and Lake Huron each year along with the fall stocking of 200,000 fish.

Scope of Benefits (SB):

The primary mission of the facility is to rear lake trout as part of Great Lakes Restoration. Pendills Creek National Fish Hatchery has produced lake trout for stocking into the Great Lakes since 1951. Lake trout restoration is coordinated by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (est. 1955) with key support from the Service and other federal, provincial, state, and tribal natural resource agencies. Plans that guide the station mission include rehabilitation plans for lakes Michigan and Huron, and the "United States vs Michigan 2000 Consent Decree."

Investment Strategy (IS):

The annual maintenance costs will be approximately \$18.00 for a single annual mowing, to prevent trees from taking root above the pipeline. The portion of pipeline replaced by this project will be the section between the water control structure and the new Traveling Screen Building. This will increase the efficiency of the water distribution system at the facility.

Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):

This pipeline provides a critically needed source of culture water for the Pendills Creek National Fish Hatchery. A disruption from this water supply could seriously impact the culture of up to 1 million lake trout yearlings for spring stocking into Lake Michigan and Lake Huron each year along with the fall stocking of 200,000 fish. Loss of lake trout production at this facility will prevent the Service from meeting obligations in the "United States vs Michigan 2000 Consent Decree."

Ranking Categories: Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1A)

FCI/API (40%)	API	<u>100</u>	FCI	<u>1.00</u>	Score = (.40 x <u>100</u>) =	<u>40</u>
SB (20%)			Actual FCI	<u>0.94</u>	Score = (.20 x <u>100</u>) =	<u>20</u>
IS (20%)					Score = (.20 x <u>0</u>) =	<u>0</u>
CFA (20%)					Score = (.20 x <u>50</u>) =	<u>10</u>
Combined ranking factors = (.40 x API/FCI score) + (.20 x SB score) + (.20 x IS score) + (.20 x CFA score)						

Capital Asset Panning	Exhibit 300 Analysis Required:	<u>No</u>	Total Project Score	70
VE Study:	<u>N</u> Scheduled (YY)	Completed (YY)		

Project Costs and Status

Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):		\$s	%	Project Funding History (entire project):		\$s
Deferred Maintenance Work:		\$ 585,000	56	Appropriated to Date		\$ -
Capital Improvement Work:		\$ 458,000	44	Requested in FY: 2018	Budget	\$ 1,043,000
Total:		\$ 1,043,000	100	Future Funding to Complete Project:		\$ -
				Total:		\$ 1,043,000
Class of Estimate: A,B,C		C		Planning and Design Funds:		\$s
Estimate Escalated to FY: (yy):		18		Planning Funds Received in		\$ -
				Design Funds Received in		\$ -
Dates:		Scheduled		Project Data Sheet		(mm/yy)
Construction Start/Award (QTR/YY)		<u>1/18</u>		Prepared/Last Update		4/17
Project Complete: (QTR/YY)		<u>4/20</u>		DOI Approved		Yes

Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs (\$s)

Current	\$18	Projected	\$18	Net Change	0
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US Fish and Wildlife Service
PROJECT DATA SHEET

Total Project Score/Ranking:	70
Planned Funding FY:	2018
Funding Source:	Construction

Project Identification

Project Title: Nationwide Seismic Safety Investigations – Phase V of V			
Project Number	2012218271	Unit/FacilityName:	Branch of Dam Safety
Region/Area/District:	Headquarters	Congressional District:	* State: *

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	API	Actual FCI	FCI-Projected
	98510	100	0.00	0.00

Project Description (PD):

These funds will be used to perform seismic engineering evaluations of select Service buildings. Preliminary screening level assessments have identified more than 50 Service building as having significant seismic risks of collapse. More detailed investigations, beyond the screening level, are necessary and the engineering evaluations are the next required analysis to confirm the seismic hazard and to propose potential mitigation options based on the analysis. The engineering evaluations may also provide technical evidence, not available through the simplified screening process that the seismic risk is low and no mitigation efforts are required. The project supports Department strategic goal 4.1 (Protect Lives, Resources, and Property). This project supports necessary and continuing efforts to identify Service buildings that are at risk of collapse due to an earthquake and to provide mitigation options and preliminary cost estimates to reduce the risk to acceptable levels.

Scope of Benefits (SB):

This project supports necessary efforts to identify buildings that are at risk of collapse due to an earthquake, and identify mitigation options and preliminary cost estimates to reduce the risk. The project supports Department strategic goal 4.1 (Protect Lives, Resources, and Property).

Investment Strategy (IS):

The project will evaluate risk from earthquakes and identify retrofit strategies that will result in earthquake-resistant buildings that withstand small earthquakes with reduced damage.

Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):

The Service buildings to be evaluated under this project have been identified as having an unacceptably high possibility of collapse in the event of an earthquake; any such collapse would clearly endanger the life and health of Service employees and visitors.

Ranking Categories: Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1A)

FCI/API (40%)	API	100	FCI	0.00	Score = (.40 x 75)	=	30
SB (20%)			Actual FCI	0.00	Score = (.20 x 100)	=	20
IS (20%)					Score = (.20 x 0)	=	0
CFA (20%)					Score = (.20 x 100)	=	20

Combined ranking factors = (.40 x API/FCI score) + (.20 x SB score) + (.20 x IS score) + (.20 x CFA score)

Capital Asset Panning	Exhibit 300 Analysis Required:	Yes	Total Project Score	70
VE Study:	N	Scheduled (YY)		

Project Costs and Status

Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):			Project Funding History (entire project):		
	\$s	%		\$s	
Deferred Maintenance Work:	\$ 215,000	100	Appropriated to Date	\$ 860,000	
Capital Improvement Work:	\$ -	0	Requested in FY: 2018	Budget \$ 215,000	
Total:	\$ 215,000	100	Future Funding to Complete Project:	\$ -	
			Total:	\$ 1,075,000	
Class of Estimate: A,B,C			Planning and Design Funds:		
	C			\$s	
Estimate Escalated to FY: (yy):	18		Planning Funds Received in	\$ -	
			Design Funds Received in	\$ -	
Dates:			Project Data Sheet		DOI Approved
Construction Start/Award (QTR/YY)	Scheduled		Prepared/Last Update	(mm/yy)	Yes
	1/18			4/17	
Project Complete: (QTR/YY)	4/20				

Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs (\$s)

Current	0	Projected	0	Net Change	0
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US Fish and Wildlife Service
PROJECT DATA SHEET

Total Project Score/Ranking:	70
Planned Funding FY:	2018
Funding Source:	Construction

Project Identification

Project Title: Dam Safety Program - Evaluations of Newly Acquired Dams - Phase II of V			
Project Number	2012213885	Unit/FacilityName:	Branch of Dam Safety
Region/Area/District:	Headquarters	Congressional District:	* State: *

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	API	Actual FCI	FCI-Projected
	98510	100	0.00	0.00

Project Description (PD):

The Service Dam Inventory is growing as more dams are identified through field investigations at Service facilities and cross checks with the real property inventory. Many of these dams have not been evaluated for hazard classification potential, dam failure consequences, or compliance with Service dam safety standards. This project will provide needed engineering evaluations of dams added to the Service inventory in order to identify any unsafe structures and to assess the hazard classification potential, structural deficiencies, and response to potential dam failure modes. This information will enable the USFWS Division of Engineering to categorize the new dams, prioritize additional remedial actions, prepare Emergency Action Plans and Standing Operating Procedures and estimate future funding needs for operation and maintenance and inspections.

Scope of Benefits (SB):

This project provides required evaluations and risk analyses of dams added to the inventory to identify any unsafe structures and to assess the hazard classification potential, structural deficiencies, and response to potential dam failure modes. This information will be used to categorize the new dam, prioritize remedial actions, prepare emergency action plans and standard operating procedures, and estimate future needs for operation and maintenance and inspections.

Investment Strategy (IS):

This project is a necessary investment that provides net savings when including the potential loss of valuable resources, costs of dam failures, and more expensive repairs if work is delayed.

Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):

People in the local community are at risk when dams deteriorate and fail. Dams also provide significant downstream flood control benefits.

Ranking Categories: Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1A)

FCI/API (40%)	API	100	FCI	0.00	Score = (.40 x 75)=	30
SB (20%)			Actual FCI	0.00	Score = (.20 x 100)=	20
IS (20%)					Score = (.20 x 0)=	0
CFA (20%)					Score = (.20 x 100)=	20
Combined ranking factors = (.40 x API/FCI score) + (.20 x SB score) + (.20 x IS score) + (.20 x CFA score)						

Capital Asset Panning	Exhibit 300 Analysis Required:	No	Total Project Score	70
VE Study:	N	Scheduled (YY)	Completed (YY)	

Project Costs and Status

Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):			Project Funding History (entire project):		
	\$s	%		\$s	
Deferred Maintenance Work:	\$ -	0	Appropriated to Date	\$ 250,000	
Capital Improvement Work:	\$ 250,000	100	Requested in FY: 2018 Budget	\$ 250,000	
Total:	\$ 250,000	100	Future Funding to Complete Project:	\$ 750,000	
			Total:	\$ 1,250,000	
Class of Estimate: A,B,C	C		Planning and Design Funds:	\$s	
Estimate Escalated to FY: (yy):	18		Planning Funds Received in	\$ -	
			Design Funds Received in	\$ -	
Dates:	Scheduled		Project Data Sheet	(mm/yy)	DOI Approved
Construction Start/Award (QTR/YY)	1/18		Prepared/Last Update	4/17	Yes
Project Complete: (QTR/YY)	4/20				

Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs (\$s)

Current	0	Projected	0	Net Change	0
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US Fish and Wildlife Service
PROJECT DATA SHEET

Total Project Score/Ranking:	70
Planned Funding FY:	2018
Funding Source:	Construction

Project Identification

Project Title: Remediate Underground Storage Tank [p/d/cc]	
Project Number 2016274925	Unit/FacilityName: Mingo Job Corps Center
Region/Area/District: Midwest	Congressional District: 08 State: MO

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	API	Actual FCI	FCI-Projected
	33545	100	0.00	0.00

Project Description (PD):

A March 2003 Memorandum of Understanding transferring management of the Mingo Job Corps Center from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to the U.S Forest Service stipulates that USFWS is liable for any environmental clean-up at the site prior to this transfer. The Mingo Job Corps Center was funded by the U.S. Department of Labor and managed by the USFWS, originally by the Southwest Region (1965 to 1987) and then the Midwest Region (1987 to 2003). USFWS originally observed contamination during a 1995 closure of underground petroleum tanks at the site. Free phase product was observed in the diesel tank pit during tank closure, and characterization activity found contamination in the soil and groundwater. The USFWS has developed site characterization and remediation plans. In 2008, the cost of remediating through dual-phase air sparge and soil vapor extraction (AS/SVE) technology was estimated at \$350,000, but the remediation cost estimate has increased to \$800,000. Project will excavate, remove, and replace contaminated soil. Water decontamination may be required as part of this clean-up.

Scope of Benefits (SB):

This project contributes to the DOI goals by removing a source of contamination that is affecting ground water quality and soil quality. It meets a legal obligation between USFWS and the U.S. Forest Service that was agreed to during the transfer of the land.

Investment Strategy (IS):

Project will not affect annual operating costs because the area is not owned by USFWS. We are required to complete the cleanup as part of the land transfer agreement. Funding this project now will avoid further cost increases and possible fines by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):

Failure to cleanup this site will potentially create water contamination at site and will incur fines and penalties from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources for failure to act.

Ranking Categories: Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1A)

FCI/API (40%)	API	100	FCI	0.00	Score = (.40 x 75) =	30
SB (20%)			Actual FCI	0.00	Score = (.20 x 100) =	20
IS (20%)					Score = (.20 x 0) =	0
CFA (20%)					Score = (.20 x 100) =	20

Combined ranking factors = (.40 x API/FCI score) + (.20 x SB score) + (.20 x IS score) + (.20 x CFA score)

Capital Asset Panning	Exhibit 300 Analysis Required:	No	Total Project Score	70
VE Study:	N	Scheduled (YY)		

Project Costs and Status

Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):			Project Funding History (entire project):		
	\$s	%		\$s	
Deferred Maintenance Work:	\$ 800,000	100	Appropriated to Date	\$ -	
Capital Improvement Work:	\$ -	0	Requested in FY: 2018	Budget	\$800,000
Total:	\$ 800,000	100	Future Funding to Complete Project:	\$ -	
			Total:	\$800,000	
Class of Estimate: A,B,C			Planning and Design Funds:		
Estimate Escalated to FY: (yy):	C	18	Planning Funds Received in	\$ -	
			Design Funds Received in	\$ -	
Dates:			Project Data Sheet		DOI Approved
Construction Start/Award (QTR/YY)	Scheduled		Prepared/Last Update	(mm/yy) 4/17	Yes
Project Complete: (QTR/YY)	1/18				
	4/20				

Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs (\$s)

Current	0	Projected	0	Net Change	0
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US Fish and Wildlife Service
PROJECT DATA SHEET

Total Project Score/Ranking:	70
Planned Funding FY:	2018
Funding Source:	Construction

Project Identification

Project Title: Nationwide Radio Tower Safety Investigations Phase I of V			
Project Number	2016278896	Unit/FacilityName:	Information Resources & Technology Management
Region/Area/District:	Headquarters	Congressional District:	* State: *

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	API	Actual FCI	FCI-Projected
	98510	100	0.00	0.00

Project Description (PD):
These funds will be used to perform required radio tower evaluations of USFWS buildings per DOI policy. Preliminary screening has identified over 150 USFWS owned and leased radio system that lack sufficient initial safety and structural inspection. Detailed investigations are necessary and the engineering evaluations are the next required analysis to confirm the systems are safe for operational use, develop a comprehensive maintenance and repair plan and to expand options for shared use of USFWS and other federal agency or bureau tower sites. The engineering evaluations will provide technical evidence to determine risk, mitigation efforts are required and locations where towers should be removed from operations and demolished.

Scope of Benefits (SB):
The project supports Department strategic goal 4.1 (Protect Lives, Resources, and Property) by identifying radio facilities conditions, risks, mitigation options, and preliminary cost estimates to reduce the risk or remove the systems from operations.

Investment Strategy (IS):
The project will evaluate risk and identify retrofit strategies that will result in expanded opportunities to share radio related facilities. It will not change annual operations and maintenance costs or leverage non-DOI resources.

Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):
The USFWS has not yet evaluated radio facilities as required by DOI policy, leaving unknown levels of risk associated with current operations. Failure to fulfill our responsibilities could endanger the life and health of USFWS employees and visitors.

Ranking Categories: Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1A)

FCI/API (40%)	API	100	FCI	0.00	Score = (.40 x 75)=	30
SB (20%)			Actual FCI	0.00	Score = (.20 x 100)=	20
IS (20%)					Score = (.20 x 0)=	0
CFA (20%)					Score = (.20 x 100)=	20

Combined ranking factors = (.40 x API/FCI score) + (.20 x SB score) + (.20 x IS score) + (.20 x CFA score)

Capital Asset Panning	Exhibit 300 Analysis Required:	Yes	Total Project Score	70	
VE Study:	Y/N	Scheduled (YY)	YY	Completed (YY)	YY

Project Costs and Status

Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):	\$s	%	Project Funding History (entire project):	\$s
Deferred Maintenance Work:	\$ 250,000	100	Appropriated to Date	\$ -
Capital Improvement Work:	\$ -	0	Requested in FY: 2018 Budget	\$ 250,000
Total:	\$ 250,000	100	Future Funding to Complete Project:	\$1,000,000
			Total:	\$1,250,000
Class of Estimate: A,B,C	C		Planning and Design Funds:	\$s
Estimate Escalated to FY: (yy):	18		Planning Funds Received in	\$ -
			Design Funds Received in	\$ -
Dates:	Scheduled		Project Data Sheet	(mm/yy)
Construction Start/Award (QTR/YY)	1/18		Prepared/Last Update	4/17
Project Complete: (QTR/YY)	4/20		DOI Approved	Yes

Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs (\$s)

Current	0	Projected	0	Net Change	0
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US Fish and Wildlife Service
PROJECT DATA SHEET

Total Project Score/Ranking:	66
Planned Funding FY:	2018
Funding Source:	Construction

Project Identification

Project Title: Demolish 1,993 Square Foot CCC Office/Headquarters Building [p/d/cc]			
Project Number	2014246167	Unit/FacilityName:	Okefenokee NWR
Region/Area/District:	Southeast	Congressional District:	01
		State:	GA

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	API	Actual FCI	FCI-Projected
35100000	10014818	55	0.33	0.00

Project Description (PD):
This building has severe structural deterioration deep into the building envelope. This building is 1,993 square feet, has gone unused for numerous years, and is no longer needed. It was built in 1939 by the Civilian Conservation Corps, but has been evaluated and found not historical. It will be demolished and removed from inventory.

Scope of Benefits (SB):
The removal of this building will make a moderate contribution to DOI, USFWS, and station goals for wetland habitat condition and wilderness area management by returning 0.05 acres to critical habitat for the American alligator, Sandhill crane, and gopher tortoise in the Okefenokee Wilderness Area. The gopher tortoise is a keystone species, meaning that other species, such as the gopher frog and indigo snake, would experience drastic change if the tortoise and its burrows did not exist. It will also contribute to federal, DOI, and USFWS real property

Investment Strategy (IS):
Demolition will result in a major reduction in annual O&M costs (from \$9,839 to \$0) because the demolished building will no longer be maintained in caretaker status to prevent entry by refuge staff, volunteers, and visitors. Project has no matching contributions.

Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):
Project will remove a safety hazard to staff and visitors. It currently costs the station \$9,839 per year to mitigate that risk. Failure to remove this building as it deteriorates would increase the severity and probability of the hazard.

Ranking Categories: Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1A)

FCI/API (40%)	API	<u>55</u>	FCI	<u>1.00</u>	Score = (.40 x <u>40</u>) =	<u>16</u>
SB (20%)			Actual FCI	<u>0.33</u>	Score = (.20 x <u>50</u>) =	<u>10</u>
IS (20%)					Score = (.20 x <u>100</u>) =	<u>20</u>
CFA (20%)					Score = (.20 x <u>100</u>) =	<u>20</u>

Combined ranking factors = (.40 x API/FCI score) + (.20 x SB score) + (.20 x IS score) + (.20 x CFA score)

Capital Asset Panning	Exhibit 300 Analysis Required:	<u>No</u>	Total Project Score	66
VE Study:	<u>N</u> Scheduled (YY)	Completed (YY)		

Project Costs and Status

Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):			Project Funding History (entire project):		
	\$s	%		\$s	
Deferred Maintenance Work:	\$ 80,000	100	Appropriated to Date	\$ -	
Capital Improvement Work:	\$ -	0	Requested in FY: 2018	Budget \$ 80,000	
Total:	\$ 80,000	100	Future Funding to Complete Project:	\$ -	
			Total:	\$ 80,000	
Class of Estimate: A,B,C			Planning and Design Funds:		
Estimate Escalated to FY: (yy):			C		
18			Planning Funds Received in		
			Design Funds Received in		
			\$ -		
			\$ -		
Dates:			Project Data Sheet		DOI Approved
Scheduled			(mm/yy)		
Construction Start/Award (QTR/YY)	<u>1/18</u>		Prepared/Last Update	4/17	Yes
Project Complete: (QTR/YY)	<u>4/20</u>				

Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs (\$s)

Current	\$9,839	Projected	0	Net Change	-\$9,839
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US Fish and Wildlife Service
PROJECT DATA SHEET

Total Project Score/Ranking:	56
Planned Funding FY:	2018
Funding Source:	Construction

Project Identification

Project Title: Remove 3,878 Square Foot Shop/Storage Building			
Project Number	2006500202	Unit/FacilityName:	Bear Lake NWR
Region/Area/District:	Pacific	Congressional District:	02
State:	ID		

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	API	Actual FCI	FCI-Projected
35410300	10005919	80	0.11	0.00

Project Description (PD):

This project will remove a 3,878 square foot shop-storage building (10005919), which was built in 1969. A replacement was completed in 2006, but funds were insufficient to demolish this building as planned. The electrical service is old and inadequate. When the building was moved from Grays Lake Refuge to Bear Lake Refuge years ago, existing holes were not filled. Steel internal components have begun to corrode and rodents cannot be kept out of the building. The building has no running water. It no longer supports septic. In addition, the building is located in a wetland.

Scope of Benefits (SB):

Project will make a moderate contribution to DOI, USFWS, and refuge goals by removing 1 building that has already been replaced, reducing the warehouse footprint by 3,878 square feet, and restoring the footprint as wetland habitat for migratory birds.

Investment Strategy (IS):

Project will reduce annual operation and maintenance costs (from \$778 to \$0). It has no matching contributions.

Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):

Failure to complete this project would not have major direct impacts on personnel, natural, or cultural resources.

Ranking Categories: Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1A)

FCI/API (40%)	API	80	FCI	1.00	Score = (.40 x 40)	=	16
SB (20%)			Actual FCI	0.11	Score = (.20 x 100)	=	20
IS (20%)					Score = (.20 x 100)	=	20
CFA (20%)					Score = (.20 x 0)	=	0

Combined ranking factors = (.40 x API/FCI score) + (.20 x SB score) + (.20 x IS score) + (.20 x CFA score)

Capital Asset Panning	Exhibit 300 Analysis Required:	No	Total Project Score	56
VE Study:	N	Scheduled (YY)	Completed (YY)	

Project Costs and Status

Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):			Project Funding History (entire project):		
	\$s	%		\$s	
Deferred Maintenance Work:	\$ 67,200	100	Appropriated to Date	\$ -	
Capital Improvement Work:	\$ -	0	Requested in FY: 2018	Budget \$ 50,000	
Total:	\$ 67,200	100	Future Funding to Complete Project:	\$ -	
			Total:	\$ 50,000	
Class of Estimate: A,B,C			Planning and Design Funds:		
Estimate Escalated to FY: (yy):	C	18	Planning Funds Received in	\$ -	
			Design Funds Received in	\$ -	
Dates:			Project Data Sheet		DOI Approved
Construction Start/Award (QTR/YY)	Scheduled	1/18	Prepared/Last Update	(mm/yy) 4/17	Yes
Project Complete: (QTR/YY)		4/20			

Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs (\$s)

Current	\$778	Projected	0	Net Change	-\$778
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US Fish and Wildlife Service
PROJECT DATA SHEET

Total Project Score/Ranking:	50
Planned Funding FY:	2018
Funding Source:	Construction

Project Identification

Project Title:	Remove Five Buildings Totaling 3,421 Square Foot (1,425 Square Foot Warehouse) at Little Pend Oreille and Turnbull		
Project Number	2013227438	Unit/FacilityName:	Inland Northwest National Wildlife Refuge Complex
Region/Area/District:	Pacific	Congressional District:	5
		State:	WA

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	API	Actual FCI	FCI-Projected
	13562	100	0.00	0.00

Project Description (PD):

This project will remove five buildings totaling 3,421 square feet and a 2,400 square foot pole barn at Little Pend Oreille and Turnbull Refuges. These assets are in poor condition, not mission dependent, and beyond their useful lives. At Little Pend Oreille, the project will remove the Christiansen Cabin (10003953, 612 square foot, built 1937), Furst Cabin (10057482, 784 square feet, built 1930), and Christiansen wood shed (10003955, 625 square feet, built 1900). These buildings are over 50 years old and not historic. At Turnbull, project will remove the Goodwin workshop (10003946, 800 square feet, built 1970) and barn at the west end of the Goodwin Tract (10003943, 600 square foot, built 1960). The barn at the west end of the Goodwin Tract is over 50 years old, so a cultural resource evaluation will be done before it is removed. The Christiansen wood shed (625 square feet) and Goodwin workshop (800 square feet) are classified as Warehouses; this project will reduce the Warehouse footprint by a total of 1,425 square feet. The Kaniksu pole barn (10051515, 2,400 square feet, built 1955) at Little Pend Oreille is in poor condition and will be removed. Pole barns are not classified as buildings, so demolition will not affect the footprint.

Scope of Benefits (SB):

Project will make a major contribution to DOI and USFWS strategic and footprint reduction goals by removing 5 buildings and a pole barn to allow restoration of their footprint to 0.08 acres of habitat for grassland nesting birds, including the grasshopper sparrow, lark sparrow, Savannah sparrow, vesper sparrow, and western meadowlark. It will also reduce the building footprint by demolishing two Warehouses that total 1,425 square feet and three other buildings that total 1,996 square feet.

Investment Strategy (IS):

Removing these buildings will not reduce annual operation and maintenance costs (\$0 because the buildings are not operated or maintained). It has no matching contributions.

Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):

Failure to complete this project would not have major direct impacts on personnel, natural, or cultural resources.

Ranking Categories: Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1A)

FCI/API (40%)	API	100	FCI	0.00	Score = (.40 x 75) =	30
SB (20%)			Actual FCI	0.00	Score = (.20 x 100) =	20
IS (20%)					Score = (.20 x 0) =	0
CFA (20%)					Score = (.20 x 0) =	0

Combined ranking factors = (.40 x API/FCI score) + (.20 x SB score) + (.20 x IS score) + (.20 x CFA score)

Capital Asset Panning	Exhibit 300 Analysis Required:	No	Total Project Score	50
VE Study:	Scheduled (YY)	Completed (YY)		

Project Costs and Status

Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):	\$s	%	Project Funding History (entire project):	\$s
Deferred Maintenance Work:	\$ 70,000	100	Appropriated to Date	\$ -
Capital Improvement Work:	\$ -	0	Requested in FY: 2018 Budget	\$ 70,000
Total:	\$ 70,000	100	Future Funding to Complete Project:	\$ -
			Total:	\$ 70,000
Class of Estimate: A,B,C	C		Planning and Design Funds:	\$s
Estimate Escalated to FY: (yy):	18		Planning Funds Received in	\$ -
			Design Funds Received in	\$ -
Dates:	Scheduled		Project Data Sheet	(mm/yy)
Construction Start/Award (QTR/YY)	1/18		Prepared/Last Update	4/17
Project Complete: (QTR/YY)	4/20		DOI Approved	Yes

Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs (\$s)

Current	0	Projected	0	Net Change	0
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**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Summary Project Data Sheet for 2018-2022 Construction**

Plan Fund Year	Region/Area/District	Facility or Unit Name	Project Title	State	Cong. District	Total DOI Score	Scoring Categories				Project Cost Distribution		
							API/FCI	SB	IS	CFA	DM (\$000)	CI (\$000)	Total (\$000)
2018	Southwest	Wichita Mountains NWR	Repair Dams at Wichita Mountains NWR [cc]	OK	04	100	40	20	20	20	\$3,800	\$0	\$3,800
2018	Alaska	Alaska Maritime NWR	Rehabilitate Tiglax Ocean Vessel [d/ic]	AK	AL	90	30	20	20	20	\$2,235	\$0	\$2,235
2018	Midwest	Crab Orchard NWR	Dam Safety Program - Repair Concrete at Three Dams - Phase III of III	IL	12	90	30	20	20	20	\$300	\$0	\$300
2018	Midwest	Pendills Creek NFW	Replace 24" Water Supply Pipeline to Traveling Screen Building [p/d/cc]	MI	01	70	40	20	0	10	\$585	\$458	\$1,043
2018	Headquarters	Branch of Dam Safety	Nationwide Seismic Safety Investigations - Phase V of V	*	*	70	30	20	0	20	\$215	\$0	\$215
2018	Headquarters	Branch of Dam Safety	Dam Safety Program - Evaluations of Newly Acquired Dams - Phase II of V	*	*	70	30	20	0	20	\$250	\$0	\$250
2018	Midwest	Mingo NWR	Remediate Underground Storage Tank [p/d/cc]	MO	08	70	30	20	0	20	\$800	\$0	\$800
2018	Headquarters	Information Resources & Technology Management	Nationwide Radio Site Safety Investigations Phase I of V	*	*	70	30	20	0	20	\$250	\$0	\$250
2018	Southeast	Okefenokee NWR	Demolish 2,000 SF CCC Office/Headquarters Building [p/d/cc]	GA	01	66	16	10	20	20	\$80	\$0	\$80
2018	Pacific	Bear Lake NWR	Remove 3,878 SF Shop/Storage Building	ID	02	56	16	20	20	0	\$50	\$0	\$50
2018	Pacific	Inland Northwest National Wildlife Refuge Complex	Remove Five Buildings Totaling 2,927 SF (1,715 SF Warehouse) at Little Pend Oreille and Tumbull	WA	05	50	30	20	0	0	\$70	\$0	\$70
Total for Fiscal Year 2018											\$8,635	\$458	\$9,093

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**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Summary Project Data Sheet for 2018-2022 Construction**

Plan Fund Year	Priority	Region/Area/District	Facility or Unit Name	Project Title	State	Cong. District	Total DOI Score	Scoring Categories				Project Cost Distribution		
								API/FCI	SB	IS	CFA	DM (\$000)	CI (\$000)	Total (\$000)
2019	12	Midwest	Neosho NFH	Replace Feed Storage and Vehicle Storage Building	MO	07	90	40	20	10	20	\$500	\$0	\$500
2019	13	Southwest	Valle de Oro NWR	Construct Refuge Habitat and Public Use Facilities [p/d/ic]	NM	01	90	30	20	20	20	\$0	\$983	\$983
2019	14	Alaska	Alaska Maritime NWR	Rehabilitate Tiglax Ocean Vessel [cc]	AK	AL	90	30	20	20	20	\$2,765	\$0	\$2,765
2019	15	Pacific Southwest	Lahontan NFH	Rehabilitate Water Reuse System	NV	02	80	40	20	10	10	\$500	\$0	\$500
2019	16	Midwest	Jordan River NFH	Replace Inadequate Storage Space with Distribution Truck Storage and Disinfection Station	MI	01	70	30	20	10	10	\$596	\$128	\$724
2019	17	Headquarters	Information Resources & Technology Management	Nationwide Radio Site Safety Investigations Phase II of V	*	*	70	30	20	0	20	\$250	\$0	\$250
2019	18	Mountain-Prairie	Saratoga NFH	Rehabilitate Water Treatment Facilities	WY	AL	70	40	10	10	10	\$531	\$0	\$531
2019	19	Headquarters	Branch of Dam Safety	Dam Safety Program - Evaluations of Newly Acquired Dams - Phase III of IV	*	*	70	30	20	0	20	\$250	\$0	\$250
2019	20	Headquarters	Branch of Dam Safety	Nationwide Seismic Safety Investigations	*	*	70	30	20	0	20	\$200	\$0	\$275
2019	21	Pacific	Midway Atoll NWR	Construct Exhibit at Pearl Harbor	MQ	N/A	70	30	20	10	10	\$990	\$0	\$990
2019	22	Pacific	Nisqually NWR	Remove Eight Buildings Totaling 5080 SF, Including a 480 SF Warehouse	WA	10	70	30	20	20	0	\$350	\$0	\$350
2019	23	Southwest	Achesay NFH	Design Effluent Treatment System [p/d]	AZ	01	65	30	20	-5	20	\$0	\$150	\$150
2019	24	Midwest	Crab Orchard NWR	Demolish Buildings and Structures to Restore Habitat	IL	12	52	2	10	20	20	\$400	\$0	\$400
2019	25	Midwest	Sullivan Creek NFH	Demolish Residence at Sullivan Creek NFH	MI	01	40	0	10	10	20	\$60	\$0	\$60
2019	26	Midwest	Iron River NFH	Demolish Dilapidated Milking Barn	WI	07	40	0	10	10	20	\$30	\$0	\$30
2019	27	Midwest	Upper Mississippi River NWR	Demolish warehouse building and Restore Habitat	IL	17	26	16	10	0	0	\$200	\$100	\$300
2019	28	Pacific	Willapa NWR	Remove 1,920 Square Foot Bear River Barn	WA	03	20	0	20	0	0	\$35	\$0	\$35
								Total for Fiscal Year 2019				\$7,657	\$1,361	\$9,093

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**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Summary Project Data Sheet for 2018-2022 Construction**

Plan Fund Year	Region/Area/District	Facility or Unit Name	Project Title	State	Cong. District	Total DOI Score	Scoring Categories				Project Cost Distribution			
							API/FCI	SB	IS	CFA	DM (\$000)	CI (\$000)	Total (\$000)	
2020	Pacific Southwest	Lahontan NFH	Replace Fish Ladders at Marble Bluff Fish Research and Control Station	NV	02	70	30	20	10	10	\$2,257	\$0	\$2,257	
2020	Pacific Southwest	Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR	Flood Protection Levee Rehabilitation [p/d/cc]	CA	15	80	30	20	20	10	\$2,690	\$0	\$2,690	
2020	Southwest	Valle de Oro NWR	Construct Refuge Habitat and Public Use Facilities [p/d/ic]	NM	01	90	30	20	20	20	\$0	\$3,185	\$3,185	
2020	Headquarters	Branch of Dam Safety	Dam Safety Program - Evaluations of Newly Acquired Dams - Phase IV of V	*	*	70	30	20	0	20	\$250	\$0	\$250	
2020	Headquarters	Branch of Dam Safety	Nationwide Seismic Safety Investigations	*	*	70	30	20	0	20	\$200	\$0	\$200	
2020	Headquarters	Information Resources & Technology Management	Nationwide Radio Site Safety Investigations Phase III of V	*	*	70	30	20	0	20	\$250	\$0	\$250	
2020	Midwest	Iron River NFH	Rehabilitate Visitors Center	WI	07	60	30	10	20	0	\$261	\$0	\$261	
Total for Fiscal Year 2020												\$5,908	\$3,185	\$9,093

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**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Summary Project Data Sheet for 2018-2022 Construction**

Plan Fund Year	Region/Area/District	Facility or Unit Name	Project Title	State	Cong. District	Total DOI Score	Scoring Categories				Project Cost Distribution		
							API/FCI	SB	IS	CFA	DM (\$000)	CI (\$000)	Total (\$000)
2021	Pacific Southwest	Sacramento NWR	Rehabilitate Office and construct and rehabilitate public use infrastructure and "Kids in Nature" Wetland Resource Center [p/d/ic/cc]	CA	01	25	30	20	-25	0	\$600	\$5,258	\$5,858
2021	Northeast	Green Lake NFH	Complete Construction Wastewater Treatment Compliance [cc]	ME	02	80	30	20	10	20	\$0	\$755	\$755
2021	Northeast	Craig Brook NFH	Update Waste Water Treatment Plant For NPDES Compliance	ME	02	80	30	20	10	20	\$500	\$0	\$500
2021	Midwest	Pendills Creek NFH	Replace 18" Water Supply Pipeline	MI	01	80	40	20	10	10	\$511	\$344	\$855
2021	Headquarters	Branch of Dam Safety	Dam Safety Program - Evaluations of Newly Acquired Dams - Phase V of V	*	*	70	30	20	0	20	\$250	\$0	\$250
2021	Headquarters	Branch of Dam Safety	Nationwide Seismic Safety Investigations	*	*	70	30	20	0	20	\$275	\$0	\$275
2021	Headquarters	Information Resources & Technology Management	Nationwide Radio Site Safety Investigations Phase IV of V	*	*	70	30	20	0	20	\$200	\$0	\$200
2021	Pacific	Abernathy Fish Technology Center	Seismic Retrofit of Lab/Office Building	WA	03	70	30	20	0	20	\$400	\$0	\$400
							Total for Fiscal Year 2021				\$2,736	\$6,357	\$9,093

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**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Summary Project Data Sheet for 2018-2022 Construction**

Plan Fund Year	Region/Area/District	Facility or Unit Name	Project Title	State	Cong. District	Total DOI Score	Scoring Categories				Project Cost Distribution		
							API/FCI	SB	IS	CFA	DM (\$000)	CI (\$000)	Total (\$000)
2022	Alaska	Koyukuk/Nowitna NWR RAO	Replace Leased Maintenance Shop	AK	AL	90	30	20	20	20	\$3,190	\$0	\$3,190
2022	Pacific	Makah NFH	Replace Diversion Dam and Fish Barrier Phase I of II [ic]	WA	06	80	40	20	10	10	\$1,963	\$0	\$1,963
2022	Pacific	Abermathy Fish Technology Center	Seismic Retrofit of Lab/Office Building [cc]	WA	03	70	30	20	0	20	\$600	\$0	\$600
2022	Headquarters	Branch of Dam Safety	Nationwide Seismic Safety Investigations	*	*	70	30	20	0	20	\$200	\$0	\$200
2022	Headquarters	Information Resources & Technology Management	Nationwide Radio Site Safety Investigations Phase V of V	*	*	70	30	20	0	20	\$250	\$0	\$250
2022	Alaska	Yukon Delta NWR	Remove Old Bureau of Indian Affairs Infrastructure, phase I of III	AK	AL	40	0	20	0	20	\$2,860	\$0	\$2,860
Total for Fiscal Year 2022											\$9,063	\$0	\$9,063

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Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CONSTRUCTION			
Program and Financing (in million of dollars)	2016	2017	2018
Identification Code 010-18-14-1612	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Combined Schedule (X)			
Obligations by program activity:			
0001 Line item construction projects	16	19	18
0002 Nationwide engineering service	8	8	8
0003 Bridge, dam and seismic safety	1	2	2
0100 Total, Direct program:	25	29	28
0799 Total direct obligations	25	29	28
0801 Construction (Reimbursable)	0	0	1
0900 Total new obligations	25	29	29
Budgetary resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	28	28	25
1021 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	1	1	1
1050 Unobligated balance (total)	29	29	26
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, discretionary:			
1100 Appropriation	24	24	16
1160 Appropriation, discretionary (total)	24	24	16
Spending authority from offsetting collections, discretionary:			
1700 Collected	0	1	1
1750 Spending auth from offsetting collections, disc (total)	0	1	1
1900 Budget authority (total)	24	25	17
1930 Total budgetary resources available	53	54	43
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	28	25	14
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	36	19	16
3010 New obligations, unexpired accounts	25	29	29
3020 Outlays (gross)	-41	-31	-29
3040 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations, unexpired	-1	-1	-1
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	19	16	15
Uncollected payments:			
3060 Uncollected pymts, Fed sources, brought forward, Oct 1	-3	-3	-3
3090 Uncollected pymts, Fed sources, end of year	-3	-3	-3
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	33	16	13
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	16	13	12
Budget authority and outlays, net:			
Discretionary:			
4000 Budget authority, gross	24	25	17
Outlays, gross:			
4010 Outlays from new discretionary authority	6	6	4
4011 Outlays from discretionary balances	35	25	25
4020 Outlays, gross (total)	41	31	29

Standard Form 300

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
CONSTRUCTION**

Program and Financing (in million of dollars)	2016	2017	2018
Identification Code 010-18-14-1612	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Offsets against gross budget authority and outlays:			
Offsetting collections (collected) from:			
4030 Federal sources	0	-1	-1
4033 Non-Federal sources	0	0	0
4040 Offsets against gross budget authority and outlays (total)	0	-1	-1
Additional offsets against gross budget authority only:			
4050 Change in uncollected pymts, Fed sources, unexpired	0	0	0
4070 Budget authority, net (discretionary)	24	24	16
4080 Outlays, net (discretionary)	41	30	28
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	24	24	16
4190 Outlays, net (total)	41	30	28

Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	5	5	5
11.3 Other than full-time permanent	0	0	0
11.9 Total personnel compensation	5	5	5
12.1 Civilian personnel benefits	2	1	1
23.1 Rental payments to GSA	1	1	1
25.2 Other services from non-Federal sources	3	4	3
25.3 Other goods and services from Federal sources	2	4	3
25.4 Operation and maintenance of facilities	1	1	1
32.0 Land and structures	10	13	13
99.0 Subtotal, obligations, Direct obligations	24	29	27
99.5 Adjustment for rounding	1	0	2
99.9 Total new obligations, unexpired accounts	25	29	29

Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	51	46	36

Land Acquisition



Appropriations Language

For expenses necessary to carry out chapter 2003 of title 54, United States Code, including administrative expenses, and for acquisition of land or waters, or interest therein, in accordance with statutory authority applicable to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, \$17,051,000, to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and to remain available until expended: 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.

Note.—A full-year 2017 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the budget was prepared; therefore, the budget assumes this account is operating under the Furthering Continuing Appropriations Act, 2017 (P.L. 114-254). The amounts included for 2017 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution.

Authorizing Statutes

***The Fish and Wildlife Act**, as amended (16 U.S.C. 742a-742j). 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**, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460-460k-4). 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**, as amended (16 U.S.C. 4601-4608). 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, 2018.*

***National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act** (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee). Establishes overall policy guidance, places restrictions on the transfer, exchange, or other disposal of refuge lands, and authorizes the Secretary to accept donations of land.*

***Endangered Species Act**, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1534-1544). 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** (P.L. 99-645; 100 Stat. 3582). Authorizes the purchase of wetlands, or interests in wetlands, consistent with the wetlands priority conservation plan established under the Act.*

Highlands Conservation Act (P.L. 108-421). Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to work in partnership with the Secretary of Agriculture to provide financial assistance to the Highlands States to preserve and protect high priority conservation land in the Highland region.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Land Acquisition Justification of Fixed Costs and Internal Realignments <i>(Dollars In Thousands)</i>		
Fixed Cost Changes and Projections	2017 Total or Change	2017 to 2018 Change
Change in Number of Paid Days This column reflects changes in pay associated with the change in the number of paid days between the CY and BY.	-54	+0
Pay Raise The change reflects the salary impact of the 2.1% pay raise for 2017 as signed by the President in December 2016, and the estimated 1.9% pay raise for 2018.	+138	+127
Rental Payments The amounts reflect changes in the costs payable to the General Services Administration (GSA) and others 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 the Department of Homeland Security (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.	+0	+0

Appropriation: Land Acquisition

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018 Request			Change from 2017 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Land Acquisition Management	(\$000)	12,773	12,749	+127	0	-127	12,749	0
Land Protection Planning	(\$000)	465	464	0	0	0	464	0
Exchanges	(\$000)	1,500	1,497	0	0	-300	1,197	-300
Inholdings / Emergencies and Hardships	(\$000)	5,351	5,341	0	0	-2,700	2,641	-2,700
Highlands Conservation Act	(\$000)	10,000	9,981	0	0	-9,981	0	-9,981
Sportsmen and Recreational Access	(\$000)	2,500	2,495	0	0	-2,495	0	-2,495
Federal Refuges/Projects	(\$000)	35,911	35,843	0	0	-35,843	0	-35,843
Total, Land Acquisition	(\$000)	68,500	68,370	+127	0	-51,446	17,051	-51,319
	FTE	80	77	0	0	-3	74	-3

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for Land Acquisition

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Land Acquisition Management	-127	-1
• Exchanges	-300	-2
• Inholdings/Emergencies and Hardships	-2,700	0
• Highlands Conservation Act	-9,981	0
• Sportsmen and Recreational Access	-2,495	0
• Land Acquisition Projects	-35,843	0
Program Changes	-51,446	-3

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for Land Acquisition is \$17,051,000 and 74 FTE, a net program change of -\$51,446,000 and -3 FTE from the 2017 CR baseline.

Land Acquisition Management (-\$127,000/-1 FTE)

The acquisition management funding supports all costs for staff and the administration, implementation, coordination, and evaluation of the Service’s Federal land acquisition program. This change reflects reduced on-the-ground program funding in light of the rising costs of doing business.

Exchanges (-\$300,000/-2 FTE)

Land exchanges provide unique opportunities to work in partnership with private landowners and organizations, local and national conservation groups, and other Federal agencies and State and local governments. These projects leverage the collective expertise of these partners to conserve critical habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife within the Refuge System, decrease habitat fragmentation, and provide

public access to natural areas to hunt, fish, photograph and observe wildlife, and participate in environmental education and interpretation. Exchanges are an important alternative to buying land since very often landowners do not want to leave an area; exchanges are a win-win alternative that helps the Service align resource goals and decrease operations and management costs while also meeting the needs of private landowners. However, land exchanges can be time and labor intensive because they require two appraisals, two title opinions, two contaminant surveys, and other standard realty work, and negotiations often span several years. The proposed funding for exchanges will allow the Service to complete some exchanges.

Sportsmen and Recreational Access (-\$2,495,000/+0 FTE)

In FY 2018, the Service proposes to eliminate dedicated funding for sportsmen and recreational access within the acquisition program to allow the Service to support other higher priorities.

Inholdings, Emergencies, and Hardships (-\$2,700,000/+0 FTE)

The Service is requesting \$2,641,000 for the inholdings, emergencies, and hardships program. This funding will allow the Service to continue capitalizing on emergent opportunities to conserve habitat for the enjoyment of the American public. This funding is only used for actual land purchase, including contract appraisals and other related costs.

Highlands Conservation Act (-\$9,981,000/+0 FTE)

This funding has been used to match conservation partnership grants to acquire lands for conservation in four States that make up the Highlands States (Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania). No funding is being proposed for this program in FY 2018, so that higher priorities elsewhere in the Service can be adequately supported.

Land Acquisition Projects (-\$35,843,000/+0 FTE)

This elimination will allow the Service to focus on existing responsibilities, including lands and resources already under the Service's management.

Program Overview

The Service uses Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) monies appropriated by Congress to acquire property. Acquired lands and waters purchased by the Service become part of the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) or National Fish Hatchery System (NFHS).

The Land Acquisition appropriation includes the land acquisition management activity, five targeted land acquisition activities, and an activity for general land acquisition requests. Each of these elements is described below.

Land Acquisition Management

This activity supports the activities directly related to the acquisition of lands within approved acquisition boundaries of the Refuge System. This funding supports all costs for staff and the administration, implementation, coordination, and evaluation of the Service's Federal land acquisition program in our Headquarters, Regional, and field offices. It also includes about \$2 million for the land acquisition program's share of Service-wide infrastructure needs, including leased space and information technology investments. Land acquisition management also funds contract boundary surveys, title work, and appraisals when the specific project appropriation is insufficient to fund these costs in addition to land costs.

The staff provide specialty support for several realty-based functions, including:

- Assisting refuge staff in the preparation of land protection plans;
- Working with willing sellers from the initial explanations of Federal acquisition options to the final acquisition, including the processing and accepting of donations;
- Preparing responses to information requests from a variety of sources;
- Investigating and resolving encroachment and other boundary issues;
- Providing surveying and other services for rights-of-way for neighboring landowners and for infrastructure purposes such as for a highway, pipeline, or electrical transmission line;
- Developing and maintaining tools that inform the decision-making process at all levels and across programs, such as examining infrastructure needs and expanding public recreational opportunities, including hunting and fishing;
- Working collaboratively with the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Forest Service to acquire land for conservation of large, connected natural areas; and
- Creating, maintaining, and updating geospatial maps and supporting biological databases, including public databases such as the Protected Areas Database of the United States (PADUS).



*Great Thicket NWR was officially established on Dec. 14, 2016, with a 144-acre donation in Dover, New York, from The Nature Conservancy. Nellie Hill Preserve sits atop the rocky summit of a 120-foot calcareous cliff and contains a variety of habitats, including grasslands, sloping meadows, oak forests, and a limestone woodland. Five springs and two ponds provide reliable water sources for wildlife. Because of its varying habitats, Nellie Hill is a hotspot for migratory birds.
Credit: Chris Zimmerman/The Nature Conservancy*

Land Protection Planning

Service staff evaluate potential land acquisitions to support the strategic growth of the Refuge System. This activity supports the development of Land Protection Plans (LPPs), a key function in implementing the Service's Strategic Growth Policy. The LPP process does not necessarily result in recommending the fee acquisition of land; often acquisition of conservation easements can accomplish habitat conservation goals at a lower cost.

The LPP process may begin when refuge field stations, local governments, and other conservation partners suggest areas for added protection for migratory birds and other important species. If there is enough local support and interest, the Service may start the process for developing an LPP. In some cases, LPPs 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. By using conservation planning aids such as models of species-habitat interactions and other decision support tools, Service staff can prioritize conservation and/or management actions needed to support or attain sustainable fish and wildlife populations at desired levels. Coordinating local actions with State and regional conservation goals

improves the success of conserving large, connected natural areas. By working together, the Service and our conservation partners can accomplish much more than by working as separate entities.

The Planning program is complemented by the Service’s Partners for Fish and Wildlife program, through which the Service works with hundreds of private landowners annually on habitat restoration and enhancement projects on their lands. These projects connect and extend high-quality habitats, restore landscapes, and sustain high priority Federal trust species populations.

Exchanges

Land exchanges provide unique opportunities to work in partnership with other Federal agencies and State and local governments, private landowners and organizations, and local and national conservation groups. Land exchange projects leverage the collective expertise of these partners to conserve critical habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife within the Refuge System, decrease habitat fragmentation, and provide the public with access to natural areas to hunt, fish, photograph, observe wildlife, and enjoy environmental education and interpretation.



*In 2016, the Service acquired 563 acres of rich habitat for Columbia NWR (Washington), including land connecting the refuge to Hanford Reach National Monument, in exchange for 306 acres of farmland adjoining a private landowner’s ranch.
Credit: Jonathan Bloomfield/USFWS.*

Each year, the Service identifies any potential exchange projects that may come up in the future, regardless of fiscal year. Typically, the exchange process begins with a landowner approaching a Refuge Manager to resolve an issue, like encroachments or trespass, or to achieve another resource management goal.

Below is the most up to date list of all the possible exchange projects that have been identified. These projects total at least 78,000 acres in potential exchanges and the Service estimates that \$1,204,500 will be needed for acquisition-related management costs to complete all of them, including salaries and other expenses. Exchanges may involve on-going expenditures over a period of years.

Potential Land Exchange Projects

State	Potential Exchanges	Acres to be Acquired	Management Costs
Alaska	Kenai NWR - CIRI	3,000	\$10,000
	Selawik NWR - NANA Corp.	30,000	\$80,000
	Yukon Delta NWR (3)	34,000	\$40,000
Arizona	Cibola NWR	40	\$10,000
Arkansas	Felsenthal NWR	2,168	\$25,000
	White River NWR	240	\$10,000
California	Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR	5	\$10,000
	Stone Lakes NWR	10	\$40,000
Colorado	Arapaho NWR	250	\$25,000

State	Potential Exchanges	Acres to be Acquired	Management Costs
Florida	ARM Loxahatchee NWR	2,586	\$20,000
Georgia	Bond Swamp NWR	188	\$10,000
Illinois	Crab Orchard NWR	12	\$20,000
	Cypress Creek NWR	75	\$20,000
Indiana	Patoka River NWR	Undetermined	\$20,000
Louisiana	Lacassine NWR	75	\$10,000
Maine	Moosehorn NWR	1,500	\$50,000
Massachusetts	Monomoy NWR	2	\$25,000
Michigan	Shiawassee NWR	302	\$50,000
Minnesota	Stearns County WPA	20	\$10,000
	Tamarac NWR	10	\$10,000
Montana	Charles M Russell NWR	640	\$25,000
	Pablo NWR	2	\$25,000
Nevada	Stillwater NWR (various)	439	\$90,000
New Jersey	E. B. Forsythe NWR	1	\$10,000
	Walkill NWR	2	\$10,000
North Dakota	Various North Dakota WPA's & WMA's	500	\$200,000
Oregon	Hart Mountain NAR	40	\$40,000
South Dakota	Various South Dakota WPA's & WMD's	500	\$200,000
Texas	Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR (11)	1,676	\$132,000
	Trinity NWR - Sheppy Land Company	4	\$2,500
Utah	Bear River MBR	21	\$25,000
Vermont	Silvio O. Conte NFWR	100	\$25,000
Washington	Willapa NWR	1.2	\$10,000
Wisconsin	Necedah WMA (2)	66	\$35,000
	Upper MS River NW&FR - WI DOT	Undetermined	\$25,000
Wyoming	Cokeville Meadows NWR	200	\$25,000
Total Exchange Acres and Management Costs		78,800	\$1,204,500

Inholdings / Emergencies and Hardships

The Service uses funding in this activity to expedite purchases of smaller tracts of land from willing sellers for three categories: inholdings, emergencies, and hardships. The Service defines any land within an approved acquisition boundary as an inholding. The Service frequently uses inholdings funding to purchase lands that connect with private- or State-conserved lands to create larger contiguous blocks of protected wildlife habitat. Funding is also used to purchase lands where the owner is experiencing financial hardship and must quickly sell his or her land that is within an approved refuge acquisition boundary. Historically, hardship cases have included Alaska Native Corporations that needed to raise additional Tribal funds and older couples who faced significant medical expenses and needed to raise money by selling their land. This funding allows the Service to capitalize on emergent opportunities to conserve habitat. Typically, if the refuge is part of the current or next President's Request for refuge-specific funding, it is not eligible for this funding.

Use of Residual LWCF Funds

Federal land acquisition projects sometimes have small amounts of funds remaining after land has been acquired. These residual funds are insufficient to acquire additional land. The Service reallocates residual project funds of less than \$50,000 to the Inholdings / Emergencies and Hardships line item to be used to protect other lands that do not have project funding. This shift enables the Service to acquire valuable wildlife habitat within approved refuge acquisition boundaries that becomes available for acquisition between appropriations cycles. (Projects funded in 2009 and some 2010 projects are excluded from the policy due to existing reprogramming restrictions.)

FY 2016 Inholdings, Emergencies, and Hardships Projects

State	Project	Acres Acquired	Costs
Alaska	Alaska Maritime NWR	160.0	\$80,000
	Alaska Peninsula NWR	0.4	\$145,000
	Arctic NWR	40.0	\$64,000
	Tetlin NWR	37.5	\$38,900
	Yukon Delta NWR	239.9	\$172,100
Arkansas	Cache River NWR	113.8	\$90,276
	Felsenthal NWR	179.8	\$203,300
California	Blue Ridge NWR	19.8	\$55,000
	Grasslands WMA	43.4	\$321,428
Connecticut	Stewart B. McKinney NWR	2.0	\$182,590
Florida	Florida Panther NWR	4.0	\$60,000
	Hobe Sound NWR	56.8	\$300,000
	Lake Wales Ridge NWR	0.2	\$8,500
Georgia	Okefenokee NWR	447.1	\$69,465
Illinois	Cypress Creek NWR	75.5	\$68,675
Iowa	Neal Smith NWR	102.0	\$300,000
	Port Louisa NWR	23.0	\$51,000
Maine	Rachel Carson NWR	88.7	\$350,000
Massachusetts	Mashpee NWR	5.5	\$275,000
Mississippi	Theodore Roosevelt NWR	18.5	\$47,000
Montana	Charles M. Russell NWR	764.3	\$350,000
	Creston NFH	20.4	\$253,000
	Grass Lake NWR (formerly Halfbreed Lake NWR)	540.0	\$3,151
	Lost Trail NWR	1,027.2	\$3,538
	Red Rock Lakes NWR	9,580.0	\$70,687
Nevada	Sheldon NWR	60.0	\$33,000
New Jersey	Edwin B. Forsythe NWR	40.2	\$101,400
Oklahoma	Little River Valley NWR	4.8	\$230,000
Pennsylvania	Cherry Valley NWR	188.4	\$332,500
Texas	Balcones Canyonlands NWR	520.6	\$1,322,245
Utah	Ouray NWR	1,139.9	\$7,910
Wyoming	Cokeville NWR	320.0	\$4,082
Total, 2016 Inholdings, Emergencies, and Hardships		15,863.5	\$5,593,747

Highlands Conservation Act

This activity provides grant funding to the States of Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania to preserve and protect “the water, forest, agricultural, wildlife, recreational, and cultural resources” of the Highlands region. The State or a State agency owns the land, not the Service. The Governors of these States, with input from pertinent units of local government and the public, jointly identify land conservation partnership projects and submit a list of proposed project areas to the Service.

Project areas are evaluated by a committee of State, Service, U.S. Forest Service, and National Park Service representatives, and one project area from each State is selected. The Service has responsibility to administer the project grants once selected. Typically, the highest ranking project area receives 50 percent of the available funds, and the other 50 percent evenly spent among the remaining three States. However, due to the timing of past appropriations, some years the selection committee decided to spread the funds evenly among all four States.

This program has directed more than \$26 million to the four Highlands States in the previous fiscal years.

Funds Provided to Date by State					
FY	CT	NJ	NY	PA	Total
2007	\$492,750	\$492,750	\$492,750	\$492,750	\$1,971,000
2008	\$246,100	\$246,100	\$984,400	\$246,100	\$1,722,700
2009	\$241,666	\$241,666	\$241,666	\$725,000	\$1,449,998
2010	\$646,666	\$1,940,000	\$646,666	\$646,666	\$3,879,998
2012	\$805,333	\$805,333	\$2,416,000	\$805,333	\$4,831,999
2015	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$3,000,000
2016	\$2,420,000	\$2,420,000	\$2,420,000	\$2,420,000	\$9,680,000
Total	\$5,602,515	\$6,895,849	\$7,951,482	\$6,085,849	\$26,535,695

Two recent acquisitions in the East Hudson Highlands Project Area are described below:

A 59-acre property that creates natural habitat connections, preserves emergent marsh habitat and vernal pools, and protects drinking water basins and aquifers became part of the Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve in FY 2016. The acquisition protects habitat for the cerulean warbler, red-headed woodpecker, golden-winged warbler, Canada warbler, whip-poor-will, long-eared owl, timber rattlesnake, eastern hognose snake, box turtle, spotted turtle, blue-spotted salamander, Jefferson salamander, American bittern, least bittern, pied-billed grebe, Fowler’s toad, and New England cottontail. The acquisition also enabled New York State to expand current management practices while slowing habitat loss and fragmentation in an area close to metropolitan New York City.



Fowler’s toad. Credit: USFWS.

A 235-acre property became part of New York’s Clarence Fahnestock Memorial State Park. A prominent feature of the property is a locally known large rock outcropping, called Adam’s Ledge. The property is adjacent to a State Bird Conservation Area, has been identified as an Important Bird Area, and is used as a wildlife corridor for many species, including bears and bobcats.

Sportsmen and Recreational Access

This activity provides funding for acquisition of small parcels of land to conserve important wildlife habitats that provide public recreational opportunities, including hunting and fishing. Refuges that have willing sellers may request funds to acquire lands to provide public access for wildlife-dependent recreation, such as hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation.

The criteria being considered are in priority order:

- Provides access to refuge areas previously inaccessible for hunting and/or fishing
- Acquire areas that can be readily opened to hunting and/or fishing

- Acquire areas that expand existing hunting and/or fishing opportunities
- Acquire areas that create or expand wildlife viewing, interpretation, environmental education, and photography opportunities

Federal Refuges/Projects

This activity funds individual land acquisition projects. Using LWCF appropriations, the Service acquires land in fee title or conservation easement. The acquired lands protect habitat for wildlife and often enhance resource management capability. Fee title acquisitions generate economic benefits for local communities and provide the public with opportunities to hunt, fish, observe and photograph wildlife, and enjoy environmental education and interpretation. FY 2016 acquisitions include:



A new acquisition at Creston NFH (Montana) will protect the hatchery's water supply.

Credit: L.K. Stevenson/USFWS

Creston National Fish Hatchery, Montana

The Service acquired 20 acres for the Creston National Fish Hatchery (NFH). The hatchery rears native westslope cutthroat and rainbow trout for restoration, mitigation, tribal, and cooperative fishery management programs, which fulfill Tribal, State, and Federal fishery management goals across Montana. The hatchery's fish production helps replenish and restore sustainable trout populations, provide angling opportunities for recreational users, and enhance Montana native fish populations. Creston's fish production translates into distribution of over 900,000 fish into Montana waters annually. As a result of the Creston NFH's stocking efforts, annual economic benefits produce over 150,000 angler days with an estimated local economic benefit valued at approximately 10 million dollars.

Okefenokee and St. Marks National Wildlife Refuges, Georgia and Florida

The longleaf pine ecosystem is one of the most endangered ecosystems in the U.S. It provides critical habitat for many imperiled species, including 29 federally threatened and endangered species and 900 endemic plant species. This vast ecosystem once encompassed over 90 million acres, but it is nearly gone, with most of the about 3 million acres of remnants found on public lands. In 2009, a range-wide conservation plan was developed by an extensive partnership of Federal, State, and private entities to guide the restoration and recovery of this exceptional ecosystem.

In 2016, the Service acquired 3,606 acres at Okefenokee Refuge (working with The Conservation Fund) and 1,001 acres at St. Marks Refuge (working with the Sam Shine Foundation). These lands are some of the highest priority to protect and restore critical habitat for the threatened frosted flatwoods salamander; conserve important habitat for the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker and three federally listed plants; secure vital wildlife corridors and habitat; improve refuge management; enhance public recreation access; and help to protect private lands from wildfire. Acquisition of the St. Marks tracts expanded small game, deer, turkey, and wild hog hunting opportunities. This project also helps protect and restore the headwaters of the free-flowing Suwannee and St. Mary's Rivers, which are part of the largest intact watershed in the East and critical watersheds that recharge the Floridian Aquifer that provides drinking water for much of north Florida.

Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, Washington

The Service acquired two tracts totaling 20 acres for Turnbull Refuge. The tracts contain 17 acres of native pine-steppe uplands and three acres of wetlands. These tracts provide connectivity with a 238-acre section of the Refuge.



*Turnbull NWR (Washington)
Credit: Charlie Parrott/USFWS*

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE LAND ACQUISITION			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2016	2017	2018
Identification Code 010-18-14-5020	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Combined Schedule (X)			
Obligations by program activity:			
0001 Land Acquisition Management	13	13	13
0002 Exchanges	2	2	2
0003 Emergencies, Hardships, and Inholdings	6	6	6
0004 Highlands Conservation Act	4	7	6
0005 Land Acquisitions	23	35	25
0006 Sportsmen and Recreational Access	0	5	4
0100 total, direct program	48	68	56
0799 Total direct obligations	48	68	56
0801 Land Acquisition (Reimbursable)	1	1	0
0900 Total new obligations, unexpired accounts	49	69	56
Budgetary resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	36	56	57
1021 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	0	1	1
1050 Unobligated balance (total)	36	57	58
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, discretionary:			
1101 Appropriation LWCF [014-5005]	69	68	17
1160 Appropriation, discretionary (total)	69	68	17
Spending authority from offsetting collections, discretionary:			
1700 Collected	1	1	1
1701 Change in uncollected payments, Federal sources	-1	0	0
1750 Spending auth from offsetting collections, disc (total)	0	1	1
1900 Budget authority (total)	69	69	18
1930 Total budgetary resources available	105	126	76
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	56	57	20
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	16	23	22
3010 New obligations, unexpired accounts	49	69	56
3020 Outlays (gross)	-42	-69	-56
3040 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations, unexpired	0	-1	-1
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	23	22	21
Uncollected payments:			
3060 Uncollected pymts, Fed sources, brought forward, Oct 1	-1	0	0
3070 Change in uncollected pymts, Fed sources, unexpired	1	0	0
3090 Uncollected pymts, Fed sources, end of year	0	0	0
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	15	23	22
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	23	22	21
Budget authority and outlays, net:			
Discretionary:			
4000 Budget authority, gross	69	69	18
Outlays, gross:			
4010 Outlays from new discretionary authority	18	28	8
4011 Outlays from discretionary balances	24	41	48
4020 Outlays, gross (total)	42	69	56

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE LAND ACQUISITION			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2016	2017	2018
Identification Code 010-18-14-5020	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Offsets against gross budget authority and outlays:			
Offsetting collections (collected) from:			
4030 Federal sources	-1	-1	-1
Additional offsets against gross budget authority only:			
4050 Change in uncollected pymts, Fed sources, unexpired	1	0	0
4070 Budget authority, net (discretionary)	69	68	17
4080 Outlays, net (discretionary)	41	68	55
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	69	68	17
4190 Outlays, net (total)	41	68	55
Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	7	7	7
12.1 Civilian personnel benefits	3	3	3
23.1 Rental payments to GSA	1	1	1
25.2 Other services from non-Federal sources	2	2	1
25.3 Other goods and services from Federal sources	3	3	2
32.0 Land and structures	29	47	37
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	3	5	5
99.0 Subtotal, obligations, Direct obligations	48	68	56
Reimbursable obligations:			
32.0 Land and structures	1	1	0
99.9 Total new obligations, unexpired accounts	49	69	56
Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	80	77	74

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National Wildlife Refuge Fund



Appropriations Language

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

Note.—A full-year 2017 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the budget was prepared; therefore, the budget assumes this account is operating under the Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2017 (P.L. 114–254). The amounts included for 2017 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution.

Authorizing Statutes

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

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

Appropriation: National Wildlife Refuge Fund

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018			Change from 2017 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Appropriations	(\$000)	13,228	13,203	0	0	-13,203	0	-13,203
Receipts*	(\$000)	11,383	8,233	0	0	+319	8,552	+319
Total, National Wildlife Refuge Fund	(\$000)	24,611	21,436	0	0	0	8,552	
	FTE	3	3	0	0	0	3	0

*The amount presented in 2016 and 2017 includes the sequestration in accordance with Sec. 251(a) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act, 2 U.S.C 901(a). In addition, the amounts in 2016, 2017, and 2018 include amounts previously sequestered, which are now available in accordance with said Act.

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for National Wildlife Refuge Fund

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Appropriations	-13,203	0
TOTAL Program Changes	-13,203	0

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for National Wildlife Refuge Fund is \$0 and 0 FTE, a program change of -\$13,203,000 and +0 FTE from the FY 2017 Baseline CR Baseline.

Discretionary Appropriations (-\$13,203,000/+0 FTE)

The Service continues to propose the elimination of the entire appropriated (discretionary) portion of this program, though the mandatory receipts collected and allocated under this program would remain. This Fund was intended to compensate communities for lost tax revenue from Federal land acquisitions, but evidence shows that refuges often generate tax revenue for communities in excess of what was lost by increasing property values and creating tourism opportunities for the American public to connect with nature.

Mandatory Receipts: The 2018 estimate for National Wildlife Refuge Fund revenue is \$8,552,000.

Program Overview

The purpose of the Refuge Revenue Sharing Act is to share revenues derived from refuge lands with localities and compensate local governments for lost tax revenues from Federal land acquisition. The Act authorizes revenues and direct appropriations to be deposited into a special fund, the National Wildlife Refuge Fund (NWRF), and used for payments to counties in which lands are acquired in fee (fee land) or reserved from the public domain (reserved land) and managed by the Service for fish and wildlife purposes minus any associated costs. These revenues are typically between \$6 and \$8 million each year and 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 that entitles counties to whichever is the highest of the following amounts:

- 1) 25 percent of the net receipts;
- 2) 3/4 of 1 percent of the fair market value of the land; or

- 3) 75 cents per acre.

Every five years, land 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, Congress may appropriate an amount equal to the difference between net receipts and the full authorized payment.

Reserved Lands

The refuge revenue sharing payments made on lands reserved from the public domain and administered by the Service are always 25 percent of the net receipts collected from the reserved land in the county. If no receipts are collected, there is no revenue sharing payment. However, if congressionally authorized, the Department of the Interior makes Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) (31 U.S.C. 6901-6907) on all public domain lands, including Service-reserved lands. PILTs are Federal payments to local governments that help offset losses in property taxes due to non-taxable Federal lands within their boundaries, are made from appropriated funds only, and are based on the Consumer Price Index. The Service reports annually 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 local government.

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 the sale of surplus animals and collecting the refuge share of crops;
- Costs of conducting land appraisals; and
- Costs of processing applications, creating reports, and maintaining records.

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act addresses procedures for oil and gas leasing on non-North Slope Federal lands in Alaska and for transportation and utility systems in and across the Alaska conservation system units. An applicant pays the cost to process an application or administer a permit relating to utility and transportation systems or seismic exploration. These payments directly reimburse management costs.

2018 Program Performance

According to current projections, payments to counties in 2018 will equal \$5,622,000 with appropriations of \$0 and estimated receipts of \$8,000,000, less expenses and sequestration changes.

<i>(Dollars in Thousands)</i>				
National Wildlife Refuge Fund	2016 Actual	2017 Estimate	2018 Estimate	Program Change (+/-)
Receipts / Expenses				
Receipts Collected	11,540	8,000	8,000	0
Sequestration*	-785	-522	0	+522
Recoveries	0	100	100	0
Expenses for Sales	-2,434	-2,424	-2,424	0
ANILCA Expenses	-20	-10	-10	0
Estimated User-Pay Cost Share	-71	-44	-75	-31
Net Receipts				
Available during the following year	8,230	5,100	5,591	+491
Payments to Counties				
Receipts Available - collected previous year		8,230	5,100	-3,130
Sequestration Restored		785	522	-263
Appropriations		0	0	0
Total Available for Payments to Counties		9,015	5,622	-3,393

*2018 amount assumes no sequestration.

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FUND			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2016	2017	2018
Identification Code 010-18-14-5091	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Special and Trust Fund Receipts (N)			
0100 Balance, start of year	0	1	1
Receipts:			
1130 National Wildlife Refuge Fund [010-00-509110-0-200403]	12	8	8
2000 Total: Balance and receipts	12	9	9
Appropriations:			
2101 National Wildlife Refuge Fund [010-00-5091-0-1201]	-11	-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	-11	-8	-9
5099 Balance, end of year	1	1	0
Combined Schedule (X)			
Obligations by program activity:			
0001 Expenses for sales	3	3	3
0003 Payments to counties	19	19	6
0900 Total new obligations, unexpired accounts	22	22	9
Budgetary resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	6	8	7
1001 Discretionary unobligated balance brought fwd, Oct 1	0	0	0
1050 Unobligated balance (total)	6	8	7
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, discretionary:			
1100 Appropriation	13	13	0
1160 Appropriation, discretionary (total)	13	13	0
Appropriations, mandatory:			
1201 Appropriation (special or trust fund)	11	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)	11	8	9
1900 Budget authority (total)	24	21	9
1930 Total budgetary resources available	30	29	16
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	8	7	7
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	1	1	0
3010 New obligations, unexpired accounts	22	22	9
3020 Outlays (gross)	-22	-23	-9
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	1	0	0
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	1	1	0
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	1	0	0

<p>Standard Form 300</p> <p>DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR</p> <p>FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE</p> <p>NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FUND</p>
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Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2016	2017	2018
Identification Code 010-18-14-5091	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Budget authority and outlays, net:			
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	11	8	9
Outlays, gross:			
4100 Outlays from new mandatory authority	8	7	6
4101 Outlays from mandatory balances	1	3	3
4110 Outlays, gross (total)	9	10	9
4160 Budget authority, net (mandatory)	11	8	9
4170 Outlays, net (mandatory)	9	10	9
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	24	21	9
4190 Outlays, net (total)	22	23	9

Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
26.0 Supplies and materials	1	1	1
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	20	21	8
99.0 Subtotal, obligations, Direct obligations	21	22	9
99.5 Adjustment for rounding	1	0	0
99.9 Total new obligations, unexpired accounts	22	22	9

Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	3	3	3

Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

**Appropriations Language**

For expenses necessary to carry out section 6 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1535), \$19,303,000, to be derived from the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund and to remain available until expended.

Note.—A full-year 2017 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the budget was prepared; therefore, the budget assumes this account is operating under the Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2017 (P.L. 114–254). The amounts included for 2017 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution.

Authorizing Statutes

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). Prohibits the import, export, or taking of fish and wildlife and plants that are listed as threatened or endangered species; provides for adding species to and removing them from the list of threatened and endangered species, and for preparing and implementing plans for their recovery; provides for interagency cooperation to avoid take of listed species and for issuing permits for otherwise prohibited activities; and implements the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES). Authorization of Appropriations: Expired September 30, 1992.

Appropriation: Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

		2016 Enacted	2017 CR Baseline	2018			Budget Request	Change from 2017 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
Conservation Grants	(\$000)	10,508	10,487	0	0	0	10,487	0
Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants	(\$000)	9,485	9,467	0	0	-2,949	6,518	-2,949
Species Recovery Land Acquisition	(\$000)	11,162	11,141	0	0	-11,141	0	-11,141
HCP Land Acquisition Grants to States	(\$000)	19,638	19,601	0	0	-19,601	0	-19,601
Administration	(\$000)	2,702	2,697	0	0	-399	2,298	-399
Total Appropriated Funds	(\$000) <i>FTE</i>	53,495 13	53,393 12	0 0	0 0	-34,090 -2	19,303 10	-34,090 -2
Mandatory – Unavailable Receipts**	(\$000)	67,744	75,900			-5,685	70,215	-5,685

** Amounts shown reflect an annual deposit of an amount equal to 5 percent of total Federal Aid/Sport Fish and Lacey Act violation collections above \$500,000 into this Special Fund. The Special Fund amounts are not available in the fiscal year in which they are collected, but are available for subsequent appropriation to the CESC.

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants	-2,949	0
• Recovery Land Acquisition Grants	-11,141	0
• HCP Land Acquisition Grants	-19,601	0
• Administration	-399	-2
Program Changes	-34,090	-2

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund is \$19,303,000 and 10 FTE, a program change of -\$34,090,000 and -2 FTE from the 2017 CR Baseline.

Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants (-\$2,949,000/+0 FTE)

Due to the fluctuating demand for the development of regional, multi-species habitat conservation plans (HCPs) from year to year, the Service is requesting to reduce funding for HCP Planning Assistance to align with anticipated demand. With this decrease, the Service anticipates funding nine HCP Planning Assistance grants in FY 2018, four fewer than are expected to be funded in FY 2017 under the CR.

Recovery Land Acquisition Grants (-\$11,141,000/+0 FTE)

This funding is provided to States to acquire habitat that promotes species recovery. Recovery Land Acquisition grants are matched by States and non-federal entities to acquire habitats from willing sellers. This decrease eliminates all funding for these grants, and the Service will not be able to award approximately 23 grants to States to address habitat loss, the primary threat to most listed species.

Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Land Acquisition Grants (-\$19,601,000/+0 FTE)

HCP Land Acquisition Grants are used by States and non-federal entities to acquire habitats from willing sellers and are meant to complement the mitigation responsibilities of HCP permittees. States and Territories receive grants for land acquisitions associated with approved HCPs because of their authorities and close working relationships with local governments and private landowners. In FY2018, the Service eliminates funding for these grants to focus on higher priorities; the Service expects to fund 12 of these grants in FY2017 under the CR.

Administration (-\$399,000/-2 FTE)

The reductions proposed for this grant program's land acquisition activities will reduce the administrative workload thus permitting the Service to reduce administrative resources. This funding is used to ensure compliance with requirements for Federal grant management and administrative oversight.

Program Overview

The Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (CESCF; Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act), administered by the Service's Ecological Services program, provides grant funding to States and Territories for species and habitat conservation actions on non-federal lands, including habitat acquisition, conservation planning, habitat restoration, status surveys, captive propagation and reintroduction, research, and education.

The Service implements the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended. The key purposes of the Act are to provide a means for conserving the ecosystems upon which endangered and threatened (federally-listed) species depend and to provide a program for the conservation of such species. The two primary goals are: (1) recovering federally-listed species, and (2) preventing the need to list species-at-risk. The Service's approach to achieving these goals is through minimizing or abating threats to the species.

Threats are categorized under the ESA as the following five factors:

- The present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of a listed species' habitat or range;
- Overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes;
- Disease or predation;
- The inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; and
- Other natural or manmade factors affecting a species' continued existence.

Because most listed species depend on habitat found on State and private lands, grant assistance through the CESCF program is crucial to conserving federally-listed species. States and Territories have been extremely effective in garnering voluntary participation by private landowners.

In order to receive funds under the CESCF program, States and Territories must contribute 25 percent of the estimated costs of approved projects, or 10 percent when two or more States or Territories implement a joint project. The balance of the cost is reimbursed through the grants. To ensure that States and Territories are able to effectively carry out endangered species conservation funded through these grants, a State or Territory must enter into a cooperative agreement with the Service to receive grants. All 50 States currently have cooperative agreements for animals, and 44 States have cooperative agreements for plants. All but one of the Territories have cooperative agreements for both animals and plants.

Traditional Conservation Grants

Conservation Grants provide financial assistance to States and Territories to implement conservation projects for listed and candidate species. The Service makes a regional allocation of these funds based on

the number of species covered under cooperative agreements within each Service region. Each Region then solicits proposals and selects projects based on species and habitat conservation benefits and other factors. States receive Conservation Grants funding to implement recovery actions for listed species, implement conservation measures for candidate species, and perform research and monitoring critical to conservation of imperiled species.

Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants

By developing regional, multi-species HCPs, local governments and planning jurisdictions incorporate species conservation into local land use plans, streamlining the project approval process. Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants provide funding to States to assist local governments and planning jurisdictions develop regional, multi-species HCPs.

Recovery Land Acquisition Grants

Loss of habitat is the primary threat to most listed species. Land acquisition is often the most effective and efficient means of safeguarding habitats essential for recovery of listed species from development or other land use changes that impair or destroy key habitat values. Land acquisition is costly, and neither the Service nor States and Territories individually have all the resources necessary to acquire habitats essential for recovery of listed species. Recovery Land Acquisition Grants are matched by States and non-federal entities to acquire these habitats from willing sellers.

Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Land Acquisition Grants

The conservation benefits provided by HCPs can be greatly increased by protecting important habitat areas associated with HCPs. HCP Land Acquisition Grants are used by States and non-federal entities to acquire habitats from willing sellers and are meant to complement, not replace, the mitigation responsibilities of HCP permittees. States and Territories receive grants for land acquisitions associated with approved HCPs because of their authorities and close working relationships with local governments and private landowners.

Administration

Federal grant management and administrative oversight are necessary to ensure compliance with program requirements and purposes. The funding requested for Administration allows the Service to carry out these responsibilities.

2018 Program Performance

Traditional Conservation Grants

The Service awarded 221 Traditional Conservation Grants in FY 2016. With the requested program funding, the Service expects to fund a similar level of grants as in prior years given stable funding.

Use of Cost and Performance Information

- HCP Land Acquisition, HCP Planning Assistance, and Species Recovery Land Acquisition Grants are awarded through national and regional competitions. The established eligibility and ranking criteria for the program and the competitions conducted to select grants allow the Service to focus the program on its overall goals and ensure that program performance goals are achieved.
- The Service continues to analyze results from previous years of the program to further refine program elements to better meet program goals. Since 2012, the Service has targeted 10 percent of the HCP Land Acquisition funding to support single-species HCPs to further the conservation of high priority species across the Nation.

In 2016, the following were awarded:

- 7 HCP Planning Assistance Grants to States.
- 20 Recovery Land Acquisition Grants to States and Territories.
- 10 HCP Land Acquisition Grants to States.
- 221 Traditional Conservation Grants to States and Territories.

Examples are listed below. Each project includes the Federal funds provided through the CESCOF program, but in all cases these funds were leveraged by State, county, city, or private matching funds.

- Bull trout population monitoring, stock assessments, and genetics in Washington, \$45,000.
- Establishment of a population of Guam Rail on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, \$6,100.
- Conservation of Arkansas River shiner and peppered chub in New Mexico, \$14,000.
- Grazing and pecan orchard impacts on the American burying beetle in Oklahoma, \$20,000.
- Forest management effects on the population ecology of timber rattlesnakes in Ohio, \$61,816.
- Endangered bat monitoring in Arkansas, \$15,000.
- Pallid sturgeon surveys in the Lower Platte River, Nebraska, \$21,603.
- Native trout management in Nevada, \$82,575.
- Southwestern willow flycatcher and western yellow-billed surveys and habitat availability modeling on the Santa Clara River, California, \$266,536.



Southwestern willow flycatcher.
Photo credit: USFWS/Jim Rorabaugh

Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants

The Service published a request for FY 2017 proposals in January 2017; proposals were due in March 2017. With the requested program funding, the Service anticipates funding about four grants in FY 2018 given the current reduction in demand for the development of regional, multi-species HCPs as requests for funding through this program fluctuates from year to year.

The Service awarded seven HCP Assistance Grants in September 2016. Examples are listed below. Each project includes the Federal funds provided through the CESCOF program, but in all cases these funds were leveraged by State, county, city, or private matching funds.

- **Deschutes Basin Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan in Oregon, \$700,000.**
The Deschutes Basin Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (DBHCP) is being prepared by eight Irrigation Districts and the City of Prineville to maintain and improve habitat for the federally-listed Oregon spotted frog, bull trout, Middle Columbia River steelhead, sockeye salmon, and Chinook salmon in the Upper Deschutes Basin, while meeting current and future irrigation and municipal water needs in a balanced, economically viable, and sustainable manner. The DBHCP will bring certainty to endangered species management and irrigated agriculture in the Upper Deschutes Basin, and will serve as a model for coordinated and cooperative use of water resources throughout the irrigated western United States. This funding supports the final phase of a multi-year collaboration between the eight Irrigation Districts, Prineville, State and Federal resource agencies, and non-governmental stakeholders in the Deschutes Basin.¹

¹ Please see <https://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/pdf/FY16.CESCOF-ProjectDescriptions.pdf> for a full list of awarded projects.

- **Multi-State Habitat Conservation Plan for Cave-Dwelling Bats in Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin, \$487,350.**

This grant will enable the continued development of the multi-species HCP, associated NEPA document, and on-going studies and investigations to inform forest management practices and bat conservation in the Midwest. The project will result in a better understanding of species distribution and summer habitat use by cave dwelling bats, including the federally-listed Indiana and northern long-eared bats. The project will also develop approaches to conserve covered



Indiana bat. Photo credit: USFWS/Ann Froschauer

species while allowing sustainable forest management practices, which in-turn, will allow public and private landowners to collaboratively meet economic, ecological and social goals.

Recovery Land Acquisition Grants

The Service awarded 20 Recovery Land Acquisition Grants in September 2016. Examples are listed below. Each project includes the Federal funds provided through the CESCOF program, but in all cases these funds were leveraged by State, county, city, or private matching funds.²

- **Native Prairie Habitat Protection for Dakota Skipper in Minnesota, \$300,000.**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will permanently protect 100 acres of prairie habitat to support the federally-listed endangered Dakota skipper and Poweshiek skipperling. The acquisition will also protect a critical seed resource for future prairie restoration efforts. The acquisition will be associated with the State of Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area and will likely be open to the public for standard recreational activities.

- **Wallkill River Bog Turtle Recovery in New Jersey, \$850,000.**

The State of New Jersey will acquire a 220-acre property to permanently protect key habitat for the federally-listed threatened bog turtle. The State of New Jersey Green Acres Program is working with the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust to protect this and adjacent properties in perpetuity. This land will be open to the public and provide opportunities for passive recreational pursuits such as hiking and bird watching.



*Newly hatched bog turtle.
Photo credit: USFWS/Rosie Walunas*

Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Land Acquisition Grants

The Service awarded 10 HCP Land Acquisition Grants in September 2016. Examples are listed below. Each project includes the Federal funds provided through the CESCOF program, but in all cases these funds were leveraged by State, county, city, or private matching funds.²

- **Grand Coulee Ranch in Washington, \$2,000,000.**

The Grand Coulee Ranch (GCR) project is part of an ongoing Washington Department of Fish Wildlife (WDFW) effort to conserve over 20,571 acres of shrub-steppe habitat in Douglas County to protect and conserve shrub-steppe obligate species. The GCR project has completed two of three acquisitions, securing 13,321 acres for conservation, and establishing WDFW's Big Bend Wildlife Area Unit. This grant will aid in the acquisition of 4,255 acres of the remaining 7,250 acres currently under purchase agreement. The Grand Coulee Ranch is one of the few large tracts of shrub-steppe suitable for conservation of the Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit, greater sage-grouse, Washington ground squirrel, and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse. The area also provides important habitat for 24 state-listed wildlife and plant species. Acquisition will provide public access to a significant new natural area with roughly 13 miles of shoreline along the Columbia River's Rufus Woods Reservoir.

- **Coachella Valley Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan in California, \$2,000,000.**

This grant will result in the acquisition of up to 4,823 acres that will greatly enhance the Coachella Valley MSHCP by securing key regional wildlife linkages, sand transport areas, and

² Please see <https://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/pdf/FY16.CESCOF-ProjectDescriptions.pdf> for a full list of awarded projects.

core habitat areas. These land acquisitions will benefit many sensitive species, including federally-listed species such as Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, desert tortoise, and peninsular bighorn sheep. The proposed acquisitions will complement and greatly enhance the ecological value of the many other acquisitions that have occurred in these areas in the last few years.

- **Whitefish Lake Watershed Project in Montana, \$2,000,000.**

A conservation easement on this Plum Creek property will greatly complement conservation efforts for the landscape-scale Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation HCP. It will preserve vital habitat for the Canada lynx, bull trout, and grizzly bear and ensure critical linkages for these federally-listed species are maintained. This acquisition will secure some of the remaining unprotected habitat in a large partnership effort to conserve much of the Crown of the Continent, including working lands, in northwestern Montana.



Bull trout.

*Photo credit: USFWS/Joel Sartore/National Geographic Stock
with Wade Fredenberg*

Standard Form 300 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE COOPERATIVE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2016	2017	2018
Identification Code 010-18-5143	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Special and Trust Fund Receipts (N)			
0100 Balance, start of year	457	507	561
0198 Rounding Adjustment	5	0	0
0199 Balance, start of year	462	507	561
Receipts			
1140 Payment from the General Fund, Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund [010-00-514300-0-200403]	68	76	70
2000 Total: Balances and collections	530	583	631
Appropriations			
2101 Payment from the General Fund, Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund [010-18-514300-0-1101]	-22	-22	-19
5098 Rounding Adjustment	-1	0	0
5099 Balance, end of year	507	561	612
Combined Schedule (X)			
Obligations by program activity:			
0001 Conservation Grants to States	16	10	10
0002 HCP Planning Assistance Grants	5	9	7
0004 Administration	2	2	3
0005 HCP Land Acquisition Grants to States	12	19	0
0006 Species Recovery Land Acquisition	6	11	0
0007 Payment to special fund unavailable receipt account	68	76	70
0900 Total new obligations, unexpired accounts	109	127	90
Budgetary resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	94	112	126
1001 Discretionary unobligated balance brought fwd, Oct 1	94	112	0
1021 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	6	12	12
1050 Unobligated balance (total)	100	124	138
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, discretionary:			
1101 Appropriation LWCF special fund [145005]	31	31	0
1101 Appropriation CESCFC special fund [145143]	22	22	19
1160 Appropriation, discretionary (total)	53	53	19
Appropriations, mandatory:			
1200 Appropriation	68	76	70
1260 Appropriations, mandatory (total)	68	76	70
1900 Budget authority (total)	121	129	89
1930 Total budgetary resources available	221	253	227
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	112	126	137
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	99	88	73
3010 New obligations, unexpired accounts	109	127	90
3020 Outlays (gross)	-114	-130	-124
3040 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations, unexpired	-6	-12	-12
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	88	73	27
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	99	88	73
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	88	73	27
Budget authority and outlays, net:			
Discretionary:			
4000 Budget authority, gross	53	53	19

Standard Form 300 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE COOPERATIVE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) Identification Code 010-18-5143	2016 Actual	2017 Estimate	2018 Estimate
Outlays, gross:			
4010 Outlays from new discretionary authority	1	5	2
4011 Outlays from discretionary balances	45	49	52
4020 Outlays, gross (total)	46	54	54
4070 Budget authority, net (discretionary)	53	53	19
4080 Outlays, net (discretionary)	46	54	54
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	68	76	70
Outlays, gross:			
4100 Outlays from new mandatory authority	68	76	70
4160 Budget authority, net (mandatory)	68	76	70
4170 Outlays, net (mandatory)	68	76	70
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	121	129	89
4190 Outlays, net (total)	114	130	124
Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	1	1	1
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	39	50	19
94.0 Financial transfers	68	76	70
99.0 Subtotal, obligations, Direct obligations	108	127	90
99.5 Adjustment for rounding	1	0	0
99.9 Total new obligations, unexpired accounts	109	127	90
Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	13	12	10

North American Wetlands Conservation Fund



Appropriations Language

For expenses necessary to carry out the provisions of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 4401 et seq.), \$33,600,000, to remain available until expended.

Note.—A full-year 2017 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the budget was prepared; therefore, the budget assumes this account is operating under the Furthering Continuing Appropriations Act, 2017 (P.L. 114-254). The amounts included for 2017 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution.

Authorizing Statutes

North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989, (16 U.S.C. 4401-4414). Section 4406 of the Act (NAWCA) authorizes fines, penalties, and forfeitures from violations of the *Migratory Bird Treaty Act* to be made available for wetlands conservation projects. Section 4407 authorizes interest on excise taxes for hunting equipment deposited for wetlands conservation grants and costs for administering this grant program. Such amounts have been permanently appropriated as provided in Public Law 103-138. The Act authorizes appropriations to be used to encourage partnerships among public agencies and other interests to protect, enhance, restore, and manage wetland ecosystems and other habitats for migratory birds and other fish and wildlife; to maintain current or improved distributions of migratory bird populations; and to sustain an abundance of waterfowl and other migratory birds consistent with goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and international obligations with other countries.

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act, (16 U.S.C. 3951-3956). Establishes the National Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Program within the Sport Fish Restoration Account for projects authorized by NAWCA in coastal States.

Aquatic Resources Trust Fund, (26 U.S.C. 9504). Authorizes appropriations from the Sport Fish Restoration Account to carry out the *Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act*.

Appropriation: North American Wetlands Conservation Fund
Activity: North American Wetlands Conservation Fund

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018			Change from 2017 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
<u>Appropriations:</u>								
North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	(\$000)	35,145	35,078	0	0	-1,478	33,600	-1,478
<u>Receipts</u>								
<u>(Mandatory):</u>								
Migratory Bird Treaty Act Fines	(\$000)	19,446	11,401	0	0	+1,299	12,700	+1,299
Total, North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	(\$000)	54,591	46,479	0	0	-179	46,300	-179
FTE		11	8	0	0	0	8	0

* The amounts presented in 2016 and 2017 include the sequestration in accordance with Sec. 251A of the BBDECA, 2 U.S.C 901a. In addition, the amounts in 2016, 2017 and 2018 include amounts previously sequestered which are now available in accordance with said Act.

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for North American Wetlands Conservation Fund

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	-1,478	0
Program Changes	-1,478	0

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund is \$33,600,000 and 8 FTE, a program change of -\$1,478 and +0 FTE from the 2017 CR Baseline.

Mandatory Receipts - Receipts are derived from court-imposed fines for violations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and vary greatly from year to year. The FY 2017 estimate is \$12,700,000 for this account.

North American Wetlands Conservation Fund (-\$1,478,000/+0 FTE)

In FY 2018, the Service is decreasing its request for discretionary funding for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) to fund higher priorities within available discretionary resources. This grant program will continue to receive funds from non-discretionary sources provided by the Act, as well as penalties from the Deepwater Horizon Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

Program Overview

Since 1990, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) has supported partnerships that protect, enhance, and restore habitat for wetland-dependent birds and other wildlife—from the boreal forest of Canada, to the Mississippi delta, to the grasslands of Mexico, and from coast to coast. Through NAWCA, Federal funds are typically matched at twice the legally required 1:1 match-to-grant ratio and put to work toward projects that not only provide significant conservation of the Nation's highly-valued waterfowl resource, but also:

- Sustain hunting and fishing and increase both the quality and quantity of opportunities for outdoor recreation;
- Promote flood control, recharge groundwater stores, and improve water quality;

- Support the recovery of endangered and threatened species;
- Help implement the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and other national and international bird conservation plans; and
- Achieve the Service’s long-term goal of supporting healthy and sustainable migratory bird populations.

Partners in NAWCA projects include private landowners, States, local governments, conservation organizations, national and local sportsmen’s groups, Tribes, trusts, and corporations.

Investments that Matter

NAWCA funds are invested in thousands of public-private partnerships that protect and improve the health and integrity of wetland-dominated landscapes across North America. These habitats are critically important for sustaining North American waterfowl populations and a diversity of native fish and wildlife species. NAWCA-funded projects also improve hydrologic functions in and around project areas, benefiting nearby human communities and industry.

For example, several NAWCA projects in the Butte and Colusa drainage basins of the Central Valley of California help improve the water supply and delivery to key wetland areas by working with private and public landowners to emphasize water use efficiency. Water for wetlands in the Central Valley is limited, so habitat benefits must be maximized with the water that is available. With help from NAWCA projects, landowners have refurbished their water management systems. These projects will allow water to be reused several times before leaving a property; reduce mosquito production and the risk of mosquito-borne diseases; and improve wetland management capabilities.

Project proposals and grantees undergo a rigorous review process to ensure they comply with the purposes of the Act and financial assistance requirements. Once grant funding is awarded, the Service monitors projects to confirm that project objectives are met and ensure regulatory compliance. This oversight promotes the successful implementation of strategic, long-term habitat conservation and ensures program accountability.

Through FY 2016, the NAWCA program has supported over 2,600 projects in 50 U.S. States, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, 13 Canadian provinces and territories, and 31 Mexican States. More than 5,600 partners have conserved 34.8 million acres.

NAWCA GRANT PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS 1991-2016

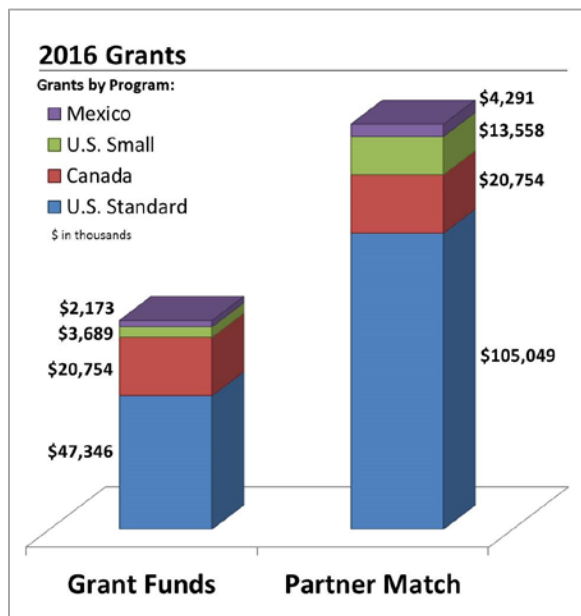
Country	Protected Acres	Enhanced, Restored, and Created Acres	Number of Projects
Canada	14,883,825	3,328,001*	547
Mexico	2,164,105	1,631,004	297
U.S.	5,839,771	3,995,756	1,800
All Countries	22,887,230	8,954,761	2,644

Acres represent total proposed acres approved for funding in the U.S. and Canada through FY 2016. Some acres are included in both “Protected” and “Enhanced, Restored and Created” due to multiple activities occurring on the same properties. Additionally, some protection is not perpetual. Therefore, the two categories should not be added to demonstrate total acres affected over the life of the program.

* This figure includes 413,910 acres of moist soil management completed prior to 1998.

Supporting Service-Wide Priorities

- NAWCA is a critical funding source for migratory bird habitat conservation, but the program also contributes to the conservation of a range of wetland-dependent species, and supports national and international conservation priorities. NAWCA-supported projects complement Service conservation efforts through the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Endangered Species Act, National Wildlife Refuges, and other programs.
- NAWCA also supports the Service’s mission to ensure the conservation of wildlife for the benefit and enjoyment of all Americans by funding projects that enrich and increase outdoor recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing, hiking, and bird-watching.
- The NAWCA grant program also complements conservation actions of other agencies, including the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, and Department of Defense.



Forested wetlands (a declining wetland type) within the Mid-Barataria Wetlands Project in southeast Louisiana. Protection and restoration of this 2,047 wetland acre project will improve habitat within a broader network of wetlands managed for wildlife and conservation. Credit: Stacey Shankle

A Grant for Every Project Type

Standard Grants are open to applicants in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. Individual grant amounts in the U.S. are typically \$750,000 to \$1,000,000. Eligible grantees must provide non-federal matching funds at least equal to the award amount.

Through 2016, NAWCA Standard Grants have supported more than 4,300 partners as they implemented 1,894 projects worth over \$5.5 billion. NAWCA contributed \$1.4 billion to these projects, with total partner funds of more than \$4.1 billion. Almost \$2.8 billion of these partner funds are from non-federal sources, providing more than \$2 in eligible match for every NAWCA dollar awarded. More than 30 million acres of wetlands and associated uplands have been protected, restored, or enhanced through the Standard Grants Program in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

Small Grants, available for projects only in the U.S. and limited to \$100,000 per project. These grants allow smaller partners and projects to successfully compete for NAWCA funds. Small Grants attract new partners for wetland conservation and help diversify the types and locations of projects that NAWCA funds.

Currently, the Service allocates up to \$5 million of available NAWCA funding for Small Grant awards each year, depending on the availability of funds and number of qualifying projects. Through 2016, 750 projects have been approved for more than \$43.1 million in grant funds. Eligible partners have contributed more than \$155 million in non-federal matching funds (including in-kind contributions) to projects located in all 50 States and Puerto Rico. Such non-federal matching has allowed Small Grants to leverage almost \$4 for every NAWCA dollar awarded, affecting over 357,000 acres, benefitting diverse wetland and wetland-related habitats, and fostering new and expanded partnerships for the NAWCA program.

NAWCA Funding Sources

- Direct appropriations;
- Fines, penalties and forfeitures resulting from violations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act;
- Interest from receipts in the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration account; and
- Receipts from the Sport Fish Restoration account for U.S. coastal projects (Pacific and Atlantic coastal States, States bordering the Great Lakes, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa)

North American Wetlands Conservation Council and Migratory Bird Conservation Commission

The nine-member North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council) recommends NAWCA grant projects for approval by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (MBCC). The MBCC comprises the Service Director, the Secretary of the Board of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, State wildlife agency directors representing each of the migratory bird flyways (Atlantic, Mississippi, Central, Pacific), and representatives from three nonprofit conservation organizations actively involved in wetlands conservation projects. The Council also includes ex-officio members appointed at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior.

Chaired by the Secretary of the Interior, the Commission also includes two U.S. Senators and two U.S. Representatives, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. The MBCC approves or rejects recommended projects, or may reorder the priority of any Council-recommended project list.



Salsbury Salt Marsh is a 6-acre acquisition match tract through the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game project entitled Great Marsh II. Credit: Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game

Standard Form 300 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION FUND			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2016	2017	2018
Identification Code 010-18-14-5241	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Special and Trust Fund Receipts (N)			
0100 Balance, start of year	26	18	20
Receipts:			
0200 Fine, Penalties, and Forfeitures from Migratory Bird Treaty Act, North American Wetlands Conservation Fund [010-00-524100-0-000000]	12	13	17
2000 Total Balances and and receipts	38	31	37
Appropriations:			
2101 North American Wetlands Conservation Funds [010-18-5241-0-1201]	-21	-12	-13
2132 North American Wetlands Conservation Funds [010-18-5241-0-1232]	1	1	0
5099 Balance, end of year	18	20	24
Combined Schedule (X)			
Obligations by program activity:			
0003 Wetlands conservation projects	39	44	46
0900 Total new obligations, unexpired accounts	39	44	46
Budgetary resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	11	27	29
1001 Discretionary unobligated balance brought fwd, Oct 1	4	4	0
1050 Unobligated balance (total)	11	27	29
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, discretionary:			
1100 Appropriation	35	35	34
1160 Appropriation, discretionary (total)	35	35	34
Appropriations, mandatory:			
1201 Appropriation (special or trust fund)	21	12	13
1232 Appropriations and/or unobligated balance of appropriations temporarily reduced	-1	-1	0
1260 Appropriations, mandatory (total)	20	11	13
1900 Budget authority (total)	55	46	47
1930 Total budgetary resources available	66	73	76
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	27	29	30
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	82	72	76
3010 New obligations, unexpired accounts	39	44	46
3020 Outlays (gross)	-49	-40	-38
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	72	76	84
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	82	72	76
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	72	76	84
Budget authority and outlays, net:			
Discretionary:			
4000 Budget authority, gross	35	35	34
Outlays, gross:			
4010 Outlays from new discretionary authority	4	5	5
4011 Outlays from discretionary balances	28	21	19
4020 Outlays, gross (total)	32	26	24
4070 Budget authority, net (discretionary)	35	35	34
4080 Outlays, net (discretionary)	32	26	24

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION FUND			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) Identification Code 010-18-14-5241	2016 Actual	2017 Estimate	2018 Estimate
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	20	11	13
Outlays, gross:			
4100 Outlays from new mandatory authority	14	3	3
4101 Outlays from mandatory balances	3	11	11
4110 Outlays, gross (total)	17	14	14
4160 Budget authority, net (mandatory)	20	11	13
4170 Outlays, net (mandatory)	17	14	14
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	55	46	47
4190 Outlays, net (total)	49	40	38
Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	1	1	1
32.0 Land and structures	3	3	3
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	34	40	42
99.0 Subtotal, obligations, Direct obligations	38	44	46
99.5 Adjustment for rounding	1	0	0
99.9 Total new obligations, unexpired accounts	39	44	46
Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	11	8	8

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Multinational Species Conservation Fund



Appropriations Language

For expenses necessary to carry out the African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4201 et seq.), the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 4261 et seq.), the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), and the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 (16 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.), \$9,000,000, to remain available until expended.

Note.— A full-year 2017 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the budget was prepared; therefore, the budget assumes this account is operating under the Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2017 (P.L. 114–254). The amounts included for 2017 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution.

Authorizing Statutes

African Elephant Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 4201-4203, 4211-4214, 4221-4225, 4241-4246, 1538). Authorizes funding for approved projects for research, conservation, management and protection of African elephants and their habitats, including ivory trafficking. It authorizes prohibitions against the sale, importation, and exportation of ivory derived from African elephants. Authorization of Appropriations: Expired September 30, 2012.

Asian Elephant Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 4261-4266, 1538). Authorizes financial assistance for cooperative projects for the conservation and protection of Asian elephants and their habitats. Authorization of Appropriations: Expired September 30, 2012.

Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 5301-5306, 1538). Authorizes grants to other nations and to the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (*CITES*) Secretariat for programs directly or indirectly assisting in the conservation of rhinoceros and tigers in Asia and Africa, including trafficking of parts. Prohibits the sale, importation, and exportation of products derived from any species of rhinoceros and tiger. Authorization of Appropriations: Expired September 30, 2012.

Great Ape Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 6301-6305, 1538). Authorizes grants to foreign governments, the *CITES* Secretariat, and non-governmental organizations, for the conservation of great apes and their habitats. Authorization of Appropriations: Expired September 30, 2010.

Marine Turtle Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 6601-6607). Authorizes financial assistance for the conservation of marine turtles and their nesting habitats of marine turtles including bycatch. Authorization of Appropriations: Expired September 30, 2009.

Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp Act, (39 U.S.C. 416 note) as amended. Requires the United States Postal Service to issue and sell a Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp. The proceeds from the stamp are made available to the Service to help fund the operations supported by the Multinational Species Conservation Funds and divided equally among the existing Conservation Funds. Proceeds are prohibited from being taken into account in any decision

relating to the level of discretionary appropriations. The stamp is to be made available to the public for at least six years.

Appropriation: Multinational Species Conservation Fund

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018			Change from 2017 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
African Elephant Conservation Fund	(\$000)	2,582	2,577	0	0	-476	2,101	-476
Asian Elephant Conservation Fund	(\$000)	1,557	1,554	0	0	-287	1,267	-287
Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund	(\$000)	3,440	3,433	0	0	-635	2,798	-635
Great Ape Conservation Fund	(\$000)	1,975	1,971	0	0	-364	1,607	-364
Marine Turtle Conservation Fund	(\$000)	1,507	1,505	0	0	-278	1,227	-278
Total, Multinational Species Conservation Fund	(\$000)	11,061	11,040	0	0	-2,040	9,000	-2,040
	<i>FTE</i>	3	2	0	0	0	2	0

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for Multinational Species Conservation Fund

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• African Elephant Conservation Fund	-476	0
• Asian Elephant Conservation Fund	-287	0
• Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund	-635	0
• Great Ape Conservation Fund	-364	0
• Marine Turtle Conservation Fund	-278	0
Program Changes	-2,040	0

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for the Multinational Species Conservation Fund is \$9,000,000 and 2 FTE, a net program change of -\$2,040,000 and +0 FTE from the 2017 CR Baseline.

Multinational Species Conservation Fund (-\$2,040,000/+0 FTE)

The Service will continue to focus on top conservation priorities, seek new and innovative approaches, and work with partners to leverage or match funding while building considerable good will toward the United States. With reduced funding, the Service will either fund fewer projects or provide reduced financial resources to projects that mitigate the threats to these imperiled species.

Program Mission

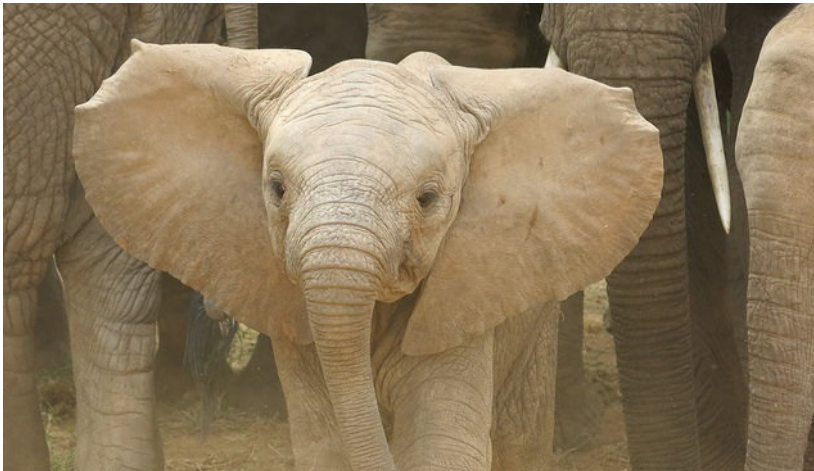
To provide technical and financial assistance to local communities, wildlife authorities, and non-governmental organizations in developing countries for on-the-ground conservation work to protect elephants, rhinoceroses, tigers, great apes, and marine turtles.

Program Overview

Elephants, rhinoceroses, tigers, great apes, and marine turtles are among the world's most recognized and beloved animals. Yet, these iconic species face severe threats and some even teeter on the brink of extinction due to poaching, habitat loss, and wildlife trafficking. Key populations of these species are found in developing countries where these threats are compounded by political instability, expanding human populations, and a severe lack of funding for conservation.

The Multinational Species Conservation Funds (MSCFs) were authorized through five Congressional Acts to provide critical technical and financial assistance to local communities, government agencies, and non-government organizations that are working to protect and safeguard the future of wildlife. Through this support, the Service assists foreign countries to sustainably manage their wildlife populations and attract substantial leveraged or matched funding, while also building considerable good will toward the United States. From 2012 to 2016, the MSCFs provided more than \$55 million in appropriated funds through grants and cooperative agreements for on-the-ground conservation and have leveraged more than \$92 million in additional matching dollars. Since the program's inception, the MSCFs have engaged nearly 600 domestic and foreign partners in over 54 foreign countries.

The MSCFs project selection is highly competitive and enables the Service to direct assistance to key populations and the most urgently needed activities. Priority activities include establishing protected areas; monitoring wildlife populations; assisting communities to better coexist with wildlife; improving law enforcement and prosecution to stop wildlife trafficking; reducing consumer demand for illegal wildlife products; and providing vital infrastructure, training, and equipment to effectively manage protected areas. Several of the species covered by the MSCFs, including rhinoceroses and African elephants, are under unprecedented pressure due to poaching and wildlife trafficking. These programs provide emergency support to quickly and effectively respond to escalating threats.



African elephant. Credit: Maoga Unelker

African Elephant Conservation Fund

Poaching of African elephants has reached crisis levels with more than 100,000 elephants killed in a recent three-year period.¹ The African Elephant Conservation Fund provides critical support to curb this poaching epidemic; to combat trafficking of ivory, bushmeat, and other illegal elephant products within Africa; and to reduce the demand for these products in consumer countries. As an example, in 2016, these funds supported

frontline protection in elephant habitat in West, Central, East and Southern Africa; sponsored technological innovations to better detect and intercept ivory in transit; and supported the installation of modern management systems for seized ivory in range states. Other program activities include providing operating expenses for anti-poaching teams in and around protected areas and in community-owned wildlife areas; constructing and operating roadblocks on transit routes; purchasing, training and deploying

¹ Wittemyer, George, et. Al., (2014). Illegal killing for ivory drives global decline in African elephants. *Proceeding of the National Academy of Sciences*, Vol. 111 No. 36, doi: 10.1073/pnas.1403984111

detection dog teams at roadblocks, airports and ports; providing training and operational costs for investigators to track wildlife crimes; developing genetic and forensic tools to identify the source of ivory; sponsoring joint investigations to trace ivory shipments from point of seizure back to point of origin; and supporting the expenses related to the prosecution of poachers and traffickers in African courts.

Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund

Rhino poaching has skyrocketed in less than a decade, from 13 animals poached in South Africa in 2007 to more than 1,000 poached per year since 2013.² The Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund, which supports many protected areas in both Asia and Africa, has been essential to responding to this crisis while also addressing other critical threats facing rhinos and tigers. Program activities aim to protect existing populations; to restore animals to their original habitat; and to combat trafficking of tiger skins, bones, live animals, and rhino horn and other rhino products. In 2016, the funds were able to support the core operating expenses in six African countries (Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, and Namibia) to



Tiger. Credit: WCS Thailand

strengthen anti-poaching efforts and to improve detection and interception of illegally trafficked rhino horn out of Africa to consumer markets in Asia. Projects included aerial surveillance of rhino areas and the deployment of devices designed to track poached rhinos and their horns. Within Asia, additional law enforcement patrols were established in 2016 at two national parks in Sumatra, Indonesia, and, in accordance with a settlement over violation of the Lacey Act, fines were used to enhance law enforcement protection for the Amur tiger. Protected areas in six tiger and three rhino range countries (Nepal, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Russia) received continued funding for anti-poaching law enforcement, innovative tools to measure the effectiveness of patrols, and human-tiger conflict mitigation.



Asian elephants. Credit: Jayanta Kumar Das

Asian Elephant Conservation Fund

Large herds of elephants once roamed freely throughout Asia's forests and grasslands. Today, estimates range from 20,000 to 40,000 in the wild, with continued declines mainly caused by habitat loss, human-elephant conflict, and poaching. The Asian Elephant Conservation Fund is a key source of funding for activities addressing the major threats to wild Asian elephant populations within range states. Program activities include law enforcement training and

² Poaching Statistics. (2016). Retrieved from https://www.savetherhino.org/rhino_info/poaching_statistics.

monitoring, public education campaigns via public television and radio programming, forest ranger and patrol training, research on population dynamics, community-based conservation and education programs, human-elephant conflict mitigation programs, strengthening counter-wildlife-trafficking efforts, providing wildlife veterinary capacity building and a wildlife ambulance, and conducting programs to promote elephant-centric development planning. In 2016, funds supported projects in eight of the 13 Asian elephant range countries, financing activities that will have local, national, and regional impacts. In Myanmar, a Service partner is working with local communities to: implement human-elephant conflict mitigation techniques and monitor their efficacy; establish wild elephant monitoring teams to conduct non-invasive DNA collection in order to determine elephant population size and distribution; and conduct surveys on the indirect impacts of human-elephant conflict.



Above: Bornean orangutan and infant in Sabangau. Credit: OuTrop; Below: Gorilla infant in Virunga National Park. Credit:DFGFI.



pressure, engaging in improved conservation planning, training environmental educators, improving law enforcement efforts, strengthening trans-boundary cooperation, developing sustainable finance mechanisms for long-term community-based protection, and continuing to support the development of gibbon-based ecotourism.

In Africa, funds supported conservation of mountain gorillas faced with habitat degradation, poaching, and disease transmission. Activities included providing monitoring and protection of gorillas in Rwanda, supporting ranger patrols in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and determining the efficacy of

Great Ape Conservation Fund

The Great Ape Conservation Fund supports efforts to combat poaching and trafficking in great apes, to increase habitat protection by creating national parks and protected areas, to reduce risk of disease transmission to at-risk ape populations, and to create long-term buy-in and stewardship for conservation of great apes within local communities. In 2016, the Great Ape Conservation Fund continued to help conserve globally significant populations of gibbons and orangutans in Asia and gorillas, chimpanzees, and bonobos in Africa.

Several projects support conservation of orangutans and critical habitat in Indonesia and Malaysia, areas hard-hit by forest fires in 2016. Program activities include protecting habitats, preventing forest encroachment, mitigating threats such as road construction and human-wildlife conflict, engaging in reforestation efforts, conducting population surveys and health assessments, building support through environmental education, strengthening conservation planning and law enforcement, and repatriating rehabilitated orangutans to the wild.

In Cambodia, India, Myanmar and Vietnam, funds supported projects to protect populations of gibbon species by monitoring populations, preventing habitat loss, reducing poaching

community conservation projects in the Greater Virunga Transboundary Landscape. Funds helped conserve the highly endangered Cross River gorilla through a partnership with the Cameroon and Nigeria governments to secure key habitat and develop community support. In DRC, funds helped conserve highly endangered Grauer's gorillas by improving governance of community gorilla reserves, improving biomonitoring capacity, developing sustainable livelihoods for local communities, and training young conservationists. Funds also helped conserve chimpanzees through support for the creation of new protected areas in Cameroon and Liberia, and the development of improved university programs in Liberia and Sierra Leone to train the next generation of wildlife conservationists in West Africa.

Marine Turtle Conservation Fund

Marine turtles are truly the ancient mariners of the world's oceans, with ancestors dating back more than 100 million years. These animals are important components of the ecosystems they inhabit and as a flagship species their conservation helps to sustain benefits to many other species of wildlife. Once abundant, marine turtle populations now are a fraction of what they once were. The fund helps organizations and countries protect and grow their sea turtle populations through a variety of projects, including educational initiatives for communities, patrols of critical nesting beaches, and scientific research that benefits conservation.



Green sea turtle. Credit: Caroline Rogers/USGS

Since 2009, funding has supported a loggerhead sea turtle conservation project in Cape Verde, the third largest loggerhead nesting population in the world. The project now covers the most important nesting beaches on the islands of Boa Vista, Sal, and Maio which in turn encompass 95% of the nesting within Cape Verde. The project includes night time beach patrols in collaboration with the military, international volunteers, and Cape Verdeans, as well as beach cleanups, and education and outreach programs with local communities and youth. Since the initiation of these projects, the percentage of loggerhead females taken on the nesting beaches each year has been reduced from 25-40% to approximately 5%. This project also supports an annual meeting for the Cape Verde Sea Turtle Partnership which facilitates greater cooperation among the non-governmental organizations and Cape Verdean national and local government authorities. Another project supports the East Pacific Hawksbill

Initiative and other efforts to protect nests and females for the last known remaining nesting populations of the Eastern Pacific hawksbill in Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Panama. In addition to beach patrols, the project supports the development of ecotourism as well as local outreach and education efforts, including an annual Hawksbill Festival in Nicaragua and "Day of the Hawksbill" activities in local schools.



Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp

The Save Vanishing Species semipostal stamp was first issued in September 2011 to raise public awareness and garner support for critically important global conservation work. The intent is to give the public an easy and inexpensive way to help conserve tigers, rhinos, elephants, great apes and marine turtles around the world. The stamp,

which features the image of an Amur tiger cub, sells just slightly above the cost of first-class postage with proceeds directed to the MSCFs. Since issuance, more than 35 million stamps have been sold, raising almost \$3.8 million in direct funding. Projects funded in part by stamp funds have leveraged a total of

\$12.5 million in additional matching funds, amplifying support to on-the-ground species conservation projects.

Standard Form 300 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2016	2017	2018
Identification Code 010-18-1652	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Combined Schedule (X)			
Obligations by program activity:			
0001 African elephant	3	3	2
0002 Asian elephant	2	2	1
0003 Rhinoceros and tiger	3	3	3
0004 Great ape conservation	2	2	2
0005 Marine turtle	1	1	1
0799 Total direct obligations	11	11	9
0801 Multinational Species Semi Postal Stamp Act	1	1	1
0900 Total new obligations	12	12	10
Budgetary resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	0	0	0
1001 Discretionary unobligated balance brought fwd, Oct 1	0	0	0
1050 Unobligated balance (total)	0	0	0
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, discretionary:			
1100 Appropriation	11	11	9
1160 Appropriation, discretionary (total)	11	11	9
Spending authority from offsetting collections, mandatory:			
1800 Collected	1	1	1
1850 Spending auth from offsetting collections, mand (total)	1	1	1
1900 Budget authority (total)	12	12	10
1930 Total budgetary resources available	12	12	10
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	8	10	10
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	12	12	10
3020 Outlays (gross)	-10	-12	-12
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	10	10	8
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	8	10	10
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	10	10	8
Budget authority and outlays, net:			
Discretionary:			
4000 Budget authority, gross	11	11	9
Outlays, gross:			
4010 Outlays from new discretionary authority	5	3	3
4011 Outlays from discretionary balances	4	8	8
4020 Outlays, gross (total)	9	11	11
4070 Budget authority, net (discretionary)	11	11	9
4080 Outlays, net (discretionary)	9	11	11
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	1	1	1
Outlays, gross:			
4101 Outlays from mandatory balances	1	1	1

Standard Form 300 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) Identification Code 010-18-1652	2016 Actual	2017 Estimate	2018 Estimate
Offsets against gross budget authority and outlays:			
Offsetting collections (collected) from:			
4120 Federal sources	-1	-1	-1
4160 Budget authority, net (mandatory)	0	0	0
4170 Outlays, net (mandatory)	0	0	0
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	11	11	9
4190 Outlays, net (total)	9	11	11
Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	11	11	9
Reimbursable obligations:			
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	1	1	1
99.9 Total new obligations, unexpired accounts	12	12	10
Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	3	2	2

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation



Appropriations Language

For expenses necessary to carry out the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.), \$3,900,000, to remain available until expended.

Note.—A full-year 2017 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the budget was prepared; therefore, the budget assumes this account is operating under the Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2017 (P.L. 114–254). The amounts included for 2017 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution.

Authorizing Statutes

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Improvement Act of 2006, (16 U.S.C. 6101-6109). For expenses necessary to carry out the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Improvement Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.). Authorizes a competitive grants program for the conservation of Neotropical migratory birds in the United States, Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

Appropriation: Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018			Budget Request	Change from 2017 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund	(\$000)	3,910	3,903	0	0	-3	3,900	-3
	FTE	1	1	0	0	0	1	0

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund is \$3,900,000 and 1 FTE, a program change of -\$3,000 and 0 FTE from the 2017 CR Baseline.

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Activities (-\$3,000/+0 FTE)

The Service proposes to reduce its investment in the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund to support higher priorities in the budget. This request will adequately support the work done by these grants.

Program Mission

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA) program provides matching grants to partners throughout the Western Hemisphere to promote the conservation of Neotropical migratory birds in the United States, Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

Program Overview

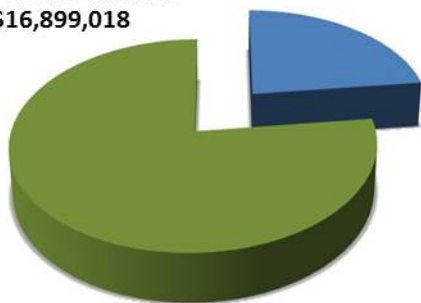
2016 Grants

2016 Projects: 32

2016 Countries: 17

Partner Match: \$16,899,018

Grant Funds: \$4,075,342



Over 380 species of Neotropical migratory birds breed in the United States and Canada and winter in Latin America, including warblers, thrushes, sparrows, sandpipers, and hawks. Although many of these species travel tens of thousands of miles on their annual journeys, they also appear close to home in backyards and local natural areas, making them an integral part of the landscape that the Service seeks to conserve for the American people. As a result of habitat loss and mortality from predators, collisions with buildings or structures, and other causes, populations of many of these birds are declining, and eleven species are protected as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Sixty-two such species are on the Service’s list of birds of conservation concern. Conservation actions funded through this program help to keep more of these species from being listed under the ESA by supporting projects in their breeding and wintering grounds.

NMBCA grants perpetuate healthy migratory bird populations by supporting conservation projects that leverage nearly four dollars of non-federal match for every Federal grant dollar invested—even in Latin America and the Caribbean, where resources for migratory bird conservation are scarce. By law, at least 75 percent of the funds available each year go to projects in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Canada. The remaining funds go to projects in the United States. NMBCA grants are highly competitive with project demand greatly exceeding available funds, so only the highest quality proposals receive funding. In FY 2016, the Service funded 32 grants, leaving 18 eligible proposals and over \$2.2 million in projects unfunded.

The NMBCA program supports priority national and international initiatives to engage people in conservation, benefiting local communities and local economies:

- The birds conserved under NMBCA provide significant benefits to local economies through revenue generated from birding festivals and wildlife watching (purchasing of bird food, binoculars, etc.) and the jobs created in association with these recreational opportunities.
- The NMBCA supports and enhances the Department of the Interior’s and the Service’s efforts to connect people with nature and the outdoors. By conserving birds that appear in peoples’ backyards, NMBCA grants help to sustain species that engage people in the great outdoors and in activities that allow them to enjoy these amazing and beautiful birds.
- NMBCA-funded actions support communities in other countries, increasing goodwill toward the U.S. and enhancing diplomatic efforts. Through the Southern Cone Grasslands Alliance, for example, NMBCA funds support the economic livelihood of ranchers in Argentina and Brazil to keep them on the land and promote security, sustainability, and healthy landscapes.



Buff-breasted sandpipers benefit from NMBCA funding in 2017 that protects crucial habitat in Bolivia. Credit: Daniel Alarcon

Making a Measurable IMPACT

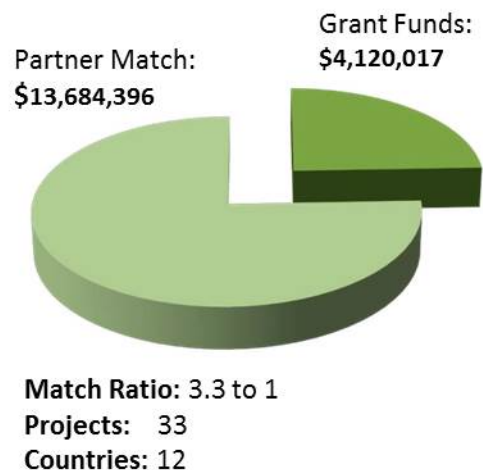
In 2012, the Service began to focus approximately 30 percent of NMBCA funding annually on 13 particularly threatened Neotropical migratory bird species.

The IMPACT Program - Identifying Measures of Performance and Achieving Conservation Targets - was initiated with the goal of achieving a measurable biological improvement in these species’ populations at a local, regional or hemispheric scale within 5-10 years.

A conservation action plan for each of the 13 species identifies both threats to the species, as well as priority actions that address those threats. By dedicating funding over the next 10 years to implement these priority actions, the Service can direct its resources where progress of the conservation actions can be measured.

Grantees evaluate their efforts and strategically adapt their approach by measuring biological improvements in the target species, such as increased abundance or survival, or improved quality of habitat. Funded projects must include a monitoring and evaluation component to track these measurable objectives.

2012-2016 IMPACT Program Grants



In 2016, the fifth year of the IMPACT program, the Service supported seven projects affecting breeding and stopover or wintering grounds to conserve Bicknell's thrush, buff-breasted sandpiper, golden-winged warbler, Hudsonian godwit, mountain plover, and Sprague's pipit. Examples of these projects include one project in Costa Rica to benefit the golden-winged warbler, a declining species, working with Costa Rican partners to conserve crucial habitat for the species. In another critical area, we continue to support the U.S.-Mexico Chihuahua grassland project, which seeks to double the local population of Sprague's pipit wintering on project sites over the next 4-5 years by expanding work with landowners to improve habitat for Sprague's pipit and other grassland birds on 20,000 acres (adding to 189,900 acres already under management).



In Costa Rica, the NMBCA IMPACT Program is supporting efforts to protect crucial non-breeding habitat for the golden-winged warbler by working with communities to improve their natural resource management practices and livelihoods. Copyright: USDA Greg Lavaty

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION FUND			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2016	2017	2018
Identification Code 010-18-14-1696	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Combined Schedule (X)			
<u>Obligations by program activity:</u>			
0001 Neotropical Migratory Bird	4	4	4
0900 Total new obligations (object class 41.0)	4	4	4
<u>Budgetary resources:</u>			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	1	1	1
1050 Unobligated balance (total)	1	1	1
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, discretionary:			
1100 Appropriation	4	4	4
1160 Appropriation, discretionary (total)	4	4	4
1930 Total budgetary resources available	5	5	5
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	1	1	1
<u>Change in obligated balance:</u>			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	5	6	6
3010 New obligations, unexpired accounts	4	4	4
3020 Outlays (gross)	-3	-4	-4
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	6	6	6
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	5	6	6
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	6	6	6
<u>Budget authority and outlays, net:</u>			
Discretionary:			
4000 Budget authority, gross	4	4	4
Outlays, gross:			
4010 Outlays from new discretionary authority	0	1	1
4011 Outlays from discretionary balances	3	3	3
4020 Outlays, gross (total)	3	4	4
4070 Budget authority, net (discretionary)	4	4	4
4080 Outlays, net (discretionary)	3	4	4
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	4	4	4
4190 Outlays, net (total)	3	4	4

Object Classification (O)			
<u>Direct obligations:</u>			
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	4	4	4

Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	1	1	1

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State and Tribal Wildlife Grants



Appropriations Language

For wildlife conservation grants to States and to the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and Indian tribes under the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, for the development and implementation of programs for the benefit of wildlife and their habitat, including species that are not hunted or fished, \$52,836,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of the amount provided herein, \$3,917,000 is for a competitive grant program for Indian tribes not subject to the remaining provisions of this appropriation: Provided further, That the Secretary shall, after deducting \$3,917,000 and administrative expenses, apportion the amount provided herein in the following manner: (1) to the District of Columbia and to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, each a sum equal to not more than one-half of 1 percent thereof; and (2) to Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, each a sum equal to not more than one-fourth of 1 percent thereof: Provided further, That the Secretary shall apportion the remaining amount in the following manner: (1) one-third of which is based on the ratio to which the land area of such State bears to the total land area of all such States; and (2) two-thirds of which is based on the ratio to which the population of such State bears to the total population of all such States: Provided further, That the amounts apportioned under this paragraph shall be adjusted equitably so that no State shall be apportioned a sum which is less than 1 percent of the amount available for apportionment under this paragraph for any fiscal year or more than 5 percent of such amount: Provided further, That the Federal share of planning grants shall not exceed 75 percent of the total costs of such projects and the Federal share of implementation grants shall not exceed 65 percent of the total costs of such projects: Provided further, That the non-Federal share of such projects may not be derived from Federal grant programs: Provided further, That any amount apportioned in 2018 to any State, territory, or other jurisdiction that remains unobligated as of September 30, 2019, shall be reapportioned, together with funds appropriated in 2020, in the manner provided herein.

Note.—A full-year 2017 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the budget was prepared; therefore, the budget assumes this account is operating under the Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2017 (P.L. 114–254). The amounts included for 2017 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution.

Authorizing Statutes

Endangered Species Act (ESA), (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544). Prohibits the import, export, or taking of fish and wildlife and plants that are listed as threatened or endangered species; provides for adding species to or removing them from the list of threatened and endangered species, and for preparing and implementing plans for their recovery; provides for interagency cooperation to avoid take of listed species and for issuing permits for otherwise prohibited activities; provides for cooperation with States, including authorization of financial assistance; and implements the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).

Fish and Wildlife Act, (16 U.S.C. 742(a)-742j). Establishes a comprehensive national fish and wildlife policy and authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to take steps required for the development, management, advancement, conservation, and protection of fisheries resources and wildlife resources through research, acquisition of refuge lands, development of existing facilities, and other means.

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, (16 U.S.C. 661-666(e)). The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to provide assistance to, and cooperate with, Federal, State, and public or private agencies and organizations in the development, protection, rearing, and stocking of all species of wildlife, resources thereof, and their habitat, in controlling losses of the same from disease or other causes, in minimizing damages from overabundant species, and in providing public shooting and fishing areas, including easements across public lands for access thereto.

Activity: State and Tribal Wildlife Grants

		2016 Actual	2017 CR Baseline	2018			Change from 2017 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
State Wildlife Grants (Formula)	(\$000)	51,000	50,903	0	0	-1,984	48,919	-1,984
State Wildlife Grants (Competitive)	(\$000)	5,487	5,477	0	0	-5,477	0	-5,477
Tribal Wildlife Grants	(\$000)	4,084	4,076	0	0	-159	3,917	-159
Total, State and Tribal Wildlife	(\$000)	60,571	60,456	0	0	-7,620	52,836	-7,620
	FTE	21	19	0	0	-2	17	-2

Summary of 2018 Program Changes for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• State Wildlife Grants (Formula)	-1,984	-2
• State Wildlife Grants (Competitive)	-5,477	0
• Tribal Wildlife Grants	-159	0
Program Changes	-7,620	-2

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants is \$52,836,000 and 17 FTE, a program change of -\$7,620,000 and -2 FTE from the 2017 CR Baseline.

State Wildlife Grants (Formula) (-\$1,984,000/-2 FTE)

Because of fiscal constraints and other priorities, the Service proposes to reduce funding for formula State Wildlife Grants. The change will reduce apportionment of grant funds to States by about 4%. For a State receiving the maximum apportionment of \$2,410,871 (FY 2016), the reduction will be approximately \$96,000. For a State receiving the minimum apportionment of \$482,174 (FY 2016), the reduction will be approximately \$19,000. Projects address needs identified in State Wildlife Action Plans for conservation of species, including species that are not hunted or fished. The change is expected to result in the loss of about 18 State fish and wildlife biologist jobs and 16 other related jobs, based on published Department of Interior data showing that about 17 jobs are supported by each \$1 million in Federal funding awarded through the STWG Program.

State Wildlife Grants (Competitive) (-\$5,477,000/+0 FTE)

Because of fiscal constraints and other priorities, the Service will not be able to fund competitive State Wildlife Grants in FY 2018. In a typical year, the Service funds 12-18 projects based on competitive proposals from a State or group of States. Projects funded address needs identified in State Wildlife Action Plans for conservation of species, including species that are not hunted or fished.

Tribal Wildlife Grants (-\$159,000/+0 FTE)

Because of fiscal constraints and other priorities, the Service proposes to reduce funding for Tribal Wildlife Grants. The change will result in one fewer competitive project funded. In a typical year, the Service funds about 25 projects out of about 120 proposals received from recognized Tribal governments to support conservation of species of cultural and economic importance to Native American tribes.

Program Overview

As authorized by the *Fish and Wildlife Act*, the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants (STWG) Program provides Federal grant funds to States, the District of Columbia, Commonwealths, Territories (States), and Tribes, to develop and implement programs for the benefit of fish and wildlife and their habitats, including species that are not hunted or fished. The Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY 2002 (Public Law 107-63) provided funding for the STWG Program and this funding continues in the annual appropriations legislation.

For the past 16 years, this grant program has provided State fish and wildlife agencies a stable Federal funding source. All funded activities must link with species, actions, or strategies included in each State Wildlife Action Plan (Plan). These Plans collectively form a nationwide strategy to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered and requiring Federal protection under the ESA. The Plans are unique from many prior conservation plans because of broad participation and an inclusive public planning process. By working with interested stakeholders, State fish and wildlife agencies translate pressing conservation needs into practical actions and on-the-ground results. The success of this program is evident in the 1.9 million acres of habitat enhanced for high-priority, at-risk species and the more than 140,000 acres of habitat it has protected through land acquisition or conservation easements.

Results of the STWG Program will be assessed through effectiveness measures designed in coordination with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and will be tracked using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's performance reporting database, Wildlife Tracking and Reporting Actions for the Conservation of Species (TRACS). This database allows the Service and States to consider an evidence-based approach that supports adaptive management leading to improved effectiveness of future conservation projects. The database also includes a portal available to the public which can be used to search for accomplishment data from a wide spectrum of programs including the STWG Program, such as new lands acquired for hunting or new facilities providing fishing access.

The STWG Program represents a wise investment providing long-term savings to the American taxpayer. In accordance with the *Endangered Species Act* (ESA), the STWG Program is a primary source for States and Tribes to fund proactive actions to address the needs of declining species. Through preventative measures, such as habitat restoration and protection through land acquisition, STWG helps to prevent imperiled species from becoming listed under the ESA, thus averting vastly greater expenditures by businesses, communities, and the Service.

The STWG Program helps States maintain management responsibility for sensitive and declining species. Consistent with the *Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act*, as amended (16 U.S.C. 661), the STWG Program accomplishes its goals by leveraging Federal funding through cost-sharing provisions with State fish and wildlife agencies, Tribes, and other partners. In doing so, it protects States' flexibility to identify, study, and conserve those species they deem to be most in need while helping States avoid more prescriptive Federal regulatory requirements. A core principle of the STWG Program is the utilization of effective partnerships that demonstrate the spirit of cooperation and sharing of resources inherent in the Coordination Act.

Goals of the Program - The long-term goal of the STWG Program is to stabilize, restore, enhance, and protect State-identified sensitive or declining species and their habitats. Addressing species threats early helps avoid the costly and time-consuming process entered into when habitat is degraded or destroyed and species' populations plummet, requiring additional protection (and Federal expenditure) through the ESA or other regulatory processes. The Program accomplishes its protection goals by 1) focusing projects on State-identified at-risk species and their habitats, and 2) leveraging Federal funding through cost-sharing

provisions with State fish and wildlife agencies and their partners. At the discretion of each State, funds may also address currently listed species through population status surveys and recovery actions.

Recent analysis by the Service indicates that STWG Program funds are meeting these goals and positively impacting many ESA listing decisions. The Program has likely helped to curtail growth of State and Federal expenditures on federally-listed species since the Program was first created in 2001. The Service delisted 25 domestic fish and wildlife species due to recovery since 2001. STWG Program funding was involved in the conservation and recovery of seven of these species. The STWG Program has also helped States contribute to Service removal or withdrawal of a significant portion of Candidate species listings—those species found by the Service to be warranted for listing but not yet listed as Threatened or Endangered. Of the 49 domestic Candidate fish and wildlife species that were removed or withdrawn from the list for conservation-related reasons since 2001, at least 19 species— about 39 percent—were conserved by State fish and wildlife agencies using STWG Program funds.

State Wildlife Action Plan - Each State must have a Wildlife Action Plan, approved by the Service's Director, for the conservation of fish and wildlife. Each Plan must consider the broad range of fish and wildlife and associated habitats, giving priority to State-identified species, with an awareness of the relative level of funding available for the conservation of those species. The States reviewed and, as necessary, revised their Plans prior to October 1, 2015, and will continue to do so at a maximum interval of every ten years. States may choose to update their Plan more frequently. Revisions to Plans must follow the guidance issued in the July 12, 2007, letter from the Service's Director and the President of AFWA. In general, this guidance, which was adopted voluntarily by States, offers great flexibility to maintain and revise State Plans to meet changing conditions.

Tribal Wildlife Grants - The Tribal Wildlife Grant (TWG) Program provides funds to federally-recognized tribal governments (Tribes) to develop and implement programs for the benefit of wildlife and their habitats, including species of Native American cultural or traditional importance and species that are not hunted or fished. Although Tribes are exempt from the requirement to develop Wildlife Action Plans, individual Tribes are eager to continue their conservation work using resources from this national tribal competitive program. The projects funded through the TWG Program serve to strengthen tribal nations throughout the U.S. by providing critical resources to help them protect valued cultural and economic assets upon which many Tribes depend.

Wildlife TRACS - Wildlife TRACS is the Service's tracking and reporting system for the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs. It replaced the Federal Aid Information Management System (FAIMS), which was decommissioned in late 2012. Projects funded by the STWG Program have been documented and displayed in Wildlife TRACS since early 2014. One of the significant new advancements in accomplishment reporting provided by Wildlife TRACS is a geospatial database that displays locations of conservation actions and other activities supported with STWG Program and other program funds. A Service and State team of biologists is now working to incorporate a standardized outcome-based reporting system to assess the effectiveness of conservation actions on target species and their associated habitats. Impacts on State-identified at-risk species will be collected and analyzed using Wildlife TRACS, creating an evidence-based, periodic summary report that describes program outcomes in terms of avoiding Federal regulatory protection of at-risk species.

Activities that may be eligible for the STWG Program:

- Conservation actions, such as research, population modeling, surveys, species and habitat management, acquisition of real property, facilities development, and monitoring.
- Coordination and administrative activities, such as data management systems development and maintenance, developing strategic and operational plans, and coordinating implementation meetings with partners. Partners are entities that participate in the planning or implementation of a State's

Plan. These entities include, but are not limited to, State and local agencies, Tribes, nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, industry groups, private landowners, and other Federal agencies.

- Education and law enforcement activities under the following conditions:

- The education activities are actions intended to increase the public's knowledge or understanding of wildlife or wildlife conservation through instruction or distribution of materials.
- The law enforcement activities are efforts intended to compel the observance of laws or regulations.
- The activities are critical to achieving the project's objectives.
- The activities are no more than 10 percent of the respective project cost.
- The activities specifically benefit State-identified at-risk species or their habitats.



Family Fishing. Photo credit: USFWS

- Providing technical guidance to a specific agency, organization, or person that monitors or manages State-identified at-risk species or their habitats. Technical guidance is expert advice provided to governmental agencies, landowners, land managers, and organizations responsible for implementing land planning and management.
- Addressing nuisance wildlife or damage caused by wildlife, but only if the objective is to contribute to the conservation of State-identified at-risk species or their habitats, as indicated in a Plan.
- Conducting environmental reviews, site evaluations, permit reviews, or similar functions intended to protect State-identified at-risk species or their habitats.
- Responding to emerging issues such as wildlife disease.
- Planning activities.

Activities ineligible for funding under the STWG Program include:

- Activities that mitigate or compensate for federally-funded activities, unless specifically allowed in Service policy.
- Initiating or enhancing wildlife-associated recreation, which includes outdoor leisure activities associated with wildlife, such as hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, and photography.
- Establishing, publishing, and disseminating State-issued regulations on the protection and use of wildlife. This includes, but is not restricted to, laws, orders, seasonal regulations, bag limits, creel limits, and license fees. This does not prohibit the scientific collection of information or the evaluation of this information to support management recommendations.
- Projects in which more than 10% of the funding is for educating the public or conducting law enforcement activities.
- Public relations activities to promote organizations or agencies.
- Projects with the primary purpose of producing revenue. This includes all processes and procedures directly related to efforts imposed by law or regulation, such as the printing, distribution, issuance, or sale of licenses or permits. It also includes the acquisition of real or personal property for rental, lease, sale, or other commercial purposes.
- Wildlife damage management activities that are not critical to the conservation of State-identified at-risk species or their habitats.

Types of STWG Program Projects - All 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands participate in this program through their respective fish and wildlife agencies. Each

State, Commonwealth, and Territory develops and selects projects for funding based on the agencies' assessment of problems and needs as documented in its Plan.

The STWG program supports States in developing a landscape-scale understanding of fish and wildlife needs through their Wildlife Action Plans, and by incentivizing inter-State cooperation. Modifications to the Competitive subprogram in FY 2016 incentivized joint planning, landscape-level conservation design, and project implementation to improve species populations range-wide. The Service and its grantees recognize that the collective habitat requirements of many State-identified at-risk species overlap multiple State borders and are subject to similar patterns of loss and degradation on the regional landscape. Approaches to conservation of such species typically use STWG Program funds to assess species' status and establish biological objectives for their conservation and recovery on a range-wide basis. Once basic information on species abundance and range is collected and analyzed, the partnering States can implement targeted, strategic conservation actions to restore declining populations through habitat management, translocation and related efforts.

Funding Planning and Implementation Grants – After the first generation of Wildlife Action Plans, the Service issued guidance that narrowed the scope of work that may be conducted under STWG planning grants to: 1) conducting internal evaluation of Plans; and 2) obtaining input from partners and the public on how to improve those plans. The Service has supported States as they shift their STWG Program financial resources away from planning activities and toward more on-the-ground conservation activities.

After deducting administrative costs for the Service's Headquarters and Regional Offices, the Service distributes STWG Program funds to States in the following manner:

- A. The District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico each receive a sum equal to not more than one-half of 1 percent. The Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U. S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands each receive a sum equal to not more than one-fourth of 1 percent.
- B. The Service divides the remaining amount among the 50 States by a formula where one-third of the amount for each State is based on the ratio of the State land area to the total land area of the 50 States, with the other two-thirds based on the ratio of the State population to the total population of the 50 States. However, each of the 50 States must receive no less than 1 percent of the total amount available and no more than 5 percent.

The Federal share of planning grants must not exceed 75 percent of the total cost, and the Federal share of implementation grants must not exceed 65 percent of the total cost. These percentages are subject to change in the annual Appropriations Act that both reauthorizes and funds the STWG Program. The Service waives the 25 percent non-Federal matching requirement of the total grant cost for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Territories of Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, and American Samoa up to \$200,000 (48 U.S.C. 1469a (d)). The non-Federal share may not include any Federal funds or Federal in-kind contributions unless legislation specifically allows it. Tribal Wildlife Grants are competitive and Tribes are not required to provide a share of project costs; however, many do, some quite substantially.

Obligation Requirements – States must obligate STWG Program funds to a project by September 30 of the second Federal fiscal year after their apportionment, or the remaining unobligated dollars revert to the Service to be apportioned or awarded in the next fiscal year. Reverted STWG Program funds lose their original fiscal year and State identity, and all States will receive them as an addition to the next year's national apportionment. If a State obligates STWG Program funds to an approved grant but does not

expend the funds in the grant period, the Service will de-obligate the unexpended balance. Funds that are de-obligated during the two-year period of availability will be re-obligated to an existing or new grant to the same State.

2018 Program Performance

With the FY 2018 budget, the Service expects grantees to continue to expand their efforts to stabilize, restore, enhance, and protect State-identified at-risk species and their habitats. The Service will continue working with these partners to more consistently and comprehensively report accomplishments. WSFR now tracks all STWG Program spending using Wildlife TRACS, which captures geospatial data for all conservation actions, as well as program accomplishments and outcomes. The system will be useful in tracking and reporting priority conservation actions, such as addressing habitat-related threats to species or identifying projects that address pollinator conservation.

Since its inception, the STWG Program has provided a crucial funding source enabling State and Tribal fish and wildlife agencies to protect, restore, and enhance the estimated 14,000 species that are identified by States as having the greatest need of conservation assistance. Some examples of activities being implemented by State fish and wildlife agencies include:

Mussel Restoration: Many species of freshwater mussels are currently listed as Threatened or Endangered under the ESA. Many other mussel species are known by States and their conservation partners to have declined significantly in number and range in recent decades and could require Federal regulatory intervention unless actions are taken to prevent their further decline. In response, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife used STWG Program funds to design, build, and operate a facility for growing and releasing freshwater mussels, similar to the way States use fish hatcheries to propagate popular fish species enjoyed by anglers. The Kentucky agency now successfully grows and releases tens of thousands of freshwater mussels annually into major river systems such as the Tennessee and Ohio Rivers, where these species were once abundant. The facility grows and releases both federally-listed (Threatened and Endangered) mussels as well as other mussel species that the State and its partners have identified as at-risk or declining and which are current Candidate species. By working to conserve such species voluntarily before they warrant Federal listing, and by helping recover listed species, Kentucky aids the business community by helping to reduce regulatory requirements associated with a Federal listing. Mussels are also known to improve water quality by filtering water and removing contaminants, which helps protect and maintain populations of other species including those of commercial and recreational importance.



Freshwater Mussel. Photo Credit: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Wood Bison Restoration: Another Alaska success story involves a once-common game species, the wood bison, which disappeared from Alaska due to unregulated hunting. The Service has listed the wood bison as threatened since 1970. STWG program funds were combined with Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act funding and State funds to help the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) reintroduce the wood bison into portions of its historical range. In the spring of



Wood Bison. Photo credit: Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center

2015, the ADF&G released 130 wood bison in Western Alaska, from which they were extirpated over a century ago. The bison have adapted quickly to their new habitat, and several small herds of cows are protecting approximately 16 new calves born this year. This unique collaboration involves the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Service, Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center, Safari Club International, and more than 30 other partners. ADF&G and partners expect the herd to eventually grow to a harvestable population, allowing Alaska to offer an exciting new opportunity for big game hunters.

Arctic Grayling Restoration: In Montana, STWG Program funds have contributed to a recent conservation success story involving an aquatic species. Due to declines in abundance, conservation organizations petitioned the Service to list the arctic grayling as Endangered. In 2012, the Service published its finding that listing of the species under the ESA was “warranted but precluded” meaning that there was good reason to list the species but other priorities forced the agency to delay in adding it to



Arctic Grayling. Photo credit: USFWS

the Federal list of Threatened and Endangered species. The Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks agency acted quickly to put STWG Program funds to work. The agency conducted surveys, implemented habitat protection and restoration measures, controlled invasive species and built special fish passage structures. As a result of these efforts and the efforts of other conservation partners, the Service found in 2014 that the species was not warranted for listing anymore, a positive sign that anglers and other wildlife enthusiasts will continue to enjoy seeing arctic grayling in Montana waters well into the future.

Powers Creek Fish Passage: In California, Tribal Wildlife Grant funds were an integral part of a project that opened up 1.15 miles of stream habitat for California coho salmon, Chinook salmon, Northern California (NC) steelhead trout, and Pacific lamprey. The lack of access to historic habitat is a major reason for the decline of these species that are important both economically and culturally to Native American Tribes of northern California. Powers Creek is a tributary to the Mad River and historically provided juvenile salmonid rearing habitat, but a concrete sill and bridge obstructed access to greater than 90 percent of the stream. The Blue Lake Rancheria Tribe started this fish passage improvement project on their reservation lands in 2012. Tribal Wildlife Grant funding was critical in supporting design and implementation of this project. This project was completed in 2016 just in time to provide habitat for juvenile salmon seeking to escape the 2017 flood flows experienced in California. The Tribe has already seen several fish in the project site, and pairs of spawning salmon have been seen further upstream by local residents for the first time in decades. This project was a major local and regional partnership between Blue Lake Rancheria and the Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, California Trout, and California Coastal Conservancy.

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE STATE AND TRIBAL WILDLIFE GRANTS			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2016	2017	2018
Identification Code	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
010-18-14-5474			
Combined Schedule (X)			
<u>Obligations by program activity:</u>			
0001 State wildlife grants	48	53	50
0002 State competitive grants	5	5	3
0003 Tribal Wildlife Grants	4	5	5
0004 Administration	4	4	4
0900 Total new obligations, unexpired accounts	61	67	62
<u>Budgetary resources:</u>			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	40	43	40
1021 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	3	4	4
1050 Unobligated balance (total)	43	47	44
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, discretionary:			
1100 Appropriation	61	60	53
1160 Appropriation, discretionary (total)	61	60	53
1930 Total budgetary resources available	104	107	97
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	43	40	35
<u>Change in obligated balance:</u>			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	127	121	114
3010 New obligations, unexpired accounts	61	67	62
3020 Outlays (gross)	-64	-70	-71
3040 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations, unexpired	-3	-4	-4
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	121	114	101
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	127	121	114
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	121	114	101
<u>Budget authority and outlays, net:</u>			
Discretionary:			
4000 Budget authority, gross	61	60	53
Outlays, gross:			
4010 Outlays from new discretionary authority	12	13	11
4011 Outlays from discretionary balances	52	57	60
4020 Outlays, gross (total)	64	70	71
4070 Budget authority, net (discretionary)	61	60	53
4080 Outlays, net (discretionary)	64	70	71
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	61	60	53
4190 Outlays, net (total)	64	70	71

Standard Form 300 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE STATE AND TRIBAL WILDLIFE GRANTS				
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) Identification Code 010-18-14-5474		2016 Actual	2017 Estimate	2018 Estimate
Object Classification (O)				
Direct obligations:				
11.1	Full-time permanent	2	2	2
12.1	Civilian personnel benefits	1	1	1
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	1	1	1
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	57	63	58
99.9	Total new obligations, unexpired accounts	61	67	62
Employment Summary (Q)				
1001	Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	21	19	17

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Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration



Program Mission

Working through partnerships to conserve and manage fish and their habitats for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations.

Appropriations Language

The Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration account does not require appropriations language because there is permanent authority, established August 31, 1951, (65 Stat. 262), to use the receipts deposited into the Trust Fund in the fiscal year following their collection.

Applicable Laws, Acts and Orders

The Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act, now referred to as the *Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act*, (16 U.S.C. 777 – 777k), most recently amended by *Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act* (P.L. 114-94), which expires in Fiscal Year 2021, authorizes assistance to the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands to carry out projects to restore, enhance, and manage sport fishery resources. In addition to sport fishery projects, these acts allow for the development and maintenance of boating access facilities and aquatic education programs.

The Appropriations Act of August 31, 1951, (P.L. 82-136, 65 Stat. 262), authorizes receipts from excise taxes on fishing equipment to be deposited into the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, established as a permanent, indefinite appropriation. Receipts and interest distributed to the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund are available for use and distribution by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to States in the fiscal year following collection.

The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act, (16 U.S.C. 3951 - 3957), provides for three Federal grant programs for the acquisition, restoration, management, and enhancement of coastal wetlands in coastal States. A coastal State means a State of the United States, bordering on the Atlantic, Pacific, or Arctic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, Long Island Sound, or one or more of the Great Lakes, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands, the territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands. The Service administers two of the three grant programs for which this Act provides funding, including the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program and the North American Wetlands Conservation Grant Program. The latter program receives funds from other sources, as well as from the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration program. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers administers the third grant program that receives funding because of this Act. The Act also requires the Service to update and digitize wetlands maps in Texas and assess the status, condition, and trends of wetlands in Texas, and provides permanent authorization for coastal wetlands conservation grants and North American Wetlands

Conservation projects. The *Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act* (P.L. 114-94), authorizes funding for the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act through Fiscal Year 2021.

The Clean Vessel Act, (33 U.S.C. 1322; 16 U.S.C. 777c), Section 5604, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide grants to the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands for the construction, renovation, operation, and maintenance of sewage pumpout stations and dump stations, as well as for educational programs designed to inform boaters about the importance of proper disposal of their onboard sewage. Section 5604 also amended the *Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act* to provide for the transfer of funds out of the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund for use by the Secretary of Homeland Security (U.S. Coast Guard) to fund State recreational boating safety programs. The *Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act* (P.L. 114-94) authorizes funding for the Clean Vessel Act of 1992 and boating infrastructure improvement through Fiscal Year 2021.

The Sportfishing and Boating Safety Act, (16 U.S.C. 777c-777g), authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to develop national outreach plans to promote safe fishing and boating, and to promote conservation of aquatic resources through grants and contracts with States and private entities. The Act contains provisions for transferring funds to the U.S. Coast Guard for State recreational boating safety programs. In addition, it authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide funds to the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands to construct, renovate, and maintain tie-up facilities with features for transient boaters in vessels 26 feet or more in length, and to produce and distribute information and educational materials under the Boating Infrastructure Grant program. The *Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act* (P.L. 114-94) authorizes funding for boating infrastructure improvement through Fiscal Year 2021.

The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act, (P.L. 106-408) amends the *Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act* (16 U.S.C. 669-669i) and the *Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act* (16 U.S.C. 777-777k). It authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide funding under the Multistate Conservation Grant program for wildlife and sport fish restoration projects identified as priority projects by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. These high priority projects address problems affecting States on a regional or national basis. It also provides \$200,000 each to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, and the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission; and \$400,000 to the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council. The Act provides 12 allowable cost categories for administration of the Act, as well.

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, (P.L. 109-59) made several changes to the *Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act*. SAFETEA-LU changed the distribution of Sport Fish Restoration receipts from amounts primarily specified in law to a percentage-based distribution. The Act extended program authorizations for Clean Vessel Act grants, Boating Infrastructure grants, and the National Outreach and Communications program through FY 2009, and it extended the authority to use Sport Fish Restoration receipts for the U.S. Coast Guard's State Recreational Boating Safety Program through FY 2009. The Act authorized the expenditure of remaining balances in the old Boat Safety Account through FY 2010, for Sport Fish Restoration and State recreational boating safety programs and redirected 4.8 cents per gallon of certain fuels from the general account of the Treasury to the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund.

The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, (P.L. 114-94) changes several sections of the *Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act*. It amends Sections 3 and 4 of the *Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act* (16 U.S.C. 777b and 16 U.S.C. 777c), changing the funding distribution percentages and extends funding authorizations for *Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act*, Boating Infrastructure Improvement (combining funding for the *Clean Vessel Act of 1992* and the Boating Infrastructure Grants), and the National Outreach and Communications program through Fiscal Year 2021.

Appropriation: Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration

		2016 Actual	2017 Estimate	2018			Budget Request	Change from 2017 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfer s (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
Payments to States	(\$000)	355,527	349,549	0	0	+15,623	365,172	+15,623
Administration	(\$000)	10,849	10,931	0	0	+938	11,869	+938
Boating Infrastructure Improvement	(\$000)	24,738	24,312	0	0	+1,086	25,398	+1,086
National Outreach	(\$000)	12,369	12,154	0	0	+546	12,700	+546
Multistate Conservation Grant Program	(\$000)	3,015	2,997	0	0	+210	3,207	+210
Coastal Wetlands	(\$000)	17,311	17,021	0	0	+766	17,787	+766
Fishery Commissions	(\$000)	804	799	0	0	+56	855	+56
Sport Fishing & Boating Partnership Council	(\$000)	402	399	0	0	+29	428	+29
Subtotal	(\$000)	425,015	418,162	0	0	+19,254	437,416	+19,254
	FTE	53	53			+0	53	+0
North American Wetlands	(\$000)	17,311	17,021	0	0	+766	17,787	+766
	FTE	5	5	0	0	0	5	0
TOTAL, Sport Fish	(\$000)	442,326	435,183	0	0	+20,020	455,203	+20,020
	FTE	58	58			+0	58	+0

The 2016, and 2017 amounts include sequestration in accordance with section 251A of the Balanced Budget and Deficit Control Act, 2 U.S.C. 901a. In addition, the amounts in 2016, 2017, and 2018 include amounts previously sequestered, which are now available in accordance with said Act.

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget estimate for the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act Program is \$455,203,000 and 58 FTE. The estimate is based on current law projections provided by the Department of the Treasury's Office of Tax Analysis.

Program Overview

The Sport Fish Restoration program has provided a stable Federal funding source for State fish, wildlife, and boating agencies for 66 years. This funding stability is critical to the recovery of many of the nation's sport fish species. The Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act programs have expanded over time through a series of Congressional actions and now encompass several grant programs that address increased conservation and recreation needs of States, the District of Columbia, commonwealths, and territorial governments. The various programs enhance the nation's sport fish resources in both fresh and salt waters. They also provide funding for projects that improve and manage aquatic habitats, protect and conserve coastal wetlands, and provide important infrastructure for recreational boaters. The economic impacts of boating and sport fishing in the U.S. are considerable. According to the National Marine

Manufacturers Association's *2012 Boating Economic Impact Study*, the total economic impact of boating is \$121.5 billion, supporting 650,014 jobs and 34,833 businesses. According to the *2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation* America's anglers generate over \$48 billion in retail sales with a \$115 billion impact on the Nation's economy creating employment for more than 828,000 people. A key part of the partnership with State fish, wildlife, and boating agencies is that they, within program boundaries, determine the best use of these Federal funds to meet their conservation and recreation needs.

Specifically, Congress has authorized the Service to use funding from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund to administer these six grant programs: Sport Fish Restoration, Multistate Conservation, Clean Vessel, Boating Infrastructure Improvement, Coastal Wetlands (including North American Wetlands), and National Outreach and Communications. The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act (P.L. 114-94) authorized the last three grant programs through Fiscal Year 2021.

The Sport Fish Restoration grant program is the cornerstone of fisheries recreation and conservation efforts in the United States. All 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands can participate in this grant program through their respective fish, wildlife, and boating agencies. The program also increases boating opportunities and aquatic stewardship throughout the country. The Sport Fish Restoration program is widely recognized as one of the most successful conservation programs in the world. Since its inception in 1950, this program has awarded more than \$8.3 billion to State fish, wildlife, and boating agencies for their fisheries conservation and boating access efforts, which has seen its conservation and recreation impact magnified by the over \$2.1 billion in matching funds from those state agencies. The stable funding provided by this program allows States to develop comprehensive fisheries conservation programs and provide public boating access. The Sport Fish Restoration grant program is a formula-based apportionment program. The formula is based on 60 percent of States' licensed anglers and 40 percent of their land and water area. No State may receive more than 5 percent or less than 1 percent of each year's total apportionment. Puerto Rico receives 1 percent, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, and the District of Columbia each receive one-third of 1 percent. Table 1 provides the estimated Fiscal Year 2017 and 2018 Sport Fish Restoration apportionment to States.

Multistate Conservation Grant Program

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and the Service work cooperatively together to manage the Multistate Conservation grant program. The Service ultimately awards and manages these grants; AFWA administers the grant application process, providing oversight, coordination, and guidance for the program as established by the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-408). These high priority projects address problems affecting States on a regional or national basis. Project types include biological research/training, species population status, outreach, data collection regarding angler participation, aquatic education, economic value of fishing, and regional or multistate habitat needs assessments.

Clean Vessel Act Grant Program

The Clean Vessel Act grant program is a nationally competitive program for the construction, renovation, operation, and maintenance of sewage pumpout stations and dump stations, as well as for educational programs designed to inform recreational boaters about the importance of proper disposal of their onboard sewage. Table 2 provides the Fiscal Year 2016 Clean Vessel Act grant program awards.

Boating Infrastructure Grant Program

The Boating Infrastructure grant program includes two funding tiers: Tier 1, which is awarded by a formula, and Tier 2, which is nationally competitive and provides funding to construct, renovate, and maintain tie-up facilities with features for transient boaters in vessels 26 feet or longer. The program also produces and distributes information and educational materials to assist boaters in locating and accessing these facilities. Tables 3 and 4 provide the Fiscal Year 2016 Boating Infrastructure Grant awards. As a result of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act (P.L. 114-94), funding for the Clean Vessel Act and Boating Infrastructure grants will be combined in Fiscal Years 2017 through 2021, though the programs will continue to be administered to address their respective goals.

National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program

The National Coastal Wetlands Conservation grant program provides grants to States to restore and protect coastal wetland ecosystems nationwide. Partnerships are an essential part of this program and allow the Service to work closely with a diversity of agencies and organizations concerned about natural resources, leveraging program funds for broad conservation benefits. Table 5 provides the Fiscal Year 2016 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation grant awards.

North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grant Program

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant program is an internationally recognized conservation program that provides grants throughout North America for the conservation of waterfowl and other wetland-associated migratory birds. This program receives funds from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund to support projects in U.S. coastal areas. These funds help sustain the abundance of waterfowl and other migratory bird populations throughout the Western Hemisphere. Table 6 provides the FY 2016 North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant awards.

National Outreach Grant Program

The National Outreach program improves communications with anglers, boaters, and the public regarding angling and boating opportunities. The purpose is to reduce barriers to participation in these activities, advance adoption of sound fishing and boating practices, promote conservation and the responsible use of the Nation's aquatic resources, and further safety in fishing and boating. The Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, a nonprofit 501(c)(3), is the recipient of this nationally-competitive grant program.

2018 Program Performance

The Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act programs provide essential grant funds to address many of the nation's most pressing conservation and recreation needs. In FY 2018, the States will continue to conduct conservation projects, similar to those below, with funds provided from the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act:

- Research and survey of sport fish populations;
- Fish stocking in suitable habitats to help stabilize species populations and provide angling opportunities;
- Improve public access and facilities for the use and enjoyment of anglers and boaters;
- Operate and maintain fishing and boating access sites, fish hatcheries and other associated opportunities;
- Develop and improve aquatic education programs and facilities;
- Support partnerships, watershed planning, and leveraging of projects in coastal wetlands; and
- Construct, renovate, operate, and maintain pump-out stations and dump stations to dispose of sewage from recreational boats.

All grant programs funded by the Sport Fish Restoration program leverage the Federal funds by requiring a minimum 25 percent cost share, with the exception of the Multistate Conservation Grant, which does not require a cost share. The core value of the Sport Fish Restoration program is a cooperative partnership of Federal and State agencies, anglers, boaters, and industry that provides significant benefits to the public and our nation's natural resources. Moreover, the program is central to the Service's mission of "working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for continuing benefit of the American people."

Examples of the types of activities State fish and wildlife agencies conduct with Sport Fish Restoration funds include:

Alabama's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Marine Resources Division (AMRD) uses Sport Fish Restoration funds annually, along with non-federal matching funds to operate and maintain the Claude Peteet Mariculture Center. Located in Gulf Shores, the hatchery plays a significant role in replenishing depleted fish stocks affected by degraded habitats. AMRD will culture and stock red drum, Florida pompano, and Southern flounder to satisfy sport fishing demand. Due to this facility, anglers will benefit with increased catch rates, the local economy will benefit from increased expenditures, and there will be invaluable benefits to the restoration efforts in the Gulf of Mexico.

Nine States Partner on Largemouth Bass Project - Nine state fish and wildlife agencies are partnering on a project titled: "Estimation of Fishing Mortality and Development of Live Well Management Procedures to Improve the Survival of Largemouth Bass." State agencies include: **Arkansas** Game and Fish Commission, **Kansas** Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism, **Kentucky** Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, **Louisiana** Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, **Maryland** Department of Natural Resources, **Mississippi** Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, **Texas** Parks and Wildlife Department, **West Virginia** Division of Natural Resources, and **Tennessee** Wildlife Resources Agency. This three year research project is aimed at providing useful information to fisheries managers to effectively manage populations and inform recreational anglers and tournament anglers and organizations about best practices for handling largemouth bass (LMB). Decreased survival of LMB following capture and handling in bass tournaments has been attributed to a number of factors. However, the independent effects of these factors on the survival of LMB subjected to angler capture and tournament handling have not been measured. Further, the effect of water temperature on the survival of LMB caught and immediately released has not been measured. This project will help to ensure that LMB populations will be managed with the best available science-based management strategies.



Bassfishing tournament

Credit: Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Florida’s Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) uses Sport Fish Restoration funds to assist with the growing demands for pumpout service (removing sewage from the boat’s holding tank), especially in the winter months. For example, Martin County purchased two pumpout vessels (one replacement and one new) using funds received through the Clean Vessel Act, Florida Inland Navigation District, and Martin County. Martin County services resident and visiting boaters including anchorages along the St. Lucie River and Indian River Lagoon. At no charge, the county services any boater in need of a pumpout. Martin County offloads its holding tanks at private marinas, also at no charge. The FWC inspects boats’ holding tanks for compliance and provides educational materials to boaters. Boaters come to Martin County to shop and visit restaurants and marinas, so providing pumpout services is a benefit to the local economy and the environment by helping to keep raw sewage out of waterways.



Credit: Martin County Board of County Commissioners

The District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment’s Aquatic Resources Education Center offers interpretive exhibits and educational programs, and coordinates teacher training for government and non-governmental organizations. The Center hosts special events throughout the year including an open house that focuses on teaching fly fishing and spin casting skills to public school teachers, RiverSmart Educational Boat Tours where the public can learn about the history of the river and its wildlife, a year-round fishing club that will use the *Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs* curriculum, and Project Aquatic Wild and Growing Up WILD teacher training so that educators can use these national curricula to teach aquatic resources education lessons to their students. The staff provides a multitude of education materials including a full curriculum for grades Pre K-12, brochures, and self-guided tour booklets. They attend science fairs and environmental education trainings, offer angler education classes to teach the public how to fish safely, and partner with other organizations including Anacostia Riverkeeper, Anacostia Watershed Society, and the Smithsonian Anacostia Museum. Staff is integrating aquatic resource lessons into the DC school system in order to instill the importance of DC’s aquatic resources on youth, and also teach basic angling skills that build confidence and promote safe and ethical fishing.

Massachusetts’s Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) used a combination of Sport Fish Restoration funds and State saltwater license funds to build an artificial reef in Nantucket Sound. The reef was constructed in March 2016 using 1600 cubic yards of concrete rubble, including 1000 cubic yards of repurposed material from the Harwich High School demolition. The material covers 11 percent of the total 9.9 acre permitted area, is located two miles south of the entrance to Saquatucket Harbor, and is easily accessible for small boat anglers. The artificial reef provides habitat for invertebrate and finfish species, and provides saltwater angling opportunities. This project is a continuation of the statewide Marine Artificial Reef Plan that provides a framework for long-term management of reefs



*Dumping debris to create an artificial reef.
Credit: Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries*

within Massachusetts. Following construction in March 2016, DMF divers revisited the site in May and June and recorded an abundance of marine life, including black sea bass, scup, tautog and several crab species. The rapidity at which the marine species claimed the reef suggests the reef was a productive habitat enhancement. The newly established fish populations have also encouraged private and for-hire boat recreational anglers to visit Nantucket Sound.

Puerto Rico's Department of Natural and Environmental Resources Aquatic Resources Education Program (AREP) "at the count of four, cast" event is a collaborative project with the Puerto Rico Department of Education, which has endorsed the program as part of its curriculum. AREP recruits new anglers, retains active anglers, promotes outdoors ethics and increases the understanding of water resources and aquatic species. AREP develops and offers fishing clinics and tournaments, aquatic resources and fishing techniques workshops, and educational materials relevant to aquatic ecosystems and sport fishing. So far, this project has reached 46 public and private schools, 162 teachers and 984 students.



*Kids at a "at the count of four, cast" school event
Credit: Puerto Rico's Department of Natural and Environmental
Resources*

Table 1
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
ESTIMATED APPORTIONMENT OF DINGELL-JOHNSON
SPORT FISH RESTORATION FUNDS

<u>STATE</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>	<u>FY 2018</u>
ALABAMA	\$6,116,273	\$5,871,442
ALASKA	\$17,472,142	\$16,799,686
AMERICAN SAMOA	\$1,164,810	\$1,119,979
ARIZONA	\$7,222,346	\$6,981,768
ARKANSAS	\$5,307,066	\$5,094,070
CALIFORNIA	\$16,639,859	\$15,939,649
COLORADO	\$8,904,070	\$8,605,317
CONNECTICUT	\$3,494,429	\$3,359,937
DELAWARE	\$3,494,429	\$3,359,937
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	\$1,164,810	\$1,119,979
FLORIDA	\$12,061,750	\$11,623,931
GEORGIA	\$7,739,368	\$7,442,494
GUAM	\$1,164,810	\$1,119,979
HAWAII	\$3,494,429	\$3,359,937
IDAHO	\$6,306,913	\$6,071,390
ILLINOIS	\$6,638,177	\$6,379,247
INDIANA	\$4,618,560	\$4,452,439
IOWA	\$4,409,755	\$4,240,658
KANSAS	\$4,986,561	\$4,795,225
KENTUCKY	\$5,279,458	\$5,077,023
LOUISIANA	\$6,782,536	\$6,515,934
MAINE	\$3,494,429	\$3,359,937
MARYLAND	\$3,494,429	\$3,359,937
MASSACHUSETTS	\$3,494,429	\$3,359,937
MICHIGAN	\$10,655,795	\$10,215,719
MINNESOTA	\$12,435,934	\$11,956,838
MISSISSIPPI	\$3,977,456	\$3,817,699
MISSOURI	\$7,830,320	\$7,532,500
MONTANA	\$8,487,572	\$8,166,069
N. MARIANA ISLANDS	\$1,164,810	\$1,119,979
NEBRASKA	\$4,417,418	\$4,248,639
NEVADA	\$5,015,139	\$4,819,863
NEW HAMPSHIRE	\$3,494,429	\$3,359,937
NEW JERSEY	\$3,494,429	\$3,359,937
NEW MEXICO	\$6,107,387	\$5,878,601
NEW YORK	\$7,789,942	\$7,482,762
NORTH CAROLINA	\$10,254,475	\$9,853,321
NORTH DAKOTA	\$4,109,507	\$3,952,373
OHIO	\$7,026,463	\$6,760,615
OKLAHOMA	\$7,132,510	\$6,857,991
OREGON	\$7,859,652	\$7,558,768
PENNSYLVANIA	\$8,465,762	\$8,142,554
PUERTO RICO	\$3,494,429	\$3,359,937
RHODE ISLAND	\$3,494,429	\$3,359,937
SOUTH CAROLINA	\$4,982,441	\$4,796,288
SOUTH DAKOTA	\$4,446,667	\$4,277,438
TENNESSEE	\$7,521,206	\$7,223,019
TEXAS	\$17,472,142	\$16,799,686
UTAH	\$6,381,191	\$6,140,378
VERMONT	\$3,494,429	\$3,359,937
VIRGIN ISLANDS	\$1,164,810	\$1,119,979
VIRGINIA	\$5,114,271	\$4,914,169
WASHINGTON	\$7,117,637	\$6,838,683
WEST VIRGINIA	\$3,494,429	\$3,359,937
WISCONSIN	\$11,363,809	\$10,919,822
WYOMING	\$5,236,112	\$5,030,518
TOTAL	\$349,442,840	\$335,993,729

Note: State Apportionment does not include previously sequestered funding that has been restored.

Table 2

FY 2016 Clean Vessel Act Grant Program Awards

State	Coastal/Inland	Federal Share
Alabama	Coastal	\$ 188,863.26
Alabama	Inland	\$ 74,278.22
Arkansas	Inland	\$ 630,456.02
California	Coastal	\$ 948,750.00
California	Inland	\$ 1,170,000.00
Connecticut	Coastal	\$ 1,338,481.42
Connecticut	Inland	\$ 50,000.00
District of Columbia	Inland	\$ 19,293.47
Florida	Coastal	\$ 1,338,481.42
Florida	Inland	\$ 711,525.27
Georgia	Coastal	\$ 220,768.98
Georgia	Inland	\$ 138,762.59
Illinois	Coastal	\$ 89,231.66
Indiana	Coastal	\$ 87,085.59
Indiana	Inland	\$ 329,940.96
Iowa	Inland	\$ 15,000.00
Maine	Coastal	\$ 377,940.73
Maryland	Coastal	\$ 351,341.80
Massachusetts	Coastal	\$ 554,709.43
Michigan	Coastal	\$ 195,064.55
Michigan	Inland	\$ 48,000.00
Nevada	Inland	\$ 92,704.01
New Hampshire	Coastal	\$ 97,418.79
New Hampshire	Inland	\$ 35,927.21
North Carolina	Inland	\$ 72,630.42
Oklahoma	Inland	\$ 86,849.26
South Carolina	Coastal	\$ 1,005,968.38
South Carolina	Inland	\$ 518,381.12
Texas	Coastal	\$ 280,924.08
Texas	Inland	\$ 221,782.17
Utah	Inland	\$ 203,385.92
Washington	Inland	\$ 948,000.00
Washington	Coastal	\$ 1,281,524.76
	Total	\$ 13,723,471.50

Note: State Apportionment does not include previously sequestered funding that has been restored.

Table 3

FY 2016 Boating Infrastructure Grant Program – Tier 1 Awards

State/Territory	Federal Share
Alabama	\$ 200,000
Arkansas	\$ 200,000
California	\$ 110,562
Florida	\$ 126,901
Guam	\$ 200,000
Hawaii	\$ 100,000
Idaho	\$ 200,000
Indiana	\$ 100,000
Kentucky	\$ 200,000
Louisiana	\$ 200,000
Maine	\$ 200,000
Maryland	\$ 200,000
Massachusetts	\$ 45,056
Michigan	\$ 200,000
Minnesota	\$ 100,000
Mississippi	\$ 100,000
New Jersey	\$ 188,865
New York	\$ 200,000
Ohio	\$ 100,000
Oklahoma	\$ 200,000
Oregon	\$ 200,000
Puerto Rico	\$ 198,752
Rhode Island	\$ 200,000
South Carolina	\$ 189,875
Tennessee	\$ 200,000
Texas	\$ 200,000
Vermont	\$ 200,000
Virginia	\$ 129,525
Washington	\$ 146,506
West Virginia	\$ 100,000
Wisconsin	\$ 200,000
Total	\$ 5,136,042

Note: State Apportionment does not include previously sequestered funding that has been restored.

Table 4

FY 2016 Boating Infrastructure Grant Program – Tier 2 Awards

State	Project Title	Federal Share
Florida	Twin Dolphin Marina Transient Slips	\$ 910,183
Florida	Hinckley Yacht Services Transient Docks	\$ 431,287
Illinois	Heritage Harbor Transient Boater Facility	\$ 580,946
Maryland	Harbor East Marina	\$ 1,458,707
New York	Southpoint Marina Transient Facility	\$ 974,725
South Carolina	Mt. Pleasant Memorial Waterfront Park Boating Infrastructure	\$ 1,215,076
South Carolina	Renaissance Marina Transient Boater Infrastructure	\$ 1,500,000
South Carolina	Charleston Harbor Marina Transient Infrastructure Expansion	\$ 358,631
Texas	Pelican Rest Marina Transient Slips	\$ 200,000
Virginia	Robinson Terminal South Transient Facility	\$ 684,559
Washington	City of Eagle Harbor Transient Dock	\$ 273,315
	Total	\$ 8,587,429

Note: Grant Apportionment does not include previously sequestered funding that has been restored.

Table 5

FY 2016 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program Awards

State	Project Title	Federal Share
CA	Corte Madera Ecological Reserve Expansion	\$622,000.00
CA	Eel River Estuary Preserve Enhancement	\$1,000,000.00
CA	Klamath River Estuary Wetlands Conservation	\$318,800.00
CA	Integrated Restoration in San Francisco Bay	\$500,000.00
CA	Ormond Beach Wetlands Acquisition (partially funded)	\$225,950.00
CA	San Luis Rey River Wetlands Conservation	\$394,300.00
CA	South Bay Salt Pond Wetland Restoration	\$1,000,000.00
CA	South Jacoby Creek Restoration	\$475,409.00
CA	UCSB Campus Open Space Vernal Pool Complex	\$1,000,000.00
GA	Altamaha Connector	\$1,000,000.00
GA	Musgrove Plantation Acquisition Phase 2	\$1,000,000.00
GA	Sanavilla Acquisition Phase 2	\$1,000,000.00
ME	Middle Bay Wetlands Partnership Phase 2	\$500,000.00
MD	Popes Creek Phase 2	\$750,000.00
MI	Negwegon State Park Coastal Wetland Acquisition	\$900,000.00
NH	Great Bay Estuary - Harvey Forest Wetlands	\$1,000,000.00
NJ	Mighty Waterfowlers Project	\$462,000.00
NC	Woodley Tract Acquisition	\$339,000.00
SC	South Fenwick Island Parcels	\$1,000,000.00
OR	Ecola Creek Wetlands Protection and Restoration	\$161,681.00
VA	Rappahannock Coastal Wetland Conservation Phase 2	\$1,000,000.00
WA	Beach Lake Acquisition and Restoration	\$1,000,000.00
WA	Eelgrass Recovery in Puget Sound	\$1,000,000.00
WA	Heron Point Protection	\$63,800.00
WA	Kennedy Creek Land Acquisition	\$585,000.00
WA	Pearson Nearshore Acquisition	\$1,000,000.00
WA	Smith Island Estuary Restoration	\$1,000,000.00
WA	West Oakland Bay Restoration and Conservation	\$1,000,000.00
Total		\$20,297,940.00

Note: Grant Apportionment does not include previously sequestered funding that has been restored.

Table 6

FY 2016 North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grant Awards

Project Type	Number of Projects	NAWCA Grant	Matching Amount	Total Partner Amount	Total Acres
Canada Standard Grant	9	\$20,753,599	\$20,753,599	\$20,753,599	44,006
Mexico Standard Grant	7	\$2,173,364	\$4,291,181	\$4,291,181	91,911
U.S. Small Grant	52	\$3,689,183	\$13,558,456	\$13,558,456	19,006
U.S. Standard Grant	45	\$47,346,355	\$106,209,551	\$106,209,551	271,414
TOTAL	113	\$73,962,501	\$144,812,787	\$144,812,787	426,338

Note: Grant Apportionment does not include previously sequestered funding that has been restored.

Standard Form 300 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE SPORTFISH RESTORATION				
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) 010-18-14- Identification Code 8151		2016	2017	2018
		Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Combined Schedule (X)				
Obligations by program activity:				
0001	Payments to States for sport fish restoration	388	389	400
0003	North American wetlands conservation grants	19	20	20
0004	Coastal wetlands conservation grants	23	19	19
0006	Administration	10	11	11
0007	National communication & outreach	12	12	12
0009	Multi-State conservation activities	4	3	3
0010	Marine Fisheries Commissions & Boating Council	1	1	1
0011	Boating Infrastructure Improvement	26	30	30
0900	Total new obligations, unexpired accounts	483	485	496
Budgetary resources:				
Unobligated balance:				
1000	Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	187	189	184
1021	Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	43	45	45
1050	Unobligated balance (total)	230	234	229
Budget authority:				
Appropriations, mandatory:				
1201	Appropriation (special or trust fund)	622	627	614
1203	Appropriation (previously unavailable)	32	30	30
1220	Appropriations transferred to other accts [096-8333]	-75	-79	-78
1220	Appropriations transferred to other accts [070-8149]	-107	-113	-111
1232	Appropriations and/or unobligated balance of appropriations temporarily reduced	-30	-30	0
1260	Appropriations, mandatory (total)	442	435	455
1930	Total budgetary resources available	672	669	684
Memorandum (non-add) entries:				
1941	Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	189	184	188

Standard Form 300				
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE SPORTFISH RESTORATION				
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)		2016	2017	2018
Identification Code	010-18-14-8151	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
<u>Change in obligated balance:</u>				
Unpaid obligations:				
3000	Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	522	508	490
3010	New obligations, unexpired accounts	483	485	496
3020	Outlays (gross)	-454	-458	-467
3040	Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations, unexpired	-43	-45	-45
3050	Unpaid obligations, end of year	508	490	474
Memorandum (non-add) entries:				
3100	Obligated balance, start of year	522	508	490
3200	Obligated balance, end of year	508	490	474
<u>Budget authority and outlays, net:</u>				
Mandatory:				
4090	Budget authority, gross	442	435	445
Outlays, gross:				
4100	Outlays from new mandatory authority	111	139	137
4101	Outlays from mandatory balances	343	319	330
4110	Outlays, gross (total)	454	458	467
4160	Budget authority, net (mandatory)	442	435	455
4170	Outlays, net (mandatory)	454	458	467
4180	Budget authority, net (total)	442	435	455
4190	Outlays, net (total)	454	458	467
<u>Object Classification (O)</u>				
<u>Direct obligations:</u>				
11.1	Full-time permanent	6	6	6
12.1	Civilian personnel benefits	2	2	2
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	1	1	1
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	1	1	1
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources	3	3	3
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	470	472	483
99.9	Total new obligations, unexpired accounts	483	485	496
<u>Employment Summary (Q)</u>				
1001	Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	63	58	58

Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration



Program Mission

Working through partnerships to conserve and manage wildlife and their habitats for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations.

Appropriations Language

The Wildlife Restoration Account does not require appropriations language because there is permanent authority, established September 6, 1950, (64 Stat. 693), to use the receipts in the account in the fiscal year following their collection.

Applicable Statutes

Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, now referred to as the *Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act*, as amended (16 U.S.C. 669-669k), provides Federal assistance to the 50 States; the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands; and the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands for projects to restore, enhance, and manage wildlife resources, and to conduct State hunter education programs. The Act authorizes the collection of receipts for permanent-indefinite appropriation to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for use in the fiscal year following collection. Funds not used by the States within two years revert to the Service for carrying out the provisions of the *Migratory Bird Conservation Act* (16 U.S.C. 4901-4916). The Act also requires the Secretary of the Treasury to invest the portion of the fund not required for current year spending in interest-bearing obligations. The interest must be used for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

The Appropriations Act of August 31, 1951, (P.L. 82-136, 65 Stat. 262) authorizes receipts from excise taxes on selected hunting and sporting equipment to be deposited in the Wildlife Restoration Account, as a permanent, indefinite appropriation. Receipts and interest distributed to the Wildlife Restoration Account are made available for use by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the fiscal year following collection.

The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act, (P.L. 106-408) amends the *Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act* and authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to develop and implement a Multistate Conservation Grant Program and a Firearm and Bow Hunter Education and Safety Program that provide grants to States.

North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4407) amends the *Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act* and requires the Secretary of the Treasury to invest the portion of the Wildlife Restoration fund not required for current year spending in interest-bearing obligations to be available for wetlands conservation projects.

Appropriation: Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration

		2016 Actual	2017 Estimate	2018				Change from 2017 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Trans- fers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request,	
Payments to States	(\$000)	698,845	759,398	0	0	+41,309	800,707	+41,309
Hunter Education & Safety Grants	(\$000)	8,040	7,992	0	0	+560	8,552	+560
Multistate Conservation Grants	(\$000)	3,015	2,997	0	0	+210	3,207	+210
Administration	(\$000)	10,850	10,931	0	0	+938	11,869	+938
Subtotal (\$000)	(\$000)	720,750	781,318	0	0	+43,016	824,335	+43,016
	<i>FTE</i>	48	52	0	0	+0	52	+0
Interest – NAWCF	(\$000)	4,777	4,999	0	0	+346	5,345	+346
	<i>FTE</i>	2	5	0	0	+0	5	+0
TOTAL, Pittman- Robertson Wildlife Restoration	(\$000)	725,527	786,317	0	0	+43,362	829,680	+43,362
	<i>FTE</i>	50	57	0	0	+0	57	+0

The 2016, and 2017 amounts include sequestration in accordance with section 251A of the BBDECA, 2 U.S.C. 901a. In addition, the amounts in 2016, 2017, and 2018 include amounts previously sequestered, which are now available in accordance with said Act.

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget estimate for the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration program is \$829,680,000 and 57 FTE. The estimate is based on current law projections provided by the Department of the Treasury's Office of Tax Analysis.

Program Overview

In 1937, Congress passed the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act. The accompanying grant programs, including Section 4(c) Hunter Education and Safety program (Basic Hunter Education) and Section 10 Enhanced Firearm and Bow Hunter Education and Safety Program (Enhanced Hunter Education), are key components of the nation's cooperative conservation efforts for wildlife and their habitats. These programs provide financial and technical assistance to States, Commonwealths, and Territories to meet hunter education, safety, and shooting sports goals and also support wildlife populations.

Since 1937, the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Program has contributed \$9.9 billion to:

- Restore, conserve, manage, and enhance wild bird and mammal populations;
- Acquire and manage wildlife habitats;
- Provide public uses that benefit from wildlife resources;
- Educate hunters on conservation ethics and safety; and
- Construct, operate, and manage recreational firearm shooting and archery ranges.

The program is among the oldest and most successful wildlife conservation efforts in the U.S. and, perhaps, the world. It is also an important part of American heritage of which our partners, including sportsmen and women, industry partners, and State fish and wildlife agencies, as well as the Service, are immensely proud. The economic impacts of hunting and recreational shooting in the U.S. are considerable. According to the National Shooting Sports Foundation's report, *The Economic Impact of*

Hunting and Target Shooting in America, in 2011 the economic impact on hunters and target shooters was \$110 billion, including \$48 billion in annual sales and more than 866,000 jobs. A key part of the partnership with State fish and wildlife agencies is that the States, within program boundaries, determine the best utilization of these Federal funds to meet their conservation and recreation needs.

The Wildlife Restoration program has been a stable funding source for wildlife conservation efforts for 79 years. States have developed comprehensive wildlife management strategies using a wide range of state-of-the-art techniques. Furthermore, States increase on-the-ground achievements by matching grant funds with at least one dollar for every three Federal dollars received. States use approximately 60 percent of Wildlife Restoration funds to purchase, lease, develop, maintain, and operate wildlife management areas. Since the program began, States have acquired more than sixty-eight million acres of land with these funds through fee-simple acquisitions, leases, and easements. States use about 26 percent of Wildlife Restoration funds annually for wildlife surveys and research, enabling biologists and other managers to put science foremost in restoring and managing wildlife populations. Through the years, many States have been successful in restoring numerous species to their native ranges, including the Eastern and Rio Grande turkey, white-tailed deer, pronghorn antelope, wood duck, beaver, black bear, giant Canada goose, American elk, desert and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, bobcat, mountain lion, and many species of birds. The conservation efforts associated with the Wildlife Restoration program provide a wide range of outdoor opportunities for firearm users (recreational shooters and hunters), archery enthusiasts, birdwatchers, nature photographers, wildlife artists, and other users.

The Service also supports State Hunter Education Programs that teach the knowledge and skills for safe and responsible hunting and recreational shooting. In FY 2018, we anticipate that over \$140 million will be available to assist States in providing hunter education, shooting and archery ranges and young hunter programs. States' hunter education programs have trained more than thirty-nine million students in hunter safety over a span of 47 years. This effort has resulted in a significant decline in hunting-related accidents and has increased the awareness of outdoor enthusiasts about the importance of individual stewardship and conserving America's resources.

In 2000, the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act authorized the Enhanced Firearm and Bow Hunter Education and Safety Program (Enhanced Hunter Education). This funding provides enhancements to the Basic Hunter Education activities provided under the Wildlife Restoration Act. Enhanced Hunter Education, an \$8 million set-aside from the Wildlife Restoration Trust Fund, enhances interstate coordination and development of hunter education and shooting range programs; promotes bow hunter and archery education, safety, and development programs; and provides for construction or development of firearm and archery ranges.

The Improvement Act of 2000 also authorized the development and implementation of a Multistate Conservation Grant Program (MSCGP). In FY 2018, \$6 million (\$3 million each from Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration programs) will be provided to the MSCGP for conservation grants arising from a cooperative effort between the Service and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. These grants support conservation projects designed to solve high priority problems affecting States on a regional or national level. Project types generally selected for funding are: biological research/training, species population status, outreach, data collection regarding hunter/angler participation, hunter/aquatic education, economic value of fishing/hunting and regional or multistate habitat needs assessments.

Since the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration program began, the program has apportioned \$9.9 billion in manufacturers' excise taxes to States for wildlife conservation efforts. States have provided their required match of over \$2.4 billion. The National Shooting Sports Foundation estimates that, on a daily basis, about \$3.5 million is contributed through excise taxes and license fees to wildlife conservation. This funding is critical to the restoration of many species of wildlife, including the most recognizable symbol of our American heritage, the bald eagle. While these funds ensure healthy populations of white-tailed deer, elk, ruffed grouse, caribou, wild turkey and waterfowl for hunters, other

species benefit including songbirds, peregrine falcons, sea otters, prairie dogs, black bears and many other wildlife species.

The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration program is one of the most successful programs administered by the Service. It has also served as a model for a companion program, the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act, which uses excise-tax funds derived from anglers and boaters to safeguard the nation's sport fish resources and provide recreational opportunities. Together these two programs are the cornerstones of fish and wildlife management and recreational use in the United States.

Types of State Wildlife Restoration Projects – All 50 States, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands participate in this program through their respective fish and wildlife agencies. Each fish and wildlife agency develops and selects projects for funding based on the agencies' assessment of problems and needs for management of wildlife resources. The following are eligible activities under the Wildlife Restoration program:

- Conduct surveys and inventories of wildlife populations;
- Acquire, manage, and improve habitat;
- Introduce wildlife into suitable habitat to help stabilize species populations;
- Improve public access and facilities for their use and enjoyment of wildlife resources;
- Operate and maintain wildlife management areas;
- Acquire land through fee title, leases, or agreement for wildlife conservation and public hunting purposes;
- Conduct research on wildlife and monitor wildlife status;
- Develop and improve hunter education and safety programs and facilities; and
- Develop and manage shooting or archery ranges.

Law enforcement and fish and wildlife agency public relations are ineligible for funding.

Funding Source for the Wildlife Restoration Program – Wildlife Restoration program funds come from manufacturer excise taxes collected by the United States Treasury and deposited in the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Account (Trust Fund). The Service's Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) administers the Trust Fund. Once collected, the funds are distributed to State fish and wildlife agencies for eligible wildlife restoration activities. The manufacturer excise taxes include:

- 10% tax on pistols, handguns, and revolvers;
- 11% tax on other firearms and ammunition; and
- 11% tax on bows, quivers, broadheads, and points.

The Basic Hunter Education program funds come from one-half of the manufacturer excise taxes on pistols, revolvers, bows, quivers, broadheads, and shafts. The Enhanced Hunter Education funding is a set-aside of \$8 million from the Wildlife Restoration Trust Fund.

State Apportionment Program – Through a permanent, indefinite appropriation, States (including Commonwealths and Territories) receive funds on the condition that the State has enacted legislation to ensure that hunting license fees are used only for administration of the State fish and wildlife agency (assent legislation). The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act includes an apportionment formula that distributes program funds to States based on the area of the State (50%) and the number of paid hunting license holders (50%). No State may receive more than 5 percent, or less than one-half of one percent of the total apportionment. The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico receives one-half of one percent, and the Territories of Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands each receive one-sixth of one percent of the total funds apportioned.

The allocation of Basic and Enhanced Hunter Education funds is determined by using a formula-driven apportionment which compares State population to the latest census figures on total United States population. No State may receive more than three percent or less than one percent of the total hunter safety funds apportioned. The Commonwealths of Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands are each apportioned one-sixth of one percent of the total apportioned. Estimated apportionments for FY 2017 and FY 2018 are included in subsequent pages.

Matching Requirements – The 50 States must provide at least 25 percent of the project costs from a non-Federal source. The non-Federal share often comes from State revenues derived from license fees paid by hunters. The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program can waive the 25 percent non-Federal matching requirement for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Territories of Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, and American Samoa, up to \$200,000 (48 U.S.C. 1469a (d)). The non-Federal share may not include any Federal funds or Federal in-kind contributions unless legislation specifically allows it.

Obligation Requirements – Wildlife Restoration Program funds (including Basic Hunter Education) are available for a period of two years. Under the Act, funds that are not obligated within two years revert to the Service to carry out provisions of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act. The Wildlife Restoration Act stipulates that the interest from the Wildlife Restoration Trust Fund goes to the North American Wetlands Conservation program. Enhanced Hunter Education funds are available for a period of one year.

2018 Program Performance

Examples of the types of activities planned by State fish and wildlife agencies in FY 2018 include:

Alaska's Intensive Management (IM) is a management objective established in Alaska statute that can be applied to ungulate populations in which hunter harvest has inexplicably declined. Populations managed under IM are assessed to determine limiting factors for abundance. Sitka black-tailed deer (SBTD) in Prince William Sound (PWS) Alaska are an introduced population, which exists at the northernmost latitude of their range. A study of SBTD in PWS was recently initiated to estimate adult deer abundance, survival rates, nutritional status, and to evaluate population objectives. Fifteen deer were successfully net-gunned from a helicopter, tagged with GPS collars, assessed for body condition, and released. Ability to capture (net) deer from a helicopter was experimental, but successful in PWS. Ability to obtain very high-resolution color-infrared imagery was successful and will be used for habitat classification. Collared deer provide the basis to learn about their habitat selection, nutritional condition, population abundance, and the effect of winter conditions. Ultimately, these study results will inform management actions. Harvest of deer is extremely important in the coastal communities of PWS and southeastern Alaska.



Project biologist Tony Carnahan uses ultrasound to measure rump fat on a Sitka black-tailed deer.

Credit: USFWS

Georgia's Wildlife Resources Division currently manages more than 1 million acres of land for wildlife and hunter access. One of many examples of recent ground level enhancements includes pine savannah

restoration on Wildlife Management Areas in southwest Georgia. These projects positively benefit bobwhite quail, which is the State game bird, other game species such as deer and wild turkey, and other wildlife that depend on open pine savannah habitat. Georgia also used Wildlife Restoration funds to help build the Shooting Sports Education Center at Georgia Southern University. The 30,000 square foot facility is open to the public and equipped to serve a variety of shooting sports interests through the 16 lane, 25 meter firing range, 16 lane, 25 meter archery center, and two training/seminar rooms. Its purpose is to provide a hub for the shooting sports in southeast Georgia through instructional programs, training classes, recreation, competition, and special events for youth, adults, students, law enforcement, hunters, first time shooters, elite athletes, and all groups interested in participating and learning more about the shooting sports.

Maryland's Department of Natural Resources has played a major role in the recovery of the endangered Delmarva fox squirrel with the use of Wildlife Restoration and Section 6 funds over the past four decades. On December 16, 2015, the Delmarva fox squirrel was removed from the Federal list of endangered species after 48 years of recovery efforts. It had been placed on the original list of endangered species in 1967 along with the bald eagle, California condor, and black-footed ferret, and is the 31st species to recover and become delisted. Wildlife Restoration funds are used to monitor populations, document range expansion, study its natural history, and re-establish populations in portions of its historic range from which the Delmarva fox squirrel had disappeared. Beginning in 1978, wild-caught Delmarva fox squirrels were translocated to 15 different locations in Maryland (11), Delaware (2), Virginia (1), and Pennsylvania (1). Ultimately, 11 populations were successfully established and the range now includes eight Maryland counties, and a Delaware and Virginia county as well. These populations continue to grow and expand into new areas.



Delmarva Fox Squirrel
Credit: USFWS

Mississippi's Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks constructed a shooting range facility (McIvor Creek Shooting Range) in northern Mississippi at the Charles Ray Nix Wildlife Management Area in Panola County. The Department seeks to provide safe, clean, and family-friendly public shooting range facilities; support more classroom training and live fire opportunities for Hunter Education classes; and expand programs that will encourage participation in shooting sports and hunting. As proposed, the facility will include a 3-D archery range, 15-station sporting clays course, trap and skeet complex, pistol range, 100 and 300 yard rifle ranges, and a duck flush (five-stand). The project is being funded in part utilizing Wildlife Restoration funds in partnership with funding the Olin Corporation (Winchester Ammunition) contributed to the project. The groundbreaking ceremony was held on August 30, 2016.

Pennsylvania’s Game Commission launched a prescribed fire program on the State game lands system that has over 800,000 acres of fire-dependent wildlife habitats. Fire shaped Pennsylvania’s wildlife habitats for thousands of years with recurring fires that maintained oak forests, open woodlands, and grassy meadows – the perfect mix for turkeys, deer, and other wildlife. Such habitats are threatened if fire is removed from the landscape. After 70 – 100 fire-free years, formerly open habitats became clogged with rank vegetation and oak forests are being replaced by fire-intolerant birch and maple, all to wildlife’s detriment. Prescribed burning is an essential tool to restore vibrant wildlife habitats and to reduce the risk of wild fire. Prescribed burns are normally repeated every 3 – 10 years so fuels cannot build to dangerous levels. Pennsylvania first requested Wildlife Restoration funds to jumpstart its prescribed fire program in 2010. Since then, the agency has used prescribed fire to improve habitat and hunting opportunity on 26,738 acres. The program goal is to burn 20,000 acres annually by 2020. Funds are used to train over 200 staff to standards of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG), purchase wildland fire equipment, and develop fire breaks and mechanical fuel reductions.



*Pennsylvania Game Commission crew tending a prescribed fire.
Credit: PGC, Hal Korber*

Virginia’s Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) used Wildlife Restoration funds, combined with funds from other partners, to purchase 2,600 acres of land in eastern New Kent County. This acquisition includes two miles of frontage on the York River, five miles along Ware and Philbates creeks, 720 acres of tidal wetlands, 1,800 acres of upland forest, and 100 acres of croplands. These valuable ecosystems are home to a variety of wildlife, including deer, turkey, rabbits, squirrels, waterfowl, black ducks, teal, mallards, and a host of Neotropical songbirds including warblers, thrushes, tanagers, and vireos. Coastal wetlands protect against flooding, provide habitat for wildlife, and contribute to outdoor recreational opportunities. This property will be a significant addition to the VDGIF’s Wildlife Management Area system, serve as a crucial filter for runoff entering waterways, and provide public access for outdoor recreation in perpetuity.

Wildlife Restoration Program Change and Overview Table

Performance Goal	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Target	2016 Actual	2017 Target	2018 PB	Change from 2017 Target to 2018 PB
4.5.6 - # of Acres of terrestrial habitat acquired and protected through fee title (GPRA)	14,682	34,419	57,068	38,825	63,230	45,220	45,200	-20

**U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
FINAL APPORTIONMENT OF PITTMAN-ROBERTSON
WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017**

STATE	Wildlife		Hunter Education		Total
	Restoration	Section 4(c)	Enhanced		
ALABAMA	\$15,665,460.00	\$3,236,852.00	\$181,373.00		\$19,083,685
ALASKA	\$31,463,221.00	\$1,426,288.00	\$79,920.00		\$32,969,429
AMERICAN SAMOA	\$1,048,774.00	\$237,714.00	\$13,320.00		\$1,299,808
ARIZONA	\$17,339,842.00	\$4,278,864.00	\$239,760.00		\$21,858,466
ARKANSAS	\$11,765,885.00	\$1,426,288.00	\$79,920.00		\$13,272,093
CALIFORNIA	\$21,083,512.00	\$4,278,864.00	\$239,760.00		\$25,602,136
COLORADO	\$15,821,958.00	\$3,405,786.00	\$190,838.00		\$19,418,582
CONNECTICUT	\$3,146,323.00	\$2,420,389.00	\$135,623.00		\$5,702,335
DELAWARE	\$3,146,323.00	\$1,426,288.00	\$79,920.00		\$4,652,531
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0
FLORIDA	\$9,460,287.00	\$4,278,864.00	\$239,760.00		\$13,978,911
GEORGIA	\$17,722,325.00	\$4,278,864.00	\$239,760.00		\$22,240,949
GUAM	\$1,048,774.00	\$237,714.00	\$13,320.00		\$1,299,808
HAWAII	\$3,146,323.00	\$1,426,288.00	\$79,920.00		\$4,652,531
IDAHO	\$13,523,504.00	\$1,426,288.00	\$79,920.00		\$15,029,712
ILLINOIS	\$11,596,896.00	\$4,278,864.00	\$239,760.00		\$16,115,520
INDIANA	\$8,784,278.00	\$4,278,864.00	\$239,760.00		\$13,302,902
IOWA	\$9,827,754.00	\$1,426,288.00	\$79,920.00		\$11,333,962
KANSAS	\$12,828,082.00	\$1,426,288.00	\$79,920.00		\$14,334,290
KENTUCKY	\$10,810,867.00	\$2,938,633.00	\$164,662.00		\$13,914,162
LOUISIANA	\$12,283,026.00	\$3,070,013.00	\$172,023.00		\$15,525,062
MAINE	\$6,458,339.00	\$1,426,288.00	\$79,920.00		\$7,964,547
MARYLAND	\$3,416,221.00	\$3,909,866.00	\$219,084.00		\$7,545,171
MASSACHUSETTS	\$3,146,323.00	\$4,278,864.00	\$239,760.00		\$7,664,947
MICHIGAN	\$19,679,858.00	\$4,278,864.00	\$239,760.00		\$24,198,482
MINNESOTA	\$19,178,826.00	\$3,591,834.00	\$201,264.00		\$22,971,924
MISSISSIPPI	\$10,450,189.00	\$1,426,288.00	\$79,920.00		\$11,956,397
MISSOURI	\$16,473,699.00	\$4,055,719.00	\$227,256.00		\$20,756,674
MONTANA	\$19,105,438.00	\$1,426,288.00	\$79,920.00		\$20,611,646
N. MARIANA ISLANDS	\$1,048,774.00	\$237,714.00	\$13,320.00		\$1,299,808
NEBRASKA	\$10,989,437.00	\$1,426,288.00	\$79,920.00		\$12,495,645
NEVADA	\$12,191,635.00	\$1,426,288.00	\$79,920.00		\$13,697,843
NEW HAMPSHIRE	\$3,146,323.00	\$1,426,288.00	\$79,920.00		\$4,652,531
NEW JERSEY	\$3,146,323.00	\$4,278,864.00	\$239,760.00		\$7,664,947
NEW MEXICO	\$13,961,309.00	\$1,426,288.00	\$79,920.00		\$15,467,517
NEW YORK	\$15,822,602.00	\$4,278,864.00	\$239,760.00		\$20,341,226
NORTH CAROLINA	\$16,216,245.00	\$4,278,864.00	\$239,760.00		\$20,734,869
NORTH DAKOTA	\$9,664,309.00	\$1,426,288.00	\$79,920.00		\$11,170,517
OHIO	\$11,669,476.00	\$4,278,864.00	\$239,760.00		\$16,188,100
OKLAHOMA	\$15,162,651.00	\$2,540,424.00	\$142,349.00		\$17,845,424
OREGON	\$14,605,848.00	\$2,594,411.00	\$145,374.00		\$17,345,633
PENNSYLVANIA	\$23,394,784.00	\$4,278,864.00	\$239,760.00		\$27,913,408
PUERTO RICO	\$3,146,323.00	\$237,714.00	\$13,320.00		\$3,397,357
RHODE ISLAND	\$3,146,323.00	\$1,426,288.00	\$79,920.00		\$4,652,531
SOUTH CAROLINA	\$7,189,433.00	\$3,132,309.00	\$175,516.00		\$10,497,258
SOUTH DAKOTA	\$11,887,809.00	\$1,426,288.00	\$79,920.00		\$13,394,017
TENNESSEE	\$17,965,510.00	\$4,278,864.00	\$239,760.00		\$22,484,134
TEXAS	\$31,463,221.00	\$4,278,864.00	\$239,760.00		\$35,981,845
UTAH	\$12,699,886.00	\$1,426,288.00	\$79,920.00		\$14,206,094
VERMONT	\$3,146,323.00	\$1,426,288.00	\$79,920.00		\$4,652,531
VIRGIN ISLANDS	\$1,048,774.00	\$237,714.00	\$13,320.00		\$1,299,808
VIRGINIA	\$9,336,150.00	\$4,278,864.00	\$239,760.00		\$13,854,774
WASHINGTON	\$10,208,061.00	\$4,278,864.00	\$239,760.00		\$14,726,685
WEST VIRGINIA	\$6,620,067.00	\$1,426,288.00	\$79,920.00		\$8,126,275
WISCONSIN	\$19,028,444.00	\$3,851,243.00	\$215,798.00		\$23,095,485
WYOMING	\$12,082,564.00	\$1,426,288.00	\$79,920.00		\$13,588,772
TOTAL	\$629,410,911	\$142,628,785	\$7,992,000		\$780,031,696

Note: State Apportionment does not include previously sequestered funding that has been restored.

**U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
ESTIMATED APPORTIONMENT OF PITTMAN-ROBERTSON
WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018**

STATE	Wildlife	Hunter Education		Total
	Restoration	Section 4(c)	Enhanced	
ALABAMA	\$15,012,922.15	\$3,313,358.58	\$181,553.89	\$18,507,835
ALASKA	\$30,194,350.00	\$1,460,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$31,734,350
AMERICAN SAMOA	\$1,006,478.33	\$243,333.33	\$13,333.33	\$1,263,145
ARIZONA	\$16,759,796.06	\$4,380,000.00	\$240,000.00	\$21,379,796
ARKANSAS	\$11,302,618.15	\$1,460,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$12,842,618
CALIFORNIA	\$20,228,430.94	\$4,380,000.00	\$240,000.00	\$24,848,431
COLORADO	\$15,188,310.24	\$3,486,286.63	\$191,029.40	\$18,865,626
CONNECTICUT	\$3,019,435.00	\$2,477,598.13	\$135,758.80	\$5,632,792
DELAWARE	\$3,019,435.00	\$1,460,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$4,559,435
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0
FLORIDA	\$9,088,333.67	\$4,380,000.00	\$240,000.00	\$13,708,334
GEORGIA	\$17,022,132.20	\$4,380,000.00	\$240,000.00	\$21,642,132
GUAM	\$1,006,478.33	\$243,333.33	\$13,333.33	\$1,263,145
HAWAII	\$3,019,435.00	\$1,460,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$4,559,435
IDAHO	\$12,950,353.72	\$1,460,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$14,490,354
ILLINOIS	\$11,121,620.24	\$4,380,000.00	\$240,000.00	\$15,741,620
INDIANA	\$8,417,522.23	\$4,380,000.00	\$240,000.00	\$13,037,522
IOWA	\$9,399,553.95	\$1,460,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$10,939,554
KANSAS	\$12,309,677.80	\$1,460,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$13,849,678
KENTUCKY	\$10,334,227.25	\$3,008,090.59	\$164,826.88	\$13,507,145
LOUISIANA	\$11,795,699.89	\$3,142,576.70	\$172,195.98	\$15,110,473
MAINE	\$6,193,918.90	\$1,460,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$7,733,919
MARYLAND	\$3,271,699.11	\$4,002,281.31	\$219,303.09	\$7,493,284
MASSACHUSETTS	\$3,019,435.00	\$4,380,000.00	\$240,000.00	\$7,639,435
MICHIGAN	\$18,829,430.64	\$4,380,000.00	\$240,000.00	\$23,449,431
MINNESOTA	\$18,394,267.62	\$3,676,731.39	\$201,464.73	\$22,272,464
MISSISSIPPI	\$10,017,183.17	\$1,460,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$11,557,183
MISSOURI	\$15,803,370.16	\$4,151,581.31	\$227,483.91	\$20,182,435
MONTANA	\$18,335,037.96	\$1,460,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$19,875,038
N. MARIANA ISLANDS	\$1,006,478.33	\$243,333.33	\$13,333.33	\$1,263,145
NEBRASKA	\$10,546,462.40	\$1,460,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$12,086,462
NEVADA	\$11,700,686.24	\$1,460,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$13,240,686
NEW HAMPSHIRE	\$3,019,435.00	\$1,460,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$4,559,435
NEW JERSEY	\$3,019,435.00	\$4,380,000.00	\$240,000.00	\$7,639,435
NEW MEXICO	\$13,402,618.63	\$1,460,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$14,942,619
NEW YORK	\$15,213,529.08	\$4,380,000.00	\$240,000.00	\$19,833,529
NORTH CAROLINA	\$15,562,999.12	\$4,380,000.00	\$240,000.00	\$20,182,999
NORTH DAKOTA	\$9,268,003.86	\$1,460,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$10,808,004
OHIO	\$11,186,412.27	\$4,380,000.00	\$240,000.00	\$15,806,412
OKLAHOMA	\$14,559,442.14	\$2,600,472.29	\$142,491.63	\$17,302,406
OREGON	\$14,019,750.06	\$2,655,737.03	\$145,519.84	\$16,821,007
PENNSYLVANIA	\$22,450,904.82	\$4,380,000.00	\$240,000.00	\$27,070,905
PUERTO RICO	\$3,019,435.00	\$243,333.33	\$13,333.33	\$3,276,102
RHODE ISLAND	\$3,019,435.00	\$1,460,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$4,559,435
SOUTH CAROLINA	\$6,863,479.21	\$3,206,346.44	\$175,690.22	\$10,245,516
SOUTH DAKOTA	\$11,408,854.04	\$1,460,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$12,948,854
TENNESSEE	\$17,218,091.64	\$4,380,000.00	\$240,000.00	\$21,838,092
TEXAS	\$30,194,350.00	\$4,380,000.00	\$240,000.00	\$34,814,350
UTAH	\$12,196,296.69	\$1,460,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$13,736,297
VERMONT	\$3,019,435.00	\$1,460,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$4,559,435
VIRGIN ISLANDS	\$1,006,478.33	\$243,333.33	\$13,333.33	\$1,263,145
VIRGINIA	\$8,952,894.46	\$4,380,000.00	\$240,000.00	\$13,572,894
WASHINGTON	\$9,795,371.54	\$4,380,000.00	\$240,000.00	\$14,415,372
WEST VIRGINIA	\$6,349,017.75	\$1,460,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$7,889,018
WISCONSIN	\$18,237,364.28	\$3,942,272.93	\$216,014.96	\$22,395,652
WYOMING	\$11,589,187.36	\$1,460,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$13,129,187
TOTAL	\$603,887,000	\$146,000,000	\$8,000,000	\$757,887,000

Note: State Apportionment does not include previously sequestered funding that has been restored.

Standard Form 300				
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION				
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)		2016	2017	2018
Identification Code	010-18-14-5029	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Special and Trust Receipts (N)				
0100	Balance, start of year	769	836	825
Receipts:				
1110	Excise Taxes, Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Fund [010-00-502930-0-000000]	787	770	730
1140	Earnings on Investments, Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Fund [010-00-502920-0-200403]	5	5	5
1999	Total receipts	792	775	735
2000	Total: Balances and receipts	1,561	1,611	1,560
Appropriations:				
2101	Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration [010-18-5029-0-1201]	-714	-792	-775
2103	Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration [010-18-5029-0-1203]	-60	-49	-55
2132	Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration [010-18-5029-0-1202]	49	55	0
2999	Total appropriations	-725	-786	-830
5099	Balance, end of year	836	825	730

Combined Schedule (X)				
Obligations by program activity:				
0003	Multi-state conservation grant program	4	3	3
0004	Administration	11	11	11
0005	Wildlife restoration grants	784	807	839
0006	NAWCF (interest used for grants)	5	5	5
0007	Section 10 hunter education	8	8	8
0900	Total new obligations, unexpired accounts	812	834	866
Budgetary resources:				
Unobligated balance:				
1000	Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	427	400	398
1021	Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	60	46	45
1050	Unobligated balance (total)	487	446	443
Budget authority:				
Appropriations, mandatory:				
1201	Appropriation (special or trust fund)	714	792	775
1203	Appropriation (previously unavailable)	60	49	55
1232	Appropriations and/or unobligated balance of appropriations temporarily reduced	-49	-55	0
1260	Appropriations, mandatory (total)	725	786	830
1930	Total budgetary resources available	1,212	1,232	1,273
Memorandum (non-add) entries:				
1941	Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	400	398	407

Standard Form 300				
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION				
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)		2016	2017	2018
Identification Code	010-18-14-5029	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
<u>Change in obligated balance:</u>				
Unpaid obligations:				
	Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1			
3000		798	893	981
3010	New obligations, unexpired accounts	812	834	866
	Outlays			
3020	(gross)	-657	-700	-770
	Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations, unexpired			
3040		-60	-46	-45
3050	Unpaid obligations, end of year	893	981	1,032
Memorandum (non-add) entries:				
3100	Obligated balance, start of year	798	893	981
3200	Obligated balance, end of year	893	981	1,032
<u>Budget authority and outlays, net:</u>				
Mandatory:				
4090	Budget authority, gross	725	786	830
Outlays, gross:				
4100	Outlays from new mandatory authority	133	210	208
4101	Outlays from mandatory balances	524	490	562
4110	Outlays, gross (total)	657	700	770
4160	Budget authority, net (mandatory)	725	786	830
4170	Outlays, net (mandatory)	657	700	770
4180	Budget authority, net (total)	725	786	830
4190	Outlays, net (total)	657	700	770

Object Classification (O)				
<u>Direct obligations:</u>				
11.1	Full-time permanent	5	5	5
12.1	Civilian personnel benefits	2	2	2
	Other services from non-Federal sources			
25.2		1	1	1
	Other goods and services from Federal sources			
25.3		4	4	4
32.0	Land and structures	5	3	3
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	795	819	851
	Total new obligations, unexpired accounts			
99.9		812	834	866

Employment Summary (Q)				
1001	Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	50	57	57

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Migratory Bird Conservation Account



Appropriations Language

This activity does not require appropriations language, except for advances, which are not requested, as there is permanent authority as provided in the 81st Congress, Second Session—Chapter 896, Interior Appropriations Act, 1951, September 6, 1951 (64 Stat. 697) to use the receipts.

Authorizing Statutes

The Migratory Bird Conservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 715-715d, 715e, 715f-715r), established the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (MBCC) to approve migratory bird areas that the Secretary of the Interior recommends for acquisition. The Act also authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to acquire MBCC-approved migratory bird areas.

The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 718a-718k), requires all waterfowl hunters 16 years of age or older to possess a Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, commonly known as a Duck Stamp, while waterfowl hunting. Funds from the sale of Duck Stamps are deposited in a special treasury account known as the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (MBCF) established by this Act. The Act also authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to use funds from the MBCF to acquire waterfowl production areas. The 2014 amendment to the Act (PL 113-264) increased the price of the Federal Duck Stamp from \$15 to \$25, with the \$10 increase dedicated to the acquisition of conservation easements.

The Wetlands Loan Act, (16 U.S.C. 715k-3 - 715k-5), authorizes the appropriation of advances (not to exceed \$200 million, available until expended) to accelerate acquisition of migratory waterfowl habitat, and requires the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Service Director, to obtain the approval of the State's Governor or the appropriate State agency to acquire land in the State with MBCF monies. To date, \$197,439,000 has been appropriated under this authority. Funds appropriated under the Wetlands Loan Act are merged with receipts from sales of Duck Stamps and other sources and made available for acquisition of migratory bird habitat under provisions of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act, as amended, or the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act, as amended.

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee), requires payment of fair market value for any right-of-way granted over, across, through, or under National Wildlife Refuge System lands. These funds are deposited into the MBCF.

The Emergency Wetlands Resources Act, as amended (P.L. 99-645; 100 Stat. 3582), provides for: (1) an amount equal to the amount of all import duties collected on arms and ammunition to be paid quarterly into the MBCF; and (2) removal of the repayment provision of the wetlands loan.

Appropriation: Migratory Bird Conservation Account

	2016 Actual	2017 Estimate	2018				Change from 2017 (+/-)
			Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Land Acquisition: Fee, Easements, and Leases (\$000)	69,557	67,444	0	0	+4,598	72,042	+4,598
U.S. Postal Service Duck Stamp Printing and Sales Costs (\$000)	570	650	0	0	0	650	0
Total, Migratory Bird Conservation Account (\$000) <i>FTE</i>	70,127 62	68,094 62	0 0	0 0	+4,598 0	72,692 62	+4,598 0

*The amounts presented in 2016 and 2017 include sequestration in accordance with section 251(a) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act, 2 U.S.C. 901(a). In addition, the amounts in 2016, 2017, and 2018 include amounts previously sequestered, which are now available in accordance with said Act.

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget estimate for the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund is \$72,692,000 and 62 FTE.

Program Overview

The Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (MBCF) is a sportsmen and waterfowl enthusiast-supported fund that provides the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) with monies to acquire important waterfowl habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System under the authority of the *Migratory Bird Conservation Act* and the *Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act*. The Service pursues MBCF acquisition of lands, waters, or interests in land or water, including fee title, easements, and leases, from willing sellers only, to prevent the loss of important waterfowl habitat in the United States. The Service uses the best waterfowl science available, and the expertise of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) community, including Migratory Bird Joint Venture (JV) step-down plans, Migratory Bird Program and JV staff expert opinion, and input from State wildlife agencies, to identify important areas to acquire. Areas acquired become units of the National Wildlife Refuge System and protect important waterfowl habitat while providing compatible wildlife-dependent educational and recreational opportunities. These funds contribute to the NAWMP goals of: (1) abundant and resilient waterfowl populations to support hunting and other uses without imperiling habitat; (2) wetlands and related habitats sufficient to sustain waterfowl populations at desired levels, while providing places to recreate and ecological services that benefit society; and (3) growing numbers of waterfowl hunters, other conservationists, and citizens who enjoy and actively support waterfowl and wetlands conservation.

There are two major sources of funds deposited into the MBCF account. The best known source is the revenue received from the sale of Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps, commonly known as Duck Stamps, as provided for under the *Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act*. In accordance with the *Federal Duck Stamp Act of 2014*, all amounts in excess of \$15 received from the sale of each Duck Stamp can be used only for conservation easement acquisition. The other major funding source is import duties collected on arms and ammunition, as provided for under the *Emergency Wetlands Resources Act*. The MBCF is further supplemented by



The sale of Duck Stamps provides the Secretary with monies to conserve wetlands and related habitats to ensure abundant and resilient waterfowl populations for the public's enjoyment.

proceeds from rights-of-way granted over, across, through, or under refuge lands, and any proceeds from refuge land disposals. State-reverted funds in the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration account are also used for MBCF purposes.

Since the MBCF receives much of its funding from the sale of Duck Stamps, which hunters aged 16 and older must purchase in order to hunt waterfowl, most of the fee title tracts the Service acquires with the MBCF are open to public hunting, including youth hunts. Acquired lands and waters also provide opportunities for non-hunters, such as bird watching and other wildlife observation. By protecting more wetlands, these acquisitions improve water quality and groundwater recharge, and moderate flooding events.



The MBCF is a sportsmen and waterfowl enthusiast-supported fund, and areas acquired using MBCF monies improve or expand public opportunities for migratory bird hunting. Credit: USFWS.

All MBCF land acquisitions for National Wildlife Refuges must be approved by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (MBCC). The MBCC, under the authority of the *Migratory Bird Conservation Act*, acts on recommendations by the Secretary for purchase or rental, from willing sellers, of land, water, or interests in land or water for waterfowl conservation. Further, under the Act, the MBCC fixes the price at which the Service may purchase or rent such areas. The MBCC:

- Includes representatives from the Legislative and Executive Branches of government;
- Invites the participation of State government officials when specific migratory bird areas are recommended to the MBCC; and
- Meets at least twice per year.

Additionally, pursuant to the *Migratory Bird Conservation Act* and the *Wetlands Loan Act*, the MBCC only considers proposed purchases or rentals of land in a State after:

- The State's legislature has consented by law to acquisition by the United States (16 U.S.C. 715f);
- The Secretary, acting through the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Director), has consulted with the affected county or other unit of local government and with the State's Governor or the appropriate State agency, about land acquisition (16 U.S.C. 715c); and
- The State's Governor or the appropriate State agency has approved the acquisition (16 U.S.C. 715k-5).

The *Migratory Bird Conservation Act* also designates a State's ranking officer, or an authorized representative of the State agency that administers game laws, as an ex officio member of the MBCC to consider and vote on all questions relating to proposed acquisitions in their State. After the Service obtains the approval of the Governor or the appropriate State agency for a proposed acquisition, the Secretary to the MBCC invites the appropriate State official to an MBCC meeting to express their views and vote on the proposal as an ex officio member of the MBCC.

The Secretary, acting through the Director, considers many factors before seeking approval from the MBCC for proposed purchases or rentals of land from willing sellers. These factors include:

- The value of the habitat to the waterfowl resource (in general or for specific species);
- The degree of threat to these values due to potential land use changes;

- The possibility of conserving habitat values through means other than Service acquisition;
- The long-term cost savings on operations and maintenance costs associated with acquisition; and
- The potential to improve public access to, or management capability of, existing public lands.

Congress also has authorized the Secretary to use the MBCF to purchase waterfowl production areas in the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR) of the upper Midwest region of the United States, with State-level approval, under the authority of the *Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act*. Also known as America's "duck factory," the PPR is a large land area covered with shallow wetlands and associated native prairie that supports more than 50% of the total breeding population of North America's migratory waterfowl. The prime breeding habitat for millions of ducks, it includes parts of Iowa, the Dakotas, Minnesota, and Montana, and can support upwards of 100 breeding duck pairs (200 breeding ducks) per square mile. The NAWMP identified the PPR as the continent's top priority for waterfowl conservation. The accelerated conversion of PPR wetlands and grasslands to uses that negatively impact waterfowl breeding and brood rearing ability continues to spur the need for conservation to protect more waterfowl production areas.



Since 2012, the Service has used MBCF monies to protect the breeding grounds for nearly 300,000 ducks in the PPR through the purchase of wetland and grassland easements from willing sellers. Credit: USFWS.

In 2018, with the MBCC's support and in consultation with conservation partners, the Service will continue to expend at least 70 percent of available MBCF funding in the PPR to help secure the future for



Mallards rise from a 2016 MBCC-approved acquisition of 978 fee acres at Cache River NWR in Arkansas. Credit: USFWS.

waterfowl and grassland bird species. During 2016, the Service purchased 354 fee acres and 46,581 easement acres on waterfowl production areas in the PPR using \$47 million from the MBCF. Partner matching funds and donations enabled the Service to acquire an additional 16,800 easement acres. Together, these acquisitions permanently protected the breeding grounds for nearly 65,000 ducks.

To carry out MBCC-approved projects, the MBCF supports a staff of realty specialists, land surveyors, realty assistants, cartographers, and program

managers. This staff performs detailed, technical duties including boundary surveys, mapping, landowner negotiations, title curative work, case closures, and post-acquisition tracking, associated with land acquisition at refuges and waterfowl production areas.

Delivering Conservation for Migratory Birds

Since its creation, the MBCF has contributed significantly to the successful conservation of wetland-dependent migratory birds and continues to expand conservation for waterfowl and other birds that use imperiled habitats within our Nation, including coastlines, grasslands, and forests. From 1935 to 2016, the Service expended more than \$1.4 billion from the MBCF to purchase 3.1 million acres in fee title and 2.7 million acres in easements or leases, for National Wildlife Refuges and waterfowl production areas in the lower 48 States. In 2016, in addition to the nearly 47,000 acres conserved in the PPR, the MBCC approved refuge fee title and easement acquisitions totaling 20,273 acres. Examples of projects are below:

- The MBCC approved two projects in Arkansas: one at Cache River National Wildlife Refuge, and one at Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge. Both refuges contain important bottomland hardwoods for wintering mallards and wood ducks. The Felsenthal NWR project involves a portion of a large ownership that straddles the Arkansas and Louisiana state lines, and acquisition will connect the Felsenthal NWR in southern Arkansas with the Upper Ouachita NWR in northern Louisiana, creating a larger corridor for wildlife and wildlife-dependent public recreation. In total, the MBCC approved the acquisition of 978 fee acres at Cache River NWR and 282 fee acres at Felsenthal NWR.
- The MBCC approved two projects in Texas: one at McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge, and one at Neches River National Wildlife Refuge. The project at McFaddin NWR will protect 12,376 acres containing a mix of wetlands and coastal prairie that provide important habitat for migrating and wintering waterfowl. The property is located within an area of the Central Flyway on the upper Texas Gulf coast that includes more than 100,000 acres of protected beach and marshland on National Wildlife Refuges and State lands, including the core of the mottled duck habitat in Texas. The property includes a large portion of the Willow Slough Marsh, the largest remaining coastal freshwater marsh in Texas (the remaining portion is on Refuge land). Long-term protection of the property is among the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD)'s top priorities for Gulf coast conservation, and the acquisition is a collaborative project with TPWD. The Service expects to acquire the 12,376 acres in a phased acquisition over three years, with the majority of project funding provided by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund, the RESTORE Act Gulf Restoration Trust Fund, and private donors. Also in Texas, at Neches River NWR, the MBCC approved the acquisition of 952 fee acres of bottomland hardwood forest, swamps, and herbaceous wetlands to be managed as waterfowl habitat.



Black-bellied whistling ducks on a 2016 MBCC-approved acquisition of 12,376 fee acres at McFaddin NWR on the upper Texas Gulf coast. Long-term protection of the property, which includes a large portion of the Willow Slough Marsh, the largest remaining coastal freshwater marsh in Texas, is a collaborative project with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. Credit: USFWS.



Migratory bird refuges provide safe, quality hunting opportunities for hunters of all ages. Credit: USFWS.

2018 Program Performance

The Service reports MBCF and LWCF land acquisitions for the National Wildlife Refuge System in two annual reports, the Annual Report of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission <<https://www.fws.gov/refuges/realty/mbcc.html>> and the Annual Report of Lands <<https://www.fws.gov/refuges/land/LandReport.html>>. The table below summarizes MBCF acquisitions.

Fiscal Year	Fee and Easement Acres Acquired with the MBCF		
	Fee Acres	Easement Acres	Total Acres
2018 (Est.)	7,500	45,000	52,500
2017 (Est.)	7,500	45,000	52,500
2016	6,062	46,906	52,968
2015	7,168	41,351	48,519
2014	11,103	43,392	54,495
2013	7,433	52,873	60,306
2012	14,747	48,144	62,891
2011	16,719	23,160	39,879
2010	6,398	25,297	31,695
2009	13,870	27,504	41,374
2008	7,716	32,073	39,789
2007	8,041	29,147	37,188
2006	9,634	31,964	41,598
2005	13,768	49,103	62,871
2004	10,098	38,819	48,917
2003	36,164	41,706	77,870
2002	21,274	48,931	70,205
Total	205,195	670,370	875,565

Note: The FY 2014, FY 2015, and FY 2016 totals include conservation easements acquired using Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration State reverted funds.

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACCOUNT			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2016	2017	2018
Identification Code 010-18-14-5137	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Special and Trust Fund Receipt (N)			
0100 Balance, start of year	3	4	4
Receipts:			
1110 Migratory Bird Hunting Stamps [010-00-513710-0-000000]	31	36	37
1110 Custom Duties on Arms and Ammunition [010-00-513720-0-000000]	40	32	32
1999 Total receipts	71	68	69
2000 I: Balances and receipts	74	72	73
Appropriations:			
2101 Migratory Bird Conservation Account [010-18-5137-0-1201]	-70	-68	-68
2103 Migratory Bird Conservation Account [010-18-5137-0-1203]	-5	-5	-5
2132 Migratory Bird Conservation Account [010-18-5137-0-1232]	5	5	0
2999 Total Appropriations	-70	-68	-73
5099 Balance, end of year	4	4	0
Combined Schedule (X)			
Obligations by program activity:			
0001 Printing and Sale of Duck Stamps	1	1	1
0002 Acquisition of Land and Easements	70	70	70
0900 Total new obligations, unexpired accounts	71	71	71
Budgetary resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	9	9	6
1021 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	1	0	0
1050 Unobligated balance (total)	10	9	6
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, mandatory:			
1201 Appropriation (special or trust fund)	70	68	68
1203 Appropriation (previously unavailable)	5	5	5
1232 Appropriations and/or unobligated balance of appropriations temporarily reduced	-5	-5	0
1260 Appropriations, mandatory (total)	70	68	73
1930 Total budgetary resources available	80	77	79
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	9	6	8
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	13	22	27
3010 New obligations, unexpired accounts	71	71	71
3020 Outlays (gross)	-61	-66	-74
3040 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations, unexpired	-1	0	0
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	22	27	24
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	13	22	27
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	22	27	24
Budget authority and outlays, net:			
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	70	68	73

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACCOUNT			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2016	2017	2018
Identification Code 010-18-14-5137	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Outlays, gross:			
4100 Outlays from new mandatory authority	42	44	44
4101 Outlays from mandatory balances	19	22	30
4110 Outlays, gross (total)	61	66	74
4160 Budget authority, net (mandatory)	70	68	73
4170 Outlays, net (mandatory)	61	66	74
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	70	68	73
4190 Outlays, net (total)	61	66	74
Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	5	5	5
12.1 Civilian personnel benefits	2	2	2
25.2 Other services from non-Federal sources	2	2	2
25.3 Other goods and services from Federal sources	2	2	2
32.0 Land and structures	60	60	60
99.9 Total new obligations, unexpired accounts	71	71	71
Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	62	62	62

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Recreation Fee Program



Appropriations Language

This activity does not require appropriations language as there is authority to use the receipts through September 30, 2017.

Note.—A full-year 2017 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the budget was prepared; therefore, the budget assumes this account is operating under the Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2017 (P.L. 114–254). The amounts included for 2017 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution.

Authorizing Statutes

Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801-6814). The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) provides the authority to establish, modify, charge, and collect recreation fees at Federal recreation land and waters. The Act seeks to improve recreational facilities and visitor opportunities and services on Federal recreational lands by reinvesting receipts from fair and consistent recreational fees and pass sales. The 2018 budget proposes legislation to permanently authorize FLREA, which will expire on September 30, 2017.

Appropriation: Federal Lands Recreation Fee Program

		2016 Actual	2017 Estimate	2018			Change from 2017 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)*	Budget Request	
Federal Lands Recreation Fee Program	(\$000)	5,600	5,099	0	+70	5,169	+70
	FTE	31	23	0	0	23	0

*The amount presented in 2016 and 2017 includes the sequestration in accordance with Sec. 251A of the BBDECA, 2 U.S.C 901a. In addition, the amounts in 2016, 2017, and 2018 include amounts previously sequestered, which are now available in accordance with said Act.

Program Mission

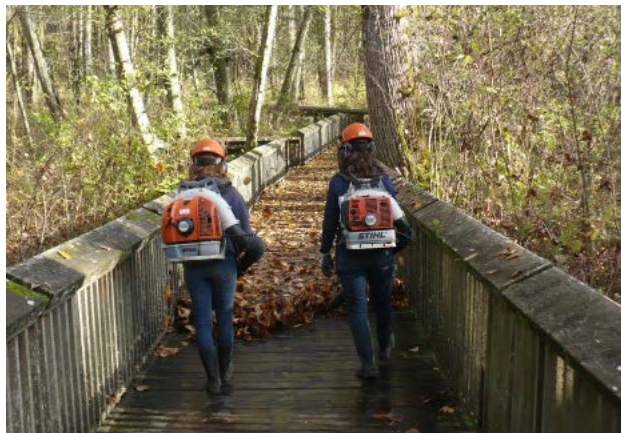
The intent of the Federal Lands Recreation Fee Program is to provide an additional revenue source for “repair, maintenance, and facility enhancement related directly to visitor enjoyment, visitor access, and health and safety; interpretation, visitor information, visitor service, visitor needs assessments, and signs; habitat restoration directly related to wildlife-dependent recreation that is limited to hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, or photography; law enforcement related to public use and recreation; direct operating or capital costs associated with the Recreation Fee Program; and a fee management agreement established under section 6(a) or a visitor reservation service.” [From REA, 16 U.S.C. 6803(c)].

Program Overview

The Recreation Fee Program, authorized through September 30, 2017, allows the collection of entrance, expanded amenity, and special recreation permit fees on Federal lands and waters managed by the Department of the Interior such as National Wildlife Refuges. The Service returns at least 80 percent of the collections to the specific refuge site of collection to offset program costs and enhance visitor facilities and programs. The Service has over 166 approved Recreation Fee Program sites. An additional 28 National Fish Hatchery, Ecological Service offices, or other refuge sites also sell interagency passes to improve pass availability for the public in certain regions. The Recreation Fee Program expects to collect approximately \$5,099,000 in FY 2017 and \$5,169,000 in FY 2018 under Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) authority.

The FLREA did not change the Federal Duck Stamp program, which will continue providing current stamp holders with free entry to Service entrance fee sites.

The Service is one of five bureaus, including the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Reclamation, participating in the Recreation Fee Program. The 2018 budget proposes permanent legislation to authorize the FLREA. The program currently brings in over \$300 million in recreation fees annually under this authority and uses the fees to enhance the visitor experience at Federal recreation facilities. The Service cooperates with the other bureaus to update and reissue program implementation guidance to ensure compatibility and consistency across the Recreation Fee Program.



Washington Youth Corps members leaf blowing boardwalk on Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually NWR Complex.

The following projects highlight the use of fee

dollars for recreation enhancements in FY 2016:

Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Washington

The Service used recreational fees to help fund a six-person AmeriCorps work crew from the Washington Conservation Corps. Corps activities included servicing and maintaining trails, boardwalks, parking areas, the Nature Explore Area, and other public areas. Corps members also assisted with providing activities to visitors during co-sponsored festivals, such as the Nisqually River Watershed Festival¹ and Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival.²



Crab Orchard NWR West End boat ramp and docks improvement project.

Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, Illinois

The Service used these fees to help fund new construction at the West End Boat Ramp and two courtesy docks on Crab Orchard Lake. The ramp is one of the most used ramps on the lake, with over 10,000 boat visits each year.

Havasu National Wildlife Refuge, Arizona

With the recreational fee funds, the Service hired a Student Conservation Association intern to help manage the hunt program. The intern assisted with pre-hunt projects such as trail and road maintenance, fence repair, sign and post repair, brush clearing, painting and

general cleanup. During the hunt season from October through February, the intern was responsible for meeting with hunters three days a week to conduct random drawings for blinds and goose fields, and answer questions regarding the refuge and hunting regulations. The intern also assisted a State organized youth hunt for 18 youth, most of whom had never before hunted.

Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Virginia

At Chincoteague Refuge, Virginia, fee dollars funded the purchase and installation of new waterless toilets at the entrance to three high-use trails: the Lighthouse Trail, Swan’s Cove Trail, and Woodland Trail. Chincoteague Refuge is one of the most visited refuges, and visitors frequently use these three trails. Since none of the trails are close to the visitor center, these waterless toilets are critical in making the refuge more welcoming and accessible.



A Student Conservation Association intern instructs students on how to run through the bison obstacle course held at the National Bison Range annual roundup.

National Bison Range, Montana

The Service used fee dollars to hire three Student Conservation Association interns to keep the visitor center open to the public all week. Their primary duties were to greet and orient 400-700 visitors per day, collect the

¹ The Nisqually River Watershed Festival is sponsored by the Service, Nisqually River Council, Tacoma Power Public Utility, Friends of Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Nisqually Indian Tribe, Nisqually Reach Nature Center, and WA Department of Ecology.

² The Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival is sponsored by the Service, the City of Hoquiam WA, and the Grays Harbor Audubon Society.

recreation fees, and answer questions. At the annual bison roundup, the interns assisted Regional visitor services staff in managing and educating over 1,100 students and teachers who attended this annual two-day event. The event had fun and learning for the whole family, including information on bison biology and behavior, pollinators, and wildlife Olympic games designed to educate youth about the importance of wildlife conservation.



Portable toilet/shower for use by hunters on Wassaw Island, Wassaw NWR.

Wassaw National Wildlife Refuge, Georgia

The Wassaw Refuge is on a barrier island off the coast of Georgia and lacks running water for public use. Since hunters stay on the island overnight, the refuge used fee funds to purchase a portable toilet/shower trailer to be used for two deer hunts annually on Wassaw Island. The hunts accommodate an average of 100 hunters per year.

Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska

At Kenai Refuge, Alaska, the refuge used funds to create improved fishing access to one of the refuge's most heavily used recreation areas. The refuge contracted for the installation of metal, light-penetrating stairways to provide safe access for visitors along 600 feet of the south bank of the Kenai River's

edge, and bank stabilization through plantings of native alder and willows to help prevent further erosion from heavy visitor use.



The left side of the photo shows a completed section of the Kenai River project with re-vegetation and completed stairway.

2018 Program Performance

The Recreation Fee Program directly supports the DOI Recreation Goal to provide for a quality recreation experience, including access, and enjoyment of natural and cultural resources. Each collaborating bureau also has a goal concerning costs associated with fee collections. The Service's goal is to limit collection costs to less than 20 percent of total collections.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (\$000)	2016 Actual	2017 Estimate	2018 Estimate
Recreation Fee Revenues	5,600	5,099	5,169
America the Beautiful pass	[559]	[600]	[650]
Unobligated Balance Brought Forward & Recoveries	7,961	8,090	5,764
Total Funds Available	13,561	13,189	10,933
<i>Obligations by Type of Project</i>			
Facilities Routine/Annual Maintenance	1,186	1,152	946
Facilities Capital Improvements	359	814	711
Facilities Deferred Maintenance	472	432	354
Subtotal, asset repairs and maintenance	2,017	2,398	2,011
Visitor Services	1,787	2,864	2,062
Habitat Restoration (directly related to wildlife dependent recreation)	107	348	292
Direct Operation Costs	787	889	798
Law Enforcement (for public use and recreation)	386	464	385
Fee Management Agreement and Reservation Services	8	83	83
Administration, Overhead and Indirect Costs	379	379	379
Total Obligations	5,471	7,425	6,191

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RECREATION ENHANCEMENT FEE PROGRAM			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2016	2017	2018
Identification Code 010-18-14-5252	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Special and Trust Receipts (N)			
0100 Balance, start of year	0	0	0
Receipts:			
1130 Recreation Enhancement Fee, FWS [010-00-525210-0-200403]	6	5	5
2000 Total: Balances and receipts	6	5	5
Appropriations:			
2101 Recreation Enhancement Fee, FWS [010-18-5252-0-1201]	-6	-5	-5
5099 Balance, end of year	0	0	0
Combined Schedule (X)			
Obligations by program activity:			
0001 Recreation Enhancement Fee Program	5	5	6
0900 Total new obligations	5	5	6
Budgetary resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	8	9	9
1050 Unobligated balance (total)	8	9	9
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, mandatory:			
1201 Appropriation (special or trust fund)	6	5	5
1260 Appropriations, mandatory (total)	6	5	5
1930 Total budgetary resources available	14	14	14
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	9	9	8
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	2	2	2
3010 New obligations, unexpired accounts	5	5	6
3020 Outlays (gross)	-5	-5	-6
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	2	2	2
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	2	2	2
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	2	2	2
Budget authority and outlays, net:			
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	6	5	5
Outlays, gross:			
4100 Outlays from new mandatory authority	4	3	3
4101 Outlays from mandatory balances	1	2	3
4110 Outlays, gross (total)	5	5	6
4160 Budget authority, net (mandatory)	6	5	5
4170 Outlays, net (mandatory)	5	5	6
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	6	5	5
4190 Outlays, net (total)	5	5	6

Standard Form 300 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RECREATION ENHANCEMENT FEE PROGRAM			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) Identification Code 010-18-14-5252	2016 Actual	2017 Estimate	2018 Estimate
Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	1	1	1
11.3 Other than full-time permanent	1	1	1
11.9 Total personnel compensation	2	2	2
12.1 Civilian personnel benefits	1	1	1
25.2 Other services from non-Federal sources	0	1	1
25.4 Operation and maintenance of facilities	1	1	1
99.0 Subtotal, obligations, Direct obligations	4	5	5
99.5 Adjustment for rounding	1	0	1
99.9 Total new obligations, unexpired accounts	5	5	6
Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	31	23	23

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Contributed Funds



Appropriations Language

Activities funded from this account do not require appropriation language since there is permanent authority to use the receipts.

Authorizing Statutes

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661-668). This Act authorized the Secretary of the Interior to accept donations of land and contributed funds in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 743b-7421). This Act authorizes loans for commercial fishing vessels; investigations of fish and wildlife resources; and cooperation with other agencies. The Service is also authorized to accept donations of real and personal property. P.L. 105-242 amended this act to authorize cooperative agreements with nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, or State and local governments to construct, operate, maintain, or improve refuge facilities and services, and to promote volunteer outreach and education programs. Funds contributed by partners from sales and gifts must be deposited in a separate account in the treasury.

Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (16 U.S.C. 4601-1h). This Act authorizes donations of fund, property, and personal services or facilities for the purposes of the Act.

National Wildlife Refuge System Volunteer and Community Partnership Act (16 U.S.C. 742). Authorizes cooperative agreements with nonprofit partner organizations, academic institutions, or State and local governments to construct, operate, maintain, or improve refuge facilities and services, and to promote volunteer, outreach, and education programs.

National Fish Hatchery System Volunteer Act (120 STAT 2058-2061). Authorizes cooperative agreements with nonprofit partner organizations, academic institutions, or State and local governments to promote the stewardship of resources through biological monitoring or research; to construct, operate, maintain, or improve hatchery facilities, habitat and services, and to promote volunteer, outreach, and education programs.

Appropriation: Contributed Funds

		2016 Actual	2017 Estimate	2018			Change from 2017 (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Contributed Funds	(\$000)	4,960	5,000	0	0	0	5,000	0
	FTE	20	15	0	0	0	15	0

Program Overview

The Service accepts unsolicited contributions from other governments, private organizations, and individuals. Once collected, the funds are used to support a variety of fish and wildlife conservation projects that contribute to fulfillment of DOI goals and the Service's mission.

Contributions are difficult to accurately forecast due to external events. Annual contributions typically range from approximately \$1.2 to \$5.6 million. In FY 2016, the receipts totaled \$4.96 million.

2018 Program Performance

The Service uses contributed funds to address its highest priority needs in concert with other types of funding. The funds in 2018 will be used for projects similar to those planned and completed in previous fiscal years. For example, the Service used contributed funds for the following activities in prior years:

Migratory Birds (Idaho and Wisconsin): The Service funded wetland and habitat enhancement projects in Idaho and Wisconsin. The West Sloughs Enhancement project in Idaho will enhance 177 acres to increase waterfowl, waterbirds, and shorebird populations in the Upper Snake River Plain by increasing the quality and availability of migratory habitat. Mead Wetland Enhancement I project will enhance a total of 1,025 acres of highly diverse and productive emergent marsh habitat in central Wisconsin to counteract previous and ongoing wetland losses in the region, conserving an environment of proven importance for breeding waterfowl and other wetland species including shorebirds, birds of prey, wading birds, and songbirds. Both projects will occur on public land that is available for waterfowl hunting and all other compatible forms of outdoor recreation.

International Activities (Nepal): The Service funded a community engagement project in the Parsa Wildlife Reserve, Nepal. The purpose of this project is to significantly reduce human-tiger conflict through community engagement programs, establish baseline data on populations, and double the tiger population. The project will identify underlying causes of human-tiger conflict and implement conflict-reduction strategies with local communities; promote improved livestock husbandry practices for enhanced daily subsistence of local communities and to minimize pressure on the buffer zone and core area; implement awareness-raising activities in the buffer zone area; and implement poaching-reduction strategies.

National Wildlife Refuge System (Northern California): The Service funded the North Woods and Eastside Canal wetlands project at the Modoc National Wildlife Refuge creating a series of small depressions across 100 acres to provide open water areas for waterfowl and other waterbirds, allow for better control of canary grass, and enhance establishment of preferred marsh vegetation. Small loafing/nesting islands were created using the soil excavated from the constructed depressions to increase waterfowl production. Old canals were filled or recontoured, weedy spoil piles removed, and bare dirt areas replanted with desirable wetland vegetation and grasses. The enhanced wetlands increased the potential success of waterbirds and waterfowl nesting in the surrounding upland areas.

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CONTRIBUTED FUNDS			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2016	2017	2018
Identification Code: 010-18-14-8216	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Special and Trust Fund Receipt (N)			
0100 Balance, start of year	0	0	0
Receipts:			
1130 Deposits, Contributed Funds FWS [010-00-821610-0-	5	5	5
2000 Total: Balances and receipts	5	5	5
Appropriations:			
2101 Contributed Funds [010-18-8216-0-1201]	-5	-5	-5
5999 Balance, end of year	0	0	0
Combined Schedule (X)			
Obligations by program activity:			
0001 Contributed Funds	4	5	5
0900 Total new obligations, unexpired accounts	4	5	5
Budgetary resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	7	8	8
1050 Unobligated balance (total)	7	8	8
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, mandatory:			
1201 Appropriation (special or trust fund)	5	5	5
1260 Appropriations, mandatory (total)	5	5	5
1930 Total budgetary resources available	12	13	13
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	8	8	8
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	2	3	3
3010 New obligations, unexpired accounts	4	5	5
3020 Outlays (gross)	-3	-5	-6
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	3	3	2
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	2	3	3
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	3	3	2
Budget authority and outlays, net:			
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	5	5	5

Standard Form 300 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CONTRIBUTED FUNDS				
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) Identification Code: 010-18-14-8216		2016 Actual	2017 Estimate	2018 Estimate
Outlays, gross:				
4100	Outlays from new mandatory authority	1	1	1
4101	Outlays from mandatory balances	2	4	5
4110	Outlays, gross (total)	3	5	6
4160	Budget authority, net (mandatory)	5	5	5
4170	Outlays, net (mandatory)	3	5	6
4180	Budget authority, net (total)	5	5	5
Outlays, net				
4190	(total)	3	5	6

Object Classification (O)				
Direct obligations:				
11.1	Full-time permanent	1	1	1
12.1	Civilian personnel benefits	1	1	1
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	1	1	1
26.0	Supplies and materials	0	1	1
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	1	1	1
99.0	Subtotal, obligations, Direct obligations	4	5	5
99.5	Adjustment for rounding	0	0	0
99.9	Total new obligations, unexpired accounts	4	5	5

Employment Summary (Q)				
1001	Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	20	15	15

Miscellaneous Permanent Appropriations



Appropriations Language

Activities funded from these mandatory spending accounts do not require appropriation language since they were authorized in previous years.

Authorizing Statutes

Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, as amended, (P.L. 98-473, section 320; 98 Stat. 1874). Provides that all rents and charges collected for quarters of agencies funded by the Act shall be deposited and remain available until expended for the maintenance and operation of quarters of that agency.

Flood Control Act, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 460d). Provides that receipts collected from the sales of timber and crops produced on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers land leased by another Federal agency for natural resources conservation may be used to cover expenses of producing these products and for managing the land for natural resource purposes. Authorizing language is:

Truckee-Carson Pyramid Lake Water Rights Settlement Act, (P.L. 101-618, section 206(f)), as amended by Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY 1998, (P.L. 105-83). Authorizes certain revenues and donations from non-federal entities to be deposited into the Lahontan Valley and Pyramid Lake Fish and Wildlife Fund to support restoration and enhancement of wetlands in the Lahontan Valley and to restore and protect the Pyramid Lake fishery, including the recovery of two endangered or threatened species of fish. Payments to the Bureau of Reclamation for storage in Northern Nevada's Washoe Project that exceed the operation and maintenance costs of Stampede Reservoir are deposited into the Fund and are available without further appropriation, starting in FY 1996. Beginning in FY 1998, P.L. 105-83 provides that receipts from the sales of certain lands by the Secretary of the Interior are to be deposited into the Lahontan Valley and Pyramid Lake Fish and Wildlife Fund.

Commercial Filming Fee, (P.L. 113-287). This law authorizes a fee system for commercial filming activities on Federal land and to use the fees for expenditure by the Secretary, without further appropriation.

Community Partnership Enhancement Act of 1998, (16 U.S.C.742f). This act authorizes the cooperative agreements with nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, or State and local governments to construct, operate, maintain, or improve refuge facilities and services, and to promote volunteer outreach and education programs.

Appropriation: Miscellaneous Permanent Appropriations

		2016 Actual	2017 Estimate	2018			Budget Request	Change from 2017 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
Operations and Maintenance of Quarters	(\$000)	3,260	3,300	0	0	+50	3,350	+50
	FTE	4	3	0	0	0	0	3
Proceeds from Sales	(\$000)	191	250	0	0	0	250	0
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lahontan Valley & Pyramid Lake Fish and Wildlife Fund	(\$000)	883	550	0	0	0	550	0
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Film and Photography Fee Program	(\$000)	0	0	0	0	+75	75	+75
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Community Partnership Enhancement	(\$000)	486	100	0	0	0	100	0
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total, Miscellaneous Permanent Appropriations	(\$000)	4,820	4,200	0	0	+125	4,325	+125
	FTE	4	3	0	0	0	3	0

Justification of 2018 Program Changes

The 2018 budget request for Miscellaneous Permanent Appropriations is \$4,325,000 and 3 FTE, a program change of +\$125,000 and +0 FTE from the 2017 estimate.

Program Overview**Operations and Maintenance of Quarters**

The Operations and Maintenance of Quarters (Quarters) Account uses receipts from the rental of Service quarters to pay for maintenance and operation of those quarters. Certain circumstances, including a lack of off-site residences and site isolation, require Service personnel to occupy government-owned quarters. Such work includes protecting fish hatchery stock (e.g. maintaining water flow to fish rearing ponds during freezing temperatures), monitoring water management facilities, ensuring the health and welfare of visitors, responding to fires and floods, and protecting government property. To provide for these needs, the Service manages 1,124 units.

Quarters require routine operational maintenance, periodic rehabilitation, and upgrades to maintain safe and healthy conditions for occupants. Rental receipts are used for general maintenance and repair of quarters buildings; code and regulatory improvements; retrofitting for energy efficiency; correction of safety deficiencies; repairs to roofs and plumbing; utilities upgrades; access road repair and maintenance; grounds and other site maintenance services; and the purchase of replacement equipment such as household appliances, air conditioners, and furnaces. Funds are used to address the highest priority maintenance.

Rental rates for Service quarters are based upon comparability with private sector housing. Quarters rental rates are surveyed on a rotating basis every five years using statistical analysis of comparable rentals from 16 areas nationwide. Between surveys, rents are adjusted using the Consumer Price Index-Rent Series

annual adjustment from the end of the fiscal year. Volunteers who must travel a great distance to work at a Service facility are permitted to stay in Service housing units at no cost if vacant housing units are available.

Proceeds From Sales, Water Resources Development Projects

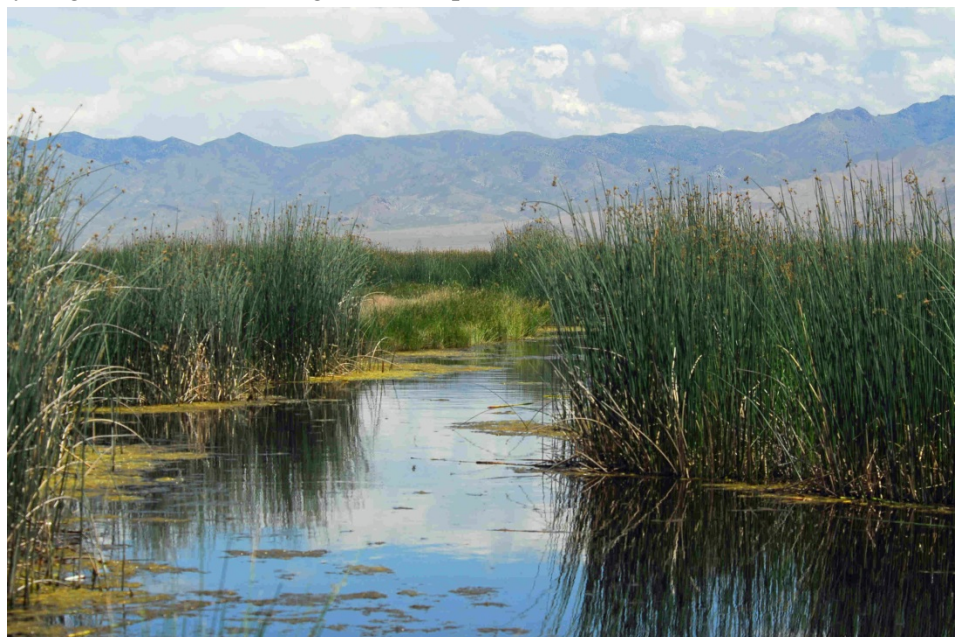
As described in 16 U.S.C. 460(d), receipts collected from the sale of timber and crops from Refuge System lands leased or licensed from the Department of the Army may be used to pay the costs of production of the timber and crops and for managing wildlife habitat. Twenty-three National Wildlife Refuges were established as overlay projects on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers land, and they are administered in accordance with cooperative agreements. The agreements provide that timber and grain may be harvested and sold with the receipts returned for development, conservation, maintenance, and utilization of such lands. The Service has used these funds in the past for soil amendments; road construction and repairs; and ditch and fence construction and maintenance. These expenses cannot exceed the receipt amounts deposited as proceeds from sales.

The agreements with the Corps of Engineers specify that the receipts collected on refuges must be spent within five years. This agreement structure provides for carryover balances from year to year, which allows the receipts to accumulate until sufficient funds are available to support some of the larger development projects on these refuges.

Lahontan Valley and Pyramid Lake Fish and Wildlife Fund

Pursuant to the Truckee-Carson Pyramid Lake Water Rights Settlement Act of 1990, the Lahontan Valley and Pyramid Lake Fish and Wildlife Fund receives revenues and donations from non-Federal parties to support the restoration and enhancement of wetlands in the Lahontan Valley and to restore and protect the Pyramid Lake fishery. Payments received from the Bureau of Reclamation's Washoe and Truckee Storage Projects in excess of operation and maintenance costs for Stampede Reservoir are available without further appropriation. Donations made for express purposes and State cost-sharing funds are available without further appropriation. The Secretary is also authorized to deposit proceeds from the sale of certain lands, interests in lands, and water rights into the Fund.

Wetlands in Northern Nevada's Lahontan Valley, including those at Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge and Carson Lake, are a key migration and wintering area for up to 1 million waterfowl, shorebirds, and raptors traveling on the eastern edge of the Pacific Flyway. Over 250,000 ducks, 28,000 geese and 12,000 swans have been observed in the area during wet years. In addition to migratory populations, the wetlands support about 4,500 breeding pairs producing 35,000 waterfowl annually. Up to 70 bald eagles, Nevada's largest concentration, have wintered in the valley.



The marshes at Stillwater Refuge in Nevada provide vital habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, and raptors.

In 1996, the Service completed a Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision that described, analyzed, and implemented a program to purchase up to 75,000 acre-feet of water from the Carson Division of the Newlands Project for Lahontan Valley wetlands. In partnership with the State of Nevada, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and the Bureau of Reclamation, 47,100 acre-feet of Newlands Project water rights have been acquired for Lahontan Valley wetlands to date. Of the acquired water rights; approximately 36,400 acre-feet were acquired by the Service, 1,800 acre-feet were acquired by BIA, and 8,900 acre-feet were acquired by the State. Water rights have been purchased from willing sellers at appraised market value. In addition to acquiring water, the Service is authorized to pay customary operations and maintenance charges to the local irrigation district for delivering the acquired water.

The Service's Lahontan National Fish Hatchery Complex is pursuing various activities to protect and restore the Pyramid Lake fishery, including operation and maintenance of Marble Bluff Fish Passage Facility, Lahontan cutthroat trout spawning and incubation operations at Marble Bluff Fish Passage Facility, and other ongoing conservation efforts for the fishes of Pyramid Lake.

Expenditures from the Lahontan Valley and Pyramid Lake Fish and Wildlife Fund continue to support the Service's water rights acquisition and land sales programs at Stillwater NWR.

Film and Photography Fee Program

This legislation from 2000 gives the Service the new authority to require permits and establish reasonable fees for commercial filming activities and certain still photography activities under Service jurisdiction. It requires all four bureaus involved—the Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Forest Service—to develop and implement a consistent fee schedule. To date, the four bureaus have revised the draft fee schedule after a public comment period, and the final fee schedule has not yet been published. Once the Service is able to charge and collect these fees, all costs recovered under this Act shall be available for expenditures by the Secretary, without further appropriation, at the site where collected, and shall remain available until expended.

Community Partnership Enhancement

The Community Partnership fund was established to encourage volunteer programs, donations, and other contributions by persons or organizations for the benefit of a particular wildlife refuge or complex. The partnership between a refuge or complex and non-federal organizations may promote public awareness of the resources of the Refuge System and public participation in the conservation of resources. Partnerships may be in the form of a non-profit organization (as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code), academic institution, or State or local government agency to carry out projects or programs for a refuge or complex.



Volunteer leads an interpretive walk at Santa Anna Refuge, TX

Funds may be used to promote the education and conservation of fish, wildlife, plants, and cultural and historical resources on a refuge or complex. Projects may be approved to:

- Promote stewardship of resources of the refuge through habitat maintenance, restoration and improvement, biological monitoring, or research;

- Support the operation and maintenance of the refuge through constructing, operating, maintaining or improving the facilities and services of the refuge;
- Increase awareness and understanding of the refuge and the Refuge System through the development, publication, or distribution of educational materials and products;
- Advance education concerning the purposes of the refuge and the mission of the Refuge System through the use of the refuge as an outdoor classroom and development of other educational programs; and
- Provide matching funds, or in the case of property or in-kind services, the fair market value may be matched, subject to the availability of funds.



*Girl Scout Daisies plant at San Diego Refuge, CA
Credit: Lisa Cox*



*SCA and YCC crews band geese at Little
Pend Oreille Refuge, WA.
Credit: Dan Price*

2018 Program Performance

Operation and Maintenance of Quarters

Estimated receipts in 2017 and 2018 are expected to be approximately \$3.3 million each year. Revisions continue to be made in the management of the program to reduce the operating balance of the account and target the highest priority repairs and improvements.

Proceeds From Sales, Water Resources Development Projects

Estimated receipts in 2017 and 2018 are expected to be approximately \$250,000 each year. Receipts depend on the amount of the commodity harvested, current market value, and the amount of the commodity that the Service uses for wildlife habitat management purposes. Annual receipts may also vary from year to year due to the influence of natural events such as flood or drought.

Lahontan Valley and Pyramid Lake Fish and Wildlife Fund

In 2018, receipts from land sales are estimated at \$550,000. The anticipated receipts have increased from prior years because of regional real estate market conditions.

Filming and Photography Fee Program

Anticipated receipts for 2018 are \$75,000. The anticipated receipts may vary from year to year due to fees collected for commercial filming activities under this program.

Community Partnership Enhancement

Anticipated receipts for 2017 and 2018 are \$100,000 due to the expiration of an agreement with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and no other existing agreements. However, annual receipts may vary from year to year due to individual donations or activities of partners to generate donations.

Standard Form 300 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE MISCELLANEOUS PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) Identification Code 010-18-14-9927	2016 Actual	2017 Estimate	2018 Estimate
Special and Trust Fund Receipt (N)			
0100 Balance, start of year	0	0	0
Receipts:			
1130 Rent and Charges for Quarters, Fish and Wildlife Service [010-00-505010-0-200403]	4	4	4
1198 Rounding adjustment	1	0	0
2000 Total: Balances and Receipts	5	4	4
Appropriations:			
2101 Miscellaneous Permanent Appropriations [010-18-9927-0-1201]	-5	-4	-4
5099 Balance, end of year	0	0	0

Combined Schedule (X)			
Obligations by program activity:			
0001 Miscellaneous Permanents	4	5	4
0900 Total new obligations, unexpired accounts	4	5	4
Budgetary resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	8	9	8
1050 Unobligated balance (total)	8	9	8
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, mandatory:			
1201 Appropriation (special or trust fund)	5	4	4
1260 Appropriations, mandatory (total)	5	4	4
1930 Total budgetary resources available	13	13	12
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	9	8	8
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	1	1	2
3010 New obligations, unexpired accounts	4	5	4
3020 Outlays (gross)	-4	-4	-5
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	1	2	1
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	1	1	2
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	1	2	1
Budget authority and outlays, net:			
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	5	4	4
Outlays, gross:			
4100 Outlays from new mandatory authority	1	2	2
4101 Outlays from mandatory balances	3	2	3
4110 Outlays, gross (total)	4	4	5
4160 Budget authority, net (mandatory)	5	4	4
4170 Outlays, net (mandatory)	4	4	5
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	5	4	4
4190 Outlays, net (total)	4	4	5

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE MISCELLANEOUS PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2016	2017	2018
Identification Code 010-18-14-9927	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	0	0	0
25.4 Operation and maintenance of facilities	2	2	2
26.0 Supplies and materials	1	2	1
32.0 Land and structures	1	1	1
99.0 Subtotal, obligations, Direct obligations	4	5	4
99.5 Adjustment for rounding	0	0	0
99.9 Total new obligations, unexpired accounts	4	5	4
Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	4	3	3

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Administrative Provisions and Legislative Proposals

Administrative Provisions

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service may carry out the operations of Service programs by direct expenditure, contracts, grants, cooperative agreements and reimbursable agreements with public and private entities. Appropriations and funds available to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall be available for repair of damage to public roads within and adjacent to reservation areas caused by operations of the Service; options for the purchase of land at not to exceed \$1 for each option; facilities incident to such public recreational uses on conservation areas as are consistent with their primary purpose; and the maintenance and improvement of aquaria, buildings, and other facilities under the jurisdiction of the Service and to which the United States has title, and which are used pursuant to law in connection with management, and investigation of fish and wildlife resources: *Provided*, That notwithstanding 44 U.S.C. 501, the Service may, under cooperative cost sharing and partnership arrangements authorized by law, procure printing services from cooperators in connection with jointly produced publications for which the cooperators share at least one-half the cost of printing either in cash or services and the Service determines the cooperator is capable of meeting accepted quality standards: *Provided further*, That the Service may accept donated aircraft as replacements for existing aircraft: *Provided further*, *That the Secretary may recover costs for response, assessment and damages to National Wildlife Refuge System resources from the actions of private parties, or for costs as otherwise provided by Federal, State, or local law, regulation, or court order as a result of the destruction, loss of, or injury to any living or non-living National Wildlife Refuge System resource: Provided further, That the damages described in the previous proviso shall include the following: 1) compensation for the cost of replacing, restoring or acquiring the equivalent of the damaged National Wildlife Refuge System resource; and 2) the value of any significant loss of use of a National Wildlife Refuge System resource pending its restoration, replacement or acquisition of an equivalent resource; or 3) the value of the National Wildlife Refuge System resource in the event the resource cannot be replaced, restored or an equivalent acquired: Provided further, That any instrumentality, including but not limited to a vessel, vehicle, aircraft, or other equipment or mechanism that destroys, causes the loss of, or injures any living or non-living National Wildlife Refuge System resource or which causes the Secretary to undertake actions to prevent, minimize, or abate destruction, loss of, injury or risk to such resource shall be liable in rem to the United States for response costs and damages resulting from such destruction, loss, injury or risk to the same extent as a person is liable: Provided further, That in addition to any other authority to accept donations, the Secretary may accept donations of money or services to meet expected, immediate, or ongoing response costs and damages; response and assessment costs and damages recovered by the Secretary and donations received under this provision shall be available to the Secretary, without further appropriation, and shall remain available until expended, for damage assessments conducted, or for restoration and replacement of National Wildlife Refuge System resources and shall be managed under the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Fund as per 43 U.S.C. 1474b-1: Provided further, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, all fees collected for non-toxic shot review and approval shall be deposited under the heading "United States Fish and Wildlife Service—Resource Management" and shall be available to the Secretary, without further appropriation, to be used for expenses of processing of such non-toxic shot type or coating applications and revising regulations as necessary, and shall remain available until expended.*

Note.—A full-year 2017 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the budget was prepared; therefore, the budget assumes this account is operating under the Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2017 (P.L. 114–254). The amounts included for 2017 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution.

Justification of Language Change

Addition of the following wording:

Provided further, That the Secretary may recover costs for response, assessment and damages to National Wildlife Refuge System resources from the actions of private parties, or for costs as otherwise provided by Federal, State, or local law, regulation, or court order as a result of the destruction, loss of, or injury to any living or non-living National Wildlife Refuge System resource: Provided further, That the damages described in the previous proviso shall include the following: 1) compensation for the cost of replacing, restoring or acquiring the equivalent of the damaged National Wildlife Refuge System resource; and 2) the value of any significant loss of use of a National Wildlife Refuge System resource pending its restoration, replacement or acquisition of an equivalent resource; or 3) the value of the National Wildlife Refuge System resource in the event the resource cannot be replaced, restored or an equivalent acquired: Provided further, That any instrumentality, including but not limited to a vessel, vehicle, aircraft, or other equipment or mechanism that destroys, causes the loss of, or injures any living or non-living National Wildlife Refuge System resource or which causes the Secretary to undertake actions to prevent, minimize, or abate destruction, loss of, injury or risk to such resource shall be liable in rem to the United States for response costs and damages resulting from such destruction, loss, injury or risk to the same extent as a person is liable: Provided further, That in addition to any other authority to accept donations, the Secretary may accept donations of money or services to meet expected, immediate, or ongoing response costs and damages; response and assessment costs and damages recovered by the Secretary and donations received under this provision shall be available to the Secretary, without further appropriation, and shall remain available until expended, for damage assessments conducted, or for restoration and replacement of National Wildlife Refuge System resources and shall be managed under the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Fund as per 43 U.S.C. 1474b-1.

This change adds language to provide the Service with the authority, similar to that of the National Park Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to seek compensation from responsible parties who injure or destroy NWRS or other Service resources. Under current law, when system resources are injured or destroyed, the costs of repair and restoration falls upon the appropriated budget for the affected refuge, often at the expense of other refuge programs. Competing priorities can leave Service resources languishing until the refuge obtains appropriations from Congress to address the injury. This may result in more intensive injuries, higher costs, and long-term degradation of publicly-owned Service resources. The public expects that refuge resources, and the broad range of activities they support, will be available for future generations. It follows that persons responsible for harm—not taxpayers—should pay for any injury they cause. Unlike other land management agencies, the Service only has criminal penalties (fines) for those injuries occurring on NWRS lands. In most cases, the injuries far exceed any fines recovered by the United States Government. With this authority, the recovery of damages for injury to system resources would be used to reimburse assessment costs; prevent or minimize the risk of loss; monitor ongoing effects, and/or use those funds to restore, replace or acquire resources equivalent to those injured or destroyed. In 2014, Refuges reported under the Annual Uniform Crime Report, six cases of arson, 133 vandalism offenses, 5,330 trespasses cases, and over 20,000 violations of natural resources. Specific examples suitable for damage recovery under this provision include a case of illegally creating roads through Sequoyah Refuge, Oklahoma, including burning acreage and damming a creek (estimated damages over \$175,000); and arson at Kealia Pond Refuge, Hawaii, that destroyed the Kealia Coastal Boardwalk (estimated damages over \$125,000).

Programs Requested for Elimination

Bureau/Office Name	Fish and Wildlife Service
Program Name	National Wildlife Refuge Fund
Citation	16 U.S.C. 715s
Title of Legislation	Refuge Revenue Sharing Act ¹
Last Year of Authorization	Authorized
2007 Budget Request	None
Explanation of Authorization Requirement for BY	None
Program Description	Authorizes payments to be made to offset tax losses to counties in which Service fees and withdrawn public domain lands are located.

1. Non-Resource Management Program Account

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Appendices

Section 403 Compliance

Purpose: To fulfill legislative requirements for disclosure of program assessments used to support Government-wide, departmental, or agency initiatives or general operations. H. R. 2029 / Public Law 114-113, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016:

SEC. 403. The amount and basis of estimated overhead charges, deductions, reserves or holdbacks, including working capital fund and cost pool charges, from programs, projects, activities and subactivities to support government-wide, departmental, agency, or bureau administrative functions or headquarters, regional, or central operations shall be presented in annual budget justifications and subject to approval by the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Changes to such estimates shall be presented to the Committees on Appropriations for approval.

Pursuant to the *Section 403* directive, the Service fully discloses its administrative costs as follows:

REGIONAL COMMON PROGRAM SERVICES: Each region has reported on common program services (shared costs) and direct charges. A few examples of these services include facilities management, training programs, safety initiatives, and local outreach programs.

NON-RESOURCE MANAGEMENT USER-PAY COST SHARE: Non-Resource Management Programs continue to pay annually for the administrative services they consume. The funding received from Non-Resource Management Programs supplements central, regional and Servicewide support operations. Specifically, the Non-Resource Management Programs pay for their actual use of communication services and Workers' Compensation. Other costs, such as Washington and Regional office administration and Service-wide costs such as Unemployment Compensation, are measured through FTE usage.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION: The Service pays workers' compensation costs centrally through the Servicewide bill paying account. Since FY 2015, workers' compensation costs have been charged to the applicable programs. The Service made this change to address an audit finding and provide incentive for programs to participate in the Department's Return to Work initiative.

ENTERPRISE-WIDE SERVICES: In order to provide the necessary level of funding for Enterprise-wide and Working Capital Fund Direct Bill services, the Service assesses its resource management programs for costs that can be directly tracked back to users. This includes software licenses, cell phone costs, personnel system costs, and the like.

RESERVES: The Service Director manages a deferred allocation fund in the amount of up to one-half of one percent of the current year Resource Management appropriation for each subactivity in excess of three million dollars. These management reserve funds are used for unanticipated requirements and are applied consistently with the original appropriation.

The Service strictly adheres to the policy that Congressional priorities must be funded in their entirety and are not subject to the deferred allocation or user-pay cost share.

Below shows administrative cost estimates for FYs 2017 and 2018:

	Fiscal Year 2017
External Administrative Costs	
WCF Centralized Billings	\$22,594,900
WCF Direct Billings/Fee for Service	\$11,862,400
Program Assessments	
Holdbacks, Reserves, and Deductions	\$7,814,495
Bureau Administrative Costs/Central and Regional Operations	
Regional Common Program Services	\$12,390,956
Non-Resource Management User-Pay Cost Share	\$8,921,726
Workers' Compensation	\$743,000
Enterprise-Wide Services	\$22,632,600

	Fiscal Year 2018
External Administrative Costs	
WCF Centralized Billings	\$23,499,200
WCF Direct Billings/Fee for Service	\$12,249,300
Program Assessments	
Holdbacks, Reserves, and Deductions	\$8,331,033
Bureau Administrative Costs/Central and Regional Operations	
Regional Common Program Services	\$12,995,635
Non-Resource Management User-Pay Cost Share	\$8,946,570
Workers' Compensation	\$754,145
Enterprise-Wide Services	\$24,228,198

Employee Count by Grade
(Total Employment)

	FY 2016 Actuals	FY 2017 Estimate	FY 2018 Estimate
Executive Level V	1	1	1
SES	23	23	23
Subtotal	24	24	24
SL - 00	2	2	2
ST - 00	0	0	0
Subtotal	2	2	2
GS/GM -15	139	139	133
GS/GM -14	560	557	534
GS/GM -13	1,385	1,382	1,290
GS -12	1,755	1,761	1,738
GS -11	1,591	1,596	1,560
GS -10	7	7	6
GS - 9	985	989	980
GS - 8	127	127	120
GS - 7	595	612	568
GS - 6	241	248	239
GS - 5	539	547	471
GS - 4	209	210	203
GS - 3	108	108	100
GS - 2	16	15	15
GS - 1	3	3	3
Subtotal	8,260	8,301	7,960
Other Pay Schedule Systems	735	740	740
Total employment (actuals & estimates)	9,021	9,067	8,726

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Allocations Received from Other Accounts						
Department Program	FY 2016 Actual		FY 2017 Estimate		FY 2018 Estimate	
	Budget Authority	Outlays	Budget Authority	Outlays	Budget Authority	Outlays
Department of Agriculture:						
Forest Pest Management	230,000	67,963	230,000	230,000	230,000	230,000
Department of the Interior:						
<i>Office of Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration</i>						
Damage Assessment 8300	2,984,133	2,730,675	2,900,000	2,925,240	2,900,000	2,900,000
Restoration 9800	14,851,493	18,139,314	14,000,000	14,255,448	14,000,000	14,000,000
<i>Office of Wildland Fire Coordination</i>						
Wildland Fire Management	64,214,448	64,427,202	64,000,000	64,064,334	64,000,000	64,000,000
Disaster Relief - Hurricane Sandy (FY14/16)	2,319,412	39,646,312		24,202,500		12,701,000
<i>Bureau of Land Management</i>						
Central Hazardous Materials Fund	5,194,509	9,345,007	5,000,000	5,058,353	5,000,000	5,000,000
So. Nevada Public Lands Management	393,794	432,746	717,500	620,388	717,500	717,500
Energy Act - Permit Improvement	1,196,000	771,946	1,196,000	1,196,000	1,196,000	1,196,000
Department of Transportation:						
Federal Highway Administration-Discretionary	63,169	121,432	60,000	60,951	60,000	60,000
Federal Highway Administration-Mandatory	9,917,321	9,373,713	9,000,000	9,275,196	9,000,000	9,000,000
TOTAL	101,364,279	145,056,309	97,103,500	121,888,410	97,103,500	109,804,500