



U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Mission

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is to work with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

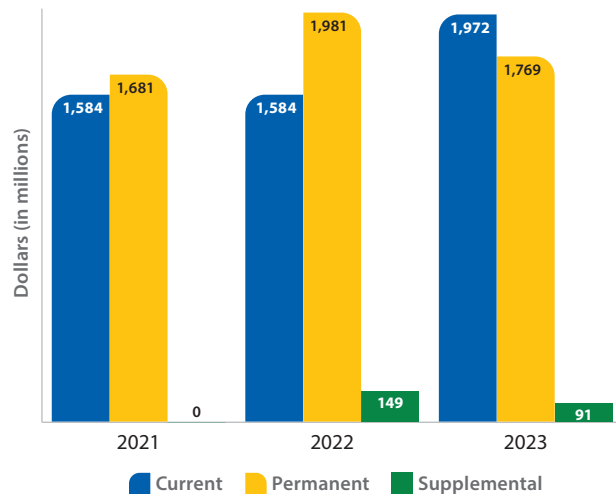
Budget Overview

The 2023 President's Budget for FWS totals \$3.7 billion, including current appropriations of \$2.0 billion and \$1.8 billion available under permanent appropriations, most of which is provided directly to States for fish and wildlife restoration and conservation. The budget for the principal FWS operating account, Resource Management, is \$1.7 billion. FWS estimates that staffing will equal 9,420 full-time equivalents (FTEs). The 2023 budget promotes investments to address climate change effects on FWS trust resources, implement the America the Beautiful initiative, reconnect Americans with the outdoors, enable economic development, and create good-paying job opportunities.

Resource Management

For Ecological Services, the budget includes \$356.2 million to conserve, protect, and enhance listed and at-risk fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats. The budget supports the Administration's efforts to responsibly site, permit, and deploy clean energy solutions, including \$152.8 million for planning and consultation services. The request advances proactive, cooperative conservation with investments in programs aimed at preventing the listing of species under the Endangered Species Act. The request provides \$54.3 million to support conservation of at-risk species and their habitats, \$125.1 million for species recovery, and

FWS Funding



\$23.9 million to accelerate completion of 5-year species status reviews.

The 2023 budget for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is \$67.4 million, and the Coastal Program request is \$16.0 million in recognition of the importance of cooperative conservation of private lands to habitat adaptation and resilience as well as a healthy economy. These programs work collaboratively with partners to restore, enhance, and protect habitat for priority Federal trust species.

The National Wildlife Refuge System is a model for conservation around the world. The 2023 budget for the Refuge System is \$597.9 million. Funding for operations—including wildlife and habitat management, visitor services, Refuge law enforcement, and planning—is \$426.6 million to



- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) originated in 1871 when Congress established the U.S. Fish Commission to study why the Nation’s food fishes were decreasing and recommend ways to reverse that decline.
- Through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, more than 50,000 landowners have cooperated with FWS to complete more than 60,000 habitat restoration projects spanning more than 7 million acres.
- The National Wildlife Refuge System’s more than 830 million acres of lands and waters include 567 wildlife refuges, seven National Monuments, and waterfowl production areas in 212 counties managed within 38 Wetland Management Districts and 49 Coordination Areas.
- Since 1937, FWS has delivered more than \$25 billion to State and Tribal fish and wildlife agencies for hunting and fishing education, fish and wildlife management, scientific research, habitat restoration and conservation, and hunting and boating access.

support the FWS core mission to increase adaptive management, climate resilience, and the use of climate-related science. The request for Refuge Maintenance is \$171.3 million. The National Wildlife Refuge System is an FWS focal point for the Civilian Climate Corps, a program to put people to work improving America’s lands, waters, and infrastructure. The 2023 budget for FWS includes \$10.0 million—including \$8.0 million in the request for Refuges and \$2.0 million in the request for the National Conservation Training Center in General Operations—to develop the next generation of conservation workers and create a new pathway to good-paying jobs.

The budget includes \$70.2 million for the Migratory Bird Management Activity. The budget

includes funding to modernize the permitting process and supporting systems to enable the use of the latest scientific information and energy production technologies when evaluating development proposals. The Joint Venture program will support grants to improve the resilience of important habitats—and nearby communities—across the Nation’s four migratory bird flyways. The program’s Urban Bird Treaties grants support partnerships to conserve birds in urban environments by creating parks and restoring nearby wetlands—all while engaging local communities.

Law enforcement programs are funded at \$99.3 million in the budget. This program investigates wildlife crimes and enforces the laws that govern the Nation’s wildlife trade. FWS continues to work with the State Department, other Federal agencies, and foreign governments to address the threat to conservation and global security posed by illegal wildlife trade and trafficking. The budget supports law enforcement efforts to stop illegal trade; ensure sustainable legal trade through the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; reduce demand for illegal wildlife products; and provide technical assistance and grants to other nations to build local enforcement capabilities.

FWS provides international conservation grants and technical support to assist other countries’ conservation and climate change adaptation and



Elementary school students help plant a pollinator garden at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge in Texas.

Photo by Ian Shive/Tandem.

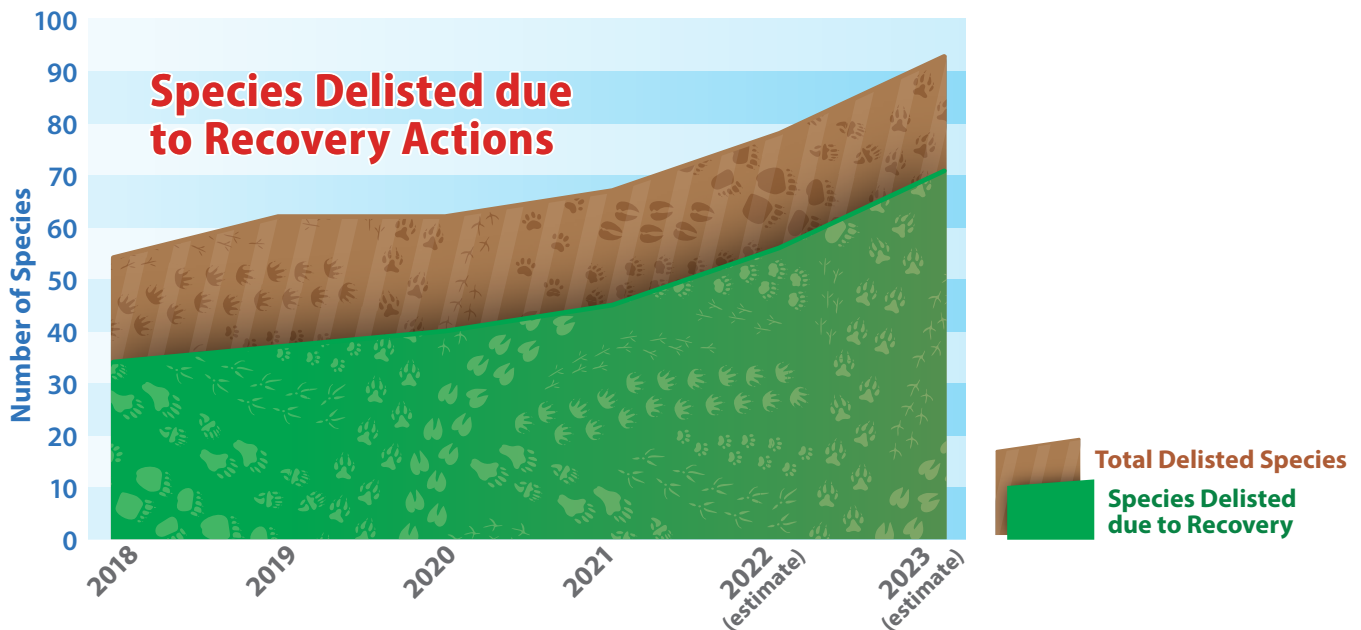
resilience efforts. The budget includes \$31.8 million for International Affairs to support expanded conservation capacity for iconic species such as elephants and rhinos and support climate adaptation and resiliency efforts. The program complements FWS Law Enforcement efforts to reduce illegal wildlife trafficking and develops innovative conservation activities that target market and consumer demand for illegal products driving a rapid increase in the poaching of species such as tigers and pangolins. The program will also investigate the human drivers of wildlife disease transmission, including risk tolerance, motivations of behaviors, and economic impacts.

The budget requests \$260.4 million to support 70 National Fish Hatcheries, aquatic habitat conservation and restoration, and the prevention and control of aquatic invasive species. The budget also includes \$83.5 million for operation of the National Fish Hatchery System and \$49.8 million for National Fish Hatchery maintenance. The Hatchery System is an international leader in the propagation of imperiled aquatic species, and the budget expands capabilities to ensure the health of aquatic species. Advancing aquatic conservation requires modernizing and maintaining hatchery infrastructure, which is not eligible for funding under the Great American Outdoors Act. The budget also includes \$127.1 million for Aquatic

Habitat and Species Conservation. The request expands aquatic invasive species prevention, fully funds the National Fish Habitat Action Plan at the authorized level, and provides for aquatic species assessments and cooperative management to enhance habitat adaptation and resilience.

The budget invests \$19.0 million in a revitalized Cooperative Landscape Conservation Program to support the development of landscape conservation objectives that promote biodiversity, climate adaptation and resiliency, and habitat conservation to achieve the Administration’s conservation objectives. By weaving together proven landscape conservation designs and leveraging locally based conservation blueprints, the program will invest in technical capacity, such as geospatial mapping and social science expertise, to proactively engage with States, Tribes, industry, conservation groups, and other stakeholders to identify and pursue high-priority conservation opportunities.

The 2023 request for Science Support is \$38.5 million. The program supports adaptive science work with collaborative groups to design and implement conservation and habitat management strategies that improve climate adaptation and resilience on the ground. Collaboration will focus on addressing climate stressors, with goals that include increasing coastal resilience, mitigating desertification,



controlling invasive species, and reducing the prevalence and magnitude of wildfires.

The General Operations budget totals \$188.4 million, including \$9.0 million to support the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Across multiple programs in FWS, the budget provides \$16.8 million to accelerate the transition to zero-emission vehicles as part of a coordinated effort across DOI.

Construction

The 2023 Construction budget totals \$46.4 million, including \$37.9 million for line-item construction projects. The budget includes \$5.4 million to modernize critical field communication tools for users in the Great Lakes (Region 3), the Mississippi Basin (Region 4), the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

The budget requests \$23.7 million for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund to support State and local efforts to recover listed species. Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition Grants to States are proposed for funding through the permanent Land and Water Conservation Fund.

North American Wetlands Conservation Fund

The 2023 budget is \$46.5 million for the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund. Conservation grants from the fund are leveraged more than one-to-one with partners for wetlands and waterfowl conservation, supporting climate adaptation and resiliency and important outdoor activities for sportsmen and sportswomen.

Multinational Species Conservation Fund

The 2023 budget includes \$19.0 million for the Multinational Species Conservation Fund. These grants support the conservation and protection of African and Asian elephants, rhinoceroses, tigers, great apes, and marine turtles and leverage funds from partners to nearly triple the available funding

for those species, which will foster improved management of these species and reduce human-animal conflicts.

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund

The 2023 request includes \$7.9 million for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund. Populations of neotropical birds, such as the goldfinch, have declined due to climate change and habitat loss. These grants for the conservation of migratory birds are matched at least three-to-one by partners throughout the western hemisphere.

State and Tribal Wildlife Grants

The request for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants is \$82.4 million. These grants support and leverage State management of non-game species and improve the resiliency of State and Tribal natural resources in the face of stressors, such as rising temperatures and changing weather patterns. This investment recognizes the important partnership between State and Tribal fish and wildlife managers and FWS.

Fixed Costs

Fixed-cost increases of \$39.5 million are fully funded.



Juvenile red-tailed hawk at Seedskaadee National Wildlife Refuge in Wyoming.
USFWS Photo by Tom Koerner.

SUMMARY OF BUREAU APPROPRIATIONS ^{1/}

(dollar amounts in thousands)

Comparison of 2023 Request with 2022 CR

	2022 CR		2023 Request		Change	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Current						
Resource Management	6,516	1,470,373	7,439	1,836,667	+923	+366,294
Construction	48	76,420	51	46,418	+3	-30,002
National Wildlife Refuge Fund	0	13,228	0	0	0	-13,228
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund	9	30,840	9	23,702	0	-7,138
North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	6	46,500	6	46,500	0	0
Multinational Species Conservation Fund	4	18,000	5	19,000	+1	+1,000
Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation	1	4,910	1	7,910	0	+3,000
State Wildlife Grants	18	72,362	18	82,362	0	+10,000
Subtotal, Current	6,602	1,732,633	7,529	2,062,559	+927	+329,926
Permanent						
Resource Management ^{2/}	0	0	15	0	+15	0
Land Acquisition	70	105,465	70	114,775	0	+9,310
National Wildlife Refuge Fund	4	7,927	4	8,000	0	+73
Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration	53	1,160,851	60	937,989	+7	-222,862
Sport Fish Restoration	50	494,656	55	492,994	+5	-1,662
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund	0	106,651	0	112,360	0	+5,709
North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	1	243	1	141	0	-102
Migratory Bird Conservation Account	79	88,818	79	87,000	0	-1,818
Recreation Enhancement Fee Program, FWS	30	6,500	30	6,500	0	0
Miscellaneous Permanent Appropriations	4	4,850	4	4,350	0	-500
Contributed Funds	18	5,000	18	5,000	0	0
Coastal Impact Assistance	1	0	1	0	0	0
Subtotal, Permanent	310	1,980,961	337	1,769,109	+27	-211,852
Allocation and Reimbursable						
Allocation	583	0	706	0	+123	0
Reimbursable	848	0	848	0	0	0
Subtotal, Allocation and Reimbursable	1,431	0	1,554	0	+123	0
TOTAL, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE	8,343	3,713,594	9,420	3,831,668	+1,077	+118,074

^{1/} Current funding amounts include supplemental appropriations and transfers. For further details see Highlights of Budget Changes tables for each account.

^{2/} FTEs in the 2023 Request column are supported by a permanent appropriation provided in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (P.L. 117-2).

HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET CHANGES

By Appropriation Activity/Subactivity

APPROPRIATION: Resource Management

	2021 Actual	2022 CR	2023 Request	Change
Ecological Services				
Listing	20,767	20,767	23,946	+3,179
Planning and Consultation	109,251	109,251	152,807	+43,556
Conservation and Restoration	34,617	34,617	54,274	+19,657
Recovery	105,031	105,031	125,135	+20,104
Subtotal, Ecological Services	269,666	269,666	356,162	+86,496
Habitat Conservation				
Partners for Fish and Wildlife	56,859	56,859	67,397	+10,538
Coastal Programs	13,360	13,360	15,976	+2,616
Subtotal, Habitat Conservation	70,219	70,219	83,373	+13,154
National Wildlife Refuge System				
Wildlife and Habitat Management	239,568	239,568	273,649	+34,081
Visitor Services	75,033	75,033	97,027	+21,994
Refuge Law Enforcement	40,907	40,907	50,272	+9,365
Conservation Planning	2,523	2,523	5,684	+3,161
Refuge Maintenance	145,822	145,822	171,253	+25,431
Subtotal, National Wildlife Refuge System	503,853	503,853	597,885	+94,032
Conservation and Enforcement				
Migratory Bird Management	47,873	47,873	70,224	+22,351
Law Enforcement	86,860	86,860	99,333	+12,473
International Affairs	23,032	23,032	31,815	+8,783
Subtotal, Conservation and Enforcement	157,765	157,765	201,372	+43,607
Fish and Aquatic Conservation				
National Fish Hatchery Operations	65,551	65,551	83,470	+17,919
Maintenance and Equipment	25,822	25,822	49,835	+24,013
Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation	115,240	115,240	127,109	+11,869
Subtotal, Fish and Aquatic Conservation	206,613	206,613	260,414	+53,801
Cooperative Landscape Conservation	12,500	12,500	19,013	+6,513
Science Support				
Adaptive Science	10,517	10,517	22,885	+12,368
Service Science	6,750	6,750	15,597	+8,847
Subtotal, Science Support	17,267	17,267	38,482	+21,215
General Operations				
Central Office Operations	25,758	25,758	34,371	+8,613
Management and Administration	44,166	44,166	64,434	+20,268
Aviation Management	3,237	3,237	3,300	+63
Servicewide Bill Paying	35,748	35,748	46,224	+10,476
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	7,022	7,022	9,032	+2,010
National Conservation Training Center	26,014	26,014	31,060	+5,046
Subtotal, General Operations	141,945	141,945	188,421	+46,476
Resource Damage Cost Recovery	0	0	1,000	+1,000

APPROPRIATION: Resource Management (continued)

	2021 Actual	2022 CR	2023 Request	Change
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/o supplemental and transfer)	1,379,828	1,379,828	1,746,122	+366,294
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58)	0	+91,000	+91,000	0
Transfer to OIG (P.L. 117-58)	0	-455	-455	0
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/ supplemental and transfer)	1,379,828	1,470,373	1,836,667	+366,294

APPROPRIATION: Construction

	2021 Actual	2022 CR	2023 Request	Change
Nationwide Engineering Services	5,368	5,368	6,056	+688
Dam, Bridge, and Seismic Safety	2,427	2,427	2,427	0
Line-Item Construction Projects	10,398	10,398	37,935	+27,537
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/o supplemental)	18,193	18,193	46,418	+28,225
Disaster Relief Act (P.L. 117-43)	0	+58,227	0	-58,227
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/ supplemental)	18,193	76,420	46,418	-30,002

APPROPRIATION: National Wildlife Refuge Fund

	2021 Actual	2022 CR	2023 Request	Change
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	13,228	13,228	0	-13,228

APPROPRIATION: Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

	2021 Actual	2022 CR	2023 Request	Change
Grants and Administration				
Conservation Grants	13,000	13,000	13,000	0
HCP Assistance Grants	8,000	8,000	8,000	0
Administration	2,702	2,702	2,702	0
Subtotal, Grants and Administration	23,702	23,702	23,702	0
Land Acquisition				
HCP Land Acquisition Grants to States	19,638	19,638	0	-19,638
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/o rescission)	43,340	43,340	23,702	-19,638
Rescission of Prior-Year BA	-12,500	-12,500	0	+12,500
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/ rescission)	30,840	30,840	23,702	-7,138

APPROPRIATION: North American Wetlands Conservation Fund

	2021 Actual	2022 CR	2023 Request	Change
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	46,500	46,500	46,500	0

APPROPRIATION: Multinational Species Conservation Fund

	2021 Actual	2022 CR	2023 Request	Change
African Elephant Conservation Fund	4,140	4,140	4,340	+200
Asian Elephant Conservation Fund	2,530	2,530	2,730	+200
Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund	5,580	5,580	5,780	+200
Great Ape Conservation Fund	3,240	3,240	3,440	+200
Marine Turtle Conservation Fund	2,510	2,510	2,710	+200
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	18,000	18,000	19,000	+1,000

APPROPRIATION: Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund

	2021 Actual	2022 CR	2023 Request	Change
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	4,910	4,910	7,910	+3,000

APPROPRIATION: State Wildlife Grants

	2021 Actual	2022 CR	2023 Request	Change
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	72,362	72,362	82,362	+10,000