

# Land Acquisition

## Land Acquisition

### Appropriations Language

For expenses necessary to carry out the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, (16 U.S.C. 4601-4 through 11), 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, [\$54,422,000] \$55,000,000, 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. (*Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2014.*)

### Authorizing Statutes

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

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

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

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

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

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

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**  
**Land Acquisition**  
**Justification of Fixed Costs and Internal Realignments**  
*(Dollars In Thousands)*

<b>Fixed Cost Changes and Projections</b>	<b>2014 Total or Change</b>	<b>2014 to 2015 Change</b>
Pay Raise	+65	+88
The change reflects the salary impact of 1% pay raise for 2014 and the proposed pay raise of 1% for 2015.		
Employer Share of Federal Health Benefit Plans	+5	+7
The change reflects expected increases in employer's share of Federal Health Benefit Plans.		
Rental Payments	+0	+3
The adjustment is for changes in the costs payable to General Services Administration (GSA) and others resulting from changes in rates for office and non-office space as estimated by GSA, as well as the rental costs of other currently occupied space. These costs include building security; in the case of GSA space, these are paid to 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.		

<b>Internal Realignments and Non-Policy/Program Changes (Net-Zero)</b>	<b>2015 (+/-)</b>
<b>Land Protection Planning</b>	+465
The National Wildlife Refuge System's Land Protection Planning Program directly supports the Land Acquisition program. The Service will transfer funding from the Resource Management Appropriation to the Land Acquisition Appropriation to better align the purpose of this program.	

**Appropriation: Land Acquisition**

	2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015 Request				Change from 2014 Enacted (+/-)
			Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Land Acquisition Management (\$000)	12,865	10,500	+98	0	+2,015	12,613	+2,113
Land Protection Planning (\$000)	0	0	0	+465	0	465	+465
Exchanges (\$000)	2,365	1,500	0	0	0	1,500	0
Inholdings / Emergencies and Hardships (\$000)	4,257	7,351	0	0	-2,000	5,351	-2,000
Highlands Conservation Act (\$000)	123	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Refuges/Projects (\$000)	32,165	35,071	0	0	0	35,071	0
<b>Subtotal, Land Acquisition-Discretionary (\$000)</b>	<b>51,775</b>	<b>54,422</b>	<b>+98</b>	<b>+465</b>	<b>+15</b>	<b>55,000</b>	<b>+578</b>
<b>FTE</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>0</b>
Land Acquisition Management (\$000)	0	0	0	0	+12,000	12,000	+12,000
Land Protection Planning (\$000)	0	0	0	0	+3,000	3,000	+3,000
Exchanges (\$000)	0	0	0	0	+1,000	1,000	+1,000
Inholdings / Emergencies and Hardships (\$000)	0	0	0	0	+3,000	3,000	+3,000
Sportsmen / Recreational Access (\$000)	0	0	0	0	+2,500	2,500	+2,500
Land Acquisition Projects (\$000)	0	0	0	0	+30,387	30,387	+30,387
Collaborative Landscape Component Projects (\$000)	0	0	0	0	+61,885	61,885	+61,885
<b>Land Acquisition – Mandatory (\$000)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>+113,772</b>	<b>113,772</b>	<b>113,772</b>
<b>FTE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>+40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>+40</b>
<b>Total, Land Acquisition (\$000)</b>	<b>51,775</b>	<b>54,422</b>	<b>+98</b>	<b>+465</b>	<b>+113,787</b>	<b>168,772</b>	<b>+114,350</b>
<b>FTE</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>+40</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>+40</b>

**Summary of 2015 Program Changes for Land Acquisition (Discretionary)**

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Land Acquisition Management	+2,015	0
• Inholdings / Emergencies and Hardships	-2,000	0
<b>Program Changes</b>	<b>+15</b>	<b>0</b>

### Justification of 2015 Program Changes

The 2015 budget request for Land Acquisition is \$55,000,000 and 89 FTE, a net program change of +\$15,000 and +0 FTE from the 2014 Enacted.

#### Land Acquisition Management (+\$2,015,000/+0 FTE)

This increase will restore management operations to approximately the FY 2013 level. Funding in this category supports land acquisition staff; the land acquisition program's share of Servicewide bills, such as IT infrastructure and leased space; and any efforts not specific to a single acquisition. In FY 2014 a reduction in this funding was addressed by using carryover funding and delaying the implementation of a comprehensive survey to address encroachments. Restoring this funding allows the Service to act quickly on land acquisition opportunities, may expedite the acquisition process, and will help discover and resolve encroachment issues, which will contain the costs of resolution. This increase will directly support the Service's efforts to acquire important fish, wildlife, and plant habitat for the conservation of listed endangered and threatened species, and to manage the lands it already owns. Staff will continue to work cooperatively with land management bureaus within the Department of the Interior (NPS and BLM) and the Department of Agriculture (FS) to acquire land for landscape-scale conservation projects. Additional funds for land acquisition management will enable the Service to take advantage of new, unexpected opportunities to acquire biologically rich lands from willing sellers, including wilderness areas.

#### Inholdings / Emergencies and Hardships (-\$2,000,000/+0 FTE)

Decreased funding for Inholdings/Emergencies and Hardships will allow the Service to address changing land acquisition priorities. Funds will be transferred to the Land Acquisition Management account, for staff support. Mandatory funding is also requested in 2015 for inholdings, emergencies and hardships.

### Program Overview

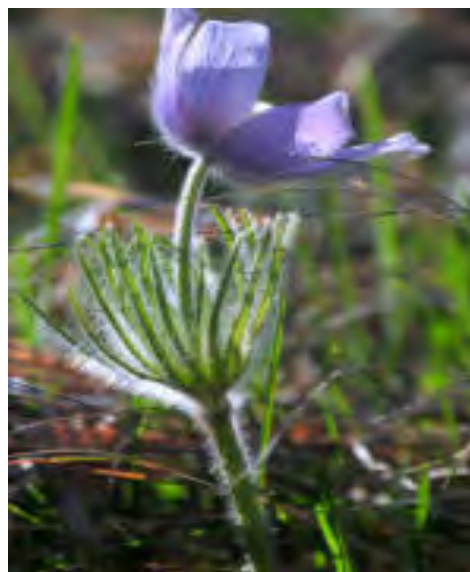
The Service uses Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) monies to acquire important fish, wildlife, and plant habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System and the National Fish Hatchery System, and to provide outdoor recreation areas for the public, as authorized by acts of Congress. The Service uses alternative and innovative land acquisition conservation tools, including conservation easements; implements projects that have the input and participation of the affected local communities and stakeholders; and leverages Federal dollars to the maximum extent possible.

Linking conservation actions to measurable biological outcomes of wildlife populations will increase the Service's ability to meet its trust responsibilities.

#### Federal Refuges/Projects

Acquisition of land for the National Wildlife Refuge System and the National Fish Hatchery System conserves wildlife habitat and also provides public health benefits, such as improved air and water quality, while supporting the America's Great Outdoors and Urban Wildlife Refuge Initiatives. National Wildlife Refuge lands provide affordable public outdoor recreational activities such as bird watching, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, interpretation, fishing, and hunting.

More than 47 million people visited National Wildlife Refuges in 2013, supporting local tourism, which supports local economies as visitors stay in local lodges, eat at local restaurants, and shop in local stores.



*A pasque flower in the South Dakota prairie in the heart of the Dakota Grassland Conservation Area.*

Local employment increases, and additional funding from the increase in tax revenues goes to local, county, and State governments.

Using a sample of Service-owned lands in 92 National Wildlife Refuges, a FY 2011 study<sup>1</sup> reported that 46.5 million visitors provided benefits to local businesses by generating an estimated:

- \$2.4 billion of sales, an increase of 19 percent over 2006;
- \$792 million in salaries, an increase of 21 percent over 2006;
- More than 35,000 jobs, an increase of 23 percent over 2006; and
- Refuge recreational spending generated \$343 million in local, county, State, and tax revenue, an increase of 54 percent over 2006.

National wildlife refuges not only provide public outdoor recreational opportunities that contribute to local economies, but also increase local land values. According to *Amenity Values of Proximity to National Wildlife Refuges*, prepared by the Center for Environmental and Resource Economic Policy at North Carolina State University in April 2012, property values surrounding national wildlife refuges are higher than equivalent properties elsewhere.

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

The Service acquires conservation easements to permanently protect important wildlife habitat on working ranches, farms, and forests, to accomplish Service goals to conserve high-priority habitats on private lands. Conservation easement acquisition keeps landowners on their property to continue working their lands, as well as provide protection to habitats and natural areas. Easement acquisition helps ensure that wildlife habitat and migration corridors on private lands are conserved to achieve desirable populations of fish and wildlife for the public to enjoy. The Service's operations and maintenance costs for lands under easements are minimal because the landowner retains responsibility for management of the land.

The Department of the Interior's FY 2015 budget request for projects includes two sources: Mandatory and Discretionary:

### **Discretionary**

This funding allows the Service to continue conserving important wildlife habitat in the nine projects and 33,504 acres, of which 26,954 acres will remain in private ownership under easement. The project descriptions later in this section provide details about the resource values of the lands and waters proposed for addition to the Department's network of conservation lands. The list below is the discretionary portion of the Service's request in priority order.

### **Mandatory Funds**

The Department of the Interior proposes to permanently authorize annual mandatory funding, without further appropriation or fiscal year limitation for the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) programs beginning in fiscal year 2015. Starting in 2016, \$900 million annually in permanent funds would be available. During the transition to full permanent funding in 2015, the budget proposes \$900 million in total LWCF funding, comprised of \$550 million in

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<sup>1</sup> *Banking on Nature: The Economic Benefits to Local Communities of National Wildlife Refuge Visitation*, by Eric Carver and James Caudill, Ph.D, Division of Economics, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

mandatory and \$350 million discretionary funds. The amounts requested include the authorized levels for the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture.

In FY 2015, the LWCF mandatory proposal for FWS includes \$113.8 million for Federal Land acquisition and \$50.0 million for Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund. Land acquisition funds are also used to secure access for the American public to their Federal lands. Concurrent with the America's Great Outdoor initiative, these funds will invest in acquisitions to better meet recreation access needs by working with willing landowners to secure rights-of-way, easements or fee simple lands that provide access or consolidate Federal ownership so that public has unbroken spaces to recreate, hunt, and fish. FWS will focus \$2.5 million in mandatory funding towards projects to acquire access for sportsmen/recreation.

Included in the \$113.8 million mandatory proposal for FY 2015 is \$92.272 million for the Fish and Wildlife Service Land Acquisition projects. Together with the discretionary request, the complete listing would cover the top 20 Service priorities. For project specific information, see the project data sheets that follow at the end of this section.

### **Refuge Land Protection Planning**

Service staff evaluate potential land acquisitions to support the strategic growth of the National Wildlife Refuge System. By using landscape-scale conservation planning aids such as models of species-habitat interactions and 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 its conservation partners can accomplish much more than working as separate entities.



*San Joaquin River NWR, CA, has been important in the recovery of Aleutian cackling goose and riparian brush rabbit populations.*

The Service has developed a draft policy to guide the strategic growth and management of the Refuge System that, when finalized, will be incorporated into the Service Manual. The Strategic Growth policy provides guidance on identifying priority areas for conservation and potential land acquisition.

The Planning program is complemented by the Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife program, which 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.

Local communities also benefit from the ecological aspects of enhanced wildlife corridors, additional habitat for wildlife, and maintenance of grasslands, wetlands, and forests.



### Strategic Outcomes and Results

In implementing the recommendations of the NWRS's *Conserving the Future* vision document, the Service has narrowed the criteria it uses to evaluate proposed refuges and prioritize land acquisitions for existing refuges. The new criteria, which are in the draft Strategic Growth policy, will be incorporated into a new project scoring tool that the Service is developing. The new project scoring tool will replace the Land Acquisition Priority System (LAPS).



*Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Area acquisitions will protect diverse and intact ecosystems allowing ranchers remain on working lands. Credit: Chad Harder*

The projects proposed for the FY 2015 budget reflect important factors, including contribution of leveraged funds, partner participation, and urgency of project completion to protect natural areas and wildlife species' habitats from development or other incompatible uses. Service projects support the Service's mission-oriented priorities as well as potential Collaborative Conservation projects, including the Southwest Desert in California; the National Trails; and the Longleaf Pine in Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina. Many Service projects also provide or enhance public outdoor recreation in close proximity to both rural and urban areas.

Like LWCF land acquisitions, the National Trails System increases economic and public benefits to local communities through ecotourism and recreation activities. Local economies benefit from expenditures associated with visitation at national wildlife refuges and use of National Trails.

### Means and Strategies

The Service's policy is to request land acquisition funding only for properties that are located within approved Refuge boundaries and that also have willing sellers. Also, for every project for which the Service is requesting funding, the Service has completed the required National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process, and the project has an approved Land Protection Plan.

Federal land acquisition projects often have small amounts of funds remaining after land has been acquired. These small amounts of funds are insufficient to acquire additional land, so in 2014, the Service instituted a policy of reallocating residual funds of less than \$50,000 to the Inholdings line item for acquisition of tracts that do not have project funding. This policy increases the Service's ability to acquire valuable wildlife habitat within refuge boundaries that becomes available for acquisition in between appropriations cycles. (Projects funded in 2009 and 2010 are excluded from this policy due to existing reprogramming restrictions.)

### Success Stories

Each year the Service acquires land in fee title or conservation easement through the LWCF. The acquired lands provide improved habitat for wildlife, and often enhance management capability. Fee title acquisitions provide public outdoor recreational opportunities and generate economic benefits for local communities. FY 2013 acquisition highlights include:

#### Nestucca Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Oregon

Nestucca Bay NWR, located on Oregon's coast just two hours from Portland, is one of three estuarine refuges in the Oregon Coastal NWR Complex. The Refuge's salt marsh, brackish marsh, wetlands along lakes and rivers, and wooded upland habitats offer sanctuary to a diverse array of fish and wildlife, including waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, small mammals, amphibians, and anadromous fish. The Refuge



is an outdoor classroom providing practical environmental education and opportunities to connect with nature.

Each year, several million seabirds breed at the Refuge. The Refuge also provides wintering habitat for the coastal population of Dusky Canada geese and the entire population of Semidi Islands Aleutian Canada geese. Peregrine falcons and bald eagles hunt the nesting seabirds and waterfowl that migrate along the coast in summer.

After several years of negotiations, the Service acquired the 102-acre forested headland property on the coast known as the Jesuit Novitiate in Sheridan, saving the property from development. Located at the confluence of the Nestucca and Little Nestucca Rivers, the property contains upland forest, shoreline, and tideland habitats, and is particularly important to seabirds along the Pacific Northwest coast. The acquisition was a combined effort of The Nature Conservancy, the Federal Highway Administration, the Oregon Department of Transportation, and the Oregon Congressional delegation. The acquisition expands the Refuge's shoreline and hiking and walking trails, and provides outstanding wildlife viewing areas.

#### James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge, Hawaii

The Service acquired 29 fee acres and seven easement acres at James Campbell NWR, located on the north shore of O'ahu island. This acquisition completes the third phase of a four-phase acquisition that began in 2008. This property connects the Refuge to an access road and has the ideal footprint for a proposed complex headquarters and visitor center to increase opportunities for environmental education.

The Refuge is working with partners to restore a more natural scrub/shrub community on the property through removal of invasive plants and planting of native plants.



*Latest acquisition on the James Campbell NWR and possible site for a future Visitor Center and Headquarters Office.*

*Credit: Realty Specialist Charlie Parrott, USFWS*



*Newest acquired land as part of Valle de Oro NWR.*

#### Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, New Mexico

Valle de Oro NWR, located near Albuquerque, is the Southwest's first urban refuge. This Refuge will fulfill the goals of President Obama's America's Great Outdoors Initiative by working with community partners to establish a 21st century conservation ethic and reconnect people, especially young people, to the natural world. In 2013, through the EPA's Urban Waters program, Valle de Oro NWR was recognized as part of key conservation and restoration projects along the Rio Grande River. Valle de Oro NWR serves to enhance the River corridor, bringing it into the daily lives of Albuquerque's citizens, and is an oasis for wildlife and people.

Urban refuges, such as Valle de Oro NWR, offer unique environmental education and recreation opportunities in highly populated areas while promoting the mission of the Refuge System. With the assistance from The Trust for Public Land, the Service recently acquired 41 acres of the Price's Dairy property for the Refuge; the Refuge now encompasses 431 acres of the 570 total acres that it will have upon completion. The Refuge also includes valuable

water rights associated with the land. The Service is working with the State of New Mexico, The Trust for Public Land, and Friends of Valle de Oro NWR to acquire the final 139 acres for the Refuge.

Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Pennsylvania

The Service recently acquired a 90-acre property for the Cherry Valley NWR. The Service acquired the property using a combination of LWCF dollars and funding from a Natural Resources Damage Assessment and Restoration settlement on the Palmerton Zinc Superfund site located 20 miles west of the property. A trustee council comprised of partner agencies, including the Service, National Park Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources evaluated numerous projects, and ultimately chose to support this acquisition with restoration funds.

Nestled at the foot of the north slope of the Kittatinny Ridge, the property includes a diverse mix of habitats, including hemlock and rhododendron forest, oak-hickory hardwood forested slopes, black cherry and red cedar scrublands, red maple swamp, emergent wetlands, and the riparian corridor of a native trout stream. The area provides important habitat for migratory birds and an array of wildlife.



*Newest acquisition for Cherry Valley NWR, new office/intern quarters in background and cold water pond for public fishing.*

The acquisition of this keystone parcel is part of a landscape-scale effort to preserve threatened bog turtle habitat, and provide habitat continuity and water quality in the Aquashicola Creek watershed. The effort is supported by a diverse partnership, including private landowners. During 2013, the Refuge restored 20 acres of bog turtle habitat on this property, and partner efforts restored an additional 50 acres of bog turtle habitat on adjacent private lands.



*Bluestem on the Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Area.*

The acquisition provides necessary facilities to support Refuge administration and partner activities. A restored bank barn serves as an auditorium for Refuge and Friends group events, and the former farmhouse serves as an office and provides accommodations for interns and bog turtle investigators during summer months. A cold water pond on the property is slated to become a public fishing area for native brook trout. The property will also support a public hunting program, along with wildlife observation and hiking along the Refuge trail system.

Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Area, Kansas

The Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Area (FHLCA) in eastern Kansas was established in September 2011. The FHLCA was created by the Service in conjunction with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, private landowners, and other partners to protect some of the last remaining tallgrass prairie in



the nation. Less than four percent of the nation's one-vast tallgrass prairie remains, of which over 80 percent lies within the Flint Hills of eastern Kansas and northeastern Oklahoma. The grassland birds that inhabit the region are the fastest declining group of avians in North America.

The Service is working with public and private partners to reduce the amount of development on the last remaining tallgrass prairie habitat while supporting ranching practices that have helped preserve the tallgrass prairie in the region. Acquisition of conservation easements for the FHLCA will permanently protect this important habitat while maintaining existing ranching lifestyles and economies.

The Service recently purchased the first easement for the FHLCA on 2,158 acres of tallgrass prairie in Chase County, Kansas. The landowner donated an additional 287 easement acres, conserving a total of 2,245 tallgrass prairie acres. Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem, and Indiangrass dominate the property. The landowner has exhibited tremendous stewardship in his efforts to reduce woody vegetation.

#### Grasslands Wildlife Management Area, California

The Grasslands WMA is located in western Merced County, California, within the San Joaquin River Basin. The Basin supports the largest remaining block of contiguous wetlands in the Central Valley. These wetlands constitute 30 percent of the remaining wetlands in California's Central Valley and are extremely important to Pacific Flyway waterfowl populations. The Service is continuing to acquire conservation easements to provide for the long-term viability of the grassland and wetland ecosystem, as well as to provide a safe haven for migratory birds and other wildlife. The most recent conservation easement is on 959 acres.



*Waves of grass in the San Joaquin River valley.*

#### San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge, California

Established in 1987, the San Joaquin River NWR has an endangered species focus to protect the wintering grounds of Aleutian Canada (cackling) geese. The population of the cackling geese has significantly increased since the establishment of the Refuge, resulting in its delisting and becoming a game species for sportsmen. The other major endangered species focus for the Refuge is the riparian brush rabbit, perhaps the most endangered mammal in California. As very little of the species' dense riparian habitat remains, the Recovery Plan requires three new self-sustaining populations; acquisition of needed habitat is a key element for this species' recovery. The Service continues to acquire conservation easements to protect these species and their habitats, having most recently acquired a conservation easement on 501 acres of predominantly native, irrigated pasture.



*During the month of January, numbers peak for geese, cranes, and ducks in the San Joaquin River valley.*

### Update on Land Exchanges for FY 2015

Exchange projects provide unique opportunities to work in partnership with Federal, State, and local governments, private landowners and organizations, and local and national conservation groups. Exchange projects leverage the collective expertise, to decrease habitat fragmentation, conserve critical habitat for a variety of wildlife within the National Wildlife Refuge System, and provide access to resources for the public to enjoy.

The following table lists refuges, waterfowl production areas, wetland management districts, and Native Corporations' properties that may be part of ongoing projects in the negotiation or acquisition phases of possible land exchanges. Other exchanges may be undertaken throughout FY 2015 as opportunities arise. The Service projects an estimated \$1,711,000 (including carryover) in acquisition costs for more than 253,806 acres. Exchanges may involve on-going expenditures over a period of years.

STATE	POTENTIAL EXCHANGES	ACRES TO BE ACQUIRED	MANAGEMENT COSTS
ALASKA	Arctic NWR - Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation	2,000.00	\$10,000
	Alaska Maritime - The Aleut Corp.	Undetermined	\$50,000
	Alaska Maritime - Shumagan Corp.	Undetermined	\$25,000
	Izembek NWR - State of Alaska	52,000.00	\$150,000
	Kenai NWR - CIRI	3,000.00	\$10,000
	Yukon Delta NWR - Scammon Bay	3,600.00	\$60,000
	Yukon Delta NWR - Cherfornak	40,000.00	\$15,000
	Yukon Delta NWR - NIMA Corp	5,000.00	\$65,000
	Yukon Delta NWR - Napakiak	55,000.00	\$65,000
	Yukon Delta NWR - Kotlik	Undetermined	\$25,000
	Yukon Delta NWR - Bethel Native Corporation	10.00	\$55,000
	Yukon Delta NWR - Napaskiak	45,000.00	\$15,000
	Yukon Delta NWR - Eek	Undetermined	\$25,000
	Yukon Delta NWR - Aniak	Undetermined	\$10,000
	Yukon Delta NWR - Chevak	30,000.00	\$65,000
CALIFORNIA	Bitter Creek NWR	297.00	\$10,000
	Bitter Creek NWR	0.10	\$10,000
	Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR	3.00	\$75,000
FLORIDA	Archie Carr NWR	71.00	\$10,000
	ARM Loxahatchee NWR	2,723.00	\$20,000
	St. Marks NWR	3.00	\$15,000

STATE	POTENTIAL EXCHANGES	ACRES TO BE ACQUIRED	MANAGEMENT COSTS
<b>GEORGIA</b>	Bond Swamp NWR	74.00	\$10,000
	Savannah NWR	Undetermined	\$5,000
<b>ILLINOIS</b>	Meredosia NWR - IL DOT	10.00	\$20,000
	IL River NWR	5.00	\$10,000
<b>INDIANA</b>	Cypress Creek NWR	10.00	\$10,000
	Patoka River NWR	Undetermined	\$20,000
<b>IOWA</b>	Union Slough NWR	40.00	\$10,000
<b>LOUISIANA</b>	Bogue Chitto NWR	4.00	\$2,000
	Delta NWR	816.00	\$10,000
	Lacassine NWR	1,944.00	\$5,000
	Upper Ouachita NWR	80.00	\$10,000
<b>MAINE</b>	Upper Ouachita NWR	Undetermined	\$10,000
	Rachel Carson NWR	47.00	\$5,000
<b>MARYLAND</b>	Moosehorn NWR	1,500.00	\$50,000
	Patuxent Research Refuge	2.00	\$10,000
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>	Oxbow NWR	20.00	\$10,000
<b>MICHIGAN</b>	Shiawassee NWR	337.00	\$50,000
	Jackson County FmHA	5.00	\$10,000
	Jackson County WPA	2.00	\$25,000
<b>MINNESOTA</b>	Minnesota Valley NWR - MN DNR	279.60	\$25,000
	Kandiyohi County FmHA	20.00	\$10,000
	Pope County WPA	40.00	\$10,000
	Tamarac NWR	10.00	\$10,000
<b>MISSISSIPPI</b>	Upper Mississippi River NW&FR	2.00	\$10,000
	MS Sandhill Crane NWR	30.00	\$10,000
<b>MONTANA</b>	Theodore Roosevelt NWR	809.00	\$15,000
	Pablo NWR	2.00	\$10,000
<b>NEBRASKA</b>	Rainwater Basin WMD	160.00	\$25,000
<b>NORTH DAKOTA</b>	Various North Dakota WPA's & WMA's	100.00	\$80,000
<b>NEW JERSEY</b>	E. B. Forsythe NWR	10.00	\$10,000
<b>SOUTH CAROLINA</b>	Santee NWR	32.80	\$2,000
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b>	Various South Dakota WPA's & WMD's	160.00	\$55,000
	South Dakota WMD State Land	4,022.00	\$15,000
<b>TENNESSEE</b>	Lower Hatchie NWR	1.70	\$10,000
<b>TEXAS</b>	Lower Rio Grande Valley - Hildalgo Co Irrigation District #3	5.00	\$5,000

STATE	POTENTIAL EXCHANGES	ACRES TO BE ACQUIRED	MANAGEMENT COSTS
	Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR FM 800	5.60	\$2,000
	Lower Rio Grande Valley Cameron County CCRMA	73.00	\$10,000
	Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR - Agriculture Investment Associates	2,700.00	\$45,000
	Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR - Fred Shuster	80.00	\$20,000
	Neches River NWR-Tetlin-through Exxon Exchange in Alaska	516.00	\$10,000
<b>VERMONT</b>	Silvio O. Conte NFWR	100.00	\$25,000
<b>WASHINGTON</b>	Columbia NWR	563.00	\$80,000
<b>WEST VIRGINIA</b>	Canaan Valley NWR	2.00	\$10,000
<b>WISCONSIN</b>	Necedah WMA	5.00	\$20,000
	Fond du Lac County WPA	113.40	\$15,000
	Upper MS River NW&FR - WI DOT	Undetermined	\$25,000
	Upper MS River NW&FR	280.00	\$10,000
<b>WYOMING</b>	Cokeville Meadows NWR	<u>81.00</u>	<u>\$70,000</u>
<b>Total Exchange Acres and Management Costs</b>		<b>253,806.20</b>	<b>\$1,711,000</b>

**Exchange Success Stories**

Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge, Colorado

Working in partnership with several local governments, the Service recently acquired 617 acres for Rocky Flats NWR. In a complex land exchange involving the Colorado State Land Board (State) and the Jefferson Public Parkway Highway Authority (JPPHA), and with considerable assistance from numerous local partners, the Service expanded the Refuge to include lands formerly managed by the State. In exchange for the lands acquired, the Service conveyed a 300-foot strip of land along the eastern edge of the Refuge to the JPPHA for future transportation improvements. The transaction was a collaborative effort among private parties and local government entities including Jefferson County, Boulder County, the City of Boulder, the City of Arvada, Colorado Natural Resource Trustees, the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

The exchange permanently protects rare xeric tallgrass prairie, upland shrubland, wetlands, and high-quality riparian habitat. The rare xeric tallgrass prairie is a remnant from the ice age. The acquired lands protect critical habitat for the threatened Preble’s meadow jumping mouse, and provide a nearly continuous corridor connecting the Refuge with existing public open space to the west, allowing for continued seasonal animal migration.

### Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge and Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge

The Alaska Peninsula and Alaska Maritime NWRs recently completed land exchanges with two Alaska Native Corporations. At Alaska Maritime NWR, land exchanges significantly improved management of the Jacob, Paul, and Chiachi Islands by eliminating mixed ownership and consolidating land



*Chiachi Island is in the background and Shapka Island, part of the Alaska Peninsula NWR, is in the foreground.  
Credit: Susan LaKowski, USFWS*



*Long Beach River, Anchor Bay, within Alaska Peninsula NWR.  
Credit: Susan LaKowski, USFWS*

management. The acquisitions will reduce habitat fragmentation and will facilitate the Service's efforts to control invasive species. The exchange at Alaska Peninsula NWR established the eastern bank of the Long Beach River as the eastern boundary of the Refuge, creating a clear boundary between Refuge lands and Alaska Native Corporation lands, which will reduce trespass issues. The land exchange also provided the only feasible access to the Native Corporation lands in the upper Kametook River area, improving land management.

### **Land Acquisition Projects for FY 2015**

The FY 2015 request includes 20 proposed land acquisition projects totaling 79,499 acres that are funded from discretionary and mandatory sources. This is the current set of land acquisition priorities that has been vetted and approved by bureau and Department leadership to meet the high priority programmatic needs of the Service.

### **Collaborative Landscape Planning (CLP)**

The 2015 Federal Land Acquisition program builds on Collaborative Conservation efforts started in 2011 and 2012, and included in the President's budget request for the first time in FY 2013. The Collaborative Conservation Program was developed to support strategic interagency landscape-scale conservation projects while continuing to meet agency-specific programmatic needs, and was initiated partially in response to Congressional direction to the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (FS), to use LWCF land acquisition funds to strategically protect contiguous landscapes and meet shared conservation goals. Interior bureaus collaborated extensively with the FS to develop a process to coordinate land acquisition planning with government and local community partners, to achieve the highest priority shared conservation goals more effectively.

To respond to the direction from Congress, the CLP process is designed to collaboratively plan for measurable outcomes at the landscape scale; invest LWCF resources in some of the most ecologically important landscapes; and invest in projects that have a clear strategy to reach shared goals grounded in science-based planning, are driven by and in response to local community initiatives, and will make the most efficient use of Federal funds.

For the FY 2015 budget request, the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture have a combined request of \$240.71 million of discretionary and mandatory funding for this effort. This includes a request of \$194.10 million for the three Interior bureaus (the Service, BLM, and NPS) and the remaining \$46.60 million for the Forest Service. The Service has three discretionary and seven mandatory projects totaling \$78.89 million as part of the Collaborative effort. The 2015 CLP projects were evaluated



by a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) made up of Service, BLM, NPS, and FS staff, and were rated according to merit-based criteria in the following categories:

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

The joint Interior-Agriculture National Selection Committee identified a number of large natural areas throughout the Nation where high priority shared conservation goals can be achieved based on existing locally-driven conservation efforts. Through a rigorous merit-based evaluation process, the ecosystems selected for inclusion in the Service's 2015 budget: Southwest Deserts in California, the National Trails System Collaborative, FL/GA and SC Longleaf Pine Initiatives, Upper Rio Grande, Grasslands/Prairie Potholes, and High Divide.

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

The **California Southwest Deserts** proposal exemplifies a commitment to the important role collaboration plays between Federal agencies and non-Federal partners in achieving a common landscape conservation vision. To further conservation and community goals in this area, a partnership comprised of State, local, and NGO entities has leveraged Federal funding impressively, including NGOs that have donated all or a portion of the market value of real property or defrayed acquisition costs in order to allow the agencies to maximize use of available dollars.

The Southwest Deserts in California focal area is comprised of Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and the west half of Imperial Counties. Less than a day's drive for 40 million people, the area is characterized by extensive wildlife corridors, miles of national scenic and historic trails, and 72 federally protected species. Rich in biodiversity and recreational opportunity, the landscape is under pressure from increasing demands such as energy development and urban growth that impact these unique resources.

Propelled by Congressional designation, **National Trails**, the country's national scenic and historic trails are significant both in their entirety and individually. Each is a collaborative venture in the conservation, interpretation, and responsible public use of important elements of our Nation's natural and cultural heritage. As required by law, the administration and management of these trails require interagency collaboration. Significant LWCF investment is essential to protect national scenic and historic trails for public enjoyment.

The collaborative nature of the National Scenic and Historic Trails means that a financial investment by any of the partners has the potential to be greatly leveraged by contributions from other partners (State agencies, local governments, and land trusts), as so often is the case with the National Trails System. Federal financial investment not only buys land to protect critical resources, but also sets the stage for

citizen and community involvement in national trail stewardship. For example, the Federal investment in these trails—well illustrated by the Appalachian Trail—clearly stimulates citizen engagement in public resource stewardship and volunteerism, connects citizens with the Nation’s natural and cultural heritage, and strengthens communities across the country.

The National Trails System Collaborative seeks to fund critical missing pieces along various trail routes. Many of the trails in this proposal were authorized by Congress more than 30 years ago, yet less than one-third have received funds to assist in acquiring and protecting critical parts of their corridors.

Tracts identified in the **Longleaf Pine Initiative** are crucial to the ecological well-being and recovery of the diminishing longleaf pine ecosystem across the southeastern U.S. Longleaf pines once covered up to 98 million acres of the Southeast, but have been reduced to three million acres, much of it in poor condition. Collaborative regional efforts to address this decline have been underway for over 15 years. Strong public-private partnerships, like the Longleaf Alliance, bring together private landowners, forest industries, State and Federal agencies, conservation groups, and researchers to work on collaborative solutions.

Federal agencies drew from Florida wildlife habitat gap analyses, recovery plans, and other Florida and Federal natural resource assessments and initiatives, along with local government and general public input, to develop a plan for land acquisition that targets the most critical conservation needs. Based on this plan, State and local governments and conservation non-profit groups, such as The Nature Conservancy, worked closely with Federal agencies to secure these tracts to allow sufficient time for the Departments to acquire them.

In South Carolina, opportunities to leverage funds are also time-sensitive. The Charleston County Greenbelt Program, funded by a local sales tax approved by county referendum in 2004, will match LWCF investments for a limited time period. A \$10 million match from the Greenbelt Program was approved to protect 6,500 acres adjacent to the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge.

The Longleaf Pine Initiative also protects significant cultural lands, including the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor, an area intrinsically linked to cultural heritage of African Americans in NC, SC, GA, and FL.

Although many threatened and endangered species require a longleaf pine ecosystem to survive, the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) is the keystone species for the ecosystem. The Service, BLM, FS, and our local partners have collaborated for over 20 years to dramatically grow the RCW populations and promote the recovery of the longleaf pine ecosystem through the Southern Range Translocation Cooperative, and to protect and expand critical wildlife areas.

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

The **Upper Rio Grande** landscape is a remarkable embodiment of the LWCF Collaborative Conservation Program. Over the last 30 years, grassroots community-based efforts on both sides of the Colorado and New Mexico State line have made incredible strides to permanently protect large swaths of critical cultural, wildlife, ecological, scenic, geologic, and recreational natural areas, under a variety of Federal and State authorities. At the same time, private, partnership-based efforts have made significant investments to protect the working landscapes across the Upper Rio Grande through conservation

easements and increased public awareness of the importance of landscape-scale conservation.

This multi-agency (NPS, Service, BLM, FS) and multi-year effort began with the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve Act, which provided for the acquisition of the Baca Ranch in 2004 and continued with the CO State Land Board Exchange in 2009. Proposed acquisitions would create an unfragmented core of protected lands, facilitating management efficiencies and conservation of resources across the landscape. These parcels would also connect to the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness Area of 220,000 acres and the Trinchera and Blanca Ranches, Service-donated conservation easements totaling 167,300 acres, for a total contiguous block of over 1.6 million acres. Acquiring the remaining 33,000 acres within the Upper Rio Grande landscape will create a 1.3-million acre contiguous block of protected lands.

The **Grasslands and Prairie Potholes** region is a tapestry of tallgrass, mixed-grass, and short-grass, interspersed with glaciated prairie wetlands, streams, and river corridors. For farm-dominated regions in North and South Dakota, this landscape supports the mid-continent breeding duck population and provides critical habitat for multiple threatened and endangered species, such as black-footed ferret, pallid sturgeon, prairie-fringed orchid, and piping plover. The area is home to grassland-dependent birds including marbled godwits, burrowing owls, and greater sage grouse.

Two threats dominate the conservation resources of this landscape: conversion to row-crop agriculture and energy development. With commodity prices at all-time highs, thousands of acres of grasslands and wetlands are being converted to agricultural and energy uses. Viewed collectively, this land conversion has resulted in a “Crisis on the Prairies”. Just as in the time preceding the Dust Bowl, land is being converted to agriculture, and marginal land used for grazing is being plowed, making it susceptible to erosion and instability as well as loss of wildlife habitats.

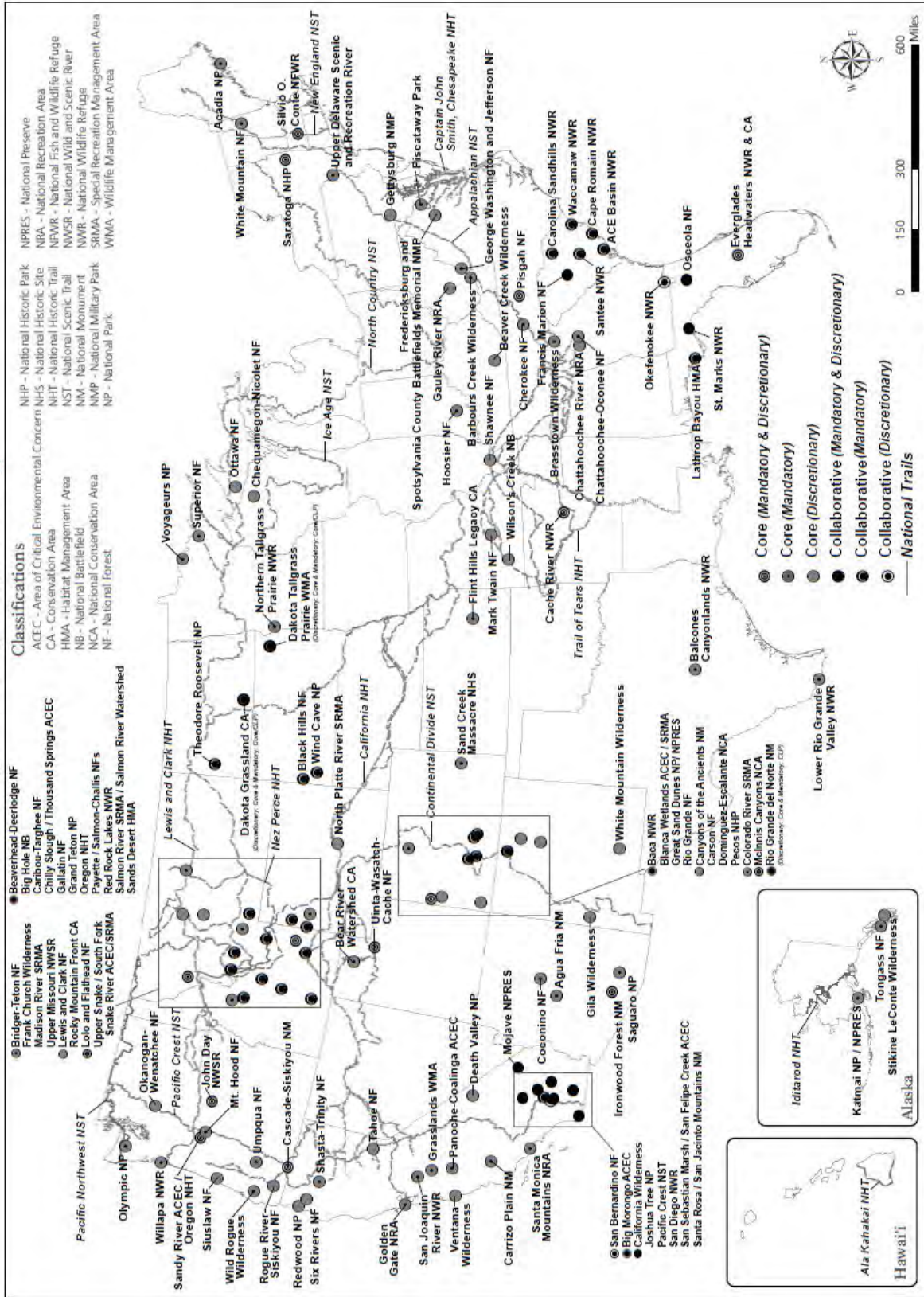
Cooperating partners share a common vision for this landscape that focuses on balancing agriculture, livestock ranching, and energy development with wetland and grassland conservation projects. Using science-based landscape-level planning tools developed by the Service Habitat and Population Evaluation Team (HAPET), geographic “focus areas” for wetland and grassland restoration/conservation projects have been identified. Conservation and restoration provide carbon storage, making carbon unavailable for dispersal to the surface waters or the atmosphere. In addition, restored and conserved habitats will improve wildlife connectivity, prevent habitat fragmentation, and enhance water quality and flood abatement.

Partner dollars will contribute to land acquisition as well as habitat restoration work. Partners include State Natural Resource agencies, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, and local governments and communities.

The mountains, valleys, and rivers of **High Divide** are a crucial wildlife lifeline along the spine of the continent in Idaho and Montana. Boundaries are defined by tracked movements of signature wildlife: elk, pronghorn, grizzly, wolverine, sage grouse, salmon, and grayling. The High Divide connection is landscape-scaled linkage in migratory corridors from Montana to Idaho, plus linkage between large core habitats in Yellowstone National Park and Idaho Wilderness.

Within the High Divide, Red Rock Lakes NWR ensures resiliency and connectivity of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Threatened and endangered plants, fish, and wildlife are protected, as are forests. The project focuses on strategic acquisition of conservation easements on ranch lands from willing sellers, to meet multiple goals. Working ranches are central to the region’s economy and culture as a way of life, and conserve many of the resources targeted within the High Divide.

Land and Water Conservation Fund  
Land Acquisition Budget Proposal FY2015



Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only. This map depicts LWCF Federal land acquisition only and does not include the objects of projects funded through Forest Legacy, and other LWCF state grant programs.

<b>FY 2015 Land Acquisition - Discretionary</b> <i>(Dollars in thousands)</i>				
		Land Protection Planning	\$465	
		Acquisition Management	\$12,613	
		Inholding/Emergencies/Hardships	\$5,351	
		Exchanges	\$1,500	
		<b>Subtotal, Land Acquisition - Discretionary</b>	<b>\$19,929</b>	
Rank	State	Collaborative Landscape/Project Name or Core Project Name	FY 2015 Budget Request	Acres
1		<b>California Desert SW</b>		
	CA	San Diego NWR	<u>\$5,000</u>	<u>100</u>
		<i>Subtotal, California Desert SW</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>	<i>100</i>
2	ND/SD	Dakota Tallgrass Prairie Wildlife Management Area	\$3,000	6,122
3	ND/SD	Dakota Grassland Conservation Area	\$7,000	15,555
4		<b>National Trails System</b>		
	VA	Rappahanock River NWR	<u>\$2,000</u>	<u>148</u>
		<i>Subtotal, National Trails System</i>	<i>\$2,000</i>	<i>148</i>
5	MT	Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Area	\$2,000	5,277
6	FL	Everglades Headwaters NWR & Conservation Area	\$3,000	600
7	AR	Cache River NWR	\$1,071	523
8	CT/MA/ NH/VT	Silvio O. Conte NFWR	\$2,000	779
9		<b>Florida-Georgia Long Leaf Pine</b>		
	FL	St. Marks NWR	\$6,000	2,400
	GA	Okefenokee NWR	<u>\$4,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>
		<i>Subtotal, Florida-Georgia Long Leaf Pine</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>	<i>4,400</i>
		Core Projects	\$18,071	28,856
		<i>Collaborative Landscape Planning Projects</i>	<i>\$17,000</i>	<i>4,648</i>
		<b>Subtotal, Land Acquisition Discretionary Projects</b>	<b>\$35,071</b>	<b>33,504</b>
		<b>Total, Fish and Wildlife Land Acquisition - Discretionary</b>	<b>\$55,000</b>	<b>33,504</b>

FY 2015 Land Acquisition – Mandatory				
<i>(Dollars in thousands)</i>				
		Land Protection Planning	\$3,000	
		Acquisition Management	\$12,000	
		Inholding/Emergencies/Hardships	\$3,000	
		Exchanges	\$1,000	
		Sportsman/Recreational Access	\$2,500	
		<b>Subtotal, Land Acquisition – Mandatory</b>	<b>\$21,500</b>	
Rank	State	Collaborative Landscape/Project Name or Core Project Name	FY 2015 Budget Request	Acres
10		<b>California Desert SW</b>		
	CA	San Diego NWR	<u>\$6,770</u>	<u>225</u>
		<i>Subtotal, California Desert SW</i>	<i>\$6,770</i>	<i>225</i>
11	ND/SD	Dakota Tallgrass Prairie Wildlife Management Area	\$3,887	7,932
12	ND/SD	Dakota Grassland Conservation Area	\$7,000	15,555
13		<b>National Trails System</b>		
	VA	Rappahanock River NWR	\$3,560	264
	ID	Grays Lake NWR	\$3,500	4,342
	AK	Innoko NWR	\$100	120
	WA	Ridgefield NWR	\$500	126
	TN	Chickasaw NWR	<u>\$3,000</u>	<u>1,153</u>
		<i>Subtotal, National Trails System</i>	<i>\$10,660</i>	<i>6,005</i>
14	FL	Everglades Headwaters NWR & Conservation Area	\$5,000	998
15	AR	Cache River NWR	\$2,000	740
16	CT/MA/ NH/VT	Silvio O. Conte NFWR	\$3,000	2,025
17	CA	San Joaquin River NWR	\$1,000	90
18		<b>Florida-Georgia Long Leaf Pine</b>		
	FL	St. Marks NWR	<u>\$19,049</u>	<u>7,732</u>
		<i>Subtotal, Florida-Georgia Long Leaf Pine</i>	<i>\$19,049</i>	<i>7,732</i>
19	CA	Grasslands WMA	\$1,000	133
20	ID/UT /WY	Bear River Watershed Conservation Area	\$2,000	2,469
21		<b>South Carolina Long Leaf Pine</b>		
	SC	ACE Basin NWR	\$2,500	820
	SC	Waccamaw NWR	\$1,766	622
	SC	Santee NWR	\$3,000	410
	GA	Cape Romain NWR	\$2,986	284
	SC	Carolina Sandhills NWR	<u>\$1,000</u>	<u>570</u>
		<i>Subtotal, South Carolina Long Leaf Pine</i>	<i>\$11,252</i>	<i>2,706</i>

Rank	State	Collaborative Landscape/Project Name or Core Project Name	FY 2015 Budget Request	Acres
22	KS	Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Area	\$1,000	2,000
23	TX	Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR	\$2,000	714
24	<b>Upper Rio Grande</b>			
	CO	Baca NWR	<u>\$2,654</u>	<u>5,134</u>
	<i>Subtotal, Upper Rio Grande</i>		<i>\$2,654</i>	<i>5,134</i>
25	TX	Balcones Canyonlands NWR	\$1,000	320
26	MN/IA	Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR	\$500	150
27	<b>Grasslands/Prairie Potholes</b>			
	ND/SD	Dakota Tallgrass Prairie Wildlife Management Area	\$3,000	6,122
	ND/SD	Dakota Grasslands Conservation Area	<u>\$7,500</u>	<u>15,555</u>
	<i>Subtotal, Grasslands/Prairie Potholes</i>		<i>\$10,500</i>	<i>21,677</i>
28	WA	Willapa NWR	\$1,000	590
29	<b>High Divide</b>			
	MT/ID	Red Rock Lakes NWR	<u>\$1,000</u>	<u>2,304</u>
	<i>Subtotal, High Divide</i>		<i>\$1,000</i>	<i>2,304</i>
Subtotal, Core Projects			\$30,387	33,716
<i>Subtotal, Collaborative Landscape Planning Projects</i>			<i><u>\$61,885</u></i>	<i><u>45,783</u></i>
<b>Subtotal, Land Acquisition Mandatory Projects</b>			<b>\$92,272</b>	<b>79,499</b>
<b>Total, Fish and Wildlife Land Acquisition - Mandatory</b>			<b>\$113,772</b>	<b>79,499</b>



**CALIFORNIA SOUTHWEST DESERTS**  
**San Diego NWR**  
**California**

**DISCRETIONARY**

**Acquisition Authority:** Endangered Species Act of 1973  
Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

**FY 2015 Priority Rank:** No. 1 of 9

**Location:** Approximately 15 miles east of the City of San Diego

**Congressional Districts:** California, Districts 50, 51, and 52    **FWS Region 8**

**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$33,427,904

**FY 2015 Budget Request:**    **\$5,000,000**

**Acquisition Status:**

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	55	5,003	\$30,363,320	\$6,069
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	5	2	\$0	\$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	13	4,165	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	6	2,250	\$1,700,000	\$756
Partner Contributions through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total Acquired through FY 2013</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>11,420</b>	<b>\$32,063,320</b>	<b>\$2,808</b>
Planned FY 2014	0	0	\$0	\$0
Proposed FY 2015	16	100	\$5,000,000	\$50,000
Remaining	418	26,373	\$52,936,680	\$2,007
<b>Totals</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>37,893</b>	<b>\$90,000,000</b>	<b>\$2,375</b>

**Purpose of Acquisition:** The California Southwest Deserts focal area comprises Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and the west half of Imperial Counties in California. Less than a day's drive from 40 million people, the area has extensive wildlife corridors, miles of national scenic and historic trails, and 72 federally protected species. Rich in biodiversity and recreational opportunity, the landscape is also suffering from increasing demands (e.g., energy development and urban growth), which impact these unique resources. The community's conservation goals are rooted in years of partnership between government agencies and NGOs, and are informed by multiple conservation and recreation plans.

**Project Cooperators:** The Nature Conservancy, Friends of San Diego NWR, Conservation Biology Institute, public and private partners that participate in the State of California's Natural Communities Conservation Planning Program and the San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP).

**Project Description:** Funds would acquire fee title to approximately 100 acres of land in four tracts within San Diego National Wildlife Refuge, consisting of largely undisturbed coastal sage, chaparral, and riparian habitats. Acquisition of these tracts would extend the Service's successful efforts with more than a dozen local jurisdictions, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and many private landowners to protect over 172,000 acres of natural habitat within a 582,000-acre planning area. Acquisition of these mountainous upland tracts would assist in recovery efforts by providing opportunities to protect and restore habitat by creating a buffer from surrounding high-density development and limiting off-road

access. Refuge land acquisitions not only help meet natural resource goals, but also may reduce the need to list additional species under Federal and State laws. These include species such as the coastal California gnatcatcher, Otay tarplant, and Quino checkerspot butterfly.

**O&M:** The Service anticipates no additional operations or maintenance costs associated with this acquisition because the tracts are located within the Refuge boundaries and would add no additional workload.

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

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

**FY 2015 Priority Rank:** No. 2 of 9

**Location:** Northeastern South Dakota and southeastern North Dakota

**Congressional Districts:** North Dakota, At Large **FWS Region 6**  
 South Dakota, At Large

**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$10,173,750 (Includes Title V funds)

**FY 2015 Budget Request:** \$3,000,000

**Acquisition Status:**

	<b>Owners</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>\$/Acre</b>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	201	62,852	\$9,590,414	\$153
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	1	8	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	1	160	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	1	12	\$0	\$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total Acquired through FY 2013</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>63,032</b>	<b>\$9,590,414</b>	<b>\$152</b>
Planned FY 2014	0	0	0	\$0
Proposed FY 2015 (easement)	24	6,122	\$3,000,000	\$490
Remaining	Multi	120,846	\$53,888,426	\$446
<b>Totals</b>	<b>Multi</b>	<b>190,000</b>	<b>\$66,478,840</b>	<b>\$350</b>

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

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

**Project Description:** Funds would be used to acquire perpetual conservation easements on approximately 6,122 acres of tallgrass prairie from willing sellers. Tallgrass prairie once covered 90 percent of the Dakotas, but less than three percent remains. Habitat fragmentation and conversion to crop production are the primary threats to this ecosystem. The Service plans to use grassland easements to protect 190,000 acres of the remaining tallgrass prairie in the eastern Dakotas, including 25,000 acres in North Dakota and 165,000 acres in South Dakota. These easement acquisitions will help to maintain traditional ranching operations while fostering landscape-level conservation.

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

**O&M:** The Service anticipates spending a minimal amount for annual compliance over-flights, estimated at less than \$1,500 per year, which the Service would fund out of NWRS base funding.

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

**DISCRETIONARY**

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

**FY 2015 Priority Rank:** No. 3 of 9

**Location:** North Dakota and South Dakota, east of Missouri River

**Congressional Districts:** North Dakota, At Large **FWS Region 6**  
 South Dakota, At Large

**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$12,150,000

**FY 2015 Budget Request:** \$7,000,000

**Acquisition Status:**

	<b>Owners</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Cost*</b>	<b>\$/Acre</b>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Easement through FY 2013*	26	9,639	\$3,751,178	\$389
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	1	1,071	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total Acquired through FY 2013</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>10,710</b>	<b>\$3,751,178</b>	<b>\$350</b>
Planned FY 2014	57	23,053	\$8,650,000	\$375
Proposed FY 2015 (easements)	39	15,555	\$7,000,000	\$450
Remaining	Multi	1,890,682	\$568,598,822	\$301
<b>Totals</b>	<b>Multi</b>	<b>1,940,000</b>	<b>\$588,000,000</b>	<b>\$303</b>

\* Includes Migratory Bird Conservation Fund funding and incidental costs.

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

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

**Project Description:** Funds would be used to acquire perpetual conservation easements on approximately 15,555 acres from willing sellers. The PPR ecosystem consists of native mixed-grass prairie intermingled with high densities of temporary, seasonal, semi-permanent, and permanent wetlands that support breeding habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, grassland birds, and the endangered piping plover. Habitat fragmentation and loss due to conversion of wetlands and grasslands to cropland are the primary threats to wildlife species in the PPR. With the protection afforded by perpetual easements, this highly productive, yet fragile, ecosystem will remain intact, preserving habitat where biological communities will flourish. Acquisition of these easements would help to maintain traditional farming and ranching operations while fostering landscape-scale conservation.

**O&M:** The Service anticipates spending a minimal amount for annual compliance over-flights, estimated at less than \$8,000 per year, which the Service would fund out of NWRS base funding.

**NATIONAL TRAILS  
Rappahannock River NWR  
Virginia**

**DISCRETIONARY**

**Acquisition Authority:** Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, Refuge Recreation Act of 1962, Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980

**FY 2015 Priority Rank:** No. 4 of 9

**Location:** Virginia

**Congressional Districts:** Virginia, District 1 **FWS Regions 5**

**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$15,628,500

**FY 2014 Budget Request:** \$2,000,000

**Acquisition Status:**

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	20	5,461	\$12,629,536	\$2,313
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	7	1,918	\$4,277,034	\$2,230
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	2	1,339	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total Acquired through FY 2013</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>8,718</b>	<b>\$16,906,570</b>	<b>\$1,939</b>
Planned FY 2014	1	104	\$1,400,000	\$13,462
Proposed FY 2015	1	148	\$2,000,000	\$13,514
Remaining	20	11,030	\$33,093,430	\$3,000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>\$53,400,000</b>	<b>\$2,670</b>

**Purpose of Acquisition:** The National Scenic and Historic Trails are physical and cultural corridors traversing 49 States and every ecological biome in the U.S. These long distance trails, stretching for hundreds or thousands of miles each, connect with 70 NWRs, 80 national parks, 90 national forests, and 100 major metropolitan areas. As they pass through or alongside NWRs, they protect crucial conservation areas, provide wildlife migration corridors, and offer tremendous public recreational opportunities and viewsheds. This request would be directed to Rappahannock River NWR (VA).

**Project Cooperators:** State of Virginia, The Nature Conservancy.

**Project Description:** Funds would acquire fee title in a phased acquisition totaling 148 acres in the Fones Cliff area of the Rappahannock River NWR, which will add to the Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT. These forested bluffs reach heights of nearly 100 feet above the river shore and support high concentrations of bald eagles throughout the year. Surveys conducted by boat during winter months show the highest densities of eagles, ranging from 141 to 395 along a 30-mile stretch, with Fones Cliff consistently supporting dozens of birds.

Many other migratory bird species use the forests, swamps, and steep ravines found on the property, including several Service or State species of conservation concern. They include the Louisiana waterthrush, ovenbird, prothonotary warbler, Kentucky warbler, worm-eating warbler, yellow-throated

vireo, wood thrush, scarlet tanager, chuck-will's widow, and whip-poor-will, all of which are confirmed breeders on the Refuge.

Overlooking a key freshwater segment of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT, the 252-acre Fones Cliff project provides an opportunity for a spectacular interpretive site overlooking the Rappahannock River. State help for protection is anticipated along with \$20,000 in funds for administrative costs. Seventy-five million dollars has already been invested for conservation of the lower Rappahannock Valley.

**O&M:** The Service estimates total initial costs of \$104,000 for fence removal, posting, new fencing, and trail clearing, plus development of the trail head and kiosks for the trails. The Service would fund initial costs out of NWRS base funding.



**ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT CONSERVATION AREA  
Montana**

**DISCRETIONARY**

**Acquisition Authority:** Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956  
**FY 2015 Priority Rank:** No. 5 of 9  
**Location:** 65 miles northwest of Great Falls, MT, and 55 miles east of Missoula  
**Congressional Districts:** Montana At Large **FWS Region 6**  
**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$26,993,081  
**FY 2015 Budget Request:** \$2,000,000

**Acquisition Status:**

	<b>Owners</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>\$/Acre</b>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	12	46,556	\$18,847,872	\$405
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	9	14,196	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	1	2,613	\$1,108,500	\$424
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total Acquired through FY 2013</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>63,365</b>	<b>\$19,956,372</b>	<b>\$315</b>
Planned FY 2014	4	16,325	\$8,385,000	\$546
Proposed FY 2015 (easements)	1	5,277	\$2,000,000	\$379
Remaining	64	208,717	\$118,910,684	\$570
<b>Totals</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>293,684</b>	<b>\$149,252,056</b>	<b>\$508</b>

**Purpose of Acquisition:** To provide for long-term viability of fish and wildlife habitat on a large landscape in Montana. Acquisition of perpetual conservation easements conserves habitat where existing biological communities are functioning well and maintains the traditional rural economies, for present and future generations of Americans.

**Project Cooperators:** The Conservation Fund/Mellon Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Rocky Mountain Front Landowner Advisory Group, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Lewis & Clark County Commissioners, Montana DNRC, Montana Wilderness Association, and Montana Audubon Society.

**Project Description:** Funds would be used to acquire perpetual conservation easements on approximately 5,277 acres along the Rocky Mountain Front Conservation in Montana. These lands border existing protected land (owned by the State of Montana, The Nature Conservancy, or other Federal agencies) and include important habitat for grizzly bear, gray wolf, lynx, long-billed curlew, grasshopper sparrow, burrowing owl, and chestnut-collared longspur. The Rocky Mountain Front CA is considered to be one of the best remaining intact ecosystems left in the Lower 48, and supports nearly every wildlife species described by Lewis and Clark in 1806, with the exception of free-ranging bison. There is increasing pressure to subdivide and develop these landscapes for second home development and commercial uses. Protecting these tracts with conservation easements would prevent habitat fragmentation and conserve trust species habitat in one of America’s best remaining intact ecosystems.

**O&M:** The Service estimates that annual monitoring and inspection of the easement acres would require approximately \$8,000 annually, which the Service would fund out of NWRS base funding.

**EVERGLADES HEADWATERS NWR AND CONSERVATION AREA DISCRETIONARY  
Florida**

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

**FY 2015 Priority Rank:** No. 6 of 9

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

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

**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$4,500,000

**FY 2015 Budget Request:** \$3,000,000

**Acquisition Status:**

	<b>Owners</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>\$/Acre</b>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	1	10	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total Acquired through FY 2013</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Planned FY 2014 *	4	2,525	\$9,500,000	\$3,762
Proposed FY 2015	1	600	\$3,000,000	\$5,000
Remaining (fee)	Multi	48,365	\$193,460,000	\$4,000
Remaining (easement)	Multi	98,500	\$270,875,000	\$2,750
<b>Totals</b>	<b>Multi</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>\$476,835,000</b>	<b>\$3,179</b>

\* The Service will use FY 2014 funds to acquire 625 fee acres and 1,500 easement acres. A 400-fee acre donation will accompany these acquisitions.

**Purpose of Acquisition:** To protect, restore, and conserve habitat for 278 Federal and State listed species, including Florida panther, Florida black bear, Audubon’s crested caracara, Florida scrub jay, red-cockaded woodpecker, whooping crane, Everglades snail kite, and, most significantly, protect habitat for the Florida grasshopper sparrow, a federally endangered endemic species.

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

**Project Description:** Funds would be used to acquire fee title to 600 acres from a willing seller. The acquisition would help protect a large landscape of diverse and high-quality habitats, including habitat for the federally endangered Florida grasshopper sparrow. Acquisitions would protect, restore, and conserve the headwaters, groundwater recharge, and watershed of the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, and Lake Okeechobee region. This acquisition would improve water quantity and quality in the

Everglades watershed, complementing the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan goals, and protecting the water supply for millions of people.

**O&M:** The Service anticipates annual costs of up to \$25,000 for habitat management and restoration, including prescribed burning, hunting, and public use management.

**CACHE RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
**Arkansas**

**DISCRETIONARY**

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

**FY 2015 Priority Rank:** No. 7 of 9

**Location:** Adjacent to the White and Cache Rivers, 75 miles northeast of Little Rock

**Congressional Districts:** Arkansas, District 1 **FWS Region 4**

**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$16,883,213

**FY 2015 Budget Request:** \$1,071,000

**Acquisition Status:**

	<b>Owners</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>\$/Acre</b>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	111	68,635	\$60,201,338	\$877
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	7	2,155	\$134,000	\$62
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	2	945	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	1	0	\$115,000	\$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total Acquired through FY 2013</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>71,735</b>	<b>\$60,450,338</b>	<b>\$843</b>
Planned FY 2014	0	0	\$0	\$0
Proposed FY 2015	1	523	\$1,071,000	\$2,048
Remaining	348	112,719	\$234,605,460	\$2,081
<b>Totals</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>184,977</b>	<b>\$296,126,798</b>	<b>\$1,601</b>

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

**Project Cooperators:** The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, Ducks Unlimited, and Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

**Project Description:** Funds would be used to acquire fee title to approximately 523 acres from one willing seller. The tract contains row crop agriculture, bottomland hardwood forest, moist soils units, and bald cypress-tupelo swamps. Acquisition of these tracts would contribute greatly to the Service’s habitat conservation efforts in the Cache River project area, which encompasses some of the largest remaining expanses of forested wetlands on any tributary within the Mississippi Alluvial Valley. The Refuge project area is considered the most important wintering area for mallards in North America, and one of the most important for pintail and teal, Canada geese, and other migratory waterfowl. Forest and wetland restoration on these tracts would facilitate carbon sequestration, provide surrogate species habitat, and fulfill national and State conservation plan goals.

**O&M:** The Service estimates initial costs of \$6,000 for posting and fencing, which the Service would fund from Refuge System base funding. Annual costs would be less than \$500 for maintenance.

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

**DISCRETIONARY**

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

**FY 2015 Priority Rank:** No. 8 of 9

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

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

**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$30,081,328

**FY 2015 Budget Request:** \$ 2,000,000

**Acquisition Status:**

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee Through FY 2013	79	35,691	\$30,013,806	\$841
Acquired Easement Through FY 2013	2	169	\$126,000	\$746
Acquired Exchange Through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation Through FY 2013	5	125	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means Through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total Acquired through 2013</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>35,985</b>	<b>\$30,139,806</b>	<b>\$838</b>
Planned FY 2014	3	770	\$1,262,000	\$1,639
Proposed FY 2015	15	779	\$2,000,000	\$2,567
Remaining	1,906	41,373	37,098,194	\$897
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,010</b>	<b>78,907</b>	<b>\$70,500,000</b>	<b>\$893</b>

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

**Project Cooperators:** The Trust for Public Land, The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, the Kestrel Land Trust, the Middlesex Land Trust, and the National Wildlife Refuge Association.

**Project Description:** Funds would be used to acquire fee title to approximately 779 acres in seven Refuge divisions located within the Connecticut River watershed. Acquisition of approximately 40 acres within the Refuge’s Fort River Division (MA) would benefit a large grassland project for grassland species, the endangered dwarf wedge mussel, and anadromous fish. The Service would also acquire 159 acres of riparian habitat within the Westfield River Division (MA). Acquisition of 529 acres of northern boreal forest will include 164 acres in the Nulhegan Basin Division (VT) and 365 acres in the Pondicherry and Mohawk River Divisions (NH), and will protect nesting songbird habitat and provide public opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation. The Service would acquire 51 total acres in the Refuge’s Whalebone Cove and Salmon River Divisions (CT), which contain extensive freshwater tidal marshes used by migrating and wintering waterfowl.

Acquisition of these tracts, in partnership with others, would enhance connectivity across area, elevation, latitude, aspect, and process within the 1.8 million acre Connecticut River watershed. Improving connectivity across the landscape would better position waterfowl (27 species), other migratory birds (247 species), and threatened and endangered species (9 species) for anticipated changes resulting from climate change, providing potential opportunities for species emigration and adaptation as habitats change in temperature, precipitation, and water levels. Connecting lands under Refuge stewardship within an extensive and expanding conservation mosaic would also promote representation, redundancy, and resiliency within the watershed. These project features provide a robust foundation for nationally significant and vital wildlife habitat that will sustain high quality opportunities for wildlife-dependent outdoor recreation for current and future generations of Americans. Each of the proposed acquisitions makes clear and valuable contributions to each of the six legislated purposes for the Refuge while strategically integrating Service investments into the larger landscape.

**O&M:** The Service anticipates minimal additional costs associated with these acquisitions because the parcels are located within the Refuge boundary and would create no additional workload.

**FLORIDA-GEORGIA LONGLEAF INITIATIVE**  
**St. Marks and Okefenokee NWRs**  
**Florida and Georgia**

**DISCRETIONARY**

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

**FY 2015 Priority Rank:** No. 9 of 9

**Location:** In the Florida Panhandle, 24 miles south of Tallahassee; 11 miles southwest of Folkston, GA

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

**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$10,287,288

**FY 2015 Budget Request:** \$10,000,000

**Acquisition Status:**

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	140	434,009	\$10,828,484	\$25
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	13	329	\$0	\$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	19	14,170	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	13	24,398	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	5	1,994	\$0	\$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total Acquired through FY 2013</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>474,900</b>	<b>\$10,828,484</b>	<b>\$23</b>
Planned FY 2014	2	1,913	\$4,616,069	\$2,413
Proposed FY 2015	2	4,400	\$10,000,000	\$2,273
Remaining	Multi	91,363	\$201,406,500	\$2,204
Totals	Multi	572,576	\$226,851,053	\$396

**Purpose of Acquisition:** To conserve populations of threatened, endangered, rare, and imperiled plants and animals, and their native longleaf pine habitats; to restore former slash pine plantations to native longleaf pine; to provide suitable black bear habitat, including corridors to link to critical habitat for major population centers; to provide high-quality habitat for migratory birds, shorebirds, waterbirds, and marshbirds; and to provide public opportunities for hunting, fishing, and other wildlife-dependent recreation.

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

**Project Description:** Funds would be used to acquire 4,400 fee acres including a portion of a multi-year 519-acre acquisition from a willing seller at St. Marks NWR and a one-mile, wildfire-resilient wildlife conservation zone around the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. Acquisition would benefit Federally-listed endangered species such as red-cockaded woodpecker, woodstork, and flatwood salamanders, as well as a variety of other resident and migratory species. Also, acquisition would help to preserve a tapestry of Federal, State, and private forest lands that provide more than a million acres of



unfragmented habitat for a variety of federally-listed endangered and threatened species. The project is located in a designated Important Bird Area and a Land Management Research and Demonstration Site for Longleaf Pine Ecosystems Funds, and is a key segment of the Florida National Scenic Trail.

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

**CALIFORNIA SOUTHWEST DESERTS**  
**San Diego NWR**  
**California**

**MANDATORY**

**Acquisition Authority:** Endangered Species Act of 1973  
 Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

**FY 2015 Priority Rank:** No. 1 of 20

**Location:** Approximately 15 miles east of the City of San Diego

**Congressional Districts:** California, Districts 50, 51, and 52 **FWS Region 8**

**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$33,427,904

**FY 2014 Budget Request:** \$6,770,000

**Acquisition Status:**

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	55	5,003	\$30,363,320	\$6,069
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	5	2	\$0	\$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	13	4,165	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	6	2,250	\$1,700,000	\$756
Partner Contributions through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total Acquired through FY 2013</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>11,420</b>	<b>\$32,063,320</b>	<b>\$2,808</b>
Planned FY 2014	0	0	\$0	\$0
Proposed FY 2015	16	225	\$6,770,000	\$30,089
Remaining	418	26,248	\$51,166,680	\$1,949
<b>Totals</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>37,893</b>	<b>\$90,000,000</b>	<b>\$2,375</b>

**Purpose of Acquisition:** The Southwest Deserts in California focal area comprises of Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and the west half of Imperial Counties in California. Less than a day’s drive from 40 million people, the area has extensive wildlife corridors, miles of national scenic and historic trails, and 72 federally-protected species. Rich in biodiversity and recreational opportunity, the landscape is also suffering from increasing demands (e.g., energy development and urban growth), which impact these unique resources. The community’s conservation goals are rooted in years of partnership between government agencies and NGOs, and are informed by multiple conservation and recreation plans.

**Project Cooperators:** The Nature Conservancy, Friends of San Diego National Wildlife Refuge, Conservation Biology Institute, Public and private partners that participate in the State of California’s Natural Communities Conservation Planning Program and the San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP).

**Project Description:** Funds would acquire fee title to approximately 225 acres of land within San Diego National Wildlife Refuge, consisting of four tracts with 45 acres of largely undisturbed coastal sage, chaparral, and riparian habitats. Acquisition of these tracts would extend the Service’s successful efforts with more than a dozen local jurisdictions, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and many private landowners to protect over 172,000 acres of natural habitat within a 582,000-acre planning area.

Acquisition of these mountainous upland tracts would assist in recovery efforts by providing opportunities to protect and restore habitat by creating a buffer from surrounding high-density development and limiting off-road access. Refuge land acquisitions not only help meet natural resource goals, but also may reduce the need to list additional species under Federal and State laws. These include species such as the coastal California gnatcatcher, Otay tarplant, and Quino checkerspot butterfly.

**O&M:** The Service anticipates no additional operations or maintenance costs associated with this acquisition because the tracts are located within the Refuge boundaries and would add no additional workload.

**DAKOTA TALLGRASS PRAIRIE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA MANDATORY****North Dakota and South Dakota****Acquisition Authority:** Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956**FY 2015 Priority Rank:** No. 2 of 20**Location:** Northeastern South Dakota and southeastern North Dakota**Congressional Districts:** North Dakota, At Large **FWS Region 6**  
South Dakota, At Large**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$10,173,750 (Includes Title V funds)**FY 2015 Budget Request:** \$3,887,000**Acquisition Status:**

	<b>Owners</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>\$/Acre</b>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	201	62,852	\$9,590,414	\$153
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	1	8	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	1	160	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	1	12	\$0	\$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total Acquired through FY 2013</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>63,032</b>	<b>\$9,590,414</b>	<b>\$152</b>
Planned FY 2014	0	0	\$0	\$0
Proposed FY 2015 (easement)	Multi	7,932	\$3,887,000	\$490
Remaining	Multi	119,036	\$53,001,426	\$445
<b>Totals</b>	<b>Multi</b>	<b>190,000</b>	<b>\$66,478,840</b>	<b>\$350</b>

**Purpose of Acquisition:** To protect the northern tallgrass prairie ecosystem and associated wildlife.**Project Cooperators:** The Nature Conservancy and the local community.

**Project Description:** Funds would be used to acquire perpetual conservation easements on approximately 7,932 acres of tallgrass prairie from willing sellers. Tallgrass prairie once covered 90 percent of the Dakotas, but less than three percent remains. Habitat fragmentation and conversion to crop production are the primary threats to this ecosystem. The Service plans to use grassland easements to protect 190,000 acres of the remaining tallgrass prairie in the eastern Dakotas, including 25,000 acres in North Dakota and 165,000 acres in South Dakota. These easement acquisitions will help to maintain traditional ranching operations while fostering landscape-level conservation.

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

**O&M:** The Service anticipates spending a minimal amount for annual compliance over-flights, estimated at less than \$1,500 per year, which the Service would fund out of NWRS base funding.

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

**MANDATORY**

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

**FY 2015 Priority Rank:** No. 3 of 20

**Location:** North Dakota and South Dakota, east of Missouri River

**Congressional Districts:** North Dakota, At Large **FWS Region 6**  
 South Dakota, At Large

**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$12,150,000

**FY 2015 Budget Request:** \$7,000,000

**Acquisition Status:**

	<b>Owners</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Cost*</b>	<b>\$/Acre</b>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Easement through FY 2013*	26	9,639	\$3,751,178	\$389
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	1	1,071	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total Acquired through FY 2013</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>10,710</b>	<b>\$3,751,178</b>	<b>\$350</b>
Planned FY 2014	Multi	23,053	\$8,650,000	\$375
Proposed FY 2015 (easements)	39	15,555	\$7,000,000	\$450
Remaining	Multi	1,890,682	568,598,822	\$301
<b>Totals</b>	<b>Multi</b>	<b>1,940,000</b>	<b>\$588,000,000</b>	<b>\$303</b>

\* Includes Migratory Bird Conservation Fund funding and incidental costs.

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

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

**Project Description:** Funds would be used to acquire perpetual conservation easements on approximately 15,555 acres from willing sellers. The PPR ecosystem consists of native mixed-grass prairie intermingled with high densities of temporary, seasonal, semi-permanent, and permanent wetlands that support breeding habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, grassland birds, and the endangered piping plover. Habitat fragmentation and loss due to conversion of wetlands and grasslands to cropland are the primary threat to wildlife species in the PPR. With the protection afforded by perpetual easements, this highly productive, yet fragile, ecosystem will remain intact, preserving habitat where biological communities will flourish. Acquisition of these easements would help to maintain traditional farming and ranching operations while fostering landscape-scape conservation.

**O&M:** The Service anticipates spending a minimal amount for annual compliance over-flights, estimated at less than \$8,000 per year, which the Service would fund out of NWRS base funding.

**NATIONAL TRAILS MANDATORY**

**Innoko National Wildlife Refuge, Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Rappahannock River National Wildlife Refuge, Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, and Chickasaw National Wildlife Refuge  
Alaska, Idaho, Tennessee, Virginia, and Washington**

**Acquisition Authority:** Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, Refuge Recreation Act of 1962, Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980, Migratory Bird Conservation Act, and Refuge Recreation Act of 1962

**FY 2015 Priority Rank:** No. 4 of 20

**Location:** Alaska, Idaho, Tennessee, Virginia, and Washington

**Congressional Districts:** Alaska, District 1, **FWS Regions 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7**  
Idaho, District 32,  
Tennessee District 8,  
Virginia, District 1, and  
Washington, District 3

**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$15,628,500

**FY 2014 Budget Request:** \$10,660,000

**Acquisition Status:**

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres**</u>	<u>Cost*</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	77	36,043	\$44,590,019	\$1,237
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	26	4,341	\$4,285,927	\$987
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	1	27	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	5	1,738	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	6	18,468	\$381	\$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total Acquired through FY 2013</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>60,617</b>	<b>\$48,876,327</b>	<b>\$806</b>
Planned FY 2014	0	0	\$0	\$0
Proposed FY 2015	24	6,005	\$10,660,000	\$1,775
Remaining	327	71,820	\$221,001,308	\$3,077
<b>Totals</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>138,442</b>	<b>\$280,537,635</b>	<b>\$2,026</b>

\*Price per acre includes the cost of acre/feet of water.

\*\*80 acres reserved from public domain; 13,000 acres acquired through agreement

**Purpose of Acquisition:** The National Scenic and Historic Trails are physical and cultural corridors traversing 49 States and every ecological biome in the U.S. These long distance trails, stretching for hundreds or thousands of miles each, connect with 70 NWRs, 80 national parks, 90 national forests, and 100 major metropolitan areas. As they pass through or alongside NWRs, they protect crucial conservation areas, provide wildlife migration corridors, and offer tremendous public recreational opportunities and viewsheds. This request would be directed to four Refuge/trail acquisitions: the Iditarod NHT at the Innoko NWR (AK), the California NHT at the Grays Lake NWR (ID), the Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT at the Rappahannock River NWR (VA), the Lewis and Clark NHT at the Ridgefield NWR (WA), and the Trail of Tears at the Chickasaw NWR (TN).

**Project Cooperators:** State of Alaska Office of History and Archeology, State of Virginia, The Nature Conservancy, and Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency

**Project Description:** Funds would be used at Innoko NWR to acquire fee title to two Alaska Native allotments, USS 7347 and USS 7298. The Iditarod National Historic Trail runs through both USS 7298 and USS 7347. Both allotments border the Iditarod River and are within the Innoko NWR Wilderness Area. Acquisition of the allotments would place the property along the River and trail in conservation status ensuring protection of threatened and endangered plants, fish, and wildlife, including caribou, lynx, brown and black bear, wolverine, wolf, land otter, bald and golden eagles, osprey, and peregrine falcon. Additionally, the acquisitions would ensure that cover for terrestrial species that move along the River corridor and connectivity of terrestrial and watershed ecosystems would be preserved.

Funds would be used at Grays Lake NWR to acquire fee title to private landowners' interest in the lakebed of Grays Lake as well as associated uplands. Grays Lake NWR has the world's largest hardstem bulrush marsh and contains high elevation (6,400 ft.) montane wetlands, riparian inflows and outflows with willow shrublands, and sagebrush-steppe uplands. The Refuge hosts a large nesting population of greater sandhill cranes; as many as 1200 individuals are counted in the valley during migration and staging times, and attracts large numbers of ducks, Canada geese, and trumpeter swans, as well as providing important habitat for a variety of native plant and wildlife species.

The Refuge is in the shadow of the historic Caribou Mountain (9,803 feet). Grays Lake NWR provides breeding habitat for over 200 species of mammals, fish, amphibians, waterfowl, and other migratory birds. This acquisition would protect plants, fish, and wildlife, support working farms, ranches, and forests, and protect special landscapes, historic, and cultural resources. The California National Historic Trail which led over 250,000 gold-seekers to the gold fields of California during the 1840's and 1850's is located within the project area. The land surrounding the Refuge is managed by the private landowners, State of Idaho, BIA, BLM, and USFS.

Funds would acquire fee title in a phased acquisition totaling 252 acres in the Fones Cliff area of the Rappahannock River NWR. These forested bluffs reach heights of nearly 100 feet above the River shore and support high concentrations of bald eagles throughout the year. Surveys conducted by boat during winter months show the highest densities of eagles, ranging from 141 to 395 along a 30-mile stretch, with Fones Cliff consistently supporting dozens of birds.

Many other migratory bird species use the forests, swamps, and steep ravines found on the property, including several Service or State species of conservation concern. They include the Louisiana waterthrush, ovenbird, prothonotary warbler, Kentucky warbler, worm-eating warbler, yellow-throated vireo, wood thrush, scarlet tanager, chuck-will's widow, and whip-poor-will, all of which are confirmed breeders on the Refuge.

Overlooking a key freshwater segment of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT, the Fones Cliff project provides an opportunity for a spectacular interpretive site overlooking the Rappahannock River. State help for protection is anticipated along with \$20,000 in funds for administrative costs. Seventy-five million dollars has already been invested for conservation of the lower Rappahannock River Valley.

Funds for Ridgefield NWR would be used to acquire three parcels along the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail, as well as the Columbia River Water Trail, a 50-State AGO project. Lands along the lower Columbia River portion of the Lewis and Clark Trail would be acquired to protect wildlife habitat and lands similar to what the Corps of Discovery explorers encountered more than 200 years ago. These lands are within 25 miles of Portland, Oregon, and Vancouver, Washington. Acquisition would protect trail resources and access, and would also improve water quality and protect vital winter habitat for dusky



Canada geese and other species. Threats to this iconic landscape include residential and agricultural and commercial-industrial development.

The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail commemorates the 15,000 Cherokee people who were forced to walk hundreds of miles across nine States, from their ancestral homelands in Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama, to live in Indian Territory, now Oklahoma, in 1838-1839.

The requested funds would be used to acquire fee title to approximately 1,155 acres from six willing sellers. The tracts proposed for acquisition contain former bottomland hardwood forests now planted as row crops along a five-mile stretch of the Mississippi River in western Tennessee and designated as part of the national historical Trail of Tears. These tracts would be restored to bottomland hardwood forests; restoration would benefit not only cultural and historic resources, but also migratory birds, threatened and endangered species, and species of concern. Migratory birds include wintering waterfowl, bald eagles, and forest interior land birds. Endangered species include the least tern, pallid sturgeon, and Indiana bat. Species of concern include the cerulean warbler, Swainson's warbler, yellow-billed cuckoo, northern long-eared bat, alligator gar, American eel, paddlefish, and southern hickorynut mussel. All of the tracts proposed for acquisition are located within the approved acquisition boundary of Chickasaw NWR.

**O&M:** The Service estimates total initial costs of \$104,000 for fence removal, posting, new fencing, and trail clearing, plus development of the trail head and kiosks for the trails. The Service would fund initial costs out of NWRS base funding.

**EVERGLADES HEADWATERS NWR AND CONSERVATION AREA MANDATORY  
Florida**

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

**FY 2015 Priority Rank:** No. 5 of 20

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

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

**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$4,500,000

**FY 2015 Budget Request:** \$5,000,000

**Acquisition Status:**

	<b>Owners</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>\$/Acre</b>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	1	10	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total Acquired through FY 2013</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Planned FY 2014 *	4	2,525	\$9,500,000	\$3,762
Proposed FY 2015	1	998	\$5,000,000	\$5,010
Remaining (fee)	Multi	47,967	\$193,133,000	\$4,026
Remaining (easement)	Multi	98,500	\$272,875,000	\$2,770
<b>Totals</b>	<b>Multi</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>\$480,508,000</b>	<b>\$3,203</b>

\* The Service will use FY 2014 funds to acquire 625 fee acres and 1,500 easement acres. A 400 fee-acre donation will accompany these acquisitions.

**Purpose of Acquisition:** To protect, restore, and conserve habitat for 278 Federal and State listed species, including Florida panther, Florida black bear, Audubon’s crested caracara, Florida scrub jay, red-cockaded woodpecker, whooping crane, Everglades snail kite, and, most significantly, protect habitat for the Florida grasshopper sparrow, a federally listed endangered endemic species.

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

**Project Description:** Funds would be used to acquire fee title to 998 acres from a willing seller. The acquisition would help protect a large landscape of diverse and high-quality habitats, including habitat for the federally listed endangered Florida grasshopper sparrow. Acquisitions would protect, restore, and conserve the headwaters, groundwater recharge, and watershed of the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, and Lake Okeechobee region. This acquisition would improve water quantity and

quality in the Everglades watershed, complementing the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan goals, and protecting the water supply for millions of people.

**O&M:** The Service anticipates annual costs of up to \$25,000 for habitat management and restoration, including prescribed burning, hunting, and public use management.

## CACHE RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

## MANDATORY

## Arkansas

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

**FY 2015 Priority Rank:** No. 6 of 20

**Location:** Adjacent to the White and Cache Rivers, 75 miles northeast of Little Rock

**Congressional Districts:** Arkansas, District 1 **FWS Region 4**

**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$16,883,213

**FY 2015 Budget Request:** \$2,000,000

**Acquisition Status:**

	<b>Owners</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>\$/Acre</b>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	111	68,635	\$60,201,338	\$877
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	7	2,155	\$134,000	\$62
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	2	945	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	1	0	\$115,000	\$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total Acquired through FY 2013</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>71,735</b>	<b>\$60,450,338</b>	<b>\$843</b>
Planned FY 2014	0	0	\$0	\$0
Proposed FY 2015	1	740	\$2,000,000	\$2,703
Remaining	348	112,502	\$233,676,460	\$2,077
<b>Totals</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>184,977</b>	<b>\$296,126,798</b>	<b>\$1,601</b>

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

**Project Cooperators:** The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, Ducks Unlimited, and Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

**Project Description:** Funds would be used to acquire fee title to approximately 740 acres from one willing seller. The tract contains row crop agriculture, bottomland hardwood forest, moist soils units, and bald cypress-tupelo swamps. Acquisition of these tracts would contribute greatly to the Service's habitat conservation efforts in the Cache River project area, which encompasses some of the largest remaining expanses of forested wetlands on any tributary within the Mississippi Alluvial Valley. The Refuge project area is considered the most important wintering area for mallards in North America, and one of the most important for pintail and teal ducks, Canada geese, and other migratory waterfowl. Forest and wetland restoration on these tracts would facilitate carbon sequestration, provide surrogate species habitat, and fulfill national and State conservation plan goals.

**O&M:** The Service estimates initial costs of \$6,000 for posting and fencing, which the Service would fund from Refuge System base funding. Annual costs would be less than \$500 for maintenance.

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

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

**FY 2015 Priority Rank:**                      No. 7 of 20

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

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

**Total LWCF Appropriations:**                      \$30,081,328

**FY 2015 Budget Request:**                      \$ 3,000,000

**Acquisition Status:**

	<b>Owners</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>\$/Acre</b>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	79	35,691	\$30,013,806	\$841
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	2	169	\$126,000	\$744
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	5	125	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total Acquired through 2013</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>35,985</b>	<b>\$30,139,806</b>	<b>\$838</b>
Planned FY 2014	3	770	\$1,262,000	\$1,639
Proposed FY 2015	11	2,025	\$3,000,000	\$1,481
Remaining ***	1,910	40,127	\$36,098,194	\$900
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,010</b>	<b>78,907</b>	<b>\$70,500,000</b>	<b>\$893</b>

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

**Project Cooperators:** The Trust for Public Land, The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, the Kestrel Land Trust, the Middlesex Land Trust, and the National Wildlife Refuge Association.

**Project Description:** Funds would be used to acquire fee title to approximately 2,025 acres in seven Refuge divisions located within the Connecticut River watershed. Acquisition of approximately 20 acres within the Refuge’s Fort River Division (MA) would benefit a large grassland project for grassland species, the endangered dwarf wedge mussel, and anadromous fish. The Service would also acquire 55 acres of riparian habitat within the Westfield River Division (MA). Acquisition of 1,876 acres of northern boreal forest, including 938 acres in the Nulhegan Basin Division (VT) and 938 acres in the Pondicherry and Mohawk River Divisions (NH), would protect nesting songbirds and provide public opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation. The Service would acquire 75 total acres in the Refuge’s Whalebone Cove and Salmon River Divisions (CT), which contain extensive freshwater tidal marshes used by migrating and wintering waterfowl.

Acquisition of these tracts, in partnership with others, would enhance connectivity across area, elevation, latitude, aspect, and process within the 1.8 million acre Connecticut River watershed landscape. Improving connectivity across the landscape would better position waterfowl (27 species), migratory birds (247 species), threatened and endangered (9 species) for anticipated changes resulting from climate change, providing potential opportunities for species emigration and adaptation as habitats respond to changes in temperature, precipitation, and water levels. Connecting lands under Refuge stewardship within an extensive and expanding conservation mosaic would also promote representation, redundancy, and resiliency within the watershed. These project features provide a robust foundation for nationally significant and vital wildlife habitat that will sustain high quality opportunities for wildlife-dependent outdoor recreation for current and future generations of Americans. Each of the proposed acquisitions makes clear and valuable contributions to each of the six legislated purposes for the Refuge while strategically integrating Service investments into the larger landscape.

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

**SAN JOAQUIN RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
**California**

**MANDATORY**

**Acquisition Authority:** Endangered Species Act 1973  
**FY 2015 Priority Rank:** No. 8 of 20  
**Location:** Approximately 10 miles west of Modesto, CA  
**Congressional Districts:** California, District 18 **FWS Region 8**  
**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$19,843,600  
**FY 2015 Budget Request:** \$1,000,000

**Acquisition Status:**

	<b>Ownerships</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>\$/Acre</b>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	8	7,148	\$25,725,448	\$3,599
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	4	4,240	\$24,718,346	\$5,830
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total Acquired through FY 2013</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11,388</b>	<b>\$50,443,794</b>	<b>\$4,430</b>
Planned FY 2014	0	0	\$0	\$0
Proposed FY 2015	1	90	\$1,000,000	\$11,111
Remaining	4	2,437	\$18,556,206	\$7,614
<b>Totals</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13,915</b>	<b>\$70,000,000</b>	<b>\$5,031</b>

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

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

**Project Description:** Funds would be used to acquire a perpetual conservation easement on approximately 90 acres of predominantly native, irrigated pasture from a willing seller. The biggest threat to the Refuge is residential development and the conversion of grasslands and wetlands habitat to croplands and orchards that provide little or no benefit to wildlife. Acquisition of this conservation easement would provide long-term viability to the grassland and wetland ecosystem as well as provide a safe haven for migratory birds and other wildlife species.

**O & M Costs:** The interest to be acquired in the 90 acres is a perpetual conservation easement. For this reason there will be little to no long-term management costs associated with this acquisition

**FLORIDA-GEORGIA LONGLEAF INITIATIVE**  
**St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge**  
**Florida**

**MANDATORY**

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

**FY 2015 Priority Rank:** No. 9 of 20

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

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

**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$10,287,288

**FY 2015 Budget Request:** \$19,048,667

**Acquisition Status:**

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	113	65,508	\$8,977,213	\$25
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	11	283	\$0	\$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	17	4,897	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	12	749	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	2	134	\$0	\$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total Acquired through FY 2013</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>71,571</b>	<b>\$8,977,213</b>	<b>\$125</b>
Planned FY 2014	1	915	\$2,207,895	\$2,413
Proposed FY 2015	2	7,732	\$19,048,667	\$2,464
Remaining	Multi	32,029	\$80,040,000	\$2,499
<b>Totals</b>	<b>Multi</b>	<b>112,247</b>	<b>\$110,273,775</b>	<b>\$982</b>

**Purpose of Acquisition:** To conserve populations of threatened, endangered, rare, and imperiled plants and animals, and their native longleaf pine habitats; to restore former slash pine plantations to native longleaf pine; to provide suitable black bear habitat, including corridors to link to critical habitat for major population centers; to provide high-quality habitat for migratory birds, shorebirds, waterbirds, and marshbirds; and to provide public opportunities for hunting, fishing, and other wildlife-dependent recreation.

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

**Project Description:** Funds would be used to acquire 7,732 fee acres including a portion of a multi-year 519-acre acquisition from a willing seller at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. Acquisition would benefit federally-listed endangered species such as red-cockaded woodpecker, woodstork, and flatwood salamanders, as well as a variety of other resident and migratory species. Also, acquisition would help to preserve a tapestry of Federal, State, and private forest lands that provide more than a million acres of unfragmented habitat for a variety of federally-listed threatened and endangered species. The project is located in a designated Important Bird Area and a Land Management Research and Demonstration Site for Longleaf Pine Ecosystems Funds, and is a key segment of the Florida National Scenic Trail.



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

**GRASSLANDS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA  
California**

**MANDATORY**

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

**FY 2015 Priority Rank:** No. 10 of 20

**Location:** In the Pacific Flyway between the cities of Los Banos and Gustine, CA

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

**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$14,276,332

**FY 2015 Budget Request:** \$1,000,000

**Acquisition Status:**

	<b>Owners</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>\$/Acre</b>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	8	14,970	\$18,066,228	\$1,207
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	171	78,713	\$44,619,590	\$567
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total Acquired through FY 2013</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>93,683</b>	<b>\$62,685,818</b>	<b>\$669</b>
Planned FY 2014	0	0	\$0	\$
Proposed FY 2015	2	133	\$1,000,000	\$7,519
Remaining	233	39,484	\$182,183,369	\$4,614
<b>Totals</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>133,300</b>	<b>\$245,869,187</b>	<b>\$1,844</b>

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

**Project Cooperators:** State of California.

**Project Description:** Funds would be used to acquire perpetual conservation easements on approximately 133 acres of predominantly native, irrigated pasture from two willing sellers. The biggest threat to the Grasslands WMA is residential development and the conversion of grasslands, wetlands, and riparian habitat to croplands and orchards that provide little or no benefit for wildlife. Acquisition of conservation easements would provide long-term viability to the grassland ecosystem as well as provide a safe haven for migratory birds and other wildlife species.

**O&M:** The interest to be acquired in the 133 acres is a perpetual conservation easement. For this reason, there will be little long-term management costs associated with this acquisition.

**BEAR RIVER WATERSHED CONSERVATION AREA**  
**Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming**

**MANDATORY**

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

**FY 2015 Priority Rank:** No. 11 of 20

**Location:** The Bear River watershed located in southeastern Idaho, northeastern Utah, and southwestern Wyoming

**Congressional Districts:** Idaho, District 2  
 Utah, District 1  
 Wyoming At Large **FWS Regions 1, 6**

**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$0

**FY 2015 Budget Request:** \$2,000,000

**Acquisition Status:**

	<b>Owners</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>\$/Acre</b>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total Acquired through FY 2013</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Planned FY 2014	0	0	\$0	\$0
Proposed FY 2015 (easement)	4	2,469	\$2,000,000	\$810
Remaining	Multi	917,531	\$743,200,000	\$810
<b>Totals</b>	<b>Multi</b>	<b>920,000</b>	<b>\$745,200,000</b>	<b>\$810</b>

**Purpose of Acquisition:** To conserve the Bear River watershed’s intact wetland, riparian, and upland habitat for more than 270 different species, including more than 200 bird species.

**Project Cooperators:** Idaho Fish and Game, Utah Department of Natural Resources, Wyoming Game and Fish, soil and water conservation districts, Tribes, The Nature Conservancy, Bridgerland Audubon, Trout Unlimited, Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust, PacifiCorp, Utah Farm Bureau, and local communities.

**Project Description:** Funds would be used to acquire perpetual conservation easements on approximately 2,469 acres in the Bear River watershed. Wetlands and riparian areas in the watershed’s lower elevations provide some of the most important resting, staging, feeding, breeding, and nesting areas for migratory birds in the Pacific and Central Flyways. The watershed supports millions of birds, including 46 percent of the white-faced ibis, 24 percent of the marbled godwits, and 18 percent of the black-necked stilts in North America. The watershed also provides habitat for the greater sage grouse, and habitat that is essential to the survival of the Bonneville cutthroat trout. Existing refuges and adjacent protected lands in the watershed provide habitat for more than 270 different species, and the acquisition of conservation easements for the Conservation Area would improve connectivity among these protected lands.

The Bear River serves many functions for both wildlife and people, but the health of the River is directly affected by land use along its route. Land use in the watershed affects wildlife habitat and the amount and quality of available water. Agricultural lands in the watershed provide habitat for wildlife, but, in some areas, are undergoing rapid conversion to residential development. Some counties in the watershed are expected to double in population over the next 30 years. The collaborative efforts of conservation partners in the Bear River watershed are crucial to preserving this working landscape that is such an important resource for people and wildlife.

The Conservation Area is located in parts of 12 counties: Bannock, Bear Lake, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida, and Power in Idaho; Box Elder, Cache, Rich, and Summit in Utah; and Lincoln and Uinta in Wyoming. A number of landowners have expressed interest in selling conservation easements, and the Service is currently identifying lands that contain high quality wildlife habitat for easement acquisition. Acquisition of conservation easements from willing sellers would protect habitat that is important for focal species, while helping to preserve the agricultural heritage of the landscape.

**O&M:** Within the base funding for the Refuge System, the Service would use less than \$5,000 for annual maintenance of the new acquisitions, mainly for easement enforcement.

**LONGLEAF PINE INITIATIVE**

**MANDATORY**

**Ernest F. Hollilngs ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge,  
Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge,  
Santee National Wildlife Refuge, and Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge  
South Carolina**

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

**FY 2015 Priority Rank:** No. 12 of 20

**Location:** South Carolina coastal areas

**Congressional Districts:** South Carolina, District 1 **FWS Region 4**

**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$32,978,393

**FY 2015 Budget Request:** \$11,252,500

**Acquisition Status:**

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres*</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	283	101,479	\$32,978,393	\$325
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	2	12	\$0	\$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	11	32,058	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	16	16,589	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	4	13,499	\$20,111	\$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total Acquired through FY 2013</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>163,637</b>	<b>\$32,998,504</b>	<b>\$202</b>
Planned FY 2014	2	2,016	\$4,864,608	\$2,413
Proposed FY 2015	12	2,706	\$11,252,500	\$4,158
Remaining	Multi	174,469	\$528,336,010	\$3,028
<b>Totals</b>	<b>Multi</b>	<b>342,828</b>	<b>\$577,451,622</b>	<b>\$1,684</b>

**Purpose of Acquisition:** To conserve and restore longleaf pine and unique embedded habitats that support threatened, endangered, and declining species, including red-cockaded woodpeckers, neotropical forest interior birds, black bear, and coastal-dependent birds in serious decline; to safeguard and unite high quality habitats on adjacent refuges and forests to preserve wildlife corridors and reduce agency management costs; to expand natural landscape connections in the Gullah Geechee Corridor for fishing, hunting, bird watching, and other outdoor recreation on public lands.

**Project Cooperators:** Charleston County Greenbelt, Francis Marion National Forest, Gullah Geechee Heritage Commission, ACE Basin Taskforce, The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, Pee Dee Land Trust, American Rivers.

**Project Description:** Funds would be used to acquire a combination of over 2,706 fee acres at Ernest F. Hollins ACE Basin, Cape Romain, Carolina Sandhills, Santee and Waccamaw NWRs. Acquisition would support longleaf pine ecosystem conservation and restoration. Acquisition would also help to preserve a tapestry of Federal, State, and private forest lands that provide more than 495,000 acres of habitat for a variety of federally-listed threatened and endangered species, including red-cockaded woodpecker and wood stork. Residential, commercial, and industrial development, habitat fragmentation, extraction

industries, loss of public access, and loss of paleontological resources are some the greatest threats facing this landscape. Acquisition funding would significantly contribute to a multi-partner effort to ensure resiliency and connectivity of this ecosystem, support working lands, enhance recreational access and opportunities, and protect historic and cultural resources.

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

**FLINT HILLS LEGACY CONSERVATION AREA  
Kansas**

**MANDATORY**

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

**FY 2015 Priority Rank:** No. 13 of 20

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

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

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

**FY 2015 Budget Request:** \$1,000,000

**Acquisition Status:**

	<b>Owners</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>\$/Acre</b>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	0	0	\$23,800	\$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	1	5	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total Acquired through FY 2013</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>\$23,800</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Planned FY 2014	0	0	\$0	\$0
Proposed FY 2015 (easement)	1	2,000	\$1,000,000	\$500
Remaining	311	1,097,995	\$438,976,200	\$400
<b>Totals</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>1,100,000</b>	<b>\$440,000,000</b>	<b>\$400</b>

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

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

**Project Description:** Funds would be used to acquire perpetual conservation easements on approximately 2,000 acres of tallgrass prairie from willing sellers. Tallgrass prairie is one of the most endangered ecosystems in the United States, with less than four percent of the original acreage remaining. Fragmentation has been the result of residential, commercial, and industrial development, as well as encroachment of woody vegetation. Acquisition of perpetual conservation easements from willing sellers provides permanent protection for tallgrass prairie ecosystems and fosters landscape-level conservation, while helping to maintain traditional ranching operations. Landowner interest is high, and the Service is currently identifying for acquisition lands that contain high-quality tallgrass habitat with minimal fragmentation and woody vegetation encroachment. In addition to conserving some of the last remaining tallgrass prairie, conservation easements would protect habitat that is important for the threatened Topeka shiner, as well as a wide variety of grassland-dependent birds and other species. The Service will use conservation easements to ultimately protect 1,100,000 acres of the remaining tallgrass prairie in the Flint Hills ecoregion from the threat of further fragmentation.

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



**LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
Texas

**MANDATORY**

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

**FY 2015 Priority Rank:** No. 14 of 20

**Location:** South Texas coast, approximately one hour southeast of McAllen, TX

**Congressional Districts:** Texas, Districts 15, 27, and 28 **FWS Region 2**

**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$32,777,516

**FY 2015 Budget Request:** \$ 2,000,000

**Acquisition Status:**

	<b>Owners*</b>	<b>Acres**</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>\$/Acre</b>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	299	79,168	\$75,073,310	\$948
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	6	5,616	\$1,412,751	\$252
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	12	9,142	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	4	953	\$0	\$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total Acquired through FY 2013</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>94,879</b>	<b>\$76,486,061</b>	<b>\$806</b>
Planned FY 2014	1	7,428	\$9,570,000	\$1,288
Proposed FY 2015	1	714	\$2,000,000	\$2,801
Remaining	791	29,479	\$44,218,500	\$1,500
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,114</b>	<b>132,500</b>	<b>\$132,274,561</b>	<b>\$998</b>

\* Out of six conservation easements acquired, two were donated, raising the amount of easement ownerships from four to six.

\*\* Four of the six conservation easements were acquired with LWCF funds (2,566 acres), and two were donated (3,050 acres), for a total of 5,616 acres.

**Purpose of Acquisition:** To protect native subtropical brush lands within the diverse biotic communities of the area.

**Project Cooperators:** The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, National Audubon Society, Ducks Unlimited, North American Butterfly Association, and The Trust for Public Land.

**Project Description:** Funds would be used to acquire 714 acres of the Refuge’s best remaining brush land habitat from willing sellers. The Refuge has 11 distinct biotic communities that provide habitat for resident and migrating wildlife. Nearly 400 species of birds, 300 species of butterflies, and 1,100 species of plants have been noted in the four-county project area. The area not only provides an important migration corridor for neo-tropical migratory birds, but also provides sanctuary for a number of endangered species, including the piping plover, northern aplomado falcon, ocelot, and jaguarundi.

**O&M:** The Service anticipates minimal expenses beyond an initial \$10,000 for signage and posting of boundaries, which the Service would fund from Refuge System base funding.

## UPPER RIO GRANDE BACA NWR

## MANDATORY

## Colorado

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

**FY 2015 Priority Rank:** No. 15 of 20

**Location:** Southern Colorado

**Congressional Districts:** Colorado, District 3 **FWS Region 6**

**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$14,411,000 (Includes Emergency/Hardship fund)

**FY 2015 Budget Request:** \$2,653,500

**Acquisition Status:**

	<b>Owners</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>\$/Acre</b>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	3	54,081	\$14,459,200	\$267
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	2	31,860	\$0	\$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total Acquired through FY 2013</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>85,941</b>	<b>\$14,459,200</b>	<b>\$168</b>
Planned FY 2014	0	0	\$0	\$0
Proposed FY 2015 (easement)	1	5,134	\$2,653,500	\$517
Remaining	1	1,456	728,000	\$500
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>92,531</b>	<b>\$17,840,700</b>	<b>\$192</b>

**Purpose of Acquisition:** To protect and preserve a diverse suite of habitats including unique sand sheet uplands associated with the Great Sand Dunes Complex and playa wetlands associated with one of Colorado's largest playa wetland complexes. The unique juxtaposition of these habitats support a diversity of migratory bird species as well as several native small mammals. Acquisition of these parcels is an integral component to restore playa wetlands in the closed basin of the San Luis Valley.

**Project Cooperators:** The Nature Conservancy.

**Project Description:** Funding will acquire approximately 5,134 fee acres. From soaring 14,000-foot peaks to spectacular river gorges, the Upper Rio Grande (URG) landscape captivates with unspoiled vistas and rich Hispanic and Native American heritage. Water is the lifeblood of this landscape, supporting wildlife resources and cultures today as it has for untold millennia. Baca National Wildlife Refuge lies within a day's drive of six metropolitan areas and five million people. The Refuge is supported by an unparalleled community commitment to conservation, motivated to protect the unique wildlife, ecological, cultural, scenic, and recreational resources.

These funds will be used to acquire a portion of a larger parcel owned by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) within the acquisition boundary of Baca National Wildlife Refuge. TNC owns the last significant acreage within the Refuge. Service acquisition of these lands will permanently protect continuous habitat and hydrology between the Refuge and the adjoining Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve. This acquisition is a significant contribution to protecting the remaining 33,000 acres needed to create 1.6 million acres of permanently protected, contiguous Federal and private lands.

**O&M:** The Service anticipates approximately \$3,800 annually to prevent trespass on and disturbance of cultural resources, as well as invasive weed control. Refuge base funds would be used for expenses.

**BALCONES CANYONLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

**MANDATORY**

Texas

**Acquisition Authority:** Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956  
Endangered Species Act of 1973

**FY 2015 Priority Rank:** No. 16 of 20

**Location:** Approximately one hour northwest of Austin

**Congressional District:** Texas, District 21 **FWS Region 2**

**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$32,281,620

**FY 2015 Budget Request:** \$1,000,000

**Acquisition Status:**

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	59	19,843	\$28,505,861	\$1,437
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	15	4,215	\$2,535,000	\$601
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total Acquired through FY 2013</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>24,058</b>	<b>\$31,040,861</b>	<b>\$1,290</b>
Planned FY 2014	0	0	\$0	\$0
Proposed FY 2015	1	320	\$1,000,000	\$3,125
Remaining	225	55,622	\$155,741,600	\$2,800
<b>Totals</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>80,000</b>	<b>\$187,782,461</b>	<b>\$2,347</b>

**Purpose of Acquisition:** To protect essential breeding habitat for the golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo; to protect habitats for other wildlife species; and to preserve unique flora, fauna, and karst systems.

**Project Cooperators:** Friends of Balcones Canyonlands NWR, The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Lago Vista Chamber of Commerce, and the Texas Audubon Society.

**Project Description:** Funds would be used to acquire fee title to approximately 320 acres from willing sellers. These multiple-year acquisition tracts are highly sought after for residential development. The Refuge provides essential habitat for two endangered neotropical migratory birds, endangered cave dwelling invertebrates in the karst formation, and important riparian habitat in a unique and biologically diverse area. The project area is located in one of the fastest growing areas in the country, and these remnant habitats are imminently threatened by development. The remaining habitats must be protected, or the listed species will be lost.

**O&M:** The Service anticipates minimal interim fencing while adjoining properties may be purchased. Estimated annual O&M is \$1,800 for removal and installation of fencing.

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

**MANDATORY**

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

**FY 2015 Priority Rank:** No. 17 of 20

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

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

**Total Appropriations:** \$6,306,635

**FY 2015 Budget Request:** \$500,000

**Acquisition Status:**

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	11	2,803	\$4,319,393	\$1,541
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	44	2,452	\$1,672,903	\$682
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total Acquired through FY 2013</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>5,255</b>	<b>\$5,992,296</b>	<b>\$1,140</b>
Planned FY 2014	0	0	\$0	\$0
Proposed FY 2015	1	150	\$500,000	\$3,333
Remaining	794	71,595	\$18,507,704	\$259
<b>Totals</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>77,000</b>	<b>\$25,000,000</b>	<b>\$325</b>

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

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

**Project Description:** Funds would be used to acquire approximately 150 fee title acres or easement acres in western Minnesota and/or northwestern Iowa from willing sellers. The project would include prairie preservation and restoration, which would protect the prairie ecosystem and benefit grassland birds such as dickcissel, bobolink, grasshopper sparrow, and sedge wren.

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

**O&M:** The Service anticipates annual operation and maintenance costs of approximately \$10,000 for initial restoration and enhancement work (spraying, mowing, burning, and signage).

**GRASSLANDS AND PRAIRIE POTHOLE MANDATORY**  
**Dakota Tallgrass Prairie Wildlife Management Area and Dakota Grasslands CA**  
**North Dakota and South Dakota**

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

**FY 2015 Priority Rank:** No. 18 of 20

**Location:** Prairie Pothole Region east of the Missouri River in ND and SD

**Congressional Districts:** North Dakota, At Large **FWS Region 6**  
 South Dakota, At Large

**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$13,673,750 (includes Title V funding)

**FY 2015 Budget Request:** \$10,500,000

**Acquisition Status:**

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	0	0	0	\$0
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	227	72,491	\$13,341,592	\$184
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	1	8	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	2	1,231	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	1	12	\$0	\$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total Acquired through FY 2013</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>73,742</b>	<b>\$13,341,592</b>	<b>\$181</b>
Planned FY 2014	Multi	23,053	\$8,650,000	\$375
Proposed FY 2015	71	21,667	\$10,500,000	\$484
Remaining	Multi	2,011,307	\$621,874,248	\$309
<b>Totals</b>	<b>Multi</b>	<b>2,129,769</b>	<b>\$654,365,840</b>	<b>\$307</b>

**Purpose of Acquisition:** Protect native wetlands and grasslands, to protect wildlife habitats located in the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR).

**Project Cooperators:** North Dakota Game and Fish Department, North Dakota Natural Resources Trust, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, Natural Resource Conservation Service, South Dakota Grassland Coalition, private landowners and the local community.

**Project Description:** Funds would be used to acquire approximately 21,667 acres of perpetual conservation easements of prairie grasslands from willing sellers in North and South Dakota. The Grasslands and Prairie Pothole Region is a tapestry of tallgrass, mixed-grass, and short-grass prairie interspersed with glaciated prairie wetlands, streams, and river corridors. From farm-dominated regions to the wide open ranchlands of the western parts of North and South Dakota, the landscape supports over 50% of the mid-continent breeding duck population and provides critical habitat for multiple threatened and endangered species. The area is home to grassland-dependent birds, including marbled godwits, burrowing owls, and greater sage grouse. This is the landscape where Theodore Roosevelt solidified his vision of natural resource conservation. The landscape is threatened by unprecedented conversion rates of native sod and prairie wetlands and grasslands to row-crops, and the future is uncertain as energy

exploration disrupts the native ecosystem. Tallgrass prairie once covered 90 percent of the Dakotas, but less than three percent remains.

Under the goals set by both the Dakota Grassland Conservation Area and the Tallgrass Prairie Project, the Service plans to use grassland easements to eventually protect 1.2 million acres of the remaining mixed grass and tallgrass prairie in the eastern Dakotas. These easement acquisitions will help to maintain traditional ranching operations while fostering landscape-level conservation.

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

**O&M:** The Service anticipates spending a minimal amount for annual compliance over-flights, estimated at less than \$10,000 per year, which the Service would fund out of NWRS base funding.

**WILLAPA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
**Washington**

**MANDATORY**

**Acquisition Authorities:** Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956; Endangered Species Act of 1973

**FY 2015 Priority Rank:** No. 19 of 20

**Location:** Pacific County, WA, Near the Community of Long Beach, WA

**Congressional Districts:** Washington, District 3 **FWS Region 1**

**Total LWCF Appropriations:** \$12,018,000

**FY 2015 Budget Request:** \$1,000,000

**Acquisition Status:**

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres*</u>	<u>Cost**</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	40	10,362	\$7,344,928	\$709
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	3	3,123	\$0	\$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	0	0	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	3	892	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013	1	2,059	8,518,000	\$4,137
Partner Contributions through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total Acquired through FY 2013</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>16,436</b>	<b>15,862,928</b>	<b>\$965</b>
Planned FY 2014	1	392	\$775,000	\$1,977
Proposed FY 2015	2	590	\$1,000,000	\$1,695
Remaining	24	5,916	\$10,648,800	\$1,800
<b>Totals</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>23,334</b>	<b>\$28,286,728</b>	<b>\$1,212</b>

\*Donated easement of 3,123 acres. No ownership was accounted for 2,059, so they were withdrawn from Public Domain.

\*\*\$8,518,000 for timber rights on Weyco land without acreage, from one owner.

**Purpose of Acquisition:** To protect, restore, and manage areas of forest, streams, and wetlands; provide refuge for breeding and migrating waterfowl and shorebirds; contribute to the conservation and recovery of threatened and endangered species; and provide for increased opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation, education, and research.

**Project Cooperators:** The Nature Conservancy, Columbia Land Trust, and Forterra.

**Project Description:** Funds would be used to acquire all or part of 590 acres in two ownerships. One of these tracts would be the first addition to the recently expanded Nemah Unit of the Refuge and contains emergent and scrub-shrub intertidal wetlands, Seal Slough, and riparian areas and associated upland coniferous forest. It has one mile of Willapa Bay frontage, 2 miles of fish bearing streams, 70 acres of emergent and forested salt marsh, and 20 acres of riparian habitats. The highest priority tract is adjacent to over 900 acres of Willapa Bay shoreline conserved by Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife and Cascade Land Conservancy, adding to habitat connectivity. Other tracts within the Nemah Unit are slated for donation within the next few years.

The second tract would close a gap within the Refuge boundary and would contribute to the protection and overall health and function of the watershed that supports a healthy Willapa Bay and the aquatic



species within it and create an opportunity to enhance and restore western red cedar forests to eventually re-establish late successional old-growth function. These areas are important to Federal and State endangered/threatened species and most migratory bird species using the Pacific Flyway. The federally-listed marbled murrelet recovery plan identifies Southwest Washington as a significant gap in suitable nesting habitat along the Pacific Northwest coast (USFWS 1997). Increasing available habitat in this area is critical to expanding the geographic distribution of the murrelet within its threatened range (Raphael, et al, 2008).

**O&M:** The Service anticipates minimal additional operations or maintenance costs associated with this acquisition because the parcel is located within refuge boundaries and would add no additional workload. The Service would benefit from our cooperative relationship with The Nature Conservancy on the management of forest lands in the project area. TNC and the Service have an active partnership involving the study and management practices for restoration of old growth forest habitat for the benefit of the marbled murrelet and other species.

**HIGH DIVIDE Red Rock Lakes NWR**

**MANDATORY**

Montana

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

**FY 2015 Priority Rank:** No. 20 of 20

**Location:** 28 miles east of Monida, MT

**Congressional Districts:** Montana At Large **FWS Region 6**

**Total LWCF Appropriations:** 10,670,135

**FY 2015 Budget Request:** \$1,000,000

**Acquisition Status:**

	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost*</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Fee through FY 2013	13	11,564	\$16,183,121	\$1,399
Acquired Easement through FY 2013	4	18,172	\$5,125,150	\$282
Acquired Exchange through FY 2013	1	2	\$0	\$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2013	5	6,158	\$0	\$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2013**	2	48,876	\$27,081	\$1
Partner Contributions through FY 2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total Acquired through FY 2013</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>84,772</b>	<b>\$21,335,352</b>	<b>\$252</b>
Planned FY 2014	0	0	\$0	\$0
Proposed FY 2015	1	2,304	\$1,000,000	\$434
Remaining	Multi	14,786	\$8,914,648	\$603
<b>Totals</b>	<b>Multi</b>	<b>101,862</b>	<b>31,250,000</b>	<b>\$307</b>

\*MB dollars, NAWCA and FLTA and incidental cost included

\*\*Acres are from Primary and Secondary Withdrawal from BLM; Primary Transfer and leases

**Purpose of Acquisition:** To provide for long-term viability of fish and wildlife habitat on a large landscape basis in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem portion of the High Divide Collaborative Landscape. In addition, the project would protect, restore and enhance native wet meadows, wetlands, uplands and mountain foothills for migratory birds, including waterfowl, and other wildlife. Protection of this landscape would preserve the critical linkage corridor that the Centennial Valley provides between Yellowstone National Park and the Frank Church Wilderness of Idaho.

**Project Cooperators:** The Nature Conservancy, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Beaverhead County Commissioners, Bureau of Land Management, Heart of the Rockies, Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Council and private landowners.

**Project Description:** Funds would be used to acquire a perpetual conservation easement on approximately 2,304 acres within the Centennial Valley adjacent to Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. The mountains, valleys and rivers of High Divide are a crucial wildlife lifeline along the spine of the continent in Idaho and Montana that link the World’s first National Park, Yellowstone, to Idaho’s Frank Church Wilderness. Boundaries are defined by tracked movements of the High Divide’s signature wildlife, elk, pronghorn, grizzly, wolverine, sage grouse, salmon, and grayling. Assessment of wildlife migrations, cultural history, recreation values, and economies leads to a big vision of linking Yellowstone

National Park to the Idaho Wilderness across the High Divide. It is touted as our nation's top keystone region for continental scale connectivity. Without the High Divide linkage, protected core areas will remain isolated and increasingly vulnerable to threats, such as climate change. Securing this linkage is time-sensitive as development threats are imminent.

**O&M:** The Service estimates that annual monitoring and inspection costs for the 2,304 acres of easements would require approximately \$1,000 from base funding of the Refuge System.

<b>Standard Form 300</b> <b>DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR</b> <b>FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE</b> <b>LAND ACQUISITION</b>			
<b>Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)</b> <b>Identification Code 010-18-5020</b>	<b>2013</b> <b>Actual</b>	<b>2014</b> <b>Estimate</b>	<b>2015</b> <b>Estimate</b>
<b>Obligations by program activity:</b>			
0001 Land Acquisition Management	10	11	23
0002 Emergencies and hardships	2	4	4
0003 Land Protection Planning	0	0	2
0004 Exchanges	2	2	3
0005 Inholdings	3	3	3
0006 Inholdings, Emergencies and Hardships	0	0	2
0007 User Pay Cost Share	2	0	0
0008 Land Acquisition	36	38	57
0009 Collaborative Landscape	0	0	37
0010 Sportsmen/Recreational Access	0	0	2
0100 total, direct program	55	58	133
0801 Reimbursable program activity Border Fence Mitigation	0	1	0
0900 Total new obligations	55	59	133
<b>Budgetary Resources:</b>			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	35	32	28
1010 Unobligated balance transfer to other accts [14-1125]	-1	0	0
1021 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	2	1	1
1050 Unobligated balance (total)	36	33	29
<b>Budget authority:</b>			
Appropriations, discretionary:			
1101 Appropriation (LWCF)	55	54	55
1120 Appropriations transferred to other accts [14-1125]	-1	0	0
1132 Appropriations temporarily reduced	-3	0	0
1160 Appropriation, discretionary (total)	51	54	55
Appropriations, mandatory:			
1221 Appropriations transferred from other accts [14-5005]	0	0	114
1260 Appropriations, mandatory (total)	0	0	114
Spending authority from offsetting collections, discretionary:			
1750 Spending auth from offsetting collections, disc (total)	0	0	0
1900 Budget authority (total)	51	54	55
1930 Total budgetary resources available	87	87	198
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	32	28	65

<b>Standard Form 300</b> <b>DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR</b> <b>FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE</b> <b>LAND ACQUISITION</b>			
<b>Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)</b> <b>Identification Code 010-18-5020</b>	<b>2013</b> <b>Actual</b>	<b>2014</b> <b>Estimate</b>	<b>2015</b> <b>Estimate</b>
<b>Change in obligated balance:</b>			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	25	31	30
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	55	59	133
3020 Outlays (gross)	-47	-59	-106
3040 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations, unexpired	-2	-1	-1
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	31	30	56
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	25	31	30
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	31	30	56
<b>Budget authority and outlays, net:</b>			
Discretionary:			
4000 Budget authority, gross	51	54	55
Outlays, gross:			
4010 Outlays from new discretionary authority	20	22	22
4011 Outlays from discretionary balances	27	37	38
4020 Outlays, gross (total)	47	59	60
<b>Offsets against gross budget authority and outlays:</b>			
Offsetting collections (collected) from:			
4070 Budget authority, net (discretionary)	51	54	55
4080 Outlays, net (discretionary)	47	59	60
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	0	0	114
Outlays, gross:			
4100 Outlays from new mandatory authority	0	0	46
4160 Budget authority, net (mandatory)	0	0	114
4170 Outlays, net (mandatory)	0	0	46
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	51	54	169
4190 Outlays, net (total)	47	59	106

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE LAND ACQUISITION			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2013	2014	2015
Identification Code 010-18-5020	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	7	10	13
12.1 Civilian personnel benefits	2	2	3
23.1 rental payments to GSA	1	1	1
25.2 Other services from non-Federal sources	3	6	12
25.3 Other goods and services from Federal sources	1	1	3
32.0 Land and structures	32	39	99
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	7	0	0
99.0 Subtotal, obligations	53	59	131
99.5 Below reporting threshold	2	0	2
99.9 Total new obligations	55	59	133
Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	90	89	129