

How long will the FWS take to respond to my request?

The time the FWS takes to respond to each request varies depending on the complexity of the request and the backlog of requests already pending at the Service.

The FWS uses multitrack processing to distinguish simple requests from more complex ones on the basis of the estimated number of workdays needed to process the request. We will advise you of the track into which your requests falls and, when appropriate, will offer you an opportunity to narrow your request so that it can be placed in a different processing track. The use of multitrack processing does not alter the statutory 20-workday deadline the FWS has to determine whether to comply with your FOIA request. (See [43 C.F.R. 2.15](#).)

If the FWS needs an extension of time (i.e., 10 workdays) to respond to your request, it will notify you in writing and offer you the opportunity to modify or limit the scope of your request. Alternatively, you may agree to a different timetable for the processing of your request. (See [43 C.F.R. 2.19](#).) Whenever possible, the FWS will issue rolling releases of records to you if it cannot issue a complete response in one package.

Under certain conditions, you may be entitled to have your request processed on an expedited basis. First, we will expedite your request if the lack of expedited treatment could reasonably be expected to pose a threat to someone's life or physical safety. Second, if an individual will suffer the loss of substantial due process rights, we will expedite your request. (See [43 C.F.R. 2.20](#).)