BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS

The United States
Department of the Interior

and Performance Information
Fiscal Year 2016

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

NOTICE: These budget justifications are prepared for the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittees. Approval for release of the justifications prior to their printing in the public record of the Subcommittee hearings may be obtained through the Office of Budget of the Department of the Interior.

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

Fiscal Year 2016 President's Budget

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Executive Summary

Conserving the Nature of America
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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

The Service believes connecting Americans directly with the Nation's wildlife heritage is a priority, as the future of conservation lies in inspiring Americans to become stewards of the environment. To accomplish this goal, the Service will make wildlife refuges more welcoming to new audiences, offer new hunting and fishing programs, and provide quality opportunities for schools, civic organizations, and individuals to share their passion for the natural environment through wildlife related recreation programs.

The most recent National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, published in 2012, indicated that 90.1 million Americans, 38 percent of the U.S. population 16 years old and older, enjoyed some form of fishing, hunting, or wildlife-associated recreation. The report also noted that outdoor recreation is a huge contributor to our nation's economy, with annual expenditures of $145 billion. This spending creates thousands of jobs, supports countless local communities, and provides vital funding for conservation. Since the 2006 survey, overall participation trends were up by 3 percent, indicating that more Americans are interested and engaged in hunting, fishing, and watching wildlife.

Many recreational anglers and boaters are aware that their participation plays a vital role in sustaining resources and promoting safe and responsible use of our nation's waters. On average, 83 percent of State fish and wildlife agencies' total freshwater fisheries/aquatic resource management budget is supported by fishing license sales and Sport Fish Restoration funds. These funds are derived from motorboat fuel taxes and a special excise tax on fishing tackle and equipment. Sport Fish Restoration funds also support boater education and safety programs around the country.

In FY 2014, nearly 47 million visitors to national wildlife refuges hunted, fished, observed or photographed wildlife, or participated in environmental education or interpretation on a refuge. The most popular visitor activities were use of our trails, wildlife auto routes, and wildlife observation programs. The National Wildlife Refuge System's (NWRS) national survey of visitors on 80 refuges, published in FY 2012, indicated that visitors overwhelming enjoyed their outdoor recreation pursuits on refuges with a satisfaction rating at 90 percent. The Service's latest Banking on Nature report, published in 2013, indicated that the NWRS was an economic engine for local communities, helping to annually support 37,000 jobs and $2.4 billion in visitor expenditures.

Bird watching is also an important focus for refuge visitation. Of all the wildlife in the United States, birds attract the biggest following. According to the Service's *Birding in the United States: A Demographic and Economic Analysis, Addendum to the 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation*, there were 47 million birdwatchers 16 years of age and older in the United States, which amounts to about 20 percent of the population. National wildlife refuges are wonderful places to observe birds, especially during major bird festivals that coincide with spring or fall migrations. The Festival of the Cranes, Swan Day Festival, Eagle Festival, and Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival are just a few examples of the more than 33 bird festivals held at refuges in 2014.

The Service is also responsible for implementing some of our Nation's most important and foundational environmental laws, such as the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), Marine Mammal Protection Act, Lacey Act, and international agreements like the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

Wildlife trafficking, the poaching or other taking of protected or managed species and the illegal trade in wildlife and their related parts and products, has emerged as an international crisis that is imperiling both conservation and global security. The poaching of African elephants and rhinos for ivory and horn stands at unprecedented levels, as 100,000 elephants were killed for the illegal ivory trade between 2010-2012. (*Illegal Killing for Ivory drives Global decline in African elephants*, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States, Vol. 111 no. 36, George Wittemeyer.) Elephant poaching is at its highest level in decades, and elephants are being killed faster than they can reproduce. Between 2002 - 2011, the total population of forest elephants plummeted by an estimated 62 percent across Central Africa, which amounts to at least sixty elephants killed every day or one every 20 minutes. Poaching takes a toll not only on wildlife, but also on communities that are affected by the insurgents and organized crime often associated with the killing of these iconic species and the park rangers working to protect them.

The Service has a long history of both investigating wildlife trafficking and supporting conservation efforts on the ground in Africa and across the globe. The agency has marshaled its expertise and experience to respond to the crisis that now threatens species and national security. The Service's enforcement officers and conservation specialists have taken—and will continue to take—concrete action to stop the slaughter, disrupt the trafficking, and put rhinos, elephants, and other species at risk on the road to recovery. Operation Cobra II is an example of such an effort, having resulted in more than 400 arrests of wildlife criminals and 350 major wildlife seizures across Africa and Asia. This cross-border law enforcement operation seized 36 rhino horns, over three metric tons of elephant ivory, over 10,000 turtles, more than 1,000 skins of protected species, and over 200 metric tons of endangered rosewood.

In November 2013, the United States destroyed its six-ton stock of confiscated ivory to send a clear message that the Nation will not tolerate wildlife crime that threatens to wipe out the African elephant and a host of other species worldwide. Since that time, the courts have ordered the forfeiture of another full ton of ivory based on Service investigations of ivory trafficking. To raise awareness about the poaching crisis and reduce demand for illegal wildlife products, the Service has launched a global design challenge, calling on students, artists, conservationists, advertising agencies, and design professionals to create an educational tool or exhibit using the crushed ivory to connect with the public in a visceral, emotional way. The winning design will be produced and replicated for use in zoos, aquariums, airports, schools, and other public facilities across the United States.

In FY 2016, the Service will work with other agencies and continue its four-pronged approach to combat wildlife trafficking and make a difference for species and people worldwide. This approach includes:

- Law enforcement targeting and stopping illicit trade;
- Working to ensure sustainable legal trade through CITES;
- Reducing demand for illegal products in consumer countries through communications and public affairs strategies; and,
- Providing technical assistance and grants to build local enforcement capabilities.

The Service will also continue to strengthen its smuggling interdiction efforts at the Nation's ports of entry by using trained wildlife detector dogs in its frontline force and by assigning special agent attachés to five U.S. embassies. One special agent has already been hired and is stationed at the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand, currently engaging in wildlife trafficking issues throughout Southeast Asia. This

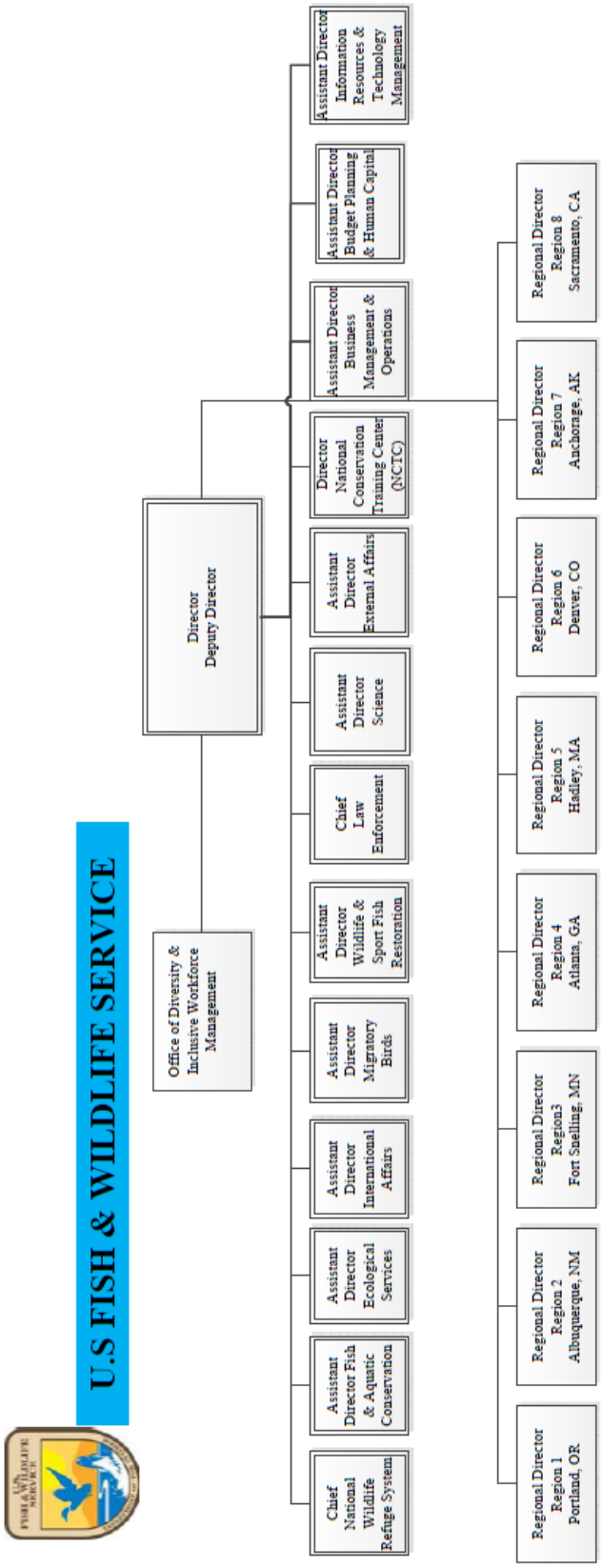
agent has supported not only U.S. based investigations, but also provided expertise to other Federal law enforcement agencies and a variety of foreign agencies, including supporting training efforts. The Service continues to work with the Department of State to place four more attachés in the strategic locations of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; Gaborone, Botswana; Lima, Peru; and in a yet to be determined location in Asia.

The Service's Organization

The Service has headquarters in Washington, D.C. and Falls Church, Virginia, with eight regional offices and over 700 field stations. These stations include 562 units of the NWRS; seven National Monuments; 80 Ecological Services Field Stations; 72 National Fish Hatcheries; one historical National Fish Hatchery (D.C. Booth in South Dakota); nine Fish Health Centers; seven Fish Technology Centers; 65 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices; and waterfowl production areas in 209 counties managed within 38 Wetland Management Districts and 50 Coordination Areas, all-encompassing more than 150 million acres of land and waters. The Service works with diverse partners to accomplish its conservation mission, including other Federal agencies, state and local governments, tribes, international organizations, and private organizations and individuals.

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

(See organizational chart, next page)


U.S FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
Director
Deputy Director
Office of Diversity & Inclusive Workforce Management
Chief National Wildlife Refuge System
Assistant Director Fish & Aquatic Conservation
Assistant Director Ecological Services
Assistant Director International Affairs
Assistant Director Migratory Birds
Assistant Director Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration
Chief Law Enforcement
Assistant Director Science
Assistant Director External Affairs
Director National Conservation Training Center (NCTC)
Assistant Director Business Management & Operations
Assistant Director Budget Planning & Human Capital
Assistant Director Information Resources & Technology Management
Regional Director Region 1 Portland, OR
Regional Director Region 2 Albuquerque, NM
Regional Director Region3 Fort Snelling, MN
Regional Director Region 4 Atlanta, GA
Regional Director Region 5 Hadley, MA
Regional Director Region 6 Denver, CO
Regional Director Region 7 Anchorage, AK
Regional Director Region 8 Sacramento, CA

Overview of FY 2016 Budget Request

Budget Authority	*FY 2014 Actual*	2015 Enacted	2016 Budget Request	*Change *from 2015* (+/-)
Discretionary	1,427,367	1,439,764	1,575,510	+135,746
Mandatory	1,371,087	1,442,816	1,390,513	-52,303
Total $$$	**2,798,454**	**2,882,580**	**2,966,023**	**+83,443**
Discretionary	*6,849*	*6,852*	*7,086*	*+234*
Mandatory	*242*	*254*	*305*	*+51*
Transfers/Alloc.	*1,556*	*1,583*	*1,586*	*+3*
TOTAL FTE	***8,647***	***8,689***	***8,977***	***+288***

Overview

The 2016 President's budget request for the Service totals $2.966 billion, including current appropriations of $1.6 billion. The discretionary request is an increase of $135.7 million compared to the 2015 enacted level. The budget also includes $1.4 billion available under permanent appropriations, most of which will be provided directly to States for fish and wildlife restoration and conservation. The Service estimates staffing will equal 8,977 full time equivalents (FTE) in 2016, an increase of 288 FTE from the 2015 enacted level.

This budget funds Departmental initiatives and Service priorities, including the America's Great Outdoors, Powering Our Future, Engaging the Next Generation, Cooperative Recovery, and investments in Landscape Level Understanding.

America's Great Outdoors Initiative

America's Great Outdoors (AGO) fosters the intrinsic link between healthy economies and healthy landscapes and seeks to empower all Americans to share in the responsibility to conserve, restore, and provide better access to our lands and waters to leave a healthy, vibrant outdoor legacy for generations to come. Funding for the initiative is broadly defined to capture programs that are key to attaining conservation goals. This includes funding to operate and maintain our public lands; expand and improve recreational opportunities at the State and local level; protect cultural resources; and conserve and restore land, water, and native species using the best available science, a landscape-level understanding, collaborative and community-driven efforts, and outcome-focused investments. The President's budget for the Service proposes $1.5 billion in current funding for AGO related activities, an increase of $164.5 million over the 2015 enacted level. This includes $1.3 billion for Resource Management operations, an increase of $119.2 million over the 2015 enacted level.

A critical component of AGO is the NWRS. The NWRS delivers conservation on a landscape level, providing important ecosystem services such as water filtration, flood mitigation, and habitat for the survival and protection of endangered species. The NWRS also offers recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing, and watching wildlife.

The Service also partners with States, tribes, conservation groups, and others to encourage conservation. The Ecological Services program works with private landowners and others to protect and restore habitat for listed and candidate species under the ESA. The Fish and Aquatic Conservation program carries out its aquatic resources conservation work through a nationwide network of over 150 facilities that includes national fish hatcheries, fish and wildlife conservation offices, fish health centers, fish technology centers,

and the Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership program. These facilities are neighbors to communities across the Nation, providing the American public a variety of annual outdoor and classroom events and opportunities to view wildlife and enjoy nature. All Service programs help reconnect youth and their families to our Nation's natural and cultural resource heritage.

The 2016 budget includes increases for programs funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), a vital component of the America's Great Outdoors initiative. The 2016 budget includes $164.8 million for Federal land acquisition, which includes $58.5 million in current funding and $106.3 million in permanent funding, an increase of $117.2 million above the 2015 enacted level. These funds will be used to work with willing landowners to secure rights-of-way, easements or fee simple lands that provide access or consolidate Federal ownership so that the American public has unbroken spaces to recreate, hunt, and fish. All of these projects have willing sellers who wish to work with the Service. The Service will also collaborate with a multitude of Federal, State, county, tribes, non-governmental organizations, and private partners. The 2016 Federal Land Acquisition program builds on efforts started in 2011 to strategically invest in interagency landscape-scale conservation projects while continuing to meet agency-specific programmatic needs. The Department of the Interior and U.S. Forest Service collaborate extensively to achieve the highest priority conservation goals through more effectively coordinating land acquisitions with local community partners. In addition, the budget requests funding from the LWCF for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund, including $50.0 million in current appropriations and an additional $50.0 million in mandatory funding.

The budget also requests $108.3 million for grant programs administered by the Service that support America's Great Outdoors goals.

Powering Our Future and Responsible Use of the Nation's Resources

The Service continues to support the Administration's "all-of-the-above" energy strategy by engaging in early planning, thoughtful mitigation, and the application of sound science not only for traditional sources of energy, but also in the development of new, cleaner energy to help mitigate the causes of climate change. The budget proposes $16.8 million, an increase of $2.6 million, for activities associated with energy development, including a program increase of $1.2 million for the Ecological Services Planning and Consultation program to support approvals of renewable energy projects, and an increase of $1.4 million to analyze potential impacts of energy transmission in the American West and to devise strategies to mitigate negative impacts.

Developing domestic energy resources and the corresponding transmission capabilities requires effective coordination with permitting entities and appropriate environmental review of transmission rights-of-way applications and facilities siting. It also requires a balanced and mindful approach that addresses the impacts of development on land, wildlife, and water resources. The Department of Energy, State fish and wildlife agencies, Bureau of Land Management, State Energy Commissions, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission have expressed a need for expedited multi-species conservation strategies accompanied by appropriate permits to comply with the ESA. The resources requested will provide better customer service to the energy industry including:

- Increased technical assistance;
- More timely responses;
- Environmentally sound solutions to energy project-wildlife/habitat conflicts; and,
- Well-coordinated project reviews, working with Federal agency priorities.

The budget also maintains funding for migratory bird conservation to help address the impact of development, particularly wind energy projects, on wildlife and wildlife habitat.

Engaging the Next Generation

The budget includes $18.5 million, an increase of $7.5 million above the 2015 enacted level, for activities related to youth employment, education, and training opportunities for children and young people. This increase includes $2.5 million for expanded youth programs and partnerships, including funding for the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC), an outcome of the AGO initiative, and an additional $5.0 million for the Urban Wildlife Conservation Program. The 21CSC is a bold national effort to put young Americans to work protecting, restoring, and enhancing public and tribal lands and waters as well as natural, cultural, and historical resources and treasures. The 21CSC will provide service, training, education, and employment opportunities for thousands of young Americans and veterans, including low income and disadvantaged youth.

With 80 percent of the U.S. population currently residing in urban communities, helping urban dwellers rediscover their pleasure in the outdoors is a priority for the Service. Young adults and children everywhere have different perceptions, values, and relationships with land and wildlife compared to previous generations. The refuge system is well positioned to offer rewarding and convenient outdoor adventures to an increasingly urban society. At least one wildlife refuge is within an hour's drive of most major cities, 101 refuges are within 25 miles of 250,000 or more people, and over 260 wildlife refuges are near smaller cities. Through the Urban Wildlife Conservation Program, the Service is working on inviting city dwellers to enjoy the outdoors by creating opportunities for new audiences to connect with outdoor experiences that build on one another, both on wildlife refuges and partner's lands. This focus helps ensure future generations appreciate and conserve natural resources and preserve places that can benefit the health of our Nation's youth as they enjoy and experience nature.

Landscape Level Understanding

Fish, wildlife, and plants are an integral feature of the Nation's natural landscapes and have played a major role in shaping America's history, identity, and character. The Service uses our expertise to help protect this natural heritage, as one of our strengths is technical excellence in planning and delivering conservation. Whether on a wildlife refuge, at a national fish hatchery, or other lands, the plans and projects we deliver are widely acclaimed for their quality and effectiveness in addressing conservation challenges.

The budget request includes $69.7 million, an increase of $12.2 million above the 2015 enacted level, for landscape level science and conservation. The last century has seen great changes in America's landscapes and seascapes that are facing increasing pressure to meet the demands of a growing, more urban human population. Global and national conservation challenges like development pressure, resource extraction, wildfire, drought, invasive species, changing ocean conditions, and other impacts to our land, water, and wildlife are magnified by a rapidly changing climate. These challenges are greater than any one organization can meet alone, and require an unprecedented collective effort to better understand the specifics of the threats we face, and inspire coordinated action to address them.

Secretary Jewell has also challenged the Department to harness emerging technologies and work with partners to elevate the Nation's understanding of our resources on a landscape-level. The Service has taken the lead to bring Federal agencies together with partners to undertake this task through Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) and by ensuring we have the necessary science to more effectively conserve populations of fish, wildlife, and plants at landscape scales. Working through the Service's 22 LCC stakeholders such as states, tribes, Federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, universities, and other partners develops a common understanding of shared goals and can collaborate better to make more effective and efficient conservation decisions in light of the challenges and opportunities confronting us. With these goals in mind, partners can identify where and how they will take action, within their own authorities and organizational priorities, to best contribute to the larger conservation effort. Additional benefits to the American public from the conservation of large natural connected areas

includes jobs, income, food, clean water and air, building materials, storm protection, tourism, and recreation.

Cooperative Recovery

About 380 species listed as threatened or endangered are found in or around units of the NWRS. Human demands on the environment combined with environmental stressors like drought, sea-level rise, and extreme weather events are creating an urgent need for conservation. Only through cooperative efforts can the Nation successfully recover its most imperiled species. The Cooperative Recovery initiative provides opportunities for focused, large-scale conservation efforts that typically have few venues for funding, and leverages resources toward our highest priority endangered species needs.

In FY 2016, the Service requests a total of $10.7 million, an increase of $4.8 million over the enacted level, for cooperative recovery. This increase will support the Service's cross-programmatic partnership approach for planning, restoration, and management actions to address threats to endangered species in areas that are strategically important for conserving listed species. The focus will be on implementing recovery actions for species near delisting or reclassification from endangered to threatened and actions that are urgently needed for critically endangered species. The successful delisting recommendation of the Oregon Chub, a year ahead of schedule, illustrates the merit in this approach.

Successful proposals: 1) implement urgently needed actions for critically endangered species at risk of imminent extinction without intervention; or 2) implement recovery actions for species near delisting or reclassification from endangered to threatened. Projects take actions that will significantly improve the status of one or more listed species. While these projects are intended to be on-the-ground activities where meaningful progress can be shown within a short timeframe, they are also planned within the larger context of Service landscape conservation priorities. Projects funded in 2014 focused on implementing recovery actions for eight federally-listed plant and 21 federally-listed animal species. One example is seeking to delist golden paintbrush, a plant listed in 1997, by 2017 by converting abandoned agricultural fields back into rare native prairie habitat in western Washington and Oregon.

Additional Increases and Initiatives

Wildlife Trafficking — Wildlife trafficking has emerged as an international crisis, imperiling both conservation and global security. The poaching of African elephants and rhinos for ivory and horn stands at unprecedented levels, and illegal trade is undermining the conservation of scores of other species. The Service is requesting increases in Law Enforcement, International Affairs, and Multinational Species Conservation Fund to fund additional wildlife trafficking actions.

> *Law Enforcement* — The budget provides $75.4 million for the law enforcement program, a program increase of $8.0 million over the 2015 enacted level, to investigate wildlife crimes and enforce laws, such as the Lacey Act, that govern the Nation's trade. The request includes a program increase of $4.0 million to combat expanding illegal wildlife trafficking and support conservation efforts on the ground in Africa and across the globe and $4.0 million to expand the capability of wildlife forensics to provide the evidence needed for investigating and prosecuting criminal activity under the Lacey Act and other laws, as well as support Service special agents.
>
> *International Affairs* — The budget request includes a total of $14.7 million, slightly over the 2015 enacted level. A successful effort to combat wildlife trafficking cannot solely rely on investigating and prosecuting criminal activity, it must also change attitudes and consumption patterns to reduce market demand for wildlife products. Increased funding will support efforts to combat wildlife trafficking and drive down demand for products from flagship species such as tigers, elephants, and rhinos.

Multinational Species Conservation Fund — The budget request includes a total of $11.1 million, a program increase of $2.0 million over the 2015 enacted level, to support efforts to combat wildlife trafficking and protect rhinoceros, African elephants, and tigers.

The President's Budget continues to promote research and development, scientific investments, and monitoring to best manage the country's natural resources and heritage. Continued and enhanced coordination of science activities across bureaus will be required to achieve the Department's mission objectives. The 2016 budget facilitates this need by better supporting integrated efforts to achieve resource management outcomes.

The Service has identified several key areas for investment where coordination with other Department bureaus will leverage results to more effectively achieve mission outcomes. A fuller discussion of ecosystem services valuation and carbon sequestration projects is contained in the Service science section.

Ecological Services — *Planning and Consultation.* In addition to the Energy increases, the Service is requesting an additional $9 million for planning and consultation to support economic recovery and job creation in the United States and to continue advancing restoration in the Gulf of Mexico region.

The Gulf of Mexico Watershed spans 31 states and is critically important to the health and vitality of our nation's natural and economic resources. It has been a dependable workhorse, providing rich soils to feed the nation and oil and gas to power it. Few places on the globe match the Gulf Coast in the abundance and variety of wildlife. In addition to over 400 at-risk or imperiled species, the Gulf is home to 135 Federally-listed species, 98 of which are endangered. The Gulf region provides food and shelter for millions of ducks, geese, shorebirds, and other migratory birds, as well as the most diverse assemblage of freshwater fish in the northern hemisphere. The natural resources in the five Gulf Coast States are the bedrock of a multi-billion dollar economic engine that employs more than eight million people, produces more than half of America's crude oil and natural gas, and accounts for the majority of the Nation's annual shrimp and oyster harvests.

The Gulf ecosystem has suffered wetland and barrier island erosion and significant disruption of natural sediment and freshwater flows. The 2010 Deepwater Horizon (DWH) oil spill dramatically increased the urgency of our work in the Gulf and our leadership responsibilities. Over the course of the next decade, billions of dollars in settlement funds, Clean Water Act (CWA) penalties, and Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) restitution will be directed toward restoration of the Gulf of Mexico's ecology and economy. Over $5 billion is currently available and that amount could substantially increase pending court decisions over the next three years. While not a direct recipient of these funds, the Service, because of our mission and legal and trust responsibilities, will be directly involved in influencing the distribution of these funds for restoration and conservation. The Service serves as a key Federal agency that can strategically connect restoration efforts throughout the entire Gulf watershed and merge existing conservation issues with proposed projects to help guide and prioritize restoration and find mutual restoration benefit.

This funding increase will allow the Service to address the increasing workload demands resulting from funds coming online from CWA penalties and NRDA legal settlements. These funds will ensure efficient completion of compliance reviews (e.g. ESA, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, etc.) for projects funded with the millions of dollars allocated to restoration projects each year in the Gulf; this funding will help support the expeditious implementation of projects that will produce significant ecological and economic benefits to the Gulf Region. With these funds, the Service can ensure we are fully engaged with local, regional, and national decision-makers and provide our experience and expertise to their direction of Gulf restoration resources to the landscape. The Service will engage with partners to bring sound science and collaborative conservation solutions to project development, design and delivery.

Timely evaluations of proposed infrastructure, real estate, and other development projects, assisting permitting agencies, issuing permits for these projects under the MBTA, ESA, and other Federal laws contributes to job creation and economic growth. As the economy improves, growth in business investment and consumer spending will likely increase demand for infrastructure, housing, and commercial construction, resulting in more requests for permits that recognize compliance with environmental laws. New housing construction requires revisiting land use planning and providing technical assistance with siting determinations to minimize impacts on listed species. Economic recovery also generates demand for supporting infrastructure such as roads, water supply control, and flood protection. To support this predicted growth, the Service needs to restore and build additional capacity to provide technical assistance and environmental reviews in a timely and sustainable manner. This funding increase will be used to balance staffing requirements with the demand for environmental reviews to allow the Service to expedite project reviews.

Conservation and Recovery — The Service is requesting program increases totaling $18.3 million for Conservation and Recovery. Stakeholders such as other Federal agencies, States, landowners, and communities, are engaged in or impacted by the requirements of the ESA to support recovery and achieve delisting. Once a species is removed from the ESA list of threatened or endangered species, the restrictions of the Act no longer apply. As the Service and stakeholders would like to see species recovered and delisted as soon as possible, a portion of this increase will address the backlog of species that have been identified for delisting or downlisting based upon recent five-year reviews.

Conservation of Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem — The sagebrush steppe ecosystem extends across 11 States which require a collaborative conservation effort that is unprecedented in geographic scope and magnitude. To achieve sustainable conservation success for this ecosystem, the Service has identified priority needs for basic scientific expertise, technical assistance for on-the-ground support, and internal and external coordination and partnership building with western States, the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and other partners. Success requires constant communication and constant planning and adaptive management to ensure long-term conservation for sage-dependent wildlife, including migratory birds that are declining or at risk. Working with State and Federal partners to provide scientifically sound recommendations for maintaining a viable sagebrush steppe ecosystem, the Service will support conservation of sage grouse and other sage dependent species and fully develop a long-term conservation vision for the sage-steppe ecosystem. The Service is requesting an additional $4.0 million to support this effort at this critical juncture.

National Wildlife Refuge System — Funding for the operation and maintenance of the NWRS is requested at $508.2 million, a program increase of $34.0 million above the 2015 enacted level. The 2016 budget includes an increase of $10.0 million in the Challenge Cost Share program for leveraged partnership projects to address community and ecosystem resiliency in light of changing conditions. The Challenge Cost Share program is a 50:50 non-Federal partner matching program which supports mutually beneficial public and partner projects. The funding would support work with non-Federal partners on projects that increase the resilience of landscapes to extreme weather events with a focus on the inland challenges of wildfire, flooding and drought.

Projects funded through the Challenge Cost Share programs will improve community resilience at the project site and provide new and needed data to communities around the Nation on what natural infrastructure designs and solutions contribute to resilience.

To accomplish this effectively, the Department will draw upon scientific expertise to identify ecosystem restoration and enhancement strategies likely to successfully build resilience to fire, flooding and drought. Efforts might also identify focal areas where these strategies are likely to have a significant return on

investment by protecting communities and at risk infrastructure as well as improving landscape resilience in areas of strategic importance to the Department. As part of this initiative the Department will develop project criteria and evaluation metrics relevant to these new project types. Modeled on the Department's approach to implementing Hurricane Sandy resilience investments, the Department would request proposals and conduct a coordinated evaluation of projects.

The request also includes major program increases $3.7 million for Inventory and Monitoring (I & M), $5.0 million for the Urban Wildlife Conservation Program, $905,000 for refuge law enforcement activities to protect wildlife, habitat, federal property and the safety of refuge visitors, and $4.0 million to address the deferred maintenance backlog.

The Service embraces a scientific, landscape-level approach to conserving, managing, and restoring refuge lands and waters, and works to protect conservation benefits beyond its boundaries. The requested increase of $3.7 million will enhance I & M of biological resources, ecological processes, components of the physical environment, and human interactions with these resources, a necessary component of successful conservation delivery. The I & M program provides information critical to implementing the Service's Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) model and adaptive management philosophy, where planning, management actions, and monitoring those actions create an iterative process of increasing efficiency. Successful conservation design and delivery at the landscape scale in the face of climate change requires coordinated efforts, both internally and externally. The I & M program works directly with the National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Geological Survey, and other federal and state partners to integrate systems across the federal government and minimize duplication of effort. Additionally, the I & M program directly supports LCCs and ensures that survey design, data storage, analysis, and reporting are consistent with Service policy.

Fish and Aquatic Conservation — Among the most significant challenges of the changing climate is a projected increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events-including severe storms, wildfire and drought. In 2016, the Department proposes investments to increase the resilience of both coastal and inland communities to the impacts of these events. These investments will focus on areas at high risk to climate challenges to address vulnerabilities to extreme events in these geographies in partnership with state, local and tribal governments and other stakeholders. Given this challenge, the budget requests an additional $1.0 million for fish passage improvements to help make human communities and natural resources more resilient by implementing on-the-ground projects that reconnect aquatic habitat to improve fish passage in a way that also increases community flood resiliency by restoring natural stream channels and improving road infrastructure. Projects will be selected in conjunction with local partners and with available science to make the greatest conservation impact.

The budget also includes increases of $2.0 million to address the deferred maintenance backlog; and $2.4 million for efforts to control the spread of Asian Carp**.** The spread of Asian carp toward the Great Lakes is one of the most acute threats facing the Great Lakes ecosystem and its multi-billion dollar fishery. While efforts to date have aggressively focused on managing the Asian carp invasion into the Great Lakes, the requested funding increase in FY 2016 will support additional effort on the Upper Mississippi, Ohio, Missouri rivers, and other high-risk watersheds.

With the increased funding provided by Congress in FY 2015 for National Fish Hatchery Operations, and the funding requested in this budget, the Service remains committed to working with States, other partners, and stakeholders to chart a course forward for the National Fish Hatchery System (NFHS). With consistent resources into the future, the Service will be able to operate the NFHS on a sound financial footing and be better positioned to meet present and future conservation challenges.

Fixed Costs and Health Benefits for Seasonal Employees
Increases over the 2015 enacted level of $9.3 million for fixed costs and a program increase of $1.1 million for Health Benefits for Seasonal Employees are fully funded.

Budget Restructuring
The Service is proposing to restructure the budget for ecological services to improve efficiency and enhance coordination across programs and with external partners for the conservation of imperiled species. The proposal presents the budget according to Listing, Planning and Consultation, and Conservation and Restoration functions. The Habitat Conservation activity will now only contain the Partners for Fish and Wildlife and Coastal Programs subactivities. Marine Mammals, formerly in Fish and Aquatic Conservation, is now incorporated into Ecological Services, Conservation and Restoration.

Expand Analytical Capabilities of the Secretary's Indian Water Rights Office
This Administration has put a high priority on settling Indian water rights claims as part of its trust relationship with tribes, and anticipates dozens of water rights negotiation in the coming years. The Department recommends instituting policies and strategies that ensure an analytically robust, methodical, and cost-effective approach to negotiating Indian water settlements that result in optimal infrastructure and water delivery results for stakeholders, appropriate roles for financial contributors, and which strengthen climate resilience, promote sound watershed management, and advance water security in Indian country. This new approach will better coordinate expertise of the Department, Indian tribes, States, and other stakeholders to reach Indian water settlements more effectively and expediently. In this budget, the Service supports the expanded duties and responsibilities of the Secretary's Indian Water Rights Office through payments made to the Working Capital Fund.

Ensuring Healthy Watersheds and Sustainable, Secure Water Supplies
Water is the foundation for healthy communities and healthy economies, but water supplies are challenged by climate change, record drought conditions, and increasing demand. One of the most formidable challenges is obtaining sufficient water for the arid West while also protecting fish and wildlife resources. The Service is working in partnership with other Federal agencies on the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan and the Klamath Basin restoration. The 2016 request includes funding to continue critical Service work in addressing challenges presented in these watersheds.

Building a 21st Century Department of the Interior
Challenge and opportunity are two sides of the same coin. The conservation challenges confronting our natural resources require us to collaborate with others to leverage our resources and talents, which provides the opportunity to build partnerships and accomplish great conservation, even in times of constrained resources. The Service is committed to moving into the future with that outlook to realize key successes in fighting poaching and wildlife trafficking; recovering imperiled species; increasing our ability to conserve species at a landscape scale; reaching new urban audiences; and building a new generation that has a deep connection to conservation by engaging in outdoor recreation opportunities such as hunting, fishing, and birding.

The President's Management Agenda
The Department of the Interior supports the President's Management Agenda to build a better government, one that delivers continually improving results for the American people and renews their faith in government. The Service is actively involved in the government-wide effort to bring forward the most promising ideas to improve government effectiveness, efficiency, spur economic growth, attract top talent, promote people and culture, and eliminate unnecessary requirements. As part of this involvement, the Service is looking at existing initiatives upon which to build and improve.

An example of existing efforts underway is the Campaign to Cut Waste. Over the last three years, the Service has implemented a series of management reforms to curb growth in contract spending, travel, printing and other costs.

In November 2011, President Obama issued an Executive Order reinforcing these performance and management reforms and the achievement of efficiencies and cost-cutting across the government. This Executive Order identifies specific savings as part of the Administration's Campaign to Cut Waste to achieve a 20 percent reduction in administrative spending from 2010 to 2013. The Service has exceeded its $30 million savings goal and saved over $100 million since 2010.

Administrative Provisions Language Change

In FY 2016, the Service is requesting language providing the authority, similar to that of the NPS and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to seek compensation from responsible parties who injure or destroy NWRS or other Service resources. Today when system resources are injured or destroyed, the costs of repair and restoration falls upon the appropriated budget for the affected refuge, often at the expense of other refuge programs. Competing priorities can leave Service resources languishing until the refuge obtains appropriations from Congress to address the injury. This may result in more intensive injuries, higher costs, and long-term degradation of publicly-owned Service resources. The public expects that refuge resources, and the broad range of activities they support, will be available for future generations. It follows that persons responsible for harm—not taxpayers—should pay for any injury they cause. Unlike other land management agencies, the Service only has criminal penalties (fines) for those injuries occurring on NWRS lands and cases are only prosecuted at the discretion of the Department of Justice. In most cases, the injuries far exceed any fines recovered by the United States Government. With this authority, the recovery of damages for injury to system resources would be used to reimburse assessment costs; prevent or minimize the risk of loss; monitor ongoing effects, and/or use those funds to restore, replace or acquire resources equivalent to those injured or destroyed. In 2013, Refuges reported under the Annual Uniform Crime Report, seven cases of arson and 2,300 vandalism offenses. Monetary losses from these cases totaled $1.1 million dollars. Other reported offenses often lead to resource injury and number in the thousands, including off-road vehicle use, trespass, and other natural resources violations. Specific examples suitable for damage recovery under this provision include a case of illegally creating roads through Sequoyah Refuge (OK) including burning acreage and damming a creek; grounding of a ship on coral reefs at Northwest Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge: and abandonment of property on numerous refuges.

Legislative Proposals

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

Extending the Interest Provision to the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) in the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act — The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Robertson) contains a provision that requires interest on Pittman-Robertson funds to be allocated to finance waterfowl conservation projects funded through the NAWCA. This provision expires at the end of FY 2015. Unless the Act is amended, interest generated will return to the Wildlife Restoration Fund.

Interest from Pittman-Robertson funds is a critical source of income for NAWCA. Since 1994, $348 million has been provided. This funding has contributed to stabilizing waterfowl populations on the continent and enhanced hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreational opportunities in the United States, Canada and Mexico. These funds can be used towards projects selected by the NAWCA Council and are matched by at least 1:1 by partners. The loss of this funding source would negatively impact the Service's ability to continue to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting.

An example of a project funded with this income is the Mississippi Delta Waterfowl Management Area Wetland Enhancement project. By combining this funding with partner resources, restoration and enhancement of important wetlands in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley is benefiting migratory waterfowl and waterbirds and improving and increasing recreational opportunities for the public.

Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act (Duck Stamp) — Language is needed to provide stability to the purchasing power of the Federal Duck Stamp. The requested language, which is consistent with the legislative request accompanying the FY 2015 President's Budget, would allow limited authority for the Secretary of the Interior, with the approval of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, to increase the price of the Federal Duck Stamp to keep up with the price of inflation. The last increase approved by Congress, to take effect in June 2015, followed a period of nearly 25 years since the previous price increase. During that time, the costs of land rose significantly, causing serious erosion of the purchasing power of the Duck Stamp. This substantially constrained the Service from addressing a crisis in the prairie pothole region, where important breeding and resting habitat in the nation's "duck factory" is being converted to crop land at a fast pace.

Utilizing the Skills of Older Workers — The Department of the Interior (DOI) will submit a legislative proposal that provides the authority to utilize the skills of older workers as a cost effective workforce resource to help DOI accomplish its mission and annual goals. It allows experienced workers who are retired to support projects, take on seasonal work, or help on a longer-term basis. Older workers can also serve as a resource for newer DOI staff to learn from their institutional knowledge and skills.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) — The Department will submit a legislative proposal to permanently authorize annual funding, without further appropriation or fiscal year limitation for the (Land and Water Conservation Fund) LWCF. Starting in 2017, $900 million annually in permanent funds would be available. During the transition to full permanent funding in 2017, the budget proposes $900 million in total LWCF funding in FY 2016, comprised of $500 million in permanent and $400 million in discretionary funds. The amounts requested include the authorized levels for the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture.

U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
MAJOR ACCOUNT SUMMARY OF FISCAL YEAR 2016

Account		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	2016 *Change from 2015 (+/-)
Current Appropriations								
Resource Management 1/	$000	1,188,339	1,207,658	+9,017	-465	+110,622	1,326,832	+119,174
	FTE	6,651	6,668		0	+227	6,895	+227
Construction	$000	15,722	15,687	+125	0	+5,000	20,812	+5,125
	FTE	55	55	0	0	+2	57	+2
Land Acquisition 1/	$000	54,422	47,535	+160	+465	+10,340	58,500	+10,965
	FTE	88	88	0	0	0	88	0
National Wildlife Refuge Fund	$000	13,228	13,228	0	0	-13,228	0	-13,228
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund	$000	50,095	50,095	0	0	-95	50,000	-95
	FTE	14	14	0	0	+2	16	+2
North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	$000	34,145	34,145	0	0	0	34,145	0
	FTE	8	8	0	0	0	8	0
Multinational Species Conservation Fund	$000	9,061	9,061	0	0	+2,000	11,061	+2,000
	FTE	4	4	0	0	0	4	0
Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation	$000	3,660	3,660	0	0	+500	4,160	+500
	FTE	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
State and Tribal Wildlife Grants	$000	58,695	58,695	0	0	+11,305	70,000	+11,305
	FTE	14	14	0	0	+3	17	+3
Landowner Incentive Program	$000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	FTE	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL, Current Appropriations	**$000**	**1,427,367**	**1,439,764**	**+9,302**	**0**	**+126,444**	**1,575,510**	**+135,746**
	FTE	**6,849**	**6,852**	**0**	**0**	**+234**	**7,086**	**+234**

1/ FY16 Refuge Conservation Plan, proposed transfer to Land Acquisition.

Resource Management does not include FY 2014 transfer of $17.5 M from State Dept/USAID - Congo and FY 2015 transfer of $5 M from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

FY 2014 amounts do not reflect transfers for repayments of 2013 Wildland Fire borrowing.

U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
MAJOR ACCOUNT SUMMARY OF FISCAL YEAR 2016 REQUEST

Account		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	*Change from 2015 (+/-)
Permanent and Trust Accounts								
Land Acquisition - Legislative Proposal FY 2016	$000	0	0	0	0	+106,272	106,272	+106,272
	FTE	0	0	0	0	+40	40	+40
National Wildlife Refuge Fund	$000	6,970	7,924	0	0	+660	8,584	+660
	FTE	8	8	0	0	0	8	0
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund - Payment to Special Fund	$000	72,058	73,510	0	0	-15,545	57,965	-15,545
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund - Legislative Proposal FY 2016	$000	0	0	0	0	+50,000	50,000	+50,000
	FTE	0	0	0	0	+6	6	+6
North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	$000	19,030	19,613	0	0	+1,087	20,700	+1,087
	FTE	3	3	0	0	0	3	0
Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration	$000	406,811	431,197	0	0	+14,288	445,485	+14,288
	FTE	61	58	0	0	0	58	0
Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration	$000	785,651	829,733	0	0	-221,167	608,566	-221,167
	FTE	47	57	0	0	0	57	0
Migratory Bird Conservation Account	$000	67,375	68,364	0	0	+12,029	80,393	+12,029
	FTE	64	69	0	0	+5	74	+5
Federal Lands Recreational Enhancement Act	$000	5,055	5,100	0	0	+73	5,173	+73
	FTE	23	23	0	0	0	23	0
Contributed Funds	$000	3,689	3,000	0	0	0	3,000	0
	FTE	20	20	0	0	0	20	0
Miscellaneous Permanent Appropriations	$000	4,448	4,375	0	0	0	4,375	0
	FTE	5	5	0	0	0	5	0
Coastal Impact Assistance Program	$000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	FTE	11	11	0	0	0	11	0
Subtotal, Permanent Appropriations	**$000**	**1,371,087**	**1,442,816**	**0**	**0**	**-52,303**	**1,390,513**	**-52,303**
	FTE	**242**	**254**	**0**	**0**	**+51**	**305**	**+51**
Reimbursements and Allocations from others								
Reimbursable (1900 series)	FTE	800	815	0	0	0	815	0
Offsetting Collections 1800 series	FTE	194	200	0	0	0	200	0
Offsetting Collections 4000 series	FTE	27	30	0	0	0	30	0
Wild land Fire Management	FTE	390	393	0	0	0	393	0
Southern Nevada Lands	FTE	16	16	0	0	0	16	0
Federal Aid - Highway	FTE	16	16	0	0	0	16	0
NRDAR	FTE	80	80	0	0	+3	83	+3
Central HAZMAT	FTE	7	7	0	0	0	7	0
Forest Pest	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disaster Relief	FTE	20	20	0	0	0	20	0
Energy Act - Permit Processing	FTE	6	6	0	0	0	6	0
Subtotal, Other		1,556	1,583	0	0	+3	1,586	+3
TOTAL FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE	**$000**	**2,798,454**	**2,882,580**	**+9,302**	**0**	**+74,141**	**2,966,023**	**+83,443**
	FTE	**8,647**	**8,689**	**0**	**0**	**+288**	**8,977**	**+288**

Agency Priority Goals

Youth Stewardship of Natural and Cultural Resources Agency Priority Goal

Priority Goal: **By September 30, 2015, the Department of the Interior will provide 40,000 work and training opportunities over two fiscal years (FY 2014 and FY 2015) for individuals age 15 to 25 to support the mission of the Department.**

The Department is proposing to expand this goal to provide 100,000 work and training opportunities over four fiscal years, FY 2014 through FY 2017, for individuals ages 15 to 35.

Bureau Contribution

Workforce planning studies suggest that the bureaus are now competing for candidates who bring new competencies to the U.S. workforce. The Service will continue to ensure that talented and capable young people are ready to enter public service as natural resource professionals.

Since 1970, the Service has worked with the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) to introduce young Americans to conservation opportunities at National Fish Hatcheries, National Wildlife Refuges, and Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices across the country . The Service will continue hiring youth as resources permit to provide a quality, cost-effective outdoor work experience to a diverse pool of our Nation's youth. The Service's hires will continue contributing to the Priority Goal's objective to employ youth in the conservation mission of the Department.

Implementation Strategy

The Service's **National Wildlife Refuge System** will continue existing proven programs using creative approaches to offer public service opportunities. With 80 percent of the U.S. population currently residing in urban communities, helping urban dwellers rediscover their pleasure in the outdoors is also an important Service priority. National wildlife refuges offer employment, education, and recreation opportunities that connect youth with the outdoors. These youth programs also provide opportunities to educate youth about career opportunities and promote public service as part of a life-long commitment to natural resource conservation. Programs are managed through mentoring and partnerships with Friends organizations, volunteers, educational institutions, and local conservation organizations.

The **Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program** will also continue supporting the Secretary's initiative to engage youth in the great outdoors by emphasizing new and creative ways to get the Nation's youth out into nature, specifically underrepresented groups such as those in urban environments, minorities, and women. The Service's Pathways program, rural and Tribal YCC programs, and the Biologist-in-Training Program complement these early learning experiences to mold future conservation stewards and advance youth into careers in conservation and natural resources management.

Support continues for the **National Conservation Training Center (NCTC)** to provide programmatic coordination and collaboration to increase the capacity of bureaus' conservation professionals to educate and train youth, and to provide natural resource career awareness and professional development. NCTC is developing and implementing cutting-edge, electronic collaboration tools for sharing resources, targeting specific audiences, networking, and an interactive Youth Portal website to facilitate communication. This work enables participants to effectively share success stories, learn from other's best practices, and develop new tools to attract youth to careers in the natural resource community.

NCTC will hold classroom training, workshops, and "community of practice" sessions to bring the best practices to Departmental professionals for engagement of youth in nature. The program will also build competencies to engage youth through new media and social networking tools. NCTC will also engage youth interested in natural resource careers so they can gain necessary knowledge and skills to qualify for Departmental positions. The NCTC works with learning institutions at the elementary, middle, and high schools and at the college level to meet this goal.

Performance Metrics

The Service reports direct hires and partnership hires to the Department as part of the effort to track progress toward achieving the purposes of the Youth Stewardship of Natural Resources goal.

Renewable Energy Resource Development Agency Priority Goal

> ***Priority Goal*: By September 30, 2015, increase approved capacity authorized for renewable (solar, wind, and geothermal) energy resources affecting Department of the Interior managed lands, while ensuring full environmental review, by at least 16,500 Megawatts (since 2009).**

Bureau Contribution

As the Nation seeks to address economic, environmental, and national security challenges related to energy supply, securing diverse energy sources to support a growing economy and protect our national interests has become a priority for the Nation. Through responsible development of federally-managed resources, the Department can play a central role in moving the Nation toward a clean energy economy. The transition to a renewable and emissions-free energy infrastructure places demands on the Service to ensure that new technologies and energy projects have minimal impact on fish and wildlife resources. While generally regarded as clean energy; wind, solar, wave, and geothermal energy projects often require large geographic areas to be commercially viable. These facilities and accompanying transmission infrastructure pose complex conservation issues on a landscape-level for migratory birds, fish, and other wildlife.

Energy development is a strategic priority for the Service as the Nation seeks to address economic, environmental, and national security challenges related to energy. These activities have a direct impact on fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats and have the potential to affect public recreational opportunities and experiences on national wildlife refuges. The Service's ability to conduct consultations and planning activities are critical to ensuring that the Nation can expand the production of renewable energy without compromising environmental values.

Implementation Strategy

The **Ecological Services Planning and Consultation** component will provide expert technical assistance and conservation recommendations to facilitate the siting, construction, and operation of a broad and growing spectrum of energy and transmission projects to avoid or mitigate significant impacts to fish and wildlife and their habitats. Program field biologists will effectively participate in additional landscape-level habitat conservation efforts with the states, industry, and other conservation stakeholders to protect and conserve key fish and wildlife habitats as the Nation charts a course toward a clean energy future. The goal is to participate early to develop resource protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures that will reduce risks to fish and wildlife and conserve essential habitat.

The Department of Energy, State fish and wildlife agencies, tribal agencies, Bureau of Land Management, and State energy commissions have expressed a need for expedited multispecies conservation strategies accompanied by appropriate permits to comply with the Endangered Species Act. Service biologists will work on developing these conservation strategies to provide for effective protection and conservation of natural resources while allowing solar and other qualified renewable energy development in a manner that avoids, minimizes, or mitigates environmental impacts. To complete these plans, biologists and energy specialists must develop, collect process, and interpret geographic, biological, land use, and other environmental data for the entire plan area. Multiple stakeholder meetings and reviews will be necessary during plan development to ensure the resulting plan is consensus based to the extent feasible/ implementable. This effort will require intense, focused, and dedicated attention from consultation staff for renewable projects for the foreseeable future.

Performance Metrics

The Service has identified a set of internal measures and milestones to monitor and track achievement of the Priority Goals. However, because the Service provides a "supporting role" for this priority goal none of its internal measures are reported to Performance.gov.

Climate Change Adaptation Agency Priority Goal

> ***Priority Goal:*** **By September 30, 2015, the Department of the Interior will demonstrate maturing implementation of climate change adaptation as scored when implementing strategies in its Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan.**

Bureau Contribution

Recognizing that adaptation actions are as varied as each bureau, and that outcomes will not likely be realized on the Priority Goal two-year timeframe, the Department has created a Priority Goal that demonstrates climate change adaptation planning and process development. These activities can be tracked to demonstrate progress toward an enhanced ability to improve adaptation planning and create better processes to guide departmental operations.

The new goal will employ a scoring system reflecting the degree of progress of the Department (and its bureaus) in addressing the climate change adaptation strategies in the Department's Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan (SSPP).

The Service has defined and will track progress of at least one activity that it will pursue in implementing each of the five climate change adaptation strategies identified in the SSPP. Progress will be evaluated through the DOI quarterly status reviews. The reviews will consider the incremental level of accomplishment achieved either in development of a policy or process; or through the quantity of individuals affected, deliverables, or completion of projects.

Implementation Strategy

The Service will track progress for at least one activity in each of the five strategy elements as indicators of its efforts to improve its adaptation planning and process development for Climate Change. The five strategy elements are:

- Mainstream and integrate climate change adaptation into both agency-wide and regional planning efforts, in coordination with other Federal agencies as well as state and local partners, Tribal governments and private stakeholders

- Ensure agency principals demonstrate commitment to adaptation efforts through internal communications and policies
- Ensure workforce protocols and policies reflect projected human health and safety impacts of climate change
- Design and construct new or modify/manage existing agency facilities and/or infrastructure with consideration for the potential impacts of projected climate change
- Update agency external programs and policies (including grants, loans, technical assistance, etc.) to incentivize planning for and addressing the impacts of climate change

Performance Metrics

The Service has identified a set of activities that will track progress toward the strategy elements of the Climate Change Adaptation goal. These activities are only a small portion of the Department's reporting to Performance.gov.

Strategic Objective Performance Summary

Mission Area 1: Celebrating and Enhancing America's Great Outdoors

Goal #1: Protect America's Landscapes

Strategy #1: Improve land and water health by managing the wetlands, uplands, and riparian areas that comprise our national parks, wildlife refuges, and BLM lands.

Strategy #2: Sustain fish, wildlife, and plant species by protecting and recovering the Nation's fish and wildlife in cooperation with partners, including States.

Bureau Contribution

The Service met or exceeded five of its eight FY 2014 targets for Strategy #1: improve land and water health performance metrics, contributing to the Department meeting its metrics for FY 2014 in this strategic objective.

The Service met or exceeded all six of its FY 2014 targets for Strategy #2: sustain fish, wildlife, and plant species performance metrics, contributing to the Department's meeting or exceeding all metrics for FY 2014 in this strategic objective.

The FY 2016 request supports the NWRS which administers a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans. National Wildlife Refuges manage a full range of habitat types – wetlands; prairies; coastal and marine areas; temperate, tundra and boreal forests. Managing these habitats is a complex web of activities such as controlling or eradicating invasive species, using fire in a prescribed manner, assuring adequate water resources, and assessing external threats like development or contamination. Wildlife refuges are home to more than 700 species of birds, 220 species of mammals, 250 reptile and amphibian species, and more than 200 species of fish.

The FY 2016 request will maintain the Service's support for work with partners on private, state, and other federal lands to conserve and restore habitat for fish and wildlife and plant species. For example, the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program has grown into a large and diversified habitat restoration program assisting thousands of private landowners across the Nation and the Coastal Program provides incentives for voluntary protection of threatened, endangered and other species on private and public lands alike. The North American Wetlands Conservation Act provides matching grants to organizations and individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetlands conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico for the benefit of wetlands-associated migratory birds and other wildlife.

The Service continues to lead the Department in the establishment and growth of a network of 22 Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) to provide the science and technical expertise needed to support conservation planning at landscape scales – beyond the reach or resources of any one organization. LCCs also promote collaboration among their members in defining shared conservation goals.

As the principal Federal partner responsible for administering the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Service takes the lead in recovering and conserving our Nation's imperiled species by fostering partnerships, employing scientific excellence, and developing a workforce of conservation leaders. The FY 2016 request will increase funding for the Service to work in partnership with others, on two major goals, 1) Protect endangered and threatened species, and then pursue their recovery; and 2) Conserve candidate species and species-at-risk so that listing under the ESA is not necessary. These goals are achieved through the following activities: candidate conservation; consultations; grants; habitat conservation plans; international activities; listing and critical habitat; recovery; and working with tribes.

There are almost 400 aquatic species—fishes, mussels, plants—in the United States that need attention. Many fish offer great sporting opportunities, or are species that feed people. The Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program works at the intersection of fisheries science and management, developing and using the latest techniques to conserve America's fisheries. Fisheries science is an integrative approach to understanding the biology, ecology, and economics of a fishery with the goal of sustainable management. The Service analyzes and approves new drugs and chemicals for aquatic species; monitors population levels and responses to environmental changes; maps habitat usage; identifies pathogens and diseases; breeds and grows fish; and evaluates population structure using genetics. The Service applies scientific data to focus conservation activities on high-priority species and habitats to protect and maintain stable populations and healthy habitats, and restore degraded habitats and depleted populations.

Funding in FY 2016 will also enable the Service to maintain efforts to oversee its legal mandate and trust responsibility to maintain healthy migratory bird populations for the benefit of the American public. More than 25 laws, treaties, and conventions authorize the Service to conserve more than 1,000 species of migratory birds and their habitats. Primary among these mandates is the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918, which establishes Federal responsibility for protecting and managing migratory birds. It also implements four international treaties affecting migratory birds common to the United States, Canada, Mexico, Japan and the former Soviet Union. Management activities include establishing hunting seasons, bag limits, and other regulations and issuing permits to possess or use migratory birds. Other

important laws that directly and significantly impact program activities include the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and the North American Wetlands Conservation and Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Acts, which promote habitat and bird conservation across North America and throughout the western hemisphere.

The 2016 request will enhance the ability of the Service's International Affairs Program to engage in domestic and international efforts to protect, restore, and enhance the world's diverse wildlife and their habitats with a focus on species of international concern. The Service has international responsibilities under numerous domestic laws, international treaties, and other multilateral agreements, such as the Multinational Species Conservation Acts, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Western Hemisphere Convention, the Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee, the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Lacey Act, the Wild Bird Conservation Act, and the Ramsar Wetlands Convention.

Implementation Strategy

The Service will continue its efforts in improving land and water health and sustaining fish, wildlife and plant species at similar levels in FY 2016 compared to FY 2014. (The response by species to changes in habitat (or other stressors on their health and sustainability) can take years before it can be measured and therefore, measures related to overall status of species tend to move slowly across the years. Also, note that, especially on projects conducted with partners on private lands, results can vary widely from year to year based on the makeup of projects and the partnerships in effect in that time span. The Annual Performance Plan and Report (APP&R) contains details on some of the variability of specific measures.)

More details on specific actions are included in other parts of this budget request and in the Department of the Interior's APP&R that accompanies the FY 2016 Budget request and are not repeated here in an effort to reduce redundancy.

Performance Metrics

The Service contributes to eight DOI Strategic Plan measures in Strategy #1: Improve land and water health and six DOI Strategic Plan measures in Strategy #2: Sustain fish, wildlife, and plant species.

The related performance measures (including data) are included in the APP&R that accompanies the FY 2016 Budget request and are not repeated here in an effort to reduce redundancy.

Goal #2: Protect America's Cultural and Heritage Resources

Strategy #1: Protect and maintain the Nation's most important historic areas and structures, archaeological sites, and museum collections.

Bureau Contribution

The Service met or exceeded two of the three FY 2014 targets for cultural and heritage resources performance metrics, contributing to the Department meeting most of the metrics for FY 2014 in this strategic objective.

The Refuges program is the Service's primary organization responsible for identifying, protecting, and sharing cultural resources. The three primary goals are to (1) evaluate, through a systematic, open-minded study by archeologists, historians, and other specialists to locate resources and to discover or substantiate their significance. (2) provide considerable thought to the problem of simultaneously protecting resources and making them available to the public, and (3) implement essential and appropriate treatment programs and protective measures. The FY 2016 request will maintain efforts to protect these resources at levels similar to FY 2014.

Established in 1896, D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives, formerly Spearfish National Fish Hatchery, is one of the oldest operating hatcheries in the country. Still rearing trout for the Black Hills through a cooperative effort with the State, the hatchery is also a museum and archive that serves to protect and preserve our nation's fishery records and artifacts for educational, research, and historic purposes. With over 155,000 visitors and 14,000 volunteer hours annually, the facility also strives to provide interpretive and educational programs for the public.

The National Conservation Training Center Museum and Archives houses films, photos, and documents chronicling the rich heritage of wildlife conservation. A changing museum and state of the art research archive help the public, researchers and professional conservationists better understand the rich history of American wildlife conservation.

Implementation Strategy

The Service will continue its cultural and heritage resource efforts at similar levels in FY 2016, compared to FY 2014. More details on specific actions are included in other parts of this budget request and in the Department of the Interior's APP&R that accompanies the FY 2016 Budget request and are not repeated here in an effort to reduce redundancy.

Performance Metrics

The Service contributes to three DOI Strategic Plan measures in this strategic objective.

The related performance measures (including data) are included in the Department of the Interior's APP&R that accompanies the FY 2016 Budget request and are not repeated here in an effort to reduce redundancy.

Goal #3: Provide Recreation and Visitor Experience

Strategy #1: Enhance the enjoyment and appreciation of our natural and cultural heritage by creating opportunities for play, enlightenment, and inspiration.

Bureau Contribution

The Service met its FY 2014 target for visitor satisfaction. A visitor survey, conducted at selected, representative National Wildlife Refuge locations showed increased visitor satisfaction over previous years in all facets of their experience. This updated result helped the Department also meet its overall goal for visitor satisfaction.

The 1997 National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act provides direction to the Refuges program to provide "…compatible wildlife-dependent recreational uses involving hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, environmental education and interpretation as priority public uses of the Refuge System." In addition, many of the Service's 72 fish hatcheries also provide opportunities for the public to visit and learn more about aquatic wildlife, fish, and fish hatcheries, as well as take advantage of recreational activities on hatchery grounds. The FY 2016 request will enable the Service to maintain opportunities for play, enlightenment, and inspiration at national wildlife refuges and national fish hatcheries at levels similar to FY 2014.

Implementation Strategy

The Service will continue its visitor service programs at similar levels in FY 2016, compared to FY 2014, and expects to maintain its current high level of visitor satisfaction (90%). More details on specific actions are included in other parts of this budget request and in the Department of the Interior's APP&R that accompanies the FY 2016 Budget request and are not repeated here in an effort to reduce redundancy.

Performance Metrics

The Service contributes to one DOI Strategic Plan measure in this strategic objective.

The related performance measure (including data) are included in the Department of the Interior's APP&R that accompanies the FY 2016 Budget request and are not repeated here in an effort to reduce redundancy.

Budget at a Glance

2016 Budget At A Glance

(Dollars in Thousands)

	2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	Fixed Costs	Internal Transfers	Program Changes	2016 President's Budget
Appropriation: RESOURCE MANAGEMENT						
ECOLOGICAL SERVICES (Proposed Structure)						
LISTING	**[20,515]**	**[20,515]**	**+223**	**+20,515**	**+2,264**	**23,002**
Listing					+2,264	
PLANNING AND CONSULTATION	**[96,336]**	**[98,336]**	**+766**	**+97,826**	**+10,351**	**108,943**
Environmental Contaminants					+1,200	
Gulf Coast Restoration					+4,000	
Renewable Energy					+1,200	
Planning and Consultation Activities					+3,951	
CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION	**[105,079]**	**[107,062]**	**+782**	**+107,215**	**+18,301**	**126,298**
Cooperative Recovery					+2,527	
Ecosystem Restoration - Bay Delta					+1,100	
Environmental Contaminants					+2,000	
Marine Mammals					+533	
National Wetlands Inventory					+1,400	
Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem					+4,000	
Wolf Livestock Demonstration Program					-1,000	
Conservation and Restoration Activities					+7,741	
ECOLOGICAL SERVICES TOTAL	**[221,930]**	**[225,913]**	**+1,771**	**+225,556**	**+30,916**	**258,243**
HABITAT CONSERVATION (proposed structure)						
PARTNERS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE	**[51,776]**	**[51,776]**	**+327**	**+51,776**	**+290**	**52,393**
COASTAL PROGRAMS	**[13,184]**	**[13,184]**	**+109**	**+13,184**	**+82**	**13,375**
HABITAT CONSERVATION TOTAL	**[64,960]**	**[64,960]**	**+436**	**+64,960**	**+372**	**65,768**
ECOLOGICAL SERVICES (old structure)						
ENDANGERED SPECIES						
Candidate Conservation	**11,530**	**12,030**	**0**	**-12,030**	**0**	**0**
Listing	**20,515**	**20,515**	**0**	**-20,515**	**0**	**0**
Consultation/HCP	**61,550**	**62,550**	**0**	**-62,550**	**0**	**0**
Recovery	**76,916**	**77,916**	**0**	**-77,916**	**0**	**0**
Endangered Species Subactivity Total	**170,511**	**173,011**	**0**	**-173,011**	**0**	**0**
HABITAT CONSERVATION						
Partners for Fish and Wildlife	**51,776**	**51,776**	**0**	**-51,776**	**0**	**0**
Conservation Planning Assistance	**32,014**	**33,014**	**0**	**-33,014**	**0**	**0**
Coastal Programs	**13,184**	**13,184**	**0**	**-13,184**	**0**	**0**
National Wetlands Inventory	**4,361**	**4,861**	**0**	**-4,861**	**0**	**0**
Habitat Conservation Subactivity Total	**101,335**	**102,835**	**0**	**-102,835**	**0**	**0**
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINANTS	**9,557**	**9,557**	**0**	**-9,557**	**0**	**0**
ECOLOGICAL SERVICES TOTAL (old structure)	**281,403**	**285,403**	**0**	**-285,403**	**0**	**0**

2016 Budget At A Glance

(Dollars in Thousands)

	2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	Fixed Costs	Internal Transfers	Program Changes	2016 President's Budget
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM						
WILDLIFE AND HABITAT MANAGEMENT						
Refuge Wildlife & Habitat Management	**229,843**	**230,343**	**+2,334**	**0**	**+17,155**	**249,832**
Challenge Cost Sharing Partnerships					+10,000	
Cooperative Recovery					+2,000	
Inventory and Monitoring					+3,715	
Wildlife and Habitat Management					+1,440	
Refuge Visitor Services	**70,319**	**70,319**	**+924**	**0**	**+5,549**	**76,792**
Urban Wildlife Conservation Program					+5,000	
Visitor Services					+549	
Refuge Law Enforcement	**37,554**	**38,054**	**+496**	**0**	**+409**	**38,959**
Refuge Conservation Planning	**2,988**	**2,988**	**+57**	**-465**	**+85**	**2,665**
Refuge Maintenance	**131,498**	**132,498**	**+690**	**0**	**+6,722**	**139,910**
Deferred Maintenance					+4,000	
Equipment and Vehicle Management					+2,722	
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM TOTAL	**472,202**	**474,202**	**+4,501**	**-465**	**+29,920**	**508,158**
CONSERVATION AND ENFORCEMENT						
MIGRATORY BIRD MANAGEMENT						
Conservation and Monitoring	**29,427**	**29,427**	**+237**	**0**	**+1,392**	**31,056**
Aviation Management					+1,000	
Cooperative Recovery					+300	
Conservation and Monitoring					+92	
Permits	**3,346**	**3,346**	**+51**	**0**	**0**	**3,397**
Duck Stamp Office	**556**	**556**	**+2**	**0**	**0**	**558**
North American Waterfowl Management Plan	**13,139**	**13,139**	**+90**	**0**	**+5,362**	**18,591**
Increase Species Resilience Projects					+5,000	
North American Waterfowl Management Plan					+362	
Migratory Bird Management Total	**46,468**	**46,468**	**+380**	**0**	**+6,754**	**53,602**
LAW ENFORCEMENT						
Law Enforcement Operations	**63,365**	**65,827**	**+698**	**-12**	**+8,000**	**74,513**
Wildlife Trafficking					+4,000	
Law Enforcement Operations					+4,000	
Equipment Replacement	**910**	**910**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**910**
Law Enforcement Total	**64,275**	**66,737**	**+698**	**-12**	**+8,000**	**75,423**
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS						
International Conservation	**6,683**	**7,183**	**+28**	**0**	**0**	**7,211**
International Wildlife Trade	**6,823**	**7,323**	**+69**	**0**	**+93**	**7,485**
Wildlife Trafficking					+93	
International Affairs Total	**13,506**	**14,506**	**+97**	**0**	**+93**	**14,696**
SCIENCE SUPPORT (moved to new activity FY16)						
Adaptive Science	**10,767**	**10,517**	**0**	**-10,517**	**0**	**0**
Service Science	**6,468**	**6,468**	**0**	**-6,468**	**0**	**0**
Science Support Total	**17,235**	**16,985**	**0**	**-16,985**	**0**	**0**
CONSERVATION AND ENFORCEMENT TOTAL	**141,484**	**144,696**	**+1,175**	**-16,997**	**+14,847**	**143,721**

2016 Budget At A Glance

(Dollars in Thousands)

	2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	Fixed Costs	Internal Transfers	Program Changes	2016 President's Budget
FISH AND AQUATIC CONSERVATION						
National Fish Hatchery Operations	**46,528**	**52,860**	**+558**	**0**	**0**	**53,418**
Maintenance and Equipment	**16,055**	**17,920**	**0**	**0**	**+2,000**	**19,920**
Deferred Maintenance					+2,000	
Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation						
Habitat Assessment and Restoration	**26,158**	**28,321**	**+192**	**-180**	**-258**	**28,075**
Fish Passage Improvements					+1,000	
Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement					-1,390	
Habitat Assessment and Restoration Activities					+132	
Population Assessment and Cooperative Mgmt.	**30,890**	**30,821**	**+7**	**0**	**0**	**30,828**
Aquatic Invasive Species	**10,201**	**12,056**	**+82**	**0**	**+3,111**	**15,249**
Asian Carp					+2,400	
Prevention					+669	
State Plans/NISA Implementation/Coordination					+42	
Marine Mammals (proposed to move to Ecol. Serv.)	**5,487**	**5,470**	**0**	**-5,470**	**0**	**0**
Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation Subtotal	**72,736**	**76,668**	**+281**	**-5,650**	**+2,853**	**74,152**
FISH AND AQUATIC CONSERVATION TOTAL	**135,319**	**147,448**	**+839**	**-5,650**	**+4,853**	**147,490**
COOPERATIVE LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION	**14,416**	**13,988**	**+163**	**0**	**+3,718**	**17,869**
SCIENCE SUPPORT (new activity FY16)						
Adaptive Science	**[10,767]**	**[10,517]**	**+10**	**+10,517**	**+4,632**	**15,159**
Biological Carbon Sequestration					+500	
Adaptive Science Activities					+4,132	
Service Science	**[6,468]**	**[6,468]**	**+31**	**+6,433**	**+10,052**	**16,516**
Biological Carbon Sequestration					+500	
Ecosystem Services Valuation					+1,000	
Energy Transmission Corridors					+1,400	
Service Science Activities					+7,152	
SCIENCE SUPPORT TOTAL	**[17,235]**	**[16,985]**	**+41**	**+16,950**	**+14,684**	**31,675**
GENERAL OPERATIONS						
Central Office Operations	**40,186**	**39,985**	**+394**	**+584**	**+1,294**	**42,257**
Regional Office Operations	**37,912**	**37,722**	**+500**	**0**	**+3,576**	**41,798**
Servicewide Bill Paying	**36,430**	**35,227**	**-1,069**	**0**	**+1,740**	**35,898**
Working Capital Fund - Indian Water Rights					+101	
Working Capital Fund - Technical Correction					+1,639	
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation	**7,022**	**7,022**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**7,022**
National Conservation Training Center	**21,965**	**21,965**	**+266**	**0**	**+3,599**	**25,830**
Youth Programs and Partnerships					+2,500	
NCTC Operations					+150	
Annual Maintenance					+949	
GENERAL OPERATIONS TOTAL	**143,515**	**141,921**	**+91**	**+584**	**+10,209**	**152,805**
Undistributed - Health Benefits for Seasonal Employees					**+1,103**	**1,103**
TOTAL - RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	**1,188,339**	**1,207,658**	**+9,017**	**-465**	**+110,622**	**1,326,832**

2016 Budget At A Glance

(Dollars in Thousands)

	2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	Fixed Costs	Internal Transfers	Program Changes	2016 President's Budget
Appropriation: CONSTRUCTION						
Nationwide Engineering Services	7,209	7,161	+125	0	0	7,286
Dam, Bridge and Seismic Safety	1,852	1,972	0	0	0	1,972
Line Item Construction	6,661	6,554	0	0	+5,000	11,554
TOTAL - CONSTRUCTION	**15,722**	**15,687**	**+125**	**0**	**+5,000**	**20,812**
Appropriation: LAND ACQUISITION						
Land Acquisition Management	10,500	12,613	+160	0	0	12,773
Land Protection Planning	0	0	0	+465	0	465
Exchanges	1,500	1,500	0	0	0	1,500
Inholdings, Emergencies and Hardships	7,351	5,351	0	0	0	5,351
Highlands Conservation Act	0	3,000	0	0	-3,000	0
Sportsmen and Recreational Access	0	0	0	0	+2,500	2,500
Land Acquisition	35,071	25,071	0	0	+10,840	35,911
TOTAL - LAND ACQUISITION	**54,422**	**47,535**	**+160**	**+465**	**+10,340**	**58,500**
Appropriation: NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FUND	**13,228**	**13,228**	**0**	**0**	**-13,228**	**0**
Appropriation: COOPERATIVE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND	**50,095**	**50,095**	**0**	**0**	**-95**	**50,000**
Appropriation: NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION FUND	**34,145**	**34,145**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**34,145**
Appropriation: MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND	**9,061**	**9,061**	**0**	**0**	**+2,000**	**11,061**
Appropriation: NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION FUND	**3,660**	**3,660**	**0**	**0**	**+500**	**4,160**
Appropriation: STATE & TRIBAL WILDLIFE GRANTS	**58,695**	**58,695**	**0**	**0**	**+11,305**	**70,000**
TOTAL, FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (Disc.)	**1,427,367**	**1,439,764**	**+9,302**	**0**	**+126,444**	**1,575,510**

FY 2016 Summary of Fixed Cost Changes by Appropriation

(Dollars in Thousands)

Fixed Cost Component	Resource Management	Construction	Land Acq.	**TOTAL**
One More Paid Day	2,948	29	38	**3,015**
Pay Raise	9,346	93	118	**9,557**
Federal Employees Retirement System	343	3	4	**350**
Departmental Working Capital Fund	-1,047			**-1,047**
Workers' Compensation Payments	-19			**-19**
Unemployment Compensation Payments	28			**28**
GSA and non-GSA Space Rental Payments	-2,582			**-2,582**
TOTAL, Fixed Costs	**9,017**	**125**	**160**	**9,302**
The 2016 President's Budget includes the following programmatic increases related to fixed costs:				
Working Capital Fund - Indian Water Rights	101			**101**
Working Capital Fund -Technical Correction	1,639			**1,639**
Health Benefits for Seasonal Employees	1,103			**1,103**
TOTAL, Related Program Changes	**2,843**	**0**	**0**	**2,843**
TOTAL	**11,860**	**125**	**160**	**12,145**

Resource Management

Resource Management

Appropriations Language

For necessary expenses of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, as authorized by law, and for scientific and economic studies, general administration, and for the performance of other authorized functions related to such resources, [$1,207,658,000]*$1,326,832,000* to remain available until September 30, [2016]*2017* except as otherwise provided herein: *Provided*, That not to exceed [$20,515,000]*$23,002,000* shall be used for implementing subsections (a), (b), (c), and (e) of section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533) (except for processing petitions, developing and issuing proposed and final regulations, and taking any other steps to implement actions described in subsection (c)(2)(A), (c)(2)(B)(i), or (c)(2)(B)(ii)), of which not to exceed $4,605,000 shall be used for any activity regarding the designation of critical habitat, pursuant to subsection (a)(3), excluding litigation support, for species listed pursuant to subsection (a)(1) prior to October 1, 2012; of which not to exceed $1,501,000 shall be used for any activity regarding petitions to list species that are indigenous to the United States pursuant to subsections (b)(3)(A) and (b)(3)(B); and, of which not to exceed $1,504,000 shall be used for implementing subsections (a), (b), (c), and (e) of section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533) for species that are not indigenous to the United States.
(Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015.)

Authorizing Statutes

African Elephant Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 4201-4245, 1538). Authorizes funding for approved projects for research, conservation, management or protection of African elephants. Authorizes prohibitions against the sale, importation, and exportation of ivory derived from African elephants. Authorization of Appropriations: Expired.

Agricultural Credit Act of 1987, (P. L. 100-233). Section 616 authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to transfer lands, interest therein, to Federal or State agencies for conservation purposes. The Fish and Wildlife Service assesses inventory lands to determine when such lands would be of benefit to the National Wildlife Refuge System and makes transfer recommendations.

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

Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980, (16 U.S.C. 410hh-3233, 43 U.S.C 1602-1784). Provides for the designation and conservation of certain public lands in Alaska, including units of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and for the continuing subsistence needs of the Alaska Natives. Sec. 42(g) of this Act makes use of such Native lands subject to refuge regulations.

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

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

Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978, (16 U.S.C. 2401). Provides for the conservation and protection of the fauna and flora of Antarctica, and their ecosystems.

Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 470aa-47011)**.** Provides for protection of archaeological resources and sites on public and tribal lands and for increased cooperation between government authorities, the professional archaeological community, and private collectors with collections obtained before October 31, 1979.

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

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

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

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

Chehalis River Basin Fishery Resources Study and Restoration Act of 1990, (P. L. 101-452). Authorizes a joint Federal, State, and tribal study for the restoration of the fishery resources of the Chehalis River Basin, Washington.

Coastal Barrier Resources Act of 1982, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990, (16 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.) Requires the Secretary (delegated to the Service) to maintain the maps of the Coastal Barrier Resources System, to review the system at least every 5 years for changes which have occurred as a result of natural forces, and to make minor and technical changes to the maps of the System reflecting those natural changes. It also requires the Secretary to submit a study to Congress on the need to include the west coast in the system, and to lead an interagency task force to provide recommendations to Congress for legislative action and Federal policies on developed and undeveloped coastal barriers. Authorization of Appropriations: Expired.

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act of 1990, (16 U.S.C. 3951-3156). Provides a Federal grant program for the acquisition, restoration, management, and enhancement of coastal wetlands of states adjacent to the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, the Great Lakes, and the Pacific, including Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Pacific U.S. insular areas. Provides that the Service update and digitize wetlands maps in Texas and conduct an assessment of the status, condition, and trends of wetlands in that State. Provides permanent authorization to appropriate

receipts, coastal wetlands conservation grants and North American Wetlands Conservation projects. Authorization of Appropriations: Expired.

Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, (16 U.S.C. 1451-1464). Establishes a voluntary national program within the Department of Commerce to encourage coastal States to develop and implement coastal zone management plans. Activities that affect coastal zones must be consistent with approved State programs. The Act also establishes a National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS). Expired.

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

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

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

Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, (16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.). Promotes wise management and sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems and develop sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems and threats to them. Provides financial resources to local communities and nongovernmental organizations to assist in the preservation of coral reefs. It establishes a formal mechanism for collecting and allocating monetary donations from the private sector to be used for coral reef conservation projects. Expired.

Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 3901). Provides for the collection of entrance fees, thirty percent of which may be used for refuge operations and maintenance, and for the Secretary to establish and periodically review a national wetlands priority conservation plan for Federal and State wetlands acquisition, complete National Wetlands Inventory maps for the contiguous United States by September 30, l998, to update the report on wetlands status and trends by September 30, 1990, and at 10-year intervals thereafter.

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544). Prohibits the import, export, or taking of fish and wildlife and plants that are listed as threatened or endangered species; provides for adding species to and removing them from the list of threatened and endangered species, and for preparing and implementing plans for their recovery; provides for interagency cooperation to avoid take of listed species and for issuing permits for otherwise prohibited activities; provides for cooperation with States, including authorization of financial assistance; and implements the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).

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

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

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

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

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

Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 742(a)-754). Establishes a comprehensive national fish and wildlife policy and authorizes the Secretary to take steps required for the development, management, advancement, conservation, and protection of fisheries resources and wildlife resources through research, acquisition of refuge lands, development of existing facilities, and other means.

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

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

Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act of 2000, (16 U.S.C. 777 note; Public Law 106-502**).** Congress reauthorized the Fisheries and Irrigation Mitigation Act (FRIMA) as part of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, P.L. 111-11. FRIMA was established in 2000 and has been an important tool for addressing fish screening and fish passage needs in the Pacific Northwest States. Authorization of Appropriations: Expires September 30, 2015.

Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976, (Magnuson-Stevens Act), (16 U.S.C. 1801-1882, 90 Stat. 331). Authorizes the conservation and management of the fishery resources found within the Exclusive Economic Zone of the United States, including anadromous species, through eight Regional Fishery Management Councils. Establishes the Service as a nonvoting member of the Councils.

Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 801-3945). Provides that the Secretary of Agriculture consult with the Secretary of the Interior on the identification of wetlands, determinations of exemptions, and issuance of regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act. Requires the Service to concur in wetland mitigation plans in association with minimal effect exemptions and to concur in conservation plans for lands proposed for inclusion in the Wetlands Reserve program. Establishes a program to protect and restore wetlands on Farmers Home Administration inventory property and provides for the Service to identify such wetlands.

Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000, (16 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.). Authorizes grants to foreign governments, the CITES secretariat, and non-governmental organizations for the conservation of great apes. The funds are to be a sub-account of the Multinational Species Conservation Fund. Authorization of Appropriations: Expired.

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

Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 2006, (P.L. 109-326). On October 12, 2006, President Bush signed the bill into law. The measure was first enacted in 1990 and reauthorized in 1998. The 2006 reauthorization places new emphasis on terrestrial wildlife projects, whereas the previous Acts were primarily devoted to fisheries. The bill also reauthorizes the existing State and tribal grant program and provides new authority for the Service to undertake regional restoration projects. In addition, it directs the Service to create and maintain a website to document actions taken as a result of the Act. Under authority of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 2006, the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act Grant Program provides Federal grants on a competitive basis to States, Tribes and other interested entities to encourage cooperative conservation, restoration and management of fish and wildlife resources and their habitat in Great Lakes basin. Authorization of Appropriations: Expired.

Great Lakes Fishery Act of 1956, (16 U.S.C. 931-939). Implements the Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries between the United States and Canada, and authorizes the Secretary and the Service to undertake lamprey control and other measures related to the Convention.

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

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

Lacey Act Amendments of 1981, (18 U.S.C. 42; 16 U.S.C. 3371-3378). Provides that the Secretary designate injurious wildlife and ensure the humane treatment of wildlife shipped to the United States. Prohibits importation, exportation, transportation, sale, or purchase of fish and wildlife taken or possessed in violation of State, Federal, Indian tribal, and foreign laws. Provides for enforcement of Federal wildlife laws, and Federal assistance to the States and foreign governments in the enforcement of non-federal wildlife laws.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 703-712). Implements four international treaties that affect migratory birds common to the United States, Canada, Mexico, Japan, and the former Soviet Union. Establishes Federal responsibility for protection and management of migratory and non-game birds, including the establishment of season length, bag limits, and other hunting regulations, and the issuance of permits to band, possess or otherwise make use of migratory birds. Except as allowed by implementing regulations, this Act makes it unlawful to pursue, hunt, kill, capture, possess, buy, sell, purchase, or barter any migratory bird, including the feathers or other parts, nests, eggs, or migratory bird products.

National Aquaculture Development Act, (16 U.S.C. 2801-2810). Established a coordinating group, the Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture (JSA). The JSA has been responsible for developing the National Aquaculture Development Pan. The plan establishes a strategy for the development of an aquaculture industry in the United States. Expired.

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.)**.** Provides that the Service examine the environmental impacts, incorporate environmental information, and use public participation in the planning and implementation of all actions; integrate NEPA with other planning requirements; prepare NEPA documents to facilitate better environmental decision making; and review Federal agency environmental plans and documents when the Service has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impacts involved. Permanent authority.

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

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 470-470b, 470c-470n)**.** Directs Federal agencies to preserve, restore, and maintain historic cultural environments.

National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.)**.** Provides authority, guidelines and directives for the Service to improve the National Wildlife Refuge System; administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and restoration of fish, wildlife and plant resources and habitat; ensure the biological integrity, diversity, and environmental health of refuges is maintained; define compatible wildlife-dependent recreation as appropriate general public use of refuges; establish hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education as priority uses; establish a formal process for determining compatible uses of refuges; and provide for public involvement in developing comprehensive conservation plans for refuges.

The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, (P.L. 105-57)**.** Spells out wildlife conservation as the fundamental mission of the refuge system; requires comprehensive conservation planning to guide management of the refuge system; directs the involvement of private citizens in land management decisions; and provides that compatible wildlife-dependent recreation is a legitimate and appropriate use that should receive priority in refuge planning and management.

National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Improvement Act of 2010, (P.L. 111-357)**.** Authorizes cooperative agreements with nonprofit partner organizations, academic institutions, or State and local governments to construct, operate, maintain, or improve refuge facilities and services, and to promote volunteer, outreach, and education programs. Expired

The National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Act of 2000, (P.L. 106-408)**.** Reinforces *National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act* provisions to raise public understanding and appreciation for the refuge system; calls on the Secretary of the Interior to establish a Centennial Commission to oversee special public outreach activities leading up to and during the Centennial year, leverage resources with public and private partners for outreach efforts, and plan and host a major conference in 2003; calls on the Service to develop a long-term plan to address the highest priority operations, maintenance, and construction needs of the National Wildlife Refuge System; and requires an annual report assessing the operations and maintenance backlogs and transition costs associated with newly acquired refuges lands.

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 2000, (16 U.S.C. 6101 et. seq.). Authorizes grants for the conservation of neotropical migratory birds in the United States and Latin America and the Caribbean, with 75 percent of the amounts made available to be expended on projects outside the United States. The funds are to be a sub-account of the Multinational Species Conservation Fund. Title III of P.L. 109-363, reauthorized appropriations for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act. Expired.

New England Fishery Resources Restoration Act of 1990, (P.L. 101-593). Authorizes the Service to formulate, establish, and implement cooperative programs to restore and maintain nationally significant interjurisdictional fishery resources in New England river systems.

Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Species Prevention and Control Act of 1990, as amended by the National Invasive species Act of 1996, (NISA, 16 U.S.C. 4701 et seq.), authorizes the Service to develop

and implement a program to prevent and control infestations of zebra mussels and other nonindigenous aquatic invasive species in waters of the United States. Expired.

North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989, (16 U.S.C. 4401). Authorizes grants to public-private partnerships in Canada, Mexico and the U.S. to protect, enhance, restore, and manage waterfowl, other migratory birds and other fish and wildlife, and the wetland ecosystems and other habitats upon which they depend, consistent with the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. There is a Standard and a Small Grants Program. Both are competitive grants programs which require that grant requests be matched by partner contributions at no less than a 1-to-1 ratio. Funds from U.S. Federal sources may contribute towards a project, but are not eligible as match. Public Law 109-322 reauthorized the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. Authorization of Appropriations: Expired.

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

Oil Pollution Act of 1990, (P.L. 101-380)**.** Provides that the Service consult with others on the development of a fish and wildlife response plan for the protection, rescue, and rehabilitation of, and the minimization of risk of damage to fish and wildlife resources and their habitat harmed or jeopardized by an oil discharge.

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

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

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

Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013, (P.L. 113-239). Authorizes the Service to permanently allow any state to provide hunting and conservation stamps for migratory birds (referred to as federal duck stamps) electronically. The electronic stamps would remain valid for 45 days to allow for the physical stamps to arrive in the mail.

Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978, (16 U.S.C. 2602-2645) and **Energy Security Act of 1980**, (16 U.S.C. 792-828(c)). Authorizes the Service to investigate and report on effects of hydropower development on fish and wildlife during the licensing process of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

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

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

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

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

Salmon and Steelhead and Conservation and Enhancement Act of 1980, (16 U.S.C. 3301, 11-15, 21-25, 31-36, 41-45). Provides for management and enhancement planning to help prevent a further decline of salmon and steelhead stocks, and to assist in increasing the supply of these stocks within the Columbia River conservation area and the Washington conservation area.

Sikes Act, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 670a-670o). Authorizes the Secretary to cooperate with the Department of Defense, Department of Energy, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Bureau of Land Management, and State agencies in planning, developing, maintaining and rehabilitating Federal lands for the benefit of fish and wildlife resources and their habitat. Authorization of Appropriations: September 30, 2019.

Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, (30 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.). Authorizes the Secretary to regulate surface mining and reclamation at existing and future mining areas. The Service provides technical assistance for fish and wildlife aspects of the Department of the Interior's programs on active and abandoned mine lands.

Water Resources Development Act of 1976, (90 Stat. 2921). Authorizes the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan to mitigate fish and wildlife losses caused by power generation at four Corps of Engineers dams on the Lower Snake River in Washington.

Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992, (16 U.S.C. 4901-4916). Requires that all trade in wild bird involving the United States is biologically sustainable and to the benefit of the species, and by limiting or prohibiting imports of exotic birds when not beneficial to the species. Authorization of Appropriations: Expired.

Youth Conservation Corps Act of 1972, (16 USC 1701-1706) as amended by P.L. 93-408, September 3, 1974, to expand and make permanent the Youth Conservation Corps, and for other purposes. The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program, started in 1971, is a summer employment program for young men and women (ages 15–18) from all segments of society who work, learn, and earn together by doing projects for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wildlife Refuge System lands and National Fish Hatcheries. The objectives of this program (as reflected in Public Law 93-408) authorize the Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service to operate the YCC Program.

Executive Orders

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

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

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

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

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

Combating Wildlife Trafficking (Executive Order 13648). Directs agencies to combat the illegal poaching and wildlife trade of protected species, both domestically and internationally. Wildlife trafficking not only endangers the survival of wildlife species, but also contributes to global instability and undermines security. The Secretary of the Interior will co-chair a Presidential Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking with the Secretary of State and Attorney General, or their designees.

Improving Performance of Federal Permitting and Review of Infrastructure Projects (Executive Order 13604). Directs agencies to make the Federal permitting and review process of infrastructure projects efficient and effective to support economic growth while ensuring the health, safety, and security of the environment and communities. Agencies are to provide transparency, consistency, and predictability in the process for both project sponsors and affected communities.

Major Treaties and Conventions

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

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

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

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

Summary of Requirements
Appropriation: Resource Management
(Dollars in Thousands)

	2014 Actual	2015 Enacted		Fixed Costs	Internal Transfers		Program Changes (+/-)		2016 Budget Request		Change from 2015 (+/-)	
	Amount	FTE	Amount	(+/-)	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Ecological Services (proposed structure FY16)												
Listing	[20,515]	*[121]*	[20,515]	+223	*+121*	+20,515	*+10*	+2,264	*131*	23,002	*+131*	+23,002
Planning and Consultation	[96,336]	*[672]*	[98,336]	+766	*+672*	+97,826	*+60*	+10,351	*732*	108,943	*+732*	+108,943
Conservation and Restoration	[105,079]	*[593]*	[107,062]	+782	*+593*	+107,215	*+68*	+18,301	*661*	126,298	*+661*	+126,298
Subtotal, Ecological Services (new FY16)	[221,930]	*[1,386]*	[225,913]	+1,771	***+1,386***	**+225,556**	***+138***	**+30,916**	***1,524***	**258,243**	***+1,524***	**+258,243**
Habitat Conservation (proposed structure in FY16)												
Partners for Fish and Wildlife	[51,776]	*[258]*	[51,776]	+327	*+258*	+51,776	*0*	+290	*258*	52,393	*+258*	+52,393
Coastal Programs	[13,184]	*[64]*	[13,184]	+109	*+64*	+13,184	*0*	+82	*64*	13,375	*+64*	+13,375
Subtotal, Habitat Conservation (new activity in FY16)	[64,960]	*[322]*	[64,960]	**+436**	***+322***	**+64,960**	*0*	+372	***322***	**65,768**	***+322***	**+65,768**
Endangered Species (old structure - prior to FY16)												
Endangered Species												
Candidate Conservation	11,530	*75*	12,030	0	*-75*	-12,030	*0*	0	*0*	0	*-75*	-12,030
Listing	20,515	*121*	20,515	0	*-121*	-20,515	*0*	0	*0*	0	*-121*	-20,515
Consultation/HCP	61,550	*437*	62,550	0	*-437*	-62,550	*0*	0	*0*	0	*-437*	-62,550
Recovery	76,916	*422*	77,916	0	*-422*	-77,916	*0*	0	*0*	0	*-422*	-77,916
Subtotal, Endangered Species (old structure)	170,511	*1,055*	173,011	0	*-1,055*	-173,011	*0*	0	*0*	0	*-1,055*	-173,011
Habitat Conservation												
Partners for Fish and Wildlife	51,776	*258*	51,776	0	*-258*	-51,776	*0*	0	*0*	0	*-258*	-51,776
Conservation Planning Assistance	32,014	*216*	33,014	0	*-216*	-33,014	*0*	0	*0*	0	*-216*	-33,014
Coastal Programs	13,184	*64*	13,184	0	*-64*	-13,184	*0*	0	*0*	0	*-64*	-13,184
National Wetlands Inventory	4,361	*21*	4,861	0	*-21*	-4,861	*0*	0	*0*	0	*-21*	-4,861
Subtotal, Habitat Conservation (old structure)	101,335	*559*	102,835	0	*-559*	-102,835	*0*	0	*0*	0	*-559*	-102,835
Environmental Contaminants	9,557	*67*	9,557	0	*-67*	-9,557	*0*	0	*0*	0	*-67*	-9,557
Subtotal, Ecological Services (old structure)	**281,403**	***1,681***	**285,403**	***0***	***-1,681***	***-285,403***	***0***	**0**	***0***	**0**	***-1,681***	***-285,403***
National Wildlife Refuge System												
Wildlife and Habitat Management	229,843	*1,384*	230,343	+2,334	*0*	0	*+18*	+17,155	*1,402*	249,832	*+18*	+19,489
Visitor Services	70,319	*549*	70,319	+924	*0*	0	*0*	+5,549	*549*	76,792	*0*	+6,473
Law Enforcement	37,554	*243*	38,054	+496	*0*	0	*+2*	+409	*245*	38,959	*+2*	+905
Conservation Planning	2,988	*29*	2,988	+57	*0*	-465	*0*	+85	*29*	2,665	*0*	-323
Maintenance	131,498	*565*	132,498	+690	*0*	0	*0*	+6,722	*565*	139,910	*0*	+7,412
Subtotal, National Wildlife Refuge System	**472,202**	***2,770***	**474,202**	***4,501***	***0***	***-465***	***20***	**29,920**	***2,790***	**508,158**	***+20***	***33,956***

Summary of Requirements
Appropriation: Resource Management
(Dollars in Thousands)

	2014 Actual	2015 Enacted		Fixed Costs	Internal Transfers		Program Changes (+/-)		2016 Budget Request		Change from 2015 (+/-)	
	Amount	FTE	Amount	(+/-)	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Conservation and Enforcement												
Migratory Bird Management	46,468	231	46,468	+380	0	0	+3	+6,754	234	53,602	+3	+7,134
Law Enforcement	64,275	277	66,737	+698	0	-12	+45	+8,000	322	75,423	+45	+8,686
International Affairs	13,506	81	14,506	+97	0	0	0	+93	81	14,696	0	+190
Science Support	17,235	21	16,985	0	-21	-16,985	0	0	0	0	-21	-16,985
Subtotal, Conservation and Enforcement	**141,484**	**610**	**144,696**	**+1,175**	**-21**	**-16,997**	+48	**+14,847**	**637**	**143,721**	**+27**	**-975**
Fish and Aquatic Conservation												
National Fish Hatchery Operations	46,528	320	52,860	+558	0	0	0	0	320	53,418	0	+558
Maintenance and Equipment	16,055	72	17,920	0	0	0	0	+2,000	72	19,920	0	+2,000
Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation / 1	72,736	351	76,668	+281	-27	-5,650	+13	+2,853	337	74,152	-14	-2,516
Subtotal, Fish and Aquatic Conservation	**135,319**	**743**	**147,448**	**+839**	**-27**	**-5,650**	**+13**	**+4,853**	**729**	**147,490**	**-14**	**+42**
Cooperative Landscape Conservation	**14,416**	**74**	**13,988**	**+163**	**0**	**0**	**+3**	**+3,718**	**77**	**17,869**	**+3**	**+3,881**
Science Support (New activity FY16)												
Adaptive Science	[10,767]	0	[10,517]	+10	+5	+10,517	+5	+4,632	10	15,159	+10	+15,159
Service Science	[6,468]	0	[6,468]	+31	+16	+6,433	0	+10,052	16	16,516	+16	+16,516
Subtotal, Science Support	**[17,235]**	**0**	**[16,985]**	**+41**	**+21**	**+16,950**	**5**	**+14,684**	**26**	**31,675**	**+26**	**+31,675**
General Operations												
Central Office Operations	40,186	268	39,985	+394	0	+584	0	+1,294	268	42,257	0	+2,272
Regional Office Operations	37,912	381	37,722	+500	0	0	0	+3,576	381	41,798	0	+4,076
Servicewide Bill Paying	36,430	14	35,227	-1,069	0	0	0	+1,740	14	35,898	0	+671
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	7,022	0	7,022	0	0	0	0	0	0	7,022	0	0
National Conservation Training Center	21,965	127	21,965	+266	0	0	0	+3,599	127	25,830	0	+3,865
Subtotal, General Operations	**143,515**	**790**	**141,921**	**+91**	**0**	**+584**	**0**	**+10,209**	**790**	**152,805**	**0**	**+10,884**
Undistributed - Health Benefits for Seasonal Employees 2/							**0**	**+1,103**	**0**	**1,103**	**0**	**+1,103**
Total, Resource Management	**1,188,339**	**6,668**	**1,207,658**	**+9,017**	0	**-465**	**+227**	**+110,622**	**6,895**	**1,326,832**	**+227**	**+119,174**

1/ In FY16, the Service proposes to move Marine Mammals from Fish and Aquatic Conservation to Ecological Services.
2/ Funding is requested for the employer share of new health benefits for seasonal employees. The funding will be distributed according to FY15 usage.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Resource Management
Justification of Fixed Costs and Internal Realignments
(Dollars In Thousands)

Fixed Cost Changes and Projections	2015 Total or Change	2015 to 2016 Change
Change in Number of Paid Days	+0	+2,948
This column reflects changes in pay associated with the change in the number of paid days between the 2015 and 2016.		
Pay Raise	+7,539	+9,346
The change reflects the salary and health benefit impacts of programmed pay raise increases.		
Seasonal Federal Health Benefit Increase	+0	+14
The change reflects changes in the fixed cost portion of the Seasonal Health Benefits Model.		
Employer Contribution to FERS	+0	+343
The change reflects the directed increase of 0.5% in employer's contribution to the Federal Employee Retirement System.		
Departmental Working Capital Fund	-701	-1,024
The change reflects expected changes in the charges for centrally billed Department services and other services through the Working Capital Fund. These charges are detailed in the Budget Justification for Department Management.		
Departmental Working Capital Fund ITT	-252	-23
The change reflects expected changes in the charges for centrally billed Department services through the Working Capital Fund.		
Worker's Compensation Payments	-580	-19
The adjustment is for changes in the costs of compensating injured employees and dependents of employees who suffer accidental deaths while on duty. Costs for 2016 will reimburse the Department of Labor, Federal Employees Compensation Fund, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 8147(b) as amended by Public Law 94-273.		
Unemployment Compensation Payments	-156	+28
The adjustment is for projected changes in the costs of unemployment compensation claims to be paid to the Department of Labor, Federal Employees Compensation Account, in the Unemployment Trust Fund, pursuant to Public Law 96-499.		
Rental Payments	+550	-2,582
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.		

Internal Realignments and Non-Policy/Program Changes (Net-Zero)	2016 (+/-)
Ecological Services, Habitat Conservation, Fish and Aquatic Conservation	
As a result of the Fish and Aquatic Conservation operations study, responsibility for the Habitat Conservation subactivity has been split between Endangered Species and Refuges. In addition, Marine Mammals responsibility was moved from Fish and Aquatic Resources to the Endangered Species program. The Service would like to realign the budget structure to reflect this change with moving two program components to a new Habitat Conservation activity and restructuring the remaining Ecological Services components and Marine Mammals to just three subactivities. The Service feels that this would provide Regions and Field Offices with more flexibility to address Service priorities such as energy, on-the-ground recovery, proactive candidate conservation, landscape level planning and strategic habitat conservation and surrogate species support.	
Habitat Conservation \ Partners for Fish and Wildlife	+51,776
Ecological Services \Habitat Conservation \ Partners for Fish and Wildlife	-51,776
Habitat Conservation \ Coastal Programs	+13,184
Ecological Services \Habitat Conservation \ Coastal Programs	-13,184
Ecological Services \ Listing	+20,515
Ecological Services \ Endangered Species \ Listing	-20,515
Ecological Services \ Planning and Consultation	+98,336
Ecological Services \ Conservation and Restoration	+107,062
Ecological Services \ Endangered Species \ Candidate Conservation	-12,030
Ecological Services \ Endangered Species \ Consultation	-62,550
Ecological Services \ Endangered Species \ Recovery	-77,916
Ecological Services \Habitat Conservation \ Conservation Planning Assistance	-33,014
Ecological Services \Habitat Conservation \ National Wetlands Inventory	-4,861
Ecological Services \Environmental Contaminants	-9,557
Fish and Aquatic Conservation \Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation \Marine Mammals	-5,470
Science Support	
In the 2014 President's Budget, the Service proposed a new Science Support subactivity to separate the Agency's science activities from Cooperative Landscape Conservation. Further considerations within the Service have created the recommendation to create a new Science activity, but keep the activities managed by the Assistant Director for Science grouped together.	
Science Support \ Adaptive Science	+10,517
Science Support \ Service Science	+6,468
Conservation and Enforcement \ Science Support \ Adaptive Science	-10,517
Conservation and Enforcement \ Science Support \ Service Science	-6,468

Internal Realignments and Non-Policy/Program Changes (Net-Zero)	2016 (+/-)
Science Support at Forensics Lab	
In 2014, the Service re-examined the relationship between the Forensics Lab and the Service Science program. As part of this discussion personnel were moved to the Forensics Lab. This transfer represents the difference in funding for the position.	
Conservation and Enforcement \ Law Enforcement	+35
Science Support \ Service Science	-35
Return Position to Ecological Services	
In 2014, an Ecological Services person with specialized communications skills was moved to External Affairs to enhance outreach support for the ES program. With the retirement of that individual in FY14, the position is being returned to Ecological Services.	
Ecological Services \ Conservation and Restoration	+153
General Operation \ Central Offices \ External Affairs	-153
Consolidate Tribal Consultation	
The Director has moved the National Native American Liaison position from the External Affairs program to being a direct report to him to emphasize the priority of the Service's ongoing work with Tribes. In addition, the Service has decided to consolidate Tribal consultation funding under the new office to create better flexibility to support the Service's and Tribal priorities.	
General Operation \ Central Offices \ Tribal Liaison Office	+737
Ecological Services \ Planning and Consultation	-510
Conservation and Enforcement \ Law Enforcement	-47
Fish and Aquatic Conservation \Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation \Habitat Assessment and Restoration	-180
Land Protection Planning	-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.	

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Program and Financing (in million of dollars)	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**
Identification Code 010-18-14-1611	**Actual**	**Estimate**	**Estimate**
Obligations by program activity:			
0001 Ecological Services	278	180	252
0002 National Wildlife Refuge System	470	483	505
0004 Conservation and Enforcement	174	171	155
0005 Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation	135	152	149
0006 Habitat Conservation	0	96	69
0007 Cooperative Landscape Conservation	15	14	18
0008 General Operations	152	146	153
0009 Science Support	0	0	31
0100 Subtotal, direct program	1,224	1,242	1,332
0799 Total direct obligations	1,224	1,242	1,332
0801 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative	41	40	40
0802 Reimbursable program activity all other	267	225	225
0899 Total reimbursable obligations	308	265	265
0900 Total new obligations	1,532	1,507	1,597
Budgetary Resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	238	291	260
1021 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	15	18	18
1050 Unobligated balance (total)	253	309	278
Budget Authority:			
Appropriations, discretionary:			
1100 Appropriation	1,188	1,208	1,327
1121 Appropriations transferred from other accts [72-1021]	18	0	0
1121 Appropriations transferred from other acct [096-3123]	0	5	0
1160 Appropriation, discretionary (total)	1,206	1,213	1,327
Spending authority from offsetting collections, discretionary:			
1700 Collected	283	250	250
1701 Change in uncollected payments, Federal sources	80	0	0
1702 Offsetting collections (previously unavailable)	1	0	0
1750 Spending auth from offsetting collections, disc (total)	364	250	250
1900 Budget authority (total)	1,570	1,463	1,577
1930 Total budgetary resources available	1,823	1,772	1,855
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	291	265	263
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	547	574	559
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	1,532	1,507	1,597
3011 Obligations incurred, expired accounts	2	0	0
3020 Outlays (gross)	-1,483	-1,504	-1,608
3040 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations, unexpired	-15	-18	-18
3041 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations, expired	-9	0	0
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	574	559	530

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Program and Financing (in million of dollars)	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**
Identification Code 010-18-14-1611	**Actual**	**Estimate**	**Estimate**
Uncollected payments:			
3060 Uncollected pymts, Fed sources, brought forward, Oct 1	-333	-373	-373
3070 Change in uncollected pymts, Fed sources, unexpired	-80	0	0
3071 Change in uncollected pymts, Fed sources, expired	40	0	0
3090 Uncollected pymts, Fed sources, end of year	-373	-373	-373
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	214	201	186
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	201	186	157
Budget authority and outlays, net:			
Discretionary:			
4000 Budget authority, gross	1,570	1,463	1,577
Outlays, gross:			
4010 Outlays from new discretionary authority	907	1,024	1,104
4011 Outlays from discretionary balances	576	480	504
4020 Outlays, gross (total)	1,483	1,504	1,608
Offsets against gross budget authority and outlays:			
Offsetting collections (collected) from:			
4030 Federal sources	-266	-195	-195
4033 Non-Federal sources	-56	-55	-55
4040 Offsets against gross budget authority and outlays (total)	-322	-250	-250
Additional offsets against gross budget authority only:			
4050 Change in uncollected pymts, Fed sources, unexpired	-80	0	0
4052 Offsetting collections credited to expired accounts	39	0	0
4060 Additional offsets against budget authority only (total)	-41	0	0
4070 Budget authority, net (discretionary)	1,207	1,213	1,327
4080 Outlays, net (discretionary)	1,161	1,254	1,358
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	1,207	1,213	1,327
4190 Outlays, net (total)	1,161	1,254	1,358

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Program and Financing (in million of dollars)		**2014**	**2015**	**2016**
Identification Code 010-18-14-1611		**Actual**	**Estimate**	**Estimate**
Object Classification (O)				
Direct obligations:				
11.1	Full-time permanent	499	506	527
11.3	Other than full-time permanent	25	25	26
11.5	Other personnel compensation	16	16	17
11.8	Special personal services payments	1	1	1
11.9	Total personnel compensation	541	548	571
12.1	Civilian personnel benefits	186	189	196
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	3	3	3
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	20	20	20
22.0	Transportation of things	5	5	5
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	64	62	62
23.2	Rental payments to others	2	2	2
23.3	Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges	24	24	24
24.0	Printing and reproduction	4	4	4
25.1	Advisory and assistance services	6	6	6
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	62	65	72
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources	44	47	60
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities	20	21	23
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment	17	18	20
26.0	Supplies and materials	47	47	48
31.0	Equipment	37	39	41
32.0	Land and structures	25	25	25
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	116	117	150
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities	1	0	0
99.0	Subtotal, Direct obligations	1,224	1,242	1,332

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Program and Financing (in million of dollars)		**2014**	**2015**	**2016**
Identification Code 010-18-14-1611		**Actual**	**Estimate**	**Estimate**
Reimbursable obligations:				
Personnel compensation:				
11.1	Full-time permanent	41	41	41
11.3	Other than full-time permanent	12	12	12
11.5	Other personnel compensation	2	2	2
11.9	Total personnel compensation	55	55	55
12.1	Civilian personnel benefits	17	17	17
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	3	3	3
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	1	1	1
23.3	Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges	3	3	3
25.1	Advisory and assistance services	1	1	1
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	14	10	10
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources	41	34	34
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities	8	7	7
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment	91	81	81
26.0	Supplies and materials	12	10	10
31.0	Equipment	6	5	5
32.0	Land and structures	7	6	6
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	49	32	32
99.0	Reimbursable obligations	308	265	265
99.9	Total new obligations	1,532	1,507	1,597

Employment Summary (Q)				
1001	Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	6,872	6,898	7,125
2001	Reimbursable civilian full-time equivalent employment	800	815	815
3001	Allocation account civilian full-time equivalent employment	535	538	538

Ecological Services

Activity: Ecological Services

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2015 (+/-)
Proposed Structure								
Activity: Ecological Services								
Listing	($000)	[20,515]	[20,515]	+223	+20,515	+2,264	23,002	+23,002
	FTE	*[121]*	*[121]*	*0*	*+121*	*+10*	*131*	*131*
Planning and Consultation	($000)	[96,336]	[98,336]	+766	+97,826	+10,351	108,943	+108,943
	FTE	*[666]*	*[672]*	*0*	*+672*	*+60*	*732*	*+732*
Conservation and Restoration	($000)	[105,079]	[107,062]	+782	+107,215	+18,301	126,298	+126,298
	FTE	*[593]*	*[593]*	*0*	*+593*	*+68*	*661*	*+661*
Old Structure								
Activity: Ecological Services, Subactivity: Endangered Species								
Candidate Conservation	($000)	11,530	12,030	0	-12,030	0	0	-12,030
	FTE	*75*	*75*	*0*	*-75*	*0*	*0*	*-75*
Listing	($000)	20,515	20,515	0	-20,515	0	0	-20,515
	FTE	*121*	*121*	*0*	*-121*	*0*	*0*	*-121*
Consultation/HCP	($000)	61,550	62,550	0	-62,550	0	0	-62,550
	FTE	*431*	*437*	*0*	*-437*	*0*	*0*	*-437*
Recovery	($000)	76,916	77,916	0	-77,916	0	0	-77,916
	FTE	*422*	*422*	*0*	*-422*	*0*	*0*	*-422*
Activity: Ecological Services, Subactivity, Habitat Conservation								
Habitat Conservation*	($000)	101,335	102,835	0	-102,835	0	0	-102,835
	FTE	*559*	*559*	*0*	*-559*	*0*	*-*	*-559*
Activity: Ecological Services, Subactivity, Environmental Contaminants								
Environmental Contaminants	($000)	9,557	9,557	0	-9,557	0	0	-9,557
	FTE	*67*	*67*	*0*	*-67*	*0*	*0*	*-67*
Total, Ecological Services	**($000)**	**281,403**	**285,403**	**+1,771**	**-59,847**	**+30,916**	**258,243**	**-27,160**
	FTE	***1,675***	***1,681***	***0***	***-295***	***+138***	***1,524***	***-157***

***The old Habitat Conservation subactivity within Ecological Services was comprised of Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Conservation Planning Assistance, Coastal Programs, National Wetlands Inventory. In FY 2016, the Partners for Fish and Wildlife and the Coastal Programs will move into a new activity, Habitat Conservation.

In FY 2016, funding for Marine Mammals will move from Fish and Aquatic Conservation into Ecological Services.

Budget Structure Change

In FY 2016, the Service proposes to consolidate the budget structure for Ecological Services into three subactivities: Listing; Planning and Consultation; and Conservation and Restoration. This consolidation includes moving Marine Mammals from Fish and Aquatic Conservation to Ecological Services. The Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife and the Coastal programs are moved into a new activity, Habitat Conservation, and will be managed administratively by the National Wildlife Refuge Program.

The current Ecological Services budget structure no longer aligns well with the integrated and dynamic work environment of our Ecological Services field offices. The proposed restructuring from eight to three subactivities mirrors the core functions of the Ecological Services program: conducting petition findings and listing determinations under the Endangered Species Act; providing technical assistance, environmental review, and permitting of development activities affecting fish and wildlife; and leading or carrying out collaborative efforts to conserve, recover, and restore species populations and habitats. This

proposed budget restructuring will make it easier for regional managers and field project leaders to align funding and staffing with the priority work activities in these core functions, so that using the funding and staffing available, we can serve the public most effectively and accomplish the most conservation for the species and habitats in greatest need. More information on the proposed restructuring is provided in the individual subactivity sections.

Old Structure-Multiple Activities/Subactivities	New Structure- One Activity/Three Subactivities Ecological Services (ES)		
	Listing	Planning and Consultation	Conservation and Restoration
Endangered Species			
Candidate Conservation			Candidate Conservation
Listing	Listing		
Consultation/HCPs		Consultation/HCPs	
Recovery			Recovery
Habitat Conservation*			
Conservation Planning Assistance		Conservation Planning Assistance	
National Wetlands Inventory (includes Coastal Barrier Resources Act)			National Wetlands Inventory Coastal Barrier Resources Act
Environmental Contaminants		Environmental Contaminants	Environmental Contaminants
Fish and Aquatic Conservation			
Marine Mammals			Marine Mammals

*Partners for Fish and Wildlife and Coastal programs are in a new Habitat Conservation activity in 2016

Program Overview

Ecological Services is the organizational unit of the Service that works closely with external partners and agencies for the conservation of natural resources across the landscape. By providing technical support and expertise, the Service promotes conservation of fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats across large natural areas with varied land uses. Operating under authorities such as the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Emergency Wetlands Resources Act, Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA), Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), and multiple Executive Orders, the Service identifies potential impacts, provide technical solutions, and raises environmental awareness.

Since enactment of the ESA in 1973, the Service has demonstrated a clear record of success in preventing the extinction of hundreds of species across the Nation and achieving delisting and recovery of many others. Despite this progress, the complexity and scale of today's conservation problems require all of the Service's energy and innovative ways of thinking to protect and preserve the rich diversity of fish,

wildlife, and plant resources that symbolize America's wealth, heritage and, promise. Minimizing or removing threats to species, or increasing their resilience to changing conditions, may achieve conservation of the species and eliminate the need for protection under the ESA. Engaging stakeholders and partners and using available technological tools and resources are essential ingredients for solving these conservation challenges.

What We Do

Through the **Listing** subactivity, the Service uses the best scientific information available to identify foreign and domestic plant and animal species that are in danger of extinction or likely to become in danger of extinction within the foreseeable future and thus need protection under the ESA. This determination helps identify and address the conservation needs of the species, including the designation of critical habitat. Legal protections afforded under sections 7 and 9 of the ESA become effective upon listing, preventing the decline and extinction of many species. Information sought and compiled through the rule-making process associated with the listing determination informs and streamlines subsequent section 7 consultation and section 10 permitting activities and provides information crucial for recovery planning and implementation. In many ways, the listing process sets the stage for recovery needs and objectives, which facilitates early response and implementation.

Ecological Services' Mission

Ecological Services achieves conservation of Service trust resources, focusing on imperiled species, through and with others.

Through the **Planning and Consultation** subactivity, the Service provides technical assistance, contributes to advanced project planning, and conducts environmental reviews and permitting for Federal and state development agencies and the public under authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Federal Power Act, and other environmental laws. The Service endeavors to provide timely review and decisions to facilitate environmentally sound economic development. In the field, Ecological Services biologists work together and blend their diverse skills, including ecotoxicology and environmental risk assessment, to provide technical assistance and environmental review of proposed development projects and large-scale planning efforts. Integrating planning and consultation better supports our efforts to plan and mitigate on scales large enough to best support conservation of species. Through the Planning and Consultation subactivity, the Service also invests in decision support tools that creates efficiencies, transparency, and more regulatory certainty for action agencies, project applicants, and landowners, supporting a key Secretarial goal and Executive Order 13604, *Improving Performance of Federal Permitting and Review of Infrastructure Projects*.

Osprey nest near wind farm.

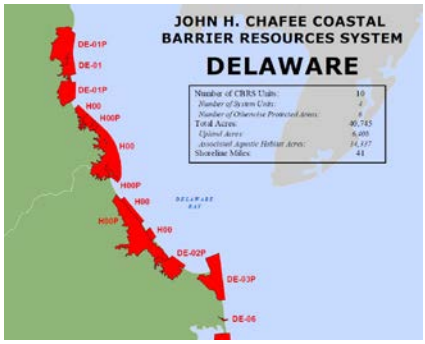
Economic recovery brings housing and business growth accompanied by demand for new infrastructure and community development that could impact wildlife and habitat. Ecological Services, while carrying out environmental reviews under multiple authorities, integrates the diverse expertise of its field staff to provide the most comprehensive recommendations in a single "voice" representing the Service. A single point of contact saves time for action agencies, private developers and other stakeholders.

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

Preventing extinction and achieving recovery of listed species has always been, and will continue to be, one of the Service's highest priorities. Increasingly, the Service is also working proactively with States, communities, and landowners to conserve at-risk species before they reach the point of warranting listing under the ESA. Species conservation, whether for listed or unlisted species, involves creation of conservation plans and strategies; development of collaborative conservation vehicles like candidate conservation agreements, safe harbor agreements, cooperative agreements, and other emerging programs and tools; and coordinated implementation of conservation actions. Combining the full variety of voluntary species conservation activities carried out by Ecological Services into a single subactivity will make it easier for Service Regions and field offices to focus limited staff and funding on those activities that can accomplish the most conservation for the species in greatest need.

Reducing the damage to important habitats from oil spills or the release of other hazardous materials, and then assessing any resultant injury to trust resources and restoring affected habitats, are also important functions of Ecological Services carried out through the Conservation and Restoration subactivity. We will provide coordination, pre-planning, and technical assistance to our partners while looking for opportunities to restore and enhance areas containing a diverse number of species before they are lost and thus protect some of the highest priority landscapes and species.

Geospatial mapping, analysis and data delivery are essential parts of high quality conservation planning and delivery. The Service is the primary Federal agency monitoring and reporting changes in wetlands, coastal barrier islands, and other aquatic habitats over time. These mapping and data systems save taxpayer dollars while supporting important conservation efforts. For example, the Service's mapping under the Coastal Barrier Restoration Act reduces the intensity of development in biologically-sensitive areas that provide essential spawning, nesting, nursery, and feeding habitat for many species; at the same time, these mapping efforts reduce the costs borne by taxpayers for private development in coastal areas facing increasing risks from sea level rise and extreme storm events.



Coastal Barrier Resources System area map of Delaware.

Facilitating Conservation through Decision Support Tools

Ecological Services has consolidated most of its monitoring and information collection applications under the Environmental Conservation Online System (ECOS). ECOS is a gateway website that provides access to Service data systems such as endangered species, fisheries, environmental contaminants and habitat conservation as well as other government data sources. This central point of access assists Service personnel in managing data and information, and it provides public access to information from numerous Service databases.

An example of a tool the Service is continuing to refine for knowledge based decision support is the Information, Planning, and Conservation system (IPaC). IPaC provides access to habitat and species data allowing project applicants and Service staff to make better informed decisions earlier in the design process when it is easier to make modification with minimum disruption of project goals. Utilizing a centralized source of information on all Service trust resources, project applicants can proactively minimize environmental conflict, and Service staff can more efficiently screen out projects that will not

affect ESA listed species or designated critical habitat. The expanded capabilities IPaC provides help to expedite or complete the requirements of environmental reviews such as section 7 consultation. Through IPaC, Federal agencies can better integrate section 7 consultation with their other environmental review processes, including NEPA. Utilizing IPaC also provides better coordination of the Service's multiple conservation statutes with the goals of Strategic Habitat Conservation and supports Executive Order 13604, *Improving Performance of Federal Permitting and Review of Infrastructure Projects.*

Complementing other Endangered Species Act work of the Service, the **Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund** (CESCF) provides grant funding to States and Territories for species and habitat conservation actions on non-federal lands and for States to assist with monitoring and basic research on listed and candidate species. Habitat loss is one of the most significant threats for many listed and candidate species with the majority of these species' habitats found on State and private lands. Grant assistance available under CESCF for land acquisition related to HCPs or recovery needs is crucial to listed species conservation and recovery and assists with candidate species conservation. States and Territories have been extremely effective in building partnerships with private landowners that achieve meaningful on-the-ground conservation to address or minimize threats. In addition, periodic reviews of information concerning a species' status, ensures species are properly classified, recovery funds are appropriately prioritized, and recovery plan recommendations remain up to date.

Moving Forward

The Service strives for continual improvement in its analytical and administrative tools by finding efficiencies and looking for opportunities to collaborate to achieve conservation in partnership with others. Committed to leadership excellence in Service managers and staff in carrying out our responsibilities under the ESA, MMPA, FWCA, and other laws and authorities, the ES Program promotes information management so that decisions are based on sound science and the best available information. The following conservation outcomes are integrated as the Service designs, plans, and implements conservation delivery on the ground:

- Preventing imperiled species and their habitats from becoming more imperiled;
- Recovering endangered and threatened species and their habitats; and
- Protecting other vulnerable high priority trust resources.

Similarly, under Executive Order 13571, *Streamlining Service Delivery and Improving Customer Service*, the Service is working with individuals and public and private entities to apply best practices to deliver services better, faster and if possible, at a lower cost. For example, the Service provides technical assistance to industry, Federal agencies, private developers and the public to facilitate conservation and consultation to minimize impacts on trust species such as those protected by the ESA, MMPA, MBTA, and other similar species conservation laws. Examples of our work include engaging with developers earlier in the pre-permitting stage and streamlining the review process to avoid, minimize or mitigate for impacts on natural resources; and providing a suite of technological tools and resources to inform and assist project applicants with their development projects. Through these and other actions, the Service is saving taxpayers money by ensuring that projects can be built with minimal environmental interruptions.

Activity: Ecological Services
Subactivity: Listing

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2015 (+/-)
Critical Habitat	($000)	[4,605]	[4,605]	0	+4,605	0	4,605	+4,605
	FTE	*[35]*	*[35]*	*0*	*+35*	*0*	*35*	*+35*
Listing	($000)	[12,905]	[12,905]	+223	+12,905	+2,264	15,392	+15,392
	FTE	*[76]*	*[76]*	*0*	*+76*	*+10*	*86*	*+86*
Foreign Listing	($000)	[1,504]	[1,504]	0	+1,504	0	1,504	+1,504
	FTE	*[5]*	*[5]*	*0*	*+5*	*0*	*5*	*+5*
Petitions	($000)	[1,501]	[1,501]	0	+1,501	0	1,501	+1,501
	FTE	*[5]*	*[5]*	*0*	*+5*	*0*	*5*	*+5*
Total, Listing	**($000)**	**[20,515]**	**[20,515]**	**+223**	**+20,515**	**+2,264**	**23,002**	**+23,002**
	FTE	***[121]***	***[121]***	***0***	***+121***	***+10***	***131***	***+131***

Summary of 2016 Program Changes for Listing

Request Component	($000)	FTE
• Listing	+2,264	+10
Program Changes	**+2,264**	**+10**

Justification of 2016 Program Changes

The 2016 budget request for Listing is $23,002,000 and 131 FTE, a net program change of +$2,264,000 and +10 FTE from the 2015 Enacted.

Listing (+$2,264,000/+10 FTE)

The Service continues to seek balance across the various components of the listing subactivity. By FY 2016, the Service will be completing the remaining listing determinations agreed upon as part of the 2011 Multi-District Litigation settlement agreements, but we will have a substantial backlog of species for which we have been petitioned to list under the ESA. In FY 2015, we will focus on maintaining a balance of listing determinations that address the status of candidate species not covered under current settlement agreements for listing determination, respond to petitions, and designate critical habitat where prudent and determinable, all using the best available science, meeting statutory deadlines, and involving robust public engagement. As of December 2014, the Service has a backlog of 609 90-day and 12-month petition findings, and 52 species identified as candidate species since the Multi-District Litigation settlement agreements. The Service has completed 167 listing determinations since 2011, will complete 54 determinations in FY 2015, and plans to complete another 31 determinations in FY16. The funding increase in Listing will allow the Service to carry out our statutory responsibilities, avoid unnecessary litigation, and work with States, partners, and others to develop conservation measures and activities that provide predictability.

Program Overview

Congress, on behalf of the American people, passed the ESA to prevent extinctions facing many species of fish, wildlife and plants. The purpose of the ESA is to conserve endangered and threatened species and the ecosystems on which they depend which are key components of America's heritage. Before a plant or animal species can receive the protection provided by the ESA, it must first be added to the Federal lists

of threatened and endangered wildlife and plants. Listing a species on the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife (50 CFR 17.11) or the List of Endangered and Threatened Plants (50 CFR 17.12), and designating critical habitat as required under the ESA, focuses resources and efforts by the Service and its partners on recovering the species.

The Service uses the following definitions for listing determinations:

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

The Service's Endangered Species Listing subactivity supports development of the recommendations to the Director for listing a species, uplisting a species from "Threatened" to "Endangered," and designating critical habitat. Species considered for listing can be identified independently by the Service or brought to the Service's attention by petitions received from the public under Section 4 of the Act. The Service also receives petitions for amendments to critical habitat and other actions. Under the ESA, when the Service receives a petition it must respond within set timeframes.

Listing determinations, critical habitat designations, and their associated processes support the Service's goal to recover species. This support stems in large part from the information developed when conducting the analysis of whether a species meets the definition of threatened or endangered. Using the best scientific and commercial data available, the listing rule provides information on the species (taxonomy, historic and current range, population information, habitat requirements, etc.), an analysis of the threats faced by the species, designation of critical habitat if appropriate, an assessment of the effectiveness of applicable conservation measures, and establishes actions that would be prohibited if the species were to be listed. Recovery efforts for species are also initially outlined based on information to address threats identified within the listing rules. In this way, listing packages are a crucial step on the road to recovery.

The Service proposed listing the African Lion as threatened under the ESA in October 2014. Photo credit: Heidi Ruffler/USFWS

While the Service works to accomplish many of the pending actions related to listing foreign species, it believes there is a higher conservation benefit in listing domestic species The broad range of management tools for domestic species include recovery planning and implementation under section 4, cooperation with States under section 6, coordination with other Federal agencies under section 7, full take prohibitions under section 9, management agreements and permits under section 10, and other laws/treaties such as the MMPA or MBTA. In contrast, foreign species' management tools are limited to trade restrictions through section 10 and/or CITES trade prohibitions, education and public awareness, and grant monies. Direct recovery actions are also not practicable. The continuation of a budget sub-cap for listing and petition findings related to foreign species allows the Service, within its existing resources, to balance its duty to protect both foreign and domestic species in a way that will not detract from its efforts to protect imperiled domestic species.

2016 Program Performance

The Service anticipates the following accomplishments and activities:

Listing Determinations for U.S. Species*
During FY 2016, the Service projects the following determinations:

- 25 Final listing determinations for 41 species.
- 18 Proposed listing/critical habitat determinations for 25 species.
- Emergency listings as necessary.

Petition Findings*
The Service intends to address all 90-day petitions as received, and anticipates publishing 7 12-month petition findings for 7 species in FY 2016 with current resources.

Listing Determinations for Foreign Species
During FY 2016, the Service projects completion of the following determinations for foreign species:

- Two final listing determinations for two species.
- Three 12-month petition findings for 10 species.

*Note: Assumes petition sub-cap continues in FY 2016.

Endangered Species Listing - Program Change Table

Performance Goal	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Target	2016 PB	Change from 2015 Target to 2016 PB
7.32.1 - % of final listing determinations promulgated in a timely manner	0% (0 of 9)	5% (2 of 38)	8% (8 of 95)	87% (40 of 46)	78% (7 of 9)	95% (41 of 43)	18%
Comments:	Performance based on current work plan to meet our litigation related commitments.						
7.32.2 - % of petition findings made within one fiscal year of petition receipt	17% (13 of 77)	11% (14 of 131)	6% (6 of 95)	4% (3 of 72)	21% (3 of 14)	0% (0 of 17)	-21%
Comments:	Performance reflects completion of 12-month petition findings which are currently overdue.						

Activity: Ecological Services
Subactivity: Planning and Consultation

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2015 (+/-)
Planning and Consultation	($000)	[96,336]	[98,336]	+766	+97,826	+10,351	108,943	+108,943
	FTE	*[666]*	*[672]*	*0*	*+672*	*+60*	*732*	*+732*

Summary of 2016 Program Changes for Planning and Consultations

Request Component	($000)	FTE
• Gulf Coast Restoration	+4,000	+27
• Planning and Consultation Activities	+3,951	+17
• Renewable Energy Coordination	+1,200	+8
• Environmental Contaminants	+1,200	+8
Program Changes	**+10,351**	**+60**

Justification of 2016 Program Changes

The 2016 budget request for Planning and Consultation is $108,943,000 and 732 FTE, a program change of +$10,351,000 and +60 FTE from the 2015 Enacted.

Gulf Coast Restoration (+$4,000,000/+27 FTE)

Funds will be used to work collaboratively to review and consult on Gulf of Mexico restoration projects being funded in the next decade by billions of dollars in Deepwater Horizon and RESTORE Act funds. The Service will direct resources to the environmental review of proposed projects (as required by statutes such as the FWCA, NEPA, and the ESA), so that environmentally beneficial restoration projects can move through the regulatory review process in timely fashion. We will also work with State and other partners to ensure Service priorities are incorporated into Gulf conservation and resiliency efforts. This request recognizes that over the course of the next decade the Service will be directly involved in influencing the distribution of billions of dollars of settlement funds to restoration activities in the Gulf Coast watershed. Additional capacity is needed to dedicate to this unprecedented opportunity to ensure that a Gulf-wide, landscape scale effort, based on the best science, is implemented and that this broader effort benefits Service trust resources.

Planning and Consultation Activities (+3,951,000/+17 FTE)

The Service is instrumental in supporting economic recovery in the United States. Timely evaluations and permitting of proposed infrastructure and other development projects contributes to economic growth and job creation. We accomplish this work using numerous tools and authorities, including technical assistance to permitting agencies, issuing permits for projects under the MBTA, ESA and other Federal laws and working with local and state governments to identify the best areas for development. Conversely, without adequate funding and staff to carry out our environmental review and permitting responsibilities, project review and permitting efforts cannot proceed on schedule, which can impede economic recovery.

Accompanying the country's economic recovery is a predicted increase in the demand for infrastructure, housing, and commercial construction.[a] This will also result in a greater demand for supporting infrastructure such as roads, water supply and flood protection. With this expected uptick in development, the Service will receive more requests for permits needed for compliance with environmental laws and will need to provide planning and technical assistance for siting determinations to minimize impacts on resources covered by our authorities, including listed species, migratory birds, and eagles. To support this predicted growth, the Service needs to restore and sustain our capacity to provide technical assistance and environmental reviews in a timely manner. This funding increase will be used to restore staffing reductions in environmental reviews so the Service can better expedite project reviews.

Decision support tools that support smarter project siting and facilitate environmental reviews will be increasingly necessary as requests for species lists, siting decisions, and other technical assistance requests increase. The Service will continue to support the development of the IPaC in FY 2016. IPaC provides access to habitat and species data and allows project applicants and Service staff to make better informed decisions earlier in the project design process (e.g., about project siting) when it is easier to make modification with minimum disruption of project goals. Utilizing a centralized source of information on Service trust resources, project applicants can proactively minimize environmental conflict, and Service staff can more efficiently screen out projects that will not affect ESA listed species or designated critical habitat, or consider impacts on other Service trust resources. The expanded capabilities that IPaC provides help to expedite or complete the requirements of environmental reviews such as section 7 consultation. The Service has already seen efficiencies due to the automated delivery of listed species lists resulting in a savings of 743 labor hours saved or 4.6 FTE in one month alone.

Through IPaC, Federal agencies can better integrate section 7 consultation with their other environmental review processes, including NEPA. Utilizing IPaC also provides better coordination of the Service's multiple conservation statutes with the goals of Strategic Habitat Conservation and supports Executive Order 13604, Improving Performance of Federal Permitting and Review of Infrastructure Projects. With funding provided in FY 2016, the IPaC system will provide action agencies with the ability to submit requests for consultation and receive Service consultation documents online, as well as provide the Service and the action agencies with a tool to collect project specific reporting information.

Renewable Energy Project Coordination (+$1,200,000/+8 FTE)

This funding will ensure energy projects are planned, developed, operated, permitted, and monitored in ways that are compatible with conservation of Federal trust resources. Developing domestic energy resources and the corresponding transmission capabilities requires effective coordination with permitting entities and appropriate environmental review of transmission rights-of-way applications and facilities sites. It also requires a balanced and mindful approach that addresses the impacts of development on land, wildlife, and water resources. The Department of Energy, State fish and wildlife agencies, Bureau of Land Management, State energy commissions, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, have expressed a need for expedited multi-species conservation strategies accompanied by appropriate permits to comply with ESA. The Service is also mindful of the economic benefits to the communities where these energy projects are located. The additional resources will provide better customer service to the energy industry including:

- Increased technical assistance;
- More timely responses;
- Environmentally sound solutions to energy project-wildlife/habitat conflicts; and,
- Well-coordinated project reviews, working with Federal agency priorities.

[a] https://www.cbo.gov/publication/45653

Environmental Contaminants (+$1,200,000/+8 FTE)
The Service has been working closely with the Environmental Protection Agency, National Marine Fisheries Service, and U.S. Department of Agriculture to establish and implement a process for national Endangered Species Act consultations related to pesticide registrations. This effort is guided largely by recommendations from the National Research Council's 2013 report entitled Assessing Risks to Endangered and Threatened Species from Pesticides. The 2016 budget increase supports Service biologists who, together with their EPA, NMFS and USDA counterparts, are identifying interim approaches for applying ecological risk assessment for threatened and endangered species that are consistent with the ESA consultation process. In addition, the agencies are implementing these approaches as they move forward with national consultations on the first group of pesticides. Throughout this process there have been, and will continue to be, multiple opportunities for stakeholder engagement. Continued involvement by the Service ensures ESA compliance for pesticide registrations, adequate protections for threatened and endangered species, a climate where the threat of lawsuits is hopefully reduced, and greater certainty for stakeholders including end users.

Program Overview

Within Planning and Consultation, the **Conservation Planning Assistance** component provides a field-based, landscape-level approach that works collaboratively with industry, agencies, Tribes, and other stakeholders to balance conservation and development needs. Service biologists work with stakeholders at the planning stages of federally-authorized, licensed, or funded land, water, and energy development projects—from highway expansions to energy development—to ensure that development has minimal impact on wildlife and habitats. Service staff has extensive knowledge in numerous authorities, including the Clean Water Act, the NEPA, the FWCA, the Federal Power Act, the MBTA and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and uses that background to bring a true "One Service," integrated presence to the negotiation table. By engaging in development processes early, Service recommendations save taxpayers money by preventing the need to list animals as endangered or threatened, streamlining the permitting process, reducing paperwork, and minimizing environmental and community impacts of development projects. Advanced biological planning and conservation design also assists communities and industry in adapting to environmental change.

The **ESA Consultation** component element allows the Service to collaborate with its partners, including other Federal agencies, states, tribes, non-governmental organizations, industry, academia, and private landowners to identify opportunities to balance adverse impacts of development actions with conservation actions that address threats and move species towards recovery. Section 10 Habitat Conservation Planning develops **Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs)** and their associated Incidental Take Permits. Through HCPs, the Service facilitates private lands development with proactive species and ecosystem landscape conservation planning that addresses threats and fulfills species recovery needs. Research conducted by recovery partners using scientific permits issued under Section 10 is also vital to species' recovery. This research often provides current information about threats and their associated impacts on a listed species.

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

Environmental review functions constitute a significant workload for the Service, and we are continuously looking for efficiencies to improve our processes. In the face of increasingly complex environmental changes and their potential effects on imperiled species and/or their habitats, the Service must have readily available tools to plan and implement conservation on large natural areas while ensuring that listed species with very restricted ranges are managed appropriately. In response, the Service is further developing the IPaC decision support system, a conservation planning tool for streamlining the environmental review process. IPaC provides the Service and project proponents

interactive, online tools to spatially link data for quick analyses of resource threats and determine the effectiveness of various conservation actions (http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/). This function allows for rapid identification of potential projects that will not affect listed species and expedites completion of requirements involving ESA section 7 consultations, section 10 HCPs, and other environmental review processes.

The Service is dedicated to protecting fish, wildlife and their habitats from the harmful effects of pollutants. Service trust resources are affected by thousands of chemicals in the environment, such as pesticides, personal care products, pharmaceuticals, nanoparticles, endocrine disrupters, PCBs, dioxins, mercury, selenium, cyanide, ammonia, oil, and the combined effects of these pollutants. The Service uses its technical expertise to collaborate with many internal and external partners and work within Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) to evaluate the impacts of contaminants on fish, wildlife and plants. These activities are conducted under the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Section 7 of the ESA, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), and the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

Water Quality and Pesticide Consultations

The Service works closely with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on water quality and pesticide registrations. In FY 2016, work continues on completing water quality consultations on discharge permits and state water quality standards, as well as, providing assistance to EPA on the derivation of national aquatic life criteria. In FY 2016, the Service will continue to develop and implement scientifically rigorous protocols for national consultations with EPA to protect threatened and endangered species by more thoroughly assessing risks posed by exposure to pesticides. This, more rigorous and thorough, assessment process for evaluating risks to listed species will greatly improve how the Service conducts Section 7 consultations on pesticide registrations. Increasing the scientific and technical capacity of the Service will help ensure ESA compliance for pesticides early in the registration process, minimize the threat of lawsuits, and provide more certainty and guidance to applicants to allow those chemicals to continue to be available for production of food and fiber in this country.

Powering Our Future

One of Secretary Jewell's priorities is for the Department of the Interior to play a role in securing an energy future that promotes the responsible use of our resources as we ensure self-reliant and sustainable energy for our Nation. The Service is working with industry to help ensure the nation's domestic energy resources are developed and delivered in an environmentally compatible way. The unparalleled drive toward clean and renewable domestic energy has increased emphasis on expanding and accelerating hydroelectric, solar, geothermal, wind, tidal, and hydrokinetic energy projects. At the same time, we are experiencing an increasing output from traditional energy sources such as oil and gas. Consequently, the Service is increasingly engaged in extensive coordination with other Department of the Interior bureaus, Federal agencies, States, and Tribes early in the process to ensure conservation of trust resources as the nation expands transmission infrastructure and energy production from all energy sources.

- ***Hydroelectric power:*** During the FERC licensing and relicensing process, Service biologists work with industry to minimize aquatic and terrestrial impacts and implement effective mitigation. Conservation measures recommended by Service biologists include prescriptions for fish passage, in-stream flows, and habitat acquisition and restoration. The typical 50-year duration of FERC licenses ensures these recommendations promote enduring fish and wildlife conservation benefits.
- ***Wind power:*** Since 2003, the Service has implemented voluntary guidelines to avoid or minimize the impacts of wind turbines on wildlife and their habitat. Service collaboration with a Federal Advisory Committee established by the Secretary of the Interior successfully developed final Land-based Wind Energy Guidelines in March 2012. Training and webinars have been conducted since 2012 and are

continuing to support the successful implementation of these Guidelines. This has been and continues to be a collaborative effort including other agencies and the wind industry.

- ***Solar power:*** Service's work with project proponents, States, and cooperating Federal agencies continues to intensify as a result of the Administration's initiatives to identify environmentally-appropriate Federal and Interior-managed lands for utility-scale solar energy development. In FY 2014, Secretary Jewell and the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency announced the release of the draft Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP). The plan will help identify areas suitable for construction of renewable energy projects across 22.5 million acres of federal, state, and private lands in the Mojave and Colorado Deserts of Southern California. The public comment period on the draft plan closes on February 23, 2015.

Topaz Solar Farm
Photo Credit: Sarah Swenty/USFWS

- ***Oil and gas siting:*** The Service continues to work closely with States, Federal agencies, and energy developers to minimize the impacts of increased production of oil and gas throughout the Western States. Through IPaC tools, such as the Landscape-scale Energy Action Plan (LEAP) decision support tool, project applicants can obtain information early in the planning process to guide project siting away from potential conflicts with trust resources.
- ***Other energy technologies:*** The Service is increasingly engaged in the environmental review of innovative energy facilities that use wave energy, river flow (non-dam), and tidal flow to generate power. The Service continues to work closely with partners to advance environmentally-sound projects and technologies that minimize adverse impacts to fish and wildlife.

2016 Program Performance

The Service anticipates the following accomplishments and activities:

- Continue to work with all Federal and other customers under multiple authorities to design projects that will have sustainable environmental outcomes. In FY 2016, the Service anticipates completing an additional 3,232 energy technical assistance requests as compared to FY 2015, an additional 4,145 requests for technical assistance, informal and formal section 7 consultations, and planning assistance requests, and provide assistance on an additional 37 large-scale landscape planning efforts.

- Continue to refine and expand the internet-based IPaC system that can be used to obtain information regarding Service trust resources, internally screen out projects that will not affect ESA listed species or designated critical habitat, complete or expedite the requirements of section 7 consultation, better integrate section 7 consultation with action agencies' other environmental review processes, including NEPA, and better coordinate the Service's various programs toward unified objectives in accordance with the goals of the Strategic Habitat Conservation initiative and facilitating the implementation of Executive Order 13604 on *Improving Performance of Federal Permitting and Review of Infrastructure Projects* (March 22, 2012).

- Revise the Service's 1981 Mitigation Policy to integrate all authorities that allow the Service to recommend or require mitigation of impacts to fish and wildlife resources associated with development activities. Revisions will incorporate current mitigation practices and a new framework for identifying the most effective mitigation measures at a landscape level in advance of development. The Policy will facilitate more effective conservation while providing for more streamlined project approval.

- Work cooperatively with EPA, NMFS, and the USDA to implement the findings of the NRC's study considering scientific and technical issues surrounding the ESA responsibilities of EPA, NMFS and the Service related to the use of pesticides and actualize an inter-agency process for section 7 consultations required for pesticide registration.

Planning and Consultation – Combined Program Change and Overview Table

Performance Goal	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Target	2016 PB	Change from 2015 Target to 2016 PB
4.7.5 - % of requests for technical assistance completed	90% (23,404 of 25,873)	92% (22,625 of 24,576)	90% (18,762 of 20,852)	92% (16,785 of 18,306)	85% (7,936 of 9,310)	86% (18,530 of 21,518)	1%
Comments:	Change in performance in FY16 is a result of the increase in technical assistance funding for environmental reviews of projects in the Gulf Coast and other areas.						
4.8.2 - # of large-scale landscape planning and/or programmatic approaches completed - annual	485	417	315	183	91	274	183
Comments:	Change in performance in FY16 is a result of the increase in funding for large scale landscape planning in the Gulf Coast and other areas.						
CSF 7.31 - Percent of formal/informal "other non-resource-use specific" consultations addressed in a timely manner	85% (7,827 of 9,188)	84% (8,028 of 9,590)	85% (7,390 of 8,680)	83% (6,722 of 8,077)	76% (2,586 of 3,388)	78% (6,731 of 8,649)	2%
Comments:	Change in performance in FY16 is a result of the increase in funding for section 7 interagency consultations in the Gulf Coast and other areas.						
CSF 14.1 - Energy (NOT including hydropower): Percent of advanced planning coordination responses with early planning; and formal/informal biological consultations provided in a timely manner	51% (2,311 of 4,515)	55% (2,224 of 4,019)	61% (2,265 of 3,711)	56% (1,907 of 3,396)	50% (800 of 1,602)	49% (1,339 of 2,716	-1%
Comments:	Change in performance in FY16 is a result of the increase in funding for environmental reviews associated with renewable energy projects.						
CSF 14.3 - Water: Percent of advanced planning coordination responses w/early planning; and formal/informal biological consultations provided in a timely manner	66% (993 of 1,506)	68% (1,160 of 1,715)	67% (941 of 1,413)	85% (541 of 640)	67% (163 of 242)	73% (163 of 223)	6%
Comments:	Change in performance is a result of the increase in funding for environmental review associated with pesticide consultations and other projects.						

Activity: Ecological Services
Subactivity: Conservation and Restoration

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016				Change from 2015 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Conservation and Restoration	($000)	[105,079]	[107,062]	+782	+107,215	+18,301	126,298	+126,298
	FTE	*[593]*	*[593]*	0	+593	+68	661	+661

Summary of 2016 Program Changes for Conservation and Restoration

Request Component	($000)	FTE
• Conservation and Restoration Activities	+7,741	+25
• Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem Conservation	+4,000	+20
• Cooperative Recovery	+2,527	0
• Environmental Contaminants	+2,000	+10
• National Wetlands Inventory	+1,400	+10
• Ecosystem Restoration—Bay Delta	+1,100	+3
• Marine Mammals	+533	0
• Wolf Livestock Loss Demonstration Program	-1,000	0
Program Changes	**+18,301**	**+68**

Justification of 2016 Program Changes

The 2016 budget request for Conservation and Restoration is $126,298,000 and 661 FTE, a net program change of +$18,301,000 and +68 FTE from the 2015 Enacted.

Conservation and Restoration Activities (+$7,741,000/+25 FTE)

States, landowners, communities, and other stakeholders are engaged in or impacted by the requirements of the ESA to support species recovery and achieve delisting. Once a species is removed from the list of threatened or endangered species under the ESA, the restrictions of the Act no longer apply. Stakeholders would like to see species recovered and delisted as soon as possible. This increase will be used to address the backlog of species that have been identified for potential delisting or downlisting based upon recent 5-year reviews. Delisting or downlisting not only carries with it decreased regulatory protection, it also demonstrates the efficacy of the Act , shows the success of partners, and provides certainty to landowners about the benefits of contributing to recovery. Success breeds success, and the Service anticipates that progress in moving species away from extinction, stabilizing other species, and recognizing success when delisting or downlisting criteria is met, will increase interest and engagement by all parties and lead to more leveraging of resources to achieve conservation and recovery of listed species.

Integrating the conservation objectives of candidate conservation and recovery along with our other authorities will help the Service and local communities achieve a balance between species conservation and economic and local priorities. Funding will also support partnerships to help the Service implement 824 recovery actions (including habitat restoration, captive propagation, and reintroduction) for all listed species and conduct 1,109 contaminant actions that benefit species and habitats to achieve restoration objectives. This increase will also support the development or completion of recovery plans for the 141 species listed as endangered or threatened since 2011to guide the Service and other stakeholders in the conservation of the species.

At the same time, the level of interest in pre-listing conservation has never been higher. For example, within a decade, the Southeast Region alone must determine the status of more than 450 fish, wildlife and plant species under the ESA. Of the 289 aquatic species occurring in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia that must be evaluated, 198 of them are restricted to small areas. As such, the Service's Southeast Region launched an intensive effort 3 years ago to identify priority areas and work hand-in-hand with 15 States and Federal agencies to conserve these at-risk species before listing is needed. The effort has now been expanded and includes industry (e.g., electric and timber companies), non-government organizations, and other entities within the landscape. A portion of this increase will provide resources to develop and implement conservation strategies for candidate or other at-risk species in coordination with the States. The funding will also be used to evaluate the success of conservation measures through Working Lands for Wildlife and other prelisting conservation efforts.

Conservation of Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem (+$4,000,000/+20 FTE)
The sagebrush steppe ecosystem extends across 11 States, the conservation of which requires a collaborative conservation effort that is unprecedented in geographic scope and magnitude. To achieve sustainable conservation success for this ecosystem, the Service has identified priority needs for basic scientific expertise, technical assistance for on-the-ground support, and internal and external coordination and partnership building with western States, the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and other partners. Success requires constant communication and constant planning and adaptive management to ensure long-term conservation for sage-dependent wildlife, including migratory birds that are declining or at risk. Working with State and Federal partners to provide scientifically sound recommendations for maintaining a viable sagebrush steppe ecosystem, the Service will support conservation of sage grouse and other sage dependent species and fully develop a long-term conservation vision for the sage-steppe ecosystem.

Further, there is an unmet demand for Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAA.) For example, there is a draft CCAA for ranching activities in Wyoming and other similar efforts occurring in Oregon. The Service needs staff to work closely with landowners considering enrollment in these programs as well as to develop other agreements with energy and mining interests across the ecosystem. Without additional staffing, the Service may miss a critical opportunity to enroll large blocks of privately-owned habitat in voluntary conservation programs in the sagebrush steppe ecosystem. Further, the Service must continue to work with Federal and State partners to implement important on-the-ground conservation efforts. The additional resources in this request will provide a workforce to expand the range-wide coordination efforts, ensuring that individual efforts are coordinated, consistent, and sufficient to address the threats to the species. To achieve conservation success for the sagebrush steppe ecosystem, the Service must dedicate long-term resources to bring all elements of strategic habitat conservation to play as the plans are implemented, the results monitored, and the actions adapted. These resources are critical to supporting the ranching and developing energy economies of the Western States.

Cooperative Recovery Initiative (+$2,527,000/+0 FTE)
This funding will support a cross-programmatic partnership approach to complete planning, restoration, and management actions addressing current threats to endangered species in areas of strategic importance for the conservation of listed species. The focus will be on implementing recovery actions for species near delisting or reclassification from endangered to threatened, and actions that are urgently needed for critically endangered species by utilizing the resources and expertise of Service staff.

Projects employ actions that will significantly improve the status of one or more listed species. CRI projects are intended to be on-the-ground activities where meaningful progress can be shown within a short timeframe, but are also planned within the larger context of Service landscape conservation priorities. Each project also includes a monitoring component. It is anticipated this funding will support approximately 10 recovery actions.

Environmental Contaminants (+$2,000,000/+10 FTE)
This increase will be targeted to increasing capability in spill response and restoration of trust resources damaged by contaminant releases. Service technical expertise in ecotoxins is necessary to inform, plan, and restore landscapes important to Service trust species. Ecotoxin expertise is critical for addressing the cleanup efforts from unexpected contaminant spills, as well as coordination of restoration activities with large ecosystem and species recovery in mind. Funds will also be available for analytical analysis of pre- and post-restoration of NRDA sites. The Service will utilize existing technical expertise to support the planning and implementation of restoration as well as the application of environmental risk assessment for trust species, focusing on surrogate species and regional priority species. The criteria will greatly improve our ability to monitor our trust resources and determine effects from contaminants.

National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) (+$1,400,000/+10 FTE)
With this funding, the Service will continue to work closely with the States to make existing wetlands and surface waters geospatial data available to the public. Specifically, as data become available from the States and other partners, the Service will provide quality assurance and quality control of the data and provide the information through the online national wetlands geospatial data layer. The Service will begin initial planning and design for the next decadal Status and Trends report with these funds. Funds will also be targeted towards expanding geospatial capability for supporting species conservation consistent with regional and national priorities. Increasingly, landscape level analysis for long-range planning and resource management hinges on the availability and utility of large geospatial datasets at the regional or national level. Landscape-level approaches to management hold the promise of a broader-based and more consistent consideration of both development and conservation, as opposed to the current piecemeal approaches. A concerted effort to produce national geospatial datasets is needed to move toward system-focused actions for resource assessment. The Service needs additional internet-based tools and systems for sharing trusted geospatial data to provide landscape-level views of resources for use by the public, government agencies and partner organizations. Integrated geospatial layers provide decision makers and users from Federal and State governments, local communities, businesses, industry, and the individual land owners with reliable information to make wise decisions.

Ecosystem Restoration—California Bay Delta (+$1,100,000/+3 FTE)
This increase will allow the Service to assess the success of Delta habitat restoration efforts, including habitat restoration efforts for delta smelt throughout its entire range, and contribute to studies of delta smelt ecology and management strategies to improve abundance. This work is critical for the Service to support Service partnerships with State and Federal agencies and stakeholder groups interested in Bay Delta management and water supply and to understand and plan for the effects of climate change. This work will support efforts to strategically conserve habitat and assure a healthy and sustainable watershed that can also support the water needs of California.

Marine Mammals (+$533,000/+0 FTE)
With the requested increase, the Service will enhance our capability to address health and stranding issues, review protective measures, support research and monitoring efforts, and expand public outreach and awareness. For example, funds would be used to assess effects that recent die-offs have had on the population of manatees in Florida.

In Alaska, funds will be used to support efforts for polar bear awareness and safety activities being conducted in partnership with our local stakeholders. For Pacific walrus, additional funds could be used to support monitoring the Chukchi Sea area Pacific walrus haul-outs and provide dedicated coastal surveys, as well as collection of stranding data.

Wolf Livestock Loss Demonstration Program (-$1,000,000/+0 FTE)
In FY 2015, Congress provided $1,000,000 to fund a demonstration program that gives grants to States and Tribes for livestock producers conducting proactive, non-lethal activities to reduce the risk of livestock loss due to predation by wolves and to compensate livestock producers, as appropriate, for livestock losses due to such predation. The Service proposes to discontinue funding in FY 2016 because there are other programs that are better suited to deliver this funding. The 2014 Farm Bill makes the Livestock Indemnity Payments (LIP) a permanent program and provides retroactive authority to cover eligible livestock losses back to Oct. 1, 2011. LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the Federal government or protected by Federal law, including wolves and avian predators. Funding for recovery of listed species is limited and the Service is focused on preventing extinction and improving the status of species through on the ground conservation actions.

Program Overview

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

Candidate Conservation
Candidate Conservation focuses on two primary activities: species assessment and facilitating voluntary conservation efforts for species under consideration for listing under the ESA. Candidate Conservation uses all available information to conduct a scientifically rigorous assessment process that identifies species that warrant listing. The most recent Candidate Notice of Review (79 Federal Register 234, December 5, 2014) identified 146 species as candidates for listing.

Candidate Conservation also provides technical assistance for developing Candidate Conservation Agreements (CCA) and Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAA), and facilitates voluntary conservation efforts by private landowners, States, Tribes, Territories, Federal agencies, and partners for priority candidate and other species-at-risk for which potential listing is a concern, such as greater sage-grouse. Over the last decades, these and other conservation efforts have already been successful for 59 species which never required the protections of the ESA because of the rapid, coordinated action supported by Candidate Conservation. Service biologists support and monitor the implementation of partnership-based conservation agreements and activities by the Service, other DOI bureaus and Federal agencies, States (e.g., through State Wildlife Action Plans), Tribes, and other partners and stakeholders. One example is the partnership with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to implement Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW). Through the voluntary, incentive-based WLFW effort, NRCS and Service programs provide landowners with technical and financial assistance to achieve specific conservation goals for candidate and listed species.

For candidate species, the Service uses a proactive, strategic, and collaborative approach for conservation planning that is designed to reduce or remove identified threats. A conservation agreement or strategy is then prepared that covers the entire range of one or more candidate species, or a landscape scale plan targeting threats in a particular area that supports multiple species-at-risk. The Arctic grayling was removed from candidate status in August 2014 as a result of the effective collaboration of multiple partners to implement the 2006 CCAA with the Montana Departments of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and Natural Resources and Conservation, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Thirty-three ranching families enrolled in the CCAA. With the help of these and other partners, we have improved water flows, restored riparian habitat during critical times of the year, installed fencing to keep cattle out of the river, and removed barriers to grayling migration by implementing over 250 conservation projects on nearly 160,000 acres in the Upper Big Hole watershed.

Endangered Species Recovery

Developing, coordinating, implementing, and managing all of the recovery tools and partner activities in a cohesive and effective manner for species' recovery require significant commitment and resources. The Service plays a vital role in leading or guiding the recovery planning process, as well as an essential role in facilitating, supporting, and monitoring the implementation of recovery actions by the Service, other DOI bureaus, Federal agencies, States, and other partners and stakeholders.

Service biologists use the inherent flexibility in the implementation of the ESA whenever it is advantageous, feasible, and practicable. Recently the Service finalized the revised existing regulations under section 10(j) of the ESA governing the nonessential experimental population of the Mexican wolf. 10(j) rules provide for flexibility in management by considering the population as threatened, regardless of its status elsewhere in its range, and allowing the development of a special rule to provide flexibility in management of the species. In this case, revisions include expanding the area in which captive raised wolves can be released and the area into which wolves can disperse in order to improve recovery implementation and species conservation.

The goal of Recovery is to minimize or remove the threats that led to the species listing and to work toward reclassifying the species from endangered to threatened, or toward delisting the species altogether. This process requires decades of technical leadership, constant monitoring, adaptive management, and holistic planning, together with close coordination and collaboration with Service partners to assist in these recovery efforts.

Marine Mammals

Northern Sea Otters
Photo Credit: Randall Davis

Marine mammals are a resource of great cultural, aesthetic, economic, and recreational significance. Enacted in 1972, the MMPA is one of the most important statutory authorities for conserving and managing marine mammals. This statute provides protection by prohibiting (with certain exceptions): 1) "take" of marine mammals in U.S. waters and by U.S. citizens on the high seas, and 2) the import, export, and sale of marine mammals and marine mammal parts, and products in the U.S. Under the MMPA, marine mammal populations, and the health and stability of marine ecosystems upon which they depend, are required to be maintained at, or returned to, healthy levels. The MMPA assigns the Department of the Interior, through the Service, responsibility for the conservation and management of polar bears, walruses, sea and marine otters, three species of manatees, and dugongs. Through regular monitoring, the Service can learn more about the effects of global changes on the environment by understanding the health and dynamics of marine mammal populations that depend on these environments.

Meeting the Service's mandate for the conservation of marine mammal species requires communication and cooperation with other Federal agencies, State governments, Alaska Native Organizations, scientists from numerous institutions and organizations, industry groups, and nongovernmental organizations. Through active collaboration and coordination, the Service is able to enhance the effectiveness of implementing the MMPA and achieve its goal of optimum sustainable population levels for marine mammal stocks. In FY 2016, the Service will continue to work with partners to sustain efforts to survey and assess population statuses and trends for sea otters, Pacific walruses, polar bears, and West Indian manatees and will continue to support response efforts for stranded or beached marine mammals. The Service will also continue efforts to maintain current stock assessment reports for all 10 marine mammal stocks under the conservation and management jurisdiction of the Service. Working with Alaskan natives and local communities, the Service will coordinate management of the Pacific walrus stock with Russia

and the two polar bear stocks shared with Russia and Canada, in support of our existing international agreements. The Service will continue implementing regulations associated with oil and gas industry activities to minimize potential impacts and will address other sources for incidental take authorizations

Cooperative Recovery Initiative

In FY 2016, the Service will continue to support a cross-programmatic partnership approach to complete planning, restoration, and management actions addressing current threats to endangered species in areas of strategic importance for conservation of listed species. The focus will be on implementing recovery actions for species on national wildlife refuges and in surrounding ecosystems that are near delisting or reclassification from endangered to threatened or actions urgently needed for critically endangered species by utilizing the resources and expertise of Service staff.

Projects employ actions that will significantly improve the status of one or more listed species. CRI projects are intended to be on-the-ground activities where meaningful progress can be shown within a short timeframe, but are also planned within the larger context of Service landscape conservation priorities. Each project also includes a monitoring component.

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

Service biologists are key members of the DOI NRDAR program, whose mission is to restore natural resources injured by oil spills or hazardous substance releases into the environment. The Service provides leadership in the development of DOI Program guidance and participates in all damage assessment cases funded by the Departmental Program. In cooperation with state, tribal and federal co-trustees, Service staff investigates injuries that result from the release of hazardous material and oil spills and applies their unique technical expertise to reduce the impact on natural resources and to restore injured resources. Service staff determines the extent of injury, plays a key role in settlement negotiations with responsible parties, and works with interested local, state, and national groups to complete projects that restore fish, wildlife, and habitat.

National Wetlands Inventory

The Service is the principal Federal agency monitoring and reporting changes to the Nation's wetlands. Through the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI), the Service maintains a series of maps to show wetlands and adjacent deep-water habitats. Every decade, the Service reports to Congress on the status and trends of wetlands. NWI developed the National Wetlands Classification and National Wetlands Mapping Standards and provides online Wetland Mapping training to assist cooperators and data contributors in successfully submitting standards-compliant wetlands geospatial data to the National Wetlands Inventory. This information becomes part of the NWI-managed Wetlands Layer of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) and is used extensively to make resource management decisions at the Federal, State, tribal, territorial, and local government levels and the private sector. Through NSDI, the Service complies with the direction in OMB Circular A-16 (Revised) and supports the E-Government initiative, Data.gov and Geo.data.gov, and serves as an important data component to the DOI Geospatial Blueprint.

In FY 2016, the Service will continue to evolve and engage the geospatial community in using mapping data to answer critical questions about species conservation and recovery. Geospatial data layering and reports provide important tools to inform biologists and decision makers about key locational information to help with energy project siting decisions, project planning impacts, options for minimizing impacts of development on the affected ecosystem, and adaptive management and performance reporting. Through the conservation and recovery focus, the Service is working to bring all of its tools and systems to facilitate resource management decisions on the ground.

Coastal Barrier Resources Act

Service staff determine whether properties are located "in" or "out" of the Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS), consult with Federal agencies regarding infrastructure projects proposed within the CBRS, and prepare modernized CBRS maps. The Service is committed to modernizing the CBRS maps as much as resources allow using digital technology to improve access to information, increase efficiency for infrastructure project planning, and increase accuracy and timeliness in determining whether individual properties are located within the CBRS. The program conserves coastal habitats by restricting Federal funding that encourages new development and prohibits the sale of federally-backed flood insurance for most structures that would be inappropriately located within the CBRS. This saves millions in taxpayer dollars by reducing the intensity of development in hurricane-prone and biologically sensitive areas, and preserving essential spawning, nesting, nursery, and feeding habitat for many threatened and endangered species.

Ensuring that CBRS maps are updated, usable, and accurately depict CBRS boundaries are important goals of the Service. The Service is committed to produce comprehensively revised maps for the entire CBRS, and is focused on preparing updated maps for eight northeastern States by 2018. Since 1999, the Service has produced comprehensively revised maps for approximately 12% of the CBRS.

2016 Program Performance

Highlights of 2016 include:

- Building partnerships to help the Service implement 125 recovery actions (including habitat restoration, captive propagation, and reintroduction) for priority listed species and conduct 302 contaminant actions that benefit FWS species and habitats to achieve restoration objectives.
- Addressing the backlog of approximately 60 species that have been identified for potential delisting or downlisting under the ESA based upon recent 5-year reviews, while pursing delisting of four species presently recognized as recovered.
- Facilitating voluntary conservation efforts by private landowners, States, Tribes, Territories, Federal agencies (especially the NRCS in administering the Working Lands for Wildlife program), and partners for priority candidate and other species-at-risk for which potential listing is a concern.
- Continuing comprehensive map modernization for eight northeastern States affected by Hurricane Sandy.
- Working with partners to add updated or revised wetlands data into the National Wetlands Inventory online database as the data becomes available.
- Providing new wetlands reports and tools such as the Surface Waters and Wetlands Inventory along with other tools and reports that expand efforts to share information, resources and expertise, and coordinate conservation work by enhancing geospatial tools and decision support systems that benefit species conservation.
- Updating stock assessments for three marine mammal populations.

Conservation and Restoration – Combined Program Change and Overview Table

Performance Goal	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Target	2016 PB	Change from 2015 Target to 2016 PB
2.9.5 - # contaminant actions (e.g., spill drills & responses, investigations, cleanup, assessments, technical assistance, & Clean Water Act activities) benefiting FWS lands	1,006	1,725	1,579	1,121	962	962	0
Comments: Change in performance in FY16 is a result of the increase in environmental contaminants funding to support restoration and conservation efforts.							
4.1.10 - % of up-to-date digital wetlands data produced for the nation to Improve Information Base, Information Management and Technical Assistance	4.08% (95 of 2,325)	0.91% (21 of 2,325)	1.06% (25 of 2,325)	7.92% (184 of 2,325)	2.27% (88 of 3,891)	2.27% (88 of 3,891)	0.00%
Comments: Service completed mapping for lower 48 States in FY 2014; mapping support in FY 2016 will be focused on quality control and review of updated or revised maps.							
4.1.11 - Cumulative % of acres with digital data available	66.95% (1,556 of 2,325)	73.29% (1,704 of 2,324)	85.20% (1,980 of 2,324)	165.92% (3,857 of 2,324)	86.36% (3,542 of 4,101)	86.36% (3,542 of 4,101)	0.00%
Comments: Service completed mapping for lower 48 States in FY 2014; mapping support in FY 2016 will be focused on quality control and review of updated or revised maps.							
7.19.5 - # contaminant actions (e.g., spill drills & responses, investigations, cleanup, assessments, technical assistance, & Clean Water Act activities) benefiting listed species	1,420	1,916	1,845	1,336	868	1,170	302
Comments: Change in performance in FY16 is a result of the increase in environmental contaminants funding to support restoration and conservation efforts.							
CSF 7.20 - Percent of delisted species due to recovery (cumulative)	44% (18 of 41)	46% (19 of 41)	48% (21 of 44)	50% (23 of 46)	53% (25 of 47)	57% (29 of 51)	7%
Comments: Funding provided through the General Program increase in Conservation and Restoration will facilitate delisting rule-makings.							

Performance Goal	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Target	2016 PB	Change from 2015 Target to 2016 PB
7.30.8 - Percent of threatened and endangered species recovery actions implemented (GPRA)	62.8% (24,072 of 38,316)	73.3% (24,625 of 33,616)	68.1% (24,285 of 35,678)	68.6% (24,621 of 35,878)	68.1% (24,581 of 36,109)	68.4% (24,706 of 36,109)	0.3%
Comments: Funding provided through the General Program increase in Conservation and Restoration will support implementation of recovery actions.							
8.3.5 - % of candidate species where listing is unnecessary as a result of conservation actions, including actions taken through agreements	0% (1 of 247)	1% (3 of 246)	3% (5 of 188)	4% (6 of 143)	3% (3 of 96)	4% (4 of 96)	0%
Comments: Funding provided through the General Program increase in Conservation and Restoration will support implementation of conservation actions that may lead to making listing unnecessary for a candidate species.							
9.1.5 - # of current marine mammal stock assessments	8	8	9	9	9	10	1
Comments: Funding provided through the Marine Mammal increase will support an additional stock assessments among other efforts.							
9.1.6 - % of populations managed or influenced by the Marine Mammal Program for which current population trend is known	70% (7 of 10)	60% (6 of 10)	60% (6 of 10)	71% (5 of 7)	50% (5 of 10)	60% (6 of 10)	10%
Comments: Funding provided through the Marine Mammal increase will support additional trend analysis among other efforts.							

Habitat Conservation

Activity: Habitat Conservation (Proposed)

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2015 (+/-)
Partners for Fish and Wildlife	($000)	[51,776]	[51,776]	+327	+51,776	+290	52,393	+52,393
	FTE	*[258]*	*[258]*	*0*	*+258*	*0*	*258*	*+258*
Coastal Program	($000)	[13,184]	[13,184]	+109	+13,184	+82	13,375	+13,375
	FTE	*[64]*	*[64]*	*0*	*+64*	*0*	*64*	*+64*
Total, Habitat Conservation	**($000)**	**[64,960]**	**[64,960]**	**+436**	**+64,960**	**+372**	**65,768**	**+65,768**
	FTE	***[322]***	***[322]***	***0***	***+322***	***0***	***322***	***+322***

Note: These subactivities are being moved from Ecological Services. For an explanation of the changes please see page ES-1.

Program Overview

The Fish and Wildlife Service promotes the protection, conservation, and restoration of the Nation's fish and wildlife resources through its Habitat Conservation programs. These cooperative programs deliver on-the-ground conservation by working collaboratively with partners to restore, enhance and protect habitat for priority Federal trust species. Through voluntary partnerships with private landowners, Tribes, other government agencies, non-government organizations and other stakeholders, the Service provides technical and financial assistance and leverages partners' resources in support of Federal and local conservation strategies on public and private lands to conserve America's great outdoors, and address conservation challenges like climate change and habitat fragmentation. Using Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) principles, the Service targets resources within geographic focus areas to achieve landscape-level habitat conservation benefits that have a positive impact on species populations.

The primary strategies for the Programs include:

- Developing strong and effective partnerships and leveraging resources to effect greater impacts on common conservation goals.
- Providing technical and financial assistance to partners to protect, restore, and enhance priority habitats.
- Coordinating with USDA Farm Bill Conservation Programs, by providing technical assistance in the development, implementation and evaluation of USDA conservation programs and initiatives to ensure shared conservation goals are met to benefit Trust resources.

The Service works with landowners and partners to conserve habitat.
Above left: A biologist works with a landowner in Michigan.
Above right: Working with partners to preserve habitat in Nebraska.
Below: A project to enhance boreal toad habitat in Utah.

Activity: Habitat Conservation
Subactivity: Partners for Fish and Wildlife

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2015 (+/-)
Partners for Fish and Wildlife	($000)	[51,776]	[51,776]	+327	+51,776	+290	52,393	+52,393
	FTE	*[258]*	*[258]*	*0*	*+258*	*0*	*258*	*+258*

Justification of 2016 Program Changes

The 2016 budget request for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program is $52,393,000 and 258 FTE, a net program change of $290,000 and +0 FTE from the 2015 Enacted.

Summary of 2016 Program Changes for Partners for Fish and Wildlife

Request Component	($000)	FTE
• Partners for Fish and Wildlife Activities	+290	0
Program Changes	**+290**	**0**

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Activities (+$290,000/+0 FTE)
Additional funding will be used to continue the Service's efforts to work with partners to voluntarily confront high-priority conservation initiatives on private lands. The Service will focus funding on projects such as the Monarch Butterfly Conservation Initiative, which restores vital habitat on partners' land needed for restoration of the species; projects aimed at creating enhanced ecosystem resilience in the face of anticipated environmental change; and additional habitat restoration efforts for Federal trust species, such as sage-grouse, to ensure self-sustaining populations.

Program Overview

The PFW Program is a voluntary, citizen-and community-based stewardship program for fish and wildlife conservation on private land. Based on the premise that fish and wildlife conservation is a responsibility shared by citizens and government and that collaboration across stakeholders is a value-added component of on-the-ground delivery, the Service works with private landowners, other government agencies, Tribes and other partners to support Federal and local conservation strategies. Private land is critically important to the successful management of Federal trust species and fulfilling the mission of the Service. With private land ownership comprising nearly 70% of all holdings in the United States, these properties are pivotal to the success of large conservation undertakings. As an example, three-quarters of the wetlands remaining in the United States are privately owned. Wetlands are vital to both wildlife and people, with millions of birds, mammals, and other animals depending on them for food, spawning, and nursery areas and nearly one-third of America's endangered and threatened plants and animals requiring wetlands for survival. Wetlands also benefit people by providing natural flood water storage, recreational opportunities, ground water supply recharge, pollutant filtration, and irrigation water provision.

The success of this program lies not only in its ability to effectively implement habitat restoration projects, but also in its ability to build trust and credibility with landowners and partners. The key is partnerships and building one-on-one relationships, achieved with a field staff of approximately 260 highly trained professionals assisting landowners to execute cooperative agreements with the Service. These partnerships provide information and resources in a timely manner, leverage financial and technical assistance, and help implement cost efficient and effective projects in all 50 States and U.S. Territories. The PFW Program's strong partnerships help leverage program dollars at a ratio of 4:1 or greater, and has led to the voluntary restoration of more than 3,991,891 acres of upland habitat and 1,207,553 acres of

wetlands on private land, since its inception in 1987. These acres, along with 12,501 miles of enhanced stream habitat, provide valuable habitat for Federal trust species. In FY14, the PFW Program worked with 1,107 private landowners and 820 partners to implement projects across the nation. Since the start of the program, PFW biologists have worked with 17,000 private landowners and almost 5,800 partner groups.

The Service uses science-based management practices to restore and enhance wildlife habitat, create corridors and connectivity on the regional landscape, and engage youth in wildlife education and restoration activities. These activities protect and conserve our wildlife, lands, and waters for future generations. Our Habitat Restoration programs implement projects that not only support the Department's Engaging the Next Generation Initiative, but also the Service's Urban Wildlife Conservation Program and Monarch Butterfly Conservation Initiatives.

The PFW Program vision is: ***"…to efficiently achieve voluntary habitat restoration on private lands, through financial and technical assistance, for the benefit of Federal trust species."***

This vision is the guiding principle in reaching the program's ultimate outcome of increasing the number of self-sustaining populations of priority species. The PFW Program is an important conservation delivery tool and is engaged in cross-programmatic biological planning and conservation design to identify priority species habitat restoration targets across the landscape to increase or sustain species populations. The resulting Partners' projects reduce the threats to fish and wildlife habitat and enhance ecosystem and population resiliency to predicted changes. Increased integration of the PFW Program expertise will improve the Service's efficiency and effectiveness in completing projects with private landowners that can preempt the need to list species under the Endangered Species Act. This effort fits well within the Service's Strategic Habitat Conservation framework.

Use of Cost and Performance Information

The PFW Program continues to achieve results via performance-based management.

- The PFW Program operates under a 5-year Strategic Plan developed with stakeholder input. This plan defines outcome-oriented priorities, goals and performance targets that contribute to the long-term outcome-oriented performance goals of Ecological Services, Migratory Birds and Fisheries programs.
- Annual project selection strategically directs Program resources to sites within priority geographic focus areas.
- In an effort to improve information sharing, the PFW Program continues to fine-tune its web-based accomplishment reporting system (Habitat Information Tracking System) by enhancing its Geographic Information capabilities and including financial information on projects.
- The PFW Program allocates base dollars through a national performance-based allocation methodology that takes into account the Service Region's past performance, potential benefits to Federal trust species and habitat conservation opportunities in each Region.

The PFW Program resources are targeted to high-value "geographic focus areas," developed in coordination with other Service Programs and partner agencies and as identified in the PFW Program 5-year Strategic Plan. This Plan guides the Program towards: (1) clearly defined national and regional habitat goals, (2) improved accountability for Federal dollars expended in support of these goals, (3) enhanced communication to achieve greater responsiveness to local plans and conservation priorities, and (4) an expanded commitment to serving additional partners. The Service also continues to concentrate its delivery on scientifically-supported, collaboratively-established focus areas.

> *"By maintaining land in private ownership and thus on the local tax rolls, programs like Partners also do much to support cash-poor rural counties". – California Waterfowl Association*

Many of the selected projects represent a key component of a strategic, on-the-ground response, addressing the threats to fish and wildlife habitat, and enhancing ecosystem and population resiliency to predicted changes. The Secretary has challenged the Department to work with partners to elevate the Nation's understanding of our resources at a landscape-level. As the conservation challenges of the 21st Century are more complex than ever before, these projects are designed to help achieve population and habitat objectives established at the landscape scale for species and habitats the Service considers most vulnerable and sensitive to habitat fragmentation, while addressing wetland loss, invasive species, sea-level rise, and climate change.

Voluntary landowner agreements under this program strengthen the role of citizens in the public/private natural resource conservation partnership. Bringing together people with a common interest in conservation allows for the leveraging of unique expertise and experience and combining skill-sets makes the projects stronger due to the varied input.

Service staff serve as a bridge to owners of land adjacent to National Wildlife Refuges, to complement activities on refuge lands, contribute to the resolution of environmental issues associated with off-refuge practices, and promote wildlife corridors outside refuge boundaries. These efforts maintain and enhance hunting and fishing traditions for current and future citizens by conserving wildlife and their habitats, especially in areas of increased recreation, resource extraction, and development pressures.

2016 Program Performance

A 5-year Strategic Plan that identifies priority habitat restoration activities within geographic focus areas guides the PFW Program. A majority of PFW Program funds go directly to project delivery and to support technical assistance. Funds invested in habitat conservation projects on private land typically are matched at a ratio of 4:1 or greater.

In FY 2016, the PFW Program will continue to support habitat restoration efforts to benefit Federal trust species with a focus on increasing the percent of self-sustaining Federal trust species populations (e.g., gopher tortoise, sage-grouse, New England cottontail) in priority focus areas. The PFW Program will use the requested Adaptive Habitat Management dollars to focus efforts on population and habitat objectives established at landscape scales for species the Service considers most vulnerable and sensitive to climate change, such as the whooping crane.

At the requested funding level, the PFW Program will restore or enhance:

- 32,823 acres of priority wetlands,
- 200,829 acres of priority grassland and upland habitat, and
- 590 miles of degraded stream and riparian habitat that will benefit high-priority fish and wildlife resources dependent on private lands.

Monarch Butterfly Conservation Initiative

Due to dramatic declines in honey bees and other pollinators, President Obama requested a federal strategy to promote the health of pollinators in June 2014. In response, PFW Program biologists are working diligently across the country to integrate native milkweed and nectar plants into our seed mixes. This is all part of a nationwide multi-agency monarch butterfly recovery initiative to restore vital habitat

used during the extraordinary migrations of this iconic species. The PFW Program is helping to lead the way in the Service's commitment to restore and enhance nearly 100,000 acres of habitat for benefit the monarch butterflies in FY 2015.

Example projects that were funded with FY2014 funds and highlight Service and Secretarial priorities include:

Great Plains (LCC) Partnership for Lesser Prairie-Chicken (LEPC) Restoration, Ellis County, Oklahoma

Working together with the Great Plains Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) and the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC), the Partners Program identified a key private landowner to develop a lesser prairie-chicken Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) through ODWC. Management objectives outlined in the LEPC CCAA was to restore and enhance the upland prairie grassland habitat, specifically to remove the eastern red cedar trees, an invasive species that is currently spreading across northwestern Oklahoma.

Lesser Prairie Chickens.

The Service worked with the landowner to complete the mechanical removal of the cedar trees with a skid loader, followed up with prescribed fire to rebound native forbs and grasses, which are important for grassland bird populations. This successful partnership is working to restore the native priaire ecosystem in Oklahoma, providing nesting cover and brood rearing habitat for the lesser prairie- chicken and other grassland bird species.

Kamakou Kapualei Ungulate Fencing Project, Molokai Island, Hawaii

Fence construction crew on Molikai Island, HI

The East Molokai Watershed Partnership completed nearly 2.2 miles of exclusionary fencing on two private parcels, protecting 212-acres of rare forest habitat on the Kamakou summit area of Molokai Island in the State of Hawaii. The project served to protect a suite of 15 highly endangered plant species and their native habitats from grazing by introduced feral ungulates.

Due to the remote location and extreme terrain, a helicopter was used to assist fence construction crews in completing the installation of 11,130 feet of the Kapualei fence line. USFWS provided funding and technical assistance through fenceline surveys, aviation safety logistics, and monitoring of the fenceline during and after completion.

Wetlands, Watersheds, and Whooping Cranes: A Comprehensive Approach to Wetland Habitat Restoration in the Rainwater Basin of Nebraska

USFWS Cooperative Recovery Initiative

The Rainwater Basin of Nebraska is an important migration stop-over area for the endangered whooping crane and other targeted at-risk species. Through the Cooperative Recovery Initiative, the PFW Program is enhancing the watershed by restoring wetlands on private lands that have historically been modified for agricultural uses. Once a common practice, irrigation pits were used to collect water during rain events. These unused pits are now preventing water from reaching

Whooping Cranes

wetlands. By filling the pits, the hydrologic function is being restored to critical wetland habitat. To date, 96 pits have either been or are in the process of being filled. This has involved collaboration with 67 landowners and impacted 1,644 wetland acres.

The Service is committed to recovering the critically endangered whooping crane, from the captive propagation occurring at Patuxent NWR in the mid-Atlantic to the restoration of wintering habitat on the Gulf Coast. The PFW Program is contributing to the Service's landscape-level conservation effort, connecting Service actions across the species' range.

Stewart Mattix Prairie Restoration, Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge, Indiana

Enhancing Youth Programs

The PFW Program in Indiana developed a partnership with Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge and George Earle Elementary School in Lake County, Indiana to improve important wildlife habitat that will be used as an outdoor learning lab in an urban setting. The habitat restoration component of this project consisted of removing invasive and opportunistic woody brush species to restore 22 acres of overgrown and degraded prairie/wet prairie/savanna habitat for the benefit of grassland and savanna dependent bird species such as the eastern meadowlark, field sparrow, and red-headed woodpecker. Additionally, brush control released native wildflower seed bank to improve pollinator habitat in an urban landscape, including purple milkweed for monarchs.

The local Partners biologist developed the plans for the site, made all arrangements with Big Oaks NWR for the operator and machine, oversaw the cutting in the winter, hired and oversaw the contractor conducting re-sprout treatment during the growing season, and developed and purchased the seed mix for the project. As a result of the successful habitat restoration, this project demonstrated the value of partnerships by bringing together the Partners program, Big Oaks NWR, local school and city officials, area businesses, a community foundation, and local citizens and volunteers to accomplish much for wildlife habitat, the local community, and area students and teachers.

Partners for Fish and Wildlife - Program Change & Overview Table

Performance Goal	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Target	2016 PB	Change from 2015 Target to 2016 PB
3.1.1 - # of non-FWS riparian (stream/shoreline) miles restored, including through partnerships (includes miles treated for invasives & now restored) - PFW - annual (GPRA)	502	306	253	353	174	594	420
4.1.1 - # of wetlands acres enhanced/ restored through voluntary partnerships (includes acres treated for invasives & now restored) - PFW - annual (GPRA)	43,613	38,840	33,827	31,096	13,514	33,007	19,493

Performance Goal	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Target	2016 PB	Change from 2015 Target to 2016 PB
4.2.1 - # of non-FWS upland acres enhanced/ restored through voluntary partnerships (includes acres treated for invasives & now restored) - PFW - annual (GPRA)	184,781	134,720	247,093	241,302	91,380	201,954	110,574
5.1.14 - # of fish barriers removed or installed - PFW	94	102	118	97	72	110	38
Comments:	For all measures above: Past performance provides no assurances of future performance. Future performance may vary materially from prior periods due to a number of risk factors including weather and the voluntary involvement of landowners and other cooperators.						

Activity: Habitat Conservation
Subactivity: Coastal Program

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2015 (+/-)
Coastal Program	($000)	[13,184]	[13,184]	+109	+13,184	+82	13,375	+13,375
	FTE	*[64]*	*[64]*	*0*	*+64*	*0*	*64*	*+64*

Summary of 2016 Program Change for Coastal Program

Request Component	($000)	FTE
• Coastal Program Activities	+82	0
Program Change	+82	**0**

Justification of 2015 Program Changes

The 2016 budget request for the Coastal Program is $13,266,000, a program change of $82,000 and +0 FTE from the 2015 Enacted.

Coastal Program Activities (+$82,000/+0 FTE)
The increase will allow the Service to restore and protect an additional 100 acres of habitat.

Program Overview

Since 1985, the Service, through the Coastal Program has helped conserve our Nation's treasured coastal resources by providing technical and financial assistance to implement habitat restoration and protection projects on public and private lands in 24 priority coastal ecosystems, including areas in the Great Lakes and U.S. Territories. Through the Coastal Program, the Service promotes voluntary habitat conservation

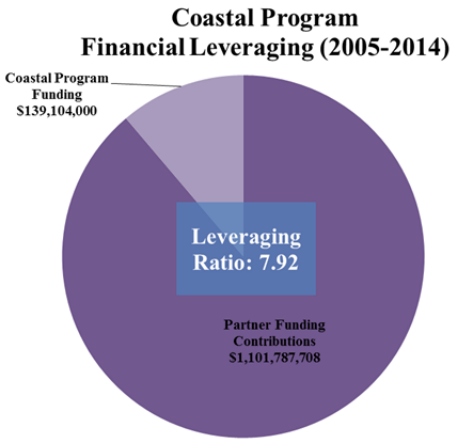
that benefits coastal-dependent Federal trust species, including threatened and endangered species, migratory birds, inter-jurisdictional fish, certain marine mammals, and species of international concern. Achieving this goal requires collaboration with other Service programs, Federal, State and local agencies, tribal governments and native corporations, non-governmental organizations, universities, industry, and private landowners. The Program's ability to work on both private and public lands provides a unique opportunity that helps the Service deliver landscape conservation, maintain habitat connectivity and continuity, and connect and engage conservation partners with the Service's priorities and objectives.

Service projects support the recovery of threatened and endangered species, migratory bird conservation initiatives/plans, and State comprehensive wildlife conservation strategies, with a primary focus on increasing the number of self-sustaining Federal trust species and precluding the need to list species under the Endangered Species Act. Research indicates that trust species use protected and restored high-quality habitats. By using regional strategic plans, the Service ensures our technical and financial resources are directed to projects that directly benefit trust species conservation. These strategic plans are developed in collaboration with conservation partners, and incorporate the goals of both regional and national conservation plans (e.g., National Wildlife Refuge comprehensive conservation plans, endangered species recovery plans, and migratory bird joint venture implementation plans). As a result, since 1984, Service staff and conservation partners have protected over 2,079,600 acres of priority coastal habitat and have restored over 509,750 acres of critical wetland and upland habitat and 2,200 miles of stream habitat. From FY 02-14, the Service worked with thousands of partners to deliver 3,578 habitat conservation projects designed specifically to benefit Federal trust species.

Conservation delivery is through locally-based field staff with the technical expertise to implement habitat conservation projects that are ecologically-sound and cost-effective. The field staff possesses first-hand knowledge of the local environment, potential partners, political and economic issues, and other challenges to habitat conservation. This knowledge and expertise enables the Service to develop long-term partnerships that deliver landscape-scale conservation efficiently and effectively.

The Service now administers the Coastal Program at the headquarters level in collaboration with the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS). In 2014, the Coastal Program completed 80 projects on or adjacent to a National Wildlife Refuge, protecting and/or restoring 32,410 acres of important habitat. These efforts allow the American public to experience fish, wildlife, plants, and their ecosystems in one of the world's largest system of conserved lands and waters.

The Coastal Program also works closely with Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs). Secretary Jewell has challenged the Department to work with partners to elevate the Nation's understanding of our resources on a landscape level. The Service has taken the lead to bring Federal agencies together with partners to undertake this task through the LCCs. One of the strengths of the Service is our technical expertise in planning and delivering conservation. By working with the LCCs, coastal habitat conservation can be implemented under the framework of landscape-scale planning in the 24 coastal ecosystems where the Program works. This planning helps connect important habitat areas for the Service's priority species and enlarge the benefits of conservation actions, such as delivering habitat improvement projects on adjacent non-federal lands.



The Coastal Program provides the Service with the opportunity to leverage its partners' technical and financial resources to maximize habitat conservation and benefits to

Federal trust species. On average, the Program leverages on average eight non-federal dollars for every Federal dollar spent. This Service effort stimulates local economies by supporting jobs necessary to deliver habitat conservation projects, including environmental consultants, engineers, construction workers, surveyors, assessors, and nursery and landscape workers. These jobs also generate indirect economic activities that benefit local hotels, restaurants, stores and gas stations. The Service estimates that the average project supports 60 jobs and stimulates 40 businesses. Service staff also provides additional capability and capacity building to conservation partners.

Representative projects that support Service and Department of the Interior (Department) initiatives and priorities, include:

Monarch Butterfly Conservation Initiative

The Service is leading a conservation strategy for Monarch butterflies in support of President Obama's Federal Strategy to Promote the Health of Pollinators and anticipates delivering over 150,000 acres of monarch habitat through existing and planned projects on public and private lands in FY 2015. This strategy includes strategic planning, partner outreach and coordination, and technical and financial assistance for priority conservation projects.

Monarch butterfly.
Credit: Greg Thompson, USFWS

Cooperative Recovery Initiative Project

Golden paintbrush.
Credit: Chris Swenson, USFWS

Under the Cooperative Recovery Initiative, the Service is working to restore coastal prairie habitat adjacent to Puget Sound, in Washington that benefits the threatened Golden paintbrush. Because this habitat type is rare, conservation efforts aim to conserve large areas necessary to maintain this unique coastal ecosystem.

This project provided prairie habitat for Golden paintbrush recovery by converting abandoned agricultural fields back to prairie habitat. Service staff conducted project planning, prepared restoration designs and oversaw the project implementation. While project monitoring has determined the Golden paintbrush population is expanding on the site, continued control of invasive will be necessary to maintain this success.

Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration

The Coastal Program supports the Department of Interior's Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program, which is responsible for assessing and restoring natural resources impacted by contaminant spills (e.g., oil spills). We collaborate with other Federal, tribal and State partners to assess resource impacts, and coordinate restoration planning and implementation. Even 25 years later, oil spill recovery efforts associated with the Exxon Valdez oil spill continue. We are providing technical and financial assistance to the Great Land Trust and the Exxon/Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council to develop a GIS habitat assessment model that maps and prioritizes conservation opportunities within the 77,000 square mile Exxon/Valdez oil spill area, including 1,300 miles of impacted coastline.

Landscape-level Conservation Planning

Landscape-scale conservation planning efforts allow the Service to make informed management decisions and deliver strategic habitat conservation. For example, Service staff is conducting small mammal surveys to develop a species list for the North Florida Refuge Complex (Refuge Complex). These surveys will provide the data necessary for the listing and/or recovery of endangered species. For example, the current known range of the Florida salt marsh vole is limited to Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge. Determining the presence or absence of the vole on the Refuge Complex will confirm its listing or may lead to its consideration for de-listing.

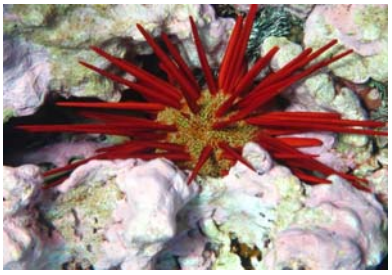
St. Marks NWR. Credit: Danielle Marsh

Urban Conservation

The Service recognizes the importance of engaging urban communities in habitat conservation. To help with this stewardship effort, the Service conducts conservation projects in urban areas that benefit fish and migratory birds, and develops conservation tools to empower local communities. The Kenai Peninsula is an important area for many types of wildlife, birds and fish. It is also one of the fastest developing areas in Alaska and its natural resources contribute millions of dollars to the local economy. In order to balance economic and environmental demands, Service staff are working with Federal, state and local agencies, land trusts and other conservation groups to develop a web-based tool that provides accurate resource information to help communities, non-governmental organizations and local government leaders make informed conservation and development decisions.

Engaging Federal Partners

The Coastal Program is the Service-lead for coordinating with the Department on implementation of the National Ocean Policy. We work with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Land Trust Alliance to lead the Coastal Conservation Network, which provides resources to communities for mitigating the impacts of climate change and sea-level rise. Service staff support the Director as chair of the Estuary Habitat Restoration Program Council, which implements the Estuary Restoration Act (ERA). Through a national strategy, ERA promotes Federal agency coordination to a establish public-private partnerships to conduct estuary restoration.



Pencil urchin. Credit: Amanda Pollock, USFWS

Coastal Program Project Examples:

McDaniel Slough Estuary Marsh Restoration, Humboldt County, CA

Less than 1,000 acres of the native salt marshes remain in Humboldt Bay because of human alternations. For the past 10 years, Service staff have been working in partnership with federal, state, local government, and non-profit partners to restore the McDaniel Slough.

The project goal is to restore a transitional environment of self-sustaining salt, brackish and freshwater marshes by returning natural tidal, physical and biological processes to the system. Service staff assisted with the project planning and restoration design and provided construction oversight of the 212-acre restoration, which involved the removal of levees, fish passage barriers, and topography diversification.

In addition to benefiting migratory birds, this project also benefits the federally-listed Coho salmon, Chinook salmon, Tidewater goby and Steelhead. Recent fish surveys have found juvenile Coho salmon in the slough and farther upstream in Janes Creek. Service staff are continuing to work with partners to expand restoration efforts upstream of McDaniel Slough into Janes Creek. Future conservation efforts include improving fish passage, restoring the riparian corridor, and eradicating invasive plant species, including Reed Canary Grass.

Preventing the Extinction of the Nihoa Millerbird, HI

Service staff are leading a conservation effort to translocate Nihoa Millerbirds from Nihoa Island to Laysan Island, where a closely related Millerbird species went extinct in the 1920s. The islands are part of the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge, which consists of islands, reefs and atolls located in the northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

Nihoa millerbird. Credit: Sheldon Plentovich, USFWS

As with many species with limited numbers, catastrophic events such as hurricanes or the introduction of invasive predators can decimate an entire species population. By establishing a second population, we reduce the Millerbird's risk of extinction, and the birds also fill the absent role of an insectivore bird species on the Laysan Island. Working with the American Bird Conservancy, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Service staff are monitoring the success of the Laysan population. As of September 2014, the Laysan population was estimated to have grown from 50 to 161 birds and is predicted to continue to grow. Conservation translocation may be a model for the recovery of other endangered species.

Longleaf pine and Red-cockaded Woodpecker Habitat Improvement, SC

Service staff are working with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources to improve Longleaf pine habitat for the Red-cockaded Woodpecker on the Donnelly Wildlife Management Area (DWMA). The presence of mature Longleaf pine habitat made the DWMA ideal for RCW reintroduction. This project is part of a larger conservation effort to reintroduce the RCW into the ACE (i.e. Ashepoo, Combahee and South Edisto) Basin, one of the largest undeveloped estuaries along the Atlantic Coast. Service staff has been conserving public and private lands, in the ACE Basin, for the RCW since 2012. In 2014, work on the DWMA included timber thinning, including physical removal, chemical treatments and prescribed burns. Service staff assessed forest conditions before, during, and after thinning and provided forest management recommendations for the DWMA.

Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Credit: Martjan Lammertink

Delmarva Fox Squirrel Recovery

The Service announced the removal of the Delmarva fox squirrel, one of the first federally listed endangered species, from the Endangered Species List in December 2014. Fox squirrel populations had declined to 10 percent of historical numbers due to overhunting and habitat loss from timber harvests and agricultural production. Conservation efforts, such as squirrel reintroductions, and habitat protection and restoration, have increased their numbers to 28 percent of the historic population – a level biologists believe can sustain the species. New fox squirrels populations in Delaware indicate that the squirrels are continuing to reclaim more of their historic range.

Delmarva Fox Squirrel, USFWS

Habitat protection projects, like the conservation easements along the Chicamacomico River, in Maryland, play an important role in the fox squirrel recovery, protecting over 442 acres of salt marsh, forested wetlands, forests, and farmland, located near the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. Service staff working with partners identified critical fox squirrel habitat, prepared grant applications and easement documents, and conducted landowner outreach that improved habitat conditions on the easement for the Delmarva fox squirrel and other wildlife.

Coastal Programs - Combined Change and Overview Table

Performance Goal	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Target	2016 PB	Change from 2015 Target to 2016 PB
3.1.2 - # of non-FWS riparian (stream/shoreline) miles restored, including through partnerships – Coast Prog - annual (GPRA)	196	268	24	19	29	15	-14
3.2.1 - # of non-FWS riparian (stream/shoreline) miles protected through voluntary partnerships - annual (GPRA)	59	56	47	26	16	16	0
4.3.1 - # of non-FWS coastal/marine wetlands acres enhanced/ restored through voluntary partnerships (includes acres treated for invasives & now restored) - annual (GPRA)	13,921	7,617	34,204	19,235	6,042	4,039	-2,003
4.3.2 - # of non-FWS coastal/marine upland acres enhanced/ restored through voluntary partnerships (includes acres treated for invasives & now restored) - annual (GPRA)	14,012	12,022	13,127	8,202	3,784	4,899	1,115
4.6.1 - # of non-FWS coastal/marine wetlands acres protected through voluntary partnerships - annual (GPRA)	18,551	6,851	3,062	2,836	1,847	5,242	3,395
4.6.2 - # of non-FWS coastal/marine upland acres protected through voluntary partnerships - annual (GPRA)	9,084	14,742	11,574	4,441	1,069	2,664	1,595
5.1.17 - # of fish barriers removed or installed - Coastal	35	45	19	16	8	23	15
Comments:	For all measures above: Past performance provides no assurances of future performance. Future performance may vary materially from prior periods due to a number of risk factors including weather and the voluntary involvement of landowners and other cooperators.						

National Wildlife Refuge System

Activity: National Wildlife Refuge System

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2015 (+/-)
Wildlife and Habitat Management	($000)	229,843	230,343	+2,334	0	+17,155	249,832	+19,489
	FTE	*1,384*	*1,384*	*0*	*0*	*+18*	*1,402*	*+18*
Refuge Visitor Services	($000)	70,319	70,319	+924	0	+5,549	76,792	+6,473
	FTE	*549*	*549*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*549*	*0*
Refuge Law Enforcement	($000)	37,554	38,054	+496	0	+409	38,959	+905
	FTE	*243*	*243*	*0*	*0*	*+2*	*245*	*+2*
Conservation Planning	($000)	2,988	2,988	+57	-465	+85	2,665	-323
	FTE	*29*	*29*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*29*	*0*
Refuge Operations	**($000)**	**340,704**	**341,704**	**+3,811**	**-465**	**+23,198**	**368,248**	**+26,544**
	FTE	***2,205***	***2,205***	***0***	***0***	***+20***	***2,225***	***+20***
Refuge Maintenance	($000)	131,498	132,498	+690	0	+6,722	139,910	+7,412
	FTE	*595*	*565*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*565*	*0*
Total, National Wildlife Refuge System	**($000)**	**472,202**	**474,202**	**+4,501**	**-465**	**+29,920**	**508,158**	**+33,956**
	FTE	***2,800***	***2,770***	***0***	***0***	***+20***	***2,790***	***+20***

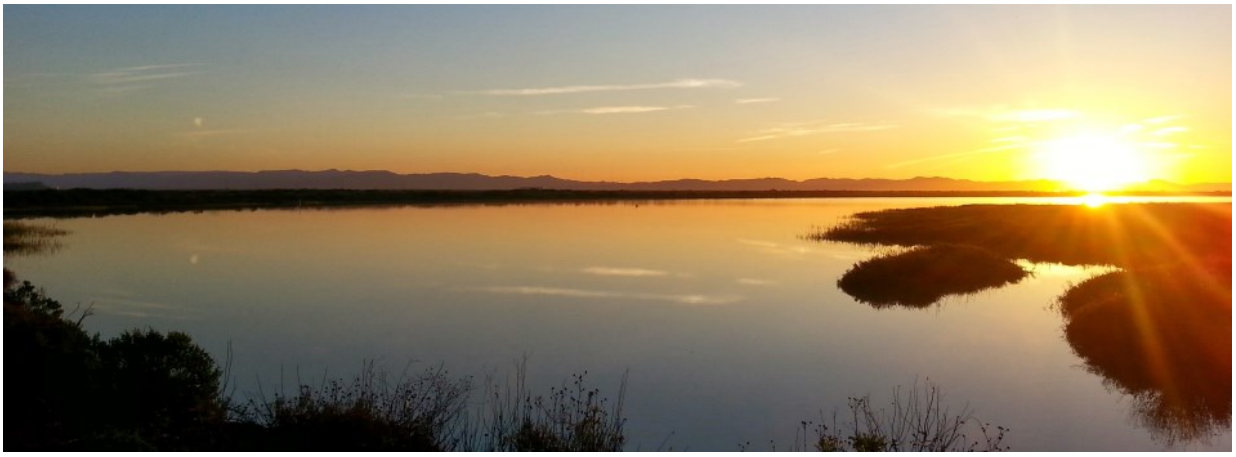
Program Overview

The Service's National Wildlife Refuge System (Refuge System) embodies our Nation's commitment to conserving wildlife populations and biological diversity for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans. The Refuge System comprises more than 150 million acres of land and waters, with refuges in all U.S. States and Territories around the world. These lands and waters provide habitat for thousands of species of wildlife and plants, sanctuary for hundreds of threatened and endangered species, and secure spawning areas for economically and recreationally important native fish. Starting in September 2014, the Refuge System manages an additional 418 million acres of Marine National Monuments under the authority of the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act. The 562 refuges range from the half-acre Mille Lacs National Wildlife Refuge, encompassing two rocky islands in Minnesota's Lake District, to the vast Arctic National Wildlife Refuge spanning 19.6 million acres of boreal forest, tundra, and estuary in Alaska. The Refuge System also administers 4.8 million acres managed under easement, agreement, or lease, including waterfowl production areas in 209 counties, organized across 38 wetland management districts, and 50 wildlife coordination areas. Whether forest or prairie, desert or coral reef, tundra or marsh, the Refuge System literally spans the globe in order to protect our Nation's wildlife and plants, and the habitats on which they depend.

While the benefit of refuges to wildlife is obvious and undeniable, refuges also play crucial roles in serving human communities. Through efforts to conserve migratory birds, protect endangered species, restore and manage habitats, and combat invasive species, the Refuge System provides major societal benefits through ecosystem services that improve air and water quality, reduce erosion, improve soil health and groundwater retention, reduce coastal impacts from hurricanes, sequester carbon, and store excess water during storms or spring snow melts. These economic and ecological benefits of refuges are increasingly valuable in light of ongoing broad scale environmental changes.

Refuges attract tens of millions of visitors who come to hunt, fish, observe, and photograph wildlife and are a significant boon to local economies. According to *The U. S. Department of the Interior Economic Report FY2013* issued July 11, 2014, "In FY 2013 production and activities on DOI lands were associated with about $200 billion in value added, and $360 billion in economic output, supporting an estimated 2 million jobs." [p. iv] Visitation to Service units has increased from 38 million in FY 2002 to nearly 47 million in FY 2014. The report states that contributions from FWS recreation include approximately, $2.05 billion in sales value; $5.45 billion in estimated economic contribution; $3.36 billion in value added, and 44,530 in estimated jobs supported [p. 17].

The Refuge System provides an additional benefit to landowners and residents in nearby communities because of the positive financial impact that its open-space amenities has on property values. As described by *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 refuges are higher than equivalent properties elsewhere. The study found that homes within 0.5 miles of a refuge and within 8 miles of an urban center ranged in value 3-9% higher depending on the region of the country.



Sunrise at San Pablo Bay NWR, California.

The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 provided the Refuge System with a clear, comprehensive mission "*…**to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans."*** The Refuge System fulfills this mission by focusing its efforts in five primary areas: Wildlife and Habitat Management, Visitor Services, Refuge Law Enforcement, Conservation Planning, and Refuge Maintenance. Through these programs, the Refuge System monitors, restores, and protects wildlife, fish, plants and habitat; maintains facilities; supports wildlife-dependent recreation; and conducts other activities to achieve strategic goals. Collaboration within the Service and with other Federal agencies and partners is necessary to conduct the vital conservation projects to achieve these goals. An illustration of this effort is the Service's work with U.S. Geological Survey and other partners to develop best methods to conduct ongoing biological monitoring of wildlife populations and habitat to improve management of refuge resources.

Refuges are laboratories for partnership and adaptive management; pioneering new concepts in landscape conservation. The Refuge System has unique authorities and flexible programs that can deliver landscape level conservation while simultaneously providing compatible outdoor recreation. Millions of acres of refuge lands are owned outright and managed as core habitat for fish and wildlife. In addition, to meet

the challenge of conserving highly mobile fish and wildlife populations, the Refuge System also uses easements and partnership programs that protect important habitat features on working private land. Conservation in the future must include the important roles of working ranches, farms and forests, as well as privately owned recreational properties with conservation provisions that can link and buffer protected areas. For example, the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program works to accomplish its goals by helping to restore high-priority habitats on private lands and perpetually protecting them with conservation easements. This model effectively links the purpose of the Partners program with the needs of landowners and priorities of the Refuge System.

The Refuge System is helping to lead efforts such as the President's America's Great Outdoors (AGO) initiative which is a grassroots approach to protecting our lands and waters, and achieving lasting conservation of the outdoor spaces that power our nation's economy, shape our culture, and build our outdoor traditions. AGO seeks to reconnect people with the outdoors and to empower them to share in the responsibility to conserve, restore, and provide better access to lands and waters to leave a healthy, vibrant outdoor legacy for generations to come. National wildlife refuges offer Americans priceless opportunities to experience the beauty of the natural environment and connect with nature.

Finally, the Refuge System is helping lead efforts to conserve land and water resources critical to the lives of Americans and the economy of the nation and to reduce wildfire risk as described in the President's Climate Action Plan.

Refuge System Federal Wildlife Officers participate in numerous community outreach events to help connect children and nature.

Refuges - Combined Program Change and Overview Table

Performance Goal	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Target	2016 PB	Change from 2015 Target to 2016 PB
2.0.1 - # of NWRS wetland, upland, and coastal/marine acres achieving desired condition (GPRA)	140,205,769	140,232,660	140,741,380	140,232,307	139,881,136	140,229,402	348,266
11.1.1 - % of NWRS baseline acres infested with invasive plant species that are controlled (GPRA)	3.9% (95,621 of 2,442,235)	3.9% (94,868 of 2,409,758)	2.2% (57,032 of 2,558,619)	2.2% (52,839 of 2,399,819)	2.3% (50,855 of 2,245,244)	2.3% (50,855 of 2,245,244)	0.0%
12.1.1 - % of invasive animal species populations that are controlled (GPRA)	8% (292 of 3,849)	16% (297 of 1,847)	8% (154 of 1,900)	7% (118 of 1,701)	7% (126 of 1,699)	7% (126 of 1,699)	0%
9.3.7 - Number of Inventory and Monitoring Plans completed and approved in the current fiscal year.	N/A	N/A	N/A	8	30	33	0
CSF 13.1 - Percent of archaeological sites and historic structures on FWS inventory in good condition	18% (3,033 of 16,923)	19% (3,267 of 17,185)	22% (3,783 of 17,444)	22% (3,800 of 17,520)	22% (3,820 of 17,543)	22% (3,820 of 17,543)	0%
15.2.2 - % of NWRs/WMDs that have quality hunting programs, where hunting is compatible	81% (295 of 366)	80% (292 of 365)	82% (297 of 364)	81% (296 of 364)	82% (297 of 364)	82% (297 of 364)	0%
15.2.4 - % of NWRs/WMDs that have quality fishing programs, where fishing is compatible	64% (218 of 341)	64% (221 of 345)	74% (224 of 303)	76% (229 of 303)	76% (229 of 303)	76% (229 of 303)	0%
15.2.6 - % of NWRs/WMDs that have quality wildlife observation programs, where wildlife observation is compatible	77% (361 of 468)	78% (363 of 466)	78% (367 of 470)	78% (365 of 468)	77% (366 of 473)	77%(366 of 473)	0%
15.2.8 - % of NWRs/WMDs that have quality environmental education programs, where interpretation is compatible	75% (292 of 389)	76% (301 of 394)	74% (292 of 392)	75% (292 of 387)	74% (294 of 397)	74% (294 of 397)	0%
15.2.10 - % of NWRs/WMDs with quality interpretative programs that adequately interpret key resources and issues, where interpretation is compatible	73% (318 of 437)	73% (320 of 437)	72% (311 of 434)	73% (312 of 430)	72% (311 of 430)	72% (311 of 430)	0%
15.2.23 - Total # of visitors to NWRS - annual	45,733,179	47,059,171	47,465,286	46,912,041	45,954,606	45,954,606	0
52.1.1 - # of volunteer hours are annually contributed to NWRS	1,505,114	1,594,235	1,462,025	1,415,809	1,202,241	1,202,241	0

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

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2015 (+/-)
Wildlife and Habitat Management	($000)	229,843	230,343	+2,334	0	+17,155	249,832	+19,489
	FTE	*1,384*	*1,384*	*0*	*0*	*+18*	*1,402*	*+18*

Summary of 2016 Program Changes for Wildlife and Habitat Management

Request Component	($000)	FTE
• Challenge Cost Sharing Partnerships	+10,000	0
• Inventory and Monitoring	+3,715	+18
• Cooperative Recovery	+2,000	0
• Wildlife and Habitat Management	+1,440	0
Program Changes	**+17,155**	**+18**

Justification of 2016 Program Changes

The 2016 budget request for the Wildlife and Habitat Management (WHM) program is $249,832,000 and 1,402 FTE, a net program change of +$17,155,000 and +18 FTE from the 2015 Enacted.

Challenge Cost Sharing Partnerships (+$10,000,000/+0 FTE)
The requested funding will reestablish the Wildlife and Habitat Management Challenge Cost Share (CCS) program which leverages Service funding to complete a variety of highly leveraged and impactful, small-scale projects with partners to improve habitat or manage wildlife populations. Based on recommendations from Office of the Inspector General, the Service will reestablish this valuable program by requiring accurate reporting of CCS program accomplishments and expenditures and performance of periodic management control reviews to ensure that field stations have complied with all existing policies and procedures. The proposed funding will be focused on projects that boost the resilience of natural resources in the face of climate change.

Inventory and Monitoring (+$3,715,000/+18 FTE)
In order to adapt the Service's conservation delivery and refine management actions, investments in conservation design capacity must be paired with investments in our monitoring and information management capacity. This increase will allow the Service to enhance its Inventory and Monitoring (I&M) efforts and use these monitoring results to inform research into key assumptions. The Service will direct $1 million of the I&M increase to integrate our efforts with conservation of the Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem and other Federal efforts as identified by the USFWS Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Objectives (February 2013). Investments in habitat quality inventories and assessments are needed in order to more efficiently target conservation easements and conifer removal efforts in order to maximize the return on conservation investments.

Cooperative Recovery (+$2,000,000/+0 FTE)
This funding will support a cross-programmatic partnership approach to complete planning, restoration, and management actions addressing current threats to endangered species in areas of strategic importance for the conservation of listed species. The focus will be on implementing recovery actions for species near delisting or reclassification from endangered to threatened, and actions that are urgently needed for critically endangered species by utilizing the resources and expertise of Service staff.

Projects employ actions that will significantly improve the status of one or more listed species. CRI projects are intended to be on-the-ground activities where meaningful progress can be shown within a short timeframe, but are also planned within the larger context of Service landscape conservation priorities. Each project also includes a monitoring component.

Wildlife and Habitat Activities (+$1,440,000/+0 FTE)
An increase of $1,440,000 will enhance the Service's ability to manage invasive species. Early Detection and Rapid Response is the best way to identify and control invasive species before they get established. Invasive species, such as Asian carp, constrictor snakes, brown tree snakes and cheat grass have permanently altered the assemblage of species in habitats they have infested. Increasing our ability to identify a problem early, and deploy our strike teams to control the problem will enable the Service to address highly problematic non-native species before they have an opportunity to devastate the habitat.

Program Overview

The Wildlife and Habitat Management (WHM) subactivity funds refuge operations, including monitoring plant and animal populations; restoring wetland, forest, grassland, and marine habitats; managing habitats through manipulation of water levels, prescribed burning, haying, grazing, timber harvest, and planting vegetation; controlling the spread of invasive species; air quality monitoring; investigating and cleaning up contaminants; controlling wildlife disease outbreaks; assessing water quality and quantity; and addressing the human dimensions of wildlife management. These activities are vital for providing scientific information needed to inform management decisions, and for the Refuge System to achieve its mission at local, landscape, and national levels.

The Refuge System includes 562 national wildlife refuges and 38 wetland management districts totaling more than 150 million acres and administers over 400 million additional acres of Marine National Monuments. Refuges are home to more than 700 species of migratory birds, 220 species of mammals, 250 species of reptiles and amphibians, and more than 1,000 species of fish, and offers protection to more than 380 threatened or endangered plants or animals. The Service also manages lands and waters with special designations for their unique values, including 75 wilderness areas, 1,086 miles of refuge rivers within the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and six National Monuments, including five Marine National Monuments.

With its refuges, the Service conserves and maintains key habitats across broad landscapes spanning all four North American migratory bird flyways, provides protected areas across the entire range of some listed species, and conserves expansive marine and Arctic ecosystems. Managing extensive wetland impoundments requires water management facilities, such as dikes, levees, pumps, spillways, and water level control structures. Water resources are vitally important to wildlife and their habitats, making water rights protection and adjudication an ever-increasing endeavor as demand for water grows. Management actions for wildlife populations include reintroducing imperiled species, erecting nest structures, controlling predators, banding or radio tracking wildlife, and inventorying and monitoring species and habitats, and many other techniques.

The Service programs work together to maintain the biological integrity, diversity, and ecological health of the Refuge System and other Service resources. Collaboration among Service programs provides opportunities to leverage resources to maintain and enhance populations of migratory birds, fish and endangered species.

The Service also works closely with State fish and wildlife agencies, recognizing the shared authority and responsibility for managing fish and wildlife on national wildlife refuges. This Federal-State partnership, grounded in mutual respect, is essential to effective conservation work.

Relevant habitat conservation design and delivery also requires effective coordination and collaboration with partners and other stakeholders in the landscapes in which the refuge exists, including adjacent landowners, community volunteers, non-governmental organizations, States, and other Federal agencies. Meaningful engagement with partners and other stakeholders at landscape scales adds to the effective conservation achievements of the Service and allows individual refuges to respond more effectively to climate change and other environmental challenges.

Comprehensive wildlife and habitat management demands the integration of scientific information from several disciplines, including understanding ecological processes and coordinating system monitoring. Equally important is an intimate understanding of the social and economic drivers of these systems that impact and are impacted by management decisions and can facilitate or impede implementation success. Service strategic habitat conservation planning, design, and delivery efforts are affected by the demographic, societal, and cultural changes of population growth and urbanization as well as people's attitudes and values toward wildlife. Consideration of these factors contributes to the success of the Service's mission to protect wildlife and their habitats.

Programs funded by the WHM subactivity include:

Inventory and Monitoring

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

The I&M initiative was developed to provide the information necessary to implement the Service's Strategic Habitat Conservation model across the Refuge System. Strategic Habitat Conservation is an adaptive management framework, where planning management actions and monitoring those actions create an iterative process of increasing efficiency. I&M efforts are coordinated nationally through the Natural Resource Program Center to ensure that collected data is consistent and relevant at multiple scales and that data analysis, and storage achieve the highest scientific standards. Using standard protocols, the I&M initiative establishes baselines that are key to understanding how an ecosystem is changing and provides the foundation necessary to plan and deliver landscape scale conservation

Successful conservation design and delivery at a landscape scale in the face of a rapidly changing environment requires intense coordination, both internally and externally. The I&M initiative works directly with the National Park Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and other Federal and State partners to integrate efforts across the Federal government and minimize duplication. I&M directly supports Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) and their stakeholders to efficiently and effectively achieve shared conservation goals and ensuring that survey design, data storage, analysis, and reporting are collaborative and consistent with Service guidelines.

The I&M program provides the framework and infrastructure necessary to support data sharing that is integral to collaborative efforts. A robust and accessible information management system provides an efficient mechanism for the Refuge System to collaborate across broad and diverse partnerships. I & M ' s modular information management system provides intuitive data storage and retrieval, and is increasingly connected across the Service and DOI to maximize its utility while minimizing duplication. The I&M program provides the scientific underpinnings to ensure the use of consistent and scientifically rigorous data and protocols to assess the status of refuge lands, waters, and biota that we are charged to administer and conserve. We continue to streamline and enhance the Service's scientific capacity through integration

and collaboration with the scientific efforts and protocols of other agencies, states, and scientific communities.

Cooperative Recovery Initiative (CRI)
This initiative is a strategic, cross-programmatic approach to more efficiently restore and recover federally listed species on National Wildlife Refuges and surrounding lands utilizing the resources and expertise of the Service to accomplish focused large-scale efforts that provide the strongest conservation benefit to threatened or endangered species. Projects are selected with the highest likelihood of success. Successful proposals: 1) implement urgently needed actions for critically endangered species at risk of imminent extinction without intervention (Preventing Extinction); or 2) implement recovery actions for species near delisting or reclassification from endangered to threatened (Showing Success).

Projects employ actions that will significantly improve the status of one or more listed species. CRI projects are intended to be on-the-ground activities where meaningful progress can be shown within a short timeframe, but are also planned within the larger context of Service landscape conservation priorities. This effort is illustrated in the successful delisting of the Oregon Chub one year ahead of schedule. Examples of CRI funded projects include:

Florida Grasshopper Sparrow
The Florida Grasshopper Sparrow was listed as endangered in 1986 due to loss and degradation of suitable habitat. A 2014 CRI funded project is working to increase habitat, not only in the Everglades Headwaters NWR, but also beyond the refuge. With 75% of the remaining dry-prairie habitat occurring on privately owned land, it is critical to engage landowners in order to recover this species. Project leaders worked directly with landowners to conduct surveys on private land. Approximately 26 birds were detected and 22 were captured, banded, and measured for data collection. Additionally, vegetation site evaluations were completed at several sites and monitoring initiated, as this sparrow is a very habitat-specific species. The project team will continue to provide assistance to landowners and recommend best management practices to support suitable habitat. The team will be engaging more landowners in the area to continue efforts to prevent extinction of this species.

Karner blue butterfly
The Karner blue butterfly (KBB) is a small butterfly found in scattered populations from Minnesota to New Hampshire. Agricultural activities, urbanization, and fire suppression has resulted in a range-wide decline of the species, including complete extirpated from Concord, NH in 2000. Within the Concord Recovery Unit, an area identified in the species' recovery plan as an important conservation area, a wild population of KBBs was re-established through habitat restoration and a captive rearing program. In 2014, CRI funded a project focused on restoring two to three subpopulations of KBBs at the Concord Recovery Unit in order to further meet criteria outlined in the recovery plan and move towards recovering this species.

Students help restore habitat for the Karner blue butterfly in New Hampshire. Credit: Michelle Bartlett.

The project team began the habitat work through removing vegetation and old fencing in the restoration area. The project enlisted the help of 600 New Hampshire school children in the seeding and planting of lupine, the plant species utilized by KBBs to complete its life cycle and

critical to the recovery of the species. Future plans include additional plantings, and prescribed fire through the spring of 2016. The team is on-schedule to release a minimum of 100 captive-reared butterflies in the summer of 2016.

Landscape Conservation Design

Consistent with *Conserving the Future: Wildlife Refuges and the Next Generation*, the Service is preparing the Refuge System to confront challenges posed by climate change, invasive species and habitat fragmentation. This requires understanding and incorporation of environmental drivers, such as climate change and urbanization, into the process. To be successful, these issues must be addressed collaboratively. Landscape conservation design creates a framework by linking refuge planning and management actions to create functional landscapes. In collaboration with the conservation community, design development looks at current and future conditions (biological and socioeconomic) and determines where on the landscape to focus conservation delivery (i.e. where can we be most successful meeting our priorities). On many wildlife refuges, targeted restoration is necessary to bring altered landscapes back into balance. These restoration efforts can create landscape-level habitats or habitat complexes capable of supporting viable populations of target species; be resilient to short-term climate fluctuations and long-term climate change; restore as many ecosystem processes as possible; integrate partnerships with other agencies, groups and private landowners; and integrate with future acquisition efforts.

Landscape conservation design is a long-term conservation process, and flexibility and adaptive management are keys to its success. To that end, refuges are key partners in LCCs, which are public-private partnerships that provide support for conservation planning, implementation, and evaluation at landscape scales. LCCs are generating tools, methods, and data that managers need to carry out conservation using the Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) approach. They also promote collaboration among their members in defining shared conservation goals. Refuge participation in LCCs helps leverage resources and ensures that we have the input of our partners when developing conservation plans.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

The Service IPM program promotes methods and control techniques that provide the least risk to human and wildlife safety and the environment while achieving the level of control necessary for success. An example of an innovative, targeted and effective technique is Herbicide Ballistic Technology. Since 2013, lawfully registered pesticide packaged in a paintball, delivered to the targeted plant by air gun from a helicopter has been used in Hawaiian habitats to combat specific invasive plants in areas inaccessible by foot. An ultralow volume of pesticide is delivered directly to the growing plant, thus, minimizing non-target impacts. Pesticides are one control tool, and annually, the IPM Program assesses ~ 2,300 proposed uses of pesticides for the control of invasive and/or pest species on Service managed lands. Across the country, the Service is engaging with multiple partners to advance the health of pollinators, including the monarch butterfly. Toward that goal, another effective technique is restoration of habitats using native seed stock, including those that support the local pollinators. The Service is working with USDA leading an effort in

The Service uses helicopters and air guns to combat specific invasive plants in areas inaccessible by foot in Hawaii.

development and registration of naturally occurring soil bacterium to fight the aggressive invasive cheat grass which fuels fires and destroys natural habitats.

Invasive Species Management

Invasive species are the most frequently mentioned threat in the NWRS Threats and Conflicts database. Invasive species management activities are critical to preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species, and controlling or eradicating invasive species where they are established. Treatment methods can include mechanical removal, pesticides or alternative management regimes. Early detection and rapid response regarding emerging invasive species populations limits their establishment or range expansion, and prevents the need for more costly ongoing treatments often required once invasive species are established. In addition, climate change is projected to exacerbate infestations; making early detection and rapid response even more critical. Funds are used to inventory, map, monitor, treat, control, and eradicate invasive species from refuge lands in order to protect and restore native ecosystems.

Invasive Species such as this feral hog at Aransas NWR uproot and destroy native plants needed by indigenous species. Photo Credit: Steve Hildebrand USFWS

Invasive species continue to alter wildlife habitat and pose challenges to the management of refuge lands. Fiscal Year 2014 data indicates more than 2.5 million acres of refuge lands are infested with invasive plants. In FY 2014, the Refuge System treated only 186,660 of these acres. Refuge management is frequently overwhelmed by battling invasive species, leaving little funding for native habitat protection or enhancement. Federally-listed threatened and endangered species are experiencing more direct impacts from exotic invasions.

Marine Monuments

The five Marine Monuments in the Refuge System consist of 418 million acres of submerged land, and are the most unspoiled tropical ecosystems under U.S. purview. These monuments are some of our Nation's last frontiers for wildlife conservation and scientific exploration. Spanning an area larger than the continental U.S., and covering more than 20 islands, atolls, and reefs scattered across five time zones of the tropical Pacific, these areas are experiencing the direct impact and effect of global climate change. Thoughtful and effective care and management of these Marine National Monuments will provide them with the greatest possible opportunity to remain resilient in light of rapid environmental change and to sustain biodiversity and environmental health across the entire Pacific.

Pacific Remote Islands National Monument

Refuge System Contaminants Program

The Refuge System Contaminants Program performs regularly scheduled internal compliance audits to ensure that refuges are operating in conformance with EPA enforced regulations. The Contaminants Program also includes the Refuge Cleanup Program, which funds 5-7 projects each year, some of which are phased, multiyear projects. These projects range from small scale removal of contaminated soil around refuge resulting from fuel oil spills or peeling lead paint to larger scale restorations such as decontaminating former landfills. For example, increased oil and gas development, especially in the Bakken shale oil fields of North Dakota and northeastern Montana, has resulted in crude oil and oil field brine spills on Refuge System fee-interest lands as well as on conservation easements. Brine spills are difficult to clean and restoration of the affected sites is difficult if the brine reaches shallow groundwater and wetlands. Brine kills vegetation and results in long-term damage to soils. Refuge System staff work with State regulatory agencies and the oil industry to ensure NWRS lands are restored and industry implements Best Management Practices to prevent or minimize impacts from oil and oil field brine spills. The Contaminants Assessment Process evaluates potential or known contaminant sources on or near refuges and possible transport pathways, allowing Refuge managers to assess risks to wildlife and have response plans in place. Contaminant programs are hosted on the Service's ECOS database, allowing users to submit proposals, review old projects, and search data.

Refuge Energy Program

Powering the Future, providing energy for America, is a Secretarial and Administration priority. The Refuge System Energy Program interprets and develops regulations and policies related to energy development (i.e., oil and gas) across the Refuge System; provides guidance and project-level assistance to the field to reduce energy impacts on refuge lands; administers a program to address plugging and surface reclamation of orphaned oil and gas wells; develops and maintains spatial databases to track the amount of energy development on refuges (e.g., number and type of wells, miles of pipelines); trains refuge and other Service staff on management of oil and gas development on refuges, administers the oil and gas website; and works with partners to communicate the Service's role in energy development.

The Energy Program works with Service staff and partners to avoid or minimize, where possible, adverse impacts to wildlife and their habitat, including direct and indirect wildlife mortality, leakage and migration of contaminants, habitat alteration or destruction, and degradation of air and water quality.

Wilderness Areas

For fifty years the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS) established by the 1964 Wilderness Act has ensured that future generations could continue to experience wild and natural places. Today the System includes more than 109 million acres, of which 20.7 million acres (19 percent of the entire NWPS) are within 65 national wildlife refuges and one fish hatchery. The Wilderness Act defines wilderness as a place that is, untrammeled, undeveloped, and natural, and that offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. This definition encompasses a variety of ecosystems

Selawik NWR Wilderness (AK). 2014 marked the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Wilderness Act. Wilderness areas provide wildlife habitat and outstanding opportunities for compatible recreation.

including extensive forests, coastal wetlands, and untamed deserts. Wilderness areas represent some of the finest opportunities to enjoy America's Great Outdoors. Wilderness visitors may hunt, fish, and observe and photograph wildlife, if these activities are non-motorized and compatible with the refuge's primary mission of wildlife conservation. Many other types of compatible recreational uses, such as cross-country skiing, canoeing, kayaking, and hiking may also be enjoyed in some wilderness areas. As we continue to work with partners to design resilient landscapes, relatively untouched wilderness lands and waters can fulfill important roles as wildlife corridors and as baseline representations of healthy ecosystems against which we can measure change in other refuge lands and waters.

2016 Program Performance

The 2016 budget request would build upon the landscape-scale, long-term, inventory and monitoring program the Service began in 2010. Inventory and monitoring data contribute critical information for planning and management decisions. At the requested funding level the Service would be able to complete 3,910 inventory and monitoring surveys; a critical first step for the Service to more effectively manage habitats for wildlife and plant species. In 2016, the Service plans to implement approximately 2,000 threatened and endangered species recovery actions; 1,100 population management actions, and 1,800 research studies, and implement eight refuge contaminant cleanup actions.

With the requested funding, the Service intends to restore more than 65,000 upland, wetland, and open water acres. The Service also plans to treat more than 180,000 acres infested with non-native, invasive plants. These activities not only benefit wildlife and habitat, but also support high-quality, wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities for approximately 47 million annual visitors.

The Service will also continue traditional wildlife and habitat management activities, such as water level manipulation, prescriptive grazing, and selective timber harvesting. In 2016, the Service expects to actively manage about 3.5 million acres of habitat. Invasive species management includes the continuing operation of five Invasive Species Strike Teams operating across the Refuge System and focusing on early detection and rapid response to recently established infestations

Activity: National Wildlife Refuge System
Subactivity: Refuge Visitor Services

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2015 (+/-)
Refuge Visitor Services	($000)	70,319	70,319	+924	0	+5,549	76,792	+6,473
	FTE	*549*	*549*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*549*	*0*

Summary of 2016 Program Changes for Refuge Visitor Services

Request Component	($000)	FTE
• Urban Wildlife Conservation Program	+5,000	0
• Visitor Services	+549	0
Program Changes	**+5,549**	**+0**

Justification of 2016 Program Changes

The 2016 budget request for the Visitor Services program is $76,792,000 and 549 FTE, a net program change of +$5,549,000 and 0 FTE from the 2015 Enacted.

Urban Wildlife Conservation Program (+$5,000,000/+0 FTE)

The Urban Wildlife Conservation Program supports the Secretary's initiative Engaging the Next Generation by actively engaging young people in connecting with, protecting, and enhancing our natural resources. With 80 percent of the U.S. population currently residing in urban communities, reaching out to urban populations to provide opportunities to rediscover the outdoors is a priority for the Service. There are currently 101 refuges within 25 miles of 250,000 or more people, providing an opportunity for the Service to engage urban communities immediately surrounding existing refuges. Young adults and children everywhere have different perceptions, values and relationships with land and wildlife compared to previous generations. Through the Urban Wildlife Conservation Program, the Service is creating opportunities for city residents to connect with the outdoors, which will help ensure future generations appreciate and conserve our natural resources.

Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnerships are long-term place-based partnerships that engage urban communities in conservation on lands that the Service does not own or govern. These lands are located within the community for easy access by residents, and are owned or managed by local non-profit organizations, municipalities, or community groups. The partnerships involve residents in place-based outdoor experiences that foster connections with fish, wildlife and their habitats. The Service will particularly seek to engage urban youth in nature-related activities and programs which are also beneficial to their health. This funding will enable the Service to begin new urban wildlife conservation partnerships at several additional urban areas.

The Southern California (SoCal) Urban Wildlife Refuge Project was the first urban wildlife refuge partnership project in the Urban Wildlife Conservation Program. This initiative was announced in August 2014 and has already shown progress. Within the first four months of existence, the partnership has accomplished the following:

- In partnership with the Living Coast Discovery Center, hosting and introducing 53 female Hispanic youth and 45 Hispanic women mentors in the Hermanitas program, under MANA of San Diego, to career opportunities in STEM fields.

- In collaboration with Earth Discovery Institute's EcoTech Program, having 180 4th grade students participate in data collection and research using tablets in the field to gain a better understanding of the wildlife found on San Diego Bay NWR and habitat restoration techniques.
- Working with the Los Angeles Conservation Corps to reestablish the River Corps Program. This program is made up of disadvantaged youth in Los Angeles and is tasked with helping individuals become stewards of the LA River. The program will officially begin March, 2015.

The requested increase will not lead to the creation of new refuges; instead it will enable the Service to concentrate efforts on at least three of our five highest-priority urban refuges, which are: Tualatin National Wildlife Refuge (Portland, OR), Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN), John Heinz at Tinicum National Wildlife Refuge (Philadelphia, PA), Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge (Albuquerque, NM), Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge (Denver, CO).

Visitor Services (+$549,000/+0 FTE)
These funds will enable the Service to build stronger environmental education programs with nearby schools. With an emphasis on 4th and 5th grade classes, the Service will develop on site learning opportunities and digital programs that link classroom curricula and learning objectives.

Program Overview

The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (Improvement Act) clarified that providing wildlife-dependent recreation is a prominent and important goal for the Refuge System. The Improvement Act recognizes the importance of a close connection between wildlife resources, the American character, and the need to conserve wildlife for future generations of Americans. The Refuge System Visitor Services program supports these priorities while providing cultural resource protection and interpretation, an accessibility program, volunteers and Friends programs, special use permits, recreation fees, concessions management, and opportunities that connect youth with the outdoors. These connections foster understanding and appreciation of the need to conserve America's natural resources. Youth employment programs educate youth about career opportunities and promote public service as part of a life-long commitment to natural resource conservation. In accordance with authorizing legislation and policies, the Refuge System protects 89 cultural resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places, 10 of which have been designated National Historic Landmarks, including two World War II battlefields (Attu and Midway) and numerous historic lighthouses.

Visitor Services programs build an appreciation for wildlife and wild lands, encouraging people to become conservation stewards. In FY 2014, based on information collected in the Refuge Annual Performance Report, nearly 47 million Refuge System visitors took advantage of outstanding Service recreation programs including more than 2,600 special events. Visitors included nearly 2.4 million hunters and approximately 6.7 million anglers. Roughly 29.8 million people visited refuges to observe wildlife from the Service's network of trails, auto tour routes, observation towers, decks, and platforms, and 8.4 million visitors came to photograph wildlife. More than 2.8 million people participated in interpretive programs, while 669,000 teachers and students participated in Refuge System environmental education programs. Additionally, thousands of young Americans were provided job opportunities and career-building experiences. The psychological, ecological and economic amenities that nature provides are a benefit for Americans from all walks of life.

Visitor Services provides many opportunities for compatible wildlife-dependent recreation (wildlife observation, hunting, fishing, nature photography, environmental education, and interpretation). These activities are evaluated by visitor satisfaction surveys to ensure that they continue to be quality experiences for the public to enjoy America's wild lands, fish, wildlife, and plants. When those recreational activities are managed according to the principles of sound fish and wildlife management and

administration on national wildlife refuges, they stimulate a conservation ethic within the public. The most recent peer-reviewed national visitor survey indicated that, on average, 90 percent of refuge visitors gave high marks to all facets of their experiences. The survey was sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and designed, conducted, and analyzed by researchers with the US Geological Survey. Results from over 10,000 respondents indicate:

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

The Service creates quality experiences for the American public through access to knowledgeable staff, as well as through interpretive signs and brochures, while supplying safe and accessible facilities. The program also manages recreation fees in a manner that provides the government with a fair return on investments and visitors with exceptional value for fees paid.

Hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreation activities contribute an estimated $730 billion to the U.S. economy each year, and one in twenty U.S. jobs are in the recreation economy. Service recreation programs have a direct impact on the local economies of hundreds of communities where refuges are located. Recreational visits to refuges generate substantial retail expenditures in the local area, for gas, lodging, meals, and other purchases. Maintaining healthy visitor services programs are vital to the economic wellbeing of communities all across the nation.

Economic Impacts

Refuge System Lands

- nearly 47 million people visited,
- generating $2.6 billion of sales in regional economies,
- supporting 35,400 jobs,
- generating $370.5 million in tax revenue at the local, county, State and Federal level,
- total economic contribution of $4.5 billion.

Note: Refuge System-wide estimated economic benefits are based upon a recent analysis conducted by the FWS' Division of Economics using the latest visitation numbers and analysis methods used in the Banking on Nature Report published in 2013 (http://www.fws.gov/refuges/about/RefugeReports/)

	Jobs	Output	Job Income	Tax Revenue
Economic and job benefits	35,406	$2,606,074,000	$856,641,000	$370,548,000
Each $1 million of Refuge System budget represents	71	$4,901,681	$1,611,230	$696,951
Each 1% change in Refuge System visitation represents	354	$26,060,740	$8,566,410	$3,705,480

Visitor Services program elements include:

Refuge Visitor Services

This element includes the salary and base funding that supports recreational activities, with priority given to wildlife-dependent recreation as required by the Improvement Act. The Service provides wildlife-dependent recreation that is compatible with the purposes for which a particular refuge was established.

Other types of recreation, such as swimming and horseback riding, are considered to be lower priorities and must be determined to be both appropriate and compatible with the mission of the Refuge System and purposes of the individual refuge. Hunting, fishing and wildlife observation and photography programs create numerous quality-focused opportunities for the visiting public to relax and enjoy the outdoors. These programs build awareness and direct connections with wildlife and natural resource issues. Professionally trained cultural resource specialists also review projects funded or permitted by the Service for compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The NHPA regulatory reviews may include field surveys, archaeological investigations, site evaluations and mitigation. Finally, Refuge System volunteer and Friends organizations engage the public in stewardship and work activities, such as wildlife habitat restoration projects that benefit the Refuge System.

Visitor Facility Enhancements

The visitor facility enhancements element provides for the development, rehabilitation, and construction of small scale facilities such as parking areas at trailheads, wildlife observation platforms, hunting blinds, boat ramps, kiosks, and other projects necessary for interpretation and environmental education on refuges. These facilities allow the Service to offer inexpensive quality visitor experiences at many refuges. This program was initiated in FY 2003 i n an effort to get more people out on the ground to experience refuges first-hand. Since then, the Refuge System has constructed hundreds of small scale visitor facilities to improve public access to and use of refuge lands and waters. Since most refuges do not charge an entrance fee, most visitor facility enhancements are available free of charge to local residents and out-of-town refuge visitors.

Visitor Facility Enhancements include improvements such as this accessible trail at Bon Secour NWR in Alabama.

Visitor Orientation

The Service clearly identifies all wildlife refuges that are open to the public, ensures that visitors understand how refuges conserve and manage habitat and natural resources, and provides visitors with the information and tools to help them enjoy their visits to refuges. Welcoming and orienting visitors provides a unique brand identity that helps the public understand the unique role in conservation and recreation for which the Service is responsible. This identity recognition can be heightened through clear and accurate signage, brochures, interpretive materials, uniforms, adequate and accessible recreational facilities, and knowledgeable staff or volunteers available to answer questions and describe the role of an individual refuge within the context of the Service's mission.

Recreation Contributions to Americans' Health

Wildlife-dependent recreation also promotes healthier lifestyles among families and children. Over the last few decades, Americans have spent less time recreating outdoors than in previous generations. Research has shown that our nation's children are suffering from too much time inside. *Connecting Today's Kids with Nature*, a report published by the National Wildlife Federation, states that "Today's kids spend six and a half hours a day 'plugged into' electronic media." Engagement in outdoor activities on refuges such as canoeing, hiking, walking on trails, and participating in outdoor environmental education programs provides many opportunities for Americans to enjoy the benefits of healthier lifestyles.

Left: A young volunteer works with a gopher tortoise at Okefenokee NWR in Georgia. Above: Tualatin River NWR outside Portland, OR, provides Puddle Stompers with rain gear. Here, the kids can't take their eyes off a rough-skinned newt.

Environmental Education and Interpretation

Quality environmental education and interpretation programs engage the public in, and increase community support for the conservation mission of the Service by making fish, wildlife, plants, and wildlife habitat relevant, meaningful, and accessible to the American public.

More than 669,000 students and teachers annually visit national wildlife refuges which, through a variety of learning activities, provide environmental education programs to introduce young people to the precepts of natural resource conservation. Additionally, millions of students and teachers access conservation education materials available through Service web pages. Interpretive programs on wildlife refuges are designed to facilitate meaningful and memorable visitor experiences and encourage stewardship of the wildlife and habitat of the visited refuge and the Refuge System as a national network of conservation lands. Through the use of interpretation, the Service can create a personal, emotional connection with visitors.

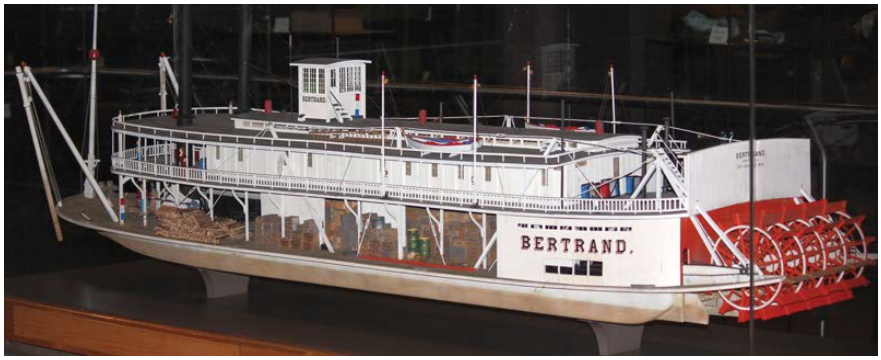
Above Left: Neighborhood schoolchildren enjoy John Heinz NWR at Tinicum near Philadelphia. The field trip was arranged by the Audubon Society, part of the Neighborhood Environmental Stewardship Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership in southeast Pennsylvania.
Above Right: Visitors observe birds in flight at Bosque del Apache NWR in New Mexico.

Birding

Birding programs are an outgrowth of the Service's national and international role in conserving quality habitat. One-third of all Important Bird Areas (IBA) in the United States are located on National Wildlife Refuges, illustrating the key role that refuges play in attracting birds and bird enthusiasts. The Service has traditionally placed an emphasis on offering plentiful opportunities for the American public to enjoy birding through events and festivals, which generate significant revenue and create jobs for local economies. The "Birder-friendly" program developed partnerships with non-governmental organizations, such as the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, to distribute equipment and field guides for use by the visiting public. Birds and birding programs have also been catalysts for offering more citizen science opportunities on refuges. Public monitoring programs such as Christmas Bird Count for Kids, targeted at families and youth, are increasing in quality and quantity annually.

Cultural and Historic Resources

The Service ensures that significant cultural, archaeological, and historic resources are protected, experienced by visitors, and interpreted in accordance with authorizing legislation and policies. The Service protects thousands of important cultural and archaeological sites including 89 resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places, ten of which have been designated National Historic Landmarks. The Refuge System has identified more than 20,000 archaeological and historical sites on its lands to date, with more yet to be discovered. The Service protects approximately 4.2 million museum objects in collections which are maintained in Service facilities or on loan to more than 200 non-Federal repositories, such as qualified museums and academic institutions, for scientific study, public viewing, and long-term care.



When the steamboat Bertrand sank on April 1, 1865, it was headed up the Missouri River loaded with provisions. This model and more than 250,000 artifacts from the vessel are preserved and displayed in a museum collection at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge on the border of Iowa and Nebraska.

The Bertrand is back at DeSoto NWR

This year, one of the Service's most important museum collections, the Bertrand collection, was returned to its home repository after being evacuated from severe flooding at the DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge in 2011. In 1865, the steamboat Bertrand, loaded with Civil War-era cargo en route to mining towns in the then Montana Territory, sank in the Missouri River only to be rediscovered buried on DeSoto in 1968 along with approximately 250,000 well-preserved artifacts. The Service, working with our partners the National Park Service, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and hundreds of volunteers, evacuated the collection when a deluge inundated Desoto in June 2011. For two years, while the visitor center was being repaired and artifacts warehoused off-site, the Service reorganized and re-catalogued over eighty percent of the collection. Among the thousands of artifacts, 20 percent are on display at any given time. Visitors may see beautiful china and crystal, porcelain, sophisticated metal spigots, assorted tools, food supplies, boot leggings made from bison hides, and other vestiges of America's western expansion. The Refuge, a 30-minute drive north of downtown Omaha, receives hundreds of thousands of visitors each year attracted to the collection's archaeological significance. These visitors, though often attracted by history, will be available and open to learning about conservation and efforts to protect natural habitat.

Urban Wildlife Conservation Program

The future of our nation's wildlife conservation programs will depend upon building deep connections among the American public. In recognition of demographic shifts occurring throughout the country, the Service is cultivating new conservation constituencies, including people who live in urban settings. Over the past three years, the Service has established the Urban Wildlife Conservation program to engage local communities surrounding national wildlife refuges as partners in wildlife conservation.

The Service will not be creating new refuges as a part of the Urban Wildlife Conservation program. There are currently 101 refuges within 25 miles of 250,000 or more people. Therefore, the Refuge System has many opportunities to engage urban communities immediately surrounding a refuge. In areas where the Service does not have a land base, it can create opportunities to engage urban communities through the use of urban partnerships. The Service is taking a two-pronged approach:

- Where there are existing urban refuges, the Service will focus on implementing the Standards of Excellence to help overcome barriers to engaging new audiences.
- Where there is not a wildlife refuge, the Service will create a community presence with Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnerships.

Of the 101 existing urban refuges, the Service is selecting approximately 20 where the Service has determined concentrated programming could have the greatest impact. These 20 refuges will be the priority refuges where, as funds are available, the Service will seek to initiate the following Standards of Excellence:

1. Know and Relate to the Community
2. Connect Urban People with Nature via Stepping Stones of Engagement
3. Build Partnerships
4. Be a Community Asset
5. Ensure Adequate Long-Term Resources
6. Provide Equitable Access
7. Ensure Visitors Feel Safe and Welcome
8. Model Sustainability

To demonstrate the potential of urban refuges and partnerships to reach new audiences in their communities, the SoCal Urban Refuge Project, which encompasses activities of five refuges and serves 17 million people, was selected as the first area to receive funding. Based in and near Los Angeles and San Diego, the project expands outdoor learning for students, creates refuge-based jobs for at-risk youth, and develops culturally-sensitive community programs that build an appreciation for nature.

Many major cities do not have a nearby refuge. To address this challenge, the Service has designated 14 Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnerships, with several more partnerships to be established in 2015. These partnerships nurture an appreciation of wildlife conservation in new audiences by empowering local community organizations to inspire conservation in local parks and other natural areas. There are currently 14 Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnerships:

1. New Haven Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership (New Haven, CT)
2. Forest Preserves of Cook County Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership (Chicago, IL)
3. Houston Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership (Houston, TX)
4. Providence Parks Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership (Providence, RI)
5. Lake Sammamish Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership (Seattle, WA)
6. Masonville Cove Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership (Baltimore, MD)
7. L.A. River Rover Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership (Los Angeles, CA)
8. Valle de Oro Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership (Albuquerque, NM)
9. Condor Kids (Santa Barbara, CA)
10. Wallkill Connection: Fostering Urban River Stewards (Yonkers, NY)

11. Habitat Is Where It's At (New Orleans, LA)
12. Community Greening and Restoration Project (Denver, CO)
13. PSJA, Preserving for Future Generations (Pharr/San Juan/Alamo, TX)
14. Neighborhood Environmental Stewardship (NESt) (Philadelphia, PA)

Urban Refuge Partnerships: Getting on the Radar

"*We need to make sure that urban wildlife refuges are on the radar. We need to reach out to school groups, to teachers, to parents, to make sure they know that they're there. And the Fish and Wildlife Service is uniquely positioned to do that" Sally Jewel, Secretary of the Interior*

The Service established the Houston Urban Wildlife Partnership last year and launched the partnership in earnest this fall. The partnership is an exciting opportunity to engage the culturally diverse residents, some 6.3 million in the metro area, of the fourth-largest city in the country to five local refuges, whose habitats range from estuaries in the Gulf of Mexico to pine/oak savannahs. The Service will work with numerous local partners to reach specific audiences with the partnership's message of ecological sustainability through educational programming on refuges, internship opportunities on refuge land, and conservation activities on partner locations.

Student Conservation Association intern does trail work at San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge in Texas. The SCA and the refuge are part of the Houston Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership.

Volunteers and Community Partnerships

This element encompasses activities directed by the Volunteer and Community Partnership Enhancement Act of 1998. Service volunteers facilitate recreation activities, habitat restoration, maintenance, administrative activities, and many other tasks. In FY 2014, the Service benefitted from the hard work and commitment of approximately 36,000 volunteers to the Refuge System who contributed more than 1.4 million hours of volunteer service. These volunteers contributed approximately $32 million in work, and logged in the hours equivalent to 680 FTEs. In fact, volunteers contribute nearly 20 percent of the work hours performed on refuges. Additionally, approximately 200 non-profit Friends organizations, serving more than 300 refuges, are critical to building effective community partnerships, leveraging resources, and serving as conservation ambassadors in their communities.

In return, the Service continues to support volunteers and Friends groups through on-site training, mentoring, workshops, and awards. New efforts are also underway to build a suite of citizen science programs for participation by Friends organizations, volunteers, and visitors. These programs offer volunteers and visitors new, meaningful opportunities to contribute data that can help the Service understand the impacts and consequences of climate change on refuges and adjacent landscapes.

Refuge manager Jennifer Owen-White shows Youth Conservation Corps members a lizard at Albuquerque's Mountain View Community Center, part of the Valle de Oro Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership.

Youth in Natural Resources

The Service is building upon existing, proven programs with new and creative approaches to offer public service opportunities, support science based education and outdoor learning laboratories, and engage young Americans in conservation work and wildlife-dependent recreation such as hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, and wildlife photography. Hundreds of national wildlife refuges connect youth with the outdoors through career and public service opportunities, including term and seasonal jobs on national wildlife refuges, and education programs that foster an understanding and appreciation of the need to conserve America's natural resources. These programs are managed through mentoring and partnerships with Friends organizations, volunteers, educational institutions, and local conservation organizations.

The Service also works in partnership with both citizen science programs and nongovernmental organizations with missions to reach diverse audiences. These efforts not only provide job opportunities for youth from diverse backgrounds, but are also helping to heighten scientific knowledge and awareness of the importance of natural resource protection in a diverse audience.

In addition to Environmental Education and Wildlife-Dependent Recreation previously discussed, youth also benefit from:

- Youth Conservation Corps-opportunities for young adults from varied backgrounds to work together on conservation projects, and learn about potential career opportunities.
- Volunteer and Community Service Programs-Service volunteers work with school and youth groups and support organizations, such as the Scouts. Volunteers often serve as role models and mentors.
- Student Conservation Association (SCA)-developing conservation and community leaders through conservation internships and summer trail crew opportunities that support the Service's mission.
- Career Pathways- Students or recent graduates can begin their careers in the Federal government by choosing the path that best describes their academic status:
    - Internship Program**:** This program is for current students enrolled in a wide variety of educational institutions from high school to graduate level, with paid opportunities to work in agencies and explore Federal careers while still in school.
    - Recent Graduates Program: This program is for individuals who have recently graduated from qualifying educational institutions or programs and seek a dynamic, career development program with training and mentorship. To be eligible, applicants must apply within two years

of degree or certificate completion (except for veterans precluded from doing so due to their military service obligation, who will have up to six years to apply).

- Presidential Management Fellows Program: For more than three decades, the Presidential Management Fellows Program has been the Federal government's premier leadership development program for advanced degree candidates. This program is now for individuals who have received a qualifying advanced degree within the preceding two years.

2016 Program Performance

The 2016 budget request would allow the Service to continue to welcome nearly 47 million visitors to enjoy hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, and educational or interpretive programs. Funding will be used to develop visitor programs, materials, and services that improve upon visitor satisfaction rates, currently at 90 percent, and help the Service connect to new audiences. In 2016, the Service expects to host more than 2,700 special events with approximately 725,000 participants. Some visitors participate in multiple activities per visit, but the Service expects to host approximately 2.5 million hunting visits; 7 million fishing visits; 31 million wildlife observation visits; 16 million hiking visits; 11 million wildlife auto tour visits; 8 million photography visits; 3 million boating/canoe/kayak visits; 1 million bicycle visits; and 1 million visits for environmental education programs.

Service staff aim to train and supervise more than 38,000 volunteers who contribute more than 1.4 million hours to conservation and recreation programs for refuges. The Service will continue to support training programs for volunteer coordinators and provide support for refuges working with Friends organizations. In addition, the Service will provide support for many Friends groups across the country that help refuges achieve the Service mission.

Activity: National Wildlife Refuge System
Subactivity: Refuge Law Enforcement

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2015 (+/-)
Refuge Law Enforcement	($000)	37,554	38,054	+496	0	+409	38,959	+905
	FTE	*243*	*243*	*0*	*0*	*+2*	*245*	*+2*

Summary of 2016 Program Changes for Refuge Law Enforcement

Request Component	($000)	FTE
• Refuge Law Enforcement Activities	+409	+2
Program Changes	**+409**	**+2**

Justification of 2016 Program Changes

The 2016 budget request for the Refuge Law Enforcement program is $38,959,000 and 245 FTE, a net program change of +$409,000 and +2 FTE from the 2015 Enacted.

Refuge Law Enforcement Activities (+$409,000/+2 FTE)

The Division of Refuge Law Enforcement is requesting two FTE's for Federal Wildlife Officers (FWO) to be deployed at the highest priority field stations in the country. Currently, there are only 246 full-time and 94 dual-functions, trained and commissioned, Federal Wildlife Officers deployed across the NWRS. There are now five States with only a single, full-time, Federal Wildlife Officer to provide law enforcement and police services on USFWS managed lands. This staffing level is far below the 845 officers recommended in the deployment model conducted by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) in 2005. The IACP is completing an updated risk-based model with a new recommendation on the number of officers needed to provide adequate law enforcement services on National Wildlife Refuges throughout the country.

Program Overview

The Refuge System employs a professional cadre of law enforcement officers dedicated to natural resource protection and public safety. The Refuge Law Enforcement sub-activity funds training, equipment and management of the System's full-time officers, dual-function officers, and associated Regional and Headquarters management support staff. Federal Wildlife Officers also contribute to community policing, environmental education and outreach, protection of native subsistence rights, as well as other activities supporting the Service's conservation mission. They are routinely involved with the greater law enforcement community in cooperative efforts to combat the nation's drug problems, addressing border security issues, and other pressing challenges.

Federal Wildlife Officers protect the security and safety of the nearly 47 million refuge visitors, Service employees and volunteers, government property, and wildlife populations and habitats. In 2013, Refuge Law Enforcement documented nearly 35,000 law enforcement incidents on wildlife refuges, including more than 3,055 hunting contacts; 1,506 fishing contacts; 491 endangered species issues; 464 easement violations, 6,846 trespass violations, and 9 Archeological Resource Protection Act cases. Refuge Law Enforcement responded to 175 medical situations and conducted 107 search and rescue missions. Refuge Law Enforcement also participated in more than 1,491 educational encounters. Since October 1, 2013, there were over 286 Serious Incidents reported. This decline from 2015 incident reporting is primarily caused by the reduction of officers. This decline does not represent a decline in actual violations and medical emergencies as much as it represents a lack of officers to address the violations and emergencies.

A reduction in officers results in a reduction in the number of law enforcement violations, medical emergencies, and educational encounters Law Enforcement can address.

Refuge Law Enforcement supports a broad spectrum of Service programs by enforcing conservation laws established to protect the fish, wildlife, cultural and archaeological resources the Service manages in trust for the American people. This includes educating the public about the Service mission, providing safety and security for the visiting public, and assisting local communities with law enforcement and natural disaster recovery.

While the Service has continued to improve its law enforcement operations through the hiring and training of full-time officers, dual-function officers continue to play a critical role in meeting law enforcement needs.

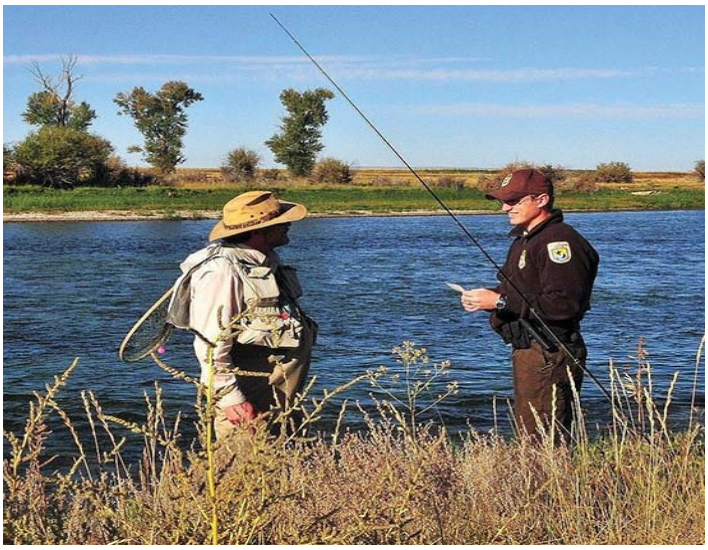
Dual-function officers dedicate 25 to 50 percent of their time to law enforcement activities and spend the balance of their time on traditional conservation and wildlife dependent recreation programs. The Service began to reduce dependency on dual function officers in 2002 to improve effectiveness and efficiency of refuge law enforcement operations. Since 2002, the Service has reduced the number of dual-function officers by 382 through retirement, relinquishment of commissions, etc., and has only 94 commissioned dual-function officers. As the Service reduces dual-function officers, full-time officers need to be added, which will allow current dual-function officers to focus on their primary duties. The Service also relies on partnerships through Memorandums of Understanding with local, county, State, and other Federal agencies for mutual law enforcement assistance for the purpose of protecting lives, property, and resources. The Supplemental Wildlife Enforcement Program (SWEP) is an example of cooperative work between the Service and local enforcement agencies. The SWEP program is an initiative that leverages funding for enforcement activities by partnering with State and local agencies on various operations including some actions focused on preventing State wildlife violations.

The Service is experiencing an increase in violent crime against persons and a decrease in detection of natural resource crimes due to a lack of field officers. The Service currently has a total of 343 Federal Wildlife Officers to patrol the 150 million acre National Wildlife Refuge System. However, only 281 of these officers are serving in a field patrol function. A 2005 analysis by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) detailed the urgent need for more law enforcement (LE) officers in the Refuge System to respond to drug production and smuggling, wildlife poaching, illegal border activity, assaults and a variety of natural resource violations. In 2005, the IACP recommended that 845 full-time Federal wildlife officers were necessary to adequately protect wildlife and habitat and make refuges safe for staff and visitors. Additionally, visitation to National Wildlife Refuges has increased by 27 percent since 2005. A shortage of officers directly affects the Refuge System's law enforcement operational capacity to deter, detect, record, and address both violent crimes and natural resource crimes which are essential to our refuge system mission and priorities.

The Service uses a Zone System to provide critical law enforcement planning, deployment, and support to multiple wildlife refuges with maximum efficiency through experienced officers. A Federal wildlife Zone Officer provides refuges within their designated zone with technical assistance on law enforcement, institutes reliable record keeping and defensible reviews, enhances training, and promotes communication and coordination with other law enforcement agencies.

The Service remains concerned about the current situation on the Southwest border, and directed a significant portion of previous funding increases to regions with refuges located along the border. These management increases continue to enhance the law enforcement programs within the regions, including all officers along the southwest border.

Highlighted Activities:
This program element includes funding for the Refuge Law Enforcement Program and the Service's Emergency Management and Physical Security Program. Included under the funding are emergency managers, Federal wildlife zone officers, regional refuge law enforcement chiefs, field officers, training, equipment, and supplies. Officers play an integral part in the Department-wide strategy of drug interdiction and marijuana eradication on public lands. The Service applies various operational activities to combat illegal marijuana cultivation on refuge lands such as aircraft usage, training, equipment, and any associated environmental clean-up activities.



One of the National Wildlife Refuge System's Federal Wildlife Officers talks to an angler at Seedskadee NWR, WY.

Emergency Management
This sub-activity also funds 2 dedicated full-time Emergency Management and Security staff at Service Headquarters. The Emergency Management and Security program functions by reaching out to subject matter experts to serve as a catalyst to support document and policy development, and operations during catastrophic events. We currently utilize the following groups and individuals to support our programs:

- Emergency Management Coordination Group;
- Designated Regional Emergency Managers for all eight regions;
- Continuity of Operations Team; and
- Security Advisory Team

Emergency Management staff developed policies for Continuity of Operations, Emergency Management Coordination and Physical Security and developed Operational plans for Continuity of Operations, All-Hazard Response and Employee Accountability. Recent Incident Command System (ICS) response coordination includes, Kilauea Volcano Lava Flow (2014), Hurricane Ana (2014), Hurricane/Super Storm Sandy (2013), Hurricane Irene (2011), Hurricane Ike (2008), Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill (multiple years), and severe flooding in the Central and Western US states (multiple years).

2016 Program Performance

In FY2016, the Division of Refuge Law Enforcement will continue to pursue its goal of protecting human lives, wildlife, and Service properties. The FY2016 budget request would support 271 FTE within the Law Enforcement program. These officers would provide for the security and safety of nearly 47 million refuge visitors and employees, government property, and the wildlife and habitats the Refuge System strives to protect. Federal wildlife officers anticipate documenting more than 35,000 offenses/incidents including natural, cultural, archaeological, and heritage resource crimes and violent crimes such as drug abuse, burglary, assaults, and murders.

Activity: National Wildlife Refuge System
Subactivity: Conservation Planning

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2015 (+/-)
Refuge Planning	($000)	2,523	2,523	+57	0	+85	2,665	+142
Land Protection Planning	($000)	465	465	0	-465	0	0	-465
Conservation Planning	**($000)**	**2,988**	**2,988**	**+57**	**-465**	**+85**	**2,665**	**-323**
	FTE	***29***	***29***	***0***	***0***	***0***	***29***	***0***

Summary of 2016 Program Changes for Conservation Planning

Request Component	($000)	FTE
• Refuge Planning	+85	0
Program Changes	**+85**	**0**

Justification of 2016 Program Changes

The 2016 budget request for the Conservation Planning program is $2,665,000 and 29 FTE, a net program change of +$85,000 and +0 FTE from the 2015 Enacted.

Refuge Planning (+$85,000/+0 FTE)

The Service is committed to administering the refuge system to conserve, manage, and where appropriate restore fish, wildlife and plant resources and their habitats for the benefit of the American public. This funding will support solid planning and conservation design, through a transparent process that provides for public input. This funding supports Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP), which is integral to the successful implementation of conservation efforts on the ground.

Program Overview

Through solid planning and conservation design, this program enables the Service to successfully implement conservation efforts on the ground. Planning contributes to informed decision making that recognizes the interests of all stakeholders, while never losing sight of the mission and goals of the Service. Our planning ensures a transparent public process that guides on-the-ground stewardship of threatened and endangered species, migratory birds, inter-jurisdictional fish, and other species of special concern to the American people. Service conservation plans incorporate the best available science and encourage collaboration with partners. Conservation plans also explore ways to increase recreational opportunities, working closely with regional recreation, trails and transportation planners to leverage resources that make refuges more accessible to the public. To be effective, conservation plans must be written so those who read them clearly understand what is expected and are inspired to take action to become a part of the Service's conservation legacy.

The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 requires all Refuge System units to prepare and implement Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) every fifteen years. Refuges also develop documents such as Habitat Management Plans and Visitor Services Plans that "step down" CCP guidance and provide specificity needed to inform local conservation action.

Consistent with *Conserving the Future: Wildlife Refuges and the Next Generation*, the Service recognizes the economic challenges confronting the nation along with changing demographics and urbanization. The

Refuge System is also preparing to confront conservation challenges posed by issues such as climate change, invasive species and habitat fragmentation. The next generation of conservation plans shifts the Service's focus beyond refuge boundaries and links refuge planning and management actions to the larger landscape. This will require a greater understanding and incorporation of drivers of environmental change, such as climate change and urbanization, into the planning process.

The planning program serves a leadership role in biological planning and conservation design to support the Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) framework and Adaptive Management efforts. The Service works closely with stakeholders to identify priority species, develop measurable biological/conservation (e.g., population) objectives, and deliver habitat conservation through a landscape level approach.

Highlighted Activities:

Refuge Planning

Refuge management plans, such as Habitat Management and Visitor Services plans, are developed for individual refuges by conservation planners and refuge personnel with extensive input from the public, States, Tribes, and other partners. Effective refuge planning requires integration of multiple data points. For example, targeted restoration is necessary in many wildlife refuges to bring altered landscapes back into balance. Restoration efforts should create landscape-level habitats or habitat complexes capable of supporting viable populations of target species; be resilient to short-term climate fluctuations and long-term climate change; restore as many ecosystem processes as possible on the landscape; integrate partnerships with other agencies, groups and private landowners; and integrate with future acquisition efforts. This subactivity supports funding for these plans, as well as for geographic information system capability and other related support tools.

Refuge management plans are developed for individual refuges by conservation planners and refuge personnel with extensive input from the public, States, Tribes, and other partners.

Comprehensive Conservation Plans

The Service uses CCP development as the primary method to conduct citizen-centered government. Developing these long-term plans relies on public participation and input. Local communities, state conservation agencies, and other partners help guide refuge management through the development of each CCP. Diverse private organizations, such as the National Rifle Association, Defenders of Wildlife, and many others, also participate in the CCP planning process to complete projects.

Planning is essential to ensure that the NWRS meets its conservation commitment. To be effective in confronting the challenges posed by climate change, invasive species, habitat fragmentation and development, the NWRS must look beyond refuge boundaries to work and plan with multiple partners. CCPs ensure that each refuge unit is comprehensively managed to fulfill the purpose(s) for which it was established. Developing a CCP facilitates decision making regarding issues such as allowable wildlife-dependent recreation, the construction of facilities, and the development of biological programs.

At the time that the Improvement Act was passed, climate change was not universally recognized as a management priority. Since that time, the NWRS has made significant progress in addressing climate change. CCPs are the primary mechanism for addressing climate change on refuges. Climate change impacts were first addressed in CCPs for coastal refuges that were facing rising sea levels in the mid-

2000s. In 2006, the Refuge System began modeling sea-level rise for all coastal refuges using the Sea Level Affecting Marshes Model (SLAMM). The schedule for SLAMM analysis was coordinated with the CCP schedule so that each CCP would be equipped to address this issue. CCPs for inland refuges began addressing climate change impacts shortly thereafter. In February, 2008, the Refuge System released *A Primer on Climate Change and the National Wildlife Refuge System*. This internal guidance document was designed to assist Planners in addressing climate change in CCPs and contained sample climate change text and a detailed list of climate change impacts that could be expected on every unit of the NWRS.

The Refuge System Planning program is currently transforming the way we develop CCPs. In the future, every CCP will be preceded by a Landscape Conservation Design (LCD), developed with our conservation partners through the Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) network. Each LCD will include a climate vulnerability assessment and shared resource management goals and objectives. The CCPs for all refuges within a LCD geography will then be designed to both implement the goals and objectives of the LCD and address refuge-specific issues.

The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (Improvement Act) was passed into law on October 9, 1997. The Improvement Act mandated that the Service complete a CCP for every unit of the Refuge System within 15 years (by October 9, 2012). There were 551 units of the refuge system, including wetland management districts, at the time of the passage of the Act. Since then, Congress mandated that the Service also complete CCPs for three newly established field stations before the 2012 deadline. Thus, 554 field stations required completed CCPs by October 9, 2012. In addition, the Improvement Act requires that a CCP be developed for every new unit that is created (within 15 years of its creation) and that every CCP must be revised every 15 years (or more often if conditions warrant). The current status is:

CCPs for nine units were completed in FY 2014. A CCP for one unit has been completed in FY15, so far. As of November 26, 2014, CCPs for 497 of the 554 required units (90%) had been completed, with 57 of the 554 remaining to be completed (10%).

CCPs for two of the 497 completed units have been revised and 12 are currently being revised. In addition, the Service has completed CCPs for 12 new units and is developing CCPs for 14 new units that were created after the Improvement Act (not included in the original 554). Therefore, the total number of CCPs completed since 1997 is actually 511 (497 + 2 revisions + 12 CCPs for new units).

2016 Program Performance

In FY2016, the Conservation Planning program will continue to serve a leadership role in biological planning and conservation design to support the Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) framework and Adaptive Management efforts for the Service. Conservation Planning will continue to work closely with all Service programs, LCCs, States, and stakeholders to identify priority species, develop measurable biological (e.g., population) objectives, and deliver habitat conservation through a landscape level approach. The program will continue close coordination within the Service to ensure the stewardship of threatened and endangered species, migratory birds, and inter-jurisdictional fish. The Service's Inventory and Monitoring efforts will be used to both inform what data collection efforts are the highest priorities and to adapt the Service's conservation delivery actions in an iterative manner as the monitoring data dictates. The Service will continue to incorporate the best available science, encourage collaboration with partners, and explore ways to increase recreational opportunities by working closely with regional recreation, trails and transportation planners to leverage resources that make Service lands more accessible to the public.

Activity: National Wildlife Refuge System
Subactivity: Refuge Maintenance

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2015 (+/-)
Maintenance Support	($000)	56,419	53,391	+690	0	0	54,081	+690
Annual Maintenance	($000)	26,350	26,350	0	0	0	26,350	0
Deferred Maintenance	($000)	37,120	37,120	0	0	+4,000	41,120	+4,000
Equipment and Vehicle Management	($000)	10,960	14,988	0	0	+2,722	17,710	+2,722
Youth Conservation Corps	($000)	649	649	0	0	0	649	0
Refuge Maintenance	($000)	131,498	132,498	+690	0	+6,722	139,910	+7,412
	FTE	*595*	*565*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*565*	*0*

Summary of 2016 Program Changes for Refuge Maintenance

Request Component	($000)	FTE
• Deferred Maintenance	+4,000	0
• Equipment and Vehicle Management	+2,722	0
Program Changes	**+6,722**	**0**

Justification of 2016 Program Changes

The 2016 budget request for the Refuge Maintenance program is $139,910,000 and 565 FTE, a net program change of +$6,722,000 and +0 FTE from the 2015 Enacted.

Deferred Maintenance (+$4,000,000/+0 FTE)

The requested funding will allow completion of an additional about 20 critical deferred maintenance projects. Deferred Maintenance projects include repair, rehabilitation, disposal, and replacement of facilities. Only those projects that have already been delayed beyond their scheduled maintenance or replacement date are included in Deferred Maintenance.

The Service maintains an inventory of Deferred Maintenance and capital improvement needs for all field stations consistent with Federal Accounting Standards. Available funds are directed to the highest priority projects based upon Facility Condition Index (FCI), a ratio of repair to replacement cost, and Asset Priority Index (API), an indicator of individual assets' contribution to the refuge system mission, in accordance with the DOI guidance on Deferred Maintenance and capital improvement plans. Ranking scores are further refined through application of DOI-wide priority ranking factors.

The Service does not have a recapitalization budget sufficient to replace major building systems prior to the end of their useful life except within the Deferred Maintenance budget. Proactive replacement of these major systems will extend the useful life of buildings and structures in a manner that is more cost effective than complete facility replacement.

Equipment and Vehicle Management (+$2,722,000/+0 FTE)

The Service is continually reviewing its operations and seeking ways to more cost effectively manage our fleet. The Service will use the requested funding to establish a Refuge Vehicle Replacement fund

dedicated to replacing light and medium duty vehicles. This is intended to facilitate more cost effective management of the Refuge System's vehicle fleet. Goals of this effort are to:

- assure that vehicles are properly repaired and maintained;
- facilitate reporting of consumption and utilization data to enable appropriate management and analysis;
- trade in vehicles at the optimum time to maximize the return on investment from sales;
- more closely monitor utilization to provide the minimum number of vehicles necessary to efficiently accomplish mission objectives;
- promote alternative fuel and electric vehicle use where appropriate to reduce carbon emissions; and,
- encourage short-term vehicle leases and use of non-traditional vehicles and transportation to meet seasonal mission needs.

Program Overview

The Refuge Maintenance Program supports a complex infrastructure including habitat management; visitor, administrative, and maintenance facilities; and a fleet of vehicles and heavy equipment necessary to conduct wildlife and habitat management activities. A critical function of this program is providing access to Refuge System lands in support of wildlife and habitat management programs and enabling nearly 47 million annual visitors to enjoy our nation's diverse fish and wildlife heritage. Refuge maintenance staff actively manage about 3.2 million acres of wildlife habitat each year and nearly $29 billion in assets such as roads, buildings, water management facilities, and visitor use facilities.

Properly maintained facility and equipment assets enable the Service to accomplish habitat management, refuge operations, visitor services goals, and fulfill its conservation mission. There is a direct link between adequate maintenance funding and healthy wildlife habitats and populations as well as providing safe and reliable public access to enjoy wildlife and natural landscapes. Mowing fields, removing unwanted woody vegetation from wetland impoundments and controlling invasive plants and animals are examples of annual maintenance activities which restore the quality of wildlife habitat and maintain wildlife populations. Preventive maintenance results in fewer breakdowns and helps achieve the expected life of facilities and equipment. Without sufficient maintenance, much needed wildlife management facilities, such as water control structures for wetlands or breeding facilities for endangered species, would not operate properly; office and maintenance buildings needed to conduct core refuge operations would not be functional; and roads, trails and other facilities would be inadequate to allow access for either management purposes or visitation by the public.

Highlighted Activities:

Facilities Management

According to the *Sustainable Building Technical Manual*, over a 30 year period initial construction costs amount to only about one-third of a building's total lifecycle operations and maintenance costs. Ongoing maintenance of visitor facilities is vital to enabling a positive experience for nearly 47 million annual visitors. As of September 30, 2014, refuge maintenance employees maintain 12,927 roads, bridges and trails; 5,409 buildings; 7,993 water management structures; and 7,731 other structures such as visitor facility enhancements (hunting blinds, fishing piers, docks, observation decks, information kiosks). The overall facility infrastructure is valued at nearly $29 billion as indicated in the following table.

Constructed Real Property Summary as of September 30, 2014

Real Property Grouping	Total No. Assets Owned or Managed	No. Assets Over 50 Years Old	Current Replacement Value ($ millions)	No. Assets with Deferred Maintenance	Total Deferred Maintenance ($ millions)	Overall Condition
Buildings	5,409	1,537	2,964	1,698	316	0.11
Dams	235	148	1,368	172	56	0.04
Levees	3,280	870	6,511	650	176	0.03
Non Public Use Roads	3,860	1,074	4,314	286	86	0.02
Non Public Use Trails	227	52	35	5	0.1	0.00
Other Structures	7,731	2,494	5,713	2,315	286	0.05
Other WCS	4,478	681	993	493	67	0.07
Public Use Roads	7,802	1,240	6,602	620	281	0.04
Public Use Trails	1,038	106	215	149	16	0.08
Totals	**34,060**	**8,202**	**28,715**	**6,388**	**1,284.02**	**0.04**

Note: Overall Condition rating is based on the Facility Condition Index (FCI) which is a measure of the ratio of the repair costs to the current replacement cost of each asset. An FCI of > 0.15 (15% of the value of the asset) is considered Unacceptable by Department of Interior standards.

Nationwide portfolio of Refuge System constructed facility assets as of September 30, 2014

Asset Groupings	Asset Count		Replacement Value		Deferred Maintenance	
	#	% of Total	$ million	% of Total	$ million	% of Total
Buildings (admin, visitor, housing, maintenance, storage, etc.)	5,409	16%	2,964	10%	316	25%
Water Management Structures	7,993	23%	8,872	31%	299	23%
Roads Bridges and Trails	12,927	38%	11,166	39%	383	30%
Other Structures (visitor facilities, radio systems, fencing, others)	7,731	23%	5,713	20%	286	22%
Total	**34,060**	**100%**	**28,715**	**100%**	**1,285**	**100%**

Refinements in Deferred Maintenance Cost Estimating Practices Bringing Backlog Down

The NWRS constructed facility infrastructure as of the beginning of FY2015 consisted of over 34,060 individual assets collectively valued at $28.7 billion and having a Deferred Maintenance (DM) backlog of 6,388 projects totaling $1.28 billion. The backlog has been reduced from a high of $2.7 billion in 2010 primarily due to American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding, cost efficiencies, refined business processes, and disposing of unneeded assets. In 2012, NWRS leadership concluded that a review of the deferred maintenance backlog was necessary to clearly articulate and prioritize maintenance and repair needs for assets that provide the greatest impact on achieving the FWS mission and providing safe public access. Given the need to focus our limited resources on the most critical real property assets, a thorough review of processes and priorities was completed. The primary conclusion from this review was that deferred maintenance estimates for our extensive inventory of roads needed further classification to implement a priority based budget process that emphasizes public use and traffic volume. Corrective

action was taken by developing a process that categorized roads into three tiers, which places a more appropriate focus on higher use public and primary access roads. Tier 3 roads receive minimal use and by definition have been generally excluded from contributing to deferred maintenance backlogs calculations. Field stations are still required to maintain these tier 3 roads in an appropriate condition for the type and volume of use. FWS has refined its practices and procedures and is using these lessons learned: 1) to focus limited deferred maintenance funds on assets that maximize return on investment, 2) to improve consistency of future Deferred Maintenance and Repair cost estimates and 3) to communicate improved focus in the budget planning and justification processes.

6 Year History of Deferred Maintenance Backlog by 4 Major Categories of Assets

	NWRS Deferred Maintenance (beginning of FY)($ millions)					
Category	FY 10	FY 11	FY 12	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15
Buildings	393	399	408	349	315	316
Water Management	403	448	409	404	343	299
Roads/Bridges/Trails	1,510	1,577	1,430	1,356	849	383
Other	405	282	297	289	240	286
Total	2,711	2,706	2,544	2,398	1,747	1,284

The Service uses a strategic, portfolio based approach to manage these assets in a manner that informs decision making and maximizes efficient and effective mission delivery with an emphasis on prioritizing mission critical assets and assuring long-term protection of investments through long-term life cycle management. Using principles outlined in Executive Order 13327, Federal Real Property Asset Management, the Department's Capital Planning and Investment Control policy, and the Department's guidance for deferred maintenance and capital improvement plans, the Refuge System is managing its portfolio of facility and mobile equipment assets to:

- Account for what it owns;
- determine the costs to operate and maintain each individual asset;
- track the condition of assets and the associated costs to correct deficiencies;
- plan and prioritize budgets to most effectively meet mission needs;
- understand and plan life cycle costs for both existing and proposed new assets;
- Improve efficiency and reduce costs through space consolidations
- dispose of any excess assets; and
- strive for environmentally friendly and sustainable business practices by seeking to reduce energy use and applying renewable energy strategies.

In managing available resources in the most cost effective manner the Service is taking the following actions for constructed facility assets:

- Focusing available resources on the highest priority needs in 5 year plans;
- Strengthening the Service's use of mission dependency identification to assure that the most critical facility assets receive priority funding;
- Applying standard facility design components to reduce the costs of project design;
- Minimizing facility development in accomplishing mission goals;
- Managing and replacing assets taking into account life-cycle management needs;
- Applying energy conservation and renewable energy options to lower long-term operating costs;
- Working with volunteers and partners to maximize the conservation benefits of facility assets.

Equipment and Vehicle Management

In addition to managing an extensive facility infrastructure with 34,060 assets, the Service owns and maintains a variety of traditional and specialized mobile equipment items necessary to achieve its strategic goals. Most of the 5,298 vehicles used on refuges are four wheel drive trucks and utility vehicles

used by refuge staff and volunteers for firefighting, wildlife and habitat surveys, transporting equipment and tools to remote sites, law enforcement, and other volunteer tasks. Much of the vehicle use is on gravel roads; extensive off-road use is also required. Agricultural, earthmoving, and construction equipment are used to maintain wetland impoundments and roads; enhance areas for wildlife habitat; control invasive plants; and maintain and construct visitor facilities such as boardwalks, observation platforms, tour routes, and nature trails. Smaller, specialized equipment such as all-terrain vehicles, aircrafts, boats, small tractors and snowmobiles are needed to access and maintain/restore habitats in remote or rugged areas. In total, the Refuge System's small equipment and vehicle fleet consists of about 9,000 items and the heavy equipment fleet includes about 4,000 items.

Most refuge vehicles are four wheel drive trucks and utility vehicles used by refuge staff and volunteers for firefighting, wildlife and habitat surveys, transporting equipment and tools to remote sites, and law enforcement.

To apply available resources in the most cost effective manner the Service is taking the following actions for mobile equipment assets:

- Reducing petroleum consumption for vehicles and equipment
- Increasing use of alternate fuel vehicles
- Using equipment and vehicle sharing across multiple locations where feasible
- Using equipment and vehicle rental when more cost-effective than ownership
- Providing reliable transportation and equipment to the full range of permanent and temporary staff as well as volunteers and cooperators
- Providing safety training to maximize safe operation

Energy Management

Energy conservation, reduction of energy costs, and application of renewable energy sources is a current priority associated with management of Service facility assets. Approximately $8.0 million was devoted to renewable energy measures in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). As deferred maintenance projects are completed, sustainable energy measures are incorporated to reduce annual Operations and Maintenance (O&M) costs and to help reduce dependence upon petroleum based energy. These efforts also reduce the Service's carbon footprint in accordance with goals established in the Service's January 2011 Carbon Mitigation Report. In response to Executive Order 13423, Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management, and the Service goal of becoming a Carbon neutral agency, the Service is assessing its energy use and opportunities for investments to boost energy efficiency and implement renewable energy sources in many of its locations. Energy audits will help identify needed actions and performance measurements such as return on investment, reduce O&M costs, and reduce energy intensity as measured in BTU's/Gross Square foot. The identified needed actions will help the Service prioritize the actions it will take.

Managing Service Assets

The Service is using financial and performance data to improve its management of facility infrastructure and its mobile equipment fleet. The Service asset management plan aids in management of assets, based on workload drivers including General Services Administration useful life standards, geographic location, utilization patterns, and generally accepted asset management principles.

The Service considers costs and benefits when allocating maintenance funding for these assets. The Service Asset and Maintenance Management System (SAMMS) identifies assets that can most effectively be maintained by simultaneously applying an Asset Priority Index (API) and a Facility Condition Index (FCI). Using the FCI, which is a measure of the ratio of the repair cost to the current replacement cost for each asset, in combination with the Asset Priority Index (API), which indicates the relative importance of an asset to accomplishing its mission, provides valuable information to prioritize the use of maintenance funding. With this information, scoring mechanisms are applied that consider critical health and safety, enabling managers to see where they should apply funding to most efficiently manage the entire asset portfolio. This insight into asset management enables managers to make better cost/benefit decisions about related matters like lease space and new construction projects. The Service is using SAMMS as the system of record to document assessments, facility maintenance histories, and maintenance schedules to improve its overall FCI and to reduce out year project costs.

Regular condition assessments of assets and their contribution to the Service mission assure that information used to allocate funding will contribute to effective asset management. By completing assessments for all facilities, the Service improved its ability to provide maintenance, repair, and, where required, replacement costs with greater accuracy. Annual O&M cost data for each asset has been collected since 2005 in the Federal Real Property Profile. Collecting this data has helped the Service identify opportunities for energy efficiency, disposal of unneeded assets, replacement, and other cost saving measures. Asset managers are also identifying opportunities to employ energy conservation and renewable energy strategies within the Refuge System. Energy conservation and renewable energy opportunities are a regular part of planning and completing deferred maintenance projects.

Refuge Maintenance Budget Elements:

As indicated in the leadoff table to this section, Refuge Maintenance budgets are managed under 5 program elements. These elements enable the following activities to be carried out:

Refuge Maintenance Support

Refuge Maintenance Support includes salaries and associated funding for maintenance and facilities management employees at refuge field stations and at Regional and Headquarters offices. Maintenance staffs maintain functional facilities and reliable equipment, and perform a wide variety of habitat management actions including water level management, vegetation management, and control of invasive species. It is estimated that field level maintenance employees spend about half their time on maintenance work and about half on habitat management work. Ongoing maintenance of visitor facilities including roads, trails, and a variety of facilities provides visitors with appropriate access to refuge lands and ensure a positive visitor experience.

Management and coordination of Refuge System wide facility and equipment maintenance and improvement efforts are carried out by Regional and national level staff who carry out or oversee the following functions:

- Management and technical support for implementing the SAMMS which along with the Department of the Interior's Financial and Business Management System make up the corporate data system of record. Costs include maintaining and refining software, managing databases and servers, providing support via a help desk, and training personnel to use the software.
- Completing condition assessments of 20 percent of capitalized facilities at field stations each year to ensure that real property data is accurate and complete. This program supports decision making for facility management, and provides technical support and short term assistance for deferred maintenance projects.

- Developing and implementing 5-year maintenance plans, including coordinating and reporting on project completions.
- Planning and implementing major maintenance and capital improvement efforts including development of budget plans, monitoring annual O&M costs, executing deferred maintenance projects and related costs, coordinating energy conservation initiatives, prioritizing needs across multiple field locations, responding to major health and safety issues, and identifying and disposing of assets that are not mission-dependent.
- Managing an equipment and vehicle fleet program that includes operator safety training, budget planning, consolidated purchasing of replacement equipment, monitoring utilization and condition to optimize use and resale, and coordination of equipment rental.

Annual Maintenance

Annual maintenance encompasses all ongoing non-staff expenditures needed to keep the Service's facility portfolio and mobile equipment fleet functioning for its intended purpose. Annual maintenance includes: 1) utilities, custodial care, and snow removal for offices, administrative, and visitor center buildings; 2) repairing system failures in the year they occur; and 3) preventive and cyclic maintenance. Preventive maintenance -- including scheduled servicing, repairs, and parts replacement — results in fewer breakdowns and is necessary to achieve the expected life of facilities and equipment. Cyclic maintenance is preventive maintenance scheduled in periods greater than one year. Annual maintenance addresses problems cost-effectively, before they grow in expense.

Deferred Maintenance

Deferred Maintenance projects include repair, rehabilitation, disposal, and replacement of facilities. Only those projects that have already been delayed beyond their scheduled maintenance or replacement date are included in Deferred Maintenance. The Service maintains an inventory of Deferred Maintenance and capital improvement needs for all field stations consistent with Federal Accounting Standards. Available funds are directed to the highest priority projects based upon Facility Condition Index (FCI), a ratio of repair cost to replacement cost, and Asset Priority Index (API), an indicator of individual assets' contribution to the refuge system mission, in accordance with the DOI guidance on Deferred Maintenance and capital improvement plans. Ranking scores are currently derived from ten DOI-wide priority ranking factors. The Deferred Maintenance category funds both Service engineers and staff directly working on Deferred Maintenance projects. Prioritization of projects occurs through development of a five year deferred maintenance budget plan which is updated annually.

In the past, the Refuge Roads program provided $29 million per year from the Federal Highway Administration to assist in maintaining refuge public use roads (includes public roads, bridges, and parking areas). The authorization of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century in 2013 replaced the Refuge Roads Program with the Federal Lands Transportation Program, makes National Fish Hatchery public use roads eligible for funding and is authorized at $30 million per year through May of 2015.

Washed out road at Anahuac NWR, TX. The Fish and Wildlife Service Transportation Program provides funding to maintain public use roads, bridges, and parking areas.

Deferred Maintenance Backlog Reported in CFO Audit (Actual Dollars)

End of Fiscal Year	DM Backlog	Increase/Decrease
2005	2,040,500,000	530,000,000
2006	1,530,773,712	-509,726,288
2007	2,482,588,534	951,814,822
2008	2,495,752,018	13,163,484
2009	2,710,782,879	215,030,861
2010	2,706,402,236	-4,380,643
2011	2,544,517,841	-161,884,395
2012	2,397,390,016	-147,127,825
2013	1,747,543,528	-649,846,488
2014	1,283,616,949	-463,926,579

The Refuge System was able to decrease the deferred maintenance backlog by approximately $464 million during FY2014 by continuing to refine its condition assessment process, use maintenance action teams, actively pursue local partnerships, carefully prioritize budgets, and dispose of unneeded assets.

Equipment and Vehicle Management

The Refuge System requires an extensive fleet of heavy and light equipment, including motorized vehicles, to successfully carry out its conservation and management mission. This program also employs equipment rental and leasing to provide a cost-effective alternative to purchasing new equipment, particularly for short-term needs to complete vital projects. Equipment and Vehicle Management funds optimize the management of fleets to meet mission needs, environmental mandates, and serve as an example for the efficient use of public assets.

Heavy equipment management includes acquisition, repair, and disposal of heavy equipment which is any equipment item exceeding $25,000 in replacement cost, excluding passenger vehicles and light trucks. The Service owns about 4,000 heavy equipment assets with a combined replacement value of about $505 million. The Service depends on reliable heavy equipment since 3.2 million acres are managed each year through water control, tillage, mowing, invasive species control, or farming for habitat management, wildfire prevention, and other goals. Providing access to refuge lands and facilities by maintaining access roads is vital to all aspects of conservation land management. Visitor programs rely on heavy equipment for maintenance of roads, trails, boat ramps, and facilities, as well as enhancing habitat for wildlife.

Properly maintained facility and equipment assets enable the Service to accomplish habitat management, refuge operations, and visitor services goals, and fulfill its conservation mission. There is a direct link between adequate maintenance funding and healthy wildlife habitats and populations. Mowing fields, removing unwanted woody vegetation from wetland impoundments and controlling invasive plants and animals are examples of annual maintenance activities which restore quality wildlife habitat and wildlife populations.

Heavy Equipment Inventory as of December 1, 2014

Heavy Equipment	Total Units	Acquisition Cost (millions)	Current Replacement Costs (millions)
Agricultural Tractors	1,129	$56.3	$112.9
Heavy Duty Trucks	787	$54.5	$110.2
Bulldozers	342	$36.7	$ 54.7
Specialty Equipment	350	$17.2	$ 52.5
Graders	197	$20.9	$ 47.3
Backhoes	321	$19.1	$ 32.1
Excavators	158	$22.2	$ 31.6
Loaders	162	$11.1	$ 22.7
Skid Steers	263	$11.5	$ 18.4
Forklifts	196	$ 5.3	$ 14.7
Scraper Drag	74	$ 3.4	$ 5.6
Roller Road	25	$ 0.6	$ 1.5
Ditching Machine	11	$ 0.1	$ 0.6
Total	4,015	$256.4	$504.7

In addition to heavy equipment, the Refuge System has a need for a variety of small equipment, passenger vehicles, and pickup trucks. Since much of the needed work occurs in difficult to access off-road areas, including remote and rough terrain and all types of water bodies, the Service requires a variety of vehicles and equipment to meet mission needs and environmental mandates. This includes about 9,000 small equipment items including all-terrain vehicles, boats and motors, mowers, pumps, generators, trailers, agricultural implements, and similar equipment. Most of the approximately 4,400 light/medium duty refuge vehicles are used for firefighting, wildlife and habitat surveys, law enforcement, habitat management, transporting equipment to remote work sites, and transporting volunteers.

Federal mandates require all Federal agencies to reduce petroleum fuel use by two percent per year, as compared to their levels in 2005, through the year 2020, thereby reducing petroleum fuel use by a total of 30 percent. These fuel reduction mandates therefore have a major impact on fleet management practices and the Service is working to replace older, inefficient vehicles, with more fuel efficient models.

Youth Conservation Corps

The Service has worked with the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) to introduce young Americans to conservation opportunities at National Fish Hatcheries, National Wildlife Refuges, and Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices across the country since inception of the program in 1970. The Service will continue hiring youth as resources permit to provide a quality, cost-effective outdoor work experience to a diverse pool of our Nation's youth. The YCC program offers employment, education and recreation opportunities that connect youth with the outdoors. These connections foster understanding and appreciation of the need to conserve America's natural resources and promote public service as part of a lifelong commitment to natural resource conservation.

YCC enrollees at San Luis NWR receive training in vegetation monitoring.

An example of YCC programs in 2014 is the San Luis NWR Complex in California, which sponsored a YCC crew comprised

of 11 youth from three local high schools. Enrollees worked on projects that contributed to the management and conservation of the Complex's wildlife and habitat such as vegetation monitoring on the Lonetree unit of the Merced NWR, which contains important uplands. These uplands are part of the historic habitat corridor for the San Joaquin kit fox and support the elk enclosure on the San Luis NWR. The crew also helped reclaim and restore habitat on San Luis NWR that had been in agricultural use for decades.

2016 Program Performance

The FY2016 budget request will support maintenance staffing for field stations, as well as provide annual preventive maintenance, including funds for supplies, materials, and contracts. These funds will allow the Service to repair facilities and equipment, and perform regular annual maintenance on schedule.

The budget will also support replacement of mobile equipment assets including implementation of a new initiative to improve management of the vehicle fleet. It will also support about 192 deferred maintenance projects which will improve the condition of Service assets as measured by the FCI. These funds will allow the Service to fund projects to repair facilities and equipment within the year in which deficiencies occur and perform cyclical maintenance on schedule, ensuring that cyclic projects do not become deferred maintenance.

The Service will use its ongoing condition assessment program to focus maintenance activities on highest priority needs. By completing an assessment of facilities every five years, the Service improves its ability to apply maintenance, repair, and where required, replacement funds with greater accuracy. Under this subactivity, the Service will also continue use of the SAMMS database to reduce these costs through improved management.

The Service will continue to use maintenance funding to support refuge operations. The facilities and equipment utilized on refuges contribute to wildlife and habitat management goals, and help maintain the vast majority of Service acreage in desirable condition. Maintenance funding will also support Visitor Services by enabling visitors to access refuge lands and ensuring the safety of visitors using observation decks, trails, hunting blinds, fishing piers, and more. These facilities will help provide nearly 47 million visitors with high quality, wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities.

Deferred maintenance projects figure prominently in the maintenance of wetland impoundments and associated water delivery canals. One such project completed with FY 2014 deferred maintenance funding devoted $125,000 to replace a water control structure at Stillwater NWR in Nevada. Stillwater wetlands are used each year by up to a quarter million waterfowl, hundreds of thousands of shorebirds, and over 20,000 other water birds. This area has been designated a site of International Importance by the Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network and is also listed by the American Bird Conservancy as a Globally Important Bird Area. A seriously deteriorated water control structure on one of the primary canals delivering water to these wetlands was replaced to enable improved management of wetland units totaling about 6,600 acres in size. The project was completed by a Maintenance Action Team consisting of in house staff. Use of

Deferred maintenance project at Stillwater NWR, NV: Above picture shows project to replace water control structure in progress.

Maintenance Action Teams allows completion of projects in a very cost effective fashion while also building the capacity of Service staff to undertake comparable projects in other areas.

Stillwater NWR, NV: The end result of managed wetland impoundment providing quality habitat for migratory water birds.

Another example of a deferred maintenance project completed in FY 2014 is a combined energy efficiency improvement and general renovation of the refuge headquarters building at Morgan Brake NWR in Mississippi. Energy efficiency improvements consisted of upgrading the HVAC and lighting to higher efficiency systems. Major general renovation items consisted of replacing the roof, painting the exterior and replacing structural columns on the front porch. Total project cost was about $240,000. Morgan Brake NWR, established in 1977, encompasses 7,383 acres and is dominated by bottomland hardwoods in the Mississippi River Delta. It provides high quality habitats for migrating neo-tropical birds, and overwintering habitats for large number of waterfowl. It is also known for its protection of loess bluffs; these deep deposits of windblown topsoil contain rare habitats with unique plant communities. The headquarters building provides a base of operations for the refuge's staff, volunteers, and cooperators; and is the primary public contact point for refuge visitors.

Rehabilitated headquarters building at Morgan Brake NWR, MS.

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Migratory Bird Management

Activity: Conservation and Enforcement
Subactivity: Migratory Bird Management

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2015 (+/-)
Conservation and Monitoring	($000)	29,427	29,427	+237	0	+1,392	31,056	+1,629
	FTE	*141*	*141*	*0*	*0*	*+3*	*144*	*+3*
Permits	($000)	3,346	3,346	+51	0	0	3,397	+51
	FTE	*34*	*34*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*34*	*0*
Federal Duck Stamp	($000)	556	556	+2	0	0	558	+2
	FTE	*4*	*4*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*4*	*0*
North American Waterfowl Management/Joint Ventures	($000)	13,139	13,139	+90	0	+5,362	18,591	+5,452
	FTE	*52*	*52*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*52*	*0*
Total, Migratory Bird Management	**($000)**	**46,468**	**46,468**	**+380**	**0**	**+6,754**	**53,602**	**+7,134**
	FTE	***231***	***231***	***0***	***0***	***+3***	***234***	***+3***

Program Overview

The Service has the legal mandate and trust responsibility to ensure the continued existence of healthy migratory bird populations for the benefit of the American public. More than 25 laws, treaties, and conventions mandate that the Service sustain over 1,000 species of migratory birds and their habitats. Primary among these mandates is the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918, which establishes Federal responsibility for protecting and managing migratory birds. It also implements four international treaties affecting migratory birds common to the United States, Canada, Mexico, Japan and Russia.

Wildlife biologist Matt Stuber prepares to mark and release a young Golden Eagle, Central Oregon. Photo by David Leal, USFWS

Because the MBTA prohibits taking of migratory birds, their parts, nests, eggs and other products without permission from the Service, the Migratory Bird Program's conservation planning, monitoring and management activities are focused on providing sustainable take levels (hunting seasons and issuing permits) while ensuring healthy populations. Compliance with MBTA also promotes the development and implementation of conservation measures that reduce or eliminate the incidental take of migratory bird species. In the future, the Service plans to promulgate regulations that manage and authorize some forms of the incidental take of migratory birds under MBTA. These regulations will address incidental take activities that are currently occurring across the landscape, without consistent enforcement or mitigation opportunity, in an effort to bring regulatory predictability to development activities.

Other important laws that directly and significantly impact program activities include the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668), which provides additional protection for those birds, and the North American Wetlands Conservation and Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Acts, which promote habitat and bird conservation across North America and throughout the western hemisphere.

The Division of Migratory Bird Management, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Regional Migratory Bird offices, Joint Ventures, the Duck Stamp Office and the FWS Office of Aviation Management make

Mixed Flock – wintering waterfowl at Mattamuskeet NWR, North Carolina.
Photo by: Allison Stewart, FWS

up the Service's Migratory Bird Program. These units work together, and with other Service programs, Federal and State agencies, Tribes, and nongovernmental partners to increase the effectiveness of migratory bird conservation efforts on the landscape. Using sound science and collaborative partnerships, the Service works to increase the number of migratory bird populations that are healthy and sustainable, prevent bird populations from declining and requiring further protection under the Endangered Species Act, and conserve habitats necessary to support these populations for future generations. To accomplish these objectives, staff routinely:

- Develop and implement surveys and other monitoring and assessment activities to determine the status of numerous migratory bird populations;
- Formulate regulations and administer permits for activities such as hunting, scientific research, rehabilitation of injured birds, education, taxidermy, and control of overabundant species;
- Coordinate efforts to promote environmentally responsible renewable energy development and reduce bird mortalities resulting from collisions with communication towers, wind turbines, transmission lines, buildings, fisheries by-catch, and pesticides, as well as other human-related causes;
- Manage grants across the Western Hemisphere that implement on-the-ground habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement and other conservation activities for the benefit of migratory birds;
- Implement strategic management planning, action, and evaluation to increase the effectiveness of migratory bird conservation at regional, national, and international landscape scales;
- Integrate climate change adaptation strategies into all aspects of our policies, planning, programs and operations;
- Develop and implement scientifically based management strategies to improve the population status of focal species populations;
- Participate in international treaty negotiations related to migratory birds;
- Reach out to a diverse constituency that pursues, enjoys, observes, and studies migratory birds and encourage public involvement in bird conservation activities such as International Migratory Day, the Federal Duck Stamp program, the Junior Duck Stamp program, Urban Bird Conservation Treaties, and managed harvest opportunities;
- Develop and maintain collaborative partnerships with Federal, State, and municipal agencies and non-government organizations to further migratory bird conservation, education, and quality outdoor recreational opportunities; and
- Support international partners to expand and manage shared migratory bird resources through continental-scale projects and programs.

The year 2016 is an important milestone in the Service's history of bird conservation, marking the centennial of the Convention between the United States and Great Britain (on behalf of Canada) for the Protection of Migratory Birds, signed in Washington, DC, on August 16, 1916. This Migratory Bird

Treaty created a system of protection for certain species of birds that migrate between the United States and Canada. Similar treaties followed with Mexico (1936), Japan (1972) and Russia (1976). Throughout 2016, the Service and partners will celebrate the centennial. The vision is: a world where birds and people thrive. The goals are to: create awareness, promote key actions, increase support and expand opportunities for engagement in the conservation of migratory birds. Information on the Migratory Bird Treaty Centennial can be found at http://www.fws.gov/birds/MBTreaty100/.

Migratory Bird Management Combined Performance Change and Overview

Performance Measure	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Target	2016 PB	Change from 2015 Target to 2016 PB
CSF 6.1 - Percent of all migratory bird species that are at healthy and sustainable levels (GPRA)	72.1% (726 of 1,007)	72.1% (726 of 1,007)	72.1% (726 of 1,007)	72.8% (747 of 1,026)	72.8% (747 of 1,026)	72.8% (747 of 1,026)	0.0%
6.1.6 - # of management actions taken that annually address Birds of Management Concern, excluding focal species actions	244	233	204	196	168	164	-4
CSF 15.7 - Percent of migratory bird species that may be harvested for sport hunting or falconry (according to the migratory bird treaties) for which harvest is authorized by regulation	36.9% (73 of 198)	36.9% (73 of 198)	36.9% (73 of 198)	36.9% (73 of 198)	36.9% (73 of 198)	36.9% (73 of 198)	0.0%
15.7.2.1 - # of management actions completed	180	174	162	157	142	138	-4
15.7.2.2 - # of management actions necessary	183	176	163	178	142	138	-4

Subactivity: Migratory Bird Management
Program Element: Conservation and Monitoring

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2015 (+/-)
Conservation and Monitoring	($000)	29,427	29,427	+237	0	+1,392	31,056	+1,629
	FTE	*141*	*141*	*0*	*0*	*+3*	*144*	*+3*

Summary of 2016 Program Changes for Migratory Bird Conservation and Monitoring

Request Component	($000)	FTE
• Aviation Management	+1,000	+3
• Cooperative Recovery	+300	0
• Conservation and Monitoring	+92	0
Program Changes	**+1,392**	**+3**

Justification of 2016 Program Changes

The 2016 budget request for Conservation and Monitoring is $31,056,000 and 144 FTE, a net program change of +$1,392,000 and +3 FTE from the 2015 Enacted.

Aviation Management (+$1,000,000/+3 FTE)

Funding is requested to improve aviation management and safety, including implementation of the Director's approved Aviation Corrective Action Plan. The Service currently has 54% of the Department of the Interior (DOI) aircraft fleet and is responsible for approximately 25% of all DOI flight hours yet has the fewest staff dedicated to aviation management, training, and safety. The Plan recommends that the Service improve or establish programs that enhance safety, improve effectiveness, and realize efficiencies at all levels of operation. Additionally the Aviation Management Branch has identified six priorities that will immediately improve the Service's aviation enterprise; automatic flight following through transponders, crew resource management, pilot/mentorship program, standardized risk assessment process, aviation management communications, and a Kodiak aircraft training plan.

Cooperative Recovery (+$300,000/+0 FTE)

This funding will support a cross-programmatic partnership approach to complete planning, restoration, and management actions addressing current threats to endangered species in areas of strategic importance for the conservation of listed species. The focus will be on implementing recovery actions for species near delisting or reclassification from endangered to threatened, and actions that are urgently needed for critically endangered species by utilizing the resources and expertise of Service staff.

Projects employ actions that will significantly improve the status of one or more listed species. CRI projects are intended to be on-the-ground activities where meaningful progress can be shown within a short timeframe, but are also planned within the larger context of Service landscape conservation priorities. Each project also includes a monitoring component.

Conservation and Monitoring (+$92,000/+0 FTE)

Funding will be used to address priority conservation monitoring needs across large landscapes, including several population, habitat, and harvest monitoring surveys that provide the key scientific justification for

migratory bird hunting regulations. Funding will also be used to support activities related to our successful outreach and educational programs such as Urban Bird Treaties and the Flyways.com web site.

Program Overview

Conservation, monitoring, and assessment are the integral activities that define the Service's key role in addressing treaty mandates for migratory birds. Monitoring is a basic component of the Service's trust responsibility for North America's migratory birds and the Service is a world-renowned leader in this effort. Monitoring is essential to inform a science-based approach to bird conservation and is critical to the Service's ongoing efforts to improve the status of Birds of Management Concern. The ability to monitor bird populations allows the Service to evaluate the effectiveness of management actions, identify population shifts due to climate change and other factors, and make informed decisions about management plans and regulations. In addition, monitoring provides the required information to assess landscape-level impacts of energy and other development activities on migratory bird populations.

2014 Eastern Dakotas ground crew counting Ducks.
Photo by: Kammie Kruse, USFWS

The Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey has been conducted every year for nearly 60 years. Pilot-biologists fly more than 55,000 miles every year, counting ducks, geese and swans. The survey provides information on spring population size and trends for certain North American duck species. This data is then used to establish hunting regulations, such as season length and bag limits, in the United States and Canada.

Each year, the Service conducts extensive waterfowl population and habitat surveys across North America and produces the *Waterfowl Status Report*. The report includes the most current breeding population and production information available for waterfowl in North America and is the result of cooperative efforts with the Canadian Wildlife Service, various State and provincial conservation agencies, and private conservation organizations. The Service uses this waterfowl monitoring data in an Adaptive Resource Management framework to set and evaluate hunting seasons in the United States. This iterative process ensures migratory bird regulations are commensurate with population status; maximizing recreational opportunity while ensuring long-term sustainable migratory bird populations.

In 2005, the Service initiated a Focal Species strategy for migratory birds to better measure its success in achieving its bird conservation priorities and mandates. To select Focal Species, the Migratory Bird Program identifies species from the Birds of Management Concern list that need investment because they: 1) have high conservation need, 2) are representative of a broader group of species sharing the same or similar conservation needs, 3) act as a potential unifier for partnerships, and/or 4) have a high likelihood that factors affecting status can be realistically addressed. Focal Species are identified over the short term to receive specific attention. The 2012 – 2016 Focal Species list contains 55 species, including King Rail, American Woodcock, Marbled Godwit, Reddish Egret and the Golden-winged Warbler. Examples of some of these efforts include:

- Working with partners, the Reddish Egret Working Group has completed a compilation of the existing knowledge of focal breeding sites across their range and is finalizing a monitoring protocol within three designated eastern, central, and western management units. Information is available on the new website; www.reddishegret.org.
- The Service partnered in 2014 with the American Bird Conservancy, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, and the Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Fund, using focal areas and research-based habitat management guidelines from the Golden-winged Warbler Status Review and Conservation Plan, put 536 acres of Golden-winged Warbler habitat "on-the-ground" in Minnesota. The partnership has contracted for an additional 1,600 acres of habitat restoration in 2015**.**

Reddish Egret, a 2012-2016 Focal Species. Photo by Eric Kershner, USFWS

Government and non-government resource managers, researchers and other conservation professionals depend on the Service's migratory bird surveys and assessment capabilities to provide accurate, comprehensive population status and trend information. These conservation partners rely heavily on the results of annual assessments to inform migratory bird management and budgeting decisions within their jurisdictions. Survey data are essential for identifying and prioritizing management actions, research needs and providing a scientific, informed basis for effective long-term migratory bird conservation and management on a national and international scale. Many of the Service's migratory bird databases are shared via the Migratory Bird Data Center at https://migbirdapps.fws.gov. In addition, many of the Service's Population Status reports and results of other Assessments can be found at: http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/NewsPublicationsReports.html

Although many entities support or are involved in activities related to bird conservation, the Service's Migratory Bird Program is the only entity, public or private, with the specific responsibility to address the range-wide spectrum of issues, problems, and interests related to migratory bird protection, conservation, and management. To accomplish such a significant task, the Migratory Bird Program coordinates and supports a number of multi-partner conservation efforts. Through Executive Order 13186 - *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds***,** the Service promotes the Federal stewardship of migratory birds by partnering with other Federal agencies through Memoranda of Understanding. In 2014, the Department of Defense (DOD) renewed their MOU, and the US Coast Guard (USCG) developed a state-of-the-art MOU with the Service, embracing new collaborative approaches and building a cooperative relationship that strives to improve bird conservation opportunities through clearly defined and easily implementable actions (e.g. enabling Service staff to board watercraft to monitor and collect bird data). Both the DOD and USCG MOU's provide more specific information and guidance about how to reduce impacts to birds and their resources than many of our past MOU's, and future MOU's will adopt this new implementation-focused approach. This approach empowers Federal agencies to immediately implement on-the-ground solutions to conserve birds. Nearing completion are MOU's with the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, and the Environmental Protection Agency. In addition, the Migratory Bird Program coordinates the efforts of a large number of national and international governmental and private partners by leading established shorebird, waterbird, and landbird conservation initiatives.

In 2014, regional and national migratory bird program staff continued to lead the development and implementation of bird conservation business plans to reverse declines and maintain populations of shorebirds and their habitats along the Pacific and Atlantic coasts of the Western Hemisphere. These strategic business plans differ from previous efforts by focusing on a set of well-developed actions that

link funding to specific, measurable conservation outcomes, rather than producing long lists of possible actions, some of which may not be clearly defined. These flyway-scale plans, which address shorebirds throughout their annual cycle, will be used to leverage private and public funds and to ensure conservation investments are directed toward the highest priority action in the most appropriate places throughout the hemisphere. A broad perspective, that regards all areas migratory birds travel, is needed to ensure conservation investments made in one part of the range are not offset by conservation losses elsewhere. The business strategy approach has now been adopted by the bird conservation community at large. The Service is currently working with partners to develop eight geo-spatially specific Conservation Business Plans that will provide the strategic workplan for protecting the migratory birds within the Western Hemisphere.

The Urban Bird Treaty program is a unique, successful collaborative effort between the Service and participating U.S. cites. The program is dedicated to conserving birds in or passing through our cities, and brings together private citizens, Federal, State, and municipal agencies, and non-governmental organizations to conserve birds through a variety of actions including: education, conservation, and habitat improvement. Currently, 21 Urban Bird Treaty cities have programs working to conserve, protect, restore and enhance habitat, reduce bird hazards, and educate urban residents on the importance of migratory birds especially for their intrinsic, ecological, recreational, and economic significance. Urban Bird Treaties can help cities and their partners promote outdoor bird-related experiences, foster environmental education with a focus on migratory birds that nest, overwinter, or pass through municipal and urban/suburban neighborhoods, and foster and build natural resource career development opportunities.

Students in Portland, OR creating bird safe windows.

Subactivity: Migratory Bird Management
Program Element: Permits

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2015 (+/-)
Permits	($000)	3,346	3,346	+51	0	0	3,397	+51
	FTE	*34*	*34*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*34*	*0*

Justification of 2016 Program Changes

The 2016 budget request for the Permits Program is $3,397,000 and 34 FTE, no net program change from the 2015 Enacted.

Program Overview

Under the authority of the *Migratory Bird Treaty Act* (16 U.S.C. 703-712, MBTA), the Service is responsible for regulating activities associated with take or possession of any migratory birds. The *Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act* (16 U.S.C. 668, BGEPA) provides additional protection to bald eagles and golden eagles. The MBTA and the BGEPA are the primary Acts that address conservation of migratory birds and both prohibit their taking, killing, possession, or sale unless authorized by permit or regulation. Take and possession of migratory birds for purposes other than hunting are administered through the permitting system at 50 CFR parts 21and 22.

The mission of the Migratory Bird Permits Program is to promote long-term sustainability of migratory bird populations while providing opportunities for the public to study, use, and enjoy migratory birds consistent with the provisions of the MBTA and the BGEPA. Regulations authorizing take and possession of migratory birds focus on a number of activities including: scientific study, depredation control, falconry, raptor propagation, rehabilitation of injured birds, educational use, taxidermy, waterfowl sale, and Native American religious use. The permits are administered by the eight Regional Migratory Bird Permit Offices, which process more than 11,000 applications annually. Native American eagle feather possession permits are valid indefinitely; most other permits are valid for 1 to 5 years. Programmatic permits for the incidental take of eagles associated with otherwise lawful activities may be authorized for up to 30 years. A condition of the permit is the submission of annual mortality information and five year reviews which will be made available to the public. Based on that information, and data from surveys and research, the Service works with permittees to ensure eagle populations are safeguarded. Additional revisions of the regulations permitting take of golden and bald eagles are intended to establish efficiencies in permit issuance and facilitate the responsible development of renewable energy projects, supporting the President's priority to power the future.

The Service continues to focus on clarifying and streamlining regulatory requirements. For example, beginning in 2012, hundreds of Native American tribal members have received migratory bird parts and feathers essential to their traditional tribal cultural and religious practices via two permits the Service issues to "umbrella" organizations who maintain repositories for this purpose. The Service's Permits Issuance and Tracking System (SPITS), provides an electronic system for issuing permits and monitoring cumulative impacts to migratory bird populations. In 2016, the Service plans to introduce a new web-based platform to incorporate electronic submission of 45 migratory bird application and report forms (including depredation permits) that will be available to the public at www.epermits.fws.gov.

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

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2015 (+/-)
Federal Duck Stamp	($000)	556	556	+2	0	0	558	+2
	FTE	*4*	*4*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*4*	*0*

Justification of 2016 Program Changes

The 2016 budget request for the Federal Duck Stamp Program is $558,000 and 4 FTE, no net program change from the 2015 Enacted.

Program Overview

The Federal Duck Stamp Program, an internationally recognized and emulated program, supports conservation of important migratory bird habitat within the National Wildlife Refuge System through the sale of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (commonly known as the Duck Stamp).

2014-2015 Federal Duck Stamp

The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act (U.S.C. 718-718j, 48 Stat. 452 amended March 16, 1934) requires waterfowl hunters 16 years of age or older to possess a valid Federal Duck Stamp. Many non-hunters also buy Federal Duck Stamps to support conservation, as 98 percent of these funds are used to purchase wetland habitat. In 2014, Duck Stamps sales totaled more than $25 million. Since 1934, the stamps have raised almost $900 million for the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, enabling the protection of more than 5.6 million acres of prime waterfowl habitat. Lands acquired with Duck Stamp dollars also provide Americans with opportunities to enjoy the outdoors by engaging in activities such as hunting, fishing, hiking and wildlife watching, key components of the Administration's America's Great Outdoors Initiative.

The 2014-2015 Duck Stamp features South Dakota artist Adam Grimm's painting of a pair of canvasbacks. The issuance of the 2014 stamp marks the seventh year the Service is selling Duck Stamps through the Electronic Duck Stamp (E-Stamp) program. Adding five States in 2014 brings the total of participating States to thirteen. The E-Stamp program is a valuable customer service tool, making Duck Stamps available quickly and conveniently across the country. The acceptance of this initiative has been clearly demonstrated by the growth in E-Stamp sales from 58,000 in the pilot's first year (2007) to more than 460,000 in 2013. The sales period is July through June. As of December 2014, sales of the 2014-2015 E-Stamp exceeded 529,000. The Service will expand the E-Stamp program by adding up to 10 additional States over the next two years, further improving the ability to meet customer needs.

Since 1989, the Service has conducted the Junior Duck Stamp Program, an art and science-based environmental education curriculum to help teach wildlife conservation to American schoolchildren. As our Nation's population has become more urban, children are increasingly disconnected from, and indifferent to, the outdoors and the natural world, a cultural phenomenon termed "nature deficit disorder." The Junior Duck Stamp Program promotes an increased appreciation for the outdoors and fosters

environmental stewardship amongst youngsters, while providing educators with the tools to teach about nature and to encourage conservation activities.

2014-2015 Junior Duck Stamp

In FY 2012, we introduced an updated Junior Duck Stamp curriculum, which includes state-of-the-art technology, social networking tools, and current scientific information (for example, the impacts of rising sea levels on coastal wetland habitats). It is designed to be multi-culturally relevant and incorporates information about careers in nature and conservation. It also maintains its heritage with the opportunity for students to submit artwork for inclusion in their state's Junior Duck Stamp art competition. The winning artwork often graces the cover of the state's annual hunting regulation brochure and individual State winners are entered into the national contest. At the 2014 National Junior Duck Stamp art contest, New Jersey student Si Youn Kim's painting of a king eider took top honors among the 53 State and territorial winners. Annual art contest participation ranges from 29,000 to 32,000 students.

Through the Junior Duck Stamp Program, youth in grades K-12 are encouraged to explore wildlife and habitat conservation principles through science, art, math and technology. The program culminates with an art contest from which an annual Junior Duck Stamp is produced.

Credits: Top Left: Kimberly King-Wrenn, USFWS
Top Right: April Gregory, used with permission.
Right: Colorado Top Placers, Credit: Seth Beres, USFWS

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

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2015 (+/-)
North American Waterfowl Management/Joint Ventures	($000)	13,139	13,139	+90	0	+5,362	18,591	+5,452
	FTE	*52*	*52*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*52*	*0*

Summary of 2016 Program Changes for North American Waterfowl Management/Joint Ventures

Request Component	($000)	FTE
• Increase Species Resilience through Joint Venture Partnerships	+5,000	0
• North American Waterfowl Management/Joint Ventures	+362	0
Program Changes	**+5,362**	**0**

Justification of 2016 Program Changes

The 2016 budget request for the North American Waterfowl Management Plan / Joint Ventures Program is $18,591,000 and 52 FTE, a net program change of +$5,362,000 and +0 FTE from the 2015 Enacted.

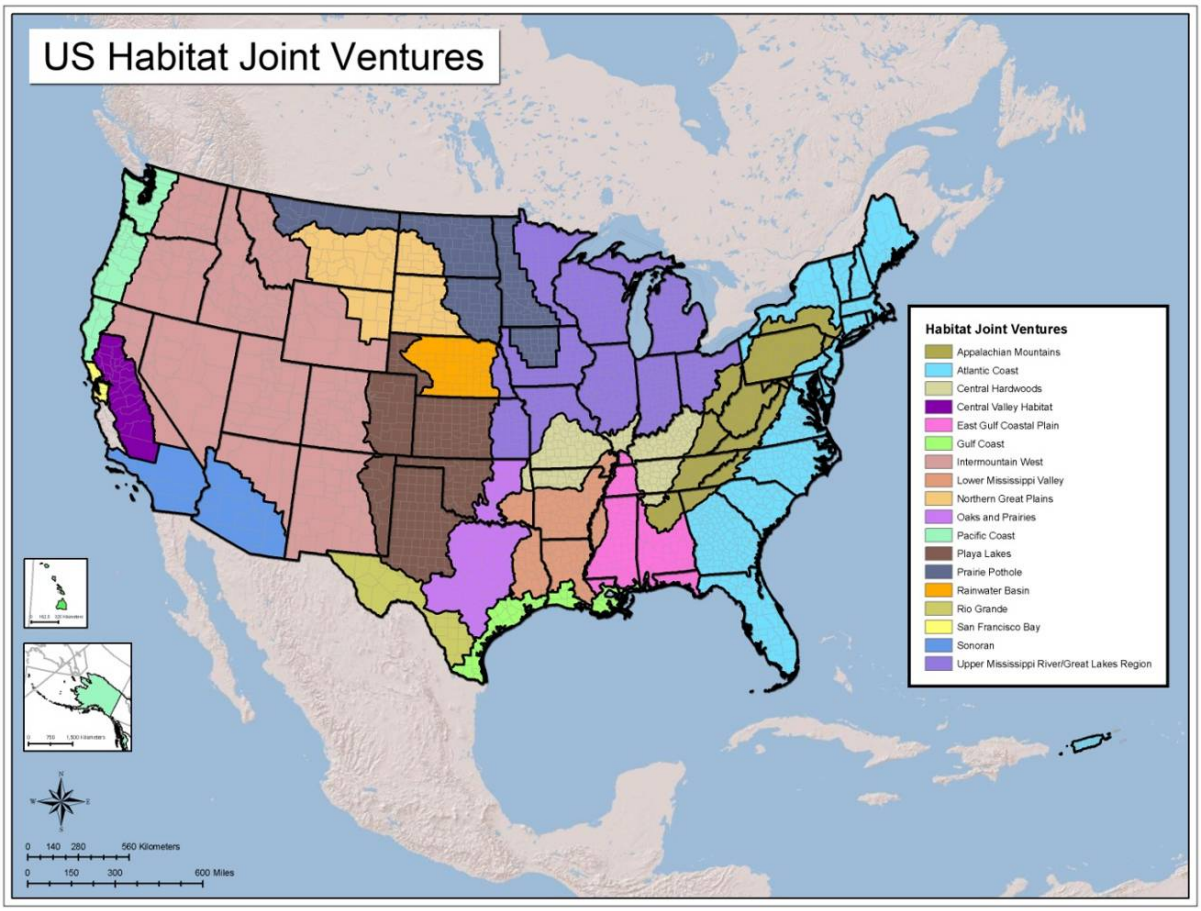
Increase Species Resilience through Joint Venture Partnerships (+5,000,000 / +0 FTE)
The proposed increase will support the efforts of the bird conservation Joint Ventures in implementing projects to increase the resilience of bird species and their habitats due to predicted shifts in precipitation patterns, increased temperatures and other anticipated environmental changes. Projects will be developed for priority landscapes that will be directly impacted by rapid climate change, and where resources can most effectively be focused to provide habitat conditions vital for sustaining healthy migratory bird populations. For example, restoring a network of playa wetlands in the Great Plains will benefit thousands of migratory waterfowl and shorebirds by providing critical feeding and resting habitat in an area that is forecast to be both warmer and dryer, while also increasing recharge to the Ogallala Aquifer to help sustain the water needs of agriculture, local municipalities and wildlife. Similarly, restoring functional watersheds in the Rainwater Basin of Nebraska will benefit wetland dependent birds by capturing and retaining water run-off while also sustaining the irrigation needs of agricultural producers in the region. Projects like these will be crucial to migratory bird populations and other wetland-dependent species as the habitats they currently depend on are altered by climate change.

North American Waterfowl Management Plan / Joint Ventures (+362,000 / +0 FTE)
This increase ensures targeted minimal funding for all 21 migratory bird Joint Ventures to support Service conservation priorities. This funding enables the continued implementation of national and international waterfowl, waterbird, shorebird, and landbird conservation initiatives through effective partnerships conservation activities that target the highest priority habitats for migratory birds.

Program Overview

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP or Plan) is an international accord signed by the U.S. and Canada in 1986 and by Mexico in 1994. For the past 28 years the Plan has helped to sustain abundant waterfowl populations across North America by conserving landscapes through partnerships guided by sound science. The 2012 revision of the Plan recognized the need to engage an

expanding community of waterfowl resource users and supporters, including both hunters and the non-hunting public. The revised Plan seeks to engage people who are committed to conservation and value waterfowl and their habitats as essential characteristics of the North American landscape. It seeks to increase public awareness and understanding that waterfowl provide environmental, ecological, and numerous economic benefits. For example, according to the *2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation*, migratory birds such as geese, ducks, and doves, attracted 2.6 million



hunters who spent $1.8 billion on hunting related expenditures.

The habitat goals of the Plan are primarily implemented by Migratory Bird Joint Ventures (JVs)—regional, self-directed partnerships involving Federal, State, and local governments; corporations; individuals; and non-government conservation groups. Eighteen U.S. habitat-based JVs and three species-specific JVs address local, regional, and continental goals for sustaining migratory bird populations by building landscape-level conservation plans and developing targeted habitat projects. By catalyzing partnerships to conserve habitat, JVs also support community efforts to conserve outdoor spaces and provide recreational opportunities to reconnect Americans to the outdoors. JVs are active partners in the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs), contributing their 28 years of experience with partnership development, landscape-scale conservation planning, and habitat delivery for migratory birds to the collective science and capacity of the LCCs. In turn, LCCs address JV priority science needs.

Service participation in the NAWMP and in JVs occurs under several authorities and accords:

- The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712) authorizes appropriations to accomplish the purposes of the migratory bird conventions with Canada, Mexico, Japan, and Russia;
- The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4401-4412) states that protecting migratory birds and their habitat requires the coordinated action of governments, private organizations, landowners, and other citizens, and specifically cites the NAWMP as a key implementation framework; and
- The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 2901-2911) authorizes financial and technical assistance to the States for the developing, revising, and implementing conservation plans and programs for nongame fish and wildlife.

Using the Strategic Habitat Conservation framework, based on the principles of adaptive management, JVs establish and achieve habitat conservation objectives at multiple scales. Armed with the best available scientific information, JVs help predict how bird populations will respond to habitat conservation and other management activities, and then develop conservation plans for those populations. This framework is particularly well suited to strategically address the problems migratory birds face on their breeding, migration, and wintering grounds.

The 2012 revision of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan recognizes the importance of engaging an expanding community of waterfowl resource users and supporters, such as bird watchers.

JVs use the products of this biological planning -- often maps or models – to design landscape-level conservation strategies that prioritize and direct habitat management resources where they will have greatest effect and lowest relative cost. This strategy enables JV partners to focus conservation programs on the highest priority areas and maintain resources at the level needed to sustain healthy populations of migratory birds, while considering a changing climate, social changes, the effects of land use decisions, and fiscal constraints.

NAWMP / Joint Ventures - Combined Performance Change and Overview Table

Performance Goal	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Target	2016 PB	Change from 2015 Target to 2016 PB
CSF 6.4 - Percent of habitat needs met to achieve healthy and sustainable levels of migratory birds - cumulative	49.6% (257,569,902 of 519,655,943)	57.7% (299,890,960 of 519,665,916)	50.2% (260,976,538 of 519,675,916)	51% (265,746,680 of 520,837,443)	49.3% (268,073,645 of 543,258,973)	50% (300,000,000 of 600,000,000)	-5.5%
Comments:	The performance increase reflects ongoing baseline activities, as well additional on-the-ground actions that result from discrete landscape projects that address species resiliency to climate change.						
6.4.5 - # of BMC with habitat management needs identified at eco-regional scales	442	533	496	559	480	600	60
Comments:	The performance increase reflects ongoing baseline activities to address BMCs, as well additional on-the-ground actions that result from discrete landscape projects that address species resiliency to climate change.						

Law Enforcement

Activity: Conservation and Enforcement
Subactivity: Law Enforcement

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2015 Enacted (+/-)
Operations	($000)	63,365	65,827	+698	-12	+8,000	74,513	+8,686
Equipment Replacement	($000)	910	910	0	0	0	910	0
Total, Law Enforcement	**($000)**	**64,275**	**66,737**	**+698**	**-12**	**+8,000**	**75,423**	**+8,686**
	FTE	***270***	***277***	***+0***	***+0***	***+45***	***322***	***+45***

Summary of 2015 Program Changes for Law Enforcement

Request Component	($000)	FTE
• Wildlife Trafficking	+4,000	+25
• Law Enforcement Activities	+4,000	+20
Program Changes	**+8,000**	**+45**

Justification of 2016 Program Changes

The 2016 budget request for the Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) is $75,423,000 and 322 FTE, which is a net program change of +$8,000,000 and +45 FTE from the FY 2015 Enacted.

Wildlife Trafficking (+$4,000,000/+25 FTE)

Wildlife trafficking is a concern of the Service, Department, and the Administration. It threatens not only species conservation, but also global prosperity and peace. High speed electronic communication has expanded the rapidity, ease, and range by which criminal elements conduct business, and funds derived from this illegal activity are often used for other crimes, like illegal drugs, firearms, human trafficking, fraud, bribes, criminal syndicates, and terrorist activities. With poaching reaching unprecedented levels worldwide, domestic and international governmental and private entities have been turning to the Service for leadership in coordinating, guiding, and implementing a workable strategy to combate this illegal trade. This funding increase supports the Executive Order on combating wildlife trafficking, and with this increase, the Service will hire 25 new personnel to focus on the daily detection, interdiction, and investigation, both domestically and itnernationally, of those who seek to destroy our natural resources by illegal commercial exploitation.

Specifically, the new positions will focus on the following:

- 10 new Intelligence Analyst positions assigned to Service regions and headquarters to increase OLE's information analysis capability and forge permanent liaisons with the U.S. intelligence community and other Federal law enforcement agencies. Currently, OLE does not have the staff to mount a focused, concerted, and effective effort to address high speed or electronic illegal activities. These new analysts will allow OLE to better combat and pursue traffickers of natural resources on the internet and in high speed transport.

- 10 new Special Agents assigned to Service regions, headquarters, and selected overseas embassies as attachés to focus on investigating illegal electronic commerce. These agents will enhance the Service's relationships with other Federal, local, State, and foreign government

agencies through national and international working groups and initiatives, regional and national conferences, training programs, and information exchange programs.

- Five new Special Agents in the Service's Digital Evidence and Recovery Computer Forensics Lab in Jacksonville, FL to specialize in working with technological processes and advances to help identify a suspect online and then protect the integrity of the investigation when online contact is made.

Law Enforcement Activities (+$4,000,000/+20 FTE)
The Service's ability to enforce the Nation's wildlife laws, such as the Lacey Act, and safeguard protected species has been increasingly limited by shortfalls in Special Agent staffing. Currently, a majority of the staff are thinly spread in single agent duty stations across the country. Often, only one or two agents cover an entire State, forcing agents to frequently work alone, which raises concerns about officer safety and efficiency as they can only focus on a limited number of cases at a time. With the requested increase, the Service will hire a class of 20 new Special Agents to address staffing shortfalls that affect OLE's ability to perform ongoing investigations. After training, the new agents will be deployed to the field for direct interdiction of illegal commercial exploitation by organized criminal elements.

Program Overview

Under the provisions of the Lacey Act (16 U.S.C. 3771-3778), the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544), and other U.S. wildlife conservation laws, the OLE protects fish, wildlife, and plant resources by investigating wildlife crimes, including commercial exploitation, habitat destruction, and industrial hazards, and monitoring the Nation's wildlife trade to intercept smuggling and facilitate legal commerce. Effective enforcement of the Nation's wildlife laws is essential to the Service's conservation mission; helps the U.S. combat wildlife trafficking that represents a threat to U.S. and foreign species and global security; and supports the Department's goal of protecting and enhancing America's Great Outdoors.

Sea turtle eggs intercepted at U.S./Mexico border.

Service special agents, wildlife inspectors, and forensic scientists help recover endangered and other protected species, conserve migratory birds, restore fisheries, combat invasive species, safeguard wildlife habitat, and promote international wildlife conservation. They play a critical global role in holding the line for species now on the brink of extinction from the accelerating black market wildlife trade. Service efforts that protect wildlife resources and support strategic habitat conservation are also vital in the face of ongoing threats such as habitat loss. These threats make wildlife populations even more vulnerable to crimes such as poaching, black market trafficking, and industrial take.

Combating Illegal Global Wildlife Trafficking
The U.S. remains one of the world's largest markets for wildlife and wildlife products, both legal and illegal. Illegal global trafficking represents a threat to the continued viability of thousands of fish, wildlife, and plants around the world. In some regions, it threatens to undermine not only natural areas, but also governments, economies, and the rule of law itself.

Illegally imported dried shark fins seized by Service wildlife inspectors in New York.

The Department of the Interior is among the leading Agencies addressing the requirements of Executive Order 13648 issued to combat wildlife trafficking. To help meet this responsibility, the Service is building upon its proven track record. The Service's investigation of wildlife trafficking and assistance to international counterparts disrupts highly organized smuggling networks trafficking wildlife around the globe. The Service's trade monitoring activities at U.S. ports provide a front-line defense against illegal wildlife trade. Service wildlife inspectors process declared shipments, intercept wildlife contraband, conduct proactive enforcement operations to catch smugglers, and work with special agents to investigate businesses and individuals engaged in illegal wildlife trafficking. Service law enforcement officers also work to prevent the introduction of invasive species via international trade and travelers. Special agents and wildlife inspectors also enforce prohibitions on the importation and interstate transport of injurious wildlife.

Additionally, the Service provides subject matter expertise and related support to U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) as that agency works to develop import regulations to implement the 2008 amendments to the Lacey Act, for timber and wood products protected under the conservation laws of other countries.

To make a greater impact, the Service began a special agent attaché program in FY 2014 with the goal of hiring and placing five special agents stationed overseas to investigate international wildlife trafficking. This program is working to address limiting factors in countries that drive or enable the market for illegal wildlife by supporting direct partnerships with foreign governments to share and coordinate intelligence, expand training programs, and/or provide technical assistance in customs monitoring. One special agent has already been hired and is stationed at the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand, where he has been engaging in wildlife trafficking issues throughout Southeast Asia. He has supported not only U.S. based investigations, but also provided expertise to other U.S. Federal law enforcement agencies and a variety of foreign ones, including supporting training efforts. Working closely with the Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Bangkok, the attaché has briefed several other regional embassies on wildlife trafficking issues and supporting their local efforts.

Seized pigeons wrapped in paper and tape found concealed in smuggler's pants.

The Service continues to work with the Department of State to place four more attachés in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; Gaborone, Botswana; Lima, Peru; and in a yet to be determined location in Asia. We expect to hire and place these special agents by early 2015.

Protecting our Nation's Species

Service special agents investigate crimes involving federally-protected resources, including endangered and threatened species native to the U.S., migratory birds, eagles, and marine mammals. Enforcement efforts focus on dismantling criminal enterprises illegally profiteering from trade in American wildlife and plants, as well as addressing other potentially devastating threats to wildlife, including habitat destruction, environmental contaminants, and industrial hazards. Service special agents provide enforcement assistance to support the strategic habitat conservation efforts of the Department's Landscape Conservation Cooperatives; help negotiate and enforce Habitat Conservation Plans under the Endangered Species Act; and investigate violations of laws that safeguard wildlife and wildlife habitat. The Service also works with industries whose activities affect American wildlife resources and their habitat to reduce hazards and secure voluntary compliance with wildlife laws.

Facilitating Legal Wildlife Trade

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

National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory

The Service's National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory (Lab) is a vital component of OLE's ability to fight illegal wildlife trade and protect plants and animals. The ability to scientifically identify the species source of mammal, bird, plant, and reptile wildlife parts and products is one of the most frequently utilized capabilities of the Lab by Service special agents, wildlife inspectors, and Justice Department prosecutors, and is the Lab's most irreplaceable area of expertise. Conclusive evidence of criminal activity in wildlife investigations often hinges on the investigators' and prosecutors' ability to establish exactly where in the world specific animal or animal parts originated. With this Lab, OLE can do so. With animals, the Lab identifies their species; determines their causes of death; assists wildlife law enforcement officers to determine if a violation of a law has occurred; and analyzes physical evidence to determine if suspect, victim, and crime scene are linked. Wildlife populations have identifiable genetic

Senior forensics scientist Pepper Trail compares Amazonian feather artifact with reference specimen of Scarlett macaw.

Forensic Scientist Margaret Smith compares skulls at the National Fish & Wildlife Service Forensics Laboratory.

profiles which result in specific isotopic signatures that reflect a specific geographic location. For example, this research data helps the Service determine where poached elephants were from by analyzing illegal ivory, or where poached rhinos were from by analyzing illegal horns, all of which will aid efforts to stem the killings and prosecute criminals. Lab staff also analyze wood and wood products to help implement the 2008 illegal wood amendments to the Lacey Act.

Management Excellence

The Service's success in stemming illegal global wildlife trafficking, protecting the Nation's wildlife, and facilitating legal wildlife trade depends on how well it uses its resources to meet these goals. OLE maintains ongoing strategic planning and performance management; is implementing comprehensive workforce plans; and is working to strengthen the career development and professional integrity of its workforce. The Service also leverages technology to support its investigative and inspection efforts and works to reduce the impact of its operations and facilities on global climate change.

2016 Program Performance

In FY 2016 OLE will begin to fully utilize its network of special agent/international attaches and build on past successes in combating global wildlife trafficking. Investigations will continue prioritizing crimes that jeopardize wild populations of protected species nationally and internationally that are being devastated by poaching, black market trafficking, and transnational profiteering.

A Service special agent helps African officers complete a training exercise at the International Law Enforcement Academy in Botswana.

In FY 2013 and FY 2014 the Service continued Operation Crash, its highly successful long-term investigation of rhino horn trafficking, and effectively pursued cases that documented and disrupted illegal trade in elephant ivory, coral, endangered fish, narwhal and walrus ivory, native sharks, and other U.S. marine resources. OLE also created a professional wildlife detector dog program and stationed four wildlife inspector/canine detection teams at critical ports of entry to improve the interception of smuggled wildlife. The program also increased its efforts to build wildlife law enforcement capacity in critical regions, including sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia, and provided investigative and technical assistance to authorities in such countries as Togo, Philippines, and Thailand (prior to having an attaché in place). Efforts to build wildlife law enforcement capacity overseas included training for forensic specialists from Southeast Asia and Australia, and participation in the conference of the Central American Dominican Republic Wildlife Enforcement Network in Costa Rica. OLE also met with representatives in Germany to establish protocols to disseminate and receive classified briefings on wildlife trafficking intelligence.

In FY 2015, Congress provided additional funding for wildlife trafficking. These funds will be used to strengthen the Service's forensic capabilities, including those needed to investigate and prosecute illegal timber cases, and to expand the capacity of the Special Investigations Unit to maximize the scope and effectiveness of Service efforts to respond to the elephant poaching crisis and shutdown trafficking in elephant ivory. To continue implementing the agent/attaché program, the Service and State Department will try to secure another location in Asia for a fifth agent/attaché position.

Law Enforcement Combined Performance Change and Overview

Performance Goal	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Target	2016 PB	Change from 2015 Target to 2016 PB
6.5.1 - # of individuals and businesses conducting illegal activities involving migratory birds	2,596	2,510	1,824	1,452	1,400	1,440	40
6.5.4 - % of investigations involving migratory birds	9.8% (1,175 of 12,013)	9.5% (1,147 of 12,034)	9% (935 of 10,422)	8.5% (757 of 8,952)	8.3% (725 of 8,700)	8.4% (746 of 8,900)	0.0%
6.5.4.1 - # of migratory bird investigations	1,175	1,147	935	757	725	746	21
7.33.1 - # of individuals and businesses conducting illegal activities involving T&E species	2,941	2,853	2,535	2,399	2,300	2,350	50
7.33.4 - % of total investigations related to T&E species	18% (2,116 of 12,013)	18% (2,152 of 12,034)	18% (1,852 of 10,422)	18% (1,632 of 8,952)	17% (1,500 of 8,700)	17% (1,540 of 8,900)	0%
7.33.4.1 - # of T&E investigations	2,116	2,152	1,852	1,632	1,500	1,540	40
10.4.1 - # of individuals and businesses conducting illegal activities involving foreign species	8,237	8,473	7,521	6,725	6,500	6,695	195
10.4.4 - % of investigations involving foreign species foreign species	72.2% (8,671 of 12,013)	71.6% (8,620 of 12,034)	73.2% (7,624 of 10,422)	74.7% (6,688 of 8,952)	73.6% (6,400 of 8,700)	74% (6,590 of 8,900)	0.5%
10.4.4.1 - # of investigations involving foreign species	8,671	8,620	7,624	6,688	6,400	6,590	190
10.4.4.2 - total # of investigations	12,013	12,034	10,422	8,952	8,700	8,900	200
10.4.5 - % of wildlife shipments containing foreign species	89% (146,901 of 164,485)	88% (162,805 of 185,002)	87% (157,065 of 180,368)	87% (157,264 of 181,411)	85% (151,000 of 178,000)	85% (153,000 of 180,000)	0%
10.4.5.1 - # of wildlife shipments containing foreign species	146,901	162,805	157,065	157,264	151,000	153,000	2,000
10.4.5.2 - total # of wildlife shipments	164,485	185,002	180,368	181,411	178,000	180,000	2,000
Comments:	Applies to all measures above: Although difficult to predict due to reactive nature of law enforcement, minimal overall changes are projected in FY 2016. Increases in investigations involving threatened and endangered or foreign species anticipated because of increased emphasis placed on wildlife trafficking.						

International Affairs

Activity: Conservation and Enforcement
Subactivity: International Affairs

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2015 (+/-)
International Conservation	($000)	6,683	7,183	+28	0	0	7,211	+28
International Wildlife Trade	($000)	6,823	7,323	+69	0	+93	7,485	+162
Total, International Affairs	**($000)**	**13,506**	**14,506**	**+97**	**0**	**+93**	**14,696**	**+190**
	FTE	***77***	***81***	***0***	***0***	***0***	***81***	***0***

Summary of 2016 Program Changes for International Affairs

Request Component	($000)	FTE
• International Wildlife Trade: Wildlife Trafficking	+93	+0
Program Changes	**+93**	**+0**

Justification of 2016 Program Changes

The 2016 budget request for the International Affairs is $14,696,000 and 81 FTE, a net program change of +$93,000 and +0 FTE from the 2015 Enacted.

International Wildlife Trade: Wildlife Trafficking (+$93,000/+0 FTE)
The Service will implement priority elements of the National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking, particularly focusing on the Demand Reduction and International Cooperation pillars. Regarding demand reduction, the Service will raise public awareness through outreach to U.S. consumers, educating them about the impacts of wildlife trafficking, on people as well as wildlife, and encouraging consumers to examine their purchasing choices. Regarding international cooperation, we will focus on strengthening and ensuring effective implementation of CITES, the principal international agreement that specifically addresses unsustainable and illegal wildlife trade, ensuring that key supplier and consumer countries have effective laws and regulations to regulate wildlife trade and the capacity to implement the treaty.

Program Overview

The survival of living resources important to the American public depends on effective international conservation. Global issues and challenges such as illegal and unsustainable trade in wildlife and plants, inadequate governance, and landscape-scale habitat alteration are increasingly important threats to species and habitats. The Service's International Affairs Program (IA) engages in the conservation of wildlife species beyond our borders in the context of several long-standing commitments. These obligations are contained in domestic laws, international treaties, and other multilateral agreements, such as the Multinational Species Conservation Acts, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Western Hemisphere Convention, the Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee, the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Lacey Act, the Wild Bird Conservation Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention). The Service works with private citizens, local communities, Federal and State agencies, foreign governments, U.S. and international non-governmental organizations, scientific and conservation organizations, industry groups, and other interested parties to ensure effective implementation of treaties and laws, and the global conservation of species.

Global issues such as rampant poaching for ivory and rhino horn, climate change, wildlife disease, and illegal and unsustainable trade are increasingly important factors to consider in wildlife conservation. The Service's goal is to not only safe-guard native species from the potential negative impacts of international trade, but to also improve the capacity of other countries to address conservation problems affecting the health and viability of species that are important to the U.S. economy and have intrinsic value to the American public.

The Service's Division of International Conservation implements the Wildlife Without Borders (WWB) program providing Species, Regional, and Global grants and technical assistance. The International Wildlife Trade program works with governments and implements domestic laws and international treaties to ensure that international trade and other activities do not threaten the survival of animals and plants in the wild. The complex conservation issues facing the species under the Service's purview requires a science-based approach coupled with international wildlife conservation and trade policy interventions. An example of this two-pronged strategy to conserve living resources around the world would be the Service addressing the illegal trade and poaching of elephants and rhinos through on-the-ground efforts to protect species in their habitats and international governmental policy negotiations to improve treaty compliance and reduce consumer demand. These actions complement the activities of the Service's Office of Law Enforcement, which enforces and investigates violations of wildlife laws.

African Elephants. Photo credit: Cyndi Perry, USFWS

Building Capacity and Partnerships with a Focus on Innovation

Just as on the domestic side, the Service's international efforts emphasize investment in people, processes, and partnerships to accomplish wildlife conservation. The Service works with and through others to establish networks and institutional capacity that empower people to seek solutions to wildlife conservation challenges and catalyze conservation action. The Service is innovative in its use of financial resources and technical assistance to maximize the benefits to wildlife conservation. Wildlife trafficking and the poaching of and illegal trade in protected species and their derivative parts and products is a significant conservation challenge and a current focus of the Service's partnering and capacity–building efforts.

In 2013, in an effort to stem this escalating crisis, the President issued Executive Order 13648 to combat wildlife trafficking. In implementing the Executive Order, the Service led the effort to establish the Advisory Council on Wildlife Trafficking. The Advisory Council serves as a critical liaison to work out solutions to curb wildlife trafficking and reduce demand for endangered wildlife products. In addition, the Executive Order established the Presidential Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking, which was responsible for drafting the National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking that was announced on February 11, 2014. The Strategy strengthens U.S. leadership for addressing the serious and urgent conservation and global security threat posed by illegal trade in wildlife. In addition, the White House announced that the Service will implement several measures to impose a near-complete ban on commercial trade of elephant ivory and rhino horn, enhancing our efforts to protect these iconic species by prohibiting the import, export, or resale within the United States of elephant ivory and rhino horn except in a very limited number of circumstances. Taken together, these actions help ensure that the United States is not contributing to the poaching of elephants and other endangered species or furthering illegal trade in elephant ivory and other wildlife parts and products.

The Service is also building capacity in range countries by enhancing on-the-ground conservation activities through the WWB's Species, Regional and Global programs. Through WWB projects, the Service promotes, funds, facilitates, and supports vital efforts to support and preserve the world's rich diversity of wildlife. These programs target win-win conservation initiatives that set a positive tone for U.S. international relations around the globe, including Latin America and the Caribbean, Mexico, Africa, Asia, and Russia.

Since 1989, the Service's WWB program has provided more than 3,270 grants for international conservation totaling nearly $162 million. The Service has worked with more than 700 partners in developing countries who have contributed more than $270 million in matching support for grant projects, more than doubling the impact of our funding. The WWB Regional and Global programs have supported well over 985 conservation projects, from 2009 to 2014, awarding over $43 million and leveraging an additional $55 million in matching funds across the globe to provide education, training and outreach to conserve endangered wildlife and natural resources.

Long-term viability is dependent upon increasing the knowledge and skills of local conservation managers which is achieved through on-the-ground projects that provide for habitat management training, education, information and technology exchange. These efforts support DOI's Resource Protection Mission, aimed at sustaining biological communities, and fulfill DOI's international obligations to manage populations to self-sustaining levels for specific species and create habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish.

Partnerships remain a key aspect of the WWB program as they build coalitions of support and leverage resources for maximum impact in range states. In 2014, the Service partnered with National Geographic to produce a public service announcement on poaching that aired on a JumboTron in Times Square. In 2016, the Service plans to expand public-private partnerships and look for opportunities with other private organizations, including college sports team's mascots. By leveraging professional and college sports teams, their fans and corporate advertisers already invested in the image of the tiger and other animals, we plan to activate and engage younger demographics in the broader wildlife conservation movement.

Since 2008, the Detroit Tigers' Pennies for Paws program has supported the Service's tiger conservation efforts. The Detroit Tigers organization was also instrumental in gaining Congressional reauthorization of the sale of the Multinational Species Conservation Stamp.

In addition, the Service has continued to work toward successful implementation of the shark and ray listings adopted at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES through our partnerships with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the CITES Secretariat. This has included workshops in Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Germany, and Guatemala, covering such topics as species identification, non-detriment findings, legal acquisition and traceability of shark products (especially fins), and import and export controls.

In fiscal years 2014 and 2015, the Service conducted capability and needs assessments focused on building the capacity of two countries, Gabon and Cameroon, to implement CITES and fulfill their treaty obligations, and to ensure that trade in wildlife through their ports is both legal and sustainable. These

capacity-building efforts contribute to the future conservation of CITES-listed species, and further strengthen our collaboration and partnerships in Latin America, Europe, West Africa, and Asia. The Service will continue these efforts, particularly with partners in West Africa and Central America, by focusing on important wildlife trade issues and providing assistance with CITES implementation.

Teaching at Garoua Wildlife College in Cameroon. Credit: Nancy Gelman, USFWS

The sole staff person who processes permits for Cameroon's Management Authority validates a permit on her typewriter. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service officials are consulting with the Government of Cameroon to help them build capacity for the implementation of CITES. Credit: Thomas Leuteritz, USFWS

Species and Habitat Conservation Across Landscapes

Fish, wildlife, plants and the habitats they depend on are dynamic, responding to ecological events and processes occurring at multiple scales, ranging from more local to global. The need for international collaboration has never been greater as species survival depends on the health of habitats that extend across political boundaries and require a landscape-level approach. Thousands of species throughout the world are currently facing the threat of extinction due to heavy poaching, illegal wildlife trade, human-wildlife conflict, disease, and disappearing habitats. The better we understand how species respond to changes at these various scales, the better we can conserve landscapes capable of supporting self-sustaining populations now and in the future. The Service's landscape level approach promotes, facilitates, and supports vital conservation efforts across the globe in order to preserve the planet's rich diversity of wildlife for all the citizens of Earth and for generations to come. Examples of Service grant support in 2014 include:

- Partnering with the Africa Conservation Fund to train and deploy a team of five bloodhounds and handlers from the national park staff in Virunga National Park to track poachers. This effort has already shown success in locating poachers, weapons and ivory.
- Partnering with the Organization of American States to launch MESOAMERICA 2020, strategic regional partnerships that over the next five years will reduce threats to species and habitats across high biodiversity landscapes in Mesoamerica .
- Supporting training and environmental education activities through the Wildlife Without Borders-Mexico program to secure the California Condors' return to its Mexican range.
- Developing the capacity of Mexican inspectors to reduce illegal trafficking and trade of endangered species such as the Totoaba fish.
- Protecting the population of African wild dogs in Zambia's Luangwa Valley by increasing and improving snare removal patrols by community village scouts in game management areas and providing veterinary care to snared and injured wild dogs.

- Engaging in developing OneHealth capacity in South East Asia by providing a grant to bring together veterinarians, medical doctors, ecologists, and members in the field of public health. The Emerging Zoonotic Disease short course project focuses on the emergence of disease from wildlife reservoirs and how strategic wildlife conservation mitigates risks of disease spillover.
- Providing funding to intensify conservation initiatives of snow leopards in the Manaslu Conservation Area (MCA) in Nepal with a primary focus on strengthening community engagement to reduce retaliatory killings and poaching of snow leopards.
- Providing support to WildAid to pilot an anti-poaching/trafficking campaign at a major domestic airport (selection is still being determined).

Capacity building and on-the-ground conservation continue to be priority areas for the Service in the Western Hemisphere. Examples of these efforts include creating and protecting a large continuous conservation area in Peru to help the survival of the San Martin titi monkey, increasing sustainable economic activities for rural communities, reducing dependence on forests critical to the cotton-top tamarin in Colombia; and educating and training communities of the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve in Mexico to adopt sustainable productive practices and recover the degraded ecosystems of the area.

Wildlife disease and illegal wildlife trafficking will be the focus of the Amphibians In Decline Fund, the only federal fund dedicated to addressing the precipitous declines and extinctions of global amphibian populations through support for projects like *Studying disease resistance to reduce the threat of chytridiomycosis to Panamanian Golden Frogs.* In partnership with Smithsonian Institution, this project will re-establish healthy wild populations of Panamanian golden frogs. Specific objectives include: (1) developing and testing a tool that will allow us to screen frogs for their ability to clear a Bd infection; and (2) maintaining a colony of Bd-survivors for breeding and future studies, including use in eventual reintroduction experiments.

Panamanian Golden Frog. Photo credit: Smithsonian Institute

The Service will continue its exchange programs on international conservation collaboration. Recent examples include: a visit by Chinese specialists to the Northeast U.S. for familiarization with partnerships between city governments and National Wildlife Refuges located in metropolitan areas to better expose urban dwellers, especially school-age children, to the surrounding natural environment; and a grant to Sikhote-Alin Nature Reserve in the Russian Far East for Amur tiger conservation to strengthen law enforcement and anti-poaching efforts through the use of monitoring cameras and a widespread campaign to better inform and educate the public. In addition, with the Zoological Society of London, the *Forest Eyes Initiative: Enhancing Anti-poaching in Amur Tiger Habitat*, pilot tested a new approach to gaining information on illegal human entries to protected tiger habitats in Lazovsky State Nature Reserve and Zov Tigra National Park to better conserve tigers and their prey.

Chinese urban refuge specialists visit Ninigret NWR in Rhode Island.

Building on a Caribbean iguana conservation workshop convened by the Service in 2013, the Service is working with U.S. Government partners, island governments, and others to develop a mechanism for increasing wildlife enforcement cooperation for the region. The development and implementation of

multilateral wildlife enforcement networks has long been recognized as a key element in improving law enforcement and intelligence cooperation and increasing enforcement success, and this effort should deliver the same positive results for the Caribbean, as well contribute to the Service's Caribbean Landscape Conservation Cooperative efforts.

5-Year Project Funding Summary (2010 - 2014)				
Grant Program	**Number of Grants Awarded**	**Number of Countries Supported**	**Service Contributions**	**Matching Contributions**
Africa	3	2	208,872	428,449
Western Hemisphere	175	20	8,462,061	13,577,150
Eurasia	4	1	392,101	15,175
Critically Endangered Animals	80	35	2,053,800	3,720,297
Amphibians in Decline	40	23	1,039,049	1,847,570

The Service's responsibility to protect species from over-utilization for trade has provided the opportunity to develop both regulatory and non-regulatory approaches to conserving those species, including measures to be implemented by other U.S. Federal and non-Federal partners. This approach has benefited more than 1,100 native species in 32 countries such as:

- Over half of the world's population of freshwater turtles is at risk of extinction. International trade in turtles is most common in Asia for the pet trade, food consumption, and traditional medicines. This demand puts pressure on turtle populations in the United States and has led to a growing concern about the long-term survival of these species. In 2015, the Service will finalize CITES Appendix-III listings for four native turtle species, including the common snapping turtle, Florida softshell turtle, smooth softshell turtle, and the spiny softshell turtle, and review the implementation of CITES listings for other native turtles to ensure that trade is legal and is not posing a threat to their survival.

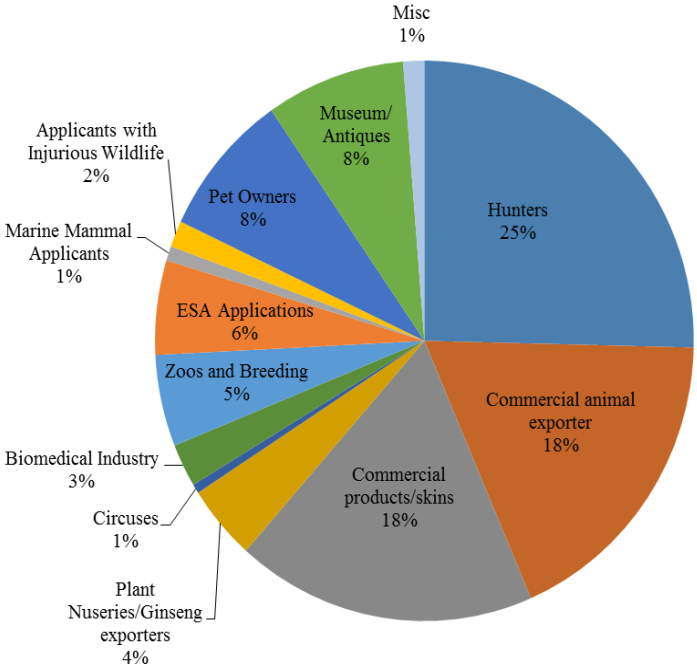
Florida softshell turtle. Photo credit: Vanessa Kauffman, USFWS

- The North American paddlefish is highly prized for its roe (eggs). Paddlefish are found in 22 States that are part of the Mississippi River basin, including the Missouri River into Montana, the Ohio River, and their major tributaries. The Service has focused on improving the conservation of the species, including development of basin-wide management recommendations. In 2015, the Service will continue to work with partners with the aim of achieving the management of paddlefish at sustainable harvest levels across its range and ensuring that caviar exports are not detrimental to the species' survival. Most recently, in partnership with the Service, Tennessee and Kentucky have made regulatory changes to improve management of this species.
- Wild American ginseng roots have been highly sought after for international trade due to their medicinal properties and are vulnerable to overexploitation. The Service has been working collaboratively with various partners to improve the conservation and management of the species to ensure sustainability. In 2015 and 2016, the Service will expand its efforts with partners to develop and implement management recommendations based on the results of genetic studies to ensure that stewardship activities provide the maximum benefit to the long-term survival of wild ginseng. This includes an effort to develop a seed bank for distribution to diggers for planting in the wild. If successful, the program will ensure that seed planted in the wild is native to the region where it is being planted, preserving the genetic diversity of wild plants. In light of recent reality television

programs that depict ginseng as the "new gold" to Appalachian communities, the Service will also expand its outreach efforts to reduce poaching and illegal harvest of wild ginseng to ensure that exports of roots are not detrimental to the survival of the species. Anticipated activities include: training for state ginseng certifiers, a workshop for stakeholders, and an improved website for communication to ginseng dealers.

Conserve Species and Habitats Through International Agreements

The Service has nearly 40 years of experience implementing CITES – the only international treaty designed specifically to conserve certain animal and plant species that are now, or may become, threatened with extinction due to trade. CITES is one of the most effective forces in the world today for conserving fauna and flora, both in halting the trade in species threatened with extinction and in fostering sustainable use of other vulnerable species. The Service also implements domestic laws, such as the Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Lacey Act, Wild Bird Conservation Act, African Elephant Conservation Act, and Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act, to regulate the trade and movement of species of both national and international concern. The United States is one of the world's largest importers and exporters of wildlife and wildlife products, and plays a significant role in the global wildlife trade, currently valued in billions of dollars annually. In response to ever-increasing pressures of wildlife trade and habitat loss affecting species worldwide, the Service makes critical decisions on the status of species, on wildlife trade policy, and on individual imports and exports through its permit program. An efficient, responsive permits system to regulate this trade is critical to ensure that international trade in listed wildlife and plants is legal and will not adversely affect the biological status of the species in the wild.



The Service has approximately 5,200 different applicants (see pie chart for the breakdown of applicant types) and issues over 20,000 permits annually to engage in a wide variety of wildlife trade activities. The Service uses the best available biological information to make findings on whether the import or export of CITES-listed species may be detrimental to their survival, or whether the trade will enhance the survival and not jeopardize the continued existence of ESA-listed species. Decisions on whether to issue permits frequently must be made in close consultation with foreign CITES authorities, the States, other Federal agencies, the CITES Secretariat, other relevant experts, and applicants. In addition, the Service compiles and maintains trade records for U.S. imports and exports. In conjunction with reports from other CITES Parties, this data is used to monitor trade levels, determine trends over time, and help ensure that plant and animal trade is sustainable.

CITES is only one of several legal and regulatory mechanisms used to ensure the conservation of species of global significance. The Service continues to play an active role in U.S. efforts to negotiate and implement free trade agreements, including the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, Trans-Pacific Partnership, and Peru Trade Promotion Agreement, and uses the Pelly Amendment to the Fishermen's Protective Act to ensure that other countries are not engaging in trade that undermines the

effectiveness of CITES. By using these mechanisms to take firm actions to encourage conservation, the Service will ensure that CITES remains an effective and valuable tool to combat illegal and unsustainable trade.

The administration of the Ramsar Convention in United States is another example of how the Service works with international conventions and treaties. The U.S. delegation co-chaired the reform of the Ramsar Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel, which will streamline the priorities, composition and activities of this panel to better support the Contracting Parties. In 2016 the program will prioritize the designation of underrepresented wetland ecosystem types, especially marine areas.

Motivate Conservation Actions by Raising Awareness and Support

By utilizing different forms of social media and adapting to new technologies, the Service has focused additional resources on outreach. This effort increases awareness about the status of wildlife and wildlife habitat, and what the Service is doing internationally through grants and technical expertise to demonstrate conservation leadership and protect endangered species of global importance. The Service also informs the public about legal protections that exist for species and how to avoid potential violations of the law by clarifying which activities may require a permit.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service destroyed six tons of ivory to send a clear message to poachers and smugglers that we will not tolerate wildlife trafficking.

As a result of Executive Order 13648 to combat wildlife trafficking, the Service answered the President's call to action by destroying nearly six tons of confiscated elephant ivory in November 2013, sending a clear message to poachers and smugglers that the United States will not tolerate wildlife trafficking. The event garnered a high level of international media attention, and nearly every major national and international news outlet covered the story. The word also spread on social media as #IvoryCrush trended #1 on Twitter in the United States, the United Kingdom, South Africa, and Canada, resulting in more than 87.7 million media impressions. The Service wants to continue the positive impacts of the U.S. Ivory Crush by using the 6 tons of crushed ivory to raise awareness about the poaching crisis and reduce demand for illegal wildlife products, and has launched a global design challenge, calling on students, artists, conservationists, advertising agencies and design professionals, to create an educational tool or exhibit using the crushed ivory. The winning design will be produced and replicated for use in zoos and aquariums, as well as airports, schools and other public facilities across the United States, using the crushed ivory to connect with the public in a visceral, emotional way.

2016 Program Performance

Much of the world's trade in wild animal and plant species – both legal and illegal – is driven by U.S. consumers or passes through U.S. ports on the way to other nations. Executive Order 13648 states that "the United States shall seek to reduce the demand for illegally traded wildlife, both at home and abroad, while allowing legal and legitimate commerce involving wildlife." A highly orchestrated, coordinated outreach, communications, and public awareness campaign will help reduce demand. As the implementing agency for both domestic and international wildlife trade laws, the Service plays an integral and leading role in domestic consumer demand-reduction communications and outreach that results from this Executive Order.

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

compliance with the law and educate them on the permitting process. The Service will also continue to engage with specific industry and interest groups, including musical instrument manufacturers, musicians, veterinarians, fishermen, pet owners, hunters, captive breeders, the travel industry, and animal welfare and environmental nongovernmental organizations. Further, the Service plans to finalize its efforts to move to a paperless permitting process to facilitate USG's "single window" procedures for all imports and exports.

Much of 2016 will be spent in preparation for and, ultimately, participation in the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17) to CITES, where the focus is likely to be largely on following up on decisions taken at the 16th meeting (CoP16). Those decisions included a number of significant recommendations targeting specific species being impacted by wildlife trafficking and countries identified as key players—as origin, transit, and destination countries—in the illegal trade. These included several Asian and African countries, notably Thailand, for illegal ivory trade; a smaller number of Asian and African countries, particularly Vietnam, for illegal rhino horn trade; and Asian range countries for illegal trade in pangolins. In addition to these species-specific recommendations, the Parties sent a strong message that Parties must make progress toward full implementation of CITES, particularly by ensuring that they have adequate implementing legislation that allows them to enforce CITES trade requirements and meet their treaty obligations. The United States will work with other CITES Parties to submit proposals that will amend the CITES Appendices. The Service will lead U.S. Government preparations for the meeting, including the development of proposals and other documents for the meeting including the U.S. negotiating positions. These documents and positions will be developed through a comprehensive inter-agency consultative process, which began in 2014 and allows for public input. U.S. proposals will reflect current conservation needs of species subject to international trade, and the Service anticipates taking a strong stand on CITES compliance and fulfillment of the CoP16 recommendations.

The goals for the Wildlife Without Borders programs are to support the most promising and innovative on-the-ground conservation projects, build the capacity of conservationists, enhance wildlife law enforcement in range countries and use treaties and conventions to conserve wetlands and the migratory species of the Western Hemisphere.

The Service recognizes the importance of engaging with the public on digital platforms and will continue to develop, accelerate, and enhance communications in this area. The Service will also continue outreach campaigns to inform and educate the public about Service grant funding and projects across the globe. The Service will also work with partners and key stakeholder groups to ensure that Service initiatives have a strong communications, outreach, and educational component to raise awareness of Service conservation efforts and their local and global importance.

International Affairs – Combined Program Change and Overview Table

Performance Goal	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Target	2016 PB	Change from 2015 Target to 2016 PB
CSF 10.1 - Number of international species of management concern whose status has been improved in cooperation with affected countries (GPRA)	56	36	36	36	36	36	0
CSF 10.2 - Influence the conservation of X species of international concern through the wildlife trade permitting program (GPRA)	195	179	179	179	179	179	0
CSF 10.3 - Facilitate the conservation of X species through federal assistance awards and leveraged funds or in-kind resources (GPRA)	32	32	32	32	32	32	0

Fish and Aquatic Conservation

Activity: Fish and Aquatic Conservation

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change From 2015 Enacted (+/-)
National Fish Hatchery Operations	($000)	46,528	52,860	+558	0	0	53,418	+558
	FTE	*303*	*320*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*320*	*0*
Maintenance and Equipment	($000)	16,055	17,920	0	0	+2,000	19,920	+2,000
	FTE	*72*	*72*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*72*	*0*
Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation*	($000)	72,736	76,668	+281	-5,650	+2,853	74,152	-2,516
	FTE	*338*	*351*	*0*	*-27*	*+13*	*337*	*-14*
Total, Fish and Aquatic Conservation	**($000)**	**135,319**	**147,448**	**+839**	**-5,650**	**+4,853**	**147,490**	**+42**
	FTE	***713***	***743***	***0***	***-27***	***+13***	***729***	***-14***

*Note: In 2016 funding in the amount of $5,470,000 and 27 FTE for Marine Mammals moves to Ecological Services.

Program Overview

Since 1871, Fish and Aquatic Conservation (FAC) has led the nation in conserving aquatic animals, plants, and habitats. What began as the U.S. Fish Commission on Fish and Fisheries 144 years ago, with a focus on stock assessment and propagation for food and angling purposes, has evolved to focus on a more holistic and collaborative approach to managing populations of fish and other aquatic species, and conserving and restoring habitat. This approach is needed now more than ever to sustain the biological health of America's aquatic resources in the face of threats such as invasive species and climate change.

Charles Atkins, Hatchery Manager at Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery, transfers salmon.

Our fisheries are among the world's richest in abundance and diversity. They provide scientific, aesthetic, recreational, commercial, subsistence, cultural, social, and economic benefits to Americans. But many aquatic organisms and habitats are declining at alarming rates, outpacing conservation efforts. Almost 400 aquatic animal and plant species now require special protection in some part of their natural range. Habitat loss and the impact of invasive species are largely to blame. Cumulative impacts from climate change on native fish, wildlife, and their habitats are becoming increasingly evident, especially in natural areas that are most sensitive to variations in the temperature, timing, and amount of stream flows.

The growing complexity of fisheries conservation underscores the importance of national leadership and the need for the Service to focus its resources to best address the nation's highest priority conservation needs. Conservation of aquatic resources is built on a foundation of sound science, strategic implementation, and broad collaboration and partnerships. The Service is working with other Federal, State, tribal, non-governmental organizations, and industries to identify and address the highest-priority

conservation actions, with the goals of developing self-sustaining populations of native aquatic species and healthy, intact habitats.

FAC employs 700 people in 154 facilities, including 72 National Fish Hatcheries, one historic fish hatchery, 65 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices, nine Fish Health Centers, seven Fish Technology Centers, and the Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership Program. Professional staff serves as stewards of trust aquatic resources within this integrated network of Service facilities.

Fisheries professionals perform scientific assessments of the health, status, and trends of populations of priority species; measure the quantity and ecological function of important aquatic habitat; and identify specific pathways for potential movement of invasive species and disease-causing pathogens. Corrective conservation measures often include cost-effective habitat restoration such as restoring fish passage and re-connecting fragmented streams. Hatcheries raise native fishes, native mussels, and imperiled plants and amphibians for recovery, to preclude the need for listing under the Endangered Species Act, and to help sustain recreational, commercial, and tribal fisheries.

Strategic Planning and Priority Activities

The Service uses strategic planning processes to guide yearly program activities. FAC's first strategic plan, *Conserving America's Fisheries: National Fisheries Program Strategic Plan Fiscal Years 2004 – 2008* was based upon the *Fisheries Program Vision for the Future,* a vision document completed in 2003 in consultation with the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council (SFBPC), a Federal Advisory Committee Act-charted committee, and other partners.

Since the original vision and strategic plan documents were first developed, both the FAC program and aquatic resource needs have changed substantially. Accordingly, the SFBPC, in consultation with partners and stakeholders across the Nation, recently updated the *Vision for the Future* with new recommendations. In early 2014, the Service began developing the next FAC strategic plan to guide program strategies, related funding, and resource decision-making for the next five years. The recently released draft *Strategic Plan for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program: FY 2015-2019* (Plan) is based on a programmatic assessment by the SFBPC as well as previous strategic plans for the program.

FAC focuses its conservation efforts on geographic areas and species with the greatest needs. Through biological inventories, assessments, modeling, and conservation strategies, the Service works with partners to better understand and alleviate threats to aquatic resources by strategically improving habitat, restoring the connectivity of the Nation's waterways, and preventing new infestations of aquatic invasive species. The ability to design and implement critical research programs, maintain decision-support systems and databases, and deliver on-the-ground and in-the-water conservation is integral to successful conservation.

Smallmouth bass being sorted in preparation of spawning.
Credit: Spencer Neuharth, USFWS

To support Secretary Jewell's priority of building a landscape-level understanding of the Nation's resources, the Service is also working with partners through Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs). FAC provides aquatic resources support and other expertise to these LCCs, working across geographic and political borders to foster partnerships with States, Tribes, other governments, private organizations, and interested citizens to address stressors on large, connected natural areas, including habitat fragmentation, genetic isolation, spread of invasive species, and water scarcity—all of which are magnified by accelerating environmental change.

Economic Benefits

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

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

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

The positive environmental, social, and economic effects stemming from FAC's work are of growing importance to communities nationwide as Americans care deeply about the health and well-being of nature. Angler participation continues to grow as fish populations and habitats are restored or improved, leading to greater angler success and opportunities. This increased participation serves as a primary means of connecting children and adults with natural areas to fish, hunt, view wildlife, and enjoy the outdoors. Fishing is a multi-cultural, multi-generational experience, and is a gateway activity for engagement in conservation.

Youth and Education

A core component of fishery conservation is harnessing the power of citizen stewardship of the environment, with a particular emphasis on cultivating and engaging youth. For generations, the Service has engaged families and local communities to instill a love of the outdoors and a strong conservation ethic in tomorrow's leaders. Service programs actively implement America's Great Outdoors (AGO), a Presidential initiative by working with partners to benefit urban watersheds and underserved Americans.

The Service works with volunteers, partners, and Friends Groups to deliver a wide array of formal and informal conservation education programs. Friends Groups organized to support the Service in the Regions, help coordinate volunteers and businesses in local communities to assist with Service facility operations, special events, and outdoor classrooms for youth. The Service ultimately benefits from the many volunteers coast-to-coast who contribute more than 150,000 hours of their time annually (the equivalent of over 50 FTE). With thousands of outreach and educational events, the Service reaches over one million youth each year. Messages on conservation and environmental issues are delivered through innovative, science-based, hands-on learning, incorporating programs such as Youth Fisheries Academy, Kids in the Creek, Native Fish in the Classroom, and the Salmon Festival.

The Service fully supports the Youth in the Great Outdoors initiative to create a 21st Century Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) and build the next generation of conservation and community leaders through youth employment, exposing youth to conservation careers, and targeting under-represented groups, such as those in urban centers, minorities, and women. The Pathways program, rural and tribal YCC programs, and the Biologist-in-Training Program complement these early learning experiences to encourage youth to consider careers in conservation and natural resources management. In particular, the tribal YCC program provides Native youth the opportunity to not only honor their elders, local traditions and culture, but also to participate in valuable career-enhancing work experiences. Youth gain experience in teamwork, their local natural environment, and conservation practices. Several former YCC participants are now employed by the Service.

Tribal Youth Conservation Corp

TYCC works with New Mexico FWCO office staff on a fish passage project on Pueblo Lands. TYCC is a Service program that gives Native American high-school students an opportunity to work on natural resource conservation projects on the tribe's land. In addition to learning about natural resources the TYCC curriculum is developed in conjunction with the tribal community to include cultural and language aspects as well.

TYCC member works with FWCO staff to stabilize riverbank. Credit: Melanie Dabovich, USFWS

Activity: Fish and Aquatic Conservation
Subactivity: National Fish Hatchery System Operations

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change From 2015 Enacted (+/-)
National Fish Hatchery Operations	($000)	46,528	52,860	+558	0	0	53,418	+558
	FTE	*303*	*320*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*320*	*0*

Justification of 2016 Program Changes

The 2016 budget request for the National Fish Hatchery Operations is $53,418,000 and 320 FTE, no net program change from the 2015 Enacted.

Program Overview

The National Fish Hatchery System (NFHS) consists of 72 National Fish Hatcheries (NFH), one historic National Fish Hatchery, nine Fish Health Centers (FHC), seven Fish Technology Centers (FTC), and the Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership (AADAP) Program. The NFHS operates under the authority of numerous treaties and consent decrees, statutes, and recovery and restoration plans. Its contribution to habitat conservation is multi-faceted and its activities provide some of the scientific basis for recovery and restoration programs inherent in the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (Action Plan) and Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs).

A unique network of highly-skilled scientists work with hundreds of State, tribal, international, and non-governmental organizations and private citizens to conserve federally-listed and non-listed aquatic species. With a system of facilities across the country, the NFHS propagates healthy, genetically diverse aquatic species to help re-establish wild populations; conducts applied research to inform management decisions; diagnoses aquatic animal health; develops mathematical models to conserve fisheries in the face of climate change; and ensures that new aquatic animal drugs are safe, effective, and approved for use in conservation and commerce to sustain fish population health and prevent diseases spreading in aquatic communities. The NFHS also provides emergency refugia for aquatic populations impacted by wildfire, drought, and other conditions of climate change.

In 2014, 65 fish species (listed and non-listed) and 30 species of amphibians, mollusks, plants, and others were propagated and distributed from 68 NFHS facilities. Among this network, 52 facilities implemented recovery actions as called for in approved Recovery Plans, benefitting 78 federally-listed species. Hatcheries also raised and released listed species into restored habitat and conducted applied research to improve fisheries science and facilitate species recovery. These facilities also provided refugia for 20 listed species, facing catastrophic events such as wildfires, droughts, or floods. To help avoid further declines and ESA-listings, NFHS facilities also implemented over 1,300 restoration tasks benefitting 36 non-listed species, as called for in Fisheries Management and other plans.

Advancing Alternative Fish Feeds

Due to rising feed costs and the finite availability of wild fish ingredients, alternative fish feed ingredients are increasingly pursued. Physiologists at the Bozeman FTC (MT) assessed the nutritional value and qualities of an emerging new feed ingredient, known as threonine biomass (TBM), as a dietary protein and amino acid source in fish feed. Evaluation of new feed ingredients available to the industry has critical importance to the production of fish for many purposes, including restoration and recovery. Results of this study, shared with USDA and industry partners, are expected to contribute to more cost effective production of fish meal while maintaining optimal fish health and condition.

The NFHS also supports other Service priorities. For example, water and habitats along lakes, rivers, and streams on many NFHs attract a wide range of bird species, especially during annual migrations and the nesting season. Stations near the arid US/Mexico border are especially important because they protect waters and the surrounding natural areas that are vital to migrating birds. These sites also provide wildlife viewing opportunities, often enhanced by birding societies or Friend's groups.

Science and Technology

The FTCs provide the scientific foundation for recovery and restoration programs, and enable fisheries professionals to more effectively carry out their work. The seven FTCs conduct applied research in their genetics, ecological physiology, nutrition, and cryopreservation laboratories. Professional staff provides expertise in biometrics and modeling and ready access to cost effective applied research tools to solve problems and answer pressing conservation questions. The diverse research and analytical capabilities and knowledge gained through FTC studies inform future conservation actions. Service FTCs have published nearly 1,000 papers in peer reviewed journals over the last 30 years, including 31 papers in 2014. These publications cover a broad range of topics, which allow their findings to have an impact well beyond just the other FTCs and the Service.

Aquatic Animal Health

Aquatic animal health biologists housed in nine FHCs detect, monitor, and mitigate disease-causing pathogens. Their findings inform conservation decisions concerning captive fishes at hatcheries and in the wild. Fish health professionals also investigate emerging health issues, such as expected threats from global environmental change, which could increase the introduction or spread of dangerous aquatic pathogens.

Service microbiologist at the Lower Columbia River FHC assesses fish samples.

The FHCs are at the hub of the Service's aquatic animal health program. They guide the Service's implementation of the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. The FHCs are also integral to the success of the new National Aquatic Animal Pathogen Testing Network. This Network of standardized testing facilities serves as the preeminent source of information on the status of aquatic animal pathogens in the wild, and facilitates interstate and international commerce of aquatic animals while protecting the natural resources of the U.S.

The AADAP program was established in 1994 to ensure Service compliance with the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. AADAP works with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and other Federal agencies, Tribes, State agencies, academic institutions, and private partners to obtain FDA approval of safe and effective new drugs needed for fish culture and fisheries management. AADAP is the only program in the county singularly focused on obtaining critically needed new drugs for use in aquatic species.

AADAP's Investigational New Animal Drug (INAD) program provides fish culturists, fish health biologists, fisheries managers, and researchers across the country with legal access to a broad variety of experimental drugs that are on their way toward FDA approval. Additionally, over 250 non-Service facilities in 46 states receive direct benefits by participating in this unique program each year. AADAP's

research program uses sound science to determine and document safe and effective treatment protocols for these new drugs. All research data is summarized in the final study reports and submitted to FDA for review and concurrence. In combination, AADAP's INAD and research programs provide the foundation for national-scope efforts to gain access to safe and effective drugs for use in fisheries management programs.

In addition to Federal appropriations, the program receives financial support from cost-reimbursable dollars generated by the National INAD Program, as well as FDA research grants. In FY 2014, the Service strived to make AADAP even more financially self-sufficient by obtaining significant additional funding from research grants and increasing INAD fees, which had remained unchanged since 1999.

The drug-approval process is scientifically rigorous and time-consuming. In FY 2014, AADAP achieved an expanded approval of Aquaflor® and an initial approval of Halmid® Aqua. Aquaflor® is an oral antibiotic used for the treatment of bacterial coldwater disease and internal bacterial pathogens in freshwater finfishes. Halmid® Aqua is an immersion treatment for bacterial gill disease and external bacterial pathogens in freshwater finfishes. These drug approvals have had an immediate nationwide impact on the health and fitness of fish used for conservation aquaculture and fisheries management.

Scientific Excellence

AADAP's biologists were a recipient of the 2013 Rachel Carson Award for Scientific Excellence. Recipients of the Rachel Carson Award are recognized for their exemplary scientific contributions to achieving extraordinary results in fish and wildlife conservation.

Top Row: James Bowker and Dan Carty (since retired)
Bottom Row: Molly Bowman and Niccole Wandelear
Credit: Gibson Gaylord, USFWS

Recreation

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

[2] http://www.fws.gov/home/feature/2011/pdf/FisheriesEconomicReport.pdf

Children release salmon fry, that they raised from eggs, into the wild as part of FAC's Salmon in the Classroom program. *Credit: Pat Edwards, USFWS*

Conservation Education

Hatcheries are also integral parts of the communities in which they are located. Through the NFH System Volunteer Act of 2006, FAC offers outdoor classroom opportunities for over one million youth each year. Through these outdoor classrooms, the Service provides hands-on experiences and opportunities for discovery, and improves the public's understanding of, and need to, conserve America's unique and diverse aquatic species and habitats. The Program also reaches out to families by working in cooperation with volunteers, partners, and Fishery Friends Groups to deliver a wide array of formal and informal conservation education programs, both on and off Service property.

Mitigation

The Service supplies fish for partner agencies to mitigate the adverse effects of Federal water development projects. Following direction from Congress and the Office of Management and Budget, the Service announced in FY 2012 that it would no longer fund fish production operations to mitigate for impacts associated with Federal water development projects. Instead, these mitigation propagation programs are now operated on a user-pay basis and are dependent on outside funding to fully reimburse the Service for its costs. Over the past several years, the Service and partners, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tennessee Valley Authority, and others, have successfully developed agreements to help cover most of the costs associated with mitigation fish production.

The Future of the National Fish Hatchery System

For a number of years, the NFHS has struggled with declining funding and significant increases in fixed costs. In FY 2012 alone, the NFHS incurred a $2.1 million shortfall in overall operations funding, and the Service had to divert maintenance funding to cover these shortfalls. As a result of fiscal challenges plaguing the NFHS, in 2012 the Service assembled a national expert review team of Service and FAC leaders to conduct a comprehensive review of the 70 propagation hatcheries. The review's goal was to ensure that the Service would be well positioned to address the highest priority conservation needs within available resources. This review culminated in the *National Fish Hatchery System: Strategic Hatchery and Workforce Planning Report* (Report), which identified individual FY 2012 propagation programs and problems associated with sustaining operation of the NFHS in its current configuration. The Report evaluated 291 individual propagation programs across the NFHS based on five priorities: recovery of species federally-listed as threatened or endangered; restoration of imperiled aquatic species; tribal partnerships and trust responsibilities; other propagation programs for native species; and other propagation programs for non-native species. The Report suggested ways in which management of the NFHS could be modified under several different potential funding scenarios.

The Service sought feedback on the Report throughout the spring of 2014 with targeted outreach to States, tribes, NGOs, and other Federal agencies. Service leadership gathered feedback through in-person meetings, briefings, phone calls, and emails. Letters were received from States, tribes, hatchery Friends groups, local government, communities, and individuals. The responses ranged from general comments

on the Report and concerns about the identified priorities, to support for the National Broodstock Program and specific hatcheries.

In November 2013, the Service announced it did not intend to close any of our National Fish Hatcheries in FY 2014. With the increased funding provided by Congress in FY 2015, we also do not intend to close any Service hatcheries in 2015. This funding level is maintained in the FY 2016 Budget request, and the Service will continue working with States, tribes, and other partners and stakeholders to chart a financially sound course forward for the NFHS that will also enable it to better meet present and future conservation challenges.

A Service employee stocks Lahontan cutthroat trout for recovery efforts at Fallen Leaf Lake in California.
Credit: Jon Myatt, USFWS

National Fish Hatchery System Performance Overview and Change

Performance Goal	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Target	2016 PB	Change from 2015 Target to 2016 PB
CSF 5.1 - Percent of fish species of management concern that are managed to self-sustaining levels, in cooperation with affected States, tribes, and others, as defined in approved management documents (GPRA)	8% (17 of 213)	17% (39 of 233)	24% (45 of 185)	24% (44 of 183)	24% (45 of 185)	24% (45 of 185)	0%
5.1.2.3 - % of populations of native aquatic non-T&E species that are self-sustaining in the wild, as prescribed in management plans - NFHS	1% (17 of 1,580)	1% (20 of 1,487)	1% (20 of 1,523)	1% (22 of 1,490)	1% (22 of 1,492)	1% (22 of 1,492)	0%
CSF 5.3 - Percent of tasks implemented, as prescribed in management plans	58% (2,525 of 4,384)	56% (2,568 of 4,600)	53% (2,639 of 5,020)	51% (2,640 of 5,176)	51% (2,640 of 5,171)	49% (3,621 of 7,464)	-3%
5.3.1.3 - % of tasks implemented, as prescribed in management plans - NFHS	33% (1,551 of 4,693)	30% (1,601 of 5,305)	25% (1,709 of 6,773)	24% (1,679 of 7,095)	24% (1,807 of 7,464)	24% (1,807 of 7,464)	0%
CSF 7.21 - Percent of populations of aquatic threatened and endangered species (T&E) that are self-sustaining in the wild	10% (71 of 689)	11% (80 of 711)	11% (75 of 680)	12% (85 of 698)	12% (84 of 710)	12% (84 of 710)	0%
7.21.5.3 - % of tasks implemented as prescribed in Recovery Plans - NFHS	32% (436 of 1,379)	28% (419 of 1,471)	24% (401 of 1,670)	26% (410 of 1,588)	22% (384 of 1,707)	22% (384 of 1,707)	0%
13.1.5 - % of NFHS historic structures in FWS inventory that are in good condition (GPRA)	83% (30 of 36)	70% (26 of 37)	71% (27 of 38)	84% (32 of 38)	84% (32 of 38)	84% (32 of 38)	0%
CSF 13.2 - Percent of collections in DOI inventory in good condition (GPRA)	35.6% (693 of 1,948)	35.8% (704 of 1,966)	35.8% (706 of 1,971)	13.9% (40 of 288)	16.7% (128 of 765)	13.9% (40 of 288)	-2.8%
13.2.3 - % of NFHS cultural collections in FWS inventory are in good condition (GPRA)	100% (1 of 1)	100% (1 of 1)	100% (1 of 1)	100% (1 of 1)	100% (1 of 1)	100% (1 of 1)	0%
CSF 15.4 - Percent of fisheries mitigation tasks implemented as prescribed in approved management plans	70% (74 of 105)	91% (87 of 96)	74% (93 of 125)	74% (100 of 135)	72% (97 of 135)	69% (108 of 157)	-3%

Performance Goal	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Target	2016 PB	Change from 2015 Target to 2016 PB
15.4.1.3 - % of mitigation tasks implemented as prescribed in approved management plans - NFHS	97% (74 of 76)	106% (86 of 81)	73% (94 of 129)	74% (104 of 140)	62% (97 of 157)	62% (97 of 157)	0%
15.4.8 - # of aquatic outreach and education activities and/or events	4,817	2,909	2,930	2,548	1,848	1,850	2
15.4.12 - Total # of visitors to NFHS facilities	1,735,926	2,236,661	1,469,545	1,552,448	1,241,597	1,300,000	58,403
CSF 52.1 - Number of volunteer hours per year supporting FWS mission activities	1,634,598	1,719,303	1,572,908	1,527,735	1,280,610	1,290,441	9,831
52.1.2 - # of volunteer participation hours are supporting Fisheries objectives for Hatcheries	110,913	110,835	97,732	101,036	70,170	80,000	9,830
52.1.7 - % of NFHS with friends groups	42% (31 of 74)	45% (33 of 74)	46% (33 of 72)	46% (33 of 72)	47% (34 of 72)	47% (34 of 72)	0%

Activity: Fish and Aquatic Conservation
Subactivity: Maintenance and Equipment

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change From 2015 Enacted (+/-)
National Fish Hatchery Maintenance and Equipment	($000)	15,537	17,402	0	0	+2,000	19,402	+2,000
	FTE	*72*	*72*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*72*	*0*
FWCO Maintenance and Equipment	($000)	518	518	0	0	0	518	0
	FTE	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*
Total, Maintenance and Equipment	**($000)**	**16,055**	**17,920**	**0**	**0**	**+2,000**	**19,920**	**+2,000**
	FTE	***72***	***72***	***0***	***0***	***0***	***72***	***0***

Summary of 2016 Program Changes for Maintenance and Equipment

Request Component	($000)	FTE
• Deferred Maintenance	+2,000	0
Program Changes	**+2,000**	**0**

Justification of 2016 Program Changes

The 2015 budget request for Maintenance and Equipment is $19,920,000 and 72 FTE, a net program change of +$2,000,000 and +0 FTE from the 2015 Enacted.

Deferred Maintenance (+$2,000,000/+0 FTE)

The Service uses Deferred Maintenance funding on constructed assets to address the backlog of deferred maintenance projects that are too large and complex to be addressed with Annual Maintenance funding. The requested increase will help ensure the health and safety of our employees and visitors, improve the condition of our mission critical water management assets, and allow the Service to maintain NFHS capabilities for production of fish and other aquatic species.

Program Overview

Properly functioning assets and equipment used in water delivery and outflow in the NFHS are essential to conservation and to keep our employees and visitors safe. A comprehensive, proactive asset management system ensures adequate water flow and quality to sustain captive aquatic populations to meet recovery, restoration, and tribal trust responsibilities identified in Recovery Plans, Fishery Management Plans, and agreements.

National Fish Hatchery System Maintenance and Equipment

Maintenance and Equipment funds allow the Service to provide timely upkeep of hatchery property and equipment; purchase maintenance-related supplies; and repair, rehabilitate, or replace constructed assets. The Service's ability to accomplish its mission is largely determined by the condition of key assets associated with water delivery, aquatic species culture, and effluent management. These assets deliver, treat, and discharge water from hatcheries and regulate the environment to maximize and optimize survival of aquatic organisms. Although the reliability of these assets is especially important with respect to threatened and endangered species, three-fourths of the NFHS' $1.75 billion of real property assets are considered mission-critical.

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

Environmental concerns and energy costs have increased over time, prompting the Service to also track energy use by station and to some extent by asset. To help reduce the Service's and Department's carbon footprint, Service staff are developing energy performance measures reflective of both energy use by station and energy reduction opportunities. Energy consumption can be reduced through building renovations, new technologies, and renewable energy systems. Annual analysis of the greatest energy-consuming stations, along with metering, will help significantly. Required energy audits every five years have continued to focus our attention on utilizing energy wisely.

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

Annual Maintenance

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

Deferred Maintenance

Three-fourths of the NFHS' $1.75 billion in assets are mission-critical water management assets that are currently in fair condition. Fully functional properties and equipment are key to the long-term success of the NFHS. Deferred maintenance projects are directed at the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of constructed assets, and target assets used for restoration, recovery, outdoor education, and mitigation. The current focus is on the health and safety of employees and visitors, as well as high-priority mission-critical water management projects that maximize and optimize survivability of the species and populations that are under our care. The NFHS has identified $174 million in current deferred maintenance needs.

Service Asset & Maintenance Management System (SAMMS)

Under the auspices of the Occupational Safety and Health Act and DOI standards, the Service developed an Asset Management Plan that guides management of its $1.75 billion in essential real and personal property inventories, including systematic and objective tracking, evaluation, reporting of asset condition, and prioritization of asset management. Using the Service Asset Maintenance Management System (SAMMS), an integrated web-based information system, the Service standardizes asset management, corroborates deferred maintenance needs with objective condition assessment data, identifies short- and long-term maintenance needs, and analyzes annual operating and maintenance expenditures.

The 5-Year Deferred Maintenance/Construction Plan prioritizes the projects of greatest need, focusing first on human health and safety and then on critical resource protection. The Service has undertaken an intense effort in the field, Regions, and Headquarters to develop, refine and update this list each year.

Equipment: Routine Maintenance, Repair, and Replacement

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

The NFHS equipment funds pay for maintenance, repair, and replacement of equipment. Replacement generally targets items with a value between $5,000 and $30,000, and includes passenger vehicles. More expensive equipment purchases are identified in the Five-Year Deferred Maintenance Plan. To minimize the need to purchase expensive specialized equipment and to maximize efficiency, the NFHS works closely with the National Wildlife Refuge System to accomplish certain projects using Refuge equipment and personnel. If scheduling conflicts arise, specialized equipment can be leased from the private sector and Refuge-based equipment operators are loaned to hatcheries, saving costs.

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office Maintenance and Equipment

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

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

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change From 2015 Enacted (+/-)
Habitat Assessment and Restoration	($000)	26,158	28,321	+192	-180	-258	28,075	-246
	FTE	*103*	*103*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*103*	*0*
Population Assessment and Cooperative Management	($000)	30,890	30,821	+7	0	0	30,828	+7
	FTE	*164*	*164*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*164*	*0*
Aquatic Invasive Species	($000)	10,201	12,056	+82	0	+3,111	15,249	+3,193
	FTE	*44*	*57*	*0*	*0*	*+13*	*70*	*+13*
Marine Mammals*	($000)	5,487	5,470	0	-5,470	0	0	-5,470
	FTE	*27*	*27*	*0*	*-27*	*0*	*0*	*-27*
Total, Aquatic Habitat & Species Conservation	**($000)**	**72,736**	**76,668**	**+281**	**-5,650**	**+2,853**	**74,152**	**-2,516**
	FTE	***338***	***351***	***0***	***-27***	***+13***	***337***	***-14***

*Note: In 2016 funding in the amount of $5,470,000 and 27 FTE for Marine Mammals moves to Ecological Services.

Summary of 2015 Program Changes for Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation

Request Component	($000)	FTE
• Asian Carp	+2,400	+10
• Fish Passage Improvements	+1,000	0
• Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention	+669	+3
• Habitat Assessment and Restoration Activities	+132	0
• Aquatic Invasive Species State Plans/NISA Implementation/Coordination	+42	0
• Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement	-1,390	0
Program Changes	**+2,853**	**+13**

Justification of 2016 Program Changes

The 2016 budget request for Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation is $74,152,000 and 337 FTE, a net program change of +$2,853,000 and +13 FTE from the 2015 Enacted.

Asian Carp (+$2,400,000/+10 FTE)

Building on existing collaborative efforts to address the threat of Asian carp, the Service will dedicate the requested FY 2016 increase of $2.4 million to support high-priority activities to prevent the influx of Asian carp into the Great Lakes and address populations in the Mississippi River and its tributaries. This increase will bring the level of Service base appropriations for Asian carp coordinated management to a total of $7.9 million in FY 2016, allowing the Service to assume a more central role in steering Asian carp efforts. In FY 2015, the Service appropriation for Asian carp is $5.5 million, which was allocated to the Great Lakes ($3.13 million) and to areas outside of the Great Lakes ($2.37 million), including the upper Mississippi River and Ohio River basins.

The requested FY 2016 increase of $2.4 million will be used as follows:

- $2,150,000 will be used for coordinated interagency efforts to protect the Great Lakes watershed from Asian carp. This funding increase will supplant existing reimbursable funding currently provided through the EPA's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). With this increase, the Service believes it will be able to deliver a comparable level of coordinated management effort to address Asian carp in the Great Lakes. The increased funding for the Great Lakes will support ongoing early detection and monitoring using both traditional and molecular techniques focused on areas of invasion concern, and rapid assessment and response in areas of positive detection using additional eDNA and/or traditional sampling.

- $250,000 will be used for integrated management efforts outside the Great Lakes as described in the *Management and Control Plan for Bighead, Black, Grass, and Silver Carps in the United States* (National Plan). Funds will support integrated early detection surveillance (using both eDNA sampling and traditional fish sampling tools), rapid assessment, rapid response, containment technologies like acoustic, carbon dioxide, or bubble barriers, and control (to levels that support native species and habitats). Priorities will be set based on strategies prescribed in the National Plan; and informed by risk assessment of the species, analyses of pathways by which they spread, and geographic location as identified in the National Asian Carp Surveillance Plan.

Fish Passage Improvements (+$1,000,000/+0 FTE)
This increase will improve the resilience of human communities and natural resources by implementing projects that reconnect aquatic habitat by restoring natural stream channels and improving road infrastructure. These projects, which are primarily designed to improve fish passage, can also increase community flood resiliency. Projects will be selected in conjunction with local partners and with available science to make the greatest conservation impact.

Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention (+$669,000/+3 FTE)
Preventing aquatic invasive species from entering an aquatic system and becoming established is the most cost-effective and efficient way to prevent the deleterious impacts those non-native species can have on trust resources, other native plants and animals, recreational opportunities, and communities.

The Service will use this requested increase as follows:

- $200,000 for conducting risk assessments to evaluate potentially invasive species. These assessments provide the public, industry, and state and Federal decision makers with valuable information to better prioritize and manage the greatest threats;

- $400,000 for using risk assessment results to improve Federal regulatory processes and enable the Service to more effectively manage invasive species, especially those that are new to the U.S.; and

- $69,000 for enhancing collaborative and voluntary partnerships with industry and States to yield sustainable and less environmentally costly business practices, such as Habitattitude™ (a consumer awareness campaign), industry "no trade" agreements, and new boat design and construction.

Habitat Assessment and Restoration Activities (+$132,000/+0 FTE)
The backbone of FAC's work is on-the-ground collaborative conservation and restoration work to protect aquatic animals, plants, and their habitats. This increase will enhance FAC's work with other natural resource agencies, partners, and tribes to conserve and protect aquatic species and their habitats in large, connected natural areas.

Aquatic Invasive Species State Plans/NISA Implementation/Coordination (+$42,000/+0 FTE)
The Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF), composed of 13 Federal and 12 ex-officio organizations, serves as the only intergovernmental organization dedicated to preventing and controlling aquatic nuisance species (ANS). The ANSTF provides a national forum for collaboration on critical issues that can impact prevention, control, and management of ANS. This increase will be split among current recipients and support regional coordination with Federal, State, and local partners through ANSTF's Regional Panels.

Klamath Basin (-$1,390,000/+0 FTE)
Funds will be redirected to higher priority habitat assessment and restoration work while still providing habitat monitoring, planning, and restoration activities to those species most critically in need in the Klamath Basin. Additionally, $1,000,000 less is needed in FY 2016 because the Service will finalize the Anadromous Fish Restoration Monitoring and Reintroduction Plan in FY 2015. In FY 2016, the Service will use the requested funds to implement that Plan with our Tribal, State, and local partners in the recovery of listed aquatic species.

Program Overview

The 65 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices (FWCOs) monitor and assess aquatic populations and their habitats to provide essential information in managing these resources. These data inform resource management decisions and yield on-the-ground conservation actions as FWCOs collaborate with partners, states, and other federal agencies.

A report by a U.S. Geological Survey-led team documented a substantial decline among 700 freshwater fishes in North America[3]. Among other factors, sea-level rise, temperature elevations, and precipitation changes are causing devastating effects in the Nation's fisheries. The work of FWCOs is essential to understanding current conditions and stressors; establishing trends and addressing environmental impacts on fisheries; identifying sensitive aquatic ecosystems, key processes, and critical information gaps; and implementing management plans and projects.

Habitat mapping and monitoring for monitoring of changes and effects pre and post dam removal.
Credit: Susan Wells, USFWS

Habitat Assessment and Restoration Program Overview
FWCOs play an especially important role in the implementation of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (Action Plan) and the National Fish Passage Program (NFPP), two habitat assessment and restoration programs vital in meeting the Service's mission. Through its network of FWCOs, the Service organizes and implements projects with partners, provides technical expertise, enlists voluntary efforts of landowners and local communities, and delivers cost-shared resources to complete the projects that address conservation needs.

3 Jelks, H.L., S.J. Walsh, N.M. Burkhead, S.Contreras-Balderas, E. Díaz-Pardo, D.A. Hendrickson, J. Lyons, N.E. Mandrak, F. McCormick, J.S. Nelson, S.P. Platania, B.A. Porter, C.B. Renaud, J. J. Schmitter-Soto, E.B. Taylor, and M.L. Warren, Jr. 2008. Conservation status of imperiled North American freshwater and diadromous fishes. Fisheries 33(8):372–407.

Although the Action Plan and the NFPP are the primary tools for project delivery and funding streams available to FWCOs, they also work with LCCs, Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Coastal Program, and other agencies to deliver science and restoration projects at various spatial scales. FWCOs design and implement restoration strategies that maximize the likelihood of desired outcomes, and evaluate the results in an adaptive management approach.

New Mexico FWCO biologist watches over a recently released Gila chub. Credit: Craig Springer, USFWS

National Fish Habitat Action Plan

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

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

The Service is a lead Federal partner working with all 50 States, major Federal agencies, tribal governments, conservation groups, and the sport fishing industry. Service funds support operations of the National Fish Habitat Board and Fish Habitat Partnerships, all of which have governance structures, strategic plans, scientific capabilities, and sponsor projects to protect, restore, or enhance aquatic habitats.

Since 2006, the Service has provided $26.5 million of Action Plan funds to support 671 fish habitat conservation projects in 45 States, leveraging $67.1 million in partner contributions. Most of the projects helped species that are vulnerable to the effects of climate change by protecting or improving flow, connectivity, or other physical habitat conditions. Other projects developed monitoring or decision support tools to support biological planning and aquatic conservation by partners, including LCCs.

The premise of the Action Plan is that we cannot do everything to conserve aquatic habitats, so we should set priorities and do the work that provides the greatest conservation return for the funds invested. The key to setting smart priorities is scientific knowledge of habitat conditions and causative factors on the landscape. To help prioritize future projects, the Partnership conducted the first national study of fish habitat, published as *Through a Fish's Eye: The Status of Fish Habitats in the United States 2010*. All of the assessment data is available to the public online at www.fishhabitat.org.

Collaboration between LCCs and Fish Habitat Partnerships has grown significantly. Joint projects have gathered and analyzed information on instream flow, landscape level threats to fish habitat, and the efficacy of projects to protect and restore fish habitat. Active collaboration is underway in Alaska, on the Pacific coast, in the lower Mississippi River valley, and throughout the eastern seaboard.

The Action Plan was approved in 2006 and is now in its second edition. The Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce, as well as State fish and wildlife agency leaders, signed the original Action Plan. Building upon the signed Action Plan, the Secretaries of the Interior, Commerce, and Agriculture signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2012 to strengthen their commitment to the Action Plan.

Action Plan Objectives

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

National Fish Passage Program

Approximately 6 million dams, poorly-designed culverts, and water diversions fragment rivers and watersheds across the nation. Fragmentation of our watersheds is one of the leading causes of aquatic habitat degradation and loss of natural function and resilience of watersheds across the country. The NFPP works with Federal and State governments, private landowners, Tribes, and community organizations to restore aquatic connectivity through removing or bypassing barriers. Projects range in size from large-scale dam removals to the repair or removal of culverts and agricultural water diversions. Since the NFPP's inception in 1999, cooperative efforts have provided substantial benefits to communities and aquatic species through restoration of natural flows, reduced sediment inputs, increased road infrastructure resilience to flooding, and restored connectivity, which allows fish to move freely and safely between the habitats needed for survival and self-sustainability.

A Fish Passage Success

In 2014 the Service removed the Groton Dam on the Wells River in Groton, VT in conjunction with State, Corporate, and NGO partners. The removal of this one dam reopened over 22 miles of brook trout habitat and provided fish passage to the State's only fly fishing pond. The dam removal also enhanced flood resiliency, recreational use, aesthetics, and instream and riparian stability.

Credit: BJ Allaire, USFWS

Credit: Madeleine Lyttle, USFWS

In cooperation with its partners, NFPP has removed or bypassed over 1,430 barriers and reconnected 21,101 miles of river and 156,751 wetland acres across the Nation. The resulting increase in resilience to environmental pressures and urbanization has benefited more than 90 species of fish and freshwater mussels. The projects also help communities, where increased rainfall is expected as a result of climate change, to upgrade road crossings to prevent flooding. Fish Passage projects have had a significant environmental and economic impact, including leveraging Federal funding at a 3:1 ratio based on Service tracking (http://www.fws.gov/fisheries/whatwedo/NFPP/nfpp.html).

Another important NFPP asset is its comprehensive fish passage engineering and technical assistance capacity. Fish passage engineers and technical specialists in our FWCOs ensure that passage projects are strategically selected and structurally sound; meet restoration goals for large, connected natural areas; and benefit surrounding communities. The NFPP achieves restoration goals through the use of the Service's SHC model on a regional scale; incorporating local and landscape level decision support tools to identify areas of most conservation need for species and determining where fish passage would be most beneficial for aquatic species and people.

Population Assessment and Cooperative Management Program Overview

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

This Arctic Grayling was collected in a fish trap located on Red Rock Creek in Red Rock Lakes NWR, Montana. Fish traps are one method that FWCO staff use to sample and monitor fish populations. Credit: Jim Mogen, USFWS

FWCOs work with partners to develop and implement resource management plans for federal trust species on federal, state, and local land and water properties. Using the expertise within FAC, biologists collect and evaluate population data and develop models to inform catch limits and future population trends. Restoration activities on large, connected natural areas and the monitoring and assessment of the Service's propagation programs are an important component in developing and maintaining self-sustaining aquatic populations. FAC biologists also play a critical role in fighting the spread of aquatic invasive species by suppressing populations of injurious plants and animals, including sea lamprey and Asian carp.

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

Sikes Act

FWCOs work with the Department of Defense, stewards to millions of acres of land used for national defense purposes, to protect and enhance natural areas on military installations. Cooperative conservation programs are conducted under the auspices of the Sikes Act and other authorities. FWCO biologists, in coordination with other Service programs, guide U.S. Air Force natural resource managers on management decisions affecting: listed species; development and implementation of Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans; wildland fire support; conservation law enforcement activities; and recreational hunting and fishing programs. This strategy effectively increases the scope of conservation delivery through execution of shared conservation goals, and delivery of landscape-level conservation on 9.8 million acres of Department of Defense lands, including 235,000 acres of wetlands, and habitat to 111 federally listed species.

Alaska Subsistence Management Program

Based on a 2010 economic assessment by the Service[4], over 135,000 people in over 270 communities in rural Alaska are entitled to subsistence fishing, hunting, and trapping on Federal lands. The average subsistence harvest in Alaska is approximately 375 pounds of food per person, or 50 million pounds of food per year. The Alaska Fisheries Subsistence Management Program provides a direct benefit to rural subsistence users on more than 237 million acres of Federal lands, encompassing 66 percent of Alaska's land area and 52 percent of Alaska's rivers and lakes.

The Service is the lead Federal agency in administering this program for the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture. Since 1999, the Service's Office of Subsistence Management has implemented an annual regulatory program and a fisheries monitoring program, supported 10 Regional Advisory Councils, and has provided administrative and technical support to five Federal agencies and the Federal Subsistence Board. The Subsistence Management Program operates with strong stakeholder participation by rural residents and the State of Alaska**.**

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Invasive species significantly impact the health of native species and natural areas. They are second to habitat destruction as the leading cause of declining fish, wildlife, and habitat in the U.S. Nearly half of the imperiled species in the U.S. are threatened by invasive species[5]. Species like Asian carp, quagga mussel, giant salvinia, lionfish, and brown tree snake cause tens of billions of dollars of economic and ecological impacts each year in diminished recreational opportunities, agricultural productivity, personal property values, human health, and public utility capacity. And the problem is growing,[6] as people are traveling more quickly and over greater distances than ever before and may intentionally or accidentally transport foreign species that can be invasive. In addition, natural areas stressed by climate change are more susceptible to harm from invasive species than healthy ecosystems, and invasive species in turn can make the effects of climate change more damaging.

Aquatic invasive species are insidious and especially troublesome; they are not always readily detected, their pathways are not always obvious, and their impacts to native species and habitats can be difficult to determine. Most problematic is that they are difficult to eradicate once they become established. They can persist and spread widely even after their pathways of introduction are interrupted. Despite the wide array of these aquatic threats, resource limitations require the Service to place an increased emphasis on species that will cause significant and immediate harm if their spread continues: zebra and quagga mussels and Asian carp. As a result, prevention, control, and management activities for other introduced species have been a lower priority.

Operating under the authority of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act (NANPCA), as amended by the National Invasive Species Act, the Service's AIS Program consists of three components: national coordination, prevention, and control and management. Service personnel offer critical leadership at the national and regional level on interjurisdictional aquatic invasive species threats and provide a vital regional and field presence on the ground.

National Coordination

The AIS Program achieves national coordination in part through the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF). The ANSTF, composed of 13 Federal and 13 ex-officio organizations, was established in

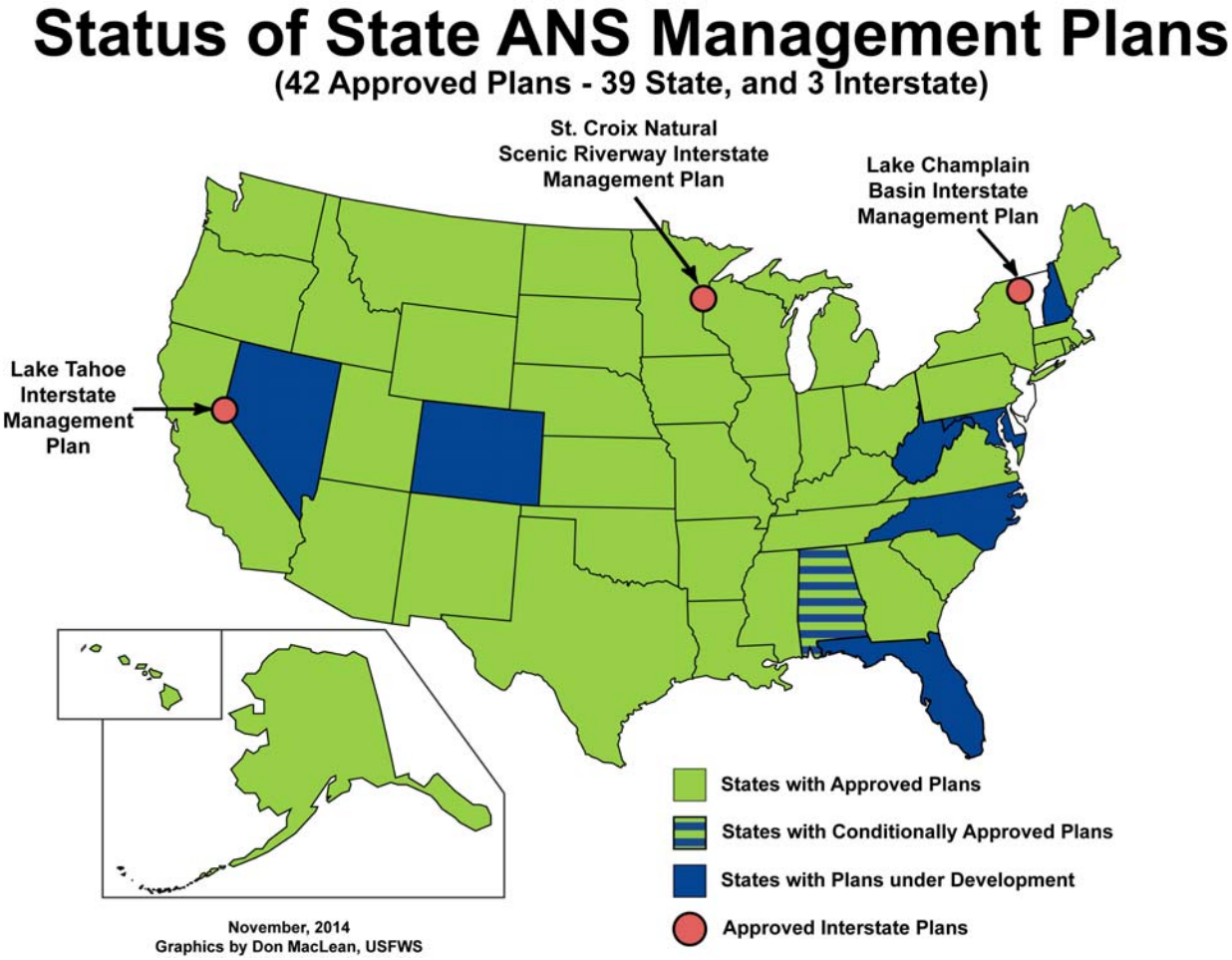
[4] Charbonneau, Joseph John, Ph.D. and James Caudill, Ph.D, September 2010. *Conserving America's Fisheries: An Assessment of Economic Contributions from Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation.* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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

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

1991 under NANPCA. The ANSTF, which the Service co-chairs with NOAA, is the only intergovernmental organization dedicated to preventing and controlling invasive species. The ANSTF provides a national infrastructure and forum for collaborative discussion and decision making, both at the Task Force and within its six Regional Panels. These Panels are uniquely positioned to coordinate and prioritize regional invasive species management issues and to provide crucial recommendations back to the ANSTF.

Another way the Service meets national coordination objectives, as directed under NANPCA, is by supporting the funding and implementation of 42 State/Interstate Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plans that address State priorities. National management and control plans guide ANSTF efforts. Implementation of plans such as the *National Asian Carp Management and Control Plan* and the *Quagga-Zebra Mussel Action Plan*, along with State and Federal partners, are key elements of the DOI roadmap for limiting the spread of these and other high impact aquatic invasive species.



The State/Interstate Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan grant program allows the Service to cost-share funding with States and tribal entities to implement ANSTF-approved plans. If all 42 eligible plans were to receive funding in FY 2015, each would be allocated about $23,000. Relying on these funds, the State aquatic invasive species programs coordinate with their partners to prevent the introduction and spread of unwanted organisms and have planned, directed, and accomplished significant regional- and landscape-level invasive species prevention and management resource outcomes. As a result, the cost-share grants between the Service, States, and Tribes allow the 42 State and interstate programs to accomplish far more than the Service could ever accomplish on its own.

The ANSTF has also approved seven national species control and management plans. These plans provide comprehensive guidance to the Service and its partners as they focus their resources on specific species. The ANSTF approved the *Quagga-Zebra Mussel Action Plan for Western U.S. Waters* (QZAP), which was adopted as DOI's roadmap for addressing the western spread of these invasive mussels. QZAP was developed through the coordinated efforts of numerous Federal, State, and NGOs representatives.

The ANSTF played a major role in developing the National Asian Carp Management and Control Plan by organizing an Asian Carp Working Group of diverse stakeholders. This Plan was based on earlier Service efforts to develop a regional plan for managing Asian carp species in the Mississippi River Basin, and is one of the approved Species Management and Control Plans funded by the ANSTF as authorized under NANPCA. The ANSTF Regional Panel also assists with implementation and information-sharing needs of the Plan.

Prevention

Proactive prevention continues to be the most cost-effective strategy to minimize the long-term risk of additional impacts to the American people and trust resources. Without the AIS Program's leadership in this arena, economic costs to Americans are guaranteed to increase as new introductions occur. The Service has a broad array of pathway management programs that support efforts to prevent introductions, such as public awareness campaigns, risk assessment and risk mitigation tools, and efforts to identify and prevent species introduction into the country or between states. These efforts are carried out at the national, regional, and local levels.

For example, the national "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!" campaign targets aquatic recreational users and engages with them to become part of the solution by cleaning their equipment every time they leave the water. This behavioral change campaign has broken new ground for the Service because it relies upon partners to help spread the prevention message and actively involves citizens to address this global threat. Currently, over 1,000 organizations have joined the campaign, including State fish and wildlife, parks and recreation, agriculture, and environmental protection agencies, businesses, and many conservation and watershed protection organizations. The emblematic stop sign has become ubiquitous around the country.

Injurious wildlife are defined under the Lacey Act as species that are injurious or potentially injurious to the interests of human beings, agriculture, horticulture, forestry, wildlife, or wildlife resources of the U.S. Under the auspices of the Lacey Act, the Service seeks to prevent the introduction and spread of new invasive species by regulating the importation and interstate movement of injurious wildlife. The Service does this by evaluating and listing species as injurious through the rulemaking process. By listing aquatic and terrestrial species such as snakehead, Burmese python, brushtail possum, walking catfish—more than 200 species in total—the Service plays a key role in promoting the safety and well-being of America's economy and natural resources.

The Service recognizes the need to focus our efforts on high-priority species, further improve the listing process, and expedite listing decisions through both improved development of risk assessment and other analysis tools and more efficient administrative action. To prevent new introductions, the Service is engaged with industry and other partners to identify and voluntarily restrict the trade of harmful species not yet in commerce, but that may have a potential market in the United States.

Control and Management

In FY 2015, the AIS program will continue to target quagga and zebra mussels as high-priority species through QZAP, leveraging resources between Federal, State, local, and NGO partners. Increased efforts will build on the three-pronged approach of containment, prevention, and outreach that has been developed in collaboration with partners. Eradicating existing populations of invasive mussels is not possible with current technologies; therefore, emphasis will be placed on containing the invasion within the Lower Colorado River Basin, the primary source for further invasion in the waters of the western U.S. Actions in FY 2015 will minimize the number of trailered boats carrying invasive mussels to other waters by implementing coordinated strategies with partners that promote public compliance, improve communication between partners, educate and assist marina operators and water body managers, and facilitate heightened law enforcement.

Asian carp also continue to be a high priority for the AIS Program. The spread of Asian carp toward the Great Lakes is one of the most acute threats facing this key natural resource and its multi-billion dollar fishery. Since 2010, the Administration has aggressively focused on managing the Asian carp invasion into the Great Lakes. Additional effort is needed on the upper Mississippi, Ohio, Missouri rivers, and other high-risk watersheds as identified in the draft National Asian Carp Surveillance Plan, which will likely be finalized in 2015.

Base funding includes support for work to prevent the spread of Asian carp in the Great Lakes Basin, and the upper Mississippi and Ohio rivers. These funds support sampling with eDNA and traditional gear as part of a comprehensive surveillance and monitoring program for Asian carp species. Funds also support coordinated, early detection, rapid assessment, containment, response, and control outside the Great Lakes in high-risk ecosystems, such as the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, in support of the National Asian Carp Management and Control Plan.

While most of the focus is on Asian carp and zebra and quagga mussels, the Service will seek opportunities to manage other species where practical. The Service provides some support for invasive species control and management through the State and Interstate Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plans, and individual species management plans have also been developed that target specific species that pose the most immediate threat of further spread and damage. These plans are nationally coordinated and developed under the auspices of NANPCA and the ANSTF. The Service continues to provide a leadership role in leveraging funds and bringing partners together. However, limited funding has reduced our ability to address other critical unwanted species such as ruffe, mitten crab, brown tree snake, New Zealand mudsnail, and apple snail, as the Service will direct over 65 percent of the AIS Program's funding toward programs to manage Asian carp and quagga and zebra mussels. The Service will continue to work with the States and other partners to address critical pathways of introduction and spread for other aquatic invasive species where practical and feasible given available and leveraged resources.

Invasive Carp jump out of the water when agitated by boat motors, creating dangerous boating hazards.

Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation Performance Overview and Change

Performance Measure	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Target	2016 PB	Change from 2015 Target to 2016 PB
12.2.3 - # of aquatic invasive species populations controlled/managed (annually) - FWMA	19	19	27	31	31	31	0
12.2.6 - # of activities conducted to support the management/control of aquatic invasive species - FWMA	220	261	212	188	149	220	71
12.2.7 - # of public awareness campaigns conducted and supported re: invasive species	2	2	2	2	2	2	0
12.2.9 - # of risk assessments conducted to evaluate potentially invasive aquatic species - annual	235	1,053	291	363	200	350	150
12.2.11 - # of surveys conducted for baseline/trend information for aquatic invasive species	311	398	342	305	236	342	106
12.2.12 - # of surveys conducted for early detection and rapid response for aquatic invasive species	185	254	224	154	103	152	49
12.2.13 - # of state/interstate management plans supported to prevent and control aquatic invasive species (annually)	36	38	39	41	41	44	3
12.2.14 - # of partnerships established and maintained for invasive species tasks	498	452	468	416	300	321	21
Comments:	The projected increases in performance noted above are because of the requested funding increase for Aquatic Invasive Species.						
CSF 5.1 - % of fish species of management concern that are managed to self-sustaining levels, in cooperation with affected States, tribes, and others, as defined in approved management documents (GPRA)	8% (17 of 213)	17% (39 of 233)	24% (45 of 185)	24% (44 of 183)	24% (45 of 185)	24% (45 of 185)	0%
5.1.2.6 - % of populations of native aquatic non-T&E species that are self-sustaining in the wild, as prescribed in management plans - FWMA	25% (435 of 1,723)	32% (525 of 1,632)	32% (536 of 1,668)	33% (533 of 1,635)	32% (531 of 1,637)	32% (531 of 1,637)	0%

Performance Measure	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Target	2016 PB	Change from 2015 Target to 2016 PB
5.1.11 - # of fish passage barriers removed or bypassed - Fisheries	139	158	162	158	137	171	34
5.1.12 - # of miles reopened to fish passage - Fisheries	1,205	2,032	3,795	2,554	1,891	2,736	845
5.1.13 - # of acres reopened to fish passage - Fisheries	36,798	18,552	7,444	2,856	1,083	2,950	1,867
Comments:	The projected increases in performance noted above for FY2016 are because of the requested funding increase in Fish Passage Improvements.						
CSF 5.3 - Percent of tasks implemented, as prescribed in management plans	58% (2,525 of 4,384)	56% (2,568 of 4,600)	53% (2,639 of 5,020)	51% (2,640 of 5,176)	51% (2,640 of 5,171)	49% (3,621 of 7464)	-3%
5.3.1.6 - % of tasks implemented, as prescribed in management plans - FWMA	38% (1,828 of 4,872)	36% (2,012 of 5,568)	29% (2,049 of 7,052)	29% (2,114 of 7,367)	24% (1,817 of 7,723)	23% (1,814 of 7,723)	0%
CSF 7.21 - % of populations of aquatic T&E species that are self-sustaining in the wild	10% (71 of 689)	11% (80 of 711)	11% (75 of 680)	12% (85 of 698)	12% (84 of 710)	12% (84 of 710)	0%
7.21.5.6 - % of tasks implemented as prescribed in Recovery Plans - FWMA	39% (535 of 1,379)	35% (517 of 1,471)	29% (492 of 1,670)	35% (551 of 1,588)	27% (446 of 1,650)	27% (444 of 1,650)	0%
7.21.5.7 - Number of Recovery Plan tasks implemented by the Fisheries Program - FWMA (GPRA)	535	517	492	551	446	444	-2
CSF 18.1 - Percent of planned tasks implemented for Tribal fish and wildlife conservation as prescribed by Tribal plans or agreements	63% (349 of 555)	68% (367 of 538)	63% (366 of 586)	62% (416 of 668)	60% (400 of 668)	50% (381 of 761)	-10%
18.1.3 - % of planned tasks implemented for Tribal fish and wildlife conservation as prescribed by Tribal plans or agreements - FWMA	36% (232 of 643)	39% (263 of 670)	42% (260 of 630)	48% (302 of 633)	28% (212 of 765)	28% (212 of 765)	0%
18.1.6 - # of training sessions to support Tribal fish and wildlife conservation	128	124	94	132	92	92	0
18.1.9 - # of new or modified cooperative agreements with Tribes or IPA Agreements that support Tribal fish and wildlife conservation	3	5	6	6	12	9	-3
18.1.12 - # of consultations conducted to support Tribal fish and wildlife conservation	213	257	296	507	301	299	-2
Comments:	The projected decreases in performance noted above are because of the requested decrease in Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement funding.						

Cooperative Landscape Conservation

Activity: Cooperative Landscape Conservation

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2015 (+/-)
Cooperative Landscape Conservation	($000)	14,416	13,988	+163	0	+3,718	17,869	+3,881
	FTE	*74*	*74*	*0*	*0*	*+3*	*77*	*+3*

Summary of 2016 Program Changes for Cooperative Landscape Conservation

Request Component	($000)	FTE
• Landscape Conservation Cooperatives	+3,718	+3
Program Changes	**+3,718**	**+3**

Justification of 2016 Program Changes

The 2016 budget request for Cooperative Landscape Conservation is $17,869,000 and 77 FTE, a net program change of +$3,718,000 and +3 FTE from the 2015 Enacted.

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (+$3,718,000/+3 FTE)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) focuses funding and support on those Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) that are best able to deliver priority conservation outcomes as defined by LCC partners, while supporting the integrated network of 22 LCCs. The requested funding will continue this strategy of rewarding high performing LCCs, while also maintaining support for the interconnected LCC network. The requested increase will expand operational capacity that is needed to build and sustain partnerships that address a full range of conservation challenges across the nation in collaboration with other Federal agencies, State agencies, tribes, industry, non-governmental organizations (NGO), academic institutions, and the conservation community at large. This collaborative effort enhances the Service's ability to obtain information that can be used to improve or augment many of the Service's ongoing conservation efforts, such as Endangered Species Recovery Plans, Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP), fish passage, habitat restoration, and conservation partnerships with States for species before listing is needed, and minimizing or avoiding regulatory impacts altogether. Individually and working as a network, LCCs will inform and facilitate conservation through the following actions:

- develop shared, measurable biological objectives with partners for populations of priority species to guide conservation design and delivery;
- apply and refine population-habitat models and other decision-support tools that will enable partners to manage species more effectively at landscape scales;
- apply climate models to predict effects on fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats;
- design and evaluate short- and long-term wildlife adaptation approaches that will help conserve populations at landscape scales;
- identify and, when necessary, design protocols and methodologies best suited to monitoring and inventorying species, habitats, and ecological functions and structures at landscape scales; and
- identify high-priority research and technology needs.

Program Overview

The last century has seen great changes in the landscapes and seascapes across North America, the Pacific Islands, and the Caribbean. Our natural areas face increasing pressure to meet the demands of a growing, more urban human population. Global and national conservation challenges like development pressure, resource extraction, wildfire, drought, invasive species, changing ocean conditions, and other impacts to

our land, water, and wildlife are magnified by a rapidly changing climate. These challenges are greater than any one organization can meet alone; partnerships across Federal, state, local, tribal, and private entities will be essential in a successful response to these complex challenges to conservation.

In spite of past successes in conservation, our stewardship of oceans, lands, and waters must evolve to address the ecological processes that support the wildlife, peoples, and cultures of North America. These challenges demand innovative approaches to resource management and conservation based on collaboration and require a longer-term view than traditional decision making. Further, these challenges require an unprecedented collective effort to better understand the specifics of threats we face, and inspire coordinated action to address them.

Acknowledgement of these emerging challenges was framed by the State wildlife agencies as early as 1993 at the 58th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in a panel on strategies for improving fish and wildlife agency effectiveness. At the same time, Federal resource management agencies were recognizing that project or issue level actions were not effective in addressing the scale and scope of changes across the landscape.

The Service instituted the LCC network to build on examples of large-scale conservation partnerships such as the Migratory Bird Joint Ventures and large-scale restoration efforts in the biologically rich Florida Everglades. These examples have been successful because they included a diverse array of partners who identified shared priorities and committed to a sustained effort over decades to achieve their collective vision. Like large-scale conservation successes of the past, LCCs establish a forum to identify shared goals with a host of influential partners, thereby leveraging capacity for sustained long-term effort and increasing the likelihood of conservation victories. LCCs provide a framework for the Service to achieve our mission by working with States, tribes, Federal agencies, NGOs, universities, and other conservation partners to address these challenges that cross political and geographic boundaries, and occur at broader spatial and temporal scales.

The LCCs are the only systematic and integrated network of partnerships that span the entire U.S. where entities with statutory authorities, responsibilities, or land management interests can come together to consider larger landscape perspectives, to identify shared goals and leverage resources, and to collectively develop conservation solutions for natural and cultural resources. Commitment to the LCCs as effective and efficient partnership forums is demonstrated by the formal participation of over 250 organizations on LCC steering committees and technical committees. These participants represent a diverse consortium of federal and state agencies, NGOs, tribes, and other partners, and are engaged in the LCCs as partners in priority setting and in providing support through financial, staffing, and other resources. LCCs help Federal agencies, including the Service, and partners to address complex resource management challenges by serving as forums to align large-scale conservation efforts. LCCs help the Service and partners identify potential redundancies and opportunities to leverage resources across conservation efforts, share and interpret data, identify regional monitoring and science needs including research and modeling, and evaluate and facilitate decision-support tools.

LCCs are applied conservation science partnerships with two main functions. The first is to promote collaboration among their members in defining shared conservation goals. With these goals in mind, partners can identify where and how they will take action, within their own authorities and organizational priorities, to best contribute to the larger conservation effort. LCCs do not place limits on partners; rather, they help partners to see how their activities can “fit” with those of other partners to achieve a bigger and more lasting impact.

The second function of LCCs is to provide the science and technical expertise needed to address the shared priorities and support conservation planning at landscape scales – beyond the scope and authority

of any one organization. Through the efforts of in-house staff and science-oriented partners, LCCs are generating the tools, methods, and data that managers need to design and deliver conservation using the adaptive management, Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) approach. The LCCs keep an ongoing dialog between scientists and resource managers to create a mechanism for informed conservation planning, effective conservation delivery, and adaptive monitoring to evaluate the effects of management actions.

The importance and value of these two functions for the long-term conservation of natural resources is widely recognized among the scientific and resource management communities, as demonstrated within the *National, Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy.* For example, identifying a connected network of priority areas for natural resource conservation and other investments builds climate resilience and benefits wildlife management, mitigation investments, and water and air quality, among other values. The LCCs provide the partnership frameworks and science that enable states, federal agencies and other stakeholders to undertake the coordinated planning and strategic actions necessary for sustaining America's natural resources.

The Service has worked with a diverse suite of partners to establish the international network of LCCs. Initially nine LCCs were established in 2010 and 13 more were initiated in 2011 and 2012, with the Service having lead administrative responsibility for 17 of the 22 LCCs, and the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service, and U.S. Forest Service having lead or co-lead administrative responsibility for five LCCs. Some LCCs have staff from state fish and wildlife agencies, and LCCs with geographies crossing international borders have steering committees that include international organizations/agencies. Regardless of which agency or bureau has primary administrative responsibility, the LCCs are unique in that they are inter-organizational partnerships that are directed not by a single agency, but by steering committees whose members all have equal seats at the table. This participatory co-governance model builds trust and ownership and is important for the effective conservation of resources at landscape-scales.

Management Structure

The organizational model of the LCC Network was intentionally structured to operate as a coordinated network of regionally-focused self-directed partnerships. Self-direction and regional focus are important for individual LCCs to enable latitude for engaging local stakeholders on relevant high-priority issues within their geographies. Network coordination is important for LCCs as a larger collective to address issues at the appropriate ecological scale, share best practices, leverage resources, and find economies of scale.

The LCCs, as guided by their steering committees, address a full range of conservation challenges across the Nation as they work collaboratively with other federal agencies, state agencies, tribes, industry, NGOs, academic institutions, and the conservation community at large. Building upon the effort of existing partnerships, LCCs promote efficient and effective targeting of federal dollars to obtain and analyze the science necessary for the Service and its partners to develop landscape-scale conservation models protecting fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats. This collaborative effort also enhances the Service's ability to collect information that can be used to improve or augment many conservation efforts such as pre-Endangered Species Act listing partnerships with states, Endangered Species Recovery Plans, National Wildlife Refuge CCPs, Joint Ventures, fish passage, and habitat restoration.

An LCC Council (Council) has been established to support the cooperative large-scale conservation efforts of the LCCs. The Council, selected by a team of LCC partners, serves as the national voice for the LCC network, providing a platform for highlighting LCC successes and challenges. The Council will meet biannually to consider high-priority issues, identify the ecological and institutional challenges facing

LCCs that should be addressed on a national level, and make recommendations to support the LCC network. The LCC Council composition is meant to be reflective of the LCC network as a whole.

Functioning as a Network

To enable shared direction across all LCCs, the Landscape Conservation Cooperative Network has developed a statement of Vision and Mission that has been affirmed by the 22 LCC steering committees:

Vision

Landscapes capable of sustaining natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.

Mission

A network of cooperatives depends on LCCs to:

- Develop and provide integrated science-based information about the implications of stressors for the sustainability of natural and cultural resources;
- develop shared, landscape-level, conservation objectives and inform conservation strategies that are based on a shared scientific understanding about the landscape, including the implications of current and future environmental stressors;
- facilitate the exchange of applied science in the implementation of conservation strategies and products developed by LCCs or their partners;
- monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of LCC conservation strategies in meeting shared objectives; and
- develop appropriate linkages that connect LCCs to ensure an effective network**.**

The LCC Network Strategic Plan was completed in 2014 and identifies four strategic goal areas (conservation strategy, collaborative conservation, science, and communications) that support the LCC Network's Vision and Mission. Addressing these science priorities will provide benefit and add value to the work of individual LCCs (e.g., their missions, goals, priorities) and to the LCC Network as a whole.

Partner Support

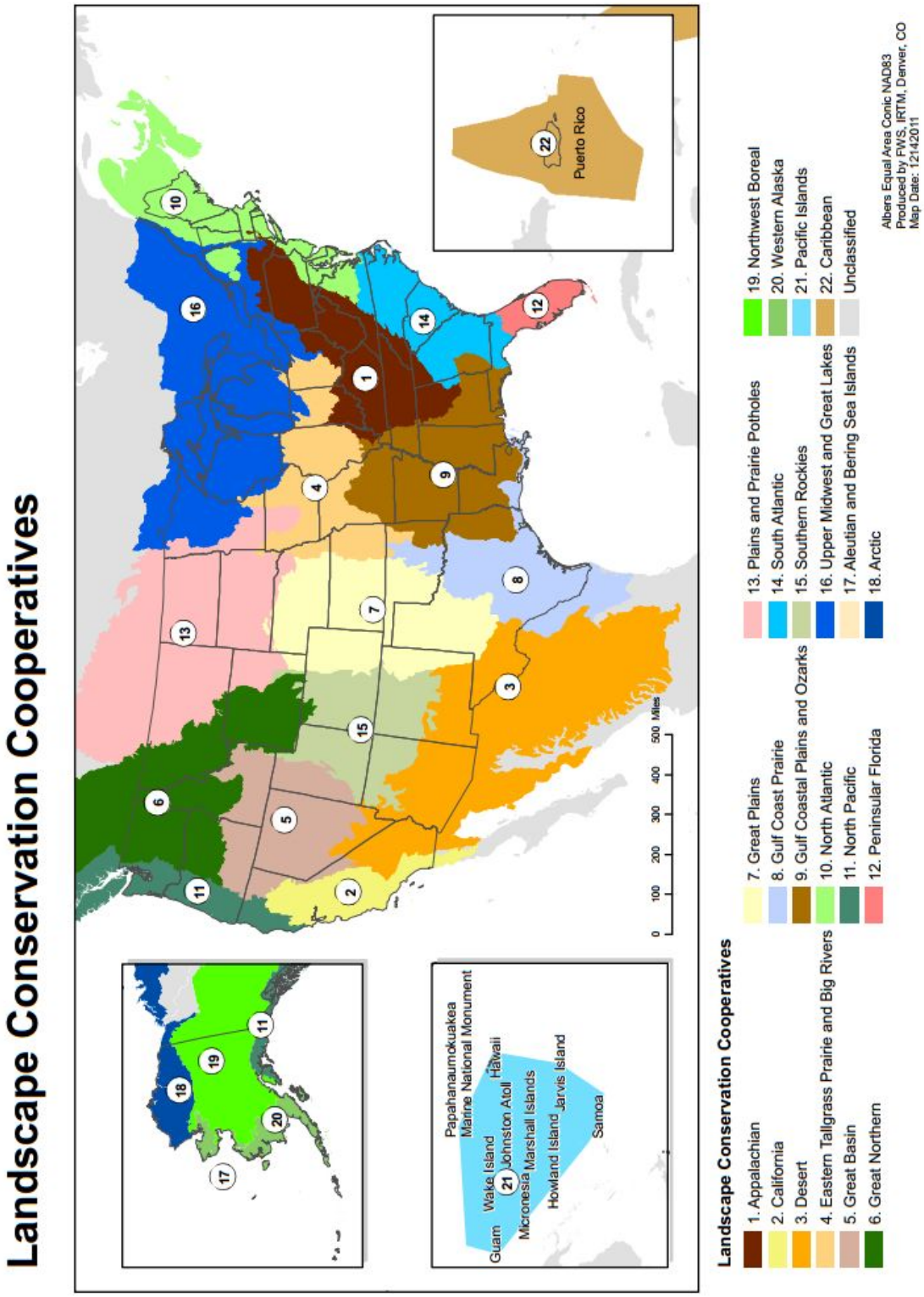
The importance that state fish and wildlife agencies place on the LCCs is also evident in that their directors and staff are engaged with LCCs and provide invaluable support and leadership. LCCs complement and build on existing cooperative science and conservation entities such as fish habitat partnerships and Migratory Bird Joint Ventures as well as other efforts which focus on water resources and land protection. LCCs also benefit from their work with the U.S. Geological Survey's Climate Science Centers and Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units, as well as the National Park Service's Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units. LCCs often use existing facilities and infrastructure of conservation partners, thereby greatly reducing expenditures for space and associated costs. For example, the LCC Coordinator for the Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks LCC works out of offices provided by State agency partners and the staff of the South Atlantic LCC is housed in the main office of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

Science Investment and Accountability Schedule (SIAS)

SIAS is an assessment tool developed in response to Congressional direction on establishing clear goals, objectives, and measurable outcomes for LCCs. In support of the Service's mission and Strategic Habitat Conservation framework, the SIAS will help guide the Service's investment and participation in each LCC and in the LCC Network to ensure effectiveness, efficiency, and transparency. The Service

recognizes that the LCC Network is a broad partnership relying on multiple investments, and the construction of SIAS reflects many of the values of these partners.

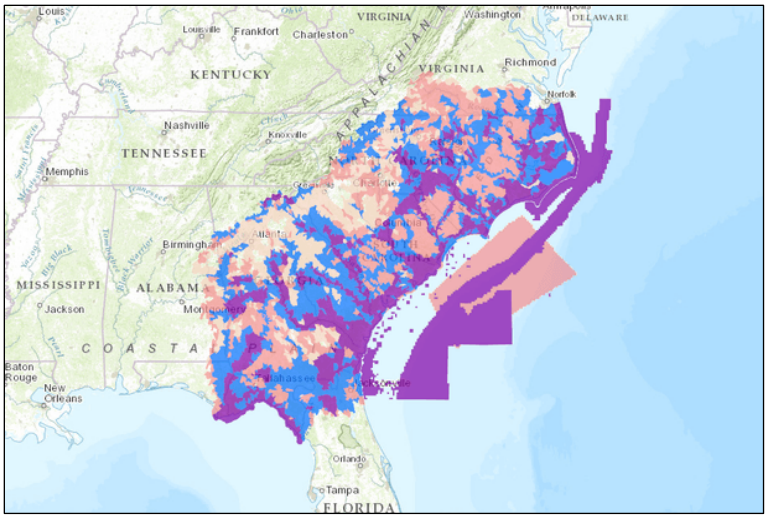
Following the SIAS structure, each LCC will establish explicit conservation objectives and targets and then prepare biological plans and landscape conservation designs (LCD) in support of achieving these targets. In FY 2016, more attention will be directed toward establishing landscape-scale conservation targets and objectives for the priority species and habitats collaboratively identified by LCC steering committees. As a result, partners can better align their funding and personnel to implement or complement specific activities laid out in the landscape conservation designs. As this occurs, LCCs will devote more time and resources to designing and implementing monitoring and evaluation efforts capable of determining the extent of those successes, while refining and improving science and planning tools which will benefit future biological planning and conservation delivery.


Landscape Conservation Cooperatives
Puerto Rico
Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument
Guam
Wake Island
Johnston Atoll
Hawaii
Micronesia
Marshall Islands
Howland Island
Jarvis Island
Samoa
0 100 200 300 400 500 Miles
Landscape Conservation Cooperatives
1. Appalachian
2. California
3. Desert
4. Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Big Rivers
5. Great Basin
6. Great Northern
7. Great Plains
8. Gulf Coast Prairie
9. Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks
10. North Atlantic
11. North Pacific
12. Peninsular Florida
13. Plains and Prairie Potholes
14. South Atlantic
15. Southern Rockies
16. Upper Midwest and Great Lakes
17. Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands
18. Arctic
19. Northwest Boreal
20. Western Alaska
21. Pacific Islands
22. Caribbean
Unclassified
Albers Equal Area Conic NAD83
Produced by FWS, IRTM, Denver, CO
Map Date: 12142011

Key Examples and Accomplishments

- **Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy (SECAS) - Defining the Future Conservation Landscape of the Southeast US**
  The Directors of the State fish and wildlife agencies of the southeast, collectively known as the Southeastern Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA), initiated SECAS in the fall of 2011, and requested that the LCCs provide the scientific and technical forum for developing the shared conservation vision. SEAFWA state agencies and the federal resource agencies of the Southeast Natural Resource Leaders Group (SENRLG) recognize that the jurisdiction of a single State or agency no longer provides sufficient scope to effectively plan and mitigate for the future conservation challenges. Their vision for SECAS is to provide predictive tools focused on fish, wildlife and habitat that can help avoid conflicting decisions among state, territorial, local and federal governments and business while also adapting management to future conditions**.** The LCCs in the Gulf region are working closely with States and other partners on the SECAS. The LCCs include the Gulf Coast Prairie, Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks, South Atlantic, Appalachian, Peninsular Florida, and Caribbean. Collectively, these six LCCs span 15 states and the territory of Puerto Rico.

  SECAS is setting shared conservation priorities across the region, developing the science needed for success, and leveraging resources across states, federal agencies, private landowners, and non-government organizations to maximize efficiency and on-the-ground results. SECAS has a shared, long-term vision for lands and waters that sustain fish and wildlife populations and improve human quality of life in the southeast U.S. This vision provides regional focus for investments across organizations, disciplines, and partnerships. Current and future generations rely on the nation's fish and wildlife resources and habitats, both publicly and privately owned. Sea level rise, urbanization, habitat fragmentation, and exotic species are affecting species and habitats across the region. In the face of these threats, this partnership is creating opportunities for transformative change in how conservation is planned and resources are managed.



South Atlantic Conservation Blueprint map

One of the tools that is forming the foundation of SECAS is the South Atlantic Conservation Blueprint, developed by the South Atlantic LCC, which identifies conservation priorities shared with many state partners and other stakeholders across the region. Now, all coalition members have a shared vision they can use to target their conservation investments and achieve greater results than any individual organization could have accomplished alone. The effort has generated so much momentum that the collaboration is expanding to include all 15 southeastern States and will help develop a landscape plan to realize SECAS's vision.

Over the next five years, the southeast LCCs will:

- Build a Landscape Conservation Design habitat network for the southeastern U.S. based upon shared conservation priorities.
- Integrate major existing conservation plans across the southeast.
- Assess vulnerabilities, such as sea level rise along the Gulf coast, future urban growth, and river flow alterations.
- Improve how resource management decisions are made to facilitate implementing conservation priorities.
- Develop tools to help partners, resource managers, and community leaders better target conservation actions.

- **Conserving Imperiled Species**
  LCCs have worked with many partners to conserve imperiled species. For example, LCC investments supported a 5-State partnership with the assistance of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to conserve the lesser prairie-chicken. The effort has resulted in thousands of acres of conservation and regulatory relief for many landowners throughout the species' range. In addition, LCCs have provided important support to the 11-State coalition created to conserve the greater sage-grouse before an Endangered Species Act listing decision is required. LCCs will continue to work collaboratively with Federal and State agencies, industries, NGOs, and private landowners to address the conservation of declining species in priority landscapes. State fish and wildlife agencies will continue to play a key role in providing expertise to identify the specific management needs of species, priority areas to do this work, and receptive landowners. LCC science capacity will support this effort by:

Lesser prairie-chicken

  - Identifying the best core areas within the priority landscapes that can provide for the needs of numerous species within the landscape;
  - Designing ranking criteria to deliver project funding where it will do the most good; and
  - Developing an efficient monitoring program to measure species and habitat outcomes across a landscape.

- **Mississippi River Basin / Gulf Hypoxia Initiative**
  Midwestern states within the Upper Mississippi River watershed currently contribute the greatest nutrient load to the Gulf of Mexico hypoxic (reduced oxygen) zone. To reduce downstream water quality impacts to fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico, the conservation community needs tools that prioritize the design and configuration of actions that appeal to upstream agricultural communities. The Mississippi River Basin/Gulf Hypoxia Initiative (MRB/GH) is spearheaded by seven LCCs (Plains and Prairie Potholes, Upper Midwest and Great Lakes, Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Big Rivers, Appalachian, Great Plains, Gulf Coast Prairie, Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks). This initiative is undertaking a strategic and transparent process to create an integrated framework that supports planning, design, configuration, and delivery of wildlife conservation practices within the watershed.

Salt Marsh along the Texas Gulf Coast
Photo Credit: Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks LCC

This framework consists of multiple quantitative objectives representing three interests (wildlife, water quality, agriculture), a tiered set of conservation strategies to achieve those objectives within five production agriculture systems (corn and soybeans, grazing lands, floodplain forest, rice, and cotton), and a modeling approach to determine where to best implement those actions within four key ecological systems of the Mississippi River Basin. Additional scenario planning for landscape change could provide forecast and adaptation strategies over a range of time scales across fundamental portions of this landscape in response to ecological or economic drivers.

The initiative will use this framework to address collaborative needs that will enhance capacity, avoid duplication of effort, streamline prioritization, and align the work of agencies and organizations across multiple scales. This effort is intended to be complementary to related ongoing efforts like the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Task Force, Mississippi River Basin Initiative, and State nutrient reduction initiatives, but with an added emphasis on the ecological and social values of wildlife habitat.

- **Bringing Alaska's Hydrography into the 21st Century**
  The National Hydrography Dataset is a vital reference data source for mapped waterbodies, flow lines, and stream topologies. This information is essential to adaptation planning for aquatic systems, among other uses. However, the National Hydrography Dataset in Alaska is based on 1950s topography, has much lower resolution than the continental US, and contains numerous errors and out-of-date information. Updating this dataset for Alaska is too technical and expensive for any single organization to tackle alone. To address this common bottleneck, the five Alaskan LCCs (Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands, Arctic, Northwest Boreal, Western Alaska, North Pacific) have led a collaborative effort to establish a statewide framework to improve hydrography mapping and stewardship in Alaska. This includes updating the National Hydrography Dataset, improving data sharing and use, and making data updates accessible, affordable, and coordinated. Key partners working with the Service include the State of Alaska, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Forest Service, and Fish Habitat Partnerships.

- **Connecticut River Watershed Landscape Conservation Design**
  In the Connecticut River watershed and across the nation, large connected natural areas provide habitat for fish, wildlife, and plants and provide jobs, food, clean water, storm protection, recreation, and many other natural benefits that support people and communities. Facilitated by the Service and supported by the North Atlantic LCC, the Connecticut River Watershed Landscape Conservation Design (LCD) is a collaborative effort to plan and design such a landscape.

  The LCD will use the best available science to help partners set goals and measurable objectives for representative species of fish and wildlife (and supporting ecosystems) and translate those into projections of the amount, type, and distribution of habitat needed to sustain them at those levels. Landscape conservation designs informed by this planning effort will guide collective conservation actions within the watershed and connect to broader regional conservation goals for conserving sustainable fish and wildlife populations.

  LCD deliverables will include information, maps, and tools that show landscape conservation design options for prioritizing conservation actions needed in the Connecticut River watershed and analysis of lessons learned that can be applied to landscape conservation design in other landscapes across the northeast.

2016 Program Performance

National Academy of Science Evaluation of the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

As part of the H.R. 3547/Public Law 113-76 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014, Congress directed the Service to commission a review of its LCC program. The Service has contracted with the National Academy of Sciences to evaluate the purpose, goals, and scientific merits of the LCC program within the context of similar programs. In addition, the study will evaluate early successes and the program's impact with regard to improvements in the health of fish, wildlife, and their habitats, and will include an examination of the Service's strategy to assess the effectiveness of the LCC program. The final report is expected in the fall of 2015.

Science Support

Activity: Science Support

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2015 (+/-)
Adaptive Science	($000)	10,767	10,517	+10	0	+4,632	15,159	+4,642
	FTE	*5*	*5*	*0*	*0*	*+5*	*10*	*+5*
Service Science	($000)	6,468	6,468	+31	-35	+10,052	16,516	+10,048
	FTE	*16*	*16*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*16*	*0*
Total, Science Support	**($000)**	**17,235**	**16,985**	**+41**	**-35**	**+14,684**	**31,675**	**+14,690**
	FTE	***21***	***21***	***0***	***0***	***+5***	***26***	***+5***

Program Overview

The FWS Science Support activity addresses science needs using Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) as a guiding framework. Both Adaptive Science and Service Science:

- are highly collaborative and take advantage of the contributions of many partners;
- emphasize a landscape scale approach to conservation; and
- incorporate flexible decision making in an adaptive management framework that integrates science and management and makes adjustments that increase effectiveness despite challenges that may arise.

While adaptive management has been embraced by the Service for many years, its use today is even more essential as the challenges to successful conservation of fish and wildlife are compounded by a variety of growing stressors. An adaptive management framework includes setting measurable objectives, making resource management investments and decisions, systematically assessing results against expected outcomes, then making adjustments for future strategies and actions. Careful monitoring of outcomes from management actions and other events advances scientific understanding, helps adjust policies or operations, and ensures future decisions are not made simply by "trial-and-error," but on the basis of experience and the best available science. The kinds of science the Service needs to achieve these critically-important outcomes include:

Species Risk and Vulnerability Assessments – These assessments are the essential first step in deciding where to focus conservation activities and where additional scientific information is necessary for conservation.

Inventory and Monitoring – The Service will participate in inventory and monitoring programs, develop or acquire systems for managing data, and evaluate assumptions and scientific information used in models that link populations to their habitats and other limiting factors. The Service will coordinate its inventory and monitoring programs with other Bureaus, especially the National Park Service, and integrate its data and results with those of other agencies.

Population and Habitat Assessments – These assessments will improve the Service's understanding of the relationship among species as well as between species and their habitats at various spatial scales. This information will be used to predict how environmental change will affect populations of fish and wildlife and their habitats, and how various management treatments can reduce or avoid those effects.

Biological Planning and Conservation Design – Capacity for biological planning and conservation design includes highly-specialized expertise, training and tools, and the use of complex statistical methods and

modeling. The Service will establish targets and objectives, examine management options, identify their strengths and weaknesses, and ultimately identify the mix of conservation actions that have the greatest likelihood of achieving the desired biological and ecological outcomes (i.e., Landscape Conservation Designs).

Management Evaluation and Research – The Service will use scientific "learning" to provide essential feedback for adaptive management. Science funding will support evaluations and research to answer questions that arise from habitat and species responses to management actions. Targeted research will enable the Service to fill information gaps and reduce uncertainty.

Conservation Genetics – Conservation genetics research identifies distinct population and management units. Biological assessments, conservation design strategies, and conservation delivery activities are most effective when they recognize the genetic population structure of a given species. Maintaining genetic diversity is essential for maintaining healthy, resilient populations of fish, wildlife and plants.

ADAPTIVE SCIENCE supports the work of our network of Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) partnerships to better manage natural resources across broad areas. These partnerships work with six Interior bureaus, a diverse suite of other Federal agencies, State natural resource agencies, tribes, and other public and private partners to identify and implement landscape-scale conservation solutions to address on-the-ground conservation management questions.

SERVICE SCIENCE supports the needs of Service programs for information that can improve decision-making for refuge management, endangered species listing and recovery, regulatory decisions, data management, and other activities that support science excellence. To be effective in its mission delivery, the Service requires focused, applied science to answer questions about threats to trust fish and wildlife resources for explicit and timely decision-making. Improved information leads to better decisions for maintaining species at healthy, sustainable, and desired levels. Service Science funding is used to conduct studies, develop models, and secure scientific expertise to help managers interpret and apply the best knowledge available.

Science Support funding is used to help the Service and the larger conservation community sustain fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats across the Nation by building our understanding of natural resource issues. Science funds will be used to build the science capacity necessary to help ensure that the Service fulfills its regulatory and management responsibilities for threatened and endangered species, migratory birds, marine mammals, and inter-jurisdictional fish. Priorities in this area include:

- White-Nose Syndrome - The Service will apply funding to three primary focus areas: research, monitoring/management, and outreach to help save imperiled bats.
- Energy generation and transmission - Research methods to minimize the effects of development and maintenance projects on bald and golden eagles, bats, prairie chickens, sage-grouse, desert tortoise, and other species to better conserve them, and to more efficiently review and permit needed energy infrastructure.
- Carbon sequestration - Develop and test tools and guidelines that can be used to identify the lands with the greatest current or potential carbon stocks and/or sequestration values.
- Wildlife adaptation - Develop decision support tools for land management and other users to address the impact of stressors and threats on fish, wildlife, and their habitats including changing distributions and migration patterns, the spread of diseases and invasive species, and changes in freshwater availability due to shifting precipitation patterns.
- Surrogate species - Use surrogate species to develop, implement, and test conservation strategies to make more efficient conservation decisions and improve resource management in cooperation with state fish and wildlife agencies and other partners.

Activity: Science Support
Subactivity: Adaptive Science

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2015 (+/-)
Adaptive Science	($000)	10,767	10,517	+10	0	+4,632	15,159	+4,642
	FTE	*5*	*5*	*0*	*0*	*+5*	*10*	*+5*

Summary of 2016 Program Changes for Adaptive Science

Request Component	($000)	FTE
• Adaptive Science Activities	+4,132	+5
• Biological Carbon Sequestration	+500	0
Program Changes	+4,632	**+5**

Justification of Program Changes

The 2016 budget request for Adaptive Science is $15,159,000 and 10 FTE, a net program change of +$4,632,000 and +5 FTE from the 2015 Enacted.

Adaptive Science (+$4,132,000/+5 FTE)
This increase continues the Service's strategy of supporting best performing LCCs to deliver priority conservation outcomes while also building the larger capacity of the interconnected LCC network by providing the science, information, and tools needed to better define, design, and help partners strategically support conservation. The LCCs will utilize the Science Investment and Accountability Schedule (SIAS) as a primary component of a performance standards system to help identify, prioritize, and target Adaptive Science funding to address key uncertainties, and other information needs of planners and managers in the LCC partnerships. Results of this work are needed to inform and evaluate conservation management decisions as part of the adaptive management framework. Types of projects that could be funded include: developing species adaptation models in the face of a changing climate, designing decision tools to better forecast the spread of invasive species, and continuing to develop science tools to inform landscape conservation design to better target conservation.

Biological Carbon Sequestration (+$500,000/+0 FTE)
Funding for biological carbon sequestration will allow the Service to identify lands with the greatest current or potential carbon stocks and the most important conservation value. Working with LCCs, the US Geological Survey (USGS) and its LandCarbon products, as well as other partners, the Service will identify and classify spatial distributions of habitats with high soil organic carbon and woody biomass levels and a high likelihood of future conversion. This increase focuses resources on research in priority landscapes that support the Service's climate adaptation strategy such as: the Pocosin wetlands of the eastern Carolinas (South Atlantic LCC) focusing on quantification of carbon stocks in peatlands and peatland restoration; the plains and prairie potholes of the Dakotas (Plains and Prairie Pothole LCC), focusing on prairie pothole acquisition and management planning; and the Boreal Forest Ecoregion of Alaska (Northwest Boreal LCC) focusing on the biological carbon sequestration and management needs.

Program Overview

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) are applied conservation science partnerships comprised of federal, state, and local governments, tribes, First Nations, non-governmental organizations (NGO), academic institutions, and interested public and private organizations. Each of the 22 LCCs is a self-directed partnership that functions as part of an international LCC Network. The LCC Network aspires to

develop an ecologically connected network of landscapes and seascapes to fulfill the LCC Network vision of landscapes capable of sustaining natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.

The LCCs produce and disseminate applied science products for resource management decisions. Funding supports development of scientific information, tools, and techniques that resource managers can apply to anticipate, monitor, and adapt to environmental changes and their effects on fish, wildlife, and cultural resources.

To facilitate landscape scale conservation within their geographies, LCCs support and conduct a variety of science efforts. Working collaboratively within individual LCCs, LCC staff and partners tackle large conservation challenges through a variety of activities, including, but not limited to: identifying best practices, connecting efforts, identifying science gaps, and conservation planning and design. The LCC Network Strategic Plan was completed in 2014 and identifies four strategic goals areas (conservation strategy, collaborative conservation, science, and communications) that support the Network's vision and mission.

Science Investment and Accountability Schedule (SIAS). SIAS is an assessment tool developed in response to Congressional direction on establishing clear goals, objectives, and measurable outcomes for LCCs. In support of the Service's mission and Strategic Habitat Conservation framework, the SIAS will help guide the Service's investment and participation in each LCC and in the LCC Network to ensure effectiveness, efficiency, and transparency. The Service recognizes that the LCC Network is a broad partnership relying on multiple investments, and the construction of SIAS reflects many of the values of these partners.

Following the SIAS structure, each LCC will establish explicit conservation objectives and targets and then prepare biological plans and landscape conservation designs in support of achieving these targets. In FY 2016, more attention will be directed toward establishing landscape-scale conservation targets and objectives for the priority or surrogate species and habitats collaboratively identified by LCC steering committees. As a result, partners can better align their funding and personnel to implement or complement specific activities laid out in the landscape conservation designs. As this occurs, LCCs will devote more time and resources to designing and implementing monitoring and evaluation efforts capable of determining the extent of those successes, while refining and improving science and planning tools which will benefit future biological planning and conservation delivery.

Key Examples and Accomplishments

- **Assessing Future Energy Development Across the Appalachians (Appalachian LCC)**
  The Appalachian LCC has completed a study to assess future energy development in the region, providing stakeholders access to information they need to lead productive discussions and make informed decisions on how to meet energy needs while sustaining healthy natural systems and the valuable services they provide. This research includes:
  - Individual energy models and reports that identify the scale, scope, and intensity of potential development across the Appalachians to demonstrate how energy development may affect land use change at both regional and local scales.
  - The areas where development is most likely to occur.
  - An online mapping tool that identifies potential

Appalachian Mountain Valley

development sites, allowing users to input their own natural resource information to determine where potential intersections occur.

- Identification of these intersections which allows users to focus on discerning areas of potential conflict to:
  - Help incorporate information into landscape-level development and conservation planning, and
  - Suggest areas needing additional localized assessment and evaluation to inform conservation planning, design, and delivery.

The study, models and mapping tool underscore the Appalachian LCC's commitment to serve as a forum for collaboration to deliver science that informs conservation planning and actions at local and regional scales.

- **Sage-grouse Conservation (Great Northern, Southern Rockies, Great Basin, and Plains and Prairie Potholes LCCs)**

  The Service, 11 Western States, and other partners have joined forces to conserve the greater sage-grouse, an imperiled species. LCCs are providing a forum for partners to collaborate and contribute to the science needed for this unprecedented and tremendous conservation effort. Federal and State agencies are working together to find the best way to conserve the species while sustaining working lands. Investments in LCCs are producing answers to key scientific questions and informing decisions that need to be made by the Service and its partners. LCCs are fostering scientific collaboration across a broad Western landscape that targets conservation investments toward the species' greatest needs. For example, LCC work has informed the design of wildland firebreaks, sagebrush steppe habitat restoration, and assessments of the health of sage-grouse in areas targeted for conservation efforts. Through engagement from LCCs in the sage-grouse conservation assessment effort:

  - We now understand how to reduce the threats of invasive species and wildland fire, two of the greatest threats to the species.
  - We have created a database to share best practices for land and wildlife managers that can be used by States and other organizations to positively impact sage-grouse habitat.

Greater sage-grouse

  State and Federal land and wildlife managers are now using a comprehensive geospatial map and database to share the best available science and build a comprehensive picture of sage-grouse conservation.

- **Adapting to Sea Level Rise Across the Pacific Coast (California and North Pacific LCCs)**

  Threats to the Pacific coast include rising sea levels, shifting precipitation patterns, erosion, and changing frequency and intensity of storms. The US Geological Survey, with support from the California and North Pacific LCCs, is modeling sea level rise to help develop adaptation strategies across the Pacific coast to provide valuable ecosystem services such as filtering pollutants from water and buffering cities from storm surge and flooding. Coastal models help natural resource managers at National Wildlife Refuges, State parks, military bases, and other locations plan for future flooding. Refuge managers in California, Oregon and Washington use the models to predict how tidal wetlands may change over time from marshes to deeper water habitats. This scenario planning leads to better long-term restoration decisions for priority species and habitats. These LCCs are convening other managers to identify how to incorporate climate science into management actions.

- **Prioritizing Barrier Removal to Restore Native Fish Migration in Great Lakes Tributaries (Upper Midwest and Great Lakes LCC)**
  Restoring access for anadromous fish to upstream areas for spawning and rearing young is a significant contribution to the improvement of stream health and water quality. Stream barriers such as dams and road crossings prevent native species, such as trout, from moving up and downstream to important habitat. The LCC has created a decision support tool to prioritize fish passage projects across the Great Lakes basin. The LCC identified over 275,000 total potential barriers, estimated the amount of new habitat that removal could create, and developed a tool for prioritizing barrier removals for a given budget. However, these barriers also help prevent invasive species from expanding into new areas. Federal and State fish managers seek to target dam and road removal to maximize opportunities for native species while minimizing spread of invasive species. The LCC is refining the tool to optimize native fish passage and minimize the spread of invasive species. Another goal is to establish a collaborative to develop shared goals for connectivity across the basin and use the tool to evaluate the pros and cons of barrier removal from a landscape-level perspective.

2016 Program Performance

In accordance with accomplishment reporting requirements of Circular A-11 and the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), the Service establishes performance measures and tracks results from its programs. Through FY 2014, the LCCs reported on six measures under Adaptive Science. These measures were predominately focused on output metrics. In FY 2015, the six performance measures were replaced with two new GPRA measures reported on by region. The new measures are:

1) The number of Landscape Conservation Designs (LCDs) available to inform management decisions.
2) Number of landscapes with surrogate species identified to support conservation actions.

Landscape Conservation Designs provide a foundation for collective impact in achieving individual and shared goals, meeting objectives for priority resources, and developing a network of large-scale geographies (landscapes) that provide functional habitat for fish, wildlife and plants. The first measure counts the number of LCDs available to support multi-scale management strategies and decisions tied to landscape-level objectives. These LCDs consist of an assessment of a landscape's current conditions; an assessment of the potential future conditions of the landscape using quantifiable biological, physical, and socio-economic objectives; and a high-level plan with recommendations on how to move the landscape from the current to a desired future condition.

The objective of the second measure is count the number of landscapes with identified surrogate species. Surrogate species are being used as a way to become more efficient in planning conservation actions and monitoring results on a landscape – it is too costly and almost impossible to evaluate and work on all species individually, so surrogates are being used to prioritize and focus conservation efforts to make better use of our limited resources. Ultimately, both surrogate species and LCDs would be developed for the same landscapes as they complement one another.

Adaptive Science Overview Table

Performance Goal	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Target	2016 PB	Change from 2015 Target to 2016 PB
4.8.7 - The number of Landscape Conservation Designs available to inform management decisions	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	14	14	0
4.8.8 - Number of landscapes with surrogate species identified to support conservation actions	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	29	29	0

Activity: Science Support
Subactivity: Service Science

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016				Change from 2015 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Service Science	($000)	6,468	6,468	+31	-35	+10,052	16,516	+10,048
	FTE	*16*	*16*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*16*	*0*

Summary of 2016 Program Changes for Service Science

Request Component	($000)	FTE
• Service Science Activities	+7,152	0
• Transmission Corridors and Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan	+1,400	0
• Ecosystem Services Valuation	+1,000	0
• Biological Carbon Sequestration—Development of decision support tools for land managers and other users	+500	0
Program Changes	**+10,052**	**0**

Justification of Program Changes

The 2016 budget request for Service Science is $16,516,000 and 16 FTE, a net program change of +$10,052,000 and 0 FTE from the 2015 Enacted.

Service Science (+$7,152,000/+0 FTE)

This increase will provide funding to obtain the scientific information and tools needed by the Service. It will be applied to strategically identified priorities that address the needs of on-the-ground resource managers across the Service. Global and national conservation challenges like development pressure, resource extraction, wildfire, drought, invasive species, changing ocean conditions, require an unprecedented effort to better understand the threats we face, and inspire coordinated action to address them. An evaluation team, led by the Assistant Director for Science Applications, will solicit, evaluate, and prioritize the projects for funding. The Service will partner with the US Geological Survey, universities, and others to acquire this priority science. It will be applied across the suite of Service programs, addressing challenges faced by refuges, endangered species, migratory birds, and fish and aquatic resources. Funding will support a cross-programmatic partnership to develop and support management actions addressing current and future threats to candidate and other at-risk species in landscapes with the highest concentration of these species. A clear emphasis of this capacity will be to develop applied science in the short- to mid-term time horizon that helps solve conservation questions and advance high priorities for the Service, States, and other partners. This additional science capacity will address critical issues such as:

- evaluating impacts to species, land and water resources from the development of wind, hydroelectric, solar, oil and gas energy production;
- developing information to help conserve priority species with States and other partners before Endangered Species Act listing is a consideration;
- developing decision tools and models, including risk assessments, for priority terrestrial and aquatic species and ecosystems;
- determining best management practices for combating invasive species; and
- developing a conservation strategy to address the 90% precipitous decline in monarch butterfly numbers over the past 20 years.

Transmission Corridors and the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (+$1,400,000/+0 FTE)

Energy development is key for the Nation's economy, and science investments can help strategically address conservation questions and minimize impacts on fish and wildlife. The Service's goal is to protect imperiled species and improve certainty for developers seeking to support the installation of renewable energy projects. Identifying high risk areas that should be avoided will reduce environmental costs and conflicts associated with energy development. Examples include minimizing the loss of golden eagles from strikes at wind energy facilities and power transmission lines, and reducing disturbance and direct mortality of desert tortoise at solar facilities. The Service will also use this funding increase to ensure that new energy facilities and transmission corridors avoid sensitive, endangered and threatened species to the greatest extent possible by:

- developing more robust risk analyses;
- determining the effectiveness of avoidance, minimization, and compensation measures;
- developing robust eagle monitoring protocols around proposed renewable energy projects;
- understanding factors that influence mortality to ensure proper siting of energy transmission corridors that minimize harm to wildlife, plants, and their habitats; and
- investigating behavioral and reproductive impacts on species of concern such as sage-grouse.

Ecosystem Services Valuation (+$1,000,000/+0 FTE)

The Service has been involved in efforts to value the many goods and services provided by natural lands, waters, and fish and wildlife resources for many years. For example, the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation is one of the major data sources on the well-documented recreational values of fish and wildlife resources in the United States. More recently, the Service supported research by a university to estimate the value of ecosystem services provided nationwide by the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS). The Service's Division of Economics has also investigated the economic benefits to local communities from public visitation of refuges and is overseeing research by a team from the University of Georgia on a wetland ecosystem service valuation module. Service efforts, including our work with USGS on carbon sequestration, is fundamental to valuing ecosystem services, if and when a domestic market for carbon sequestration emerges in the United States. More work is needed to understand the substantial value of the wide spectrum of services society derives from our native fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitat areas we maintain for their use.

As outlined in the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) *"Report to the President on Sustaining Environmental Capital: Protecting Society and the Economy"* it is important to include ecosystems valuation to inform planning and management decisions. The Service will use the requested increase to focus on describing the ecosystem services (e.g., flood and storm protection, water quality, carbon sequestration, recreation) provided by Service programs; learning if useable protocols exist for the measurement of each type of service; determining which types of services can currently be adequately valued monetarily; and selecting a subset of the types of ecosystem services whose quantities and values might be estimated system-wide. This short list of system-wide ecosystem services will then be used to estimate a baseline ecosystem services value for conservation activities.

Biological Carbon Sequestration—Development of decision support tools for land managers and other users (+$500,000/+0 FTE)

The Service recognizes the importance of considering carbon sequestration values in the protection and management of its lands, and is continually looking for data and tools to assist its land acquisition, management, and restoration practices. The US Geological Survey Biologic Carbon Sequestration Assessment (LandCarbon Project) has identified lands with high carbon sequestration capacity and the potential for future climate change, wildfire, land use change, and land management activities to modify that capacity. Using LandCarbon data products and maps, the Service will develop and test tools and guidelines that can be used to identify the lands with the greatest current or potential carbon stocks and/or

sequestration values for projects supporting: (1) restoration and acquisition activities in the National Wildlife Refuge System, such as the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge and other lands in Iowa, and (2) ecological restorations associated with Natural Resource Damage Assessment settlements and with restoration work conducted through Habitat Conservation programs. These tools and guidelines will help the Service choose the highest-priority lands for conservation or restoration by including biological carbon sequestration in the suite of factors used for conservation priority-setting.

Program Overview

Service Science funding is used to address science needs in support of on-the-ground management and conservation outside of Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC) and Adaptive Science activities. To be effective in its mission-delivery, the Service needs focused, applied science directed at high impact questions surrounding threats to fish and wildlife resources for which management and/or mitigation is required to maintain species at healthy, sustainable, desired levels. The Service must base its decisions on the best science available, in order to defend its regulatory decisions, biological opinions and species conservation recommendations to land managers. The Service partners with the US Geological Survey, other Federal and State agencies, universities, and other scientific institutions for acquiring scientific knowledge to answer imminent and important natural resource management questions and provide near-term solutions to address urgent and emerging issues.

Examples of Current Projects and the Prioritization and Selection Process

- **Bald and Golden Eagle Protection**

  The Service's mandate under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) is to ensure that authorization of incidental take is consistent with preserving bald and golden eagle populations.

Golden Eagle

  Prioritization Process: Under the Guidance of the Eagle Management Team (EMT), the Eagle Technical Assessment Team (ETAT) was developed to provide technical and scientific recommendations to the EMT and other Service eagle teams. This includes coordinating, prioritizing and implementing research needs for eagles, with policy direction from the EMT, as related to alternative energy development. The ETAT is composed of individuals representing the Service, US Geological Survey (USGS), National Park Service, US Department of Agriculture (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and Forest Service), and each Migratory Bird Flyway. Representatives have expertise in eagles, adaptive management and ecological modeling. The ETAT works cooperatively to better understand eagle populations, methods of avoidance and mitigation of eagle fatalities, and the overall population effects that wind turbines may be causing.

  To focus eagle research on those questions of greatest significance for eagle permitting under BGEPA, ETAT developed and distributed a list of priority questions signifying the "*Information needs of greatest importance to the conservation of North America's Golden Eagles*." Based on the list, the ETAT has been coordinating efforts to develop, fund and implement prioritized research projects. To date, the Service and USGS have partnered on at least eight priority science initiatives designed to improve knowledge of golden eagle population biology, improve eagle surveys and population monitoring and frame the adaptive management process for eagle take permits. The Service has undertaken a range of eagle studies including a status review, examination of survival and mortality, dispersal, monitoring, modeling on occupancy and fatality prediction. Research is still needed in areas such as fatality prediction models and estimating sustainable take, golden eagle DNA and stable isotope data, and risk modeling for wind turbines.

- **White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) Research**

  The Service is the lead federal agency coordinating the response to white-nose syndrome (WNS), and is the only federal agency to routinely offer grants for WNS outside of their agency through a process of open competition. Since 2008 the Service has awarded approximately $9 million in grants to support research and actions to improve our understanding of WNS and its impact on bat populations, and to develop tools to manage the disease and conserve bats. The majority of these grants have been awarded following a process that satisfies the competitive requirements of federal grant programs, while other agreements were established directly with federal agency partners.

  Prioritization Process: For the past few years the Service has worked through the teams and committees established under the national WNS response plan (*A National Plan for Assisting States, Federal Agencies, and Tribes in Managing White-Nose Syndrome in Bats)* to develop and validate priorities. This is a different process from the WNS state capacity grant opportunity, which since 2009 has provided approximately $4.6 million in no-match support to state natural resource agencies for bat monitoring, disease surveillance, response planning, and field support for research projects.

  The WNS national plan established seven working groups to address all aspects of the collaborative disease response. At the onset of our research grant process, usually following our annual workshop, the working groups meet to identify their current priorities. These discussions are guided by the objectives identified in the national plan, and by the current state of knowledge. Working group priorities are then consolidated across all groups by the national WNS Coordination Team and the Service WNS coordinators. The final list of priorities is then shared with the national WNS Steering Committee for review. In 2014 the Service began offering two annual grant opportunities for WNS research, one strictly for Federal agency partners, and a second opportunity open to any and all applicants. The creation of an agency-only grant opportunity allows Federal agencies to provide higher levels of match and in-kind support, which leverages WNS research funds and helps to build capacity within Federal agencies for long-term investment in WNS research and response. The priorities identified for the Federal request for proposal (RFP) included support for important actions that were research related, but not strictly hypothesis-testing (see example below for NABat). Priorities that were addressed through the Federal grant process were then removed from the subsequent open grant opportunity, resulting in a shorter list. We plan to offer both grant opportunities again in FY 2016.

  Example: North American Bat Population Monitoring Program - NABat

  There are no standard methods by which bat populations are monitored and tracked in North America that are robust and compatible with current statistical capabilities. With the exception of certain federally listed bat species, there has been no consistent effort to monitor population trends for bats across the entirety of species ranges and, despite the identification of this unmet need at various times, there has been no impetus for meeting that need until the emergence of WNS. North American bats face several threats, including wind energy development, climate change, and habitat loss, but the emergence of WNS in 2007 demonstrated the considerable limitations of our knowledge of the status of non-listed bat populations. The national WNS response plan identified both the need to develop a robust monitoring plan for WNS affected species, and to develop a comprehensive database system for use by all federal, state, and tribal resource agencies. Because bats face multiple threats, and the susceptibility of many bat species to WNS is not yet known, the WNS Conservation and Recovery Working Group decided to initiate the development of a comprehensive monitoring plan focusing on known WNS-affected species, but designed to eventually incorporate assessments for most of the 47 species that are common to the US, Canada, and Mexico. This effort, formally initiated in 2012, has received financial support from federal partners and is now being field tested in several states and Canadian provinces. The USGS Fort Collins Science Center has been established as the

main facility for coordinating the monitoring program and for housing the central database, expanding the existing Bat Data Project.

- **Bats and Wind Energy Projects**

  The Service faces regulatory decisions for wind energy projects with limited data and information about: (1) the threat from wind energy projects, and (2) options available to avoid, minimize, and mitigate anticipated impacts.

  Prioritization Process: In FY 2012, Science Applications developed a national team composed of regional and field personnel involved in bats and wind energy issues. The bats and wind team undertook a rigorous prioritization process to identify and address the most important science needs. Priorities are used to solicit specific project proposals and this process is revisited and updated each time new resources become available. Projects have been a combination of basic research and development of modeling/software tools which were focused on the immediate needs of the federally-endangered Indiana bat, but are designed to be applicable more broadly. We recognize that proactive steps now may prevent future declines of non-listed bats that also face significant impacts from wind energy (or other stressors like white-nose syndrome). Throughout this process, the Service has worked with relevant experts, particularly those at USGS.

  The team agreed on four objectives to guide the prioritization process:

  1. Maintain population health of listed species.
  2. Maintain viability of non-listed species.
  3. Meet the Service's regulatory mandates.
  4. Provide usable information within two years.

  To identify specific science needs, the team went through the Service's regulatory mandates to identify the type of information needed and whether that information is currently available. For an Endangered Species Act Section 7 or 10 analysis of a proposed wind project's impacts on bats, Service biologists must be able to determine/predict bat species presence at the wind farm, evaluate if the species will be exposed to potential stressors from wind energy, predict how the species will likely respond, estimate the mortality expected from wind farm operations, determine potential minimization/mitigation/avoidance measures, assess regional effects of wind energy on bat populations, recommend monitoring and/or adaptive management plans, and then assess compliance with any negotiated measures. There are vast data gaps for all these stages, especially for the endangered Indiana bat.

  Examples:

  Accurate Mortality Estimates and Effective Monitoring Parameters

  Individual science needs were ranked based on their relevance to the four objectives and the first prioritization iteration determined that the most critical gap was estimating mortality from a wind project and then being able to accurately measure and monitor post-construction mortality. USGS partnered with the Service to develop a software tool (called "Evidence of Absence") that allows estimation of actual mortality even when few are observed, which can help determine whether permitted level of "take" has been exceeded. The software can also be used to design search protocols (pre- and post-construction). This tool has helped develop multiple Habitat Conservation Plans for wind projects, particularly in Region 3.

  Migration Risk Assessment

  When additional resources became available, the team identified the next critical step as determining the broader impacts of wind energy across the landscape and the population-level risks it poses to

migrating bats. Through a public funding opportunity, two complementary studies were awarded that are using different approaches to understanding migration patterns for Indiana bats in the Midwest Recovery Unit (field work to commence 2015). Both recipients will work with the Service to compare the two approaches and assess which approach is better under what conditions. These studies will help with siting recommendations and help determine whether the observed levels of mortality at wind farms are likely to have population-level effects.

- Copperhead Consulting will use traditional aerial and ground based telemetry to actively track bats on a nightly basis to characterize Indiana bat migration behaviors and identify influential environmental factors, providing very detailed and specific information for a small number of bats.
- Southern Illinois University will use a novel, stationary tower-based, passive tracking system to track migratory movement on a regional scale, providing general information on a large number of bats.

Indiana bat

- **Habitat Creation and Restoration through Biological Carbon Sequestration**

  The Service has worked for more than 15 years to perfect the use of Biological Carbon Sequestration (BCS) as a tool for both greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation and climate change adaptation through habitat restoration and creation. While the Service's principal goal is habitat restoration and creation in support of our mission to "conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats…," BCS can serve the dual purpose of helping mitigate GHG concentrations in the atmosphere. This mitigation role – and the carbon credits potentially deriving therefrom – has encouraged private companies and conservation NGOs to partner with the Service to develop and implement on-the-ground BCS projects, especially in the realm of reforestation and peatland restoration. The BCS program is a Service-wide effort focusing on the greatest need and opportunity. The most recent BCS efforts have benefitted from a close collaboration with many other partner organizations and agencies, but particularly the USGS LandCarbon Program (LandCarbon). The Service has been working with our LandCarbon partners to develop model programs in important ecosystems across the Nation, from the east coast to Alaska.

- **Invasive Species Rapid Response**

  Innovative research has developed a way to enhance a naturally occurring grass-suppressive soil bacterium, *Pseudomonas fluorescens (P.f.ACK 55)*, now known as Battalion Pro. This bacteria affects only three non-native invasive species: cheatgrass, madusahead, and jointed goat grass. Application of this economical bio-control to the soil of sagebrush communities reduces the three invasive grasses to near zero for three to five years after a single application when used in conjunction with restoration of native plants. This will allow native sage-brush species to re-establish and provide habitat for greater sage-grouse and other sage-brush obligate species. To date, no adverse effect on non-target plants, fauna or animals have been noted. Only by removing the invasive seed bank with a tool of this type, can any real restoration of sage-brush habitat and species be successful. EPA registration of the product begins in December 2014, and is expected to take less than 12 months. Widespread field applications must wait until after registration and NEPA requirements are complete. It is critical to fund NEPA compliance and production scale-up expenses to provide this tool in the shortest practical time.

General Operations

Activity: General Operations

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2015 (+/-)
Central Office Operations	($000)	40,186	39,985	+394	+584	+1,294	42,257	+2,272
	FTE	*268*	*268*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*268*	*0*
Regional Office Operations	($000)	37,912	37,722	+500	0	+3,576	41,798	+4,076
	FTE	*381*	*381*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*381*	*0*
Servicewide Bill Paying	($000)	36,430	35,227	-1,069	0	+1,740	35,898	+671
	FTE	*14*	*14*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*14*	*0*
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	($000)	7,022	7,022	0	0	0	7,022	0
	FTE	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*
National Conservation Training Center	($000)	21,965	21,965	+266	0	+3,599	25,830	+3,865
	FTE	*127*	*127*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*127*	*0*
Total, General Operations	**($000)**	**143,515**	**141,921**	**+91**	**+584**	**+10,209**	**152,805**	**+10,884**
	FTE	***790***	***790***	***0***	***0***	***0***	***790***	***0***

Program Overview

General Operations funding provides the management and support for the Service's programmatic activities and organizations; and ensures compliance with legal, regulatory, and Departmental policy in all functional areas of administration. It is comprised of five components:

- Central Office Operations
- Regional Office Operations
- Servicewide Bill Paying
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- National Conservation Training Center

The major program function of General Operations is to provide the regions and field offices with the resources (people, funding, facilities, access to data, etc.) that are required to meet the goals and mission of the Service.

New U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters
Falls Church, Virginia

Activity: General Operations
Subactivity: Central Office Operations

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2015 (+/-)
Central Office Operations	($000)	40,186	39,985	+394	+584	+1,294	42,257	+2,272
	FTE	*268*	*268*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*268*	*0*

Summary of 2016 Program Changes for Central Office Operations

Request Component	($000)	FTE
• Central Office Operations Activities	+1,294	0
Program Changes	**+1,294**	**0**

Justification of 2016 Program Changes for General Operations

The 2016 budget request for Central Office Operations is $42,257,000 and 268 FTE, a net program change of +$1,294,000 and +0 FTE from the 2015 Enacted.

Central Office Operations Activities (+$1,294,000/+0 FTE)
This increase is essential to support Central Office Operations at a level that keeps pace with meeting operational needs while preventing any erosion of support to the program offices and general public. Central Office Operations provides bureau wide leadership and directions for the Service and funds the organizational support required to carry out the mission of the Service. The increase supports staff necessary to provide reports requested by Congress, such as quarterly unobligated balances, as well as management functions that ensure the Service operates in compliance with federal rules and regulations and avoid any misconduct in critical areas including personnel and travel management, communications support, FBMS operations, OMB Circular A-123 and applicable laws, directives and mandates. This funding will allow the Service to leverage resources to enhance decision making, increase organizational effectiveness and continue to provide the preeminent support to operational programs.

Program Overview

Central Office Operations is comprised of six Headquarters components: the Office of the Director, Office of Diversity and Inclusive Workforce Management, Assistant Director for External Affairs, Assistant Director for Budget, Planning and Human Capital, Assistant Director for Business Management and Operations, and Assistant Director for Information Resources and Technology Management. These offices provide the Service with the leadership, strategic direction, and the necessary resources to accomplish mission priorities and goals.

Office of the Director
The Office of the Director includes the Director, Deputy Directors, a Native American Liaison Office, and staff specialists, who provide policy direction and support for program and management activities of the Service. Goals include promoting a national network of lands and waters for conserving fish and wildlife, protecting endangered species, migratory birds and inter-jurisdictional fish, and facilitating partnerships to conserve fish and wildlife for present and future generations.

The Native American Liaison Office serves as a key point of contact for Native American Tribes, and works to expand the Service's capacity to work cooperatively with Tribes to further the agency's conservation mission. The liaison implements the Department of the Interior's Secretarial Order on

Tribal Consultation and the Tribal Wildlife Grants program, and develops policies, guidelines, and training to ensure appropriate government-to-government consultation with Tribes.

Office of Diversity and Inclusive Workforce Management
The Office of Diversity and Inclusive Workforce Management (ODIWM) manages the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Program for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The ODIWM provides direction, policy formulation, and oversight of the Service's Diversity and Inclusion Implementation Plan with regard to applicable civil rights laws and directives.

External Affairs
The Assistant Director for External Affairs (EA) formulates national policy and directs operations in the Divisions of Communications, Congressional and Legislative Affairs, and Program and Partnership Support. EA responds to congressional inquiries, coordinates briefings and meetings with Congressional Members and their staff, and prepares Service personnel for hearings. In addition, they develop Service positions on legislation, testimony, and other matters pending before Congress. EA is also responsible for the Service's outreach program which informs the public, constituent organizations, and employees about current policies, programs, and actions.

Budget, Planning and Human Capital
The Assistant Director for Budget, Planning and Human Capital (BPHC) formulates policy and directs operations in the Divisions of Human Capital, Budget, Policy and Directives Management, and Conservation Business Management. BPHC works with Service programs and the Directorate to formulate budget proposals and workforce and succession planning to support its mission and goals. BPHC provides expertise to reengineer Service functions, such as recruitment and hiring, and manages the Service-wide Strategic Performance Management system, which sets performance measure targets and reports performance accomplishments. BPHC manages the publication of notices and regulations in the Federal Register and programmatic Internal Controls under OMB Circular A-123, and is the liaison with the General Accountability Office and the Office of the Inspector General.

Business Management and Operations
The Assistant Director for Business Management and Operations (BMO) serves as the Service's Chief Financial Officer and Chief Procurement Executive. BMO provides direction, policy formulation and management in the areas of finance, contracting and acquisition, engineering and construction, environmental compliance, energy, safety, occupational health, and industrial hygiene programs, economic analyses, and other associated support functions. BMO provides the Service and Department with audit assistance, risk management and internal controls, and financial reporting. They also develop policy and manage programs for Service-wide acquisition, personal property, Government quarters, space leasing, and the motor vehicle fleet. Additionally they help contain workers' compensation costs through injury prevention initiatives and through special emphasis programs such as watercraft and diving safety. BMO also manages the Service's construction, dam, bridge, and seismic safety, energy management, and environmental compliance and management programs. They are counted on to provide Service-wide direction for the Emergency Support Function (ESF) which addresses engineering and construction support needs as part of the Federal response to natural disasters and other emergencies.

Information Resources and Technology Management (IRTM)
The Assistant Director for Information Resources (ADIR) provides secure, efficient and effective management of information resources and technology that allows the Service to accomplish its mission. IRTM provides reliable mission essential connectivity for email, internet, network applications, and Land Mobile Radios across the Service. The IRTM security program maintains and monitors network security subsystems to ensure a stable and dependable environment for the network and its users.

Activity: General Operations
Subactivity: Regional Office Operations

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2015 (+/-)
Regional Office Operations	($000)	37,912	37,722	+500	0	+3,576	41,798	+4,076
	FTE	*381*	*381*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*381*	*0*

Summary of 2016 Program Changes for Regional Office Operations

Request Component	($000)	FTE
• Regional Office Operations Activities	+3,576	0
Program Changes	**+3,576**	**0**

Justification of 2016 Program Changes

The 2016 budget request for Regional Office Operations is $41,798,000 and 381 FTE, a net program change of +$3,576,000 and +0 FTE from the 2015 Enacted.

Regional Office Operations Activities (+$3,576,000/+0 FTE)
This increase provides Regional Offices with sufficient funding to maintain core administrative functions (e.g. hiring, purchasing, finance, safety) in the Regions while addressing added complexity such as increased reporting requirements such as for fleet, increased safety training requirements and internal controls implementation, without impacting program output. Despite implementing operational efficiencies for these regional support functions, the cost of program operations has increased and requirements for these base administrative functions now exceed existing resources and program assessments. This increase eliminates the need to increase program assessments for common shared services which would impact program effectiveness and output. This funding will also ensure program resources remain focused on meeting Service mission goals without delays in accomplishing base administrative functions.

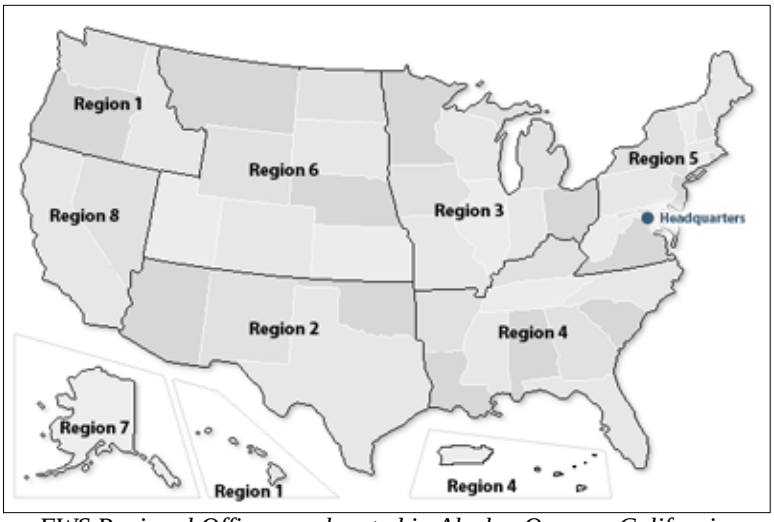
Program Overview

The Regional Offices provide front line, daily support for over 700 geographically diverse field offices by managing Regional leadership, Budget and Administration, and External Affairs functions. The Service has delegated authority to the field level in many functional areas; however, functions that require extensive training, certification (such as contracting warrants), or specialized knowledge (such as personnel hiring authorities) are retained at centralized, regional locations for cost efficiency purposes. Approximately 82 percent of our field locations have 15 or fewer employees and cannot support specialists in these disciplines. Regional Office funding supports the following organizational components:

The Regional Directors advise the Service Director and develop recommendations on national and regional policies, plans, and procedures. In addition, the Regional Directors serve as liaisons to State, local and tribal governments, civic and interest groups, and the public within their geographic jurisdiction.

Within each region, the Budget and Administration offices direct the overall management and execution of administrative support activities, advise Regional Directors on administrative matters, and provide day-to-day operational management for budget, finance, contracting, human resources, diversity, safety, and information technology throughout each Region. Budget and Administration provides organizational

support services such as office equipment leasing, facility maintenance, reproduction and copying, telephone and computer connectivity, and service contracts. The office also supervises the Engineering Division (which is discussed in the Construction Appropriation section of the President's Budget justification.)



FWS Regional Offices are located in Alaska, Oregon, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Georgia, Minnesota, and Massachusetts.

The Regional office Division of Budget and Finance coordinates business operations and delivers financial information to regional management, including other support divisions. This office manages regional internal control programs (including external and internal audits), charge card and travel management systems, and real property accounting processes,, provides accounting system (FBMS) support and training, coordinates vendor payments, and monitors agreements to ensure costs are recovered in regional efforts to deliver conservation services for external partners.

The Regional office Division of Contracting and General Services performs activities associated with acquisitions, property and facilities. This includes acquisition of supplies and services (above the micro-purchase level), fleet management, quarters management, personal property management, leasing and office space management, coordinating facility operations, and issuing grants and agreements where external partners assist the Service in meeting conservation goals.

The Regional office Division of Human Resources implements Service personnel policies, programs and procedures, and provide support services to program officials on human resource issues. The office provides a full range of services including work force planning, position management, recruiting and hiring, special employment programs, employee relations, performance management and recognition, retirement administration, benefits administration, training, labor relations, ethics, workers' compensation, security clearances and payroll services.

The Regional office Division for Diversity and Civil Rights manages the region's compliance with applicable civil rights laws, ensuring a diverse workforce. Functional areas include managing programs in diversity policy and reporting, EEO policy and reporting, federally assisted compliance, federally conducted compliance, special emphasis, disability/reasonable accommodation assistance, EEO complaints, conflict resolution (ADR/CORE), limited English proficiency and environmental justice.

The Regional office Division of Safety and Occupational Health develops and administers policies and procedures to prevent and reduce: employee injuries and illnesses; watercraft and motor vehicle accidents; property damage; fire losses; and injuries to the visiting public. This office also coordinates Continuity of Operations (COOP)/emergency management efforts.

The Regional office Division of Information Resources and Technology Management (IRTM) oversees the region's operational technology requirements. This includes providing regional coordination to implement high priority Departmental IT transformation efforts, help desk operations (physical and

virtual), support for various IT networks; monitoring IT security, managing communication devices (e.g. office phones, cell phones, tablets), providing web services, developing IT purchase/spend plans, acquisition and installation of IT hardware and software.

The Regional External Affairs Office administers a multifaceted program that provides technical support to field stations by communicating with the public, interest groups, and local, State, Federal, and tribal governments. Typical functions in the Regional Office for External Affairs include Congressional affairs, press releases, media inquiries, special event planning and support, developing communication plans and products, education, outreach, web site design and management, and coordinating regional social media efforts.

Activity: General Operations
Subactivity: Servicewide Bill Paying

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2015 (+/-)
Servicewide Bill Paying	($000)	36,430	35,227	-1,069	0	+1,740	35,898	+671
	FTE	*14*	*14*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*14*	*0*

Summary of 2016 Program Changes for Servicewide Bill Paying

Request Component	($000)	FTE
• DOI Working Capital Fund	+1,740	0
Program Changes	**+1,740**	**0**

Justification of 2016 Program Changes

The 2016 budget request for Servicewide Bill Paying is $35,898,000 and 14 FTE, a net program change of +$1,740,000 and +0 FTE from the 2015 Enacted level.

Working Capital Fund (+$1,740,000/+0 FTE)

- **Technical Correction** (+$1,639,000) Rescissions and sequestration have eroded the set aside funding for paying the Service's portion of Department-wide programs and oversight, such as Aviation Management and Information Technology. Funding will be used to address Working Capital Fund Centralized Bills to reduce the amount assessed from programs.
- **Indian Water Rights (**+$101,000) This increase will improve coordination and application of expertise across the Department, Indian tribes, States, and other stakeholders to reach Indian water settlements more effectively and expediently. The budget proposes to expand the duties and responsibilities of the Secretary's Indian Water Rights Office (SIWRO) to achieve an integrated and systematic approach to Indian water rights negotiations that considers the full range of economic, legal, and technical attributes of proposed settlements. The budget includes funding for additional SIWRO staff to reflect the expanded duties.

Program Overview

Servicewide Bill Paying covers the expenses associated with nationwide operational support and infrastructure costs required by all of the Service's programs to accomplish our mission. Expenses paid include the following:

Information Technology (IT) and Communication Needs
Examples of IT purchases include payments for domestic and international network services; costs associated with land, wireless, radio, and satellite communications; IT Systems Certification and Accreditation (C&A); security of IT systems; and improving compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements.

DOI Working Capital Fund (WCF)
Payments for services received from the Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary and the Interior Business Center for a variety of centralized administrative and support services.

Mail Delivery and Distribution
Contract charges for Intra-Agency and Departmental courier and mailroom services.

Servicewide Workers' Compensation and Unemployment Compensation Costs
Workers' compensation includes costs of compensating injured employees and dependents of employees who suffer accidental deaths while on duty. Unemployment compensation costs represent the estimated changes in the costs of unemployment compensation claims.

Printing (under the oversight of Assistant Director – External Affairs)
While continuing to reduce printing costs by limiting the number of printed publications in favor of electronic media, the Service still incurs costs for printing copies of documents such as the Code of Federal Regulations, Congressional Bills and Hearings, Federal Register indexes and related documents, and all employee products produced by the Office of Personnel Management which must remain available.

Reimbursable Support Agreements (RSA's)
Costs related to support services provided by the Department and external agencies. Examples include the Employee Assistance Program, Flexible Spending Plan administration and storage services from the National Archives and Records Administration.

Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks (AS-FWP)
Costs of salary, benefits and travel of personnel for activities directly related to the Service.

Economic Studies (under the oversight of the Assistant Director – Business Management and Operations)
Contract costs for socio-economic reviews and analyses including: designation of critical habitat for threatened and endangered species; regulatory impact statements; natural resource damage assessments; record of compliance statements; and hydroelectric dam re-licensing reviews.

PRISM (under the oversight of the Assistant Director – Business Management and Operations)
Supports overall Service administration of PRISM, the acquisition module in the Financial Business Management System (FBMS). This includes requisitioning infrastructure maintenance, helpdesk and workflow processing, acquisition management reviews, software optimization and training support.

Document Tracking System (DTS) (under the oversight of the Office of the Director)
Costs for administration and technical support for the electronic system for managing and tracking official correspondence.

Activity: General Operations
Subactivity: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016				Change from 2015 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	($000)	7,022	7,022	0	0	0	7,022	0
	FTE	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*

Justification of 2016 Program Changes

The 2016 budget request for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is $7,022,000 and 0 FTE, no program change from the 2015 Enacted level.

Program Overview

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) runs a competitive challenge grant program with a statutory non-Federal matching requirement of 1:1 for all federally appropriated dollars NFWF awards; averaging 3:1 in recent years. In FY 2014, NFWF awarded $7 million in FWS appropriated funds. The FWS funds support strategic conservation efforts focusing on at-risk species, habitat enhancement and community based stewardship. The partnership seeks to increase populations of targeted species by promoting the restoration of landscape- level habitats. Focal areas include early successional forest, southeast aquatic ecosystems, Atlantic shorebird habitats, Alaska's Yukon- Kuskokwim Delta, Northern Great Plains, and the Klamath Basin in the Pacific Northwest. NFWF and the Service also partnered on conservation of Pacific seabirds, bald and golden eagles research, urban refuges, and the recovery of the Colorado River Delta. Funding is targeted to on-the-ground conservation and is not used to support NFWF's administrative expenses. The challenge grant model calls for multiple collaborators for each grant: the Service and/or the grantee; the matching private funders; and NFWF. NFWF also solicits diverse outside reviewers (Federal, State, non-profit, educational and private sector) to assess each project using detailed evaluation protocols. As a result, grants awarded have supported outcome-focused conservation business plans developed in partnership with the Service.

Activity: General Operations
Subactivity: National Conservation Training Center

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2015 (+/-)
National Conservation Training Center	($000)	21,965	21,965	+266	0	+3,599	25,830	+3,865
	FTE	*127*	*127*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*127*	*0*

Summary of 2016 Program Changes for National Conservation Training Center

Request Component	($000)	FTE
• Youth Programs and Partnerships	+2,500	0
• National Conservation Training Center Operations	+150	0
• Annual Maintenance	+949	0
Program Changes	**+3,599**	**0**

Justification of 2016 Program Changes

The 2016 budget request for the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) is $25,830,000 and 127 FTE, a net program change of +$3,599,000 and +0 FTE from the 2015 Enacted level.

Youth Programs and Partnerships (+$2,500,000/+0 FTE)
This increase includes $2.5 million, for expanded youth programs and partnerships, including funding to expand partnerships for the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC), an integral part of the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative. The 21CSC puts young Americans to work protecting, restoring and enhancing public and tribal lands and waters as well as natural, cultural, and historical resources and treasures.

The 21CSC provides service, training, education and employment opportunities for thousands of young Americans and veterans, including low income and disadvantaged youth. The Service will work with 21CSC partnerships across the country to complete high-quality, cost-effective project work that will increase access to public lands; provide job training in natural resource conservation; and enhance and restore natural resources; all to enhance economic development and outdoor recreation.

Participants will benefit from employment and hands-on educational experiences on the public lands they are working to restore, and in the communities, urban and rural that surround the public lands. They will also focus on habitat enhancement and restoration, maintenance of recreational facilities, and reduction of ecological impacts that are the result of climate change. Projects that encourage career paths using the Pathways program and those that empower underserved and tribal communities will be a high priority.

Projects that leverage funding through partnerships will be the highest priority. There will be an emphasis on regional project partnerships to have cost sharing arrangements of at least a 50% match, and project partners will strive to meet program principles put in place by the National Council for 21CSC.

National Conservation Training Center Operations (+$150,000/ +0 FTE)
This increase will enhance distance learning capabilities as well as address Service training needs and ensure that courses continue to provide the know-how and skill required by employees to meet the Service's goals and mission.

Annual Maintenance (+$949,000/ +0 FTE)
This increase reflects restoration of annual maintenance funding at the FY 2012 Enacted level. Annual maintenance is necessary to keep the campus safe for employees and students and to prevent training cancellations or interruptions, maintenance backlogs, and more costly emergency repairs. Backlogged projects needing to be addressed include failing infrastructure and systems such as environmental controls, roofing, fire annunciation, and water delivery/sanitation systems.

Program Overview

Training Programs
The National Conservation Training Center (NCTC), opened in 1997 and located on 533 acres along the Potomac River in Shepherdstown, WV, is the primary training facility of the Service. In addition to training Service employees, NCTC provides training on a reimbursable basis to conservation professionals from DOI, other Federal, State and local governments, not-for-profit conservation organizations, private landowners and the business community. In this way, NCTC programs expand their reach and impact and help Service professionals build collaborative partnerships for conservation.

Training for Service employees is tied directly to mission accomplishment, ensuring the "workforce has the job-related knowledge, competencies, and skills necessary to accomplish organizational goals". NCTC implements training to help address needs identified in the Service's Human Capital Plan and ongoing program-based needs assessments. NCTC staff work closely with Service leaders, headquarters, and the field to constantly revise and refine training to meet the needs of the Service and its employees. NCTC bases course development activities on these mission-driven needs and priorities, offering over 200 courses each year tied directly to mission accomplishment.

The growth of NCTC's distance learning offerings has greatly expanded its reach. These courses and learning modules can be accessed via the NCTC website and are open to all with an interest in conservation. In the last few years, NCTC has doubled its distance learning offerings and plans additional growth in the coming year.

Building the Next Generation of Conservation Professionals
NCTC is a leading force for the Service to accomplish the Secretary's priority of engaging, educating, and employing the Next Generation of conservation professionals. NCTC is focused on three key strategies for achieving this goal:

Coordination and Collaboration
NCTC supports and works with a wide range of FWS, DOI, and NGO partners on partnerships and efforts to prepare the next generation of conservation professionals that reflects the makeup of the nation. NCTC continues to develop, implement, and administer effective programs and collaboration efforts for sharing resources across DOI that target specific audiences including the DOI Youth Portal (YouthGo.gov).

Professional Development
The NCTC builds staff capacity through curriculum development and training within the Service and shares these resources with other Department bureaus and partners. A variety of classroom and distance learning programs in environmental education, youth outdoor skills, diversity and inclusion training, and youth leadership provide Service and Department employees with the skills needed to engage, educate, promote volunteer service, and hire young people from the Millennial generation. This includes

supporting regional implementation of the Department's Diversity Change Agent Program, which provides training for FWS Diversity Change Agents located across the country; and facilitates the exchange of resources, all to build a more inclusive hiring environment.

Career Awareness

NCTC supports the Service by coordinating efforts to engage an inclusive next generation of conservation professionals in various Service entry-level employment programs that reach diverse communities and by tracking program success.

NCTC has a key role in the execution of the Directorate Resource Assistant Fellowship Program (DFP). This high profile initiative is designed to provide a robust fellowship opportunity for highly qualified undergraduate and graduate students. DFP Fellows participate full time (for 11 weeks) on projects that meet the qualifications of a rigorous internship program. Management may directly hire a DFP Fellow who has successfully completed the fellowship program and the requirements for their degree program. Fellowship opportunities for the DFP may be established and approved at the Service's Headquarters, Regional Offices, or field levels. This program assists the Service in achieving the strategic goals and objectives in the Diversity and Inclusion Implementation Plan, specifically, those related to hiring at the entry level (GS-05, 07 and 09). Additionally, the DFP will assist the Service with its disability and veterans hiring initiatives.

NCTC also works with regions and universities across the nation to present Conservation Career Symposia (CCS), where diverse groups of students interested in conservation careers work with Service professionals to discuss ways to prepare for and apply for careers in the Service. CCS programs have been held at Colorado State University, the University of Delaware, and Yale University to name only a few.

The Service will continue to work with the Department and other DOI bureaus on the implementation of the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps, work with universities to ensure alignment between graduate skills and entry-level job competencies, and provide intensive career information programs.

Maintenance

NCTC is a 434,000 square foot, 17 building facility on 533 acres of forest and grasslands with a northern boundary along the Potomac River. The maintenance account supports Service programmatic activities and DOI strategic goals by keeping the national center in efficient operating condition. Annual maintenance ensures the campus is free of hazards and prevents project backlogs which could result in more costly emergency repairs.

Construction

Construction

Appropriations Language

For construction, improvement, acquisition, or removal of buildings and other facilities required in the conservation, management, investigation, protection, and utilization of fish and wildlife resources, and the acquisition of lands and interests therein; [$15,687,000]*$20,812,000*, to remain available until expended. *(Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015.)*

Authorizing Statutes

Recreation Use of Conservation Areas Act of 1962 (16 U.S.C. 460k-460k-4). Commonly known as the Refuge Recreation Act of 1962, authorizes development of fish and wildlife areas for recreational use, including land acquisition and facilities construction and management.

National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee). Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to award contracts for the provision of public accommodations of the National Wildlife Refuge System. It was amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (P.L. 105-57).

Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 715k). Provides for land acquisition, construction, maintenance, development, and administration for migratory bird reservations.

Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a-742f). Authorizes the development, management, advancement, conservation, and protection of fish and wildlife resources, including the acquisition and development of existing facilities.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 9601, et seq.). Authorizes federal agencies to conduct cleanup and/or recover costs associated with hazardous materials removal, remediation, cleanup, or containment activities from responsible parties.

Federal Facilities Compliance Act (50 U.S.C. 1941). Requires Federal agencies to comply with Federal, state, and local solid and hazardous waste laws in the same manner as any private party.

Pollution Prevention Act of 1990, (P.L. 101-508) as amended (42 U.S.C. 13101, 13101 note, 13102-13109). Requires pollution that cannot be prevented at the source to be recycled in an environmentally sound manner, and disposal as a last resort.

Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7701 -7706). Establishes an earthquake hazards reduction program.

National Dam Safety Program Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-121) **Provides** for Federal agencies to implement the Federal Guidelines for Dam Safety, which established management practices for dam safety at all Federal agencies.

National Energy Conservation Policy Act of 1978 (P.L. 95-619, as amended, and 92 Stat. 3206, 42 U.S.C. 8252 et seq.). Establishes an energy management program in the Federal government and directs Federal agencies to perform energy surveys and implement energy conservation opportunities to reduce consumption of nonrenewable energy resources in buildings, vehicles, equipment, and general operations.

Federal Energy Management Improvement Act of 1988 (P.L. 100-615, November 5, 1998). Promotes the conservation and efficient use of energy throughout the Federal government.

Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct) (P.L. 109-58, August 8, 2005). Extends previous Congressional direction to Federal facility managers with even greater goals of energy efficiency improvements in existing and new facilities, mandates increased use of renewable energy sources, sustainable building design and construction, metering of all Federal buildings, and procurement of Energy Star equipment. This legislation contains energy efficiency tax credits and new ways to retain energy savings.

Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA) (P.L. 110-140, December 19, 2007). Intends to move the United States toward greater energy independence and security; increase production of clean renewable fuels; protect consumers; increase the efficiency of products, buildings, and vehicles; promote research on and deploy greenhouse gas capture and storage options; and improve the energy performance of the Federal Government.

(16 U.S.C. 695k-695r). Provides for limitations on reduction of areas by diking or other construction in California and Oregon in the case of migratory waterfowl and other refuges, as well as other construction provisions.

(16 U.S.C. 760-760-12). Provides for the construction, equipping, maintenance, and operation of several named fish hatcheries.

(23 U.S.C. 144 and 151). Requires bridges on public highways and roads to be inspected.

Executive Orders

Presidential Memorandum of October 4, 1979. Directs all Federal agencies to adopt and implement the Federal Guidelines for Dam Safety as prepared by the Federal Coordinating Council for Science, Engineering, and Technology. (Secretary of the Interior Order No. 3048, implements and assigns responsibility for a Department-wide dam safety program in accordance with the President's memorandum).

Executive Order 12088, Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards (October 13, 1978). Requires agencies to ensure that facilities comply with applicable pollution control standards; ensure that sufficient funds for environmental compliance are requested in their budgets; and include pollution control projects in an annual pollution abatement budget plan.

Executive Order 12941 for Seismic Risk Safety (December 1, 1994). Adopts minimum standards for seismic safety, requires Federal agencies to inventory their owned/leased buildings and estimate the cost of mitigating unacceptable seismic risks.

Executive Order 12699, Seismic Safety of Federal and Federally Assisted or Regulated New Building Construction (January 5, 1990). Covers the new construction portion of *The Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977* (P.L. 95-124).

Executive Order 13031, Federal Alternative-Fueled Vehicle Leadership (December 13, 1996). Mandates that the Federal government demonstrate leadership in Alternative Fuel Vehicle (AFV) use and ensures that 75 percent of new light-duty vehicles leased or purchased in FY 2000 and subsequent years in urban areas are alternative fuel vehicles.

Presidential Memorandum, Energy Conservation at Federal Facilities (May 3, 2001). Directs agencies to take appropriate actions to conserve energy use at their facilities to the maximum extent consistent with the effective discharge of public responsibilities. Agencies located in regions where electricity shortages are possible should conserve especially during periods of peak demand.

Presidential Memorandum, Energy and Fuel Conservation by Federal Agencies (September 26, 2005). Directs Federal agencies to take immediate actions to conserve energy and fuel use throughout Federal facilities and the motor fleet.

Memorandum of Understanding for Federal Leadership in High Performance and Sustainable Buildings (signed January 25, 2006, by the Deputy Secretary of the Interior; Final High Performance and Sustainable Buildings Guidance, including revision to the Guiding Principles for Sustainable New Construction and Major Renovations, and for new guidance for Sustainable Existing Buildings, was published by the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive on December 1, 2008.).

Executive Order 13423, Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management (January 24, 2007). [E.O. 13423 rescinds several previous E.O.s, including E.O. 13101, E.O. 13123, E.O. 13134, E.O. 13148, and E.O. 13149.] The Executive Order directs Federal agencies to implement sustainable practices for: energy efficiency and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions; use of renewable energy; reduction in water consumption intensity; acquisition of green products and services; pollution prevention, including reduction or elimination of the use of toxic and hazardous chemicals and materials; cost effective waste prevention and recycling programs; increased diversion of solid waste; sustainable design/high performance buildings..

Executive Order 13514, Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance (October 5, 2009). This Executive Order expands on the energy reduction and environmental performance requirements of Executive Order 13423 and establishes an integrated strategy towards sustainability and reduction goals for greenhouse gas emissions, water consumption, petroleum consumption, recycling and diversion of materials. It further defines requirements for sustainability in buildings and leases, sustainable acquisition, and electronic stewardship among others.

Presidential Memorandum of December 2, 2011, Implementation of Energy Savings Projects and Performance-Based Contracting for Energy Savings. Requires agencies to lead by example to make Federal buildings more energy efficient and operate them more efficiently by evaluating their facilities, identifying potential savings, increasing the pace of implementation of energy conservation measures, and appropriately leveraging both private and public sector funding to invest in comprehensive energy conservation projects that cut energy costs by performance-based contracting.

Presidential Memorandum of December 5, 2013, Federal Leadership on Energy Management. Directs the federal government to consume 20% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2020, a new target as outlined in the President's June 2013 Climate Action Plan -- more than double the previous goal. It also directs agencies to update their building-performance and energy-management practices, by encouraging the use of the consensus-based, industry-standard Green Button data access system (Green Button) and the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Energy Star® Portfolio Manager.

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

Fixed Cost Changes and Projections	2015 Total or Change	2015 to 2016 Change
Change in Number of Paid Days	+0	+29
This column reflects changes in pay associated with the change in the number of paid days between the 2015 and 2016.		
Pay Raise	+75	+93
The change reflects the salary and health benefit impacts of programmed pay raise increases.		
Employer Contribution to FERS	+0	+3
The change reflects the directed increase of 0.5% in employer's contribution to the Federal Employee Retirement System.		
Rental Payments	+3	+0
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.		

Appropriation: Construction

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2015 (+/-)
Nationwide Engineering Services	($000)	7,209	7,161	+125	0	0	7,286	+125
Bridge, Dam, and Seismic Safety	($000)	1,852	1,972	0	0	0	1,972	0
Line Item Construction Projects	($000)	6,661	6,554	0	0	+5,000	11,554	+5,000
Total, Construction	**($000)**	**15,722**	**15,687**	**+125**	**0**	**+5,000**	**20,812**	**+5,125**
	FTE	***55***	***55***	***0***	***0***	***+2***	***57***	***+2***

Summary of 2016 Program Changes for Construction

Request Component	($000)	FTE
• Line-Item Construction Projects	+5,000	+2
TOTAL Program Changes	**+5,000**	**+2**

Justification of Program Changes for Construction

The FY 2016 budget request for the Construction program is $20,812,000 and 57 FTE, with a net program change of +$5,000,000 and +2 FTE from the 2015 Enacted.

Line-Item Construction (+$5,000,000/+2 FTE) In order to support Service priorities, facilities' missions, and legal obligations, an increase of $5,000,000 is requested for Line-Item Construction. The Service requests funds to address the highest priority projects and to preclude conditions from deteriorating and increasing the maintenance backlog. Currently the backlog includes more than 890 priority repair and rehab projects, valued at $812 million. Individual projects are selected using merit-based criteria, including accepted industry ranking standards and the Department of the Interior's approved ranking criteria. A Project Data Sheet (PDS) is provided for each project and includes key data on project description, justification, costs and schedule. Following the individual PDSs is a Summary Project Data Sheet for FY 2016-2020. Projects proposed for 2016 are summarized by program in the following table:

2016 Construction Project Listing by Program

DOI Rank Score	Reg	Station	State	Project Title/Description	Request ($000)
National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS)					
90	3	Crab Orchard NWR	IL	Dam Safety Program - Repair Concrete at Three Dams - Phase I	600
90	3	Crab Orchard NWR	IL	Demolish Buildings - Phase II	362
90	8	San Pablo Bay NWR	CA	Restore Sears Point Levees [p/d/cc]	1,125
90	2	Valle de Oro NWR	NM	Construct Visitor Center, South Valley of Albuquerque, New Mexico [p/d/ic]	3,458
80	1	Julia Butler Hansen Refuge for the Columbian White Tail	OR	Rehabilitate Outer Dike	842
60	2	Tishomingo NFH	OK	Demolish Residence 1	60

2016 Construction Project Listing by Program					
DOI Rank Score	**Reg**	**Station**	**State**	**Project Title/Description**	**Request ($000)**
National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS)					
60	2	Williams Creek NFH	AZ	Demolish Residence 1	60
60	2	Williams Creek NFH	AZ	Demolish Residence 3	78
Subtotal, NWRS					**6,585**
National Fish Hatchery System (NFHS)					
90	1	Warm Springs NFH	OR	Repair Sand Filters and Intake [cc]	736
90	4	Warm Springs NFH	GA	Replace Fish Holding House [p/d/cc]	1,800
70	4	Wolf Creek NFH	KY	Replace Oxygenation System [p/d/cc]	1,168
60	6	Gavins Point NFH	SD	Replace Drum Filter and Variable Frequency Drive [p/d/cc]	600
Subtotal, NFHS					**4,304**
Other					
90	9	Clark R. Bavin National Fish and Wildlife Forensics	OR	Replace Leased Space with Secured Storage Building [p/d]	450
70	9	Branch of Dam Safety	N/A	Nationwide Seismic Safety Investigations	215
Subtotal, Other					**665**
SUBTOTAL, CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS					**11,554**

Notes: p = planning, d = design, ic = initiate construction, cc = complete construction

Program Overview

The Service's Construction program delivers high quality, timely, cost-effective and code-compliant construction projects in support of the operation and maintenance of Service facilities. Construction funding supports engineering and technical program management for over 700 field stations, 562 units of the National Wildlife Refuge System, 72 fish hatcheries, and 65 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices situated on more than 150 million natural resource acres. Water scarcity, energy security objectives, and sustainable operations requirements have given rise to initiatives and mandates to minimize consumption and maximize use of renewable resources in conducting operational activities. The Service has been exemplary in meeting and exceeding these mandates. Maintaining an efficient and knowledgeable workforce that can help meet these requirements is critical to the Service's ability to meet ongoing infrastructure needs.

This appropriation supports the accomplishment of critical national engineering programs which include nearly 300 dams, 700 bridges, 7,000 buildings, seismic safety programs, and environmental compliance and management activities. Work is primarily accomplished through performing assessments, audits, and inspections. Responses to findings are addressed to the extent possible through operational changes, program funds, and when necessary, line-item construction requests. Required energy reporting is also managed as a national program. The Construction appropriation consists of the following activities and program elements:

Nationwide Engineering Services

Nationwide Engineering Services (NES) support the management of numerous construction and maintenance projects completed each year. These projects must be designed and constructed in a manner that meets building code and other Federal facility requirements. Nationwide Engineering Services is a

critical component to the Service's ability to meet ongoing infrastructure needs and ensure the lawful and safe operation of Service facilities. NES includes the following:

Core Engineering Services
Service engineers deliver high quality construction and maintenance project design and implementation. Core Engineering Services (CES) funding covers the cost of a small group of engineering managers and key support staff at the headquarters and regional levels, who are accountable for policy development, budget planning and execution, technical expertise, and workload management. Salary costs for project delivery are charged directly to projects (direct costs).

Environmental Compliance and Management
Environmental Compliance and Management encompasses two program areas: (1) Environmental Compliance; and (2) Waste Prevention, Recycling and Environmental Management Systems (EMS).

Environmental Compliance - The Environmental Compliance Branch (ECB) ensures that Service facilities and activities comply with new and existing Federal, state and local environmental laws and regulations as required by the Federal Facility Compliance Act. Environmental compliance audits are conducted for more than 700 field locations on at least a five-year cycle. In FY 2014, the Service conducted approximately 134 audits. The ECB also provides technical assistance to Regional Offices and field stations regarding large-scale environmental contamination cleanup projects, compliance policy, training, environmental compliance audits, and compliance with regulatory requirements.

The ECB assists project managers in effectively cleaning up releases of hazardous substances by: interpreting a broad array of guidance and regulations that apply to the clean-up of releases of hazardous substances to the environment; providing recommendations for remedy implementation; solving site-specific issues, such as the availability of disposal options that can delay progress in cleaning up contamination; and in some cases, managing contracts for activities such as ground-water sampling and technical document review.

Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Environmental Management Systems
Funding is used to support the Service's implementation of Executive Orders 13423 and 13514 outlined in the Department of the Interior's Strategic Plan, and to carry out associated waste prevention, recycling, and similar actions outlined in the Department's Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan. The Waste Prevention, Recycling, and EMS Program objectives include: continuing to implement and maintain EMS at the Service level, establishing policy to incorporate sustainable practices into the Service's day-to-day operations; coordinating sustainability reporting requirements; reducing waste by-products; increasing the recycled content of materials used by the Service in accordance with the opportunities identified in prior years; and reducing the use of toxic/hazardous chemicals and materials.

Dam, Bridge and Seismic Safety

Dam Safety Program - The Service owns nearly 300 dams at wildlife refuges and fish hatcheries that are in place for resource or facility management. The referenced statutes require existing dams to be properly designed, operated and maintained to protect human health and safety. In addition, dams that threaten downstream populations are required to have Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) which provide guidance for early detection and mitigation of conditions that may cause dam failures; and communication protocols for notification and evacuation of downstream populations. During FY 2016, the Service will continue its Dam Safety Program, which includes periodic Safety Evaluation of Existing Dams (SEED)

Crab Orchard Dams

inspections, EAP exercises risk analyses and engineering investigations. SEED inspections include performing and reassessing hazard classification, which is based upon the population at risk and the economic loss were a dam to fail. The Service uses the hazard classification, risk assessment, and overall condition of the dam to identify the need and priority for dam safety repair and rehabilitation projects.

The Service anticipates performing approximately 70 dam inspections, including 12 annual checklist inspections, 5 formal inspections of high hazard dams and approximately 45 inspections of low hazard dams as well as an estimated 15 initial assessments of impoundments to determine whether they qualify as dams. Funding to complete needed dam safety structural repairs is requested by the Service separately as individual line-item construction projects. Management of major rehabilitation or construction work is accomplished under the supervision of the Service's Dam Safety Officer.

Bridge Safety Program - The Service owns approximately 700 bridges that serve essential administrative functions or provide primary public access. Inspections are conducted at statutorily required time intervals, and involve: determining or verifying the safe load-carrying capacity; identifying unsafe conditions and recommending ways to eliminate them; and identifying maintenance, rehabilitation, or reconstruction needs. Funds are also used to provide national management, administration and technical supervision of the Bridge Safety Program. Funding to complete needed bridge safety structural repairs is requested by the Service separately as individual line-item construction projects.

Bridge inspections are scheduled according to their condition and last inspection. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS) requires all vehicular bridges to be inspected on a regular basis, typically at 24-month intervals. The 2016 Bridge Safety Inspection Program will include inspection of approximately 340 bridges, satisfying FHWA NBIS requirements.

Seismic Safety Program - Executive Order 12941 requires Federal agencies to inventory existing buildings and estimate the cost of mitigating unacceptable seismic risks. The seismic inspections required by this order are similar to the safety inspections conducted by the Service for existing dams and bridges and will be executed by the same Service staff.

The Earthquake Hazards Reductions Act of 1977 is intended to reduce risk to life and property from future earthquakes in the United States through establishment of an effective earthquake hazards reduction program. Executive Order 12699, Seismic Safety of Federal and Federally Assisted or Regulated New Buildings Construction, applies to the new construction portion of the Act.

The Service owns approximately 7,000 buildings, many of which are located in high or moderate seismic zones and potentially subjected to damage or collapse from seismic events. Results of preliminary screenings show that approximately 50 of the Service's owned buildings have a significant seismic risk of collapse.

The Seismic Safety Program is responsible for the implementation and oversight of the nationwide Seismic Safety Program. These high-risk buildings will not be re-evaluated unless significant seismic activity occurs. Funding for these evaluations is included in the Five-year Construction Plan as a line-item project in each of the fiscal years from 2016 through 2020. Upon completion of each assessment, the Service will understand the extent and likely costs necessary to mitigate seismic risk at these facilities. Funding to complete seismic safety structural repairs will be requested in future budget submissions as individual line-item construction projects as required.

Line-Item Construction

Construction funding is used to reconstruct, repair, rehabilitate and replace existing buildings, other structures and facilities such as bridges and dams, and also to construct buildings, structures and facilities not previously existing. Construction funds are requested as project specific line-items in the President's Budget Request. Funds may be used for project-specific planning, design and construction management, construction, demolition, site work, land acquisition, and furniture, fixtures and equipment. Proposed construction projects are identified annually in the Service budget request as part of the "Five-Year Construction Plan."

2016 Program Performance

Line-Item Construction Projects. In FY 2016, the Service requests a total of $11,554,000 for line-item construction projects. A summary of proposed projects is included in the FY 2016 Construction Appropriation List of Project Data Sheets (PDS) table below. A Project Data Sheet (PDS) is provided for each project and includes key data on project description, justification, cost and schedule. Following the individual PDSs is a Summary Project Data Sheet for FY 2016 – FY 2020. This summarizes the Service's Five-Year Construction Plan that directs funding to the most critical health, safety, and resource protection needs. Project selection is based on each project's alignment with the Department and Service objectives, condition assessments of existing facilities, and subsequent ranking of Facility Condition Index (FCI) and Department of the Interior scoring methodology.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

PROJECT DATA SHEET

Total Project Score/Ranking:	90
Planned Funding FY:	2016
Funding Source:	Construction

Project Identification

Project Title: Replace Leased Space with Secured Storage Building [p/d]

Project #: 2012218160 **Unit/Facility Name:** Clark R. Bavin National Fish and Wildlife Forensics

Region/Area/District: Region: 9 **Congressional District:** 41 **State:** OR

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	API	FCI - Before	FCI - Projected
		100	0.00	0.00

Project Description (PD):

Plan and design a 7,000 square feet (sqft) finished Forensic Standards Warehouse adjacent to the existing Wildlife Forensic Laboratory (Lab) to store wildlife morphological specimens from threatened and endangered animals worldwide (parts, pieces and whole animal carcasses). The specimens are used as analytical standards in research and forensic analysis. One small area of the warehouse will house Lab maintenance equipment. The growth in owned warehouse space will be offset by a 4,000 sqft reduction in leased warehouse space (OA #AOR03828), saving $35,952 annually in leased space costs, and 3,000 sqft from demolition of the 11,200 sqft Cold Storage Building (10002010) on Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge. The warehouse will be designed and constructed to meet or exceed the Guiding Principles for High Performance and Sustainable Buildings and Federal energy requirements. The current 4,000 sqft leased space is nearly full. Without increased space to store the standards, the Lab would have difficulty accepting and storing new specimens that are critical to analysis and law enforcement needs. This project aligns with the Service's mission of conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants, and with the Office of Law Enforcement's strategic goals of protecting the nation's fish, wildlife, and plants, from unlawful exploitation, industrial hazards, habitat loss, and illegal import and export. The analysis of evidence seized during law enforcement investigations and research to develop analysis methodologies directly depend on the wildlife morphological standards collected from thousands of species worldwide and warehoused in this building. The collection is stored in a cramped, musty space and is deteriorating due to numerous roof and wall leaks, a below-grade wall through which moisture has leaked, and poor heating/cooling and ventilation. The Service's investment in the collection far outweighs the replacement cost and time to reacquire these specimens if they are damaged or destroyed. The morphological work of the Lab would be severely jeopardized unless and until the collection could be restored; however recreating the collection may not be possible in light of the rarity of many of the specimens. The Department of the Interior facility security officials recognized these mission-critical wildlife reference standards as irreplaceable in an audit in 2008, and rated the Lab building as a Federal Security- Level 3+, on a scale of 1 to 4. Note: A storage area for morphological standards was originally included in Lab construction plans in 2003 but was removed with a change in project needs of the Service.

Scope of Benefits (SB):

Project aligns with Service's mission of conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish, wildlife, and plants, and with the Service's Office of Law Enforcement's strategic goals of protecting the nation's fish, wildlife, and plants from unlawful exploitation, industrial hazards, habitat loss, and illegal import and export.

Investment Strategy (IS):

Annual cost of the currently leased warehouse space is $35,952. Annual estimated cost for utilities in the new building would be less than $5,000. Potential saving of $30,000/year in program costs. Consideration must be made to the investment the Service has in the wide variety of scientifically priceless wildlife materials, which include extremely rare casework specimens collected over 25 years from around the world.

Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):

The environmental conditions are poor and adversely impacting the collection. Failure to build the new space would require the Lab to seek a new lease for FY18, and if not found at reasonable costs and location, may require the Service to renew the lease, requiring unprecedented collection management work within limited space, with damage to materials, and concerns for staff health as the warehouse further degrades.

Ranking Categories: **Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1B)**

FCI/API (.40 x 75)	Element Score =	30
SB (.20 x 100)	Element Score =	20
IS (.20 x 100)	Element Score =	20
CFA (.20 x 100)	Element Score =	20

Combine ranking factors = (.40 x API_FCI score) + (.20 x SB score) + (.20 x IS score) + (.20 x CFA score)

Exhibit 300 Analysis Required:

Capital Asset Planning N Type: Scheduled (YY): Yes Completed (YY):

VE Required(Y or N):

Total Project Score: 90

Project Costs and Status

Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):	**$'s**	**%**
Deferred Maintenance Work:	0	0
Capital Improvement Work:	450,000	100
Total:	450,000	100

Project Funding History (Entire Project):		**$'s**
Appropriated to Date:		0
Requested in FY 2016	Budget:	450,000
Future Funding to Complete Project		2,500,000
Total:		2,950,000

Class of Estimate: A, B, C (C)

Estimate Escalated To FY: 16 (yy)

Planning and Design Funds: $'s

Planning Funds Received in FY $0

Design Funds Rec'd in FY $0

Dates:	**Sch'd**
Construction Start/Award: (QTR/YY)	1/16
Project Complete: (QTR/YY)	4/18

Project Data Sheet Prepared/Last Updated 8/14 (mm/yy)

DOI Approved? YES

Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs ($'s)

Current:	35,952	Projected:	5,000	Net Change:	-30,952

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

PROJECT DATA SHEET

Total Project Score/Ranking:	90
Planned Funding FY:	2016
Funding Source:	Construction

Project Identification

Project Title: Dam Safety Program - Repair Concrete at Three Dams - Phase I

Project #: 2014242155 **Unit/Facility Name:** Crab Orchard NWR

Region/Area/District: Region: 3 **Congressional District:** 12 **State:** IL

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	API	FCI - Before	FCI - Projected
40162000	10013507	100	0.00	0.00

Project Description (PD):

The three high hazard dams at Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge were constructed in the 1940's. The concrete of these dams features (spillways, training walls, non-overflow sections etc.) has deteriorated and needs to be repaired to prevent further deterioration, more expensive future repairs and impacts to the operation of the dams. The needed repairs will require lowering the lake levels, impacting the valuable resources of the refuge The repairs will be performed in three phases over a three year period in order to minimize operational impacts.

Scope of Benefits (SB):

The conditions of the spillways, training walls, and non-overflow sections of the dams have deteriorated and increase the risk of potential dam failures. The repairs are needed to prevent further deterioration and adverse impacts to the operation of the dams.

Investment Strategy (IS):

This project represents a necessary investment that provides net savings when including the potential loss of valuable resources, costs of dam failures and more expensive repairs if delayed.

Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):

Over 12,000 people in the local community are at risk because the dams are deteriorated and need repair. The dams provide significant downstream flood control benefits.

Ranking Categories: **Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1B)**

FCI/API	(.40 x 75)	Element Score = 30
SB	(.20 x 100)	Element Score = 20
IS	(.20 x 100)	Element Score = 20
CFA	(.20 x 100)	Element Score = 20

Combine ranking factors = (.40 x API_FCI score) + (.20 x SB score) + (.20 x IS score) + (.20 x CFA score)

Capital Asset Planning Exhibit 300 Analysis Required: No
VE Required(Y or N): N Type: Scheduled (YY): Completed (YY):

Total Project Score: 90

Project Costs and Status

Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):	**$'s**	**%**
Deferred Maintenance Work:	0	0
Capital Improvement Work:	600,000	100
Total:	600,000	100

Project Funding History (Entire Project):	**$'s**
Appropriated to Date:	0
Requested in FY 2016 Budget:	600,000
Future Funding to Complete Project:	400,000
Total:	1,000,000

Class of Estimate: A, B, C (C)

Estimate Escalated To FY: 16 (yy)

Planning and Design Funds: $'s

Planning Funds Received in FY $0

Design Funds Rec'd in FY $0

Dates:	**Sch'd**
Construction Start/Award: (QTR/YY)	1/16
Project Complete: (QTR/YY)	4/18

Project Data Sheet Prepared/Last Updated 8/14 (mm/yy)

DOI Approved? YES

Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs ($'s)

Current:	4,473	Projected:	2,500	Net Change:	-1,973

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

PROJECT DATA SHEET

Total Project Score/Ranking:	90
Planned Funding FY:	2016
Funding Source:	Construction

Project Identification

Project Title: Demolish Buildings - Phase II

Project #: 2014246720 **Unit/Facility Name:** Crab Orchard NWR

Region/Area/District: Region: 3 **Congressional District:** 12 **State:** IL

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	API	FCI - Before	FCI - Projected
		100	1.00	0.00

Project Description (PD):

This project will remove approximately 20,500 square feet of space from the real property records. The buildings scheduled for disposal are prior military facilities that Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge (refuge) was required to retain initially due to the founding legislation of the station, and were never used to support Service operations. Disposal cost of these assets exceeds 10 times the annual operations and maintenance cost, but the assets must be disposed due to public, employee, wildlife and environmental safety concerns. The structures are deteriorated to a state of potential structural instability, and are also an unattractive nuisance. All of the structures contain significant amounts of asbestos that will be removed prior to demolition. Thus, potential safety and liability concerns justify the cost of demolition and disposal. The project will improve public safety, environmental health, wildlife habitat and accessibility to the Refuge. Removal of these buildings will eliminate a source of asbestos contamination and will restore habitat for a variety of wildlife. This is the second phase of the project to demolish all non-essential buildings from Crab Orchard Refuge. If the contract award cost is less then estimated costs additional buildings at the Refuge will be disposed.

Scope of Benefits (SB):

Removal of these deteriorated buildings removes a source of asbestos contamination for the area and will provide more habitat for wildlife when the restoration is completed.

Investment Strategy (IS):

Once these buildings are removed the refuge will no longer have to maintain the accesses leading up to them. There also will be fewer vandalism and trespass issues when the buildings are gone.

Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):

All of the buildings have significant amounts of asbestos in the roofing and siding; which has become a problem as the buildings have aged. Strong winds have caused sections of the asbestos to be scattered around the buildings and contaminate the ground, increasing remediation costs to ten times the cost of remediating asbestos affixed to the buildings.

Ranking Categories: **Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1B)**

FCI/API	(.40 x 75)	Element Score = 30
SB	(.20 x 100)	Element Score = 20
IS	(.20 x 100)	Element Score = 20
CFA	(.20 x 50)	Element Score = 20

Combine ranking factors = (.40 x API_FCI score) + (.20 x SB score) + (.20 x IS score) + (.20 x CFA score)

Capital Asset Planning Exhibit 300 Analysis Required: **No**
VE Required(Y or N): N Type: Scheduled (YY): Completed (YY):

Total Project Score: 90

Project Costs and Status

Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):	**$'s**	**%**	**Project Funding History (Entire Project):**	**$'s**
			Appropriated to Date:	410,000
Deferred Maintenance Work:	362,000	100	Requested in FY 2016 Budget:	362,000
Capital Improvement Work:	0	0	Future Funding to Complete Project:	
Total:	362,000	100	Total:	772,000

Class of Estimate: A, B, C (C)

Estimate Escalated To FY: 16 (yy)

Planning and Design Funds: $'s

Planning Funds Received in FY	$0
Design Funds Rec'd in FY	$0

Dates:	**Sch'd**	**Project Data Sheet**		**DOI Approved?**
Construction Start/Award: (QTR/YY)	1/16	Prepared/Last Updated	8/14 (mm/yy)	YES
Project Complete: (QTR/YY)	4/18			

Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs ($'s)

Current:	0	Projected:	0	Net Change:	0

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

PROJECT DATA SHEET

Total Project Score/Ranking:	90
Planned Funding FY:	2016
Funding Source:	Construction

Project Identification

Project Title: Restore Sears Point Levees [p/d/cc]

Project #: 2010145949 **Unit/Facility Name:** San Pablo Bay NWR

Region/Area/District: Region: 8 **Congressional District:** 06 **State:** CA

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	API	FCI - Before	FCI - Projected
		100	0.35	0.00

Project Description (PD):

Levees and associated pumps cannot control the increased intensity and frequency of flood events. Sea level rise projections project water elevations in the bay will rise approximately 39 inches by 2100. The increased sea level will create conditions where moderate rainfall with moderate storm surges will have the same effect as current extreme storm events. Numerous governmental and non-governmental partners are working together to restore these tidal marshes to protect the public, wildlife and habitat. The levee will be rebuilt to current U.S. Army Corps of Engineer standards and incorporate resiliency measures to address maintenance and sea level rise projections beyond 2100.

Scope of Benefits (SB):

Removal and rebuilding of the Sears Point levee will allow restoration of 950 acres of former estuarine tidal marsh. Nearly 90 percent of tidal salt marsh habitat is gone from the greater San Francisco Bay. This leaves the top end of San Pablo Bay as one of the last regions of the bay where tidal marsh restoration can be expanded into former estuarine habitat with minimal impact to infrastructure.

Investment Strategy (IS):

Restoration activities at Sears Point is a partnership where Sonoma Land Trust and Ducks Unlimited are managing restoration actions, utilizing tens of millions of dollars in restoration funding provided by local, State, federal, and conservatory organizations.

Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):

In 1953, 1968, 1987, 1995, 1997, and 2006 significant rainfall coupled with high tide and/or storm surge events caused the flooding of agricultural interests, homes, and State Route 37 at Sears Point. Rebuilding the levee at Sears Point will address these concerns by rebuilding a more substantial levee capable of withstanding historical flooding events and the frequency and size of such events predicted for the future.

Ranking Categories: **Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1B)**

FCI/API	(.40 x 75)	Element Score = 30
SB	(.20 x 100)	Element Score = 20
IS	(.20 x 100)	Element Score = 20
CFA	(.20 x 100)	Element Score = 20

Combine ranking factors = (.40 x API_FCI score) + (.20 x SB score) + (.20 x IS score) + (.20 x CFA score)

Capital Asset Planning Exhibit 300 Analysis Required: No
VE Required(Y or N): Y Type: D Scheduled (YY): 2016 Completed (YY): 2016

Total Project Score: 90

Project Costs and Status

Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):	**$'s**	**%**
Deferred Maintenance Work:	0	0
Capital Improvement Work:	1,125,000	100
Total:	1,125,000	100

Project Funding History (Entire Project):	**$'s**
Appropriated to Date:	0
Requested in FY 2016 Budget:	1,125,000
Future Funding to Complete Project:	
Total:	1,125,000

Class of Estimate: A, B, C (C)

Estimate Escalated To FY: 16 (yy)

Planning and Design Funds: $'s

Planning Funds Received in FY

Design Funds Rec'd in FY

Dates:	**Sch'd**
Construction Start/Award: (QTR/YY)	1/16
Project Complete: (QTR/YY)	4/18

Project Data Sheet Prepared/Last Updated 8/14 (mm/yy)

DOI Approved? YES

Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs ($'s)

Current:	0	Projected:	0	Net Change:	0

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service PROJECT DATA SHEET	Total Project Score/Ranking:	90
	Planned Funding FY:	2016
	Funding Source:	Construction

Project Identification

Project Title: Construct Visitor Center, South Valley of Albuquerque, New Mexico [p/d/ic]

Project #: 2014247250 **Unit/Facility Name:** Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge

Region/Area/District: Region: 2 **Congressional District:** **State:**

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	API	FCI - Before	FCI - Projected
	22525	100	0.00	0.00

Project Description (PD):
Plan, design and initiate construction on the visitor center located in the South Valley of Albuquerque, New Mexico (Visitor Center), within 90 minutes of 70 percent of the population of New Mexico. The Visitor Center will provide environmental education and interpretation for primarily urban residents who have limited opportunities to experience nature. Numerous partners have contributed funds for land acquisition for the refuge including Bernalillo County, Bureau of Reclamation and the State of New Mexico. The project has overwhelming support within the local community, area nonprofits, and Albuquerque Public Schools. The Visitor Center will be based on the Service's Standard Design Model- medium visitor facility design, meet or exceed Federal energy requirements, and fulfill the Guiding Principles for High Performance and Sustainable Buildings. The Visitor Center will reflect the historical, cultural and wildlife heritage of the Middle Rio Grande. Site development will include vehicular parking for staff and visitors. A small sewage treatment system will be needed on site, as well as water, telephone, and electric service connections to nearby utility lines. The Visitor Center will provide a base of operations for a new national wildlife refuge (established in September 2012) and enable the refuge to engage the public with recreational and environmental education opportunities to an underserved diverse urban population. It is a Secretary's priority as part of the Urban Refuge Initiative and will enhance the quality of life for a nearby urban population.

Scope of Benefits (SB):
This Visitor Center will provide a base of operations and will enhance access to the refuge; it is expected to be heavily used by the public. Evidence of community support is demonstrated by the Friends group, which formed before the refuge was established, and in 18 months has grown to over 150 members. The refuge has already had over 1,000 students in environmental education programs. Open houses attract over 100 local residents each month, and public meetings that engage the community routinely attract well over 100 community members. This new Visitor Center contributes to established goals and objectives of the Service to administer a network of lands and water for the conservation, management, and restoration of fish, wildlife, and natural resources and their habitats.

Investment Strategy (IS):
Many State and local partners are assisting in the acquisition and development of this new national wildlife refuge. The Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority for example has contributed significantly to both land acquisition ($1.8 million) and refuge planning ($150,000). Bernalillo County, through the Southwest Region's Transportation Scholar's efforts has secured a Federal Lands Access Program Grant, for $3 million to construct a multi-use trail providing access to the refuge for urban residents, and connectivity for local neighborhoods. The Visitor Center will be an energy efficient sustainable facility that supports energy efficiency goals in Executive Order 13514, the Energy Independence and Security Act, and the Energy Policy Act.

Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):
This recently established national wildlife refuge will not have on-site staff and the visiting public from a major urban area will not have environmental education and interpretation activities available to enrich their lives.

Ranking Categories: **Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1B)**

FCI/API	(.40 x 75)	Element Score = 30
SB	(.20 x 100)	Element Score = 20
IS	(.20 x 100)	Element Score = 20
CFA	(.20 x 100)	Element Score = 20

Combine ranking factors = (.40 x API_FCI score) + (.20 x SB score) + (.20 x IS score) + (.20 x CFA score)

Capital Asset Planning Exhibit 300 Analysis Required: **Yes**
VE Required(Y or N): Y Type: D Scheduled (YY): 2016 Completed (YY): 2016

Total Project Score: 90

Project Costs and Status

Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):	$'s	%	Project Funding History (Entire Project):	$'s
			Appropriated to Date:	0
Deferred Maintenance Work:	0	0	Requested in FY 2016 Budget:	3,458,000
Capital Improvement Work:	3,758,000	100	Future Funding to Complete Project:	3,063,000
Total:	3,758,000	100	Total:	6,521,000

Class of Estimate: A, B, C (C)
Estimate Escalated To FY: 16 (yy)

Planning and Design Funds: $'s
Planning Funds Received in FY
Design Funds Rec'd in FY

Dates:	Sch'd	Project Data Sheet	DOI Approved?
Construction Start/Award: (QTR/YY)	1/16	Prepared/Last Updated 8/14 (mm/yy)	YES
Project Complete: (QTR/YY)	4/18		

Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs ($'s)

Current:	0	Projected:	6,000	Net Change:	6,000

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

PROJECT DATA SHEET

Total Project Score/Ranking:	90
Planned Funding FY:	2016
Funding Source:	Construction

Project Identification

Project Title: Repair Sand Filters and Intake [cc]

Project #: 2014245805 **Unit/Facility Name:** Warm Springs NFH

Region/Area/District: Region: 1 **Congressional District:** 02 **State:** OR

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	API	FCI - Before	FCI - Projected
35500100	10003019	100	0.13	0.00

Project Description (PD): Repair (or replace) the water intake system at Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery (NFH) including repair of the storm damaged intake diversion structure, fish screens and sand filtration system. Repairs consist of in-water work including dredging, placement of gabions, and re-orientation of the intake structure. Due to weather and hatchery operations, the construction window at Warm Springs NFH is extremely short, necessitating phased construction over two years. Construction phases will be further identified in planning and design. The need for intake system repairs previously was identified in the Deferred Maintenance Five Year Plan. Planning and design of the project was funded with FY 2014 funds on work order 2007713768 for $160,000. In 2013 the drum screens failed and an increased amount of sediment built up in the sump. This led to the project being moved up in priority. Construction funding is needed to address failing components. The project will resolve numerous deficiencies including sediment accumulation at the intake and screens which cause increases in water temperature and limits flow into the hatchery during the summer. Issues with the intake also will be addressed. Severe icing issues in the winter obstruct flow and cause structural failures. In the winter of 2013 the ice caused a drum screen to break free of the pipe structure allowing unfiltered water to enter the intake system. This caused a failure in the sand filtration system and temporarily put the hatchery out of compliance with National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration fish exclusion requirements. All water to the incubation room was temporarily shut down jeopardizing the survival of the entire brood year. The system does not have a bypass emergency water supply line and therefore temporary pumps and hoses were used to supply unfiltered river water to the fish. This posed fish health concerns, heavy manpower requirements, and safety concerns. Emergency repairs were completed to restore the system in December 2013. One hundred percent of the water used to rear fish at Warm Springs NFH is supplied by this intake system. Therefore it is critical that the intake system be repaired to continue operation and maintain fish production. The hatchery currently manages the Warm Springs River spring Chinook program which is native to the Warm Springs River. This program is operated to spawn 630 adult fish annually and release 750,000 juvenile fish, mostly as yearlings. The hatchery provides substantial harvest benefits to tribal fishers in the Warm Springs and Deschutes rivers, and to non-tribal recreational fishers in the lower Deschutes River. The program is one of the first hatchery programs to systematically implement an integrated genetic brood stock strategy to maximize the genetic viability of hatchery origin fish while, at the same time, minimize genetic and ecological risks to the naturally spawning population of spring Chinook in the Warm Springs River. The salmon propagation programs conducted by the Warm Springs NFH support the Service Mission by fulfilling its obligations to Tribal partnerships and trust responsibilities and court ordered commitment. Other species of concern that are observed passing the Warm Springs NFH site include Pacific lamprey (Lampetra tridentate), various sucker species (Catostomus), and mountain whitefish (Prosopium williamsoni).

Scope of Benefits (SB): This project repairs the hatcheries' only water supply improves the intake to meet all fish screening criteria and improves water quality directly impacting fish health. Warm Springs NFH fulfills the Service mission, legal mandates, Tribal trust and court ordered commitments (U.S. v. Oregon) and their propagation programs ranked as a 3.1 priority propagation program in the Service's March 2013 workforce planning report.

Investment Strategy (IS): The current system has required costly emergency repairs over the last three years and put Service employee safety at risk during system failure and while making emergency repairs.

Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA): If not completed, the intake system will continue to fail and have winter icing issues jeopardizing fish production, legal mandates, Tribal trust and court ordered commitments. Emergency measures to save the hatchery fish with temporary pumps and hoses pose risks to human safety and fish health. Providing unfiltered and unscreened water to the hatchery is a violation of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration screening criteria.

Ranking Categories: **Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1B)**

FCI/API	(.40 x 75)	Element Score = 30
SB	(.20 x 100)	Element Score = 20
IS	(.20 x 100)	Element Score = 20
CFA	(.20 x 100)	Element Score = 20

Combine ranking factors = (.40 x API_FCI score) + (.20 x SB score) + (.20 x IS score) + (.20 x CFA score)

Capital Asset Planning Exhibit 300 Analysis Required: **No**
VE Required(Y or N): N Type: Scheduled (YY): Completed (YY):

Total Project Score: 90

Project Costs and Status

Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):	**$'s**	**%**
Deferred Maintenance Work:	368,000	50
Capital Improvement Work:	368,000	50
Total:	736,000	100

Project Funding History (Entire Project):	**$'s**
Appropriated to Date:	160,000
Requested in FY 2016 Budget:	736,000
Planning and Design Funds: $'s	
Future Funding to Complete Project:	
Total:	896,000

Class of Estimate: A, B, C (C)
Estimate Escalated To FY: 16 (yy)

Planning Funds Received in FY	$0
Design Funds Rec'd in FY	$0

Dates:	**Sch'd**
Construction Start/Award: (QTR/YY)	1/16
Project Complete: (QTR/YY)	4/18

Project Data Sheet Prepared/Last Updated 8/14 (mm/yy)

DOI Approved? YES

Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs ($'s)

Current:	Projected:	Net Change:
116,474	16,473	-100,001

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Total Project Score/Ranking:	90
	Planned Funding FY:	2016
PROJECT DATA SHEET	Funding Source: Construction	

Project Identification

Project Title: Replace Fish Holding House [p/d/cc]

Project #: 2009944673 **Unit/Facility Name:** Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery

Region/Area/District: Region: 4 **Congressional District:** 3 **State:** GA

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	API	FCI - Before	FCI - Projected
35500100	10014243	100	0.97	0.00

Project Description (PD): Plan, design and initiate construction on a 1,708 square feet (sqft) fish holding house to replace the hatchery's existing, deteriorated, circa 1965, fish holding house. The existing 1,708 SF fish holding house will be demolished. The replacement building will comply with all building codes and other requirements impacting the design of Federal facilities. The building has a defective roof, broken window frames and huge cracks in the cement floors and foundation. The building does not meet the National Electrical Code or the American Disability Act (ADA) standards and lacks energy efficient windows and appliances. Repairing this building would costs more than replacing it when calculated through life cycle costing. The existing building and its systems have deteriorated substantially and need to be replaced to avoid impacting ongoing anadromous fish restoration efforts. Deficiencies documented during the last comprehensive condition assessment include: cracked walls, floors and windows, metal water lines that are imbedded in 16 concrete tanks are rusted and leaking, need to repair and resurface all tanks, and ground fault protection for numerous electrical outlets, breakers, and heaters are not code compliant. Additionally, the size and design of existing tanks are not adequate for isolation or specific culture requirements. Lighting cannot be moderated for activities such as brood fish conditioning. Large distribution vehicles cannot be pulled within the structure which adds handling stress when transporting aquatic species into/from the building. The completed project will significantly improve the condition of a water management asset and resolve electrical grounding issues. The replacement holding house will include all new electrical, plumbing and spawning/incubation systems. The new building will allow the Service to fully implement the mission of the station's research activities. The holding house is a critical asset and is used in all aspects of hatchery operations.

Scope of Benefits (SB): The new building allows the Service to fully implement the mission of the station's research activities. The holding house is a critical asset and is used in all aspects of hatchery operations. The project creates a safe and healthy facility for staff and complies with Executive Order 13423 and the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. The health and safety issues are related to the electrical components not being in compliance with current electrical code, structural problems and ADA access deficiencies.

Investment Strategy (IS): It is not economically practical to replace the building envelope and internal components including the fish holding tanks. The building has reached its useful life of 40 years. Demolishing the old building and constructing a new building is a better solution for the Service.

Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA): A change in mission over the years from production to refugia and research has rendered the old building inconsistent with propagation needs. The building is becoming structurally unsound. Renovations are cost prohibitive. The lack of a functioning fish holding house prohibits recovery and restoration activities for at-risk species in the southeast.

Ranking Categories: **Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1B)**

FCI/API (.40 x 100)	Element Score =	40
SB (.20 x 100)	Element Score =	20
IS (.20 x 100)	Element Score =	20
CFA (.20 x 50)	Element Score =	10

Combine ranking factors = (.40 x API_FCI score) + (.20 x SB score) + (.20 x IS score) + (.20 x CFA score)

Capital Asset Planning Exhibit 300 Analysis Required: No
VE Required(Y or N): Y Type: D Scheduled (YY): 2016 Completed (YY): 2016

Total Project Score: 90

Project Costs and Status

Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):	**$'s**	**%**
Deferred Maintenance Work:	1,350,000	90
Capital Improvement Work:	450,000	10
Total:	1,500,000	100

Project Funding History (Entire Project):	**$'s**
Appropriated to Date:	0
Requested in FY 2016 Budget:	1,800,000
Future Funding to Complete Project:	0
Total:	1,800,000

Class of Estimate: A, B, C (C)
Estimate Escalated To FY: 16 (yy)

Planning and Design Funds: $'s
Planning Funds Received in FY $0
Design Funds Rec'd in FY $0

Dates:	**Sch'd**
Construction Start/Award: (QTR/YY)	1/16
Project Complete: (QTR/YY)	4/18

Project Data Sheet Prepared/Last Updated 8/14 (mm/yy)

DOI Approved? YES

Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs ($'s)

Current:	946	Projected:	800	Net Change:	-146

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Total Project Score/Ranking:	80
	Planned Funding FY:	2016
PROJECT DATA SHEET	Funding Source: Construction	

Project Identification

Project Title: Rehabilitate Outer Dike

Project #: 2013226880 **Unit/Facility Name:** Julia Butler Hansen Refuge for the Columbian White Tail

Region/Area/District: Region: 1 **Congressional District:** 3 **State:** OR

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	API	FCI - Before	FCI - Projected
40162300	10064436	100	0.09	0.00

Project Description (PD):

Repair 1,500 feet of the outer dike and tide gate on Tenasillahe Island. The dike is eroded and all three pipes in the tide gate have significant metal failure; the steel works are badly rusted; and the concrete vault is eroding. The project will remove the tide gate and install 45 feet of 72-inch drainage piping to replace it. The project also will place riprap in areas of the dike with significant channel wave action, and remove dense vegetation which has grown along sections of the outer dike. Rehabilitating the dike will protect the integrity of this 34,000 linear feet dike, which protects approximately 2,000 acres of endangered Columbian white-tailed deer habitat from Columbia River flood waters.

Scope of Benefits (SB):

Repairing the outer dike will protect endangered Columbian white-tailed deer habitat from Columbia River flood waters, and therefore will help achieve the Department of the Interior and Service goals and objectives.. Surveys conducted in February 2014 show, approximately 300 endangered Columbian white-tailed deer on the island. The same habitat also benefits a large variety of wintering birds, a small herd of Roosevelt elk, river otter, and various reptiles and amphibians including painted turtles and red-legged frogs, and nesting bald eagles and osprey.

Investment Strategy (IS):

Investing in this project will reduce long term repair needs. The refuge contains over 5,500 acres of pastures, forested tidal swamps, brushy wood lots, marshes, and sloughs along the Columbia River in both Washington and Oregon. The Columbian white-tailed deer is the only subspecies of white-tailed deer found west of the Cascade Mountains.

Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):

Failure to act would have a major adverse impact on Columbian white-tailed deer and their habitat in the event of the dike being overtopped or collapsing from increasingly frequent Columbia River high tides and flooding. Water management is the key to providing the diverse habitats the deer and other wildlife require.

Ranking Categories: **Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1B)**

FCI/API	(.40 x 75)	Element Score = 30
SB	(.20 x 100)	Element Score = 20
IS	(.20 x 100)	Element Score = 20
CFA	(.20 x 50)	Element Score = 10

Combine ranking factors = (.40 x API_FCI score) + (.20 x SB score) + (.20 x IS score) + (.20 x CFA score)

Capital Asset Planning Exhibit 300 Analysis Required: **No**
VE Required(Y or N): N Type: Scheduled (YY): Completed (YY):

Total Project Score: 80

Project Costs and Status

Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):	**$'s**	**%**	**Project Funding History (Entire Project):**	**$'s**
			Appropriated to Date:	0
Deferred Maintenance Work:	842,000	100	Requested in FY 2016 Budget:	842,000
Capital Improvement Work:	0	0	Future Funding to Complete Project:	0
Total:	842,000	100	Total:	842,000

Class of Estimate: A, B, C (C)

Estimate Escalated To FY: 16 (yy)

Planning and Design Funds: $'s
Planning Funds Received in FY
Design Funds Rec'd in FY

Dates:	**Sch'd**	**Project Data Sheet**		**DOI Approved?**
Construction Start/Award: (QTR/YY)	1/16	Prepared/Last Updated	8/14 (mm/yy)	YES
Project Complete: (QTR/YY)	4/18			

Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs ($'s)

Current:	39	Projected:	39	Net Change:	0

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

PROJECT DATA SHEET

Total Project Score/Ranking:	70
Planned Funding FY:	2016
Funding Source:	Construction

Project Identification

Project Title: Replace Oxygenation System [p/d/cc]

Project #: 2007719626 **Unit/Facility Name:** Wolf Creek NFH

Region/Area/District: Region: 4 **Congressional District:** 01 **State:** KY

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	API	FCI - Before	FCI - Projected
40500400	10015678	100	0.29	0.00

Project Description (PD):

Replace inefficient/worn venturi type raceway oxygenation system and worn out water control valves (28 assemblies) with more efficient packed columns and ancillary liquid oxygen supplementation. The current raceway oxygenation system limits both the quantity and quality of mitigation fish (fish reared to mitigate for Federal water projects) being reared at this facility. The project also will rehabilitate the raceway water inlets by adding 4 water inlet structures to the original raceway series. These inlets will more efficiently distribute production water thereby allowing for enhanced growth/improved condition of fish being reared for mitigation purposes. The oxygenation system and the inlet structures need to be replaced through this project.

Scope of Benefits (SB):

New oxygenation system will allow full use of the size of the hatchery.

Investment Strategy (IS):

The new system will require higher operations and maintenance costs.

Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):

This investment allows Wolf Creek to continue to produce both reimbursed mitigation stocking fish and endangered mussels. Failure to perform this upgrade will jeopardize accomplishment of the station's mission.

Ranking Categories: **Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1B)**

FCI/API	(.40 x 100)	Element Score = 40
SB	(.20 x 100)	Element Score = 20
IS	(.20 x -25)	Element Score = 0
CFA	(.20 x 50)	Element Score = 10

Combine ranking factors = (.40 x API_FCI score) + (.20 x SB score) + (.20 x IS score) + (.20 x CFA score)

Capital Asset Planning Exhibit 300 Analysis Required: No
VE Required(Y or N): Y Type: D Scheduled (YY): 2016 Completed (YY): 2016

Total Project Score: 70

Project Costs and Status

Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):	**$'s**	**%**	**Project Funding History (Entire Project):**	**$'s**
			Appropriated to Date:	0
Deferred Maintenance Work:	660,554	57	Requested in FY 2016 Budget:	1,168,000
Capital Improvement Work:	507,446	43	Future Funding to Complete Project:	
Total:	1,168,000	100	Total:	1,168,000

Class of Estimate: A, B, C (C)

Estimate Escalated To FY: 16 (yy)

Planning and Design Funds: $'s

Planning Funds Received in FY $0

Design Funds Rec'd in FY $0

Dates:	**Sch'd**	**Project Data Sheet**	**DOI Approved?**
Construction Start/Award: (QTR/YY)	1/16	Prepared/Last Updated 8/14 (mm/yy)	YES
Project Complete: (QTR/YY)	4/18		

Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs ($'s)

Current:	3,453	Projected:	6,000	Net Change:	2,547

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

PROJECT DATA SHEET

Total Project Score/Ranking:	70
Planned Funding FY:	2016
Funding Source:	Construction

Project Title: Nationwide Seismic Safety Investigations

Project #: 2012218267 **Unit/Facility Name:** Branch of Dam Safety

Region/Area/District: Region: 9 **Congressional District:** Various **State:** VA

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	API	FCI - Before	FCI - Projected
		100	0.00	0.00

Project Description (PD):

Seismic engineering evaluations will be performed for select Service buildings. Preliminary screening level assessments have identified more than 50 Service building as having significant seismic risks of collapse. More detailed investigations beyond the screening level are necessary. Engineering evaluations are the next required analysis to confirm the seismic hazard and to propose potential mitigation options based on the analysis. The engineering evaluations also may provide technical evidence not available through the simplified screening process that the seismic risk is low and no mitigation effort is required.

Scope of Benefits (SB):

The project supports the Department of the Interior Strategic Goal 4.1 (Protect Lives, Resources, and Property). This project supports necessary and continuing efforts to identify Service buildings that are at risk of collapse due to an earthquake and identification of mitigation options and preliminary cost estimates to reduce the risk to acceptable levels.

Investment Strategy (IS):

The primary purpose of the project is to ensure against the loss of life in the event of rare but devastating earthquakes. The project also will provide a positive return on investment by identifying retrofit strategies that will result in stronger, more earthquake resistant buildings that are able to resist smaller, more frequent earthquakes with little to no damage.

Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):

The Service buildings to be evaluated under this project have been identified as having an unacceptably high possibility of collapse in the event of an earthquake; any such collapse would clearly endanger the life and health of Service employees and visitors.

Ranking Categories: **Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1B)**

FCI/API	(.40 x 75)	Element Score = 30
SB	(.20 x 100)	Element Score = 20
IS	(.20 x 0)	Element Score = 0
CFA	(.20 x 100)	Element Score = 20

Combine ranking factors = (.40 x API_FCI score) + (.20 x SB score) + (.20 x IS score) + (.20 x CFA score)

Capital Asset Planning Exhibit 300 Analysis Required: **No**
VE Required(Y or N): N Type: Scheduled (YY): Completed (YY):

Total Project Score: 70

Project Costs and Status

Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):	**$'s**	**%**	**Project Funding History (Entire Project):**	**$'s**
			Appropriated to Date:	430,000
Deferred Maintenance Work:	215,000	100	Requested in FY 2016 Budget:	215,000
Capital Improvement Work:	0	0	Future Funding to Complete Project:	430,000
Total:	215,000	100	Total:	1,075,000

Class of Estimate: A, B, C (C)

Estimate Escalated To FY: 16 (yy)

Planning and Design Funds: $'s

Planning Funds Received in FY $0

Design Funds Rec'd in FY $0

Dates:	**Sch'd**	**Project Data Sheet**		**DOI Approved?**
Construction Start/Award: (QTR/YY)	1/16	Prepared/Last Updated	8/14 (mm/yy)	YES
Project Complete: (QTR/YY)	4/18			

Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs ($'s)

Current:	0	Projected:	0	Net Change:	0

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

PROJECT DATA SHEET

Total Project Score/Ranking:	60
Planned Funding FY:	2016
Funding Source:	Construction

Project Identification

Project Title: Replace Drum Filter and Variable Frequency Drive [p/d/cc]

Project #: 2008868590 **Unit/Facility Name:** Gavins Point NFH

Region/Area/District: Region: 6 **Congressional District:** 00 **State:** SD

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	API	FCI - Before	FCI - Projected
35500100	10053369	100	0.06	0.00

Project Description (PD):

Replace the 300 gallon-per-minute drum filter in the Endangered Species building will prevent system shutdown, reduce the risk of Whirling Disease, and remove solids from the incoming water; all of which prevent fish kill and decreases maintenance requirements. Improving the condition and function of this water distribution line also will improve the National Fish Hatchery System's Facility Condition Index of water management assets (OP 5.5.1). With the risk of Whirling Disease and high concentrations of solids in the lake water, the need for a well-functioning drum filter is absolutely necessary for the safe and efficient operation of the fish hatchery. The current drum filtration system in the Endangered Species building is old and needs regular repairs. System deficiencies are identified in the FY 2008 Comprehensive Condition Assessment.

Scope of Benefits (SB):

Installation of the new drum filter with an energy efficient variable frequency drive protects the Endangered species from the threat of Whirling Disease.

Investment Strategy (IS):

Repairs are needed for the station to fulfill its endangered species propagation mission. No significant change in operation and maintenance costs is expected.

Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):

Failure to address deficiencies may jeopardize mission accomplishment.

Ranking Categories: **Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1B)**

FCI/API	(.40 x 75)	Element Score = 30
SB	(.20 x 100)	Element Score = 20
IS	(.20 x -25)	Element Score = 0
CFA	(.20 x 100)	Element Score = 10

Combine ranking factors = (.40 x API_FCI score) + (.20 x SB score) + (.20 x IS score) + (.20 x CFA score)

Capital Asset Planning Exhibit 300 Analysis Required: No
VE Required(Y or N): N Type: Scheduled (YY): Completed (YY):

Total Project Score: 60

Project Costs and Status

Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):	**$'s**	**%**
Deferred Maintenance Work:	600,000	100
Capital Improvement Work:	0	0
Total:	600,000	100

Project Funding History (Entire Project):	**$'s**
Appropriated to Date:	0
Requested in FY 2016 Budget:	600,000
Future Funding to Complete Project:	
Total:	600,000

Class of Estimate: A, B, C (C)

Estimate Escalated To FY: 16 (yy)

Planning and Design Funds: $'s

Planning Funds Received in FY

Design Funds Rec'd in FY

Dates:	**Sch'd**
Construction Start/Award: (QTR/YY)	1/16
Project Complete: (QTR/YY)	4/18

Project Data Sheet Prepared/Last Updated 8/14 (mm/yy)

DOI Approved? YES

Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs ($'s)

Current:	33,141	Projected:	33,341	Net Change:	0

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

PROJECT DATA SHEET

Total Project Score/Ranking:	60
Planned Funding FY:	2016
Funding Source:	Construction

Project Identification

Project Title: Demolish Residence 1

Project #: 2014243932 **Unit/Facility Name:** Tishomingo NFH

Region/Area/District: Region: 2 **Congressional District:** 02 **State:** OK

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	API	FCI - Before	FCI - Projected
35300200	10006355	90	0.34	0.00

Project Description (PD):

In December 2013 a water pipe burst in the upstairs bathroom causing extensive damage to this residence. The engineering assessment determined that repairing and restoring the residence is not cost effective. The maintenance backlog is estimated at more than $110,000. This residence has been vacant since June of 2003, and .therefore this residence will be demolished.

Scope of Benefits (SB):

This project will demolish an unused residence. Demolition of an asset is warranted when it is no longer needed for the mission and its condition is poor.

Investment Strategy (IS):

The renovation cost to repair this residence exceeds the replacement cost.

Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):

Water has damaged a major portion of this residence. Prolonged vacancy promotes mold and rot growth and insect infestation.

Ranking Categories: **Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1B)**

FCI/API	(.40 x 100)	Element Score = 40
SB	(.20 x 100)	Element Score = 10
IS	(.20 x 100)	Element Score = 0
CFA	(.20 x 50)	Element Score = 10

Combine ranking factors = (.40 x API_FCI score) + (.20 x SB score) + (.20 x IS score) + (.20 x CFA score)

Capital Asset Planning Exhibit 300 Analysis Required: **No**
VE Required(Y or N): N Type: Scheduled (YY): Completed (YY):

Total Project Score: 60

Project Costs and Status

Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):	**$'s**	**%**
Deferred Maintenance Work:	60,000	100
Capital Improvement Work:	0	0
Total:	60,000	100

Project Funding History (Entire Project):	**$'s**
Appropriated to Date:	0
Requested in FY 2016 Budget:	60,000
Future Funding to Complete Project:	
Total:	60,000

Class of Estimate: A, B, C (C)

Estimate Escalated To FY: 16 (yy)

Planning and Design Funds: $'s

Planning Funds Received in FY	$0
Design Funds Rec'd in FY	$0

Dates:	**Sch'd**
Construction Start/Award: (QTR/YY)	1/16
Project Complete: (QTR/YY)	4/18

Project Data Sheet Prepared/Last Updated 8/14 (mm/yy)

DOI Approved? YES

Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs ($'s)

Current:	Projected:	Net Change:
0	0	0

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

PROJECT DATA SHEET

Total Project Score/Ranking:	52
Planned Funding FY:	2016
Funding Source:	Construction

Project Identification

Project Title: Demolish Residence 1

Project #: 19131333 **Unit/Facility Name:** Williams Creek NFH

Region/Area/District: Region: 2 **Congressional District:** 01 **State:** AZ

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	API	FCI - Before	FCI - Projected
35300200	10008632	80	0.08	0.00

Project Description (PD):

This project will demolish Residence 1. Returning this residence to service would require major renovation including replacing the entire electrical system, heating and ventilation air conditioning system, windows, doors, flooring, kitchen cabinets and countertops, plumbing and plumbing fixtures, and appliances. The renovation cost exceeds the replacement value. The residence has been vacant for some time and likely would remain vacant due to the high cost of rent. This residence is not critical to the mission of Williams Creek NFH and therefore will be demolished.

Scope of Benefits (SB):

This project will demolish an unused residence. Demolition of an asset is warranted when it is no longer needed for the mission and its condition is poor.

Investment Strategy (IS):

Major renovation would be required to return this residence to service. The entire electrical system, heating and ventilation air conditioning system, windows, doors, flooring, kitchen cabinets and countertops, plumbing and plumbing fixtures, and appliances would need to be replaced. Other needed repairs would address smoke leakage from the chimney and groundwater penetration of the basement walls. The renovation cost exceeds the replacement value.

Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):

The residence will not be renovated or occupied. The condition of the residence will worsen over time.

Ranking Categories: **Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1B)**

FCI/API	(.40 x 30)	Element Score = 12
SB	(.20 x 100)	Element Score = 20
IS	(.20 x 50)	Element Score = 10
CFA	(.20 x 50)	Element Score = 10

Combine ranking factors = (.40 x API_FCI score) + (.20 x SB score) + (.20 x IS score) + (.20 x CFA score)

Capital Asset Planning Exhibit 300 Analysis Required: **No**
VE Required(Y or N): N Type: Scheduled (YY): Completed (YY):

Total Project Score: 52

Project Costs and Status

Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):	**$'s**	**%**
Deferred Maintenance Work:	59,980	100
Capital Improvement Work:	0	0
Total:	59,980	100

Project Funding History (Entire Project):	**$'s**
Appropriated to Date:	0
Requested in FY 2016 Budget:	59,980
Future Funding to Complete Project:	
Total:	59,980

Class of Estimate: A,B,C (C)

Estimate Escalated To FY: 16 (yy)

Planning and Design Funds: $'s
Planning Funds Received in FY
Design Funds Rec'd in FY

Dates:	**Sch'd**
Construction Start/Award: (QTR/YY)	1/16
Project Complete: (QTR/YY)	4/18

Project Data Sheet Prepared/Last Updated 8/14 (mm/yy)

DOI Approved? YES

Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs ($'s)

Current:	Projected:	Net Change:
0	0	0

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

PROJECT DATA SHEET

Total Project Score/Ranking:	52
Planned Funding FY:	2016
Funding Source:	Construction

Project Identification

Project Title: Demolish Residence 3

Project #: 2013226557 **Unit/Facility Name:** Williams Creek NFH

Region/Area/District: Region: 2 **Congressional District:** 01 **State:** AZ

Project Justification

DOI Asset Code	FRPP Unique Id #	API	FCI - Before	FCI - Projected
35300200	10008633	50	0.10	0.00

Project Description (PD):

This project will demolish Residence 3. Returning this residence to service would require major renovation including replacing the entire electrical system, HVAC system, windows, doors, flooring, kitchen cabinets and countertops, plumbing and plumbing fixtures, and appliances. The renovation cost exceeds the replacement value. Residence 3 has been vacant for some time and likely would remain vacant for the foreseeable future due to the high cost of rent. This residence is not critical to the mission of Williams Creek NFH and therefore will be demolished. Demolition will include removal of any asbestos present.

Scope of Benefits (SB):

This project will demolish an unused residence. Demolition of an asset is warranted when it is no longer needed for the mission and its condition is poor.

Investment Strategy (IS):

Returning this residence to service would require major renovation. The renovation cost exceeds the replacement value. The residence has been vacant for some time and is expected to remain vacant for the foreseeable future due to the high cost of rent.

Consequences of Failure to Act (CFA):

This residence will not be renovated or occupied. The condition of the residence will worsen over time.

Ranking Categories: **Scores should be equal to the scores on the Project Scoring Sheet (Exhibit 1B)**

FCI/API	(.40 x 30)	Element Score = 12
SB	(.20 x 100)	Element Score = 20
IS	(.20 x 100)	Element Score = 20
CFA	(.20 x 0)	Element Score = 0

Combine ranking factors = (.40 x API_FCI score) + (.20 x SB score) + (.20 x IS score) + (.20 x CFA score)

Capital Asset Planning Exhibit 300 Analysis Required: No
VE Required(Y or N): N Type: Scheduled (YY): Completed (YY):

Total Project Score: 52

Project Costs and Status

Project Cost Estimate (this PDS):	**$'s**	**%**
Deferred Maintenance Work:	78,000	100
Capital Improvement Work:	0	0
Total:	78,000	100

Project Funding History (Entire Project):	**$'s**
Appropriated to Date:	0
Requested in FY 2016 Budget:	78,000
Future Funding to Complete Project:	
Total:	78,000

Class of Estimate: A,B,C (C)

Estimate Escalated To FY: 16 (yy)

Planning and Design Funds: $'s

Planning Funds Received in FY $0

Design Funds Rec'd in FY $0

Dates:	**Sch'd**
Construction Start/Award: (QTR/YY)	1/16
Project Complete: (QTR/YY)	4/18

Project Data Sheet Prepared/Last Updated 8/14 (mm/yy)

DOI Approved? YES

Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs ($'s)

Current:	Projected:	Net Change:
923	0	-923

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Summary Project Data Sheet for FY 16-20 Construction

Plan Fund Year	Priority	Region/ Area/ District	Facility or Unit Name	Project Title	State	Cong. Dist.	Total DOI Score	Scoring Categories				Project Cost Distribution			Change in Annual O&M Costs ($)
								API/FCI Score	SB Score	IS Score	CFA Score	DM ($000)	CI ($000)	Total ($000)	
2016	1	9	Clark R. Bavin National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Lab	Replace Leased Space with Secured Storage Building [p/d]	OR	41	90	30	20	20	20	-	450	450	(30,952)
2016	2	3	Crab Orchard NWR	Dam Safety Program - Repair Concrete at Three Dams - Phase I	IL	12	90	30	20	20	20	600	-	600	(1,973)
2016	3	3	Crab Orchard NWR	Demolish Buildings - Phase II	IL	12	90	30	20	20	20	362	-	362	-
2016	4	8	San Pablo Bay NWR	Restore Sears Point Levees [p/d/cc]	CA	06	90	30	20	20	20	1,125	-	1,125	-
2016	5	2	Valle de Oro NWR	Construct Visitor Center, South Valley of Albuquerque, NM [p/d]	NM	01	90	30	20	20	20	-	3,458	3,458	6,000
2016	6	1	Warm Springs NFH	Repair Sand Filters and Intake [cc]	OR	02	90	30	20	20	20	368	368	736	(11,648)
2016	7	4	Warm Springs NFH	Replace Fish Holding House [p/d/cc]	GA	03	90	40	20	20	10	1,350	450	1,800	(146)
2016	19	1	Julia Butler Hansen NWR	Rehabilitate Outer Dike	OR	03	80	30	20	20	10	842	-	842	-
2016	8	9	Branch of Dam Safety	Seismic Safety Investigations	VA	*	70	30	20	0	20	215	-	215	-
2016	9	4	Wolf Creek NFH	Replace Oxygenation System [p/d/cc]	KY	01	70	40	20	0	10	661	507	1,168	2,547
2016	10	6	Gavins Point NFH	Replace Drum Filter and Variable Frequency Drive [p/d/cc]	SD	00	60	30	20	0	10	600	-	600	(2,800)
2016	11	2	Tishomingo NFH	Demolish Residence 1	OK	02	60	40	10	0	10	60	-	60	(25,933)
2016	12	2	Williams Creek NFH	Demolish Residence 1	AZ	01	52	12	20	10	10	60	-	60	(896)
2016	13	2	Williams Creek NFH	Demolish Residence 3	AZ	01	52	12	20	20	0	78	-	78	(923)
									Total for Fiscal Year 2016					11,554	(66,724)
2017	14	9	Clark R. Bavin National Fish & Wildlife Forensics Lab	Replace Leased Space with Secured Storage Building [cc]	OR	41	90	30	20	20	20	-	2,500	2,500	(30,952)
2017	15	3	Crab Orchard NWR	Dam Safety Program - Repair Concrete at Three Dams - Phase II	IL	12	90	30	20	20	20	400	-	400	(3,686)
2017	16	2	Valle de Oro NWR	Construct Visitor Center, South Valley of Albuquerque, NM [ic]	NM	01	90	30	20	20	20	-	3,063	3,063	6,000
2017	17	5	Edwin B. Forsythe NWR	Replace Co-located Field Office Building [p/d]	NJ	02	90	40	20	20	20	3,787	-	3,787	(18,434)
2017	18	5	Harrison Lake NFH	Reconfigure and Rehabilitate Pond Complex [p/d/ic]	VA	03	80	40	10	10	20	497	-	497	364
2017	19	5	Harrison Lake NFH	Rehabilitate water delivery infrastructure and provide well water treatment [p/d/cc]	VA	03	80	30	20	20	10	632	210	842	-

Plan Fund Year	Priority	Region/ Area/ District	Facility or Unit Name	Project Title	State	Cong. Dist.	Total DOI Score	Scoring Categories				Project Cost Distribution			Change in Annual O&M Costs ($)
								API/FCI Score	SB Score	IS Score	CFA Score	DM ($000)	CI ($000)	Total ($000)	
2017	20	9	Branch of Dam Safety	Nationwide Dam Safety Program - Evaluate Newly Acquired Dams - Phase 1	VA	*	70	30	20	0	20	250	-	250	-
2017	21	9	Branch of Dam Safety	Nationwide Seismic Safety Investigations	VA	*	70	30	20	0	20	215	-	215	-
									Total for Fiscal Year 2017					11,554	(46,708)
2018	22	3	Crab Orchard NWR	Dam Safety Program - Repair Concrete at Three Dams - Phase III	IL	12	90	30	20	20	20	300	-	300	(3,686)
2018	23	5	Edwin B. Forsythe NWR	Replace Co-located Field Office Building [ic/cc]	NJ	02	90	40	20	20	20	2,213	-	2,213	(18,434)
2018	24	2	Alchesay NFH	Design Effluent Treatment System [p/d]	AZ	06	70	30	20	0	20	-	150	150	-
2018	25	2	Tishomingo NFH	Install Effluent Treatment System [p/d/cc]	OK	02	70	30	20	0	20	-	600	600	500
2018	26	2	San Marcos NFH	Install Water Reuse System [p/d/cc]	TX	25	70	30	20	0	20	300	1,320	1,620	2,500
2018	27	9	Branch of Dam Safety	Nationwide Dam Safety Program - Evaluate Newly Acquired Dams	VA	*	70	30	20	0	20	250	-	250	-
2018	28	9	Branch of Dam Safety	Nationwide Seismic Safety Investigations	VA	*	70	30	20	0	20	215	-	215	-
2018	29	6	Hotchkiss NFH	Replace Sand Settling Basin [p/d/cc]	CO	03	70	30	20	10	10	500	-	500	(117)
2018	30	7	Alaska Maritime NWR	Rehabilitate Tiglax Ocean Vessel	AK	00	70	30	20	0	20	5,146	-	5,146	-
2018	31	8	Lahontan NFH	Rehabilitate Water Reuse System [p/d/cc]	NV	02	70	30	20	10	10	500	-	500	(1,101)
2018	32	3	Sullivan Creek NFH	Demolish Residence	MI	01	60	30	10	0	10	60	-	60	(300)
									Total for Fiscal Year 2018					11,554	(19,237)
2019	33	3	Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge	Restore Wetland Habitat [p/d/cc]	MI	14	80	30	20	20	10	-	804	804	-
2019	34	3	Pendills Creek NFH	Replace 18" Water Supply Pipeline [p/d/cc]	MI	01	80	40	20	10	10	550	350	900	(300)
2019	35	3	Pendills Creek NFH	Replace 24" Water Supply Pipeline to Traveling Screen Building [p/d/cc]	MI	01	80	30	20	20	10	600	400	1,000	(200)
2019	36	8	Don Edwards SF Bay NWR	Wetland Restoration - South Bay [p/d/ic/cc]	CA	18	80	30	10	10	20	3,577	-	3,577	-

Plan Fund Year	Priority	Region/ Area/ District	Facility or Unit Name	Project Title	State	Cong. Dist.	Total DOI Score	Scoring Categories				Project Cost Distribution			Change in Annual O&M Costs ($)
								API/FCI Score	SB Score	IS Score	CFA Score	DM ($000)	CI ($000)	Total ($000)	
2019	37	3	Jordan River NFH	Construct Storage Building with a Disinfection Bay [p/d/cc]	MI	01	80	30	20	10	20	-	700	700	3,000
2019	38	8	Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge NWR	Rehabilitate Headquarters Building for Fire Safety and Energy Efficiency [p/d/ic]	CA	01	72	12	20	20	20	100	-	100	(6,066)
2019	39	9	Branch of Dam Safety	Nationwide Dam Safety Program - Evaluate Newly Acquired Dams	VA	*	70	30	20	10	20	250	-	250	-
2019	40	1	Nisqually NWR	Remove Eight Buildings	WA	09	70	30	20	20	0	350	-	350	-
2019	41	3	Neosho NFH	Replace Deteriorated Feed Storage and Vehicle Storage Building [p/d/cc]	MO	07	70	30	20	10	10	500	-	500	(1,000)
2019	42	4	St Marks NWR	Tier 2 Energy Elements at Maintenance Shop	FL	02	70	30	20	20	0	950	-	950	(4,014)
2019	43	7	Tetlin NWR	Convert Building to Solar at Tok, Alaska [p/d]	AK	00	70	30	20	20	0	115	-	115	(30,020)
2019	44	1	Umatilla NWR	Consolidate Office Buildings [p/d/cc]	OR	02	62	2	20	20	20	500	500	1,000	1,446
2019	45	5	Great Dismal Swamp NWR	Rehabilitate Lake Drummond East Ditch [p/d/cc]	VA	04	60	0	20	20	20	1,017	-	1,017	(158)
2019	46	3	Iron River NFH	Rehabilitate Visitors Center [p/d/cc]	WI	07	60	30	10	20	0	261	-	261	(1,162)
2019	47	3	Iron River NFH	Demolish Dilapidated Milking Barn [cc]	WI	07	30	0	10	0	20	30	-	30	-
									Total for Fiscal Year 2019					11,554	(38,474)
2020	48	6	Huron WMD	Replace Headquarters Building	SD	00	90	30	20	20	20	3,487	-	3,487	(9,000)
2020	49	6	Long Lake NWR	Install Culvert Bridges [p/d/cc]	ND	00	80	30	20	20	10	600	-	600	500
2020	50	7	Togiak NWR	Renovate Quarters with Alaska 5 Star Energy Elements	AK	00	80	30	20	20	10	275	225	500	(27,000)
2020	51	8	Sacramento NWR	Rehabilitate Headquarters Building for Fire Safety and Energy Efficiency [cc]	CA	01	72	12	20	20	20	600	-	600	(6,066)
2020	52	9	Branch of Dam Safety	Nationwide Dam Safety Program - Evaluate Newly Acquired Dams	VA	*	70	30	20	0	20	250	-	250	-
2020	53	5	Harrison Lake NFH	Reconfigure and Rehabilitate Pond Complex [cc]	VA	03	70	40	10	0	20	500	-	500	464
2020	54	8	Marble Bluff Fish Research (NFH)	Replace Fish Ladder [cc]	NV	02	70	30	20	10	10	1,700	600	2,300	(118)
2020	55	8	San Diego Bay NWR	Restore Seabird Nesting Habitat	CA	49	70	30	20	10	10	801	-	801	-

Plan Fund Year	Priority	Region/ Area/ District	Facility or Unit Name	Project Title	State	Cong. Dist.	Total DOI Score	Scoring Categories				Project Cost Distribution			Change in Annual O&M Costs ($)
								API/FCI Score	SB Score	IS Score	CFA Score	DM ($000)	CI ($000)	Total ($000)	
2020	56	6	Saratoga NFH	Rehabilitate Water Treatment Facilities [p/d/cc]	WY	00	70	40	10	10	10	531	-	531	(23,212)
2020	57	7	Tetlin NWR	Convert Building to Solar at Tok AS [cc]	AK	00	70	30	20	20	0	925	-	925	(30,020)
2020	58	1	Hawaiian Islands NWR	Remove debris, Storm-damaged Buildings, and Associated Outbuildings on Tern Island	HI	02	60	30	20	0	10	1,000	-	1,000	-
2020	59	2	Williams Creek NFH	Demolish Residence 6	AZ	01	32	12	10	10	0	60	-	60	(1,312)
									Total for Fiscal Year 2020					11,554	(86,764)

p = Planning
d = Design
ic = Initiate construction
cc = Complete construction
* = Located in multiple Congressional Districts that are to be determined

Summary of Requirements
Appropriation: Construction
(Dollars in Thousands)

	2014 Actual	2015 Enacted		Fixed Costs	Internal Transfers	Program Changes (+/-)		2016 Budget Request		Change from 2015 (+/-)	
	Amount	*FTE*	Amount	(+/-)	(+/-)	*FTE*	Amount	*FTE*	Amount	*FTE*	Amount
Nationwide Engineering Services	**7,209**	***55***	**7,161**	***125***	***0***	***0***	**0**	***55***	**7,286**	***0***	***125***
Dam, Bridge and Seismic Safety											
Dam Safety Inspections	1,113		1,113		0	*0*	0	*0*	1,113	*0*	0
Bridge Safety Inspections	739		739		0	*0*	0	*0*	739	*0*	0
Seismic Safety*	0		120		0	*0*	0	*0*	120	*0*	0
Subtotal, Dam, Bridge and Seismic Safety	**1,852**		**1,972**	**0**	**0**	*0*	**0**	***0***	**1,972**	***0***	**0**
Line Item Construction	**6,661**		**6,554**	**0**	**0**	***+2***	**+5,000**	***2***	**11,554**	***+2***	**+5,000**
Total, Construction	**15,722**	***55***	**15,687**	**+125**	**0**	***+2***	**+5,000**	***57***	**20,812**	***+2***	**+5,125**

* In FY 14, Seismic Safety was part of Nationwide Engineering Services.

Standard Form 300

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
CONSTRUCTION

Program and Financing (in million of dollars) Identification Code 010-18-14-1612	2014 Actual	2015 Estimate	2016 Estimate
Obligations by program activity:			
0001 Refuges	22	24	25
0002 Hatcheries	1	2	3
0003 Other Projects	1	1	1
0004 Bridge and Dam Safety	2	2	0
0005 Nationwide Engineering Service	8	7	7
0006 Dam, Bridge and Seismic Safety	0	0	2
0100 Total, Direct program:	34	36	38
0799 Total direct obligations	34	36	38
0801 Construction (Reimbursable)	1	1	1
0900 Total new obligations	35	37	39
Budgetary Resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	73	57	39
1021 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	0	1	1
1050 Unobligated balance (total)	73	58	40
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, discretionary:			
1100 Appropriation	16	16	21
1121 Appropriations transferred from Wildland Fire BLM [014-1125]	3	0	0
1160 Appropriation, discretionary (total)	19	16	21
Spending authority from offsetting collections, discretionary:			
1700 Collected	2	2	2
1701 Change in uncollected payments, Federal sources	-2	0	0
1750 Spending auth from offsetting collections, disc (total)	0	2	2
1900 Budget authority (total)	19	18	23
1930 Total budgetary resources available	92	76	63
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	57	39	24
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	37	34	37
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	35	37	39
3020 Outlays (gross)	-38	-33	-35
3040 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations, unexpired	0	-1	-1
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	34	37	40

Standard Form 300

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
CONSTRUCTION

Program and Financing (in million of dollars) Identification Code 010-18-14-1612	2014 Actual	2015 Estimate	2016 Estimate
Budget authority and outlays, net:			
Discretionary:			
4000 Budget authority, gross	19	18	23
Outlays, gross:			
4010 Outlays from new discretionary authority	6	5	6
4011 Outlays from discretionary balances	32	28	29
4020 Outlays, gross (total)	38	33	35
Offsets against gross budget authority and outlays:			
Offsetting collections (collected) from:			
4030 Federal sources	-1	-2	-2
4033 Non-Federal sources	-1	0	0
4040 Offsets against gross budget authority and outlays (total)	-2	-2	-2
Additional offsets against gross budget authority only:			
4050 Change in uncollected pymts, Fed sources, unexpired	2	0	0
4070 Budget authority, net (discretionary)	19	16	21
4080 Outlays, net (discretionary)	36	31	33
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	19	16	21
4190 Outlays, net (total)	36	31	33

Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	5	5	5
12.1 Civilian personnel benefits	2	2	2
23.1 Rental payments to GSA	1	1	1
25.2 Other services from non-Federal sources	10	11	13
25.3 Other goods and services from Federal sources	3	3	3
25.4 Operation and maintenance of facilities	8	8	8
32.0 Land and structures	5	6	6
99.0 Subtotal, Direct obligations	34	36	38
Reimbursable obligations:			
25.3 Other goods and services from Federal sources	1	1	1
99.9 Total new obligations	35	37	39

Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	55	55	57

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. 460l-4 et seq.), 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, [$47,535,000*]$58,500,000*, 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 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015.)

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. 460l). 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)

Fixed Cost Changes and Projections	2015 Total or Change	2015 to 2016 Change
Change in Number of Paid Days	+0	+38
This column reflects changes in pay associated with the change in the number of paid days between the 2015 and 2016.		
Pay Raise	+96	+118
The change reflects the salary and health benefit impacts of programmed pay raise increases.		
Employer Contribution to FERS	+0	+4
The change reflects the directed increase of 0.5% in employer's contribution to the Federal Employee Retirement System.		
Rental Payments	+3	+0
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.		

Internal Realignments and Non-Policy/Program Changes (Net-Zero)	2016 (+/-)
Land Protection Planning	+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

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Request				Change from 2015 Enacted (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Land Acquisition Management	($000)	10,500	12,613	+160	0	0	12,773	+160
Land Protection Planning	($000)	0	0	0	+465	0	465	+465
Exchanges	($000)	1,500	1,500	0	0	0	1,500	0
Inholdings / Emergencies and Hardships	($000)	7,351	5,351	0	0	0	5,351	0
Highlands Conservation Act	($000)	0	3,000	0	0	-3,000	0	-3,000
Sportsmen and Recreational Access	($000)	0	0	0	0	+2,500	2,500	+2,500
Federal Refuges/Projects	($000)	35,071	25,071	0	0	+10,840	35,911	+10,840
Subtotal, Land Acquisition-Discretionary	**($000)**	**54,422**	**47,535**	**+160**	**+465**	**+10,340**	**58,500**	**+10,965**
	FTE	***88***	***88***	***0***	***0***	***0***	***88***	***0***
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
Federal Refuges/Projects	($000)	0	0	0	0	+87,272	87,272	+87,272
Land Acquisition – Mandatory	**($000)**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**+106,272**	**106,272**	**+106,272**
	FTE	***0***	***0***	***0***	***0***	***+40***	***40***	***+40***
Total, Land Acquisition	**($000)**	**54,422**	**47,535**	**+160**	**+465**	**+116,612**	**164,772**	**+117,237**
	FTE	***88***	***88***	***0***	***0***	***+40***	***128***	***+40***

Summary of 2016 Program Changes for Land Acquisition (Discretionary)

Request Component	($000)	FTE
• Land Acquisition Projects	+10,840	0
• Sportsman and Recreational Access	+2,500	0
• Highlands Conservation Act	-3,000	0
Program Changes	**+10,340**	**0**

Justification of 2016 Program Changes

The 2016 discretionary budget request for Land Acquisition is $58,500,000 and 88 FTE, a net program change of +$10,340 and +0 FTE from the 2015 Enacted.

Land Acquisition Projects (+$10,840,000/+0 FTE)
With this increase, the Service can protect over 37,700 acres of land across the country to conserve important habitat for native fish, wildlife, and plants. All of these projects have willing sellers who wish to work with the Service. The Service will also collaborate with a multitude of Federal, State, county, non-governmental organizations, and private partners. About two-thirds of these acres will be protected through conservation easements; such easements help preserve rural communities by keeping landowners on and running their working ranches, farms, and forests, and by making it financially easier to pass lands onto the next generation. The project descriptions later in this section provide more detail about the natural resource values of the proposed projects, and how they will further support the Department's network of connected conservation lands.

Sportsman and Recreational Access (+$2,500,000/+0 FTE)
With these additional funds, the Service can acquire and conserve important wildlife habitat to share with the public for recreational use, including hunting and fishing. Refuges that may not have project funding but have willing sellers, may request funds to acquire land to provide access for families and recreationalists to enjoy wildlife recreation, such as observation and photography of wildlife, and enjoying environmental education and interpretation. The Service will be able to acquire choice lands quickly and make them more accessible, for young people and the country's growing urban population that lives within an hour's drive from a Refuge.

Highlands Conservation Act (-$3,000,000/+0 FTE)
The Service will shift this funding to higher priority conservation projects as identified by the Targeted Resource Acquisition Comparison Tool (TRACT), that have both ready and willing sellers, and support from partners and other stakeholders.

Program Overview

The Service uses Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) monies appropriated by Congress to acquire and protect important fish, wildlife, and plant habitat. Acquired lands and waters become part of the National Wildlife Refuge System or National Fish Hatchery System, and when acquired in fee, provide the public opportunities to hunt, fish, observe and photograph wildlife, and enjoy environmental education and interpretation.

Visitors birdwatching on Hakalau Forest NWR.
Credit: David Boyle/NPS volunteer.

The Service requests land acquisition funding only for properties within approved National Wildlife Refuge acquisition boundaries and only acquiring land from willing sellers. The Service acquires the minimum necessary to reach management objectives, and often a conservation easement will provide adequate habitat protection by preventing development while allowing landowners to continue working their farms, ranches, and forests.

For every project for which the Service requests LWCF funding, the Service has an approved Land Protection Plan and has completed the required National Environmental Policy Act review process.

Local Benefits

In 2014, nearly 47 million people visited National Wildlife Refuges to enjoy bird watching, hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation. These visitors support local economies by staying in local lodges, eating at local restaurants, and shopping in local stores. Local employment increases, and increases in tax revenues go to local, county, and state governments.

FWS Refuge System Lands[1]

Nearly 47 million people visited, generating $2.6 billion of sales in regional economies; supporting 35,400 jobs; and generating $370.5 million in tax revenue at the local, county, State and Federal level for a total economic contribution of $4.5 billion.

[1] Refuge System-wide estimated economic benefits are based upon a recent analysis conducted by the FWS' Division of Economics using the latest visitation numbers and analysis methods used in the Banking on Nature Report published in 2013.

The presence of National Wildlife Refuges also increases 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 2012, property values of lands surrounding National Wildlife Refuges are higher than values of equivalent properties elsewhere.

The Department of the Interior's FY 2016 budget request for projects includes two sources: Mandatory and Discretionary.

Conservation Design

Conservation design combines geospatial data with biological information and models to create maps and other tools that evaluate every acre of habitat's potential to support a fish or wildlife species population. The Service also works collaboratively with conservation partners to determine the kind, quality, and configuration of the needed habitat. With these tools and data, the Service can determine the current habitat-acre capability and what it needs to be to achieve specific biological objectives or outcomes.

Strategic Growth Policy of the National Wildlife Refuge System

The Service's 2014 Strategic Growth Policy identifies priority conservation targets for the strategic growth of the National Wildlife Refuge System to ensure the best choices are made when adding lands or waters to the Refuge System. The Policy directs the Service to focus on acquiring lands and waters in fee, conservation easement, and/or donation that support three priorities:

1. Recovery of threatened and endangered species;
2. Implementing the North American Waterfowl Management Plan; and
3. Conserving migratory birds of conservation concern.

Using these three priorities, a Service interdisciplinary team developed the Targeted Resource Acquisition Comparison Tool (TRACT) that replaces the Land Acquisition Priority System (LAPS). The TRACT provides a biological, science-based, transparent process for ranking proposed Refuge System land acquisitions by generating separate rankings for each of the three priorities, for each proposed acquisition. TRACTS does not assign weights to the three priorities, and unlike the LAPS, it does not produce a single numerical ranking that combines all of the Service's priorities. The TRACT's rankings are intended to provide decision makers with an objective analysis that is grounded in the best available science; it is a decision support tool to inform the decision maker but not make the decision.

The land acquisition projects proposed for the FY 2016 budget reflect additional important factors, including contribution of leveraged funds, conservation partner participation, and urgency of project completion to protect natural areas from development or other incompatible uses. The proposed projects support the Service's mission-oriented priorities as well as potential Collaborative Landscape Planning (CLP) projects such as the Island Forests at Risk; Upper Rio Grande; High Divide; Rivers of the Chesapeake; National Trails; Florida-Georgia Longleaf Pine; Pathways to the Pacific; and Northern Coastal California**.**

Use of Residual LWCF Funds

Federal land acquisition projects sometimes have small amounts of funds remaining after land has been acquired. These residual funds are insufficient to acquire additional land. In 2014, the Service instituted a policy of reallocating residual project funds of less than $50,000 to the Inholdings line item to be used to protect other lands that do not have project funding. This shift enables the Service to acquire valuable wildlife habitat within approved refuge acquisition boundaries that becomes available for acquisition in between appropriations cycles. (Projects funded in 2009 are excluded from the policy due to existing reprogramming restrictions.)

Conservation Success Stories

Each year the Service acquires land in fee title or conservation easement through LWCF. The acquired lands provide improved habitat for wildlife, and often enhance resource management capability. Fee title acquisitions generate economic benefits for local communities and provide the public with opportunities to hunt, fish, observe and photograph wildlife, and enjoy environmental education and interpretation. FY 2014 acquisition highlights include:

Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, New Mexico

Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, located just south of Albuquerque, New Mexico, is the Southwest's first urban refuge and an oasis for wildlife and people. Through the EPA's Urban Waters program, Valle de Oro NWR was recognized in 2013 as part of key conservation and restoration projects along the Rio Grande River. Along with several partners, the Service recently acquired the refuge's remaining acres. Now complete, the 570-acre Valle de Oro NWR and its valuable water rights will enhance the river corridor and 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 connect New Mexico's youth to the natural world.

Newest acquired land completing Valle de Oro NWR. Credit: USFWS.

The restoration of native habitats will begin within the next few years with an expansion of the Bosque habitat into the refuge, the creation of wetlands and the regrowth of naturally occurring grasses and brushland. The different habitats within a small area will create rich opportunities for diverse wildlife viewing. In the meantime, the Service is in an agreement with a local farmer to continuously farm the land until habitat restoration efforts can begin.

James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge, Hawai‘i

The Service acquired 113 fee acres at James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge on the north shore of O’ahu, Hawai‘i. This property finishes the 750-acre expansion that began in 2008, adding both mixed shrub/scrub and wetland habitat to the Refuge. When restored, this land will have the potential to help conserve four of Hawai‘i’s endangered waterbirds, the ae‘o (Hawaiian stilt), ‘alae ke‘oke‘o (Hawaiian coot), ‘alae ‘ula (Hawaiian moorhen), and koloa maoli (Hawaiian duck), as well as other indigenous shorebirds, seabirds, and migratory birds.

The newly acquired coastal strand and dunes provide needed resting and nesting habitat for some of Hawaii’s endangered animals. Credit: Charlie Parrott, USFWS.

The property adds an additional half mile of undeveloped shore land of coastal strand and dunes that provide resting habitat for the endangered ‘ilio holo i ka uaua (Hawaiian monk seal) and nesting habitat for the threatened honu (green sea turtle) and endangered honu ‘ea (hawksbill turtle). The refuge will work with partners to restore the ecosystems to their natural condition by removing invasive plants and planting native plants.

Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge, Oregon, and Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge, Nevada

The Service partnered with the Greater Hart-Sheldon Conservation Fund and Nevada Land Trust to identify willing landowners at Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge (NAR) and Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge. Our partners negotiated transactions and held properties until appropriated funds were available to purchase these lands.

The new Hart Mountain NAR properties preserve high quality sagebrush-steppe habitat. Credit: Jonathan Bloomfield, USFWS.

The Service acquired 280 fee acres at Hart Mountain NAR and 90 fee acres at Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge. Both Refuges, located in Southeast Oregon and Northwest Nevada, have some of the best remaining areas of sagebrush-steppe habitat. They are home to over 300 species of wildlife, including greater sage-grouse; pronghorn antelope; pygmy rabbit; and California bighorn sheep. All of the tracts acquired are within known sage-grouse breeding and nesting areas, and two of the tracts are within proposed wilderness areas.

Hart Mountain NAR was established in 1936 to provide range for nearly extinct antelope herds. The Refuge encompasses a massive fault block ridge that abruptly ascends above the Warner Valley floor in a series of rocky cliffs, steep slopes, and knife-like ridges. The Refuge descends on the east side of the mountain into a series of rolling hills and low ridges to the sagebrush-grasslands, creating a rich mix of habitat types. Many declining migratory bird populations use this habitat, including the Brewer’s sparrow, sage thrasher, and loggerhead shrike.

The primary purposes for Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge are to provide breeding ground habitat for wild animals and birds, conserve endangered and threatened species, and provide an inviolate sanctuary for migratory birds. The Refuge, encompassing 575,000 acres of sagebrush-steppe habitat within the Great Basin, conserves habitat for a number of native, rare, and imperiled species of fish, wildlife, and plants. Eight proposed wilderness areas of 341,500 acres, vast expanses of sagebrush habitats dotted with springs, pockets of aspen, and isolated stands of mountain mahogany are also included.

Camas National Wildlife Refuge, Idaho

The Service acquired 80 acres of grassland and sagebrush habitat at Camas National Wildlife Refuge in eastern Idaho with LWCF Inholding funds. Pheasants Forever, a long time conservation partner, helped the Service protect this land from development into pivot irrigation agricultural land. Water withdrawals for pivot agriculture would have exacerbated the falling water table on the Refuge and further complicated the management of wetland habitats for the benefit of wildlife. With these 80 acres, the Service can restore Basin Big Sagebrush, a critically endangered habitat in Idaho's Snake River Plain. The property is also part of a larger collaboration with the State of Idaho and the Department of Agriculture's National Resources Conservation Service to protect habitat along an important migration corridor in eastern Idaho.

A majestic buck on the new Camas NWR land. Credit: Charles Houghten, USFWS.

The Refuge was established to provide habitat and breeding grounds for migratory birds and other wildlife. Half of the refuge is lakes, ponds, and marshlands, and the rest is grass sagebrush uplands, meadows, and farm fields. During migration periods up to 50,000 ducks and 3,000 geese come to the refuge, and tundra and trumpeter swans number in the hundreds.

San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge, California

In February 2014, the San Pablo NWR added not only over 651 acres of uplands and marshes to its property, but also its first Refuge Headquarters facility. Over 38,000 vehicles pass the Refuge daily on Highway 37, making the land highly visible. The Sonoma Land Trust donated this new property and the historic barns and dairy buildings as a partial purchase to the Service as part of the Sonoma Land Trust 2005 acquisition of the North Point Joint Venture, now called Sears Point. The Refuge will use the buildings to maintain the historic look of the farm and provide the public with a refuge they can enjoy. The Sonoma Land Trust also provided the Baylands Center on the Refuge for education, meetings, and conservation purposes for Friends groups to discuss conservation projects.

The San Pablo Bay NWR was created in 1970, with the first property acquired in 1974, to protect wetland habitat, endangered species, and migratory birds in the Pacific Flyway. This area supports the largest wintering population of canvasbacks on the West coast, and Golden eagles can be seen foraging over the Refuge. The land protects the endangered salt marsh harvest mouse and California clapper rail, and the State listed California black rail, San Pablo song sparrow, and Suisun shrew. The Refuge lies along the north shore of San Pablo Bay in Sonoma, Solano, and Napa Counties in northern California and includes open bay/tidal marsh, mud flats, and seasonal and managed wetland habitats.

Sears Point Unit looking south from Cougar Mountain. A portion of the 1,128 acres conveyed to San Pablo Bay NWR is immediately south of Highway 37. The Refuge Headquarters and facilities are shown. San Francisco is off in the distance, center of photo, across San Pablo Bay.

Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge, Maine

The Service acquired another island on Maine's coast as part of the 'Bed and Breakfast' for birds from the Maine Coast Heritage Trust with LWCF and North American Wetlands Conservation Act funds. The newly acquired, almost seven-acre colonial seabird nesting island is naturally treeless and has an extensive intertidal area. It provides ideal feeding and nesting habitat for colonial seabirds such as common, Artic, and endangered roseate terns, as well as common eider, guillemots, razorbills, Atlantic puffins, Leach's storm petrels, and black-backed herring, and laughing gulls.

The island is part of 49 coastal Maine islands that provide a multitude of habitat to seabirds, raptors, wading birds, shorebirds and songbirds. Some islands are forested, providing habitat for nesting bald eagles, while other islands are rocky and provide food and rest for peregrine falcons. Other islands provide open herbaceous natural habitat that supports seabirds including terns, alcids, Leach's storm-petrels and great cormorants during the summer months.

This new nearly seven-acre island adds to Petit Manan NWR's habitat for a diversity of birds.

Update on Land Exchanges for FY 2016

Land exchanges provide unique opportunities to work in partnership with other Federal agencies and State and local governments; private landowners and organizations; and local and national conservation groups. Land exchange projects leverage the collective expertise of these partners to conserve critical habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife within the Refuge System, decrease habitat fragmentation, and provide public access to natural areas to hunt, fish, photograph and observe wildlife, and participate in environmental education or interpretation.

The Service estimates that $1,924,500 will be needed for acquisition costs for exchanges of more than 324,987 acres. Exchanges may involve on-going expenditures over a period of years.

The following table lists National Wildlife Refuge, Waterfowl Production Area, Wetland Management District, and Alaska Native Corporation properties that are part of ongoing land exchange projects or are potential projects.

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
	Selawik NWR - NANA Corp.	30,000.00	$80,000
	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 - Aniak	Undetermined	$10,000
	Yukon Delta NWR - Chevak	30,000.00	$65,000
	Yukon Delta NWR - Calista Corp. subsurface	40,000.00	$80,000
ARKANSAS	Cache River NWR	432.50	$10,000
	Felsenthal NWR	878.08	$15,000
	Felsenthal NWR	2,168.00	$20,000
CALIFORNIA	Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR	7.00	$20,000
COLORADO	Baca NWR	11.08	$10,000
FLORIDA	Archie Carr NWR	8.00	$10,000
	ARM Loxahatchee NWR	2,586.00	$20,000
GEORGIA	Banks Lake NWR	106.00	$5,000
	Bond Swamp NWR	188.00	$10,000

STATE	POTENTIAL EXCHANGES	ACRES TO BE ACQUIRED	MANAGEMENT COSTS
	Savannah NWR	10.00	$5,000
ILLINOIS	Cypress Creek NWR	109.00	$20,000
INDIANA	Patoka River NWR	Undetermined	$20,000
LOUISIANA	Big Branch Marsh NWR	5.00	$5,000
	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
MAINE	Rachel Carson NWR	47.00	$5,000
	Moosehorn NWR	1,500.00	$50,000
MARYLAND	Patuxent Research Refuge	2.00	$10,000
MASSACHUSETTS	Oxbow NWR	20.00	$10,000
MICHIGAN	Shiawassee NWR	302.00	$50,000
MINNESOTA	Minnesota Valley NWR - MN DNR	279.60	$25,000
	Pope County WPA	40.00	$10,000
	Tamarac NWR	10.00	$10,000
	Upper Mississippi River NW&FR	2.00	$10,000
MISSISSIPPI	MS Sandhill Crane NWR	30.00	$10,000
MONTANA	Pablo NWR	2.00	$10,000
NEBRASKA	Rainwater Basin WMD	160.00	$25,000
NORTH CAROLINA	Mackay Island NWR	383.25	$10,000
NORTH DAKOTA	Various North Dakota WPA's & WMA's	100.00	$80,000
NEVADA	Stillwater NWR	272.00	$20,000
NEW JERSEY	E. B. Forsythe NWR	10.00	$10,000
OREGON	Hart Mountain NAR	40.00	$40,000
SOUTH CAROLINA	Santee NWR	32.80	$2,000
SOUTH DAKOTA	Various South Dakota WPA's & WMD's	160.00	$55,000
	South Dakota WMD State Land	4,022.00	$15,000
TEXAS	Lower Rio Grande Valley - Hildalgo Co Irrigation District #3	5.00	$5,000
	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 - Fred Shuster	80.00	$20,000
	Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR - Phillips Banco (279)	338.00	$20,000
	Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR - Champion Bend (284)	82.00	$10,000

STATE	POTENTIAL EXCHANGES	ACRES TO BE ACQUIRED	MANAGEMENT COSTS
	Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR - Palo Blanco (253)	30.00	$5,000
	Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR - Brownsville (207)	17.00	$5,000
	Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR - Jeronimo Banco (286)	288.00	$15,000
	Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR - Jeronimo Banco (286a)	11.00	$5,000
	Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR - Villanueva	405.00	$20,000
	Trinity NWR - Sheppy Land Company	4.00	$2,500
	Neches River NWR-Tetlin-through Exxon Exchange in Alaska	516.00	$10,000
VERMONT	Silvio O. Conte NFWR	100.00	$25,000
WASHINGTON	Little Pend Oreille NWR	120.00	$50,000
	Little Pend Oreille NWR	80.00	$60,000
	Willapa NWR	86.00	$71,000
WEST VIRGINIA	Canaan Valley NWR	2.00	$10,000
WISCONSIN	Necedah WMA	4.00	$20,000
	Necedah WMA	1.00	$10,000
	Upper MS River NW&FR - WI DOT	Undetermined	$25,000
	Upper MS River NW&FR	280.00	$10,000
	Whittlesey Creek NWR	1.14	$10,000
WYOMING	Cokeville Meadows NWR	81.00	$70,000
Total Exchange Acres and Management Costs		**324,987.05**	**$1,924,500**

Land Acquisition Projects for FY 2016

The FY 2016 request includes 34 proposed land acquisition projects totaling almost 108,000 acres that are funded from discretionary and mandatory sources. The list below is the current set of land acquisition priorities in priority order that has been vetted and approved by Service and Department leadership to meet the high priority programmatic needs of the Service.

Discretionary Funds

This funding allows the Service to continue conserving important wildlife habitat in the 13 projects and over 37,700 acres, of which over 25,000 acres will remain in private ownership under conservation 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.

Mandatory Funds

The Department of Interior will submit a legislative proposal to permanently authorize annual funding, without further appropriation or fiscal year limitation for the (Land and Water Conservation Fund) LWCF. Starting in 2017, $900 million annually in permanent funds would be available. During the

transition to full permanent funding in 2017, the budget proposes $900 million in total LWCF funding in FY 2016, comprised of $500 million in permanent and $400 million in discretionary funds. The amounts requested include the authorized levels for the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture. In 2016, the proposal includes $58.50 million in discretionary funding and $106.27 million in permanent funding, for the Service's Federal Land acquisition program.

In FY 2016, land acquisition funds will be 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 the public has unbroken spaces to recreate, hunt, and fish. All of these projects have willing sellers who wish to work with the Service. The Service will also collaborate with a multitude of Federal, State, county, tribes, non-governmental organizations, and private partners.

The complete listing of proposed projects would cover the top 31 Service priorities, located in at least 27 States. For project specific information, see the project data sheets that follow at the end of this section.

The koa is a tree that Hawaiian Legacy Hardwoods uses as seed source for the Legacy Forest (partnered with JTB Hawaii, a tour company). The project allows tourists to plant a koa tree with a chip implanted into the tree that has the donor's information on it. The koa tree project raises money and helps rebuild the native forest. Over 200 thousand have been planted with a goal of 1.3 million. The trees being planted are adjacent to our acquisition project description property.

Collaborative Landscape Planning (CLP)

The national CLP priority projects contained in this document reflect the collaborative efforts between the Departments of Interior and Agriculture in specific focal areas.

As part of the landscape program, Interior bureaus collaborated extensively with the Forest Service and with government and local community partners to plan projects to achieve the highest priority shared landscape-scale conservation goals. An interagency team of Service, BLM, NPS, and USFS experts identified a number of ecosystems throughout the Nation where high priority shared conservation goals

could be achieved based on existing locally-driven conservation efforts. The prospective projects were evaluated according to criteria that included:

- Process: Ensure proposals are community-driven, collaborative, and cost-effective;
- Outcome: Ensure proposals contribute to informed, science-based, important local landscape-scale outcomes, so that Federal resources strategically achieve land management objectives;
- Urgency: Ensure funding decisions acknowledge where funds much be spent sooner rather than later to achieve outcomes or prevent harm, versus areas where outcomes could be achieved even if funding were postponed; and,
- Contribution to National/Regional Priorities: Ensure outcome goals contribute to regional and national priorities.

After analyzing the results of this process, bureau directors advised the Secretary on the development of the final CLP acquisitions to be incorporated in the integrated land acquisition lists.

The crimson red 'Apapane are usually found in 'ohia-lehua trees. Common to the Island of Hawai'i, 'Apapane are nectarivorous relying heavily on the nectar of the 'ohio-lehua blossoms. Credit: Vladimir Kasho.

FY 2016 LWCF Discretionary Funding

Rank	State(s)	Collaborative Landscape/Project Name or Core Project Name	Collaborative	Core
	CLP: Island Forests at Risk			
1	HI	Island Forests at Risk: Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge	$8,589,000	
2	ND/SD	Dakota Grassland Conservation Area		$6,500,000
	CLP: Upper Rio Grande			
3	CO/NM	Upper Rio Grande: Sangre de Cristo Conservation Area	$1,000,000	
4	ND/SD	Dakota Tallgrass Prairie Wildlife Management Area		$3,000,000
	CLP: High Divide			
5	ID	High Divide: Camas National Wildlife Refuge	$280,000	
	MT	High Divide: Red Rocks Lake National Wildlife Refuge	$1,000,000	
6	FL	Everglades Headwaters Conservation Area		$2,091,000
	CLP: Rivers of the Chesapeake			
7	VA	Rivers of the Chesapeake: Rappahannock River National Wildlife Refuge	$1,600,000	
	MD	Rivers of the Chesapeake: Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge	$1,511,000	
8	FL	Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge		$2,500,000
	CLP: National Trails System			
9	ID	National Trails System: Gray's Lake National Wildlife Refuge	$2,500,000	
10	MN/IA	Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge		$500,000
11	CT/MA/NH/VT	Silvio O. Conte NFWR		$2,000,000
12	ID/UT/WY	Bear River Watershed Conservation Area		$2,000,000
13	KS	Flint Hills Conservation Area		$840,000
	Subtotal, Line Item Projects (Core)			$19,431,000
	Subtotal, Line Item Projects (CLP)		$16,480,000	
	Total Line Item Projects - Discretionary			**$35,911,000**

ISLAND FORESTS AT RISK **DISCRETIONARY**
Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge
Hawai'i

Acquisition Authority: Endangered Species Act of 1973

FY 2016 Priority Rank: No. 1 of 40

Location: 10 miles north of Hilo on the windward side of the Island of Hawai'i and near Honaunau on the leeward side of the Island

Congressional Districts: Hawai'i, District 2 **FWS Region 1**

Total LWCF Appropriations: $28,181,000

FY 2016 Budget Request: $8,589,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	4	38,005	$26,178,265	$689
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	3	42	$60,900	$1,450
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**7**	**38,047**	**$26,239,165**	**$690**
Planned FY 2015	0	0	$0	$0
Proposed FY 2016	2	6,908	$8,589,000	$1,243
Remaining	6	27,235	$31,184,075	$1,145
Totals	**15**	**72,190**	**$66,012,240**	**$914**

Purpose of Acquisition: Funding of this fee title acquisition would provide protection for and enhance populations of numerous threatened and endangered plant and forest bird species. It would also protect the biological integrity, diversity, and environmental health of wet ecosystems or those requiring a moderate water supply such as mesic forests.

Project Cooperators: The Nature Conservancy

Project Description: Funding would enable fee title acquisition of 6,908 acres, two of the three parcels comprising a 10,034 acre site in the Kona Forest Unit of Hakalau Forest NWR. This site has significance for recovery of listed plants and endangered forest birds and their habitats. It provides important watershed values including groundwater recharge and prevention of siltation of nearby marine environments. Specifically, this area supports small but biologically important populations of rare native birds, including 'akiapoia'au, 'akepa, 'io, and Hawai'i creeper, as well as abundant populations of native 'elepaio, 'i'iwi, 'amkihi, and 'apapane.

O&M: Once acquisition of all 10,034 acres is complete, the Service anticipates an initial expense of $40,000 from NWRS base funds for boundary marking and sign posting.

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

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

FY 2016 Priority: No. 2 of 40

Location: North Dakota and South Dakota lying east of Missouri River

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

Total LWCF Appropriations: $12,150,000

FY 2016 Budget Request: $6,500,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost*	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	70	26,879	$11,915,309	$443
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	1	1,071	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**71**	**27,950**	**$11,915,309**	**$426**
Planned FY 2015	47	18,910	$8,679,802	$459
Proposed FY 2016 (easement)	32	13,000	$6,500,000	$500
Remaining	Multi	1,880,140	$560,904,889	$298
Totals	**Multi**	**1,940,000**	**$588,000,000**	**$303**

* Includes Migratory Bird Conservation Fund funding.

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

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

Project Description: With these funds, the Service would acquire perpetual conservation easements on approximately 13,000 acres. 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 is 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 maintain traditional farming and ranching operations while fostering landscape-level conservation.

O&M: The Service estimates approximately $8,000 annually for compliance over-flights. NWRS base funding would support these costs.

UPPER RIO GRANDE **DISCRETIONARY**
Sangre de Cristo Conservation Area
Colorado and New Mexico

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

FY 2016 Priority Rank: No. 3 of 40

Location: Southeast corner of Rio Grande River headwaters on the western slope of Sangre de Cristo Mountains in southern Colorado and northern New Mexico

Congressional Districts: Colorado, District 3 **FWS Region 6**
New Mexico, District 1

Total LWCF Appropriations: $0

FY 2016 Budget Request: $1,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	2	167,200	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**2**	**167,200**	**$0**	**$0**
Planned FY 2015	0	0	$0	$0
Proposed FY 2016	1	1,282	$1,000,000	$780
Remaining	88	81,518	$62,548,310	$767
Totals	**91**	**250,000**	**$63,548,310**	**$254**

Purpose of Acquisition: Conservation easements protect the high-elevation wildlife habitats of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and the uplands of the southeastern San Luis Valley. The proposed acquisitions will promote the adaptive capacity and resilience of ecosystems by ensuring connectivity between existing protected areas and protecting wildlife movement corridors, particularly riparian areas.

Project Cooperators: Private landowners

Project Description: Funding would acquire approximately 1,282 easement acres. From soaring 14,000-foot peaks to spectacular river gorges, the Upper Rio Grande 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. The Sangre de Cristo Conservation Area lies within a day's drive of six metro 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.

O&M: The Service estimates approximately $2,500 annually for over-flight monitoring of the conservation easements. NWRS base funding would support these costs.

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

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

FY 2016 Rank: No. 4 of 40

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

FY 2016 Budget Request: $3,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	207	62,852	$10,178,131	$162
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	2	20	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	1	160	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**210**	**63,032**	**$10,178,131**	**$161**
Planned FY 2015	Multi	6,122	$3,000,000	$490
Proposed FY 2016 (easement)	Multi	5,000	$3,000,000	$600
Remaining	Multi	115,846	$50,300,709	$434
Totals	**Multi**	**190,000**	**$66,478,840**	**$350**

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 5,000 acres of tallgrass prairie. 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 conservation 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. Conservation easements will maintain traditional ranching operations while fostering landscape-level conservation.

The project area has a rich variety of plant, animal, and insect 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 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 less than $1,500 per year for annual compliance over-flights. NWRS base funding would support these costs.

HIGH DIVIDE **DISCRETIONARY**
Camas National Wildlife Refuge
Idaho

Acquisition Authorities: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

FY 2016 Priority Rank: No. 5 of 40

Location: Jefferson County, Idaho, near Hamer, ID

Congressional Districts: Idaho, District 2 **FWS Region 1**

Total LWCF Appropriations: $0

FY 2016 Budget Request: $280,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	32	9,434	$387,235	$41
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	4	141	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**36**	**9,575**	**$387,235**	**$40**
Planned FY 2015	0	0	$0	$0
Proposed FY 2016	1	35	$280,000	$8,000
Remaining	Multi	907,921	$742,812,765	$818
Totals	**Multi**	**917,531**	**$743,480,000**	**$810**

Purpose of Acquisition: One inholding still remains as an island within the approved acquisition boundary for Camas National Wildlife Refuge. This land is currently used for production agriculture and has the potential to erode if potatoes are grown. Because of existing water rights and irrigation systems in place, the land may be sold as agriculture production land.

Project Cooperators: The Conservation Fund

Project Description: Funds would acquire fee title to the last 35-acre in-holding left within the refuge. If the Service is unable to purchase this property while available, the land will likely be purchased by another farmer who will produce potatoes or other crops here. Before and after crops are grown, the land is highly susceptible to wind erosion, which can cause damage to surrounding Refuge land and structures. By purchasing this property, the Service will restore it to sage habitat, home to the sage-grouse and sage thrasher. The restoration would also include planting milkweed to benefit Monarch butterflies.

O&M: The Service would use less than $5,000 from NWRS base funding for annual maintenance of the new acquisitions, mainly for upkeep of the existing structures (house and barn).

HIGH DIVIDE **DISCRETIONARY**
Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge
Montana

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

FY 2016 Rank: No. 5 of 40

Location: 28 miles east of Monida, MT

Congressional Districts: Montana, At Large **FWS Regions 6**

Total LWCF Appropriations: $10,670,135

FY 2016 Budget Request: $1,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners*	Acres	Cost**	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	13	11,564	$16,183,121	$1,399
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	8	18,172	$5,121,649	$282
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	1	8	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	5	6,158	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014***	2	48,876	$27,081	$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**29**	**84,778**	**$21,331,851**	**$252**
Planned FY 2015	0	0	$0	$0
Proposed FY 2016	1	2,300	$1,000,000	$435
Remaining	Multi	14,784	8,918,149	$603
Totals	**Multi**	**101,862**	**$31,250,000**	**$307**

* Includes land leased from additional Owners.

**Includes Migratory Bird Conservation Funds (MBCF), North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) funds, and Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA).

***Acres are from Primary and Secondary Withdrawal form BLM, Primary Transfer and Leases.

Purpose of Acquisition: To provide long-term viability for fish and wildlife habitat on a large landscape in the Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge portion of the High Divide Collaborative Landscape. This 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 Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge 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 acquire a perpetual conservation easement on approximately 2,300 acres as part of the Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in the High Divide Landscape. The mountains, valleys, and rivers of the High Divide are a crucial wildlife lifeline along the spine of the continent in Idaho and Montana that link Yellowstone National Park to Idaho's Frank Church Wilderness.

The High Divide's boundaries are defined by tracked movements of signature wildlife: elk, pronghorn, grizzly, wolverine, sage grouse, salmon, and grayling, and its conservation vision is formed from assessments of wildlife migrations, cultural history, recreation values, and economies linking Yellowstone National Park to Idaho Wilderness. The High Divide is our nation's top keystone region for continental scale connectivity. Without this linkage, protected core areas would 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 would require approximately $1,000 from NWRS base funding.

EVERGLADES HEADWATERS CONSERVATION AREA DISCRETIONARY
Florida

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

FY 2016 Priority Rank: No. 6 of 40

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: $12,500,000

FY 2016 Budget Request: $2,091,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	1	10	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**1**	**10**	**$0**	**$0**
Planned FY 2015	6	6,291	$12,500,000	$1,987
Proposed FY 2016	1	836	$2,091,000	$2,501
Remaining fee	Multi	44,363	$191,369,000	$4,314
Remaining (easement)	Multi	98,500	$270,875,000	$2,750
Totals	**Multi**	**150,000**	**$476,835,000**	**$3,179**

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 the federally endangered Florida grasshopper sparrow.

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 acquire fee title to 836 acres, which is part of a multi-year acquisition of a 2,000-acre parcel. This land 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 also 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 $28,000 for habitat management and restoration, including prescribed burning, hunting, and public use management. NWRS base funding would support these costs.

RIVERS OF THE CHESAPEAKE **DISCRETIONARY**
Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge
Virginia

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, Endangered Species Act of 1973, Emergency Wetlands Resource Act of 1986, Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929

FY 2016 Budget Priority: No. 7 of 40

Location: From Skinkers Neck to Belle Isle State Park on the Rappahannock River, VA

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

Total LWCF Appropriations: $15,628,500

FY 2016 Budget Request: $1,600,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	20	5,593	$12,546,843	$2,243
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	7	1,918	$4,277,027	$2,230
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	2	1,196	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**29**	**8,707**	**$16,823,870**	**$1,932**
Planned FY 2015	1	148	$2,000,000	$13,514
Proposed FY 2016	1	160	$1,600,000	$10,000
Remaining	20	10,985	$32,776,130	$2,984
Totals	**51**	**20,000**	**$53,200,000**	**$2,660**

Purpose of Acquisition: To provide nesting and roosting habitat for bald eagles, waterfowl, and other migratory birds by protecting forested bluffs above the river shore.

Project Cooperators: Commonwealth of Virginia**,** The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, Virginia Outdoors Foundation, Chesapeake Conservancy, National Park Service, The Conservation Fund

Project Description: Funds would acquire fee title to approximately 160 acres in the Farnham Creek Focus Area of the refuge. The acquisition would add significantly to the existing block of protected forest lands in this area. Increasing the interior core area of forested blocks is critical to the migratory birds such as the scarlet tanager, wood thrush, and hooded warbler which require isolated forest habitats to breed.

Many other migratory bird species use the forests and wetlands along Farnham Creek, including several Federal or State species of conservation concern. They include the Louisiana waterthrush, ovenbird, prothonotary warbler, Kentucky warbler, worm-eating warbler, yellow-throated vireo, chuck-will's widow, and whip-poor-will, all of which are confirmed breeders on the Refuge.

O&M: The Service estimates $3,000 annually from NWRS base funding for signage and boundary markings.

RIVERS OF THE CHESAPEAKE **DISCRETIONARY**
Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge
Maryland

Acquisition Authority: Endangered Species Act of 1973

FY 2016 Budget Priority: No. 7 of 40

Location: Sixty-five miles southeast of Baltimore, in the south central portion of Dorchester County on Maryland's Eastern Shore

Congressional Districts: Maryland, District 1 **FWS Region 5**

Total LWCF Appropriations: $7,207,834

FY 2016 Budget Request: $1,511,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	31	26,087	$20,454,331	$784
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	1	50	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	10	1,392	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014	1	856	$1,080,000	$1,262
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**43**	**28,385**	**$21,534,331**	**$759**
Planned FY 2015	0	0	$0	$0
Proposed FY 2016	2	392	$1,511,000	$3,855
Remaining	53	31,148	$33,927,768	$1,089
Totals	**98**	**59,925**	**$56,973,099**	**$951**

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect high quality habitat for the endangered Delmarva fox squirrel and other endangered species, along with nesting and wintering habitat for the American bald eagle, migratory waterfowl, colonial waterbirds, shorebirds, and forest interior dwelling bird species.

Project Cooperators: The Nature Conservancy

Project Description: Funds would acquire fee title to approximately 392 acres of upland and marsh along the Nanticoke River and Owens Creek and wooded uplands in White Oak Swamp. The property on the Nanticoke River has prime riverine wetlands, extensive open fields and maturing woodlands. These areas provide excellent habitat for a variety of wildlife, including migratory birds such as osprey, black and wood ducks, Canada geese, marsh and water birds, and bald eagles, as well as grassland and immature woodland species. The White Oak Swamp tract includes freshwater marsh habitat and mature, low-lying woodlands. The woodlands provide excellent habitat for bald eagles and for the Delmarva Peninsula fox squirrel, which was formerly listed as endangered.

The area is important to Federal and State endangered and threatened species and many migratory bird species. Acquisition would expand potential opportunities for wildlife-dependent forms of public recreation.

O&M: The Service anticipates no additional operations or maintenance costs associated with this acquisition as the parcel is located within Refuge boundaries and would add no additional workload.

EVERGLADES HEADWATERS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE **DISCRETIONARY**
Florida

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

FY 2016 Priority Rank: No. 8 of 40

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: $12,500,000

FY 2016 Budget Request: $2,500,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	1	10	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**1**	**10**	**$0**	**$0**
Planned FY 2015	6	6,291	$12,500,000	$1,987
Proposed FY 2016	1	1,000	$2,500,000	$2,500
Remaining fee	Multi	44,199	$190,960,000	$4,320
Remaining (easement)	Multi	98,500	$270,875,000	$2,750
Totals	**Multi**	**150,000**	**$476,835,000**	**$3,179**

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 the federally endangered Florida grasshopper sparrow.

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 acquire fee title to 1,000 acres, which is part of a multi-year acquisition of a 2,000 acre parcel. 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 $33,000 for habitat management and restoration, including prescribed burning, hunting, and public use management. NWRS base funding would support these costs.

NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM **DISCRETIONARY**
Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge
Idaho

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

FY 2016 Priority: No. 9 of 40

Location: Approximately 50 miles east of Pocatello, Idaho

Congressional Districts: Idaho, District 2 **FWS Region 1**

Total LWCF Appropriations: $3,500,000

FY 2016 Budget Request: $2,500,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost*	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	19	4,437	$2,337,100	$527
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	18	2,421	$8,893	$4
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	1	27	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	1	160	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014**	1	13,080	$0	$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**40**	**20,125**	**$2,345,993**	**$117**
Planned FY 2015	0	0	$0	$0
Proposed FY 2016	4	1,156	$2,500,000	$2,163
Remaining	24	12,460	$18,030,591	$1,447
Totals	**68**	**33,741**	**$22,876,584**	**$678**

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

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

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Purpose of Acquisition: To protect and restore the historic Grays Lake marsh and provide nesting and feeding habitat for migrating waterfowl by maintaining and protecting the existing integrity of functional native habitat and restoring the natural range of degraded habitats. Acquisition will also provide essential forage for waterfowl and land birds within the Pacific and Rocky Mountain migratory corridors.

Project Cooperators: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Teton Land Trust, Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust, Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy.

Project Description: Funds would acquire fee title to private landowners' interest both in the lakebed of Grays Lake as well as associated uplands. The lake has the world's largest hardstem bulrush marsh and contains high elevation (6,400 feet) 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 1,200 individuals are counted in the valley during migration and staging times, and attracts large numbers of ducks, Canada geese, and trumpeter swans. In addition, the Refuge provides 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, restore sagebrush habitat for the benefit of sagebrush obligate species, including Greater Sage grouse, support working farms, ranches, and forests, and protect special landscapes and historic and cultural resources. The California National Historic Trail which led over 250,000 gold-seekers to the gold fields of California during the 1840s and 1850s, is located within the project area. The land surrounding the Refuge is managed by the private landowners, State of Idaho, BIA, BLM, and USFS.

O&M: The Service anticipates minimal expense would be required as consolidation of Federal ownership of lakebed lands requires minimal maintenance.

NORTHERN TALLGRASS PRAIRIE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE DISCRETIONARY
Minnesota and Iowa

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

FY 2016 Priority Rank: No. 10 of 40

Location: Located in portions of 48 counties in MN and 37 in IA, the Refuge is bounded by the US-Canada border to the north and Des Moines, IA to the south. The Refuge boundary weaves through the Tallgrass Aspen Parklands and Agassiz Beach Ridges of northwest MN and the Prairie Coteau regions of southwest MN and northwest IA.

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

Total Appropriations: $6,306,635

FY 2016 Budget Request: $500,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	12	2,803	$4,319,393	$1,220
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	44	2,452	$1,672,903	$682
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	5	479	$0	$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**61**	**5,734**	**$5,992,296**	**$1,045**
Planned FY 2015	1	150	$500,000	$3,333
Proposed FY 2016	1	150	$500,000	$3,333
Remaining	793	71,445	$18,007,704	$252
Totals	**856**	**77,479**	**$25,000,000**	**$323**

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, Minnesota Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, The Nature Conservancy, Minnesota Waterfowl Association, several county conservation boards, and several local Chambers of Commerce

Project Description: Funds would acquire approximately 150 fee title acres or easement acres in western Minnesota and/or northwestern Iowa to develop stewardship agreements and provide management assistance in the interest of preserving the prairie landscape regardless of ownership. The project conserves and restores one of the rarest and fragmented prairie/grassland ecosystems in America and one of the most important waterfowl production areas of North America.

The Service's goal for the refuge is to preserve 77,000 acres, about 25 percent of the remaining native prairie, across portions of 85 counties in western Minnesota and northwestern Iowa.

Federally threatened and endangered species on the Refuge include four species of plants and seven species of animals, which include western prairie fringed orchid, prairie bush clover, and the piping plover. The Refuge contains nationally significant habitat for migratory birds, such as the marbled godwit and waterfowl, including mallards, northern pintail, lesser scaup, canvasback and blue-winged teal. Approximately 243 species of birds are known to regularly use the northern tallgrass prairie area during some time of the year with 152 species breeding here. Grassland nesting birds present at the Refuge includes black-billed cuckoo, bobolinks, red-headed woodpecker and the Connecticut warbler, dickcissels, and upland plovers. Several globally rare species can also be found here, including the last remaining populations of the Dakota skipper and the regal fritillary butterflies which are in steep decline.

O&M: The Service anticipates approximately $10,000 for initial restoration and enhancement work (spraying, mowing, burning, and signage). NWRS base funding would support these costs.

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

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

FY 2016 Priority Rank: No. 11 of 40

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 2016 Budget Request: $2,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee Through FY 2014	82	35,728	$31,886,994	$892
Acquired Easement Through FY 2014	2	169	$126,000	$746
Acquired Exchange Through FY 2014	1	0	$0	$0
Acquired Donation Through FY 2014	9	185	$0	$0
Acquired Other Means Through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through 2014	**94**	**36,082**	**$32,012,994**	**$887**
Planned FY 2015	11	779	$2,000,000	$2,567
Proposed FY 2016	10	1,409	$2,000,000	$1,419
Remaining	1,895	40,637	34,487,006	$849
Totals	**2,010**	**78,907**	**$70,500,000**	**$893**

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 acquire 1,409 acres in fee title in seven Refuge divisions located within the Connecticut River watershed. These properties include 137 acres of riparian habitat within the Westfield River Division (MA) and the Mill River Division (MA), and three tracts totaling 136 acres as part of the River's main stem known as the Quonatuck Division located in New Hampshire, Vermont, and Connecticut. About 1,000 acres would be added to the Mascoma Division (NH) where unfragmented forest blocks are home to a variety of rare species, exemplary natural communities, and valuable habitat for migrating and breeding birds. Another 67 acres of northern boreal forest, 13 acres in Pondicherry and 54 acres in the Mohawk River Divisions (NH), would protect nesting songbird habitat and provide the public opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation. The Service would acquire 69

total acres in the Refuge's Salmon River Division (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 will help waterfowl (27 species), other migratory birds (247 species), and threatened and endangered species (9 species) be resilient to temperature, precipitation and water level changes in their habitats. Connecting lands under Refuge stewardship within an extensive and expanding conservation mosaic will also promote representation, redundancy, and resiliency within the watershed. These benefits provide a robust foundation for nationally significant and vital wildlife habitat that will sustain high quality hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation opportunities for generations to come. The proposed acquisitions make 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 properties are located within the Refuge boundary and would create no additional workload.

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

Acquisition Authorities: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

FY 2016 Priority Rank: No. 12 of 40

Location: Southeastern Idaho, northeastern Utah, and southwestern Wyoming

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

Total LWCF Appropriations: $0

FY 2016 Budget Request: $2,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**0**	**0**	**$0**	**$0**
Planned FY 2015	0	0	$0	$0
Proposed FY 2016	4	2,469	$2,000,000	$810
Remaining	Multi	917,531	$743,200,000	$810
Totals	**Multi**	**920,000**	**$745,200,000**	**$810**

Purpose of Acquisition: To conserve aquatic, riparian, wetland, and upland habitats; provide wildlife habitat connectivity and migratory corridors; maintain healthy population of native wildlife species; protect and maintain water quality and quantity; increase the watershed's resiliency during climate and land use changes; conserve the area's working landscapes, and promote partnerships for coordinated watershed-level conservation.

Project Cooperators: Three landscape conservation cooperatives—Great Northern, Great Basin, and Southern Rockies, The Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited, local Audubon chapters, PacifiCorp, State and local land trusts, soil and water conservation districts, State agencies, tribes, and other Federal agencies.

Project Description: Funds would acquire approximately 2,469 acres in conservation easements in the Bear River Watershed Conservation Area. Conservation easements on private lands would be administered and monitored by the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge in Utah, the Bear Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Idaho, and the Cokeville Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in Wyoming. The Bear River is the largest river in the Western Hemisphere that flows into the Great Salt Lake. The wide range of altitudes in the Bear River watershed allow for diverse habitats. Grassland and shrubland dominate the flats and lowlands, while pinyon-juniper woodland and pine forest cover the higher slopes. Big sagebrush

is common on much of the landscape, although other shrubs, such as rabbit-brush, saltbush, and greasewood may dominate some areas.

Most of the lower elevation areas are privately owned with much of the land used for agriculture and grazing. Water from the Bear River is used to irrigate alfalfa, small grain crops, and ranchland.

The primary routes of migratory birds following the central and Pacific flyways converge in the Bear River watershed. More than 200 bird species have been documented in the project area, with half closely associated with wetlands. Marshbirds and shorebirds include white-faced ibis, black tern, American avocet, long-billed curlew, American bittern, sandhill crane, and trumpeter swan. Upland birds include the greater sage-grouse and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse. In addition, Elk, mule deer, moose, pronghorn, bear, lynx, and wolverine depend on key wintering areas and migration corridors throughout the Bear River watershed.

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

FLINT HILLS LEGACY CONSERVATION AREA **DISCRETIONARY**
Kansas

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

FY 2016 Priority Rank: No. 13 of 40

Location: The Flint Hills of eastern Kansas run north-south in a long, narrow band

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

Total LWCF Appropriations: $2,191,450

FY 2016 Budget Request: $840,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	0	0	0	0
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	4	5,923	$2,191,450	$370
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	1	5	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**5**	**5,928**	**$2,191,450**	**$370**
Planned FY 2015	0	0	$0	$0
Proposed FY 2016	2	1,680	$840,000	$500
Remaining	306	1,092,392	$436,968,550	$400
Totals	**313**	**1,100,000**	**$440,000,000**	**$400**

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

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

Project Description: Funds would acquire perpetual conservation easements on 1,680 acres of tallgrass prairie. With less than four percent of the original acreage remaining, tallgrass prairie is one of the most endangered ecosystems in the United States. Residential, commercial, and industrial development and woody vegetation encroachment have all fragmented this important habitat. Acquisition of perpetual conservation easements from willing sellers provides permanent protection for tallgrass prairie and fosters landscape-level conservation, while helping maintain traditional ranching communities. Landowner interest is high, and the Service will focus on lands with high quality tallgrass habitat and minimal fragmentation and woody vegetation encroachment. Conservation easements also protect habitat important for the threatened Topeka shiner and a wide variety of grassland-dependent birds. The Service will use these easements to ultimately protect 1,100,000 acres of the remaining Flint Hills tallgrass prairie.

O&M: Within NWRS base funding, the Service would spend $1,000 for annual maintenance of the new acquisitions, mainly for easement enforcement.

FY 2016 LWCF Mandatory Funding

Rank	State(s)	Collaborative Landscape/Project Name or Core Project Name	Collaborative	Core
	CLP: Island Forests at Risk			
14	HI	Island Forests at Risk: Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge	$11,411,000	
15	ND/SD	Dakota Grasslands Conservation Area		$6,548,000
	CLP: Upper Rio Grande			
16	CO	Upper Rio Grande: Baca National Wildlife Refuge	$3,439,000	
	CO/NM	Upper Rio Grande: Sangre de Cristo Conservation Area	$1,890,250	
17	ND/SD	Dakota Tallgrass Prairie Wildlife Management Area		$2,000,000
18	TX	Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge		$1,000,000
19	KS	Flint Hills Conservation Area		$1,134,000
20	TX	Lower Rio Grande National Wildlife Refuge		$1,500,000
	WA	CLP: High Divide	$0	
21	MT	Montana Refuges		$3,000,000
	CLP: Rivers of the Chesapeake			
22	VA	Rivers of the Chesapeake: Rappahannock River	$3,890,000	
	VA	Rivers of the Chesapeake: James River National Wildlife Refuge	$950,000	
	MD	Rivers of the Chesapeake: Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge	$1,900,000	
23	CA	Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge		$2,000,000
24	IL/IA/MN/WI	Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge		$2,000,000
	CLP: National Trails System			
25	VA	National Trails System: Rappahannock River - Captain J Smith National Historic Trail	$3,530,000	
26	CA	Grasslands Wildlife Management Area		$2,000,000
27	AR	Cache River National Wildlife Refuge		$2,000,000
28	TX	Neches River National Wildlife Refuge		$3,000,000
	CLP: Florida-Georgia Longleaf Pine			
29	FL	Florida-Georgia Longleaf Pine: St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge	$12,000,000	
30	AR	Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge		$3,000,000
31	VA	Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge		$2,000,000
32	GA/FL	Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge		$2,000,000
	CLP: Pathways to the Pacific			
33	WA	Pathways to the Pacific: Willapa National Wildlife Refuge	$4,203,000	
	WA	Pathways to the Pacific: Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge	$259,750	
34	FL	Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area		$3,000,000
35	IA/MN	Northern Tallgrass National Wildlife Refuge		$1,000,000
36	NJ	Cape May National Wildlife Refuge		$1,000,000

37	TX	Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge		$1,200,000
38	CLP: Northern Coastal California			
	CA	Northern Coastal California: Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge	$917,000	
39	WA	Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge		$1,500,000
40	IL	Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge		$2,000,000
	Subtotal, Line Item Projects (Core)			$42,748,000
	Subtotal, Line Item Projects (CLP)		$44,390,000	
	Total Line Item Projects - Mandatory			**$87,138,000**

ISLAND FORESTS AT RISK **MANDATORY**
Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge
Hawai'i

Acquisition Authority: Endangered Species Act of 1973

FY 2016 Priority Rank: No. 14 of 40

Location: 10 miles north of Hilo on the windward side of the Island of Hawai'i and near Honaunau on the leeward side of the Island.

Congressional Districts: Hawai'i, District 2 **FWS Region 1**

Total LWCF Appropriations: $28,181,000

FY 2016 Budget Request: $11,411,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	4	38,005	$26,178,265	$689
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	3	42	$60,900	$1,450
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**7**	**38,047**	**$26,239,165**	**$690**
Planned FY 2015	0	0	$0	$0
Proposed FY 2016	2	17,695	$11,411,000	$645
Remaining	6	16,448	$28,362,075	$1,724
Totals	**15**	**72,190**	**$66,012,240**	**$914**

Purpose of Acquisition: Funding of this fee title acquisition would provide protection for and enhance populations of numerous threatened and endangered plant and forest bird species. It would also protect the biological integrity, diversity, and environmental health of wet ecosystems or those requiring a moderate water supply such as mesic forests.

Project Cooperators: The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i Trust for Public Lands

Project Description: Funding would enable fee title acquisition of 17,695 acres in the Hakalau Forest NWR, on the windward side of Hawai'i Island. Acquisition would consist of two parcels, one located apart from the Hakalau Forest Unit in the upper elevations, and the other reaching seaward down the east face of Mauna Kea, adjacent to the Refuge. Both sites will help recover listed plants and endangered forest birds and their habitats by providing groundwater recharge and preventing siltation of nearby marine environments. The outlying parcel located at a higher elevation provides added protection for Palila, Federally listed as endangered, which depend on the māmane and māmane/naio forests located near 7,550 feet elevation.

O&M: The Service anticipates an initial expense of $65,000 for boundary marking and sign posting, which the Service would fund from NWRS base funds.

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

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

FY 2016 Priority: No. 15 of 40

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 2016 Budget Request: $6,548,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost*	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	0	0	0	0
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	70	26,879	$11,915,309	$443
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	1	1,071	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**71**	**27,950**	**$11,915,309**	**$426**
Planned FY 2015	Multi	18,910	$8,679,802	$459
Proposed FY 2016 (easement)	33	13,096	$6,548,000	$500
Remaining	Multi	1,880,044	$560,856,889	$298
Totals	**Multi**	**1,940,000**	**$588,000,000**	**$303**

* Includes Migratory Bird Conservation Fund funding.

Purpose of Acquisition: Purchasing perpetual wetland and grassland easements protects wildlife habitats of native grassland and associated wetlands 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 acquire perpetual conservation easements on 13,096 acres. 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. Easements help maintain traditional farming and ranching operations while fostering landscape-level conservation.

O&M: The Service anticipates spending less than $8,000 annually from NWRS base funds for compliance over-flights.

UPPER RIO GRANDE **MANDATORY**
Baca National Wildlife Refuge
Colorado

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

FY 2016 Priority Rank: No. 16 of 40

Location: Southern Colorado

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

Total LWCF Appropriations: $14,589,000

FY 2016 Budget Request: $3,439,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	3	54,081	$14,459,200	$267
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	1	160	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014*	2	31,700	$0	$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**6**	**85,941**	**$14,459,200**	**$168**
Planned FY 2015	0	0	$0	$0
Proposed FY 2016	3	6,614	$3,439,280	$520
Remaining	7	7,316	$3,804,500	$520
Totals	**16**	**99,871**	**$21,702,980**	**$217**

*Primary Transfers and Primary Withdrawals

Purpose of Acquisition: Purchasing the last large property owned by a partner organization within the Refuge, allows the Service to protect and preserve diverse habitats, including unique sand sheet uplands, that support a diversity of migratory birds and several native small mammals. Acquisition of these parcels is an integral component of the Service's desire to restore playa wetlands in the closed basin of the San Luis Valley.

Project Cooperators: The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

Project Description: Funds would acquire 6,614 fee acres owned by TNC within the approved acquisition boundary. From soaring 14,000-foot peaks to spectacular river gorges, the Upper Rio Grande 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. The Refuge lies within a day's drive of six metro areas and five million people, and is supported by an unparalleled community commitment to conservation and the motivation to protect the unique wildlife, ecological, cultural, scenic, and recreational resources.

TNC owns the last significant property within the Refuge. Service acquisition of these lands would permanently protect continuous habitat and hydrology between the Refuges and the adjoining Great Sand

Dunes National Park and Preserve. The acquisitions are 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 annual costs of $3,800 annually from NWRS base funds to prevent trespass on and disturbance of cultural resources and for invasive weed control on the lands acquired in fee.

UPPER RIO GRANDE **MANDATORY**
Sangre de Cristo Conservation Area
Colorado and New Mexico

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

FY 2016 Priority Rank: No. 16 of 40

Location: SE corner of Rio Grande River headwaters on western slope of Sangre de Cristo Mountains in southern Colorado and northern New Mexico

Congressional Districts: Colorado, District 3 **FWS Region 2 and 6**
New Mexico, District 1

Total LWCF Appropriations: $0

FY 2016 Budget Request: $1,890,250

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	2	167,200	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**2**	**167,200**	**$0**	**$0**
Planned FY 2015	0	0	$0	$0
Proposed FY 2016	1	2,423	$1,890,250	$780
Remaining	88	80,377	$62,694,060	$780
Totals	**91**	**250,000**	**$64,584,310**	**$258**

Purpose of Acquisition: Conservation easements protect the high-elevation wildlife habitats of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and the uplands of the southeastern San Luis Valley. The proposed acquisitions will promote the adaptive capacity and resilience of these ecosystems by ensuring connectivity between existing protected areas and by protecting wildlife movement corridors, particularly riparian areas.

Project Cooperators: Private landowners

Project Description: Funds would acquire 2,423 easement acres. From soaring 14,000-foot peaks to spectacular river gorges, the Upper Rio Grande 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. The Sangre de Cristo Conservation Area lies within a day's drive of six metro areas and five million people. The Refuge is supported by an unparalleled community commitment to conservation and the motivation to protect the unique wildlife, ecological, cultural, scenic, and recreational resources.

O&M: The Service estimates $2,500 annually from NWRS base funds for over-flight monitoring of the conservation easements.

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

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

FY 2016 Rank: No. 17 of 40

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

FY 2016 Budget Request: $2,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	207	62,852	$10,178,131	$162
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	2	20	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	1	160	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**210**	**63,032**	**$10,178,131**	**$161**
Planned FY 2015	Multi	6,122	$3,000,000	$490
Proposed FY 2016 (easement)	13	3,333	$2,000,000	$600
Remaining	Multi	117,513	$51,300,709	$437
Totals	**Multi**	**190,000**	**$66,478,840**	**$350**

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 acquire perpetual conservation easements on 3,333 acres of tallgrass prairie. 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 conservation 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. Conservation easements will maintain traditional ranching operations while fostering landscape-level conservation.

The project area has a rich variety of plant, animal, and insect 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 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 less than $1,500 per year from NWRS base funding for annual compliance over-flights.

ANAHUAC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE **MANDATORY**
Texas

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

FY 2016 Priority Rank: No. 18 of 40

Location: Approximately 55 miles east of Houston, Texas

Congressional Districts: Texas, District 14 **FWS Region 2**

Total LWCF Appropriations: $1,917,685

FY 2016 Budget Request: $1,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres**	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	3	3,956	$1,431,810	$362
Acquired Easement through FY 2014*	2	63	$0	$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	4	1,742	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014	12	30,506	$13,058,864	$428
Partner Contributions through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**21**	**36,267**	**$14,490,674**	**$400**
Planned FY 2015	0	0	$0	$0
Proposed FY 2016	1	700	$1,000,000	$1,429
Remaining	94	45,174	$12,660,000	$280
Totals	**116**	**82,141**	**$28,150,674**	**$343**

* Road easements.

**Includes three tracts acquired by Categorical Exclusion for a total of 52 acres.

Purpose of Acquisition: In the past 25 years, over 100,000 acres of coastal wetlands were lost in the upper Texas Gulf Coast region. Direct loss of native habitat to development and conversion to other land uses has been extensive. These changes impact the native prairie and coastal marshes, resulting in a continuing trend of habitat loss and degradation. The large-scale alterations to the project area, ongoing threats from sea level rise, and land subsidence require a proactive approach to ensure the long-term protection of natural resources in the region.

Project Cooperators: The Conservation Fund, Houston Audubon, and The Nature Conservancy.

Project Description: Funds would acquire 700 acres of high-priority habitat in fee title. Acquisition of this tract would provide continued protection of coastal waterfowl resources and wetland-dependent migratory birds. The wetlands portion of this tract supports high-value wintering waterfowl habitats, while the native coastal prairie portion has high habitat value for resident mottled ducks, many species of grassland-dependent migratory birds, and a wide variety of native wildlife species.

O&M: The Service estimates an initial cost of $60,000 from NWRS base funding for fencing and posting of refuge boundaries. The acquisition tract is marshland, which is more costly to survey and mark.

FLINT HILLS LEGACY CONSERVATION AREA **MANDATORY**
Kansas

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

FY 2016 Priority Rank: No. 19 of 40

Location: The Flint Hills of eastern Kansas run north-south in a long, narrow band

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

Total LWCF Appropriations: $2,191,450

FY 2016 Budget Request: $1,134,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	0	0	0	0
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	4	5,923	$2,191,450	$370
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	1	5	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**5**	**5,928**	**$2,191,450**	**$370**
Planned FY 2015	0	0	$0	$0
Proposed FY 2016	2	2,268	$1,134,000	$500
Remaining	306	1,091,804	$436,674,550	$400
Totals	**313**	**1,100,000**	**$440,000,000**	**$400**

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

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

Project Description: Funds would acquire perpetual conservation easements on 2,000 acres of tallgrass prairie. With less than four percent of the original acreage remaining, tallgrass prairie is one of the most endangered ecosystems in the United States. Residential, commercial, and industrial development and woody vegetation encroachment have all fragmented this important habitat. Acquisition of perpetual conservation easements from willing sellers provides permanent protection for tallgrass prairie and fosters landscape-level conservation, while helping maintain traditional ranching communities. Landowner interest is high, and the Service will focus on lands with high quality tallgrass habitat and minimal fragmentation and woody vegetation encroachment. Conservation easements also protect habitat important for the threatened Topeka shiner and a wide variety of grassland-dependent birds. The Service will use these easements to ultimately protect 1,100,000 acres of the remaining Flint Hills tallgrass prairie.

O&M: Within NWRS base funding, the Service would spend $1,000 for annual maintenance of the new acquisitions, mainly for easement enforcement.

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE MANDATORY
Texas

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

FY 2016 Priority Rank: No. 20 of 40

Location: South Texas, Lower Rio Grande Valley, approximately 30 minutes southeast of McAllen, TX

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

Total LWCF Appropriations: $32,777,516

FY 2016 Budget Request: $1,500,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners*	Acres**	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	299	79,168	$75,073,310	$948
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	6	5,616	$1,412,751	$252
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	13	10,261	$0	$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2014	4	953	$0	$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**322**	**95,998**	**$76,486,061**	**$797**
Planned FY 2015	0	0	$0	$0
Proposed FY 2016	1	853	$1,500,000	$1,758
Remaining	791	35,649	$54,288,500	$1,523
Totals	**1,114**	**132,500**	**$132,274,561**	**$998**

* 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, Friends of the Wildlife Corridor, National Audubon Society, Ducks Unlimited, North American Butterfly Association, and The Trust for Public Land.

Project Description: Funds would acquire 853 acres of the Refuge's best remaining brush land habitat. The Lower Rio Grande Valley area has lost about 95 percent of its native Tamualipan Thornscrub habitat because of agriculture, urban expansion, and industrial development. The threat continues as the Valley's population increases by four percent each year, threatening the Valley's biodiversity and making land acquisition a top conservation priority.

The Valley is home to a diversity of plants and animals as its range includes tropical coastal bays and estuaries in the Rio Grande Delta to semi-arid rocky hillsides further west. Eighteen federally listed endangered or threatened species, including the ocelot and jaguarundi, nearly 400 birds, 300 butterflies, and over 1,100 plant species are all found on the Refuge. The Valley is also a focal point of the Central Flyway for tens of thousands of birds migrating between North and South America each year. Many

Mexican bird species reach their northern limit within the Refuge—species found nowhere else in the U.S. To help recover endangered species such as the ocelot, sustainably protect the Valley's rich plant and animal life, and fulfill the Refuge's purpose, remaining lands containing native vegetation must be acquired before the lands are gone.

O&M: The Service anticipates minimal expenses beyond an initial $10,000 from NWRS base funding for signage and posting of boundaries.

MONTANA REFUGES **MANDATORY**
Montana

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

FY 2016 Priority Rank: No. 21 of 40

Location: 65 miles northwest of Great Falls, MT

Congressional District: Montana, At Large **FWS Region 6**

Total LWCF Appropriations: $56,420,922

FY 2016 Budget Request: $3,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	34	80,155	$36,101,018	$450
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	10	14,276	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014	0	1,916	$795,500	$415
Partner Contributions through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**44**	**96,347**	**36,896,518**	**$383**
Planned FY 2015	11	23,776	$12,100,390	$509
Proposed FY 2016	3	6,200	$3,000,000	$484
Remaining	Multi	283,177	$161,295,009	$570
Totals	**Multi**	**409,500**	**$213,291,917**	**$521**

Purpose of Acquisition: To support long-term viability of fish and wildlife habitat on a large landscape-scale basis in the Crown of the Continent. Acquisition of perpetual conservation easements preserves habitat where existing plant and animal 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, Powell and Missoula County Commissioners; Montana DNRC; Montana Wilderness Association; and Montana Audubon Society.

Project Description: Funds would acquire perpetual conservation easements on three tracts totaling 6,200 acres within the Crown of the Continent (including the Rocky Mountain Front, Blackfoot Valley, and Swan Valley Conservation Areas) in Montana. These easement acquisitions would connect to other 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. There is increasing pressure to subdivide and develop this landscape for second home development and commercial uses. Protecting these tracts would prevent fragmentation and preserve trust species habitat in one of the nation's best remaining intact ecosystems, while maintaining the traditional ranching economy.

O&M: The Service estimates that annual monitoring and inspection of the 6,200 acres of easement would require approximately $1,500 annually from NWRS base funds.

RIVERS OF THE CHESAPEAKE **MANDATORY**
Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge
Virginia

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956; Endangered Species Act of 1973; Emergency Wetlands Resource Act of 1986; Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929

FY 2016 Budget Priority: No. 22 of 40

Location: From Skinkers Neck to Belle Isle State Park on the Rappahannock River

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

Total LWCF Appropriations: $15,628,500

FY 2016 Budget Request: $3,890,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	20	5,593	$12,546,843	$2,244
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	7	1,918	$4,277,027	$2,230
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	2	1,196	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**29**	**8,707**	**$16,823,870**	**$1,932**
Planned FY 2015	1	148	$2,000,000	$13,514
Proposed FY 2016	2	390	$3,890,000	$9,974
Remaining	19	10,755	$30,486,130	$2,835
Totals	**51**	**20,000**	**$53,200,000**	**$2,660**

Purpose of Acquisition: To provide nesting and roosting habitat for bald eagles, waterfowl, and other migratory birds by protecting forested bluffs above the river shore.

Project Cooperators: Commonwealth of Virginia**,** The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, Virginia Outdoors Foundation, Chesapeake Conservancy, National Park Service, The Conservation Fund

Project Description: Funds would acquire 390 acres in fee title in the Farnham Creek Focus Area of the refuge. The acquisition would add significantly to the existing block of protected forest lands in this area. Increasing the interior core area of forested blocks is critical to migratory bird species such as the scarlet tanager, wood thrush, and hooded warbler, which require isolated forest habitat to breed. Many other migratory bird species use the forests and wetlands along Farnham Creek, including several Service and State species of conservation concern. They include the Louisiana waterthrush, ovenbird, prothonotary warbler, Kentucky warbler, worm-eating warbler, yellow-throated vireo, chuck-will's widow, and whip-poor-will, all of which are confirmed breeders on the Refuge.

O&M: The Service estimates $3,000 annually from NWRS base funding for signage and boundary markings.

RIVERS OF THE CHESAPEAKE **MANDATORY**
James River National Wildlife Refuge
Virginia

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

FY 2016 Priority Rank: No. 22 of 40

Location: Approximately 10 miles southeast of the City of Hopewell, along the James River

Congressional Districts: Virginia, District 4 **FWS Region 5**

Total LWCF Appropriations: $8,462,424

FY 2016 Budget Request: $950,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee Through FY 2014	4	4,324	$9,541,072	$2,207
Acquired Easement Through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Exchange Through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Donation Through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Other Means Through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Total Acquired through 2014	**4**	**4,324**	**$9,541,072**	**$2,207**
Planned FY 2015	0	0	$0	$0
Proposed FY 2016	1	125	$950,000	$7,600
Remaining	1	99	$752,400	$7,600
Totals	**6**	**4,548**	**$11,243,472**	**$2,472**

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect roosting and breeding habitat for bald eagles, protect and manage habitat for breeding forest birds of conservation concern, and provide compatible recreational opportunities, particularly deer hunting.

Project Cooperators: The Conservation Fund, The Trust for Public Land, Virginia Outdoors Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Richmond Audubon Society, American Bird Conservancy, Chickahominy Tribe, James River Association, Friends of the John Smith Chesapeake Trail, Defenders of Wildlife, Virginia Commonwealth University, National Wildlife Refuge Association, and the National Audubon Society.

Project Description: Funds would acquire a 125-acre property in fee title with direct frontage on the James River. This property is currently being marketed for residential development. As the land is next to the Refuge, it is one of two remaining properties targeted for protection on the River. The property has a tidal inlet off the James River with riparian and shallow-water marsh wetlands, home to mature bald cypress trees in which ospreys and bald eagles nest; the Refuge currently has four active bald eagle nests.

O & M: The Service anticipates $5,000 from NWRS base funding for posting.

RIVERS OF THE CHESAPEAKE **MANDATORY**
Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge
Maryland

Acquisition Authority: Endangered Species Act of 1973

FY 2016 Budget Priority: No. 22 of 40

Location: Sixty-five miles southeast of Baltimore, in the south central portion of Dorchester County on Maryland's Eastern Shore

Congressional Districts: Maryland, District 1 **FWS Region 5**

Total LWCF Appropriations: $7,207,834

FY 2016 Budget Request: $1,900,000

Acquisition Status:

	Ownerships	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	31	26,087	$20,454,331	$784
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	1	50	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	10	1,392	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014	1	856	$1,080,000	$1,262
Partner Contributions through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**43**	**28,385**	**$21,534,331**	**$759**
Planned FY 2015	0	0	$0	$0
Proposed FY 2016	2	498	$1,900,000	$3,815
Remaining	53	31,042	$33,538,768	$1,080
Totals	**98**	**59,925**	**$56,973,099**	**$951**

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect high quality habitat for the endangered Delmarva fox squirrel and other endangered species, along with nesting and wintering habitat for the American bald eagle, migratory waterfowl, colonial waterbirds, shorebirds, and forest interior dwelling bird species.

Project Cooperators: The Nature Conservancy

Project Description: Funds would acquire 498 acres in fee title of upland and marsh along the Nanticoke River and Owens Creek and wooded uplands in White Oak Swamp. The property on the Nanticoke River has prime riverine wetlands, extensive open fields and maturing woodlands. These areas provide excellent habitat for a variety of wildlife, including migratory birds like osprey, black and wood ducks, Canada geese, marsh and water birds, and bald eagles, as well as grassland and immature woodland species. The White Oak Swamp tract includes freshwater marsh habitat and mature, low-lying woodlands. The woodlands provide excellent habitat for bald eagles and the Delmarva Peninsula fox squirrel, which was formerly listed as endangered. Purchasing these lands would expand potential public opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation.

O&M: The Service anticipates no additional operations or maintenance costs associated with this acquisition as the parcel is located within Refuge boundaries and would add no additional workload.

SACRAMENTO RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE **MANDATORY**
California

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956; Endangered Species Act of 1973 Emergency Wetlands Resource Act of 1986; and the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, dated September 3, 1964

FY 2016 Priority Rank: No. 23 of 40

Location: 100-mile stretch of the Sacramento River from Colusa to Red Bluff, CA

Congressional District: California, Districts 1 and 3 **FWS Region 8**

Total LWCF Appropriations: $20,447,719

FY 2016 Budget Request: $2,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	29	9,227	$28,718,371	$3,112
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	2	1,286	$776,221	$604
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	1	15	$12,000	$800
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	4	751	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014	1	472	$0	$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**37**	**11,751**	**$29,506,592**	**$2,511**
Planned FY 2015	0	0	$0	$0
Proposed FY 2016	1	200	$2,000,000	$10,000
Remaining	79	6,049	$39,493,408	$6,529
Totals	**117**	**18,000**	**$71,000,000**	**$3,944**

Purpose of Acquisition: To preserve riparian habitat for four federally listed endangered or threatened species and six candidate species. These include transplanted colonies of palmate-bracted bird's-beak, several species of fairy shrimp, vernal pool tadpole shrimp, giant garter snake, wintering peregrine falcon, bald eagle, and breeding tricolored blackbird.

Project Cooperators: State of California and The Nature Conservancy.

Project Description: Funding would acquire one 200-acre tract to protect extremely rare riparian forest habitat of beneficial woodlands and wetlands next to streams, sloughs, rivers, and lakes. The continued acquisition of lands within this project boundary will secure 60 sites along 100 miles of the riparian Sacramento River corridor. These lands would further preserve habitat for threatened and endangered species, waterfowl and other migratory birds, other wildlife, anadromous fish, and plants, as well as restore and enhance suitable habitat for these species.

O&M: The Service estimates annual costs and associated restoration would be $6,000 for the proposed tract to be acquired. Restoration activities would be funded by grants.

UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE AND FISH REFUGE MANDATORY
Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin

Acquisition Authority: Act of June 7, 1924; Act of March 4, 1925; Act of May 12, 1928; Act of April 10, 1928; Act of June 18, 1934; Act of June 13, 1944; P.L. 87-44; P.L. 105-312; Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986

FY 2016 Priority Rank: No. 24 of 40

Location: 261 miles along the Mississippi River from Wabasha, MN, to Rock Island, IL

Congressional Districts: Minnesota, District 1 **FWS Region 3**
Iowa, Districts 1 and 4
Illinois, Districts 16 and 17
Wisconsin, District 3

Total LWCF Appropriations: $8,263,600

FY 2016 Budget Request: $2,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	$/Acre*
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	1,093	90,081	$7,108,569	$79
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	4	1	$5,051	$5,051
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	27	898	$14,075	$16
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	23	487	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014	72	118,007	$2,266	$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014**	**1,219**	**209,474**	**$7,129,961**	**$34**
Planned FY 2015	0	0	$0	$0
Proposed FY 2016	3	300	$2,000,000	$6,667
Reprogrammed FY 2008†	0	0	$300,000	$0
Reprogrammed FY 2009†	0	0	$1,000,000	$0
Remaining	316	20,984	$26,724,996	$1,274
Totals	**1,538**	**230,758**	**$37,154,957**	**$161**

† Amount reprogrammed from Great River NWR to Upper Mississippi NW&FR.

* Approximately half of the acreage was acquired by the Corps of Engineers and is managed by the Service; hence, the low $/Acre value.

** Corrections were made to previous submissions for the acquisitions through FY 2014.

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect, restore, and manage grassland and wetland habitat for migratory birds, including waterfowl, resident wildlife, federal and state threatened and endangered species, and public recreation.

Project Cooperators: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, Minnesota DNR, Wisconsin DNR, Iowa DNR, and Illinois DNR. Multiple Friends groups support the Refuge's mission including Friends of the Refuge Headwaters (Winona District), Upper Mississippi River

Interpretive Association (LaCrosse District), Friends of Pool 9 (McGregor District), Friends of Pool 10 (McGregor District), and Stewards of the Upper Mississippi River Refuge (Savanna District).

Project Description: Funds would acquire 300 acres in fee title in multiple counties in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa to protect floodplain and bluff land habitat for migrating waterfowl such as lesser and greater scaup, as well as green-winged teal and mallard, both Service-identified surrogate species. Habitat protected within the Refuge would also be important for shorebird use, in particular lesser yellowlegs, and use by inter-jurisdictional fish, including paddlefish and shovelnose sturgeon. Habitat on the Refuge is recognized as continentally significant, a globally Important Bird Area, a Wetland of International Importance, and in some areas, critical habitat for federally endangered freshwater mussels.

O&M: The Service estimates an initial cost of $10,000 from NWRS base funds for restoration and enhancement work (spraying, mowing, burning, fencing supplies, and signage).

NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM **MANDATORY**
Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge
Virginia

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, Endangered Species Act of 1973, Emergency Wetlands Resource Act of 1986, Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929

FY 2016 Budget Priority: No. 25 of 40

Location: From Skinkers Neck to Belle Isle State Park on the Rappahannock River

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

Total LWCF Appropriations: $15,628,500

FY 2016 Budget Request: $3,530,000

Acquisition Status:

	Ownerships	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	20	5,593	$12,546,843	$2,243
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	7	1,918	$4,277,027	$2,230
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	2	1,196	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**29**	**8,707**	**$16,823,870**	**$1,932**
Planned FY 2015	1	148	$2,000,000	$13,514
Proposed FY 2016	1	350	$3,530,000	$10,086
Remaining	20	10,795	$30,846,130	$2,857
Totals	**51**	**20,000**	**$53,200,000**	**$2,660**

Purpose of Acquisition: The National Trails System is 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 national wildlife refuges (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 view sheds. This request would be directed to Rappahannock River Valley NWR which is adjacent to the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail (NHT) for a 60-mile length of the river.

Project Cooperators: Commonwealth of Virginia**,** The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, Virginia Outdoors Foundation, Chesapeake Conservancy, National Park Service.

Project Description: Funds would acquire 350 acres in a phased fee title acquisition in the Fones Cliff area of the Rappahannock River Valley NWR, which will add to the Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT. The 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 birds use the forests, swamps, and steep ravines found on the property, including several Service and 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 978-acre tract is one of three targeted properties comprising Fones Cliff. Their protection as part of the refuge provides an opportunity for a spectacular interpretive site overlooking the Rappahannock River Valley. Seventy-five million dollars have already been invested for conservation of the lower Rappahannock River Valley.

O&M: The Service estimates initial costs of $10,000 from NWRS base funding for posting. Future costs to construct recreational and educational facilities would be secured in cooperation with project partners via grants and special project funding.

GRASSLANDS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA **MANDATORY**
California

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

FY 2016 Priority Rank: No. 26 of 40

Location: Between the Cities of Los Banos and Gustine

Congressional District: California, District 16 **FWS Region 8**

Total LWCF Appropriations: $15,276,332

FY 2016 Budget Request: $2,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	8	14,970	$18,066,228	$1,207
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	173	78,924	$45,023,982	$570
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**181**	**93,894**	**$63,090,210**	**$672**
Planned FY 2015	0	0	$0	$0
Proposed FY 2016	1	269	$2,000,000	$7,435
Remaining	234	39,137	$180,778,970	$4,619
Totals	**416**	**133,300**	**$245,869,180**	**$1,844**

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect important wintering area for migratory waterfowl.

Project Cooperators: State of California

Project Description: Funds would acquire perpetual conservation easements on 269 acres of predominantly native, irrigated pasture. The biggest threat is residential development and the conversion of grasslands, wetlands, and riparian habitat to croplands and orchards that provide little or no benefit for wildlife. The acquisition of this property would provide long-term viability to the grassland ecosystem and a safe haven for migratory birds and other wildlife species.

O&M: As a perpetual conservation easement, there will be little long-term management costs associated with this acquisition.

CACHE RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE **MANDATORY**
Arkansas

Acquisition Authority: Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986

FY 2016 Priority Rank: No. 27 of 40

Location: Next 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 2016 Budget Request: $2,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	115	59,786	$61,786,313	$1,033
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	7	2,166	$134,000	$62
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	2	950	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014	1	6,091	$0	$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**125**	**68,993**	**$61,920,313**	**$897**
Planned FY 2015	0	0	$0	$0
Proposed FY 2016	1	909	$2,000,000	$2,200
Remaining	Multi	216,782	$433,746,000	$2,000
Totals	**Multi**	**286,684**	**$497,666,313**	**$1,736**

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 acquire the 909 fee title acres remaining in a phased acquisition 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 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 $5,000 for posting and fencing, funded from NWRS base funding. Annual costs would be less than $500 for maintenance.

NECHES RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE **MANDATORY**
Texas

Acquisition authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956; Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986

FY 2016 Priority Rank: No. 28 of 40

Location: Approximately 35 miles south-southeast of Tyler and 100 miles southeast of Dallas

Congressional District: Texas, District 5 **FWS Region 2**

Total LWCF Appropriations: $3,000,000

FY 2015 Budget Request: $3,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	4	3,730	$3,641,023	$976
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	1	1	$0	$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	1	30	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**6**	**3,761**	**$3,641,023**	**$968**
Planned FY 2015	0	0	$0	$0
Proposed FY 2016	1	2,214	$3,000,000	$1,355
Remaining	57	19,306	$32,132,500	$1,664
Totals	**64**	**25,281**	**$38,773,523**	**$1,534**

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect important remnant bottomland habitat for nesting and wintering of migratory birds of the Central Flyway; protect the forest's diverse biological values and wetland functions of water quality improvement and flood control; and provide compatible wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities. Our non-profit partner, The Conservation Fund, has held more than 6,000 acres for the Service and funds are needed to fulfill our contract to acquire the acres.

Project Cooperators: The Conservation Fund, The Trust for Public Land, and The Nature Conservancy.

Project description: Funds would acquire 2,214 acres in fee title to protect nesting, wintering, and migratory habitat for migratory birds of the Central Flyway and provide much needed resting habitat for neo-tropical birds migrating north in the spring after crossing the Gulf of Mexico. The Refuge is located along the Neches River, which runs for 420 miles and is one of Texas's largest rivers. Bottomland habitats in East Texas are used by three million dabbling ducks. The acquisition area protects a large number of other wildlife and plant species and would be of potential benefit to the federally endangered bald eagle and red-cockaded woodpecker, the threatened American Alligator, and several State species of special concern. The diversity provided by the bottomlands is greater than the upland habitat because of the diversity of floral species and the abundance of food sources.

O&M: The Service estimates total initial costs of $191,000 from NWRS base funds for office space, a vehicle, and equipment. Staff would be relocated from Caddo Lake NWR.

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

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

FY 2016 Priority Rank: No. 29 of 40

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 2016 Budget Request: $12,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	114	66,028	$10,437,213	$158
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	11	283	$0	$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	17	4,897	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	12	749	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014	2	134	$0	$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**156**	**72,091**	**$10,437,213**	**$145**
Planned FY 2015	0	0	$0	$0
Proposed FY 2016	1	4,800	$12,000,000	$2,500
Remaining	Multi	35,356	$87,836,562	$2,484
Totals	**Multi**	**112,247**	**$110,273,775**	**$982**

Purpose of Acquisition: To conserve populations of threatened, endangered, rare, and imperiled plants and animals, and their native longleaf pine habitats; restore former slash pine plantations to native longleaf pine; provide suitable black bear habitat, including corridors to link to critical habitat for major population centers; provide high-quality habitat for migratory birds, shorebirds, waterbirds, and marshbirds; and 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 acquire 4,800 fee acres at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge in a designated Important Bird Area and a Land Management Research and Demonstration Site for Longleaf Pine Ecosystems Funds. As a key segment of the Florida National Scenic Trail, this 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. This property would help preserve a tapestry of Federal, State, and private forest lands that provide more than one million acres of unfragmented habitat for a variety of federally-listed threatened and endangered species.

O&M: The Service anticipates annual costs of up to $50,000 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, and reduce these costs. Hunting fees or outside funding could offset costs associated with restoration work.

FELSENTHAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE **MANDATORY**
Arkansas

Acquisition Authority: Refuge Recreation Act of 1962

FY 2016 Priority Rank: No. 30 of 40

Location: South-central Arkansas in Ashley, Bradley and Union Counties, along the Saline and Ouachita Rivers, 8 miles west of Crossett, AR

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

Total LWCF Appropriations: $0

FY 2016 Budget Request: $3,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	1	89	$100,000	$1,124
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014	3	64,813	$0	$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**4**	**64,902**	**$100,000**	**$2**
Planned FY 2015 Exchange	2	229	$0	$0
Proposed FY 2016	2	1,208	$3,000,000	$2,483
Remaining	43	35,611	$63,672,468	$1,788
Totals	**51**	**101,950**	**$66,772,468**	**$655**

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect fisheries and wildlife resources and provide public access.

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

Project Description: Funds would acquire two parcels totaling 1,208 acres in fee title. This area is dissected by an intricate system of rivers, creeks, sloughs, buttonbush swamps, and lakes throughout a vast bottomland hardwood forest that rises to an upland forest community. Historically, periodic flooding of the "bottoms" during the winter and spring have provided excellent wintering waterfowl habitat, particularly for mallards and wood ducks. These wetlands, in combination with the pine and upland hardwood forest on the higher ridges, support a wide diversity of native plants and animals, providing habitat for migratory and resident waterfowl, marsh and water birds, and neotropical migratory birds. Felsenthal is the only national wildlife refuge in the state with a population of endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers, and it also provides habitat and protection for the threatened American alligator. The refuge also contains some of the region's richest cultural resources with more than 200 known Native American archaeological sites.

O&M: The Service estimates initial costs of $5,000 for posting and fencing, funded from NWRS base funding. Annual costs would be less than $500 for maintenance.

EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE MANDATORY
Virginia

Acquisition Authority: Refuge Recreation Act

FY 2016 Priority Rank: No. 31 of 40

Location: Southernmost tip of the Delmarva Peninsula on the east side of the Chesapeake Bay

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

Total LWCF Appropriations: $11,427,629

FY 2016 Budget Request: $2,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost*	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	8	1,164	$10,427,629	$8,958
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	1	22	$1,500,000	$68,182
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	1	97	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014	1	168	$0	$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**11**	**1,451**	**$11,927,629**	**$8,220**
Planned FY 2015	0	0	$0	$0
Proposed FY 2016	1	150	$2,000,000	$13,333
Remaining	96	5,186	$112,434,371	$21,680
Totals	**108**	**6,787**	**$126,362,000**	**$18,618**

*Costs per acre vary due to location of parcels. Acquisitions through FY 2005 include no-cost military transfers, agriculture upland, and open marsh purchases. Acquisitions planned/proposed are waterfront properties resulting in a premium of land along the shorelines. The remaining acres are mostly interior lands.

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect habitat essential for migratory birds and the threatened northeastern beach tiger beetle.

Project Cooperators: The Nature Conservancy of Virginia (TNC), Commonwealth of Virginia, Northampton County, Virginia, and the Virginia Eastern Shore Land Trust.

Project Description: Funds would acquire 150 acres in fee title of Chesapeake Bay beach/maritime forest with mixed hardwoods, wetlands, and farm fields. Its mature deciduous and coniferous forest with a fruiting understory near the beach provides the ideal sheltered feeding and resting habitat for migratory songbirds and raptors as they stage for their southward journey over the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. The property would also help the Service protect the threatened northeastern beach tiger beetle (cicindela dorsalis dorsalis), which is particularly vulnerable to human disturbance. This property is the highest priority for the Southern Tip Partnership at the Eastern Shore of Virginia. TNC has also played an extensive role in partnering and assisting with purchases at the Refuge.

O&M: The Service anticipates no additional costs because restoration is planned using Coastal Program and North Atlantic Waterfowl Conservation Act (NAWCA) grants.

OKEFENOKEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE **MANDATORY**
Florida and Georgia

Acquisition Authority: Migratory Bird Conservation Act; Endangered Species Act of 1973

FY 2016 Priority Rank: No. 32 of 40

Location: 11 miles southwest of Folkston, GA

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

Total LWCF Appropriations: $5,392,953

FY 2016 Budget Request: $2,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	27	368,239	$1,851,271	$5
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	2	46	$0	$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	2	9,535	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	5	23,649	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014	3	1,860	$0	$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**39**	**403,329**	**$1,851,271**	**$5**
Planned FY 2015	0	0	$0	$0
Proposed FY 2016	1	1,000	$2,000,000	$2,000
Remaining	11	55,823	$111,646,000	$2,000
Totals	**51**	**460,152**	**$115,497,271**	**$251**

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

Project Cooperators: The Conservation Fund, Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Project Description: Funds would acquire 1,000 acres of fee title to support longleaf pine ecosystem conservation and restoration. This acquisition would help preserve a tapestry of federal, state, and private forest lands that provide more than one million acres of unbroken habitat for federally-listed endangered and threatened species, including the red-cockaded woodpecker, wood stork, flatwoods salamander, Eastern indigo snake, and whooping crane. This project would also significantly contribute to a multi-partner effort by the Greater Okefenokee Association of Landowners to establish a one-mile wildfire-resilient wildlife conservation zone around the Refuge.

O&M: The Service estimates annual costs of up to $20,000 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, and reduce these costs. Hunting fees or outside funding could offset costs associated with restoration work.

PATHWAYS TO THE PACIFIC **MANDATORY**
Willapa National Wildlife Refuge
Washington

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

FY 2016 Priority Rank: No. 33 of 40

Location: Pacific County, near the community of Long Beach

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

Total LWCF Appropriations: $12,018,000

FY 2016 Budget Request: $4,203,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	36	9,766	$7,344,928	$752
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	3	3,123	$0	$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	3	596	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	3	892	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014*	1	2,059	$8,518,000	$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**46**	**16,436**	**$15,862,928**	**$965**
Planned FY 2015**	1	392	$830,000	$2,117
Proposed FY 2016	3	1,458	$4,203,000	$2,883
Remaining	23	5,048	$14,760,000	$2,924
Totals	**73**	**23,334**	**$35,655,928**	**$1,528**

*2,059 acres withdrawn from Public Domain; $8,518,000 for timber rights from one owner (no acreage).

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 acquire three properties next to the main unit. They would help protect and improve the overall health and function of the Willapa Bay watershed and the aquatic species within it. This acquisition would also 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. Increasing available habitat in this area is critical to expanding the geographic distribution of the murrelet within its threatened range.

O&M: The Service anticipates minimal additional costs associated with this acquisition because the parcels are located within the Refuge boundary and would add no additional workload. The Service would benefit from our cooperative relationship with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) on the management of forest lands in the project area, as TNC and the Service are partnering to study and implement management practices to restore old growth forest habitat for the benefit of the marbled murrelet and other species.

PATHWAYS TO THE PACIFIC **MANDATORY**
Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge
Washington

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

FY 2016 Priority Rank: No. 33 of 40

Location: Clark County, near Vancouver, WA

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

Total LWCF Appropriations: $12,018,000

FY 2016 Budget Request: $259,750

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	12	5,201	$5,351,600	$1,029
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	2	2	$0	$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	2	25	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**16**	**5,228**	**$5,351,600**	**$1,024**
Planned FY 2015	0	0	$0	$0
Proposed FY 2016	3	68	$259,750	$3,820
Remaining	7	874	$3,059,003	$3,500
Totals	**26**	**6,170**	**$8,670,353**	**$1,405**

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect, restore, and manage forests, streams, and wetlands; provide refuge for breeding and migrating waterfowl and shorebirds; help conserve and recover threatened and endangered species; and increase opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation, education, and research.

Project Cooperators: The Nature Conservancy, Columbia Land Trust, Friends of The Columbia Gorge, Friends of Ridgefield NWR, and Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership.

Project Description: Funds would acquire three properties along the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail and the Columbia River Water Trail, a 50-State America's Great Outdoors project. Located just 25 miles from Portland, Oregon, and Vancouver, Washington, this iconic landscape is threatened by residential, agricultural, and commercial-industrial development. Once protected, these properties will safeguard wildlife habitat and lands similar to what the Corps of Discovery explorers encountered more than 200 years ago. This project would also protect trail resources and access, improve water quality, and protect vital winter habitat for dusky Canada geese and other species.

O&M: The Service estimates startup costs of less than $20,000 from NWRS base funds for survey and signage since these properties are located within or next to refuge land.

EVERGLADES HEADWATERS NWR AND CONSERVATION AREA MANDATORY
Florida

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

FY 2016 Priority Rank: No. 34 of 40

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: $12,500,000

FY 2016 Budget Request: $3,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	1	10	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**1**	**10**	**$0**	**$0**
Planned FY 2015	6	6,291	$12,500,000	$1,987
Proposed FY 2016	1	1,200	$3,000,000	$2,500
Remaining (fee)	Multi	43,999	$190,460,000	$4,329
Remaining (easement)	Multi	98,500	$270,875,000	$2,750
Totals	**Multi**	**150,000**	**$476,835,000**	**$3,179**

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 the federally endangered Florida grasshopper sparrow.

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 acquire fee title to 1,200 acres, which is part of a multi-year acquisition of a 2,000-acre parcel. This land 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. It would also improve water

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

O&M: The Service anticipates using NWRS base funds for the annual costs of up to $40,000 for habitat management and restoration, including prescribed burning, hunting, and public use management.

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

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

FY 2016 Priority Rank: No. 35 of 40

Location: Located in portions of 48 counties in MN and 37 in IA, the Refuge is bounded by the US-Canada border to the north and Des Moines, IA to the south. The Refuge boundary weaves through the Tallgrass Aspen Parklands and Agassiz Beach Ridges of northwest MN and the Prairie Coteau regions of southwest MN and northwest IA.

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

Total Appropriations: $6,306,635

FY 2016 Budget Request: $1,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	12	2,803	$4,319,393	$1,541
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	44	2,452	$1,672,903	$682
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	5	479	$0	$0
Acquired Other Means through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**61**	**5,734**	**$5,992,296**	**$1,045**
Planned FY 2015	1	150	$500,000	$3,333
Proposed FY 2016	3	300	$1,000,000	$3,333
Remaining	791	71,295	$17,507,704	$246
Totals	**856**	**77,479**	**$25,000,000**	**$323**

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, Minnesota Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, 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 300 fee title acres or easement acres in western Minnesota and/or northwestern Iowa to develop stewardship agreements, and provide management assistance in the interest of preserving the prairie landscape regardless of ownership. The project conserves and restores one of the rarest and most fragmented prairie/grassland ecosystems in America and one of the most important waterfowl production areas of North America.

The Service's goal for the refuge is to preserve 77,000 acres, about 25 percent of the remaining native prairie, across portions of 85 counties in western Minnesota and northwestern Iowa.

Federally threatened and endangered species on the Refuge include four plant and seven animal species, including the western prairie fringed orchid, prairie bush clover, and the piping plover. The Refuge contains nationally significant habitat for migratory birds and waterfowl, such as the marbled godwit, mallards, northern pintail, lesser scaup, canvasback and blue-winged teal. Approximately 243 species of birds are known to regularly use the northern tallgrass prairie area during some time of the year, with 152 species breeding here. Grassland nesting birds present at the Refuge includes black-billed cuckoo, bobolinks, red-headed woodpecker and the Connecticut warbler, dickcissels, and upland plovers. Several globally rare species can also be found here, including the last remaining populations of the Dakota skipper and the regal fritillary butterflies, which are in steep decline.

O&M: The Service anticipates using $10,000 from NWRS base funding for initial restoration and enhancement work (spraying, mowing, burning, and signage).

CAPE MAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE **MANDATORY**
New Jersey

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956

FY 2016 Priority Rank: No. 36 of 40

Location: Sixty miles southeast of Philadelphia and 25 miles south of Atlantic City, New Jersey, in Cape May County, New Jersey

Congressional District: New Jersey, District 2 **FWS Region 5**

Total Appropriations: $31,871,687

FY 2016 Budget Request: $1,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee Through FY 2014	125	12,133	$31,871,687	$2,627
Acquired Easement Through FY 2014	0	0	0	$0
Acquired Exchange Through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Donation Through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Other Means Through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Partner Contribution through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through 2014	**125**	**12,133**	**$31,871,687**	**$2,627**
Planned FY 2015	0	0	$0	$0
Proposed FY 2016	1	47	$1,000,000	$21,277
Remaining	883	12,617	$15,016,992	$1,190
Totals	**1,009**	**24,797**	**$47,888,679**	**$1,931**

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect, restore, and manage grassland, forest, and wetland habitat for migratory birds and waterfowl, including American black duck, black-crowned night-heron, glossy ibis, bobolink, American kestrel and northern harrier, as well as northern gray treefrog and northern diamondback terrapin.

Project Cooperators: The Conservation Fund, The Nature Conservancy, the State of New Jersey, the County of Cape May.

Project Description: Funds would purchase three contiguous parcels from one owner that total 47 acres. Formerly a farm, this property has large open fields well suited for grassland bird habitat restoration and forested lands connected to woodlands next to the Refuge. It is the last significantly undeveloped property close to this section of the Refuge and is bounded to the north and south by high density residential development. The property is in the process of being permitted for conversion into a 133 unit mobile home development. Acquisition of this tract will protect critical ground-water recharge areas and protect refuge lands from the adverse impacts of high-density development.

The Cape May peninsula is recognized as a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network site of Hemispheric Importance, a Wetland of International Importance under the Convention of Wetlands of International Importance, and a globally significant Important Bird Area (National Audubon and

American Bird Conservancy).

O&M: The Service estimates $5,000 from NWRS base funding will be used for annual maintenance.

BALCONES CANYONLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE **MANDATORY**
Texas

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

FY 2016 Priority Rank: No. 37 of 40

Location: Approximately one hour northwest of Austin

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

Total LWCF Appropriations: $32,281,620

FY 2016 Budget Request: $1,200,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	59	19,843	$28,505,861	$1,437
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	15	4,599	$2,535,000	$551
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**74**	**24,442**	**$31,040,861**	**$1,270**
Planned FY 2015	0	0	$0	$0
Proposed FY 2016	1	540	$1,200,000	$2,222
Remaining	225	55,402	$155,541,600	$2,808
Totals	**300**	**80,384**	**$187,782,461**	**$2,336**

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect essential breeding habitat for the golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo; protect habitats for other wildlife species, including migratory Monarchs; and preserve the unique flora, fauna, and limestone caves, rivers, and sinkholes found here.

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 Travis Audubon Society, Hill Country Land Trust, University of Texas-LBJ Wildflower Center, and the Damuth Foundation.

Project Description: Funds would acquire 540 acres in fee title. The Refuge provides essential habitat for two endangered neotropical migratory birds, endangered cave dwelling invertebrates living in the Refuge's limestone caves, rivers, and sinkholes, and important riparian habitat in the unique and biologically diverse Edwards Plateau. The project area is in one of the fastest growing residential 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. To date, there are four subdivisions within the acquisition boundary.

O&M: The Service anticipates $2,400 from NWRS base funding for removal and installation of fencing.

NORTHERN COASTAL CALIFORNIA **MANDATORY**
Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge
California

Acquisition Authority: Emergency Wetlands Resource Act of 1986; Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929; Endangered Species Act of 1973

FY 2016 Priority Rank: No. 38 of 40

Location: The northwest quadrant of Humboldt County in South Bay between the Cities of Arcata and Eureka, California, and the Lanphere Dunes Unit west of Arcata

Congressional District: California, District 2 **FWS Region 8**

Total LWCF Appropriations: $992,004

FY 2016 Budget Request: $917,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	29	3,384	$6,246,414	$1,846
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	1	1	$1,300	$1,300
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	4	656	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**34**	**4,041**	**$6,247,714**	**$1,546**
Planned FY 2015	0	0	$0	$0
Proposed FY 2016	4	145	$917,000	$6,324
Remaining	11	5,537	$16,282,496	$2,941
Totals	**49**	**9,723**	**$23,447,210**	**$2,412**

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect important wintering area for migratory waterfowl and endangered American peregrine falcon, California brown pelican and clapper rail.

Project Cooperators: State of California

Project Description: Funds would acquire four properties totaling 145 acres. These lands are predominantly sand dune, salt marsh, irrigated pasture, and scrub forest. The biggest threat is residential development or dairy operations that will provide little or no benefit to wildlife. The acquisition of these properties would provide long term viability to the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, as well as provide a safe haven for migratory birds and other wildlife species.

O&M: The Service would use NWRS base funding for the estimated annual expenses and associated restoration costs of $50,000.

NISQUALLY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE **MANDATORY**
Washington

Acquisition Authority: Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, as amended

FY 2016 Priority Rank: No. 39 of 40

Location: About eight miles northeast of Olympia

Congressional Districts: Washington, Districts 3 and 9 **FWS Region 1**

Total LWCF Appropriations: $6,407,000

FY 2016 Budget Request: $1,500,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	36	3,863	$12,508,417	$3,238
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	8	33	$4,024	$122
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	1	10	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	9	7	$3,024	$432
Acquired Other means through FY 2014	1	486	$0	$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**55**	**4,399**	**$12,515,465**	**$2,845**
Planned FY 2015	0	0	$0	$0
Proposed FY 2016	1	250	$1,500,000	$6,000
Remaining	292	3,147	$33,715,000	$10,713
Totals	**348**	**7,796**	**$47,730,465**	**$6,122**

Purpose of Acquisition: To preserve and enhance habitat for migratory birds and anadramous fish, including federally-listed threatened Chinook salmon, within the Nisqually River Delta. This land is also vital wetland habitat for freshwater species, including the federally-listed threatened Oregon Spotted Frog, and a diversity of migratory birds and anadramous fish along the Black River.

Project Cooperators: Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, Nisqually Land Trust, the Friends of Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, Forterra, and the Capitol Land Trust.

Project Description: Funds would acquire approximately 250 acres in fee title of riparian and upland habitat from one owner. Acquisition would promote habitat connectivity, river corridor protection, and rare and threatened species recovery, and would increase resiliency in the face of climate change. This project would also enhance habitat quality and ease the management of existing refuge lands to support migratory birds, anadramous fish, and freshwater wetland species, including the federally-listed Oregon Spotted Frog.

The Nisqually River and Delta are key Puget Sound habitats. The Black River, the most intact low-lying river system remaining in western Washington, supports important rearing and spawning habitat for anadramous fish in the second largest watershed in Washington State. In these rapidly urbanizing watersheds, fee title acquisition of desirable waterfront property will facilitate restoration and conservation along vital habitat corridors, protecting this landscape from incompatible development.

Development pressure on this landscape is intense, so time is critical to provide sufficient land protection to these relatively intact river systems.

O&M: The Service will initially use $18,000 from NWRS base funding for fencing and posting refuge and tract boundaries.

CYPRESS CREEK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE **MANDATORY**
Illinois

Acquisition Authority: Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986

FY 2016 Priority Rank: No. 40 of 40

Location: Near the southern boundary of Illinois at the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. Carbondale is 30 miles north.

Congressional Districts: Illinois, Districts 12 and 19 **FWS Region 3**

Total LWCF Appropriations: $14,903,300

FY 2016 Budget Request: $2,000,000

Acquisition Status:

	Owners	Acres	Cost	$/Acre
Acquired Fee through FY 2014	157	16,008	$12,640,694	$790
Acquired Easement through FY 2014	1	1	$5,000	$5,000
Acquired Exchange through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Acquired Donation through FY 2014	1	400	$0	$0
Acquired Other means through FY 2014	0	0	$0	$0
Partner Contributions through FY 2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acquired through FY 2014	**159**	**16,409**	**$12,645,694**	**$771**
Planned FY 2015	0	0	$0	$0
Proposed FY 2016	5	800	$2,000,000	$2,500
Remaining	92	18,713	$55,968,000	$2,991
Totals	**256**	**35,922**	**$70,613,694**	**$1,966**

Purpose of Acquisition: To preserve, restore, and manage wetlands and bottomland forest habitat in support of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP).

Project Cooperators: The Cache River Wetlands is a joint venture with The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Service together planning to acquire 60,000 acres. The Service plans to acquire 35,922 acres in total for the project. Acquisition efforts on the Refuge and throughout the watershed have been supported with time and funding by local, state, and national organizations, including Friends of the Cache River Watershed, Shawnee Audubon Society, Southern Illinois Audubon Society, Shawnee Group of the Sierra Club, Illinois Audubon Society, Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation, American Land Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, and The Nature Conservancy.

Project Description: Funds would acquire 800 acres in fee title from five tracts. The Cache River-Cypress Creek Wetlands have been designated as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance, an Important Bird Area, and includes three National Natural Landmarks. The Refuge is part of the Cache River-Cypress Creek Conservation Opportunity Area in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan and land acquisition is one of the four key actions listed in the plan. At least three separate maternity colonies of the federally endangered Indiana bat have been located on the Refuge and six bat hibernacula are located five to ten miles from the Refuge acquisition boundary. The Refuge provides habitat for populations of several bird species of conservation concern, such as breeding Black-billed Cuckoo, Prothonotary

Warbler, Wood Thrush, and migrating Lesser Yellowlegs. The Refuge also provides habitat for large numbers of migrating NAWMP species like the Mallard and Northern Pintail.

O & M: The Service anticipates annual costs of $40,000 from NWRS base funding for initial restoration and enhancement work, including signage and boundary posting.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
LAND ACQUISITION

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)		**2014**	**2015**	**2016**
Identification Code 010-18-14-5020		**Actual**	**Estimate**	**Estimate**
Obligations by program activity:				
0001	Land Acquisition Management	11	12	23
0002	Emergencies and hardships	6	6	7
0003	Exchanges	2	2	3
0004	Inholdings	2	3	4
0005	Land Projects	22	28	60
0006	Sportsmen and Recreational Access	0	0	27
0007	Land Protection Planning	0	0	2
0799	Total direct obligations	43	51	126
0801	Reimbursable program activity	4	1	1
0900	Total new obligations	47	52	127
Budgetary Resources:				
Unobligated balance:				
1000	Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	33	46	45
1021	Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	1	1	1
1050	Unobligated balance (total)	34	47	46
Budget authority:				
Appropriations, discretionary:				
1101	Appropriation LWCF [014-5005]	54	48	59
1121	Appropriations transferred from other accts [014-1125]	2	0	0
1160	Appropriation, discretionary (total)	56	48	59
Appropriations, mandatory:				
1221	Appropriations transferred from other acct [014-5005]	0	0	106
1260	Appropriations, mandatory (total)	0	0	106
Spending authority from offsetting collections, discretionary:				
1700	Collected	1	2	1
1701	Change in uncollected payments, Federal sources	2	0	0
1750	Spending auth from offsetting collections, disc (total)	3	2	1
1900	Budget authority (total)	59	50	60
1930	Total budgetary resources available	93	97	212
Memorandum (non-add) entries:				
1941	Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	46	45	85
Change in obligated balance:				
Unpaid obligations:				
3000	Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	31	22	16
3010	Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	47	52	127
3020	Outlays (gross)	-55	-57	-106
3040	Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations, unexpired	-1	-1	-1
3050	Unpaid obligations, end of year	22	16	36
Uncollected payments:				
3060	Uncollected pymts, Fed sources, brought forward, Oct 1	-1	-3	-3
3070	Change in uncollected pymts, Fed sources, unexpired	-2	0	0
3090	Uncollected pymts, Fed sources, end of year	-3	-3	-3

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
LAND ACQUISITION

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) **Identification Code 010-18-14-5020**	**2014 Actual**	**2015 Estimate**	**2016 Estimate**
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	30	19	13
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	19	13	33
Budget authority and outlays, net:			
Discretionary:			
4000 Budget authority, gross	59	50	60
Outlays, gross:			
4010 Outlays from new discretionary authority	22	20	25
4011 Outlays from discretionary balances	33	37	39
4020 Outlays, gross (total)	55	57	64
Offsets against gross budget authority and outlays:			
Offsetting collections (collected) from:			
4030 Federal sources	-1	-2	-1
Additional offsets against gross budget authority only:			
4050 Change in uncollected pymts, Fed sources, unexpired	-2	0	0
4070 Budget authority, net (discretionary)	56	48	59
4080 Outlays, net (discretionary)	54	55	63
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	0	0	106
Outlays, gross:			
4100 Outlays from new mandatory authority	0	0	42
4160 Budget authority, net (mandatory)	0	0	106
4170 Outlays, net (mandatory)	0	0	42
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	56	48	165
4190 Outlays, net (total)	54	55	105
Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	7	9	12
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	2	2	4
25.3 Other goods and services from Federal sources	2	2	7
32.0 Land and structures	29	35	99
99.0 Subtotal, Direct obligations	43	51	126
Reimbursable obligations:			
32.0 Land and structures	4	1	1
99.9 Total new obligations	47	52	127
Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	88	88	128

National Wildlife Refuge Fund

National Wildlife Refuge Fund

Appropriations Language

[For expenses necessary to implement the Act of October 17, 1978 (16 U.S.C. 715s), $13,228,000.]
(Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015.)

Justification of Language Changes

Deletion of all language since language is no longer needed if program is eliminated as requested. (Mandatory portion does not require appropriations language.)

Authorizing Statutes

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

Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), Section 1002 and Section 1008, 16 U.S.C. 3142 and 3148. These sections address the procedures for permitting oil and gas leases on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coastal plain (Section 1002) and other non-North Slope Federal lands in Alaska (Section 1008).

Appropriation: National Wildlife Refuge Fund

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2015 (+/-)
Appropriations	($000)	13,228	13,228	0	0	-13,228	0	-13,228
Receipts	($000)	6,970	7,924	0	0	+660	8,584	+660
Total, National Wildlife Refuge Fund	**($000)**	**20,198**	**21,152**			**-12,568**	**8,584**	**-12,568**
	FTE	***8***	***8***	***0***	***0***	***0***	***8***	***0***

The 2014 and 2015 amounts include sequestration in accordance with section 251A of the BBEDCA, 2 U.S.C.901a.

Summary of 2016 Program Changes for National Wildlife Refuge Fund

Request Component	($000)	FTE
• Appropriations	-13,228	0
TOTAL Program Changes	**-13,228**	**0**

Justification of 2016 Program Changes

The 2016 budget request for National Wildlife Refuge Fund is $0 and 0 FTE, a program change of -$13,228,000 and +0 FTE from the 2015 Enacted.

Appropriations (-$13,228,000/+0 FTE)

The Service proposes the elimination of the entire appropriated (discretionary) portion of this program. The mandatory receipts collected and allocated under the program would remain. Refuges often generate tax revenue for communities far in excess of that which was lost with Federal acquisition of the land. Refuge lands also provide many public services and place few demands on local infrastructure such as schools, fire, and police services when compared to more intensive development.

National Wildlife Refuges had nearly 47 million visitors in 2014. Recreation opportunities provided by national wildlife refuges support local tourism, which supports local economies. Visitors stay in local lodges, eat at local restaurants, and shop in local stores. Local employment increases, and additional funding goes to local, county, and State governments from the additional tax revenues.

Banking on Nature: The Economic Benefits to Local Communities of National Wildlife Refuge Visitation by Erin Carver and James Caudill, Ph.D., Division of Economics, US Fish and Wildlife Service, October 2013, presents estimated FY 2011 visitor findings for a sample of 92 Service-owned lands. The original *Banking on Nature* report by the Service focusing on data for FY 2006, provided astounding estimates of visitors to Service-owned lands, the economic value to surrounding communities, and increases to local businesses.

Current estimates[1] based on that report presents a clear picture of the value NWRs have on local communities. The nearly 47 million visitors:

- Generated $2.6 billion of sales in regional economies;
- Supported 35,400 jobs; and

[1] Refuge System-wide estimated economic benefits are based upon a recent analysis conducted by the FWS' Division of Economics using the latest visitation numbers and analysis methods used in the Banking on Nature Report published in 2013.

- Generated $370.5 million in tax revenue at the local, county, State and Federal level

Not only do Service lands contribute to local economies, they also improve local land values. According to the Executive Summary of *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 refuges are higher than equivalent properties elsewhere. Most importantly, in an increasingly urban world, these sanctuaries of natural beauty offer Americans priceless opportunities to connect with nature.

Mandatory Receipts - The 2016 estimate for National Wildlife Refuge Fund revenue is $8,584,000.

Program Overview

The *Refuge Revenue Sharing Act*, as amended, authorizes revenues and direct appropriations to be deposited into a special fund, the National Wildlife Refuge Fund (NWRF), and used for payments to counties in which lands are acquired in fee (fee land) or reserved from the public domain (reserved land) and managed by the Service. These revenues are derived from the sale or disposition of products (e.g., timber and gravel); other privileges (e.g., right-of-way and grazing permits); and/or leases for public accommodations or facilities (e.g., oil and gas exploration and development) incidental to, and not in conflict with, refuge purposes.

Fee Lands

The Act authorizes payments for Service-managed fee lands based on a formula contained in the Act that entitles counties to whatever is the highest of the following amounts:

1) 25 percent of the net receipts;
2) 3/4 of 1 percent of the fair market value of the land; or
3) 75 cents per acre.

Every five years, appraisals may be updated to determine the fair market value.

If the net revenues are insufficient to make full payments for fee lands according to this formula, direct appropriations up to an amount equal to the difference between net receipts and full authorized payment may be authorized.

Reserved Lands

The refuge revenue sharing payments made on lands reserved from the public domain and administered by the Service for fish and wildlife purposes are always 25 percent of the net receipts collected from the reserved land in the county. If no receipts are collected, there is no revenue sharing payment. However, if authorized, the Department makes Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) (31 U.S.C. 6901-6907) on all public domain lands, including Service-reserved land. The Service annually reports to the Department all of our reserved land acres and the revenue sharing amount already paid on those acres. The Department then calculates the PILT amount, subtracts the amount the Service has already paid, and makes the PILT payment to the community.

Other Payments

The *Refuge Revenue Sharing Act* also provides for the payment of certain expenses incurred in connection with revenue producing activities. Such expenses include:

- Salaries of foresters who cruise and mark timber for sale;
- Staff salaries and supplies associated with maintenance of fences in support of grazing;
- Costs associated with sale of surplus animals and collecting refuge share of furs and crops;

• Costs of conducting land appraisals, processing, and maintaining the records.

Sections 1008 and 1009 of the *Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act* (ANILCA), 16 U.S.C. 3148, address procedures for oil and gas leasing on non-North Slope Federal lands in Alaska. Title XI of the Act, 16 U.S.C. 3161, addresses the procedures for transportation and utility systems in and across the Alaska conservation system units. An applicant pays the cost to process an application or administer a permit relating to utility and transportation systems or seismic exploration. Payments are deposited in the NWRF for reimbursement to the Region.

2016 Program Performance

According to current projections, payments to counties in 2016 will equal $5,484,000 or 7 percent of the estimated full entitlement, based on appropriations of $0 and $7,924,000 of estimated receipts less expenses. In addition to payments to counties, national wildlife refuges provide tangible and intangible benefits to communities that bring increased tax revenues that may offset the reductions.

(Dollars in Thousands)				
	2014	**2015**	**2016**	
National Wildlife Refuge Fund	**Actual**	**Estimate**	**Estimate**	**Program Change (+/-)**
Receipts / Expenses				
Receipts Collected	6,909	7,824	8,000	0
Recoveries	61	100	100	0
Expenses for Sales	-2,284	-2,285	-2,000	0
ANILCA Expenses	-5	-5	-13	0
Estimated User-Pay Cost Share	-137	-150	-150	0
Net Receipts – Available during the following year	4,544	5,484	5,937	+149
Payments to Counties				
Receipts Available - collected previous year		4,544	5,484	-120
Appropriated		13,228	0	-13,228
Total Available for Payments to Counties		**17,753**	**5,484**	-13,348
Authorized Level		78,500	78,500	0
Percent Payment		23%	7%	-17%

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FUND

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) **Identification Code 010-18-14-5091**	**2014 Actual**	**2015 Estimate**	**2016 Estimate**
0100 Balance, start of year	0	0	0
Receipts:			
0220 National Wildlife Refuge Fund [010-00-509110-0-200403]	7	8	9
0400 Total: Balance and Collections	7	8	9
Appropriations:			
0500 National Wildlife Refuge Fund [010-00-5091-0-1201]	-7	-8	-8
0501 National Wildlife Refuge Fund [010-00-5091-0-1203]	-1	-1	-1
0502 National Wildlife Refuge Fund [010-00-5091-0-1232]	1	1	0
0599 Total appropriations	-7	-8	-9
0799 Balance, end of year	0	0	0
Obligations by program activity:			
0001 Expenses for sales	2	2	2
0003 Payments to counties	20	18	7
0900 Total new obligations	22	20	9
Budgetary Resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	6	4	5
1001 Discretionary unobligated balance brought fwd, Oct 1	0	0	0
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, discretionary:			
1100 Appropriation	13	13	0
1160 Appropriation, discretionary (total)	13	13	0
Appropriations, mandatory:			
1201 Appropriation (special or trust fund)	7	8	8
1203 Appropriation (previously unavailable)	1	1	1
1232 Appropriations and/or unobligated balance of appropriations temporarily reduced	-1	-1	0
1260 Appropriations, mandatory (total)	7	8	9
1900 Budget authority (total)	20	21	9
1930 Total budgetary resources available	26	25	14
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	4	5	5
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	1	1	2
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	22	20	9
3020 Outlays (gross)	-22	-19	-9
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	1	2	2
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	1	1	2
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	1	2	2
Budget authority and outlays, net:			
Discretionary:			
4000 Budget authority, gross	13	13	0

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FUND

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)		**2014**	**2015**	**2016**
Identification Code	**010-18-14-5091**	**Actual**	**Estimate**	**Estimate**
Outlays, gross:				
4010	Outlays from new discretionary authority	13	13	0
4070	Budget authority, net (discretionary)	13	13	0
4080	Outlays, net (discretionary)	13	13	0
Mandatory:				
4090	Budget authority, gross	7	8	9
Outlays, gross:				
4100	Outlays from new mandatory authority	1	2	3
4101	Outlays from mandatory balances	8	4	6
4110	Outlays, gross (total)	9	6	9
4160	Budget authority, net (mandatory)	7	8	9
4170	Outlays, net (mandatory)	9	6	9
4180	Budget authority, net (total)	20	21	9
4190	Outlays, net (total)	22	19	9

Object Classification (O)				
Direct obligations:				
11.1	Full-time permanent	1	1	1
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	20	18	7
99.0	Subtotal, Direct obligations	21	19	8
99.5	Below reporting threshold	1	1	1
99.9	Total new obligations	22	20	9

Employment Summary (Q)				
1001	Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	8	8	8

Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

Appropriations Language

For expenses necessary to carry out section 6 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), [$50,095,000]*$50,000,000*, to remain available until expended, [of which $22,695,000 is to be derived from the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund; and of which $27,400,000 is] to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. *(Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015.)*

Justification of Language Change

Deletion: "$50,095,000…of which $22,695,000 is…Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund; and of which $27,400,000 is to be derived from"

The budget proposes that all funding for the Cooperative Endangered Species fund be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Authorizing Statutes

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). Prohibits the import, export, or taking of fish and wildlife and plants that are listed as threatened or endangered species; provides for adding species to and removing them from the list of threatened and endangered species, and for preparing and implementing plans for their recovery; provides for interagency cooperation to avoid take of listed species and for issuing permits for otherwise prohibited activities; and implements the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES). Authorization of Appropriations: Expired September 30, 1992.

Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460l). 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.

Appropriation: Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2015 (+/-)
Conservation Grants	($000)	10,508	10,508	0	0	0	10,508	0
Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants	($000)	9,485	9,485	0	0	-2,095	7,390	-2,095
Species Recovery Land Acquisition	($000)	9,462	9,462	0	0	+1,700	11,162	+1,700
HCP Land Acquisition Grants to States	($000)	17,938	17,938	0	0	0	17,938	0
Administration	($000)	2,702	2,702	0	0	+300	3,002	+300
Total Appropriated Funds	($000)	**50,095**	**50,095**	**0**	**0**	**-95**	**50,000**	**-95**
	FTE	***14***	***14***	***0***	***0***	***+2***	***16***	***+2***
Permanent Funds (LWCF)	($000)	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**+50,000**	**50,000**	**+50,000**
	FTE	***0***	***0***	***0***	***0***	***+6***	***6***	***+6***
Mandatory – Unavailable Receipts**	($000)	72,058	73,510	0	0	-15,545	57,965	-15,545

** Amounts shown reflect an annual deposit of an amount equal to 5 percent of total Federal Aid/Sport Fish and Lacey Act violation collections above $500,000 into this Special Fund. The Special Fund amounts are not available in the fiscal year in which they are collected, but are available for subsequent appropriation to the CESCF.

Program information may be accessed at: http://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/index.html

Summary of 2016 Program Changes for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

Request Component	($000)	FTE
• Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants	-2,095	0
• Species Recovery Land Acquisition	+1,700	0
• Administration	+300	+2
Program Changes	**-95**	**+2**

Justification of 2016 Program Changes

The 2016 budget request for Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund is $50,000,000 and 16 FTE, a net program change of -$95,000 and +2 FTE from the 2015 Enacted.

Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants (-$2,095,000/+0 FTE)

Due to the fluctuating demand for the development of regional, multi-species habitat conservation plans (HCPs) from year to year, the Service is requesting to shift funds from HCP Planning Assistance to other CESCF grant programs to address the very high demand for traditional conservation grant and land acquisition funding. With this decrease, the Service anticipates funding four fewer HCP Planning Assistance grants.

Recovery Land Acquisition Grants (+$1,700,000/+0 FTE)

Recovery Land Acquisition grants are provided to States to address habitat loss, the primary threat to most listed species. Land acquisition is often the most effective and efficient means of safeguarding habitats essential for recovery of listed species from land use changes that impair or destroy key habitat values. Recovery Land Acquisition grants are matched by States and non-federal entities to acquire

habitats from willing sellers, leveraging Service funding. The Service anticipates funding three additional Recovery Land Acquisition grants with this increase.

Administration (+$300,000/+2 FTE)
Effective management of the CESCF requires periodic investments in administrative funding as the requirements and complexity of resource management evolve. Federal grant management and administrative oversight are necessary to ensure compliance with program requirements and purposes; this increase in funding will support those efforts. This funding increase will improve fund management, monitoring, and reporting.

Mandatory Land and Water Conservation Fund
The Department of the Interior will submit a legislative proposal to permanently authorize annual funding, without further appropriation or fiscal year limitation for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Starting in 2017, $900 million annually in permanent funds would be available. During the transition to full permanent funding in 2017, the budget proposes $900 million in total LWCF funding in FY 2016, comprised of $500 million permanent funds and $400 million discretionary funds. The amounts requested include the authorized levels for the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture. In 2016, the proposal includes $50 million in discretionary funding and $50 million in permanent funding for CESCF.

Program Overview

The Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (CESCF; Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act), administered by the Service's Ecological Services program, provides grant funding to States and Territories for species and habitat conservation actions on non-federal lands, including habitat acquisition, conservation planning, habitat restoration, status surveys, captive propagation and reintroduction, research, and education.

An FY 2014 grant will allow the State of Wisconsin to complete a 3,192-acre conservation easement project in the Glacial Lake Wisconsin Recovery Unit for the federally endangered Karner blue butterfly. Credit: Melanie Cota

The Service implements the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended. The key purposes of the Act are to provide a means for conserving the ecosystems upon which endangered and threatened (federally-listed) species depend and to provide a program for the conservation of such species. The two primary goals are: 1) recovering federally-listed species, and 2) preventing the need to list species-at-risk. The Service's approach to achieving these goals is through minimizing or abating threats to the species.

Threats are categorized under the ESA as the following five factors:

- The present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of a listed species' habitat or range;
- Overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes;
- Disease or predation;
- The inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms;
- Other natural or manmade factors affecting a species' continued existence.

Because most listed species depend on habitat found on State and private lands, grant assistance through the CESCF program is crucial to conserving federally-listed species. States and Territories have been extremely effective in garnering participation by private landowners.

Section 6 funding has helped States provide unfragmented habitats for imperiled species including the grizzly bear.

Photo credit: Dr. Christopher Servheen,

Section 6 grants help States and Territories build partnerships that achieve meaningful on-the-ground conservation. Land acquisition grants address land-based threats by funding land purchases to prevent land use changes that impair or destroy key habitat values. Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance grants assist in abating threats by protecting habitat and preventing the decline of sensitive species. This action can preclude the need for listing a species under the ESA. Habitat Conservation Plans are pro-active landscape level planning instruments that result in private land development planning and species ecosystem conservation.

In order to receive funds under the CESCF program, States and Territories must contribute 25 percent of the estimated costs of approved projects, or 10 percent when two or more States or Territories implement a joint project. The balance of the cost is reimbursed through the grants. To ensure that States and Territories are able to effectively carry out endangered species conservation funded through these grants, a State or Territory must enter into a cooperative agreement with the Service to receive grants. All 50 States currently have cooperative agreements for animals, and 44 States have cooperative agreements for plants. All but one of the Territories have cooperative agreements for both animals and plants.

Use of Cost and Performance Information

• HCP Land Acquisition, HCP Planning Assistance, and Species Recovery Land Acquisition Grants are awarded through national and regional competitions. The established eligibility and ranking criteria for the program and the competitions conducted to select grants allow the Service to focus the program on its overall goals and ensure that program performance goals are achieved.

• The Service continues to analyze results from previous years of the program to further refine program elements to better meet program goals. For the FY 2014 competition, the Service continued to target 10 percent of the HCP Land Acquisition funding to support single-species HCPs to further the conservation of high priority species across the Nation.

In 2014, the following were awarded:

• 13 HCP Planning Assistance Grants to States

• 16 Recovery Land Acquisition Grants to States and Territories.

• 11 HCP Land Acquisition Grants to States.

• 257 Traditional Conservation Grants to States and Territories.

Traditional Conservation Grants

Conservation Grants provide financial assistance to States and Territories to implement conservation projects for listed and candidate species. The Service makes a regional allocation of these funds based on the number of species covered under cooperative agreements within each Service region. Each Region then solicits proposals and selects projects based on species and habitat conservation benefits and other factors. States receive Conservation Grants funding to implement recovery actions for listed species, implement conservation measures for candidate species, and perform research and monitoring critical to conservation of imperiled species.

Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants

By developing regional, multi-species habitat conservation plans (HCPs), local governments and planning jurisdictions incorporate species conservation into local land use plans, streamlining the project approval process. Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants provide funding to States to assist local governments and planning jurisdictions develop regional, multi-species HCPs.

Recovery Land Acquisition Grants
Loss of habitat is the primary threat to most listed species. Land acquisition is often the most effective and efficient means of safeguarding habitats essential for recovery of listed species from development or other land use changes that impair or destroy key habitat values. Land acquisition is costly, and neither the Service nor States and Territories individually have all the resources necessary to acquire habitats essential for recovery of listed species. Recovery Land Acquisition Grants are matched by States and non-federal entities to acquire these habitats from willing sellers.

Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Land Acquisition Grants
The conservation benefits provided by HCPs can be greatly increased by protecting important habitat areas associated with HCPs. HCP Land Acquisition Grants are used by States and non-federal entities to acquire habitats from willing sellers and are meant to complement, not replace, the mitigation responsibilities of HCP permittees. States and Territories receive grants for land acquisitions associated with approved HCPs because of their authorities and close working relationships with local governments and private landowners.

Administration
Federal grant management and administrative oversight are necessary to ensure compliance with program requirements and purposes. The funding requested for Administration allows the Service to carry out these responsibilities.

2016 Program Performance

Traditional Conservation Grants
The Service published a request for proposals in October of 2014 and anticipates making award announcements in the summer of fiscal year 2015. With the requested program funding, the Service expects to make a similar number of awards as will be funded in FY 2015 (assuming the average grant amount is constant with that of FY 2014).

The Service awarded 257 Traditional Conservation Grants in FY 2014. Examples are listed below. Each project includes the Federal funds provided through the CESCF program, but in all cases these funds were leveraged by State, county, city, or private matching funds.

- Population estimates and surveys for Taylor's checkerspot in Oregon, $7,581.
- Black-capped vireo wildfire response in southwest Oklahoma, $15,000.
- Development of mass rearing protocols to facilitate population augmentation for the Hine's emerald dragonfly in Illinois, $69,718.
- Habitat restoration for red-cockaded woodpeckers on the Coosa Wildlife Management Area in Alabama, $5,000.
- Bog turtle inventory in Southeastern Pennsylvania, $20,000.
- Western prairie fringed orchid inventory, mapping and data management in North Dakota, $19,000.
- Spatial monitoring of sea otter bycatch through a Dungeness pot survey in the Kodiak Area of the Gulf of Alaska, $63,064.
- Breeding season surveys for the southwestern willow flycatcher, yellow-billed cuckoo and Yuma clapper rail in southern Nevada, $43,164.
- Improving western snowy plover recovery efforts at Eden Landing Ecological Reserve, San Francisco Bay Area, California, $63,948.

Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants

The Service published a request for proposals in October of 2014 and anticipates making award announcements in the summer of fiscal year 2015. With the requested program funding, the Service expects that four fewer grants will be funded in FY 2016 (assuming the average grant amount is constant with that of FY 2014).

The Service awarded 13 HCP Planning Assistance Grants in FY 2014. Examples are listed below. Each project includes the Federal funds provided through the CESCF program, but in all cases these funds were leveraged by State, county, city, or private matching funds. (Please see http://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/pdf/FY%2014_project%20descriptions%20FINAL.pdf for a full list of awarded projects.)

San Joaquin kit fox
Credit: Peterson, B. Moose - NCTC Image Library

- **Bakersfield Regional HCP (Kern County) $717,271.**
  The HCP for Metropolitan Bakersfield seeks to balance conservation of species and habitats with impacts from urban development. The plan provides a unique opportunity to address take avoidance and minimization efforts for threatened and endangered species that have become accustomed to the urban environment. A key element of the new plan would be to establish standardized avoidance and take minimization measures for the San Joaquin kit fox, a federally listed endangered species that utilizes the urban environment within the City of Bakersfield.

- **Development of a Habitat Conservation Plan for the Piping Plover in Massachusetts $188,694.**
  The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife is leading an effort to develop an umbrella habitat conservation plan for federally listed piping plovers that is intended to incentivize landowners, beach managers and the public for sound management of piping plover nesting beaches (totaling over 43,000 acres) as well as foster and maintain community support for recovery efforts. The HCP will incorporate minimization and mitigation measures that will improve the conservation status of piping plovers in Massachusetts and in the New England Recovery Unit. A stakeholder group comprised of six towns and four private conservation organizations is engaged in the development process. The towns together protect, manage and monitor nearly 75 percent of the piping plovers in Massachusetts. Managing conflicts between recreational beach use and piping plovers is an annual issue in Massachusetts, which receives a lot of public attention.

- **Deschutes Basin Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, Klamath, Sherman and Wasco Counties) $675,000.**
  This project will continue the development of an HCP for the Deschutes Basin Board of Control, member irrigation districts, and the City of Prineville that will benefit aquatic-dependent species in the upper Deschutes Basin, while meeting current and future irrigation and municipal water needs in a balanced, economically viable, and sustainable manner. Seven species will be covered under the HCP including the federally listed bull trout, as well as the middle Columbia River steelhead and the Oregon spotted frog, the latter is a candidate species. The districts and city have been working cooperatively with a multi-stakeholder group, including the Bureau of Reclamation to develop the HCP since 2009. When completed, the HCP will provide ecosystem benefits to over 10,700 square miles of the upper Deschutes River basin including 340 miles of the Deschutes River and its tributaries and serve as a model for similar projects throughout the western United States.

- **Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan for Cave-Dwelling Bats (State-wide Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin) $750,000.**
  The Departments of Natural Resources in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin propose to develop an HCP for several species of cave-dwelling bats. The plan would focus on forest management on state, county and private lands. The species include the endangered Indiana bat, the northern long-eared bat (proposed as endangered), the little brown bat and the tri-colored bat. The project will result in a better understanding of species distribution and summer habitat use by cave-dwelling bats, species currently severely threatened by white-nose syndrome. Once the plan is complete, the states will work with landowners and conservation groups to encourage the conservation of cave-dwelling bats.

Recovery Land Acquisition Grants

The Service published a request for proposals in October 2014 and anticipates making award announcements in the summer of fiscal year 2015. With the requested program funding, the Service expects to award 19 grants in FY 2016, an increase of three grants over the FY 2014 level (assuming the average grant amount is constant with that of FY 2014).

The Service awarded 16 Recovery Land Acquisition Grants in FY 2014. Examples are listed below. Each project includes the Federal funds provided through the CESCF program, but in all cases these funds were leveraged by State, county, city, or private matching funds. Please see http://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/pdf/FY%2014_project%20descriptions%20FINAL.pdf for a full list of awarded projects.)

- **Pūpūkea Mauka Watershed and Habitat Protection Project, O'ahu, Hawai'i (Honolulu County, Hawaii) $1,183,750.**
  The 3,716-acre Pūpūkea Mauka Watershed and Habitat Protection Project provides a unique opportunity to protect in perpetuity an entire watershed that contains the headwaters of a stream which flows undiverted into a protected marine life conservation district, unusual on Hawaii's most populous island. The land acquisition will facilitate public and management access from the ocean (makai) to the mountains (mauka) in an area where access to mauka regions is limited but the need to conduct habitat management is critical. The parcel contains occupied habitat vital to the conservation of three critically endangered O'ahu tree snails, the endangered Hawaiian hoary bat, and more than 20 other threatened or endangered plants and animals. This parcel contains Priority I watershed habitat as identified in the Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife's Watershed Initiative plan, and is within the Service's Pacific Islands Ecoregion's Priority Ecosystem Conservation Areas.

O'ahu tree snail
Credit: public domain courtesy of the U.S. Army Environmental Command

- **Mitchell's Satyr Butterfly and Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake Recovery Land Acquisition Project (Branch and Kalamazoo Counties, Michigan) $180,000.**
  The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy will purchase three parcels of land to protect and assist in the recovery of the endangered Mitchell's satyr butterfly and the eastern massasauga rattlesnake, a candidate for ESA listing. Land acquisition will occur within the Coldwater Fen Complex in Branch County and the Spring Brook Fen Complex in Kalamazoo County. The Coldwater Fen Complex is home to the second largest population of Mitchell's satyr butterflies and contains two of the three properties proposed for acquisition. The conservancy will purchase land within the Spring Brook Fen Complex, which historically supported Mitchell's satyr butterflies and currently supports eastern massasauga rattlesnakes.

- **Conservation Easement for Florida Panther Dispersal Zone Project (Hendry County, Florida) $1,500,000.**
  This grant will enable the acquisition of a conservation easement on 1,520 acres to protect Florida panther habitat and expand the panther corridor established with the American Prime acquisition. This conservation easement will also serve to protect listed bird species, such as the Florida scrub jay and caracara, by protecting this open important nesting, roosting and foraging habitat.

Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Land Acquisition Grants

The Service published a request for proposals in October 2014 and anticipates making award announcements in the summer of fiscal year 2015. With the requested program funding, the Service expects to make a similar number of awards as will be funded in FY 2015 (assuming the average grant amount is constant with that of FY 2014).

The Service awarded 11 HCP Land Acquisition Grants in FY 2014. Examples are listed below. Each project includes the Federal funds provided through the CESCF program, but in all cases these funds were leveraged by State, county, city, or private matching funds. (For a full list of projects, please see http://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/pdf/FY%2014_project%20descriptions%20FINAL.pdf).

- **Mountain View 4-O Ranch 2014 (Asotin County, Washington) $2,000,000.**
  This phase of the ongoing acquisition project in Asotin County encompasses 2,100 acres, including 1.3 miles of the Lower Grande Ronde River and 2.3 miles of its tributaries. Federally threatened bull trout, spring and fall Chinook, and steelhead use the Grande Ronde River as well as some of these tributaries. In addition, interior redband trout, Pacific lamprey and many other aquatic species are present in these tributaries. This project is part of a large, multi-phased acquisition that, once completed, will protect 13,072 acres and 15 miles of stream. To date, approximately 6,433 acres have been purchased. The project is bordered on the north by national forest and on the south and east by Bureau of Land Management property. This rare acquisition of a large, ecologically intact and diverse landscape will also protect many upland habitats including cliff and talus habitats, meadows, springs, curl-leaf mahogany shrubland, interior grassland, and ponderosa pine.

Bull trout
Credit: NCTC Image Library - Joel Sartore

- **East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP) (Contra Costa County, California) $2,000,000.**
  These funds will purchase approximately 700 acres of important habitat land for many of the species covered in the HCP/NCCP, including federally listed species such as the San Joaquin kit fox, California red-legged frog, and vernal pool tadpole shrimp. The acquisition of these properties adds to the reserve system and provides protection for lands that have rich on-site resources and support a diverse mosaic of habitat types.

- **Haskill Basin Watershed Project (Whitefish & Flathead Counties, Montana) $2,000,000.**
  A conservation easement on the Haskill Basin property will complement conservation efforts for the landscape-scale Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation HCP. It will prevent impacts to grizzly bear and Canada lynx habitat from imminent development and ensure vital linkages for these species. This acquisition will address some of the remaining unprotected habitat in a large partnership effort to conserve much of the Crown of the Continent, including working lands, in northwestern Montana.

Standard Form 300

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
COOPERATIVE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) **Identification Code 010-18-5143**	**2014 Actual**	**2015 Estimate**	**2016 Estimate**
0100 Balance, start of year	361	410	461
Receipts			
0240 Payment from the General Fund, Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund [010-00-514300-0-200403]	72	74	58
0241 Total: Balances and collections	433	484	519
Obligations by program activity:			
0001 Conservation Grants to States	14	14	14
0002 HCP Planning Assistance Grants	4	14	12
0004 Administration	2	3	5
0005 HCP Land Acquisition Grants to States	9	23	40
0006 Species Recovery Land Acquisition	6	15	18
0007 Payment to special fund unavailable receipt account	72	74	58
0900 Total new obligations	107	143	147
Budgetary Resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	73	97	90
1001 Discretionary unobligated balance brought fwd, Oct 1	73	97	0
1010 Unobligated balance transfer to other accts [14-1125]	9	12	12
1021 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	82	109	102
1050 Unobligated balance (total)			
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, discretionary:			
1101 Appropriation LWCF special fund [145005]	27	27	50
1101 Appropriation CESCF special fund [145143]	23	23	0
Appropriations, mandatory:	50	50	50
1200 Appropriations, mandatory:			
1221 Appropriation	72	74	58
1260 Appropriations transferred from other acct [014-5005]	0	0	50
1900 Appropriations, mandatory (total)	72	74	108
1930 Budget authority (total)	122	124	158
1930 Total budgetary resources available	204	233	260
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	97	90	113
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	119	91	78
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	107	143	147
3020 Outlays (gross)	-126	-144	-129
3040 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations, unexpired	-9	-12	-12
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	91	78	84

Standard Form 300

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
COOPERATIVE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) **Identification Code 010-18-5143**	**2014 Actual**	**2015 Estimate**	**2016 Estimate**
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	119	91	78
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	91	78	84
Budget authority and outlays, net:			
Discretionary:			
4000 Budget authority, gross	50	50	50
Outlays, gross:			
4010 Outlays from new discretionary authority	1	5	5
4011 Outlays from discretionary balances	53	65	61
4020 Outlays, gross (total)	54	70	66
4070 Budget authority, net (discretionary)	50	50	50
4080 Outlays, net (discretionary)	54	70	66
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	72	74	108
Outlays, gross:			
4100 Outlays from new mandatory authority	72	74	63
4160 Budget authority, net (mandatory)	72	74	108
4170 Outlays, net (mandatory)	72	74	63
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	122	124	158
4190 Outlays, net (total)	126	144	129

Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	1	1	2
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	33	66	84
94.0 Financial transfers	72	74	58
99.0 Subtotal, Direct obligations	106	141	144
99.5 Below reporting threshold	1	2	3
99.9 Total new obligations	107	143	147

Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	14	14	22

North American Wetlands Conservation Fund

North American Wetlands Conservation Fund

Appropriations Language

For expenses necessary to carry out the provisions of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4401 et seq.), $34,145,000, to remain available until expended.
(Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015.)

Authorizing Statutes

North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989 (16 U.S.C. 4401). Section 4406 of the Act (NAWCA) authorizes fines, penalties, and forfeitures from violations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to be made available for wetlands conservation projects. Section 4407 authorizes interest on excise taxes for hunting equipment deposited for wetlands conservation grants and costs for administering this grant program. Such amounts have been permanently appropriated as provided in Public Law 103-138, Making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1994, and for other purposes, November 11, 1993 (107 Stat 1384).The Act authorizes appropriations to be used to encourage partnerships among public agencies and other interests to protect, enhance, restore, and manage wetland ecosystems and other habitats for migratory birds and other fish and wildlife; to maintain current or improved distributions of migratory bird populations; and to sustain an abundance of waterfowl and other migratory birds consistent with goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and international obligations with other countries.

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 3951-3956). Establishes the National Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Program within the Sport Fish Restoration Account for projects authorized by NAWCA in coastal States.

Aquatic Resources Trust Fund (26 U.S.C. 9504). Authorizes appropriations from the Sport Fish Restoration Account to carry out the *Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act*.

Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937, now referred to as *The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act*, as amended (16 U.S.C. 669-669k), provides Federal assistance to the 50 States, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands for projects to restore, enhance, and manage wildlife resources, and to conduct State hunter education programs. The Act authorizes the collection of receipts for permanent-indefinite appropriation to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for use in the fiscal year following collection. Funds not used by the States within two years revert to the Service for carrying out the provisions of the *Migratory Bird Conservation Act*. The Act also requires the Secretary of the Treasury to invest the portion of the fund not required for current year spending in interest-bearing obligations. The interest must be used for the North American Wetlands Conservations Act. Included with this budget submission is legislative language to extend this provision until 2026.

Appropriation: North American Wetlands Conservation Fund

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2015 (+/-)
Appropriations: North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	($000)	34,145	34,145	0	0	0	34,145	0
Receipts *(Mandatory):* Migratory Bird Treaty Act Fines*	($000)	19,030	19,613	0	0	+1,087	20,700	+1,087
Total, North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	**($000)**	**53,175**	**53,758**	**0**	**0**	**+1,087**	**54,845**	**+1,087**
	FTE	***11***	***11***	***0***	***0***	***0***	***11***	***0***

* The amounts presented in 2014 and 2015 include the sequestration in accordance with Sec. 251A of the BBDECA, 2 U.S.C 901a. In addition, the amounts in 2014, 2015 and 2016 include amounts previously sequestered which are now available in accordance with said Act.

Justification of 2016 Program Changes

The 2016 budget request for the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund is $34,145,000 and 11 FTE, with no net change from the 2015 Enacted.

Mandatory Receipts - Receipts are derived from court-imposed fines for violations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and vary greatly from year to year. The amounts include Deepwater Horizon settlement payments. The FY 2016 estimate is $20,700,000 for this account.

Program Overview

Black brant and marbled godwits at Laguna San Ignacio, Mexico. This site was protected by a NAWCA project to protect Pacific brant wintering habitat. Credit: Cyndi Perry, USFWS.

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) is the primary Federal program for conserving waterfowl nesting, migrating and wintering habitat across North America. For 25 years, NAWCA has provided grant funds for the Service; Federal, state and local agencies; and non-government conservation organizations to protect, enhance, and restore nearly 28 million acres for wetland-dependent birds and other wildlife. Non-federal partners for NAWCA projects have effectively leveraged NAWCA funds, achieving twice the legally required 1:1 match-to-grant ratio. Partners include private landowners; states; local governments; conservation organizations; national and local sportsmen's groups; tribes; trusts; and corporations. NAWCA grants are catalysts for partnerships and projects that:

- Support migratory bird conservation while providing other benefits such as flood control, groundwater recharge, and water quality improvement;
- Sustain cultural traditions, such as hunting and fishing;
- Improve quality and opportunities for outdoor recreation;
- Help implement the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and other national and international bird conservation plans;
- Assist in the recovery of endangered and threatened species; and
- Achieve the Service's long-term goal of healthy and sustainable migratory bird populations, including waterfowl.

NAWCA Invests in Partnerships

Projects are selected based on the significance of the wetland ecosystems and the wildlife habitat to be conserved, migratory bird species that will benefit, partner diversity, non-federal contributions leveraged, and the long-term value of the conservation activities proposed. Grants made through NAWCA have helped thousands of public-private partnerships to protect and improve the health and integrity of wetland and wetland-associated landscapes across North America. Project activities not only provide critical habitat for waterfowl and other wetland species, but also provide key services to the community such as water quality improvement and reduced flooding during high water events.

NAWCA grantee, Northern Prairies Land Trust, worked closely with the Service to identify and protect the highest priority grasslands and wetlands in central and eastern South Dakota.

Once grant funding has been awarded, the Service engages in active monitoring to ensure project integrity and success. Project monitoring helps identify areas of technical assistance needed by partners; evaluates grantee performance; confirms regulatory compliance and responsible financial management; and ensures grant program accountability. Through FY 2014, the NAWCA program has supported over 2,400 projects in 50 U.S. States, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, 13 Canadian provinces and territories, and 31 Mexican states. Almost 4,000 different partners have conserved millions of acres.

NAWCA GRANT PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS 1991-2014

Country	Protected Acres	Enhanced, Restored, and Created Acres	Number of Projects
Canada	14,815,181	3,308,149*	526
Mexico	2,219,209	1,220,739	278
U.S.	5,612,824	3,759,949	1,617
All Countries	22,647,214	8,288,837	2,421

Acreages represent total proposed acres approved for funding in the U.S. and Canada from FY 1991 through FY 2014. Some acres are included in both "Protected" and "Enhanced, Restored and Created" due to multiple activities occurring on the same properties. Additionally, some protection is not perpetual. Therefore, the two categories should not be added to demonstrate total acres affected over the life of the program.

* This figure includes 413,910 acres of moist soil management completed prior to 1998.

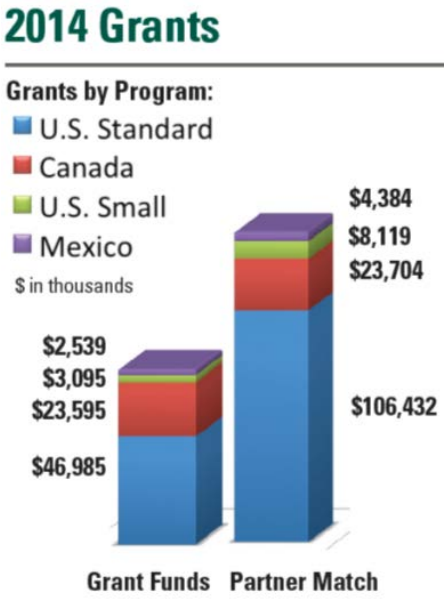
NAWCA Supports Agency Priorities

NAWCA is a critical funding source for migratory bird habitat conservation, but the program's impact is much broader. Projects funded by NAWCA benefit a range of wetland-dependent species, and support national and international conservation priorities:

- NAWCA-supported projects complement and complete Service conservation efforts through the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Endangered Species Act, National Wildlife Refuges, and other programs. The NAWCA grant programs also complement and often work directly with other agencies including the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, and Department of Defense.
- NAWCA enhances the Department of Interior's efforts to connect people with nature by funding projects that enrich and increase outdoor recreation opportunities such as hiking, bird-watching, hunting, and fishing.
- NAWCA's Mexico program connects youth with nature, supporting the Department's youth initiatives. The program funds projects that involve training young professionals in conservation practices and educating young people through nature festivals and other outreach activities. NAWCA grant projects increase bird populations and wetland habitat, while supporting income-generating activities such as hunting and birdwatching, and sustaining cultural traditions such as fishing and ranching. The NAWCA program protects our natural resources while generating economic activity which supports local economies.

Two Types of NAWCA Grants

NAWCA funds Standard Grants and Small Grants. Standard Grants are open to applicants in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. Standard Grant amounts in the U.S. are typically $750,000 to $1,000,000. Eligible grantees must provide non-Federal matching funds at least equal to the award amount. Small Grants, available only in the U.S. and limited to $75,000 per project, allow smaller partners and projects to successfully compete for NAWCA funds. Small Grants attract new partners for wetland conservation and help diversify the types and locations of projects NAWCA funds.



Through 2014, NAWCA Standard Grants have supported more than 3,900 partners as they implemented 1,762 projects worth over $4.5 billion. NAWCA contributed over $1.2 billion to these projects, with total partner funds of more than $4 billion. Almost $2.8 billion of these partner funds are from non-federal sources, providing more than $2 in eligible match for every NAWCA dollar awarded. More than 27 million acres of wetlands and associated uplands have been protected, restored, or enhanced through the Standard Grants Program in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

The Small Grants Program started in 1996 with $250,000 in grant funds. Currently, up to $5 million of NAWCA funds may be used for Small Grant awards each year, depending on the availability of funds and number of qualifying projects. Through 2014, 665 projects have been approved for more than $37.2 million in grant funds. Eligible partners have contributed more than $128 million in non-federal matching funds (including in-kind contributions) to projects located in all 50 States and Puerto Rico. Such non-federal matching has allowed Small Grants to leverage almost $4 for every NAWCA dollar awarded, affecting over 300,000 acres, benefitting a diversity of wetland and wetland-related habitats, and fostering new and expanded partnerships for the NAWCA program.

NAWCA Funding Sources

The Act authorizes funding from four sources:

- Direct appropriations
- Fines, penalties and forfeitures resulting from violations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Interest from receipts in the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration account
- Receipts from the Sport Fish Restoration account for U.S. coastal projects (Pacific and Atlantic coastal States, States bordering the Great Lakes, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa).

A 39-acre parcel was donated to the Thousand Islands Land Trust as match for the McCarn Creek, NY, Small Grant project. The property was formerly a farm and has been returned to its natural state. The tract drains into the St. Lawrence River. Credit: Rodecia McKnight, USFWS

In FY 2016 President's Budget, legislative language is being requested to extend the authorization in the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Robertson) that requires interest on Pittman-Robertson funds to be provided for waterfowl conservation projects funded through NAWCA.

North American Wetlands Conservation Council and Migratory Bird Conservation Commission

The nine-member North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council) recommends NAWCA grant projects for approval by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (MBCC). The Council comprises the FWS Director, the Secretary of the Board of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, four Directors of state wildlife agencies representing each of the migratory bird flyways (Atlantic, Mississippi, Central, Pacific), and representatives from three nonprofit conservation organizations actively involved in wetlands conservation projects. The Council also includes *ex-officio* members appointed at the discretion of the Interior Secretary.

The MBCC includes two U.S. Senators and two U.S. Representatives, the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. The MBCC approves or rejects recommended projects, or may reorder the priority of any Council-recommended project list.

Above: The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission recognized Congressman Dingell as the longest serving member of Congress at the June 2013 meeting. Below: Congressman Dingell and Secretary Jewell. Credit: Tami Heilemann, DOI

NAWCA - Combined Performance Change and Overview Table

Performance Goal	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Target	2016 PB	Change from 2015 Target to 2016 PB
4.1.6 - # of habitat acres enhanced/ restored of habitat in North America through NAWCF - annual (GPRA)	293,410	178,047	333,522	287,746	207,770	625,779	-12,995
Comments:	Acres of habitat projected to be enhanced/ restored are the result of projects funded from several years previous that should be completed during FY16. The change in performance actuals and targets from 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016 demonstrate the variability inherent in multi-year grants as to when they are proposed/ funded and when they are reported as completed. This year-to-year variability is responsible for the fluctuation in reported acreages that are associated with a given fiscal year.						
4.4.1 - # of non-FWS wetland acres protected/ secured through NAWCF - annual (GPRA)	666,009	185,123	576,005	433,007	422,207	234,494	59,334
Comments:	Acres of habitat projected to be protected/ secured are the result of projects funded from several years previous that should be completed during FY16. The change in performance actuals and targets from 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016 demonstrate the variability inherent in multi-year grants as to when they are proposed/ funded and when they are reported as completed. This year-to-year variability is responsible for the fluctuation in reported acreages that are associated with a given fiscal year.						

Standard Form 300

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION FUND

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) **Identification Code 010-18-14-5241**	**2014 Actual**	**2015 Estimate**	**2016 Estimate**
0100 Balance, start of year	21	21	21
Receipts:			
0200 Fine, Penalities, and Forfietures from Migratory Bird Treatv Act. North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	21	21	13
0400 Total Balances and collections	42	42	34
Appropriations:			
0500 North American Wetlands Conservation Funds	-21	-21	-21
0799 Balance, end of year	21	21	13
Obligations by program activity:			
0003 Wetlands conservation projects	47	55	55
0004 Administration	1	1	1
0900 Total new obligations	48	56	56
Budgetary Resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	3	9	7
1001 Discretionary unobligated balance brought fwd, Oct 1	3	9	0
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, discretionary:			
1100 Appropriation	34	34	34
1160 Appropriation, discretionary (total)	34	34	34
Appropriations, mandatory:			
1201 Appropriation (special or trust fund)	21	21	21
1232 Appropriations and/or unobligated balance of appropriations temporarily reduced	-1	-1	0
1260 Appropriations, mandatory (total)	20	20	21
1900 Budget authority (total)	54	54	55
1930 Total budgetary resources available	57	63	62
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	9	7	6
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	63	75	81
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	48	56	56
3020 Outlays (gross)	-36	-50	-55
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	75	81	82
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	63	75	81
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	75	81	82
Budget authority and outlays, net:			
Discretionary:			
4000 Budget authority, gross	34	34	34

Standard Form 300

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION FUND

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) **Identification Code 010-18-14-5241**		**2014 Actual**	**2015 Estimate**	**2016 Estimate**
Outlays, gross:				
4010	Outlays from new discretionary authority	4	5	5
4011	Outlays from discretionary balances	31	31	32
4020	Outlays, gross (total)	35	36	37
4070	Budget authority, net (discretionary)	34	34	34
4080	Outlays, net (discretionary)	35	36	37
Mandatory:				
4090	Budget authority, gross	20	20	21
Outlays, gross:				
4100	Outlays from new mandatory authority	0	5	5
4101	Outlays from mandatory balances	1	9	13
4110	Outlays, gross (total)	1	14	18
4160	Budget authority, net (mandatory)	20	20	21
4170	Outlays, net (mandatory)	1	14	18
4180	Budget authority, net (total)	54	54	55
4190	Outlays, net (total)	36	50	55

Object Classification (O)				
Direct obligations:				
Personnel compensation:				
11.1	Full-time permanent	1	1	1
32.0	Land and structures	1	1	1
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	46	54	54
99.9	Total new obligations	48	56	56

Employment Summary (Q)				
1001	Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	11	11	11

Multinational Species Conservation Fund

Multinational Species Conservation Fund

Appropriations Language

For expenses necessary to carry out the African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4201 et seq.), the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 4261 et seq.), the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), and the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 (16 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.), [$9,061,000]*$11,061,000*, to remain available until expended. *(Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015.)*

Authorizing Statutes

African Elephant Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 4201-4203, 4211-4214, 4221-4225, 4241-4246,1538). Authorizes funding for approved projects for research, conservation, management and protection of African elephants and their habitats. Authorizes prohibitions against the sale, importation, and exportation of ivory derived from African elephants. Authorization of Appropriations: Expired September 30, 2012.

Asian Elephant Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 4261-4266, 1538). Authorizes financial assistance for cooperative projects for the conservation and protection of Asian elephants and their habitats. Authorization of Appropriations: Expired September 30, 2012.

Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act, (16. U.S.C. 5301-5306, 1538**).** Authorizes grants to other nations and to the *CITES* Secretariat for programs directly or indirectly assisting in the conservation of rhinoceros and tigers. Prohibits the sale, importation, and exportation of products derived from any species of rhinoceros and tiger. Authorization of Appropriations: Expired September 30, 2012.

Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000, (16 U.S.C. 6301-6305, 1538). Authorizes grants to foreign governments, the *CITES* secretariat, and non-governmental organizations for the conservation of great apes. The funds are to be a sub-account of the Multinational Species. Authorization of Appropriations: Expired September 30, 2010.

Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004, (16 U.S.C. 6601-6607). Authorizes financial assistance in the conservation of marine turtles and the nesting habitats of marine turtles, to conserve the nesting habitats, conserve marine turtles in those habitats and address other threats to the survival of marine turtles. The funds are to be a sub-account of the Multinational Species Conservation Fund. Authorization of Appropriations: Expired September 30, 2009.

Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp Act of 2010, (39 U.S.C. 416 note) as amended. Requires the United States Postal Service to issue and sell, a Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp. The proceeds from the stamp are made available to the Service to help fund the operations supported by the Multinational Species Conservation Funds and divided equally among the existing Conservation Funds. Proceeds are prohibited from being taken into account in any decision relating to the level of discretionary appropriations. The stamp is to be made available to the public for at least six years.

Appropriation: Multinational Species Conservation Fund

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016				Change from 2015 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
African Elephant Conservation Fund	($000)	1,582	1,582	0	0	+1,000	2,582	+1,000
Asian Elephant Conservation Fund	($000)	1,557	1,557	0	0	0	1,557	0
Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund	($000)	2,440	2,440	0	0	+1,000	3,440	+1,000
Great Ape Conservation Fund	($000)	1,975	1,975	0	0	0	1,975	0
Marine Turtle Conservation Fund	($000)	1,507	1,507	0	0	0	1,507	0
Total, Multinational Species Conservation Fund	**($000)**	**9,061**	**9,061**	**0**	**0**	**+2,000**	**11,061**	**+2,000**
	FTE	***4***	***4***	***0***	***0***	***0***	***4***	***0***

Summary of 2016 Program Changes for Multinational Species Conservation Fund

Request Component	($000)	FTE
• African Elephant Conservation Fund	+1,000	0
• Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund	+1,000	0
Program Changes	**+2,000**	**0**

Justification of 2016 Program Changes

The 2016 budget request for the Multinational Species Conservation Funds is $11,061,000 and 4 FTE, a net program change of +$2,000,000 and +0 FTE from the 2015 Enacted.

African Elephant Conservation Fund (+1,000,000/+0 FTE)

The threat to African elephants has increased to crisis levels. As the threat has increased, so have requests for financial support from the African Elephant Conservation Fund. At present, the Service is only able to support activities in one quarter of the 37 countries with elephants. This funding increase will support priority actions such as improving wildlife laws and enforcement in African countries which includes training wildlife authorities and other law enforcement personnel; supporting modern inspection equipment for customs and border authorities; and improving the prosecution of wildlife traffickers by raising the awareness and training of the judiciary and supporting the cost of forensic investigations and analysis of criminal networks.

Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund (+1,000,000/+0 FTE)

Consumer demand for rhino and tiger body parts has put all rhinos throughout Africa and Asia and tigers throughout Asia in peril. The price for rhino horn on the illegal market is so high that the incentives to

poach exceed the risk of being caught. The price of protecting rhinos has also escalated. This increase will be used to assist with grant funding to combat this threat. Examples of these efforts include:

- Grant funding to support staff training, basic equipment, anti-poaching patrols, and aerial surveillance. Presently, we are able to assist with funding for essential operations at only one or two sites in a country, but some countries have multiple national parks or rhino sites. In particular, South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, and Kenya have significant rhino populations, all of which are under threat.
- Cross-border law enforcement exercises such as Cobra II in 2013 which resulted in the arrest of more than 400 wildlife criminals and included 350 major wildlife seizures across Africa and Asia (including 36 rhino horns).
- Education and awareness campaigns in Vietnam and China informing the public of the damage being done to wildlife resources by illegal wildlife trade to change attitudes about illegal trade.
- Supporting the protection of the critically endangered Javan rhino from poaching. With rising interest within the Government of Indonesia to establish a second Javan rhino population, it is important to strengthen protection of trans-located rhinos from poaching and enable improvements in habitat management and outreach to the public.

Program Overview

Amur tiger. Photo credit: Harshawardhan Dhanwatery

The Multinational Species Conservation Fund (MSCF) provides essential funding to protect some of the world's most threatened animals in their natural habitats. These funds provide direct support to wildlife agencies, non-governmental organizations, and communities for on-the-ground protection and conservation of elephants, rhinoceroses, tigers, chimpanzees, gorillas, bonobos, gibbons, orangutans, and marine turtles and were authorized through five Congressional Acts. These species are among the most iconic and recognized worldwide but are also under severe threat from poaching, habitat loss, and illegal wildlife trafficking

The funds provide necessary resources to assist in the conservation of these species in the wild by supporting local and international law enforcement efforts to prevent poaching, stop illegal wildlife trafficking, and work to reduce consumer demand for illegal wildlife products. Funded activities include strengthening law enforcement at all levels, assisting communities to coexist with these species and providing vital infrastructure and equipment needed to effectively manage protected areas and hunting zones. Several of the species covered by the program, including rhinoceroses and African elephants, are under unprecedented pressure due to poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking. These funds provide much needed emergency support to respond to these threats quickly and effectively. This program has the ancillary benefits of assisting foreign countries to sustainably manage their valuable natural resources and attract substantial leveraged or matching funding while also building considerable good will toward the United States.

Elephants, rhinoceroses, tigers, great apes and sea turtles occur in many developing countries. With growing human populations and increasing human demands, wildlife conservation and protected areas are vastly underfunded. By providing financial and technical assistance, the Multinational Species Conservation Funds provide critical support to national wildlife agencies, local communities, non-governmental organizations, and other qualified entities for on-the-ground conservation projects. The program is very selective and highly competitive and able to direct funds to key populations and the most

urgently needed activities. Priority activities include protected area establishment, anti-poaching operations, expenses related to investigation and prosecution of wildlife criminals, conflict mitigation, environmental education, community outreach, training, and capacity building. Without this financial assistance, vulnerable populations of these species will continue to decline, which may ultimately result in extinction. The Multinational Species Conservation Funds have engaged nearly 600 domestic and foreign partners working in over 54 foreign countries. From 2008 to 2014, the Multinational Species Conservation Funds provided $79 million in grant funding for on-the-ground conservation, leveraging $124 million in additional matching funds.

Forest elephant in the Central African Republic. Photo credit: Dr. Richard Ruggiero, USFWS

Since the passage of the African Elephant Conservation Act in 1989, the fund has provided critical support to prevent poaching in Africa, to combat trafficking of ivory and other illegal elephant products (especially bushmeat) within Africa, in transit ports and airports and in consumer countries, and to reduce the demand for illegal wildlife products in consumer countries. Specific activities include constructing and operating road blocks on transit routes out of protected areas; purchase, training and deployment of detection dog teams at roadblocks, airports and ports; training and operational costs for intelligence units tracing wildlife crimes; development of genetic and forensic tools to identify the source of ivory, sponsoring joint investigations tracing ivory shipments back to point of origin, and supporting the expenses related to the prosecution of poachers and traffickers in African courts. In 2014, these funds supported projects at 17 field sites in Africa and three projects for joint operations in Asia and Africa. For example, in Luangwa Valley, Zambia, these funds support anti-poaching patrols and the deployment of Zambia's first detection dog unit trained to intercept illegal wildlife contraband.

Greater one- horned rhino. Photo credit: Dr Meenakshi Nagendran, USFWS

Since passage of the Rhino Tiger Act of 1994, the fund has been able to support many protected areas in both Asia and Africa. Program activities aim to protect existing populations, to actively introduce populations to increase numbers and restore the animals to their original habitat, and to combat trafficking of tiger skins, bones, live animals, and rhino horn and other rhino products. In 2014, the funds were able to support the core operating expenses in six African countries (Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, and Namibia) to fortify anti-poaching efforts where rhinos have been killed by poachers and to improve detection and interception of illegally trafficked rhino horn out of Africa to consumer markets in Asia. Projects included aerial surveillance of key rhino populations in South Africa and the deployment of devices to track rhinos (and their horns, if they are poached) in Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. To continue efforts combatting illegal wildlife trade within Asia, one of the projects worked to increase actions taken by the Government of Vietnam to fight illegal wildlife trade across the Vietnam-China border. This project will facilitate central and provincial level inter-agency communication and coordination, enhancing communications and coordination between relevant agencies in Guangxi Region, China, and Quang Ninh Province,

Vietnam, and generating domestic and international media coverage that supports prevention and suppression of transnational wildlife crimes. Another project in India is educating local communities on mitigating human-large carnivore conflict while furthering conservation efforts of tigers and leopards. Project accomplishments include reducing the vulnerability of local communities living on forest fringes to conflict with tigers while making them more capable of managing conflict situations. This will be done by training individuals in affected villages on issues of conservation, conflict mitigation and mob control, and forming a network of these trainers to work on a landscape level to mitigate conflict. A manual has been produced with practical solutions to reduce the potential for conflict with carnivores.

Asian elephant. Photo credit: Dr. P. Fernando

The Asian Elephant Conservation Fund is a critical source of funding for activities addressing the major threats to wild Asian elephant populations within range states. In 2014, such activities included law enforcement training and monitoring; public education campaigns via radio programming; forest ranger and patrol training; research on population dynamics; community-based conservation and education programs; human-elephant conflict mitigation programs; developing national elephant conservation strategies; providing wildlife veterinary expertise and veterinary capacity building; and creating elephant conservation-based national school curricula. In 2014, the Fund supported projects in 10 of the 13 Asian elephant range countries, financing some activities with local impact and others with national or regional impacts. A project in the buffer zone surrounding Nepal's Bardia National Park is supporting the construction and management of a shared community rice storehouse. The storehouse will allow villagers to store their annual rice harvest in a secure communal facility rather than in their own homes, a dangerous practice that lures hungry elephants into the community. The elephants cause significant property damage, destroy homes in their search for food, inflict human injury, and provoke further antagonism. In Myanmar, where Asian elephant distributions and threats are among the most poorly understood in Asia, one of the 2014 projects will collect and analyze data regarding wild populations, threats, and stakeholders. This information will be used to create a map of elephant distributions and, in collaboration with the Government of Myanmar, will result in the development of a national 10-year elephant conservation strategy that will ensure the best management of elephant populations in Myanmar.

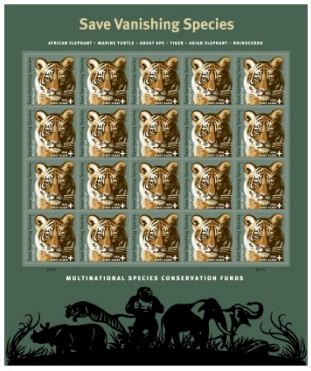
Female grooming Silverback gorilla
Photo credit: Dirck. Byler, USFWS

In 2014, the Great Ape Conservation Fund continued to help conserve globally significant populations of gibbons and orangutans in Asia. One of the projects is supporting conservation of orangutans and critical habitats in Sabah, Malaysia. This project fosters implementation of Sabah's Orangutan Action Plan, by enhancing scientific knowledge of the orangutan's ecology and conservation status, improving the policy framework for orangutan population management within and outside of protected areas, reducing pressures on orangutan populations and habitats, enhancing community engagement in the conservation of the orangutan and its habitat, and enhancing human resource capacity and commitment to manage and conserve orangutan populations in Sabah. In Africa, funds support conservation of gorillas, chimpanzees and bonobos. The Service provides core support to teams tracking, monitoring and

protecting mountain gorillas in the Virunga National Park in war-torn eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and neighboring Rwanda and Uganda. Funds have also enabled the establishment of new protected areas for bonobos in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the development of ecotourism ventures to benefit local people who share their habitat with lowland gorillas in Gabon. Funds also enable the creation and expansion of the EAGLE (Eco Activists for Governance and Law Enforcement) network, an innovative partnership between government and local activists to improve investigations, prosecutions, and sentencing in several countries. Support to the EAGLE network has led to over 900 arrests and the subsequent imprisonment of major wildlife traffickers.

Loggerhead turtle remains in Cape Verde
Photo credit: M. Tiwari

Since 2009, funds from the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund have supported an extensive loggerhead sea turtle conservation project in Cape Verde which hosts the third largest loggerhead nesting population in the world. The project now covers the most important nesting beaches on the islands of Boa Vista, Sal and Maio which in turn encompass 95 % of the nesting within Cape Verde. The project includes night time beach patrols in collaboration with the military, international volunteers, and Cape Verdians as well as education and outreach programs with local communities. Prior to initiation of these projects, 25-40% of loggerhead females were slaughtered on the nesting beaches each year. This project also supports an annual meeting for the Cape Verde Sea Turtle Partnership which facilitates greater cooperation among the NGO's and Cape Verdian national and local government authorities. Another project supports the East Pacific Hawksbill Initiative that protects nests and nesting females for the last known remaining nesting populations of the Eastern Pacific hawksbill in El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Ecuador. The project also addressed the threat of blast fishing to adult and juvenile turtles in El Salvador through training programs for regional fisheries authorities and law enforcement officers to increase the effectiveness of blast fishing enforcement.



The *Save Vanishing Species* semipostal stamp was first issued in September 2011 to raise public awareness and garner support for critically important global conservation work. The intent is to give the public an easy and inexpensive way to help conserve wild tigers, rhinos, elephants, great apes and marine turtles around the world. The stamp, which features the image of an Amur tiger cub, sells just slightly above the cost of first-class postage. In the first two years, 24.9 million stamps were sold, raising more than $2.5 million for the conservation of international wildlife. Currently the stamp is available for sale through 2018. For more information about the stamp, visit www.tigerstamp.com.

Standard Form 300

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) **Identification Code 010-18-1652**		**2014 Actual**	**2015 Estimate**	**2016 Estimate**
Obligations by program activity:				
0001	African elephant	2	2	3
0002	Asian elephant	1	2	2
0003	Rhinoceros and tiger	2	2	3
0004	Great ape conservation	2	2	2
0005	Marine turtle	1	1	1
0799	Total direct obligations	8	9	11
0801	Mulitnational Species Semi Postal Stamp Act	1	1	1
0900	Total new obligations	9	10	12
Budgetary Resources:				
Unobligated balance:				
1000	Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	1	1	1
1001	Discretionary unobligated balance brought fwd, Oct 1	1	1	0
Budget authority:				
Appropriations, discretionary:				
1100	Appropriation	9	9	11
1160	Appropriation, discretionary (total)	9	9	11
Spending authority from offsetting collections, mandatory:				
1800	Collected	0	1	1
1850	Spending auth from offsetting collections, mand (total)	0	1	1
1930	Total budgetary resources available	10	11	13
Memorandum (non-add) entries:				
1941	Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	1	1	1
Change in obligated balance:				
Unpaid obligations:				
3000	Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	8	7	7
3010	Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	9	10	12
3020	Outlays (gross)	-10	-10	-11
3050	Unpaid obligations, end of year	7	7	8
Memorandum (non-add) entries:				
3100	Obligated balance, start of year	8	7	7
3200	Obligated balance, end of year	7	7	8
Budget authority and outlays, net:				
Discretionary:				
4000	Budget authority, gross	9	9	11
Outlays, gross:				
4010	Outlays from new discretionary authority	5	3	3
4011	Outlays from discretionary balances	5	6	7
4020	Outlays, gross (total)	10	9	10
4070	Budget authority, net (discretionary)	9	9	11
4080	Outlays, net (discretionary)	10	9	10
Mandatory:				
4090	Budget authority, gross	0	1	1
Outlays, gross:				
4101	Outlays from mandatory balances	0	1	1

Standard Form 300

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) **Identification Code 010-18-1652**		**2014 Actual**	**2015 Estimate**	**2016 Estimate**
Offsets against gross budget authority and outlays:				
Offsetting collections (collected) from:				
4120	Federal sources	0	-1	-1
4160	Budget authority, net (mandatory)	0	0	0
4170	Outlays, net (mandatory)	0	0	0
4180	Budget authority, net (total)	9	9	11
4190	Outlays, net (total)	10	9	10
Object Classification (O)				
Direct obligations:				
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	8	9	11
Reimbursable obligations:				
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	1	1	1
99.9	Total new obligations	9	10	12
Employment Summary (Q)				
1001	Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	4	4	4

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund

Appropriations Language

For expenses necessary to carry out the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.), [$3,660,000]*$4,160,000*, to remain available until expended.
(Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015.)

Authorizing Statutes

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Improvement Act of 2006, (16 U.S.C. 6101). For expenses necessary to carry out the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Improvement Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.). Authorizes a competitive grants program for the conservation of Neotropical migratory birds in the United States, Latin America, Canada and the Caribbean.

Appropriation: Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016				Change from 2015 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund	($000)	3,660	3,660	0	0	+500	4,160	+500
	FTE	*1*	*1*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*1*	*0*

Justification of 2016 Program Changes

The 2016 budget request for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund is $4,160,000 and 1 FTE, a program change of +$500,000 and+ 0 FTE from the 2015 Enacted.

Summary of 2016 Program Changes for Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund

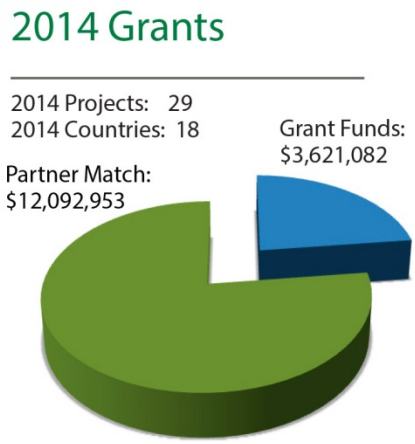
Request Component	($000)	FTE
• Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund	+500	0
Program Changes	**+500**	**0**

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (+500,000/+0 FTE)

Funding is requested to enhance the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund to help partners acquire, protect, restore and improve Neotropical migratory bird habitat throughout the Western Hemisphere. The need for this funding was recognized in the 2014 State of the Birds report, which describes continued decreases in the populations of migratory birds dependent upon forests and arid lands. NMBCA funding is frequently the catalyst needed to bring together international collaborations of Federal and State conservation agencies, local governments, private industry, non-profit conservation organizations, and individuals in public-private partnerships to address mutual conservation needs and concerns in important migratory bird habitat conservation areas throughout the Americas. These vital local conservation partnerships match each grant dollar awarded with at least three non-federal dollars, and often more. Consequently, this increase of $500,000 in available grant dollars within the Service's budget will result in more than $2,000,000 invested in an additional 4-5 projects that will conserve thousands of acres of important areas for Neotropical migratory birds.

Program Overview

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA) program provides matching grants to partners throughout the Western Hemisphere to promote the conservation of Neotropical migratory birds in the United States, Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Over 380 species of Neotropical migratory birds breed in the United States and Canada and winter in Latin America, including sandpipers, hawks, thrushes, warblers and sparrows. The populations of many of these birds are declining, and several species are protected as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Thirty-two of these migratory birds are targeted by the Service's Migratory Bird Program as focal species and 62 are on the Service's list of birds of conservation concern. Conservation actions funded through this program are essential to keeping species from becoming listed under the Endangered Species Act.



A primary purpose of the NMBCA is to perpetuate healthy populations of these birds by catalyzing migratory bird conservation projects that otherwise would not take place. The program leverages nearly four dollars of non-federal match for every Federal grant dollar invested. By law, at least 75 percent of the funds available each year must go to projects in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Canada, with the remaining funds available for projects in the United States. In Latin America and the Caribbean, where resources for migratory bird conservation are scarce, the NMBCA program provides critical funds for our partners working to conserve shared bird species on their migrating and wintering grounds. NMBCA grants are highly competitive, with demand for projects greatly exceeding available funds, thus leaving many high quality proposals unfunded each year.

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act program supports priority national and international initiatives to engage people in conservation, benefiting local communities and our economy:

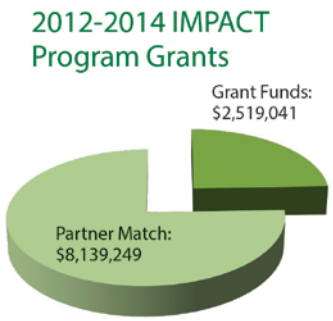
- The birds NMBCA conserves have a significant economic impact, through birding festivals, wildlife watching (purchasing of bird food, binoculars, etc.), and creating jobs in association with these recreational opportunities. According to the 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation:
    - 71.8 million Americans photographed, fed or observed birds and other wildlife around their homes or on trips;
    - Americans spent $55 billion on wildlife watching trips (food, lodging, and transportation), equipment (such as binoculars), and other related items (memberships in and contributions to wildlife organizations, etc.);
    - 17.8 million Americans traveled away from home to see wild birds, putting millions into local economies

- Data from 2011 showed that bird watching trip-related and equipment-related expenditures generated nearly $107 billion in total industry output, and created 666,000 jobs, $31 billion in employment income, and $13 billion in local, state and federal tax revenue. (Source: Birding in the United States: A Demographic and Economic Analysis: Addendum to the 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation).

In 2014, the NMBCA supported three projects to conserve Golden-winged Warbler throughout their annual cycle at locations in Canada, Nicaragua and Colombia. Credit:USDA NRCS Greg Lavaty

- The NMBCA supports and enhances the DOI's and the Service's efforts to connect people, especially America's youth, with nature and the outdoors. The NMBCA funds projects that involve training young professionals and educating youth through nature festivals and other outreach activities. In addition, by conserving birds that are frequently observed in backyards and parks, NMBCA helps to engage people in the great outdoors and in activities that allow them to enjoy these amazing and beautiful birds.

- NMBCA funded activities provide opportunities that support local economies in other countries; these efforts help foster good will toward the U.S. and support diplomatic efforts. For example, through the Southern Cone Grasslands Alliance, U.S. funds support the economic livelihood of South American ranchers enabling them to continue their operations on the land and in turn promoting security, sustainability, and healthy landscapes and people.



Grant Funds: $2,519,041
Matching Funds: $8,139,249
Match Ratio: 3.2 to 1
Projects: 20
Countries: 12
Acres Affected: 475,000

NMBCA IMPACT Pilot Program

In 2012, the Service began to focus approximately 30% of NMBCA funding annually on 13 Neotropical migratory bird species of particular conservation concern. This pilot program is titled IMPACT (Identifying Measures of Performance and Achieving Conservation Targets) because the goal is to achieve a measurable biological improvement in these species' populations at a local, regional or hemispheric scale within 5-10 years. Each species has a conservation action plan identifying threats and priority actions to address those threats. By dedicating funding over 10 years to these species, the NMBCA can leverage resources where progress of conservation actions can be measured. Grantees will evaluate the success of their efforts and strategically adapt their approach to conservation by measuring biological improvements in the target species, such as increased abundance or survival, or improved quality of habitat. Funded projects must include monitoring and evaluation to track these measurable objectives.

In 2014, the third year of the IMPACT program, the Service supported six projects focusing on breeding and stopover or wintering grounds to conserve Bicknell's Thrush, Golden-cheeked Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Hudsonian Godwit, Mountain Plover, Red Knot and Sprague's Pipit. One project in Mexico to benefit Golden-cheeked Warbler, an endangered species, will involve local communities and governments in developing forest demonstration models for sustainable management practices, and will develop a regional strategy for reducing deforestation and an education program for teachers and children.

Another IMPACT program project in Canada will develop Better Management Practices and reach out to communities surrounding unprotected areas to secure long-term protection for Bicknell's Thrush. The project aims to stabilize the population over five years and increase the species' population by 25 percent in 50 years.

In New Brunswick Canada, the NMBCA IMPACT Program is supporting efforts to protect crucial breeding habitat for the Bicknell's Thrush by working with the forestry companies in the region. Copyright: Kent McFarland

Meanwhile, the Service continues to support the US-Mexico Chihuahua grassland project by expanding work with landowners to improve habitat for Sprague's Pipit and other grassland birds on 25,500 acres, as well as protect 800 acres of prairie in western Nebraska. Partners seek to double the local population of Sprague's Pipit wintering on project sites over the next 4-5 years.

The NMBCA conserves Neotropical migrants for the benefit of the American people. By targeting our investment to key priority species and seeking projects that will demonstrate a measurable improvement, the IMPACT program will show the return on investment of taxpayer dollars. This pilot program is set up to create a significant impact for each grant dollar invested and to evaluate the value of that investment for birds.

NMBCA Project Highlights

With the 70 percent of grant funding available for all Neotropical migratory species and broader conservation efforts, the NMBCA continues to be a catalyst for conservation, supporting organizations working to address threats in areas important to migratory birds. NMBCA grants support a full range of conservation activities needed to protect and conserve Neotropical migratory bird populations, including:

- securing, restoring, and managing wintering, migrating, and breeding habitat;
- conducting law enforcement;
- providing community outreach and education; and
- conducting bird population research and monitoring.

Program Impacts since 2002

Grant Funding: $50,121,000
Matching Funds: $190,695,000
Match Ratio: 3.8 to 1
Projects: 451
Countries: 36
Acres Affected: 3,700,000

Examples of projects supported by NMBCA in 2014 include:

- *Protecting Cerulean and Golden-winged Warblers in Colombia II*. Two of the most threatened Neotropical migratory landbirds, the Cerulean Warbler and Golden-winged Warbler depend upon tropical forests across Colombia for their survival. This project will protect 23 critical areas for these species and others. The project also incorporates ecotourism and sustainable development initiatives that benefit local communities.
- *Protecting Critical Stopover Habitat for the Buff-breasted Sandpiper in Bolivia III.* The Barba Azul Nature Reserve is a critical stop-over area in Bolivia for the Buff-breasted Sandpiper. In the third phase of this ongoing NMBCA-funded effort, partners will continue to manage tropical savanna, short-grass and lake-edge habitat to benefit this species. Project activities will also ensure law enforcement within the reserve.

Cerulean Warblers benefit from NMBCA funding that helps to protect critical habitat in Colombia. Credit: Jerry Oldenettel CC BY 2.0

Through 2014, more than $50 million in NMBCA grant funds have supported 451 projects in 36 countries and 48 U.S. States and Territories across the Western Hemisphere. Non-federal partners have contributed more than $190 million in matching funds to these projects. All bird groups have benefited from this funding, including songbirds, raptors, shorebirds, and waterfowl.

To effectively conserve America's migratory birds, we must protect them throughout their range. The NMBCA protects investments in species conservation in the U.S. by making a sound and directed investment in conservation in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Canada.

Standard Form 300

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION FUND

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) **Identification Code 010-18-14-1696**	**2014 Actual**	**2015 Estimate**	**2016 Estimate**
Obligations by program activity:			
0001 Neotropical Migratory Bird	4	4	4
0900 Total new obligations (object class 41.0)	4	4	4
Budgetary Resources:			
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, discretionary:			
1100 Appropriation	4	4	4
1930 Total budgetary resources available	4	4	4
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	6	6	4
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	4	4	4
3020 Outlays (gross)	-4	-6	-5
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	6	4	3
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	6	6	4
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	6	4	3
Budget authority and outlays, net:			
Discretionary:			
4000 Budget authority, gross	4	4	4
Outlays, gross:			
4010 Outlays from new discretionary authority	1	1	1
4011 Outlays from discretionary balances	3	5	4
4020 Outlays, gross (total)	4	6	5
4070 Budget authority, net (discretionary)	4	4	4
4080 Outlays, net (discretionary)	4	6	5
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	4	4	4
4190 Outlays, net (total)	4	6	5

Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	4	4	4

Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	1	1	1

State and Tribal Wildlife Grants

State and Tribal Wildlife Grants

Appropriations Language

For wildlife conservation grants to States and to the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and *federally recognized* Indian tribes under the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, for the development and implementation of programs for the benefit of wildlife and their habitat, including species that are not hunted or fished, [$58,695,000] *$70,000,000*, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amount provided herein, [$4,084,000]*$6,000,000* is for a competitive grant program for *federally recognized* Indian tribes not subject to the remaining provisions of this appropriation: *Provided further*, That [$5,487,000]*$13,000,000* is for a competitive grant program *to implement approved plans* for States, territories, and other jurisdictions, and at the discretion of affected States, the regional Associations of fish and wildlife agencies, not subject to the remaining provisions of this appropriation: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall, after deducting [$9,571,000]*$19,000,000* and administrative expenses, apportion the amount provided herein in the following manner: (1) to the District of Columbia and to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, each a sum equal to not more than one-half of 1 percent thereof; and (2) to Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, each a sum equal to not more than one-fourth of 1 percent thereof: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall apportion the remaining amount in the following manner: (1) one-third of which is based on the ratio to which the land area of such State bears to the total land area of all such States; and (2) two-thirds of which is based on the ratio to which the population of such State bears to the total population of all such States: *Provided further*, That the amounts apportioned under this paragraph shall be adjusted equitably so that no State shall be apportioned a sum which is less than 1 percent of the amount available for apportionment under this paragraph for any fiscal year or more than 5 percent of such amount: *Provided further*, That the Federal share of planning grants shall not exceed 75 percent of the total costs of such projects and the Federal share of implementation grants shall not exceed 65 percent of the total costs of such projects: *Provided further*, That the non-Federal share of such projects may not be derived from Federal grant programs: *Provided further*, That any amount apportioned in [2015]*2016* to any State, territory, or other jurisdiction that remains unobligated as of September 30, [2016]*2017*, shall be reapportioned, together with funds appropriated in [2017]*2018*, in the manner provided herein. *(Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015.)*

Justification of Language Change

Addition: "federally recognized" Indian tribes

The budget proposes clarifying that only federally recognized Indian tribes are eligible to apply for Tribal Wildlife Grants.

Addition: "to implement approved plans"

The budget proposes clarifying that the grant funding is for implementing only approved State Wildlife Action Plans defined by P.L. 107-63.

Authorizing Statutes

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544). Prohibits the import, export, or taking of fish and wildlife and plants that are listed as threatened or endangered species; provides for

adding species to or removing them from the list of threatened and endangered species, and for preparing and implementing plans for their recovery; provides for interagency cooperation to avoid take of listed species and for issuing permits for otherwise prohibited activities; provides for cooperation with States, including authorization of financial assistance; and implements the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).

Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, as amended (16 U.S.C. 742(a)-754). Establishes a comprehensive national fish and wildlife policy and authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to take steps required for the development, management, advancement, conservation, and protection of fisheries resources and wildlife resources through research, acquisition of refuge lands, development of existing facilities, and other means.

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 661). The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to provide assistance to, and cooperate with, Federal, State, and public or private agencies and organizations in the development, protection, rearing, and stocking of all species of wildlife, resources thereof, and their habitat, in controlling losses of the same from disease or other causes, in minimizing damages from overabundant species, and in providing public shooting and fishing areas, including easements across public lands for access thereto.

Appropriation: State and Tribal Wildlife Grants

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2015 (+/-)
State Wildlife Grants (Formula)	($000)	49,124	49,124	0	0	+1,876	51,000	+1,876
State Wildlife Grants (Competitive)	($000)	5,487	5,487	0	0	+7,513	13,000	+7,513
Tribal Wildlife Grants	($000)	4,084	4,084	0	0	+1,916	6,000	+1,916
Total, State and Tribal Wildlife	**($000)**	**58,695**	**58,695**	**0**	**0**	**+11,305**	**70,000**	**+11,305**
	FTE	***14***	***14***	***0***	***0***	***3***	***17***	***3***

Summary of 2016 Program Changes for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants

Request Component	($000)	FTE
▪ State Wildlife Grants (Formula)	+1,876	+1
▪ State Wildlife Grants (Competitive)	+7,513	+2
▪ Tribal Wildlife Grants	+1,916	0
Program Changes	**+11,305**	**+3**

Justification of 2016 Program Changes

The 2016 budget request for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants (STWG) is $70,000,000 and 17 FTE, a net program change of +$11,305,000 and +3 FTE from the 2015 Enacted.

State Wildlife Grants (Formula) (+$1,876,000/+1 FTE)

For 2016, the formula-driven component of this grant program will be increased by $1,876,000, improving State fish and wildlife agencies' ability to maintain their infrastructure and operational capacity as specified in each State's Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) as defined by P.L. 107-63. With this additional funding, several critical areas of the program may be augmented, such as:

1. Increasing State responsiveness to emerging species population declines statewide. The increase will affect projects such as one being done by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to address population declines of the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), a high-profile focal species that has experienced a decline of 90% in some States;
2. Increase the ability of State fish and wildlife agencies to improve habitats on public lands that will support viable populations of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) identified in the SWAPs (estimated increase of 2,500 acres improved). The increase will help these agencies implement proactive conservation strategies to improve habitat, such as sage steppe, that will benefit candidate species;
3. Increase management assistance by the State fish and wildlife agencies to private landowners for conservation of SGCN on private lands. The additional funding is expected to provide technical planning and conservation assistance to at least an additional 1,000 private landowners who will utilize this expertise to improve a minimum of 10,000 acres for SGCN.

State Wildlife Grants (Competitive) (+$7,513,000/+2 FTE)

For 2016, the competitive-driven component of this grant program will be increased by $7,513,000, allowing States to focus on larger landscape areas similar to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC) concept. As a result, work conducted with funds from these competitive grants will be increased. In FY 2016, the Service will continue to work with States to focus

on increasing the resilience of wildlife and their habitats to the impacts of a changing climate. This includes:

1. Increase the ability of State fish and wildlife agencies to anticipate and address climate-related impacts on SGCN. The increased STWG funds will be used for supporting projects such as one being implemented now in Idaho to develop a regional connectivity map and crucial habitat data layers for 14 SGCN, which will improve the State's ability to manage climate change related threats to habitats and increase the usability and accessibility of the SWAP;
2. Increase acreage of natural habitats and landscapes managed by State fish and wildlife agencies to support viable populations of species of concern on State lands. The increase would deliver habitat improvements on an estimated 75,000 acres for high-priority species such as Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), a Candidate species in the southeastern United States that is most appropriately addressed on a regional, multi-State scale;
3. Increase the State fish and wildlife agencies' ability to work collaboratively with the Service and the Department of the Interior in implementing the LCCs.

Tribal Wildlife Grants (+$1,916,000/+0 FTE)
For 2016, the tribal component of this grant program will be increased by $1,916,000, providing between 9-15 additional grants of up to $200,000 on a competitive basis for federally-recognized tribes in the United States. These tribes will use the STWG funds for planning, monitoring and conserving tribal SGCN and their habitat, including culturally-significant species. The Service also will continue to work with tribes to focus on climate resiliency.

Program Overview

As authorized by the *Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956*, the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants (STWG) Program provides Federal grant funds to States, the District of Columbia, Commonwealths, Territories (States), and Tribes, to develop and implement programs for the benefit of fish and wildlife and their habitats, including species that are not hunted or fished. The Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY 2002 (Public Law 107-63) provided funding for STWG and this funding continues in the annual appropriations legislation.

For the past 14 years, this grant program has provided State fish and wildlife agencies a stable Federal funding source. All funded activities must link with species, actions, or strategies included in each State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). These SWAPs collectively form a nationwide strategy to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered, and are unique from many prior conservation plans because of broad participation and an inclusive public planning process. By working with stakeholders and other members of the community, State fish and wildlife agencies translate pressing conservation needs into practical actions and on-the-ground results. The success of this program is evident in the 1.9 million acres of species habitat it has enhanced and the nearly 131,000 acres of habitat it has protected through land acquisition or conservation easements.

Results in STWG will be assessed through effectiveness measures designed in coordination with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and will be tracked using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's performance reporting database, Wildlife Tracking and Reporting Actions for the Conservation of Species (TRACS.) This database allows the Service and States to consider an evidence-based approach that supports adaptive management leading to improved effectiveness of future grants. TRACS allows managers to monitor and measure efforts to address climate threats to species, and other priority needs such as pollinator conservation.

In accordance with the *Endangered Species Act* of 1973, the STWG program is the primary source for States and Tribes to fund proactive actions to address the needs of declining species. Through preventative measures, such as habitat restoration and protection through land acquisition, STWG helps to avert vastly greater expenditures to communities and the Service, by preventing imperiled species from becoming listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Consistent with the *Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act*, as amended (16 U.S.C. 661), the STWG program accomplishes its goals by leveraging Federal funding through cost-sharing provisions with State fish and wildlife agencies, Tribes, and other partners. In doing so, it grants States the flexibility to identify, study, and conserve those species most in need. A core principle of the STWG program is the utilization of effective partnerships that demonstrate the spirit of cooperation and sharing of resources inherent in the *Coordination Act*.

Goals of the Program - The long-term goal of STWG is to stabilize, restore, enhance, and protect species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) and their habitats. Addressing these issues early avoids the costly and time-consuming process entered into when habitat is degraded or destroyed and species' populations plummet, requiring additional protection (and Federal expenditure) through the Endangered Species Act or other regulatory processes. The program accomplishes its protection goals by 1) focusing projects on State-identified SGCN and their habitats, and 2) leveraging Federal funding through cost-sharing provisions with State fish and wildlife agencies. Funds provided through STWG help to keep species off the Endangered Species list, and at the discretion of each State may also address conservation needs of currently listed species with insufficient population data and funding available for conservation and recovery.

State Wildlife Action Plan - Each State must have a SWAP, approved by the Service's Director, for the conservation of fish and wildlife. Each plan must consider the broad range of fish and wildlife and associated habitats, giving priority to SGCN, with an awareness of the relative level of funding available for the conservation of those species. The States reviewed and, if necessary, revised their SWAPs prior to October 1, 2015, and at a maximum interval of every ten years afterwards. States may choose to update their plan more frequently. Revisions to SWAPs must follow the guidance issued in the July 12, 2007 letter from the Service's Director and the President of AFWA.

Several States are using STWG funds to incorporate sophisticated, state-of-the-art climate science modeling into their SWAPs to better prepare for anticipated impacts of climate change on SGCN and their habitats. For example, in Fiscal Year 2014, the Service awarded $499,000 to fish and wildlife agencies in Vermont and New Hampshire to help mitigate fragmentation and climate change impacts on wildlife by enhancing habitat connectivity. Partners have proposed targeted land acquisitions that would provide long-term protection for connecting lands in Vermont and New Hampshire to benefit twelve SGCN. In FY 2016, the Service will continue to work with States to focus on climate resiliency.

Tribal Wildlife Grants - The Tribal Wildlife Grant (TWG) program provides funds to federally-recognized tribal governments to develop and implement programs for the benefit of wildlife and their habitats, including species of Native American cultural or traditional importance and species that are not hunted or fished. Although Tribes are exempt from the requirement to develop wildlife action plans, individual Tribes are eager to continue their conservation work using resources from this national tribal competitive program. The projects funded through TWGs serve to strengthen tribal nations throughout the United States by providing critical resources to help them protect valued cultural and economic assets upon which many Tribes depend.

Wildlife TRACS - Wildlife TRACS is the Service's tracking and reporting system for the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program. It replaced the Federal Aid Information Management System (FAIMS),

which was decommissioned in late 2012. Projects funded by STWG have been documented and displayed in Wildlife TRACS since early 2014. One of the significant new advancements in accomplishment reporting provided by Wildlife TRACS is a geospatial database that displays locations of conservation actions and other activities supported with STWG and other program funds. A Service and State team of biologists is now working to incorporate standardized results chains developed for the STWG program to assess the intermediate impacts and effectiveness of conservation actions on target species and their associated habitats. Wildlife TRACS also allows for better coordination of conservation efforts among States, their partners, and the Service, in developing a landscape-level understanding and united conservation approach. It will also provide the means to document and communicate outcomes. Intermediate impacts on SGCN will be collected and analyzed using Wildlife TRACS, creating an evidence-based, periodic summary report that describes program outcomes in terms of species population status and trends.

Activities that may be eligible for STWG:

- Conservation actions, such as research, surveys, species, and habitat management, acquisition of real property, facilities development, and monitoring.
- Coordination and administrative activities, such as data management systems development and maintenance, developing strategic and operational plans, and coordinating implementation meetings with partners. Partners are entities that participate in the planning or implementation of a State's plan. These entities include, but are not limited to, Federal, State, and local agencies, Tribes, nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, industry groups, and private individuals.
- Education and law enforcement activities under the following conditions:
    - The education activities are actions intended to increase the public's knowledge or understanding of wildlife or wildlife conservation through instruction or distribution of materials.
    - The law enforcement activities are efforts intended to compel the observance of laws or regulations.
    - The activities are critical to achieving the project's objectives.
    - The activities are no more than 10 percent of the respective project cost.
    - The activities specifically benefit SGCN or their habitats.
- Providing technical guidance to a specific agency, organization, or person that monitors or manages SGCN or their habitats. Technical guidance is expert advice provided to governmental agencies, landowners, land managers, and organizations responsible for implementing land planning and management.
- Addressing nuisance wildlife or damage caused by wildlife, but only if the objective is to contribute to the conservation of SGCN or their habitats, as indicated in a SWAP.
- Conducting environmental reviews, site evaluations, permit reviews, or similar functions intended to protect SGCN or their habitats.
- Responding to emerging issues.
- Planning activities.

Activities ineligible for funding under the STWG include:

- Compensation for natural resource losses caused by subprogram-funded activities, or that would be necessary to secure permits or approval of these activities.
- Mitigating wildlife habitat losses resulting from activities that are not approved.
- Initiating or enhancing wildlife-associated recreation, which includes outdoor leisure activities associated with wildlife, such as hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, and photography.
- Establishing, publishing, and disseminating State-issued regulations on the protection and use of wildlife. This includes, but is not restricted to, laws, orders, seasonal regulations, bag limits, creel

limits, and license fees. This does not prohibit the scientific collection of information or the evaluation of this information to support management recommendations.

- Projects in which more than 10% of the funding is for educating the public or conducting law enforcement activities.
- Public relations activities to promote organizations or agencies.
- Projects with the primary purpose of producing revenue. This includes all processes and procedures directly related to efforts imposed by law or regulation, such as the printing, distribution, issuance, or sale of licenses or permits. It also includes the acquisition of real or personal property for rental, lease, sale, or other commercial purposes.
- Wildlife damage management activities that are not critical to the conservation of SGCN or their habitats.

Types of State Wildlife Grant Program (SWG) Projects - All 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands participate in this program through their respective fish and wildlife agencies. Each State, Commonwealth, and Territory develops and selects projects for funding based on the agencies' assessment of problems and needs as documented in its SWAP.

In the Midwest and West, STWG funds are used by partnerships of multiple States to help conserve key iconic species such as Lesser Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*) which was listed as threatened by the Service in March 2014. Another key target species is Gunnison sage grouse (*Centrocercus minimus*), which was listed as threatened by the Service in November 2014. Nearly 40,000 acres of habitat have been managed and enhanced for these well-known bird species due to targeted STWG Program investments. Other States are focusing on wide-ranging focal species of concern such as bobwhite quail (*Colinus virginianus*) and Blanding's turtle (*Emys blandingii*). STWG funds help maintain sustainable populations of such species through targeted land acquisition, habitat management, and direct actions such as captive breeding and release.

The STWG program is supporting proactive conservation strategies that focus on Candidate species. For example, in Fiscal Year 2014, the Service delivered $500,000 to the Illinois and Michigan Departments of Natural Resources for conservation of the reclusive eastern massasauga rattlesnake (*Sistrurus catenantus*), a Candidate species that is imperiled throughout a growing portion of its range. Of great concern is an emerging threat from a pathogen that causes snake fungal disease, which has been confirmed in at least two eastern massasauga specimens. Partners in the project include Illinois Natural History Survey at the University of Illinois, and the Michigan Natural Features Inventory along with the Illinois and Michigan Departments of Natural Resources. This cooperative initiative focuses on better understanding the factors that affect detectability of this rare snake, allowing partners to conduct better monitoring and surveys that lay the groundwork for later population status assessment. Partners will also improve habitat for the species on at least 400 acres of public lands, and further advance a standardized disease detection protocol that builds upon the Service's initial efforts to characterize and understand this emerging wildlife disease.

States often use STWG to study and conserve species that are so highly imperiled that they are in imminent danger of extinction unless immediate conservation actions are undertaken. For example, Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources is using STWG funds to control rodents, remove weeds, and identify source populations of avian disease-bearing mosquitoes on Kaua'i Island. Conservation actions are proposed for the Na Pali-Kona Forest Reserve. The targeted endangered bird species—'Akikiki (*Oreomystis bairdi*) and 'Akek'ee (*Loxops caeruleirostris*)—have been estimated at only 350

'Akikiki - Photo credit Eric VanderWerf

and 750 individuals remaining. Partners hope that proposed conservation actions will increase survival and reproduction of these and other imperiled Kaua'i forest birds.

STWG funds supported a partnership effort in Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio and West Virginia aimed at augmenting rare and imperiled mussel populations through captive propagation and reintroduction. The partners will restore mussel populations across 180 miles of the Licking River in three States to within 90 percent of historic levels. The partners seek to restore viable populations of Federally-endangered fanshell mussel (*Cyprogenia stegaria*). States and their partners will also help prevent the extinction of the Federally-endangered purple cat's paw pearlymussel (*Epioblasma obliquata obliquata*), which is currently one of the rarest mussels in North America with less than 25 remaining individuals. Once restored, the Licking River mussels will serve as a source for translocation of species in need of repatriation elsewhere in their range.

Epioblasma obliquata obliquata (Purple Cat's Paw Pearlymussel)

STWG also supports States in developing a landscape-scale understanding of fish and wildlife needs through their SWAPs, and by incentivizing inter-State cooperation that includes joint planning, landscape-level conservation design, and implementing projects to improve species populations range-wide. The Service and its grantees recognize that the collective habitat requirements of many SGCN overlap multiple State borders and are subject to similar patterns of loss and degradation on the regional landscape. Approaches to conservation of such species typically use STWG funds to assess species' status and establish biological objectives for their conservation and recovery on a range-wide basis.

The Northeast Regional Conservation Needs Grant Program funded a grant to develop a regional landscape-level conservation strategy for the northern diamondback terrapin. The proposal is expected to be completed in early FY 2016.

For example, 13 States and the District of Columbia are working together to address landscape-level conservation challenges by pooling four percent of their apportioned STWG funds to support the Northeast Regional Conservation Needs Grant Program. The program helps identify the Region's top-priority species conservation challenges, as well as setting specific, measurable biological objectives for those species' recovery. Funds are managed by a partnering non-profit organization on behalf of northeastern States to develop and implement multi-partner conservation initiatives that focus on the conservation, management, and protection of SGCN and their habitats which are best addressed on a landscape or regional level, such as the northern diamondback terrapin.

Funding Planning and Implementation Grants – Since 2007, the Service has implemented new STWG guidance that has narrowed the scope of work that may be conducted under planning grants. The guidance restricted the content of State planning grants to: 1) conducting internal evaluation of SWAPs; and 2) obtaining input from partners and the public on how to improve those plans. Because of the restrictions on the content of work that can be carried out under planning grants, the Service has supported States as they shift more of their STWG financial resources away from planning activities and toward conducting "implementation" work for more on-the-ground activities.

After deducting administrative costs for the Service's Headquarters and Regional Offices, the Service distributes STWG funds to States in the following manner:

A. The District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico each receive a sum equal to not more than one-half of 1 percent. The Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U. S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands each receive a sum equal to not more than one-fourth of 1 percent.

B. The Service divides the remaining amount among the 50 States by a formula where one-third of the amount for each State is based on the ratio of the State land area to the total land area of the 50 States, with the other two-thirds based on the ratio of the State population to the total population of the 50 States. However, each of the 50 States must receive no less than 1 percent of the total amount available and no more than 5 percent.

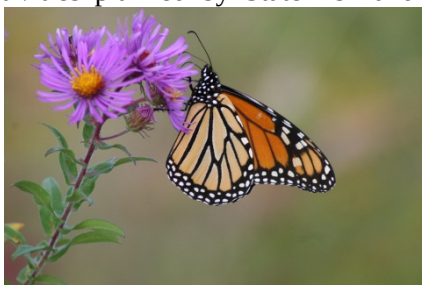
The Federal share of planning grants must not exceed 75 percent of the total cost, and the Federal share of implementation grants must not exceed 65 percent of the total cost. These percentages are subject to change in the annual Appropriations Act that both reauthorizes and funds the STWG Program. The Service waives the 25 percent non-Federal matching requirement of the total grant cost for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Territories of Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, and American Samoa up to $200,000 (48 U.S.C. 1469a (d)). The non-Federal share may not include any Federal funds or Federal in-kind contributions unless legislation specifically allows it. Tribal Wildlife Grants are competitive and tribes are not required to provide a share of project costs; however, many do, some even quite substantially.

Obligation Requirements – States must obligate STWG funds to a project by September 30 of the second Federal fiscal year after their apportionment, or the remaining unobligated dollars revert to the Service. Reverted STWG funds lose their original fiscal year and State identity, and all States will receive them as an addition to the next year's national apportionment. If a State obligates STWG funds to an approved grant but does not expend the funds in the grant period, the Service will deobligate the unexpended balance. Funds that are deobligated during the two-year period of availability will be reobligated to an existing or new grant to the same State.

2016 Program Performance

With the FY 2016 budget of $70 million, the Service expects grantees to continue and expand their efforts to stabilize, restore, enhance, and protect SGCN, as well as their habitats. In addition, the Service will continue working with these partners to more consistently and comprehensively report accomplishments. By 2016, WSFR will track all STWG project spending using Wildlife TRACS, which captures geospatial data for all conservation actions, as well as program accomplishments and outcomes. The system will be useful in tracking and reporting priority conservation actions, such as addressing climate change threats to species or identifying projects that address pollinator conservation.

Since its inception, the STWG program has provided a crucial funding source enabling State and tribal fish and wildlife agencies to protect, restore, and enhance the 14,769 species that are identified by States as having the greatest need of conservation. Some examples of activities planned by State fish and wildlife agencies in FY 2015 include:



monarch butterfly (Danaus plexippus)

- The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will add the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) to its SWAP, citing habitat loss and fragmentation at both its Midwestern and Mexican overwintering sites. Experts estimate that decreases in the presence of milkweed species have led to an 81% decline in monarch production from 1999 to 2010 in Minnesota. Adding the monarch butterfly to Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan

means that future funding from STWG can be dedicated to restoring the species through habitat improvements including planting and maintaining milkweed habitat.

- In 2013, the Service responded to a petition to list the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) as endangered throughout its range. In its response, the Service noted that, while listing is warranted due to the danger of extinction, the identification of critical habitat cannot be determined due to limited available information about the distribution and abundance of the species. A project funded by STWG in Nebraska and Wyoming seeks to provide information that will be of use to the States, the Service, and other conservation partners in future decision-making to conserve the northern long-eared bat.
- STWG funds are regularly used to help State fish and wildlife agencies develop scientifically informed decision-support tools for prioritizing species conservation efforts, so that high-risk species listed in their SWAPs can be targeted for conservation with limited available funds. For example, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources is using occurrence records from the agency's and Iowa State University's Multiple Species Inventory and Monitoring Program to identify the most appropriate geographic locations to implement Iowa's Wildlife Action Plan. As a first step, the partners will use mathematical models to create predictive occurrence maps similar to those developed through the USGS' national Gap Analysis Program. These maps will lead to more efficient use of limited STWG funds by focusing State land management activities and acquisition on the highest priority areas.

Standard Form 300

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
STATE AND TRIBAL WILDLIFE GRANTS

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) **Identification Code 010-18-14-5474**	**2014 Actual**	**2015 Estimate**	**2016 Estimate**
Obligations by program activity:			
0001 State wildlife grants	46	45	51
0002 State competitive grants	7	7	8
0003 Administration	3	3	3
0004 Tribal wildlife grants	4	4	5
0900 Total new obligations	60	59	67
Budgetary Resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	37	42	46
1021 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	6	4	4
1050 Unobligated balance (total)	43	46	50
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, discretionary:			
1100 Appropriation	59	59	70
1160 Appropriation, discretionary (total)	59	59	70
1930 Total budgetary resources available	102	105	120
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	42	46	53
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	144	132	116
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	60	59	67
3020 Outlays (gross)	-66	-71	-77
3040 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations, unexpired	-6	-4	-4
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	132	116	102
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	144	132	116
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	132	116	102

Standard Form 300

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
STATE AND TRIBAL WILDLIFE GRANTS

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) **Identification Code 010-18-14-5474**		**2014 Actual**	**2015 Estimate**	**2016 Estimate**
Budget authority and outlays, net:				
Discretionary:				
4000	Budget authority, gross	59	59	70
Outlays, gross:				
4010	Outlays from new discretionary authority	12	13	16
4011	Outlays from discretionary balances	54	58	61
4020	Outlays, gross (total)	66	71	77
4070	Budget authority, net (discretionary)	59	59	70
4080	Outlays, net (discretionary)	66	71	77
4180	Budget authority, net (total)	59	59	70
4190	Outlays, net (total)	66	71	77
Object Classification (O)				
Direct obligations:				
11.1	Full-time permanent	1	1	1
12.1	Civilian personnel benefits	0	1	1
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	57	57	65
99.0	Subtotal, obligations, Direct obligations	58	59	67
99.5	Below reporting threshold	2	0	0
99.9	Total new obligations	60	59	67
Employment Summary (Q)				
1001	Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	14	14	17

Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration

Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration

Appropriation Language

The Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration account does not require appropriations language because there is permanent authority, established August 31, 1951, (65 Stat. 262), to use the receipts deposited into the Trust Fund in the fiscal year following their collection.

Authorizing Statutes

The Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act of 1950, now referred to as the *Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act* (16 U.S.C. 777 et seq.), as amended by the Deficit Reduction and Control Act of 1984 (P.L. 98-369), the *Surface Transportation and Uniform Relocation Act of 1987* (P.L. 100-17), the *Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1987* (P.L. 100-448), the *Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century* (P.L. 105-178), the *Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000* (P.L. 106-408), the *Surface Transportation Act of 2003* (P.L. 108-88), SAFETEA-LU, and the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014**,** which expires May 31, 2015, authorizes assistance to the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands to carry out projects to restore, enhance, and manage sport fishery resources. In addition to sport fishery projects, these acts allow for the development and maintenance of boating access facilities and aquatic education programs.

The Appropriations Act of August 31, 1951, (P.L. 82-136, 65 Stat. 262), authorizes receipts from excise taxes on fishing equipment to be deposited into the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, established as a permanent, indefinite appropriation. Receipts and interest distributed to the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund are available for use and distribution by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to States in the fiscal year following collection.

The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act of 1990, (16 U.S.C. 3951 et. seq.), provides for three Federal grant programs for the acquisition, restoration, management, and enhancement of coastal wetlands in coastal States. A coastal State means a State of the United States, bordering on the Atlantic, Pacific, or Arctic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, Long Island Sound, or one or more of the Great Lakes, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands, the territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands. The Service administers two of the three grant programs for which this Act provides funding, including the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program and the North American Wetlands Conservation Grant Program. The latter program receives funds from other sources, as well as from the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration program. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers administers the third grant program that receives funding because of this Act. It also requires the Service to update and digitize wetlands maps in Texas and assess the status, condition, and trends of wetlands in Texas, and provides permanent authorization for coastal wetlands conservation grants and North American Wetlands Conservation projects. The Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014 authorizes funding for the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act of 1990 through May 31, 2015.

The Clean Vessel Act of 1992, (16 U.S.C. 777c), Section 5604, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide grants to the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands for the construction, renovation, operation, and maintenance of sewage pumpout stations and dump stations, as well as for educational programs designed to inform boaters about the importance of proper disposal of their onboard sewage. Section 5604 also amended the *Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish*

Restoration Act to provide for the transfer of funds out of the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund for use by the Secretary of Homeland Security (U.S. Coast Guard) to fund State recreational boating safety programs. The Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014 authorizes funding for the Clean Vessel Act of 1992 through May 31, 2015.

The Sportfishing and Boating Safety Act of 1998, (16 U.S.C. 777c-777g), authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to develop national outreach plans to promote safe fishing and boating, and to promote conservation of aquatic resources through grants and contracts with States and private entities. The Act contains provisions for transferring funds to the U.S. Coast Guard for State recreational boating safety programs. In addition, it authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide funds to the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands to construct, renovate, and maintain tie-up facilities with features for transient boaters in vessels 26 feet or more in length, and to produce and distribute information and educational materials under the Boating Infrastructure Grant program. The Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014 authorizes funding for boating infrastructure through May 31, 2015.

The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000, (P.L. 106-408) amends the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act. It authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide funding under the Multistate Conservation Grant program for wildlife and sport fish restoration projects identified as priority projects by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. These high priority projects address problems affecting States on a regional or national basis. It also provides $200,000 each to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, and the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission; and $400,000 to the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council. The Act provides 12 allowable cost categories for administration of the Act, as well.

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users of August 10, 2005 (P.L. 109-59) made several changes to the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act. SAFETEA-LU changed the distribution of Sport Fish Restoration receipts from amounts primarily specified in law to a percentage-based distribution. The Act extended program authorizations for Clean Vessel Act grants, Boating Infrastructure grants, and the National Outreach and Communications program through FY 2009, and it extended the authority to use Sport Fish Restoration receipts for the U.S. Coast Guard's State Recreational Boating Safety Program through FY 2009. The Act authorized the expenditure of remaining balances in the old Boat Safety Account through FY 2010, for Sport Fish Restoration and State recreational boating safety programs and redirected 4.8 cents per gallon of certain fuels from the general account of the Treasury to the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund.

The Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-159, August 8, 2014) amends Section 4 of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 777c) to extend program authorizations for Coastal Wetlands, Clean Vessel Act, and Boating Infrastructure grants; and the National Outreach and Communications program through May 31, 2015.

Appropriation: Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration

		2014 Actual	2015 Estimate	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2015 (+/-)
Payments to States	($000)	326,207	346,096	0	0	+10,843	356,939	+10,843
Administration	($000)	10,393	10,775	0	0	+939	11,714	+939
Clean Vessel	($000)	11,446	12,144	0	0	+380	12,524	+380
National Outreach	($000)	11,446	12,144	0	0	+380	12,524	+380
Boating Infrastructure Grant Program	($000)	11,446	12,144	0	0	+380	12,524	+380
Multistate Conservation Grant Program	($000)	2,937	2,997	0	0	+222	3,219	+222
Coastal Wetlands	($000)	15,881	16,849	0	0	+528	17,377	+528
Fishery Commissions	($000)	783	799	0	0	+59	858	+59
Sport Fishing & Boating Partnership Council	($000)	391	400	0	0	+29	429	+29
Subtotal	**($000)**	**390,930**	**414,348**	**0**	**0**	**+13,760**	**428,108**	**+13,760**
	FTE	***56***	***53***			***0***	***53***	***0***
North American Wetlands**	($000)	15,881	16,849	0	0	+528	17,377	+528
	FTE	*5*	*5*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*5*	*0*
TOTAL, Sport Fish	($000)	**406,811**	**431,197**	**0**	**0**	**+14,288**	**445,485**	**+14,288**
	FTE	***61***	***58***			***0***	***58***	***0***

*The amounts presented in 2014 and 2015 include the sequestration in accordance with Sec. 251A of the BBDECA, 2 U.S.C 901a. In addition, the amounts in 2014, 2015 and 2016 include amounts previously sequestered which are now available in accordance with said Act.

** Estimate for FY 16 assumes statutory authority to transfer funds to NAWCF is reauthorized.

Justification of 2016 Program Changes

The 2016 budget estimate for the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act programs is $445,485,000 and 58 FTE. The estimate is based on current law projections provided by the Department of the Treasury's Office of Tax Analysis.

Program Overview

The Sport Fish Restoration program has provided a stable Federal funding source for State fish and wildlife agencies for over 64 years. This funding stability is critical to the recovery of many of the nation's sport fish species. The Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act programs have expanded over time through a series of Congressional actions and now encompass several grant programs that address increased conservation and recreation needs of States, the District of Columbia, commonwealth, and territorial governments. The various programs enhance the country's sport fish resources in both fresh and salt waters. They also provide funding for projects that improve and manage aquatic habitats, protect and conserve coastal wetlands, and provide important infrastructure for recreational boaters. Specifically, Congress has authorized the Service to use funding from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund to administer these six grant programs: Sport Fish Restoration, Multistate Conservation, Clean Vessel, Boating Infrastructure, Coastal Wetlands (including North American Wetlands), and National Outreach and Communications. The Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-159) authorizes the last four grant programs until May 31, 2015.

Sport Fish Restoration funds support sport fish restoration and non-motorized boating access. Credit: USFWS

The Sport Fish Restoration grant program is the cornerstone of fisheries recreation and conservation efforts in the United States. All 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands (State(s)) can participate in this grant program through their respective fish and wildlife agencies. The program also increases boating opportunities and aquatic stewardship throughout the country. The Sport Fish Restoration program is widely recognized as one of the most successful conservation programs in the world. Since its inception in 1950, this program has awarded more than $7.98 billion to State fish and wildlife agencies for their fisheries conservation and boating access efforts. The stable funding provided by this program allows States to develop comprehensive fisheries conservation programs and provide public boating access. The Sport Fish Restoration grant program is a formula-based apportionment program. The formula is based on 60 percent of its licensed anglers and 40 percent of its land and water area. No State may receive more than 5 percent or less than 1 percent of each year's total apportionment. Puerto Rico receives 1 percent, and the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, and the District of Columbia each receive one-third of 1 percent. Table 1 provides the estimated FY 2015 and FY 2016 Sport Fish Restoration apportionment to States.

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and the Service work cooperatively to manage the Multistate Conservation Grant Program. The Service ultimately awards and manages grants; however, the AFWA administers the grant application process, providing oversight, coordination, and guidance for the program as established by the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-408). These high priority projects address problems affecting States on a regional or national basis. Project types include biological research/training, species population status, outreach, data collection regarding angler participation, aquatic education, economic value of fishing, and regional or multistate habitat needs assessments. Beginning in FY 2015, the AFWA will be awarded a grant to improve the conservation of fish and wildlife populations and habitats during energy exploration, development, and transmission through enhanced industry and state fish and game agency coordination. One of the objectives of the grant is to advance the state fish and wildlife agencies' leadership roles and responsibilities, particularly with respect to coordination with federal agencies as it relates to minimizing the impacts of energy development on fish and wildlife resources and their habitats.

Washington State Pumpout Boat
Credit: Washington State Parks

The Clean Vessel Act (CVA) grant program is a nationally competitive program for the construction, renovation, operation, and maintenance of sewage pumpout stations and dump stations, as well as for educational programs designed to inform boaters about the importance of proper disposal of their onboard sewage. For example, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (WSPRC) is using their FY 2014 award to install new pumpout facilities,

and to maintain and replace aging units throughout the State, including the addition of telemetry equipment. This work will continue over the next few years. The State will focus on the San Juan Islands, which is identified as an area of heavy boating use with limited pumpout service. Washington also updated their statewide Boating Sewage Disposal Facility plan, and they will use a new GIS tool allowing targeting of areas of highest need throughout the State for new pumpout services. WSPRC will continue to implement a strong educational program, informing the public about the detrimental impacts to the environment of improper sewage disposal throughout the State. They will also create a smartphone app that will allow boaters additional access to pumpout locations and services Statewide. The Clean Vessel Act grant program directly addresses the Secretary of the Interior's priority of assuring sustainable, secure water supplies. Table 2 provides the FY 2014 Clean Vessel grant program awards.

Credit: Christy Vigfusson, USFWS

The Boating Infrastructure Grant program is a nationally competitive program that provides funding to construct, renovate, and maintain tie-up facilities with features for transient boaters in vessels 26 feet or longer. The program also produces and distributes information and educational materials. In FY 2014, the District of Columbia's Division of Planning and Economic Development was awarded $1,167,586, which they will match with $1,167,586, to continue development of the District's southeastern waterfront as part of a larger plan for urban renewal along a historic section of the Anacostia River. This project will establish a new secure and ADA compliant docking facility for 26 eligible vessels and a new access waypoint to numerous attractions within the District of Columbia, including the Nationals baseball stadium, the U.S. Naval Museum, and numerous monuments and other historic attractions managed by the National Park Service. Tables 3 and 4 provide the FY 2014 Boating Infrastructure Grant awards.

The National Coastal Wetlands Conservation grant program provides grants to States to restore and protect coastal wetlands ecosystems nationwide. Partnerships are an essential part of this program and allow the Service to work closely with a diversity of agencies and organizations concerned about natural resources, leveraging program funds for broad conservation benefits. For example, in the Lillian Swamp Wetlands project, the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) was awarded $464,750 to acquire the 675-acre Lillian Swamp Wetlands tract as an addition to the Lillian Swamp Wetlands Complex. The wetlands complex lies within the Perdido River Coastal Area at the mouth of the Perdido River and borders Perdido Bay. Acquisition of this tract supports the goals of multiple federal, State, and other agencies to protect sensitive species and their habitats. The ADCNR recommended this area as a Geographical Area of Particular Concern (GAPC) and the wetland complex was designated as a Gulf Ecological Management Site (GEMS), indicating it is important to the environmental quality of the Gulf of Mexico. Perdido Bay was also identified as a conservation priority in Alabama's Wildlife Conservation Strategy and by the Northern Gulf Coast Wetlands Planning Program. Table 5 provides the FY 2014 Coastal Wetlands Conservation grant awards.

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant program is an internationally recognized conservation program that provides grants throughout North America for the conservation of waterfowl and other wetland-associated migratory birds. The North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant program receives funds from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund to support projects in coastal areas of the United States. These funds help sustain the abundance of waterfowl and other

migratory bird populations throughout the Western Hemisphere. In South Carolina, these funds are supporting the continuation of a 20-year partnership designed to recover historically important habitats along the coast for the benefit of breeding, wintering, and migrating waterfowl, shorebirds, and other wildlife species. The most recent phase will protect and enhance forested palustrine wetlands, tidal freshwater marsh, salt marsh and associated uplands in the Lowcountry of South Carolina. The funds will help enhance or acquire strategic parcels totaling 2,254 acres for the USFWS Lowcountry Refuge Complex that will advance adaptation and resilience in the face of climate change. Table 6 provides the FY 2014 North American Wetlands Conservation grant awards.

The National Outreach program improves communications with anglers, boaters, and the public regarding angling and boating opportunities which reduces barriers to participation in these activities, advances adoption of sound fishing and boating practices, promotes conservation and the responsible use of the Nation's aquatic resources, and furthers safety in fishing and boating. The Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, a nonprofit 501(c)(3), administers this nationally-competitive grant program.

2016 Program Performance

The Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act programs provide essential grant funds to address many of the nation's most pressing conservation and recreation needs. The grant programs focus primarily on aquatic-based issues and contribute directly, or indirectly, to several of the Department of the Interior's mission goals. In FY 2016, the States will continue to conduct conservation projects, similar to those below, with funds provided from the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act:

Aquatic Education Programs engage children in urban areas – Washington, DC. Credit: USFWS

- Research and survey of sport fish populations;
- Fish stocking in suitable habitats to help stabilize species populations and provide angling opportunities;
- Improve public access and facilities for the use and enjoyment of anglers and boaters;
- Operate and maintain fishing and boating access sites, fish hatcheries and other associated opportunities;
- Develop and improve aquatic education programs and facilities;
- Support partnerships, watershed planning, and leveraging of ongoing projects in coastal wetlands; and
- Construct, renovate, operate, and maintain pump-out stations and dump stations to dispose of sewage from recreational boats.

All grant programs funded by the Sport Fish Restoration program leverage the Federal funds by requiring a minimum of a 25 percent cost share, with the exception of the Multistate Conservation Grant, which does not require a cost share. While the Sport Fish Restoration grant program began over 64 years ago, its core value is a cooperative partnership of Federal and State agencies, anglers, boaters, and industry that provides significant benefits to the public and our nation's natural resources. Moreover, the program is central to the Service's mission of "working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for continuing benefit of the American people."

Some examples of activities planned by State fish and wildlife agencies in FY 2016 include:

The **Minnesota** Department of Natural Resources will use Sport Fish Restoration Program funds for its Statewide fisheries research grant. The State's major research areas over the next 10 years include evaluating and fine tuning existing fishing regulations; the effects of these changes on the community; stocking effects on other species; new holistic approaches to fish management; new habitat improvement techniques; forecasts of impacts to sport fisheries due to future climate change; population assessment tools; Lake Superior salmonid assessments; and the long term monitoring on the effects of fish rearing and biomanipulation of wetlands.

Four Southeastern States, **Alabama, Georgia, Missouri, and North Carolina**, will work together on "The Southeastern Cooperative Fish Disease Project." Many fish diseases are still poorly understood and improved methods are needed to detect, identify and treat fish pathogens. The benefits of this study will be reduced loss of fish to diseases, both in the wild and in State hatcheries.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) will use Sport Fish Restoration Program funds for their Statewide hatchery production activities. CPW operates 19 fish hatcheries strategically located across the State. Fifteen of the hatcheries focus on cold-water fish species, such as trout and salmon. Three hatcheries rear warm-water fish and one unit is designed to raise both cold- and warm-water species. In addition, CPW operates a native species production facility along with a research hatchery to enhance management of native and non-native fish species. The majority of public fisheries in Colorado would not sustain recreational angling opportunities without stocked fish.

The **Alaska** Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) will fund an Arctic grayling research project to examine how this recreational species migrates in the upper reaches of the Goodpaster River. Within the upper reaches of this river system, an intact population of Arctic grayling has long existed virtually undisturbed. During the 1990s, successful gold exploration occurred in the area. The ADF&G obtained springtime spawning population data in the lower river and summer population data adjacent to the constructed Pogo mine at the time. What has been lacking is data regarding Arctic grayling migrations within the river system. The ADF&G will conduct the much needed research regarding the migrations and seasonal locations of Arctic grayling that disperse into the upper Goodpaster River during summer or those that may reside upriver year round.

Sport Fish - Performance Change and Overview Table

Performance Measure	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Target	2016 PB	Change from 2015 Target to 2016 PB
15.8.13 - # of resident and nonresident fishing license holders	28,396,914	29,323,585	28,000,000	27,947,923	27,650,000	27,650,000	0

Table 1

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE ESTIMATED APPORTIONMENT OF DINGELL-JOHNSON SPORT FISH RESTORATION FUNDS		
STATE	**FY 2015**	**FY 2016**
ALABAMA	$5,599,391	$5,760,964
ALASKA	16,113,059	16,578,010
AMERICAN SAMOA	1,074,203	1,105,200
ARIZONA	6,342,069	6,525,072
ARKANSAS	5,961,890	6,133,923
CALIFORNIA	16,113,059	16,578,010
COLORADO	7,733,219	7,956,365
CONNECTICUT	3,222,612	3,315,603
DELAWARE	3,222,612	3,315,603
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	1,074,203	1,105,200
FLORIDA	10,633,881	10,940,726
GEORGIA	5,941,061	6,112,493
GUAM	1,074,203	1,105,200
HAWAII	3,222,612	3,315,603
IDAHO	5,673,940	5,837,664
ILLINOIS	6,328,500	6,511,111
INDIANA	4,108,733	4,227,292
IOWA	4,247,975	4,370,552
KANSAS	4,485,254	4,614,678
KENTUCKY	4,912,628	5,054,384
LOUISIANA	6,227,862	6,407,570
MAINE	3,222,612	3,315,603
MARYLAND	3,222,612	3,315,603
MASSACHUSETTS	3,222,612	3,315,603
MICHIGAN	10,265,907	10,562,135
MINNESOTA	12,086,289	12,435,046
MISSISSIPPI	3,806,328	3,916,162
MISSOURI	7,415,828	7,629,815
MONTANA	7,673,892	7,895,326
N. MARIANA ISLANDS	1,074,203	1,105,200
NEBRASKA	4,115,201	4,233,947
NEVADA	4,674,644	4,809,533
NEW HAMPSHIRE	3,222,612	3,315,603
NEW JERSEY	3,222,612	3,315,603
NEW MEXICO	5,593,613	5,755,019
NEW YORK	7,518,925	7,735,887
NORTH CAROLINA	9,105,564	9,368,310
NORTH DAKOTA	3,804,075	3,913,843
OHIO	6,445,947	6,631,948
OKLAHOMA	6,575,788	6,765,536
OREGON	7,232,780	7,441,485
PENNSYLVANIA	7,876,121	8,103,390
PUERTO RICO	3,222,611	3,315,602
RHODE ISLAND	3,222,612	3,315,603
SOUTH CAROLINA	4,560,819	4,692,424
SOUTH DAKOTA	4,103,926	4,222,346
TENNESSEE	5,999,084	6,172,191
TEXAS	16,113,059	16,578,010
UTAH	5,871,347	6,040,767
VERMONT	3,222,612	3,315,603
VIRGIN ISLANDS	1,074,203	1,105,200
VIRGINIA	4,789,138	4,927,331
WASHINGTON	6,480,460	6,667,457
WEST VIRGINIA	3,222,612	3,315,603
WISCONSIN	10,815,671	11,127,763
WYOMING	4,871,904	5,012,485
TOTAL	**$322,261,189**	**$331,560,205**

Table 2

FY 2014 Clean Vessel Act Grant Program Awards

State	Coastal / Inland	Federal Share
Alabama	Coastal	$205,151
Alabama	Inland	$82,801
Arizona	Inland	$160,000
Arkansas	Inland	$1,391,792
California	Coastal	$915,000
California	Inland	$1,462,000
Connecticut	Coastal	$1,500,000
Connecticut	Inland	$145,643
Florida	Coastal	$1,410,561
Florida	Inland	$770,126
Georgia	Inland	$113,886
Illinois	Inland	$100,000
Indiana	Coastal	$104,518
Indiana	Inland	$257,518
Kentucky	Inland	$161,250
Massachusetts	Coastal	$1,049,875
Michigan	Coastal	$200,000
Missouri	Inland	$50,000
New Hampshire	Coastal	$78,596
New Hampshire	Inland	$38,347
New Jersey	Coastal	$258,750
New York	Coastal	$917,375
New York	Inland	$1,153,875
Oklahoma	Inland	$304,904
South Carolina	Coastal	$757,264
South Carolina	Inland	$382,500
Texas	Coastal	$225,000
Texas	Inland	$240,000
Virginia	Coastal	$557,991
Virginia	Inland	$94,500
Washington	Coastal	$1,500,000
	Total	**$16,589,223**

Table 3

FY 2014 Boating Infrastructure Grant Program – Tier 1 Awards

State	Federal Share
Arkansas	$100,000
Guam	$86,181
Hawaii	$100,000
Indiana	$100,000
Iowa	$50,680
Kentucky	$100,000
Louisiana	$100,000
Maine	$100,000
Maryland	$100,000
Massachusetts	$100,000
Michigan	$100,000
Mississippi	$100,000
New Jersey	$39,768
New York	$100,000
North Carolina	$100,000
Ohio	$75,000
Oklahoma	$100,000
Oregon	$100,000
Rhode Island	$99,998
South Carolina	$69,566
Tennessee	$100,000
Texas	$100,000
Vermont	$100,000
Virginia	$100,000
Washington	$64,113
West Virginia	$100,000
Wisconsin	$100,000
Total	**$2,485,306**

Table 4

FY 2014 Boating Infrastructure Grant Program – Tier 2 Awards

State	Project Title	Federal Share
District of Columbia	Anacostia River Boating Facility	$1,167,586
Florida	Harborage Marina Transient Slips	$919,851
Florida	Marathon Marina Rehabilitation	$1,500,000
Georgia	City Lights Marina Transient Dock	$1,500,000
Maine	Kittery Point Boatyard Rehab and Expansion	$165,504
Michigan	Harbor Shores Transient Marina	$699,500
Michigan	East Tawas State Harbor Dock Renovation	$1,300,000
Michigan	Bishop Park Floating Pier	$1,170,500
New Jersey	Sandy Hook Bay Marina Dock Restoration	$692,890
New Jersey	Key Harbor Marina Transient Dock Restoration	$271,565
Ohio	Smale Riverfront Park Transient Marina	$1,500,000
South Carolina	Beaufort Marina Transient Dock Upgrades	$189,287
South Carolina	St. Johns Harbor Marina Transient Dock	$983,320
Texas	Municipal Marina Transient Dock	$502,496
Virginia	Crown Pointe Marina Dock Rehabilitation	$212,555
Vermont	Perkins Pier Marina Enhancement	$1,499,706
	Total	**$14,274,760**

Table 5

FY 2014 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program Awards

State	Project Title	Federal Share
Alaska	Northern Afognak Island Coastal Conservation Project, Perenosa Bay - Phase 1	$1,000,000
Alabama	Lillian Swamp Wetlands	$464,750
California	Bair Island Restoration Project	$554,485
California	Los Osos Creek Wetland Conservation Project - Phase 1	$510,222
California	San Francisco Bay Coastal Wetlands Vegetation and High Tide Refuge Islands Project	$1,000,000
California	White Slough Restoration Project	$1,000,000
Georgia	Altama Plantation Acquisition - Phase 1	$1,000,000
Georgia	Ebenezer Crossing Tract Acquisition Project	$400,000
Hawaii	Ahihi-kina'u Coastal Wetlands Ecosystem Restoration	$344,400
Massachusetts	Muddy Creek Restoration Bridge	$1,000,000
Maryland	Popes Creek Coastal Wetland Conservation	$1,000,000
Maryland	Port Tobacco Wetlands Coastal Wetland Conservation	$630,000
Maine	Middle Bay Wetlands Partnership Project	$1,000,000
North Carolina	Wooten Tract Acquisition	$1,000,000
Oregon	South Slough Shorelands Project	$1,000,000
Oregon	Waite Ranch Tidal Wetlands Restoration Project	$592,735
Puerto Rico	Dos Mares Acquisition Project - Phase 2	$1,000,000
Virginia	Mount Airy Rappahannock River Coastal Wetland Conservation	$770,000
Washington	Elliot Slough Acquisition Project	$310,000
Washington	Lower Naselle – Ellsworth Creel Acquisition	$921,767
Washington	Skokomish Estuary Restoration - Phase 2	$1,000,000
	Total	**$16,498,359**

Table 6

FY 2014 North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grant Awards

State	Project	Amount
CA	California Delta and Yolo Basin Habitat Project, Phase II	$1,000,000
CA	Humboldt Bay Spartina Eradication	$75,000
CA	Little River Estuary Protection	$40,000
CA	Sears Point Tidal Restoration	$1,000,000
CA	SF Bay Cordgrass Enhancement	$1,000,000
CA	Suisun Marsh Enhancement	$65,000
CA	Suisun Wetlands Conservation I	$1,000,000
CT	Connecticut Coastal Initiative	$985,857
DE	Delaware's Declining Wetland Habitats	$1,000,000
HI	Upper Laupahoehoe Nui Watershed Reserve	$75,000
MA	Brandt Island Cove	$75,000
MA	Upper Great Marsh Tidal Restoration Project Phase III	$75,000
MD	Pocomoke River Partnership III	$1,000,000
ME	Cobscook Bay - Bold Coast Project Area Phase III	$947,500
ME	Heads of Estuaries Phase III	$1,000,000
ME	Kennebec River Estuary: Phase V	$934,000
ME	Maine Coastal Refuges Project	$1,000,000
ME	Old Pond/Youngs Bay Watershed Conservation Area Pettengill Preserve Extension I	$75,000
MI	Arcadia Marsh Expansion Project	$69,791
MI	Michigan Upper Peninsula Coastal Wetland Project III	$1,000,000
MI,WI	Door to Garden Peninsula Coastal	$1,000,000
NC	Southeastern North Carolina Wetlands Initiative IV	$1,000,000
NH	Limperis Lamprey River Project	$75,000
NJ	Southeast New Jersey Coastal Initiative	$1,000,000
NY	Iroquois Seneca Pool Restoration	$62,407
OH	Burton Swamp Project	$75,000
SC	SC Coastal Refuges Partnership	$1,000,000
SC	South Carolina Lowcountry Wetlands Initiative IV	$1,000,000
SC	South Carolina Lowcountry Wetlands Initiative V	$1,000,000
SC	South Carolina Wetlands Landscape Initiative II	$1,000,000
TX	Bolivar Flats Acquisition	$75,000
TX	GCJV Mottled Duck Conservation Plan - Phase 7	$15,000
TX	Gordy Marsh Land Acquisition Project	$565,000
WA	Barney Lake Expansion	$57,000
WA	Central Puget Lowlands Project	$1,000,000
WA	Grass Island Acquisition	$47,000
	Administration (4% of $21,388,555)	[855,542]
	Total	**$21,388,555**

Standard Form 300

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
SPORTFISH RESTORATION

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) **Identification Code 010-18-14-8151**		**2014 Actual**	**2015 Estimate**	**2016 Estimate**
Obligations by program activity:				
0001	Payments to States for sport fish restoration	375	378	395
0003	North American wetlands conservation grants	20	17	16
0004	Coastal wetlands conservation grants	14	17	16
0005	Clean Vessel Act- pumpout stations grants	17	12	12
0006	Administration	11	11	11
0007	National communication & outreach	11	12	12
0008	Non-trailerable recreational vessel access	14	12	12
0009	Multi-State conservation grants	2	3	3
0010	Marine Fisheries Commissions & Boating Council	1	1	1
0900	Total new obligations	465	463	478
Budgetary Resources:				
Unobligated balance:				
1000	Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	214	200	198
1021	Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	44	30	30
1050	Unobligated balance (total)	258	230	228
Budget authority:				
Appropriations, mandatory:				
1201	Appropriation (special or trust fund)	583	625	597
1203	Appropriation (previously unavailable)	24	30	32
1220	Appropriations transferred to other accts [096-8333]	-70	-79	-75
1220	Appropriations transferred to other accts [070-8149]	-100	-113	-108
1232	Appropriations and/or unobligated balance of appropriations temporarily reduced	-30	-32	0
1260	Appropriations, mandatory (total)	407	431	446
1900	Budget authority (total)	407	431	446
1930	Total budgetary resources available	665	661	674
Memorandum (non-add) entries:				
1941	Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	200	198	196
Change in obligated balance:				
Unpaid obligations:				
3000	Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	516	504	472
3010	Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	465	463	478
3020	Outlays (gross)	-433	-465	-475
3040	Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations, unexpired	-44	-30	-30
3050	Unpaid obligations, end of year	504	472	445
Memorandum (non-add) entries:				
3100	Obligated balance, start of year	516	504	472
3200	Obligated balance, end of year	504	472	445

Standard Form 300

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
SPORTFISH RESTORATION

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) **Identification Code 010-18-14-8151**		**2014 Actual**	**2015 Estimate**	**2016 Estimate**
Budget authority and outlays, net:				
Mandatory:				
4090	Budget authority, gross	407	431	446
Outlays, gross:				
4100	Outlays from new mandatory authority	122	139	134
4101	Outlays from mandatory balances	311	326	341
4110	Outlays, gross (total)	433	465	475
4180	Budget authority, net (total)	407	431	446
4190	Outlays, net (total)	433	465	475

Object Classification (O)				
Direct obligations:				
11.1	Full-time permanent	6	6	6
12.1	Civilian personnel benefits	2	2	2
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	1	1	1
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources	3	3	3
32.0	Land and structures	1	0	0
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	451	451	466
99.0	Subtotal, obligations, Direct obligations	464	463	478
99.5	Below reporting threshold	1	0	0
99.9	Total new obligations	465	463	478

Employment Summary (Q)				
1001	Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	61	58	58

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Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration

Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration

Appropriations Language

The Wildlife Restoration Account does not require appropriations language because there is permanent authority, established September 6, 1950, (64 Stat. 693), to use the receipts in the account in the fiscal year following their collection.

Authorizing Statutes

Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937, now referred to as *The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act*, as amended (16 U.S.C. 669-669k), provides Federal assistance to the 50 States, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands for projects to restore, enhance, and manage wildlife resources, and to conduct State hunter education programs. The Act authorizes the collection of receipts for permanent-indefinite appropriation to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for use in the fiscal year following collection. Funds not used by the States within two years revert to the Service for carrying out the provisions of the *Migratory Bird Conservation Act*. The Act also requires the Secretary of the Treasury to invest the portion of the fund not required for current year spending in interest-bearing obligations. The interest must be used for the North American Wetlands Conservations Act. Included with this budget submission is legislative language to extend this provision until 2026.

The Appropriations Act of August 31, 1951, (P.L. 82-136, 64 Stat. 693*)* authorizes receipts from excise taxes on selected hunting and sporting equipment to be deposited in the Wildlife Restoration Account, as a permanent, indefinite appropriation. Receipts and interest distributed to the Wildlife Restoration Account are made available for use by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the fiscal year following collection.

The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000, (P.L. 106-408) amends The *Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act* and authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to develop and implement a Multistate Conservation Grant Program and a Firearm and Bow Hunter Education and Safety Program that provide grants to States.

North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989, (16 U.S.C. 4407) amends the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and requires the Secretary of the Treasury to invest the portion of the Wildlife Restoration fund not required for current year spending in interest-bearing obligations to be available for wetlands conservation projects.

Appropriation: Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration

		2014 Actual	2015 Estimate	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2015 (+/-)
Payments to States	($000)	761,227	800,495	0	0	-224,867	575,628	-224,867
Hunter Education & Safety Grants	($000)	7,832	7,992	0	0	+592	8,584	+592
Multistate Conservation Grants	($000)	2,937	2,997	0	0	+222	3,219	+222
Administration	($000)	10,393	10,775	0	0	+939	11,714	+939
Subtotal	($000)	**782,389**	**822,259**	**0**	**0**	**-223,114**	**599,145**	**-223,114**
	FTE	***45***	***52***	***0***	***0***	***0***	***52***	***0***
Interest – NAWCF**	($000)	3,262	7,474	0	0	+1,947	9,421	+1,947
	FTE	*2*	*5*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*5*	*0*
TOTAL, Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration	($000)	**785,651**	**829,733**	**0**	**0**	**-221,167**	**608,566**	**-221,167**
	FTE	***47***	***57***	***0***	***0***	***0***	***57***	***0***

*The amounts presented in 2014 and 2015 include the sequestration in accordance with Sec. 251A of the BBDECA, 2 U.S.C 901a. In addition, the amounts in 2014, 2015 and 2016 include amounts previously sequestered which are now available in accordance with said Act.

** Estimate for FY 16 assumes statutory authority to transfer interest to the NAWCF is reauthorized.

Justification of 2016 Program Changes

The 2016 budget estimate for the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration program is $608,566,000 and 57 FTE. The estimate is based on current law projections provided by the Department of the Treasury's Office of Tax Analysis.

Program Overview

In 1937, Congress passed the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act. The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration grant programs, including Section 4(c) Hunter Education and Safety program (Basic Hunter Education), and Section 10 Enhanced Firearm and Bow Hunter Education and Safety Program (Enhanced Hunter Education), are key components of the nation's cooperative conservation efforts for wildlife and their habitats. These programs not only help to meet hunter education, safety and shooting sports goals, but also support the Department's Resource Protection Strategy to "sustain biological communities on managed and influenced lands and waters" by providing financial and technical assistance to States, Commonwealths, and Territories (States) for:

- Restoration, conservation, management, and enhancement of wild bird and mammal populations;
- Acquiring and managing wildlife habitats;
- Providing public uses that benefit from wildlife resources;
- Educating hunters on conservation ethics and safety; and
- Constructing, operating, and managing recreational firearm shooting and archery ranges.

The Wildlife Restoration program has been a stable funding source for wildlife conservation efforts for 77 years. States have developed comprehensive wildlife management strategies using a wide range of state-of-the-art techniques. Furthermore, States increase on-the-ground achievements by matching grant funds with at least one dollar for every three Federal dollars received. States use approximately 60 percent of

Wildlife Restoration funds to purchase, lease, develop, maintain, and operate wildlife management areas. Since the program began, States have acquired more than five million acres of land with these Federal funds through fee-simple acquisitions, leases, and easements. States use about 26 percent of Wildlife Restoration funds annually for wildlife surveys and research; enabling biologists and other managers to put science foremost in restoring and managing wildlife populations. Many States have been successful in restoring numerous species to their native ranges, including the Eastern and Rio Grande turkey, white-tailed deer, pronghorn antelope, wood duck, beaver, black bear, giant Canada goose, American elk, desert and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, bobcat, mountain lion, and many species of birds.

Hunting at Horicon NWR, WI
Credit: Ryan Hagerty

Since the start of the program, States have provided fish and wildlife management assistance to over 9.3 million landowners and have enhanced or improved over 38.6 million acres of habitat for wildlife species. Additionally, States have operated and maintained over 33 million acres of wildlife management areas for recreational purposes each year. Since the late 1930s, States have acquired or leased over 5 million acres for wildlife habitat and recreational purposes. The conservation efforts associated with the Wildlife Restoration program provide a wide range of outdoor opportunities for firearm users (recreational shooters and hunters), archery enthusiasts, birdwatchers, nature photographers, wildlife artists, and other users.

America's wildlife continues to face a wide variety of challenges, and the Wildlife Restoration program is critical in meeting ever-changing conservation needs, including managing sustainable and healthy populations of hunted species. States continue to respond to these challenges with unique programs and partnerships designed to benefit wildlife and sportsmen and women across the nation. For example, North Dakota Game and Fish Department was awarded a Wildlife Restoration Grant to provide public hunting on quality private lands in North Dakota. They will secure public hunting access agreements through the State's Private Land Open to Sportsmen (PLOTS) program on lands and waters enrolled in various Natural Resources Conservation Service conservation easement programs, including the Conservation Reserve Program (up to 15 year agreements), the Wetland Reserve Program (30 year agreements), and the Working Lands Program (2-6 year agreements). This effort will help maintain the conservation of habitats for wildlife while providing greater access for public hunting.

The Service and States continue to adapt the program to the changing needs of America's wildlife conservation and outdoor recreation demands. For example, the New York Department of Environmental Conservation will use Wildlife Restoration funding to enter into partnerships with private, non-profit sportsmen clubs. Funding will support significant improvements for safety and accessibility at the facilities. In exchange for grant funding, the clubs will offer new or expanded public shooting hours, creating additional opportunities for recreational shooters. For FY 2014 - 2015, the Service awarded $229,506 to New York State to fund 21 clubs throughout the State, substantially increasing access for recreational shooting. Additionally, a number of States use program funds to improve accessibility of trails for physically disabled hunters to participate in the rich tradition of the sport and enjoy being outdoors. Wounded warrior and veteran programs are also a valuable way to engage our service men and women in the hunting tradition and educating new and continuing hunters.

The Service also supports State Hunter Education Programs that teach the knowledge and skills for safe and responsible hunting and recreational shooting. In FY 2015, approximately $138 million is available to assist States in providing hunter education, shooting and archery ranges and young hunter programs. States' hunter education programs have trained more than ten million students in hunter safety and had

over 3.9 million students participating in live-fire exercises over a span of 45 years. This effort has resulted in a significant decline in hunting-related accidents and has increased the awareness of outdoor enthusiasts on the importance of individual stewardship and conserving America's resources.

Law Enforcement Officer assists a new archer
Credit: Stacey Lowe, USFWS

In 2000, the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act authorized the Enhanced Firearm and Bow Hunter Education and Safety Program (Enhanced Hunter Education). This funding provides enhancements to the Basic Hunter Education activities provided under the Wildlife Restoration Act. Enhanced Hunter Education, an $8 million set-aside from the Wildlife Restoration Trust Fund, enhances interstate coordination and development of hunter education and shooting range programs; promotes bow hunter and archery education, safety, and development programs; and provides for construction or development of firearm and archery ranges.

The Improvement Act of 2000 also authorized the development and implementation of a Multistate Conservation Grant Program (MSCGP). In FY 2016, $6 million ($3 million each from Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration programs) will be provided to the MSCGP for conservation grants arising from a cooperative effort between the Service and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. These grants support conservation projects designed to solve high priority problems affecting States on a regional or national level. Project types generally selected for funding are: biological research/training, species population status, outreach, data collection regarding hunter/angler participation, hunter/aquatic education, economic value of fishing/hunting and regional or multistate habitat needs assessments.

Since the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration program began, the program has collected more than $8.44 billion in manufacturers' excise taxes and awarded this to States for wildlife conservation efforts. States have provided their required match of over $2.11 billion. The National Shooting Sports Foundation estimates that, on a daily basis, about $3.5 million is contributed through excise taxes and license fees to wildlife conservation. This funding has been critical to the restoration of many species of wildlife, including the most recognizable symbol of our American heritage, the bald eagle. Though these funds are allocated to support game species, they also benefit songbirds, peregrine falcons, sea otters, prairie dogs, and other nongame species.

The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration program is one of the most successful programs administered by the Service. It has also served as a model for a companion program, the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act, which uses excise-tax funds derived from anglers and boaters to safeguard the nation's sport fish resources and provide recreational opportunities. Together these two programs are the cornerstones of fish and wildlife management and recreational use in the United States.

Types of State Wildlife Restoration Projects – All 50 States, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands participate in this program through their respective fish and wildlife agencies. Each fish and wildlife agency develops and selects projects for funding based on the agencies' assessment of problems and needs for management of wildlife resources. The following are eligible activities under the Wildlife Restoration program:

- Conduct surveys and inventories of wildlife populations;
- Acquire, manage, and improve habitat;

- Introduce wildlife into suitable habitat to help stabilize species populations;
- Improve public access and facilities for their use and enjoyment of wildlife resources;
- Operate and maintain wildlife management areas;
- Acquire land through fee title, leases, or agreement for wildlife conservation and public hunting purposes;
- Conduct research on wildlife and monitor wildlife status;
- Develop and improve hunter education and safety programs and facilities; and
- Develop and manage shooting or archery ranges.

Law enforcement and fish and wildlife agency public relations are ineligible for funding.

Funding Source for the Wildlife Restoration Program – Wildlife Restoration program funds come from manufacturer excise taxes collected by the U.S. Treasury and deposited in the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Trust Fund. The Service's Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) administers the Trust Fund. Once collected, the funds are distributed to State fish and wildlife agencies for eligible wildlife restoration activities. The manufacturer excise taxes include:

- 10% tax on pistols, handguns, and revolvers;
- 11% tax on other firearms and ammunition; and
- 11% tax on bows, quivers, broadheads, and points.

The Basic Hunter Education program funds come from one-half of the manufacturer excise taxes on pistols, revolvers, bows, quivers, broadheads, and shafts. The Enhanced Hunter Education funding is a set-aside of $8 million from the Wildlife Restoration Trust Fund.

State Apportionment Program – Through a permanent-indefinite appropriation, States (including Commonwealths and Territories) receive funds, provided they pass legislation to ensure that hunting license fees are used only for administration of the State fish and wildlife agency (assent legislation). The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act includes an apportionment formula that distributes program funds to States based on the area of the State (50%) and the number of paid hunting license holders (50%). No State may receive more than 5 percent, or less than one-half of one percent of the total apportionment. The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico receives one-half of one percent, and the Territories of Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands each receive one-sixth of one percent of the total funds apportioned.

The allocation of Basic and Enhanced Hunter Education funds is determined by using a formula-driven apportionment which compares State population to the latest census figures on total U.S. population. No State may receive more than three percent or less than one percent of the total hunter safety funds apportioned. The Commonwealths of Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands are each apportioned up to one-sixth of one percent of the total apportioned. Estimated apportionments for FY 2015 and FY 2016 are included in subsequent pages.

Matching Requirements – The 50 States must provide at least 25 percent of the project costs from a non-Federal source. The non-Federal share often comes from State revenues derived from license fees paid by hunters. The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program can waive the 25 percent non-Federal matching requirement for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Territories of Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, and American Samoa, up to $200,000 (48 U.S.C. 1469a (d)). The non-Federal share may not include any Federal funds or Federal in-kind contributions unless legislation specifically allows it.

Obligation Requirements – Wildlife Restoration Program funds (including Basic Hunter Education) are available for a period of two years. Under the Act, funds that are not obligated within two years revert to the Service to carry out the provisions of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act. The Wildlife Restoration Act stipulates that the interest from the Wildlife Restoration Trust Fund go to the North American Wetlands Conservation program. Enhanced Hunter Education funds are available for a period of one year.

2016 Program Performance

For 77 years, the Wildlife Restoration program has provided a stable Federal funding source for State fish and wildlife agencies. This funding stability has been critical to the recovery of many of the nation's wildlife species, such as wild turkey, deer, pronghorn antelope, wood ducks, beavers, bears, Canada geese, elk, wild sheep, bobcats, and mountain lions. Examples of activities planned by State fish and wildlife agencies using Wildlife Restoration funds in FY 2016 include:

Swan Island WMA - ME
Credit: Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

In the **Northeast Region**, 15 grants in 13 states will be used to conduct operations, maintenance and management on a network of lands known as Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). WMAs were instituted in the early 1900s by state fish and wildlife agencies for the conservation of fish, wildlife and their habitat, as well as to provide people the opportunity to participate in wildlife based outdoor activities. WMAs provide the public with opportunities for hunting, fishing, trapping, shooting ranges, wildlife observation and photography, environmental education and other outdoor activities. Within the Northeast Region, there are over 1,183 WMAs that encompass over 3,250,000 acres of habitat. These WMAs range from several dozen acres to over 25,000 acres in size and connect people with nature and provide important wildlife habitat. Collectively, WMAs represent the Northeast Region's premier network of lands dedicated to wildlife conservation.

The **Idaho** Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) will develop a better understanding of the population drivers of pronghorn in various habitat types including native shrub-steppe, altered shrub-steppe, and agricultural communities. This information is necessary for conservation and management decisions, including hunting seasons, habitat improvement efforts, and technical assistance to public and private landowners. This project will evaluate factors affecting pronghorn herds in eastern Idaho, and develop a reliable, cost-effective technique for monitoring status and trend of pronghorn herds in Idaho. Pronghorn will be captured, fitted with VHF collars, have their body condition assessed, and be monitored with telemetry. Habitat quality will be determined with ground truthing of the quality index at pronghorn locations. Nutritional condition of vegetation in relation to female pronghorns will be assessed. Neonatal survival and cause specific mortality will be estimated in study areas of differing vegetation quality. Monitoring methods will focus on the vital rates deemed most likely to influence populations. A variety of methods, depending on targeted vitals rates, may be tested, including ground population surveys, adult survival, fawn survival, ground productivity survey, noninvasive fecal DNA capture-mark-recapture methods for recruitment and survival, or strict modeling methods based on remote sensed measures of forage productivity.

Oregon's Statewide Habitat Management grant will cover habitat restoration efforts in seven distinct Watershed Districts (Deschutes, John Day, Malheur, Klamath, Rogue, South Willamette, and Umpqua). Goals of the project are to (1) maintain, restore, or enhance wildlife habitat on public and private lands to optimize wildlife populations, while paying particular attention to listed species; (2) evaluate, protect, or enhance existing habitat conditions or restore lost habitats on private and public lands; (3) assist landowners by providing resources to restore and improve fish and wildlife habitat; and (4) provide technical advice and assistance to local, State, and Federal agencies regarding land-use activities and proposed developments to promote conservation of fish and wildlife habitats. The areas managed under this grant are designed to provide year-round habitat for wildlife species and to reduce and/or minimize agricultural damage and depredation to surrounding communities by wildlife. By coordinating with agencies and private landowners to implement and administer the proposed activities, the general public can benefit from healthier habitats for many species.

The **Alaska** Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) will fund a project titled "How do regenerating burns influence moose populations and harvest in Interior Alaska." Moose provide a considerable food resource to Alaskans and moose harvest also contributes to the economy of Alaska. The State of Alaska recognizes the importance of moose to its residents by including the species in laws designed to elevate harvest through intensive management. In accordance with this law, ADF&G developed plans to increase moose densities through habitat enhancement. However, no comprehensive plan exists for utilizing naturally-occurring burn scars to increase moose density and maximize harvest. In this study the ADF&G will quantify several key relationships between moose, burns, and harvest, demonstrating the specific role of fire in a moose population. Habitat models will be developed that specify burn characteristics important to moose at the population-level that are directly tied to selection by individual moose.

Moose
Credit: USFWS

Indiana will develop the Willow Slough Shooting Range, which will replace a current range in Newton County, using $2 million of Section 4 Hunter Education funds. A modern range will enhance the safety of the range while accommodating the demand. Development of this range is expected to increase the number of hunters and recreational shooters using the facilities to 15,000 users per year. Safety, customer service, and accessibility enhancements will all contribute to customer satisfaction.

The **South Carolina** Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) will use $2 million of Section 4 Hunter Education funds for the development of the Palmetto Shooting Complex in Edgefield SC. There will be $666,667 in matching funds provided by the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF). NWTF currently owns approximately 700 acres in Edgefield County and has set aside approximately 300 acres for the development of the shooting range complex. SCDNR and NWTF have entered into an agreement to develop a joint shooting complex on NWTF's property. Currently the NWTF has a small sporting clays course and rifle range on their property. Once

Construction of Palmetto Shooting Complex – SC
Credit: SC Department of Natural Resources

completed, this facility will provide a safe and functional outdoor facility for recreational shooting, firearm safety and hunter education, with particular emphasis on promoting youth involvement. Multiple shooting venues will be provided to expose participants to various shooting sports, to include 2 - 18 Station Sporting Clays Courses, 5 Combination Trap and Skeet Ranges, 1 Rifle and Pistol Range, events pavilion and associated amenities. The range design is in accordance with the design standards set forth in the National Rifle Association Sourcebook and the National Association of Shooting Ranges. Each venue will provide handicap accessibility in accordance with the American Disabilities Act. SCDNR plans to hold a minimum of 5 open events the first year to include the State's Annual Event which typically has over 1200 participants. These events will be provided at no charge to the participants.

Wildlife Restoration - Performance Change and Overview Table

Performance Measure	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Target	2016 PB	Change from 2015 Target to 2016 PB
4.5.6 - # of Acres of terrestrial habitat acquired and protected through fee title (GPRA)	35,048	70,917	14,682	34,419	36,064	37,500	1,436
Comments:	Due to an increase in State Wildlife Grant and potential Wildlife Restoration funds, we expect an increase in land acquisition for conservation of wildlife habitat in FY 2016						
15.8.14 - # of resident and nonresident hunting license holders	14,974,534	14,960,522	14,629,726	14,631,327	14,300,000	14,300,000	0
15.8.19 - # of shooting ranges constructed, renovated, or maintained that support recreational shooting.	371	342	411	409	315	315	0
15.8.20 - # of certified students that completed a Hunter Education program.	1,048,318	810,306	875,239	637,231	589,520	590,000	480

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
ESTIMATED APPORTIONMENT OF PITTMAN-ROBERTSON
WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

STATE	Wildlife Restoration	Hunter Education Section 4(c)	Hunter Education Enhanced	Total
ALABAMA	$14,752,727.00	$2,872,646.00	$167,574.00	$17,792,947
ALASKA	$30,687,960.00	$1,265,806.00	$73,840.00	$32,027,606
AMERICAN SAMOA	$1,022,932.00	$210,968.00	$12,307.00	$1,246,207
ARIZONA	$14,920,509.00	$3,797,415.00	$221,520.00	$18,939,444
ARKANSAS	$13,394,742.00	$1,265,806.00	$73,840.00	$14,734,388
CALIFORNIA	$20,862,386.00	$3,797,415.00	$221,520.00	$24,881,321
COLORADO	$15,581,001.00	$3,022,573.00	$176,320.00	$18,779,894
CONNECTICUT	$3,068,797.00	$2,148,052.00	$125,305.00	$5,342,154
DELAWARE	$3,068,797.00	$1,265,806.00	$73,840.00	$4,408,443
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0
FLORIDA	$9,216,795.00	$3,797,415.00	$221,520.00	$13,235,730
GEORGIA	$13,236,817.00	$3,797,415.00	$221,520.00	$17,255,752
GUAM	$1,022,932.00	$210,968.00	$12,307.00	$1,246,207
HAWAII	$3,068,797.00	$1,265,806.00	$73,840.00	$4,408,443
IDAHO	$13,159,956.00	$1,265,806.00	$73,840.00	$14,499,602
ILLINOIS	$11,782,108.00	$3,797,415.00	$221,520.00	$15,801,043
INDIANA	$9,002,243.00	$3,797,415.00	$221,520.00	$13,021,178
IOWA	$9,769,135.00	$1,265,806.00	$73,840.00	$11,108,781
KANSAS	$12,288,552.00	$1,265,806.00	$73,840.00	$13,628,198
KENTUCKY	$10,651,000.00	$2,607,982.00	$152,135.00	$13,411,117
LOUISIANA	$11,932,812.00	$2,724,580.00	$158,937.00	$14,816,329
MAINE	$6,473,240.00	$1,265,806.00	$73,840.00	$7,812,886
MARYLAND	$3,469,005.00	$3,469,935.00	$202,417.00	$7,141,357
MASSACHUSETTS	$3,068,797.00	$3,797,415.00	$221,520.00	$7,087,732
MICHIGAN	$20,801,646.00	$3,797,415.00	$221,520.00	$24,820,581
MINNESOTA	$19,863,528.00	$3,187,687.00	$185,952.00	$23,237,167
MISSISSIPPI	$8,912,580.00	$1,265,806.00	$73,840.00	$10,252,226
MISSOURI	$16,555,758.00	$3,599,376.00	$209,966.00	$20,365,100
MONTANA	$18,674,557.00	$1,265,806.00	$73,840.00	$20,014,203
N. MARIANA ISLANDS	$1,022,932.00	$210,968.00	$12,307.00	$1,246,207
NEBRASKA	$10,915,144.00	$1,265,806.00	$73,840.00	$12,254,790
NEVADA	$11,921,300.00	$1,265,806.00	$73,840.00	$13,260,946
NEW HAMPSHIRE	$3,068,797.00	$1,265,806.00	$73,840.00	$4,408,443
NEW JERSEY	$3,068,797.00	$3,797,415.00	$221,520.00	$7,087,732
NEW MEXICO	$13,604,900.00	$1,265,806.00	$73,840.00	$14,944,546
NEW YORK	$15,358,835.00	$3,797,415.00	$221,520.00	$19,377,770
NORTH CAROLINA	$14,987,246.00	$3,797,415.00	$221,520.00	$19,006,181
NORTH DAKOTA	$9,744,234.00	$1,265,806.00	$73,840.00	$11,083,880
OHIO	$12,011,693.00	$3,797,415.00	$221,520.00	$16,030,628
OKLAHOMA	$15,042,627.00	$2,254,582.00	$131,520.00	$17,428,729
OREGON	$14,564,684.00	$2,302,495.00	$134,315.00	$17,001,494
PENNSYLVANIA	$22,522,603.00	$3,797,415.00	$221,520.00	$26,541,538
PUERTO RICO	$3,068,796.00	$210,968.00	$12,307.00	$3,292,071
RHODE ISLAND	$3,068,797.00	$1,265,806.00	$73,840.00	$4,408,443
SOUTH CAROLINA	$7,086,941.00	$2,779,868.00	$162,162.00	$10,028,971
SOUTH DAKOTA	$12,254,979.00	$1,265,806.00	$73,840.00	$13,594,625
TENNESSEE	$15,045,036.00	$3,797,415.00	$221,520.00	$19,063,971
TEXAS	$30,687,960.00	$3,797,415.00	$221,520.00	$34,706,895
UTAH	$12,325,135.00	$1,265,806.00	$73,840.00	$13,664,781
VERMONT	$3,068,797.00	$1,265,806.00	$73,840.00	$4,408,443
VIRGIN ISLANDS	$1,022,932.00	$210,968.00	$12,307.00	$1,246,207
VIRGINIA	$9,459,546.00	$3,797,415.00	$221,520.00	$13,478,481
WASHINGTON	$10,130,496.00	$3,797,415.00	$221,520.00	$14,149,431
WEST VIRGINIA	$6,712,123.00	$1,265,806.00	$73,840.00	$8,051,769
WISCONSIN	$19,638,120.00	$3,417,908.00	$199,382.00	$23,255,410
WYOMING	$12,045,659.00	$1,265,806.00	$73,840.00	$13,385,305
TOTAL	**$613,759,218**	**$126,580,505**	**$7,384,000**	**$747,723,723**

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
ESTIMATED APPORTIONMENT OF PITTMAN-ROBERTSON
WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

	Wildlife	Hunter Education		
STATE	**Restoration**	**Section 4(c)**	**Enhanced**	**Total**
ALABAMA	$9,964,978.00	$2,326,159.00	$181,554.00	$12,472,691
ALASKA	$20,728,700.00	$1,025,000.00	$80,000.00	$21,833,700
AMERICAN SAMOA	$690,956.00	$170,833.00	$13,333.00	$875,122
ARIZONA	$10,078,310.00	$3,075,000.00	$240,000.00	$13,393,310
ARKANSAS	$9,047,704.00	$1,025,000.00	$80,000.00	$10,152,704
CALIFORNIA	$14,091,850.00	$3,075,000.00	$240,000.00	$17,406,850
COLORADO	$10,524,449.00	$2,447,564.00	$191,030.00	$13,163,043
CONNECTICUT	$2,072,870.00	$1,739,410.00	$135,759.00	$3,948,039
DELAWARE	$2,072,870.00	$1,025,000.00	$80,000.00	$3,177,870
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0
FLORIDA	$6,225,640.00	$3,075,000.00	$240,000.00	$9,540,640
GEORGIA	$8,941,031.00	$3,075,000.00	$240,000.00	$12,256,031
GUAM	$690,956.00	$170,833.00	$13,333.00	$875,122
HAWAII	$2,072,870.00	$1,025,000.00	$80,000.00	$3,177,870
IDAHO	$8,889,114.00	$1,025,000.00	$80,000.00	$9,994,114
ILLINOIS	$7,958,424.00	$3,075,000.00	$240,000.00	$11,273,424
INDIANA	$6,080,717.00	$3,075,000.00	$240,000.00	$9,395,717
IOWA	$6,598,727.00	$1,025,000.00	$80,000.00	$7,703,727
KANSAS	$8,300,510.00	$1,025,000.00	$80,000.00	$9,405,510
KENTUCKY	$7,194,398.00	$2,111,845.00	$164,827.00	$9,471,070
LOUISIANA	$8,060,219.00	$2,206,261.00	$172,196.00	$10,438,676
MAINE	$4,372,458.00	$1,025,000.00	$80,000.00	$5,477,458
MARYLAND	$2,343,197.00	$2,809,821.00	$219,303.00	$5,372,321
MASSACHUSETTS	$2,072,870.00	$3,075,000.00	$240,000.00	$5,387,870
MICHIGAN	$14,050,823.00	$3,075,000.00	$240,000.00	$17,365,823
MINNESOTA	$13,417,155.00	$2,581,267.00	$201,465.00	$16,199,887
MISSISSIPPI	$6,020,152.00	$1,025,000.00	$80,000.00	$7,125,152
MISSOURI	$11,182,866.00	$2,914,638.00	$227,484.00	$14,324,988
MONTANA	$12,614,044.00	$1,025,000.00	$80,000.00	$13,719,044
N. MARIANA ISLANDS	$690,956.00	$170,833.00	$13,333.00	$875,122
NEBRASKA	$7,372,818.00	$1,025,000.00	$80,000.00	$8,477,818
NEVADA	$8,052,443.00	$1,025,000.00	$80,000.00	$9,157,443
NEW HAMPSHIRE	$2,072,870.00	$1,025,000.00	$80,000.00	$3,177,870
NEW JERSEY	$2,072,870.00	$3,075,000.00	$240,000.00	$5,387,870
NEW MEXICO	$9,189,659.00	$1,025,000.00	$80,000.00	$10,294,659
NEW YORK	$10,374,384.00	$3,075,000.00	$240,000.00	$13,689,384
NORTH CAROLINA	$10,123,388.00	$3,075,000.00	$240,000.00	$13,438,388
NORTH DAKOTA	$6,581,907.00	$1,025,000.00	$80,000.00	$7,686,907
OHIO	$8,113,501.00	$3,075,000.00	$240,000.00	$11,428,501
OKLAHOMA	$10,160,796.00	$1,825,674.00	$142,492.00	$12,128,962
OREGON	$9,837,961.00	$1,864,473.00	$145,520.00	$11,847,954
PENNSYLVANIA	$15,213,272.00	$3,075,000.00	$240,000.00	$18,528,272
PUERTO RICO	$2,072,870.00	$170,833.00	$13,333.00	$2,257,036
RHODE ISLAND	$2,072,870.00	$1,025,000.00	$80,000.00	$3,177,870
SOUTH CAROLINA	$4,786,994.00	$2,251,031.00	$175,690.00	$7,213,715
SOUTH DAKOTA	$8,277,832.00	$1,025,000.00	$80,000.00	$9,382,832
TENNESSEE	$10,162,423.00	$3,075,000.00	$240,000.00	$13,477,423
TEXAS	$20,728,700.00	$3,075,000.00	$240,000.00	$24,043,700
UTAH	$8,325,220.00	$1,025,000.00	$80,000.00	$9,430,220
VERMONT	$2,072,870.00	$1,025,000.00	$80,000.00	$3,177,870
VIRGIN ISLANDS	$690,956.00	$170,833.00	$13,333.00	$875,122
VIRGINIA	$6,389,610.00	$3,075,000.00	$240,000.00	$9,704,610
WASHINGTON	$6,842,814.00	$3,075,000.00	$240,000.00	$10,157,814
WEST VIRGINIA	$4,533,816.00	$1,025,000.00	$80,000.00	$5,638,816
WISCONSIN	$13,264,899.00	$2,767,692.00	$216,015.00	$16,248,606
WYOMING	$8,136,443.00	$1,025,000.00	$80,000.00	$9,241,443
TOTAL	**$414,574,000**	**$102,500,000**	**$8,000,000**	**$525,074,000**

Standard Form 300

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) **Identification Code 010-18-14-5029**	**2014 Actual**	**2015 Estimate**	**2016 Estimate**
0100 Balance, start of year	842	883	600
Receipts			
0200 Excise Taxes, Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Fund [010-00-502930-0-000000]	824	539	493
0240 Earnings on Investments, Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Fund [010-00-502920-0-200403]	3	7	9
0299 Total receipts and collections	827	546	502
0400 Total: Balances and collections	1,669	1,429	1,102
Appropriations			
0500 Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration [010-18-5029-0-1201]	-816	-831	-548
0501 Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration [010-18-5029-0-1203]	-29	-59	-61
0502 Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration [010-18-5029-0-1202]	59	61	0
0599 Total approprations	-786	-829	-609
0799 Balance, end of year	883	600	493
Obligations by program activity:			
0003 Multi-state conservation grant program	2	3	3
0004 Administration	10	11	11
0005 Wildlife restoration grants	630	763	662
0006 NAWCF (interest used for grants)	8	8	9
0007 Section 10 hunter education	8	8	8
0900 Total new obligations	658	793	693
Budgetary Resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	196	361	427
1021 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	37	30	30
1050 Unobligated balance (total)	233	391	457
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, mandatory:			
1201 Appropriation (special or trust fund)	816	831	548
1203 Appropriation (previously unavailable)	29	59	61
1232 Appropriations and/or unobligated balance of	-59	-61	0
1260 Appropriations, mandatory (total)	786	829	609
1930 Total budgetary resources available	1,019	1,220	1,066
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	361	427	373
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	475	627	867
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	658	793	693
3020 Outlays (gross)	-469	-523	-571
3040 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations, unexpired	-37	-30	-30
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	627	867	959
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	475	627	867
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	627	867	959

Standard Form 300

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) **Identification Code 010-18-14-5029**	**2014 Actual**	**2015 Estimate**	**2016 Estimate**
Budget authority and outlays, net:			
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	786	829	609
Outlays, gross:			
4100 Outlays from new mandatory authority	121	223	152
4101 Outlays from mandatory balances	348	300	419
4110 Outlays, gross (total)	469	523	571
4160 Budget authority, net (mandatory)	786	829	609
4170 Outlays, net (mandatory)	469	523	571
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	786	829	609
4190 Outlays, net (total)	469	523	571
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
5000 Total investments, SOY: Federal securities: Par value	1,421	1,114	1,272
5001 Total investments, EOY: Federal securities: Par value	1,114	1,272	1,075

Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	4	5	5
12.1 Civilian personnel benefits	1	1	1
23.1 Rental payments to GSA	1	1	1
25.2 Other services from non-Federal sources	1	1	1
25.3 Other goods and services from Federal sources	3	3	3
32.0 Land and structures	4	4	4
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	643	778	678
99.0 Subtotal, obligations	657	793	693
99.5 Below reporting threshold	1	0	0
99.9 Total new obligations	658	793	693

Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	47	57	57

Migratory Bird Conservation Account

Migratory Bird Conservation Account

Appropriations Language

This activity does not require appropriations language, except for advances, which are not requested, as there is permanent authority as provided in the 81st Congress, Second Session—Chapter 896, Interior Appropriations Act, 1951, September 6, 1951 (64 Stat. 697) to use the receipts.

Legislative Proposal

Concurrent with this budget request, the Service is proposing to amend the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act to provide the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission and the Secretary of the Interior limited authority to increase the price of the Federal Duck Stamp to keep up with the price of inflation.

Authorizing Statutes

The Migratory Bird Conservation Act of February 18, 1929, as amended (16 U.S.C. 715), established the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (MBCC) to approve migratory bird areas that the Secretary of the Interior recommends for acquisition. The Act also authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to acquire MBCC-approved migratory bird areas.

The Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act of March 16, 1934, as amended (16 U.S.C. 718), requires all waterfowl hunters 16 years of age or older to possess a Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, commonly known as a Duck Stamp, while waterfowl hunting. Funds from the sale of Duck Stamps are deposited in a special treasury account known as the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund established by this Act. The Act also authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to use funds from the MBCF to acquire waterfowl production areas.

The Wetlands Loan Act of October 4, 1961, as amended (16 U.S.C. 715k-3 through 715k-5), authorizes the appropriation of advances (not to exceed $200 million, available until expended) to accelerate acquisition of migratory waterfowl habitat. To date, $197,439,000 has been appropriated under this authority. Funds appropriated under the *Wetlands Loan Act* are merged with receipts from sales of Duck Stamps and other sources and made available for acquisition of migratory bird habitat under provisions of the *Migratory Bird Conservation Act, as amended,* or the *Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act, as amended*.

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 668dd-ee), requires payment of fair market value for any right-of-way easement or reservation granted within the Refuge System. These funds are deposited into the MBCF.

The Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986, as amended (16 U.S.C. 3901), provides for: (1) an amount equal to the amount of all import duties collected on arms and ammunition to be paid quarterly into the MBCF; and (2) removal of the repayment provision of the wetlands loan.

Appropriation: Migratory Bird Conservation Account

		2014 Actual	2015 Estimate	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2015 (+/-)
Duck Stamp Receipts*	($000)	23,936	29,015	0	0	+9,531	38,546	+9,531
Import Duties on Arms and Ammunition	($000)	43,439	39,349	0	0	+2,498	41,847	+2,499
Total, Migratory Bird Conservation Account	**($000)**	**67,375**	**68,364**	**0**	**0**	**+12,029**	**80,393**	**+12,030**
	FTE	***64***	***69***	***0***	***0***	***+5***	***74***	***+5***

The 2014 and 2015 amounts include sequestration in accordance with section 251A of the BBEDCA, 2 U.S.C. 901a.
*Duck stamp receipts include incidental amounts from sale of refuge land or rights-of-way.

Justification of 2016 Program Changes

The 2016 budget estimate for the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund is $80,393,000 and 74 FTE.

Legislative Proposal

Concurrent with this budget request, the Service is proposing to amend the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act to allow for limited authority for the Secretary to increase the price of the Federal Duck Stamp to keep up with the price of inflation. During that time, the costs of land rose significantly, causing a serious erosion of the purchasing power of the Duck Stamp. This substantially constrained the Fish and Wildlife Service from addressing the crisis in the Prairie Pothole Region, where important breeding and resting habitat in the nation's "duck factory" is being converted to cropland at a fast pace. The last increase approved by Congress, to take effect in June 2015, followed a period of nearly 25 years since the previous price increase. While this recent increase will be critical in restoring the purchasing power of this program, a long-term solution is needed to ensure this program can deliver the desired conservation outcomes in the future. This legislative request for limited authority is consistent with what was requested in the 2015 President's Budget.

The authority requested through this legislative proposal would build stability into the Duck Stamp's purchasing power. It would allow periodic price increases correlated to inflation and capped at $10. The process would involve approval of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (MBCC, which includes Democratic and Republican members from both the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives) and public review. The Secretary would propose an increase to the MBCC and demonstrate the increase is warranted due to increased cost of land. If the MBCC unanimously approves the proposed increase, the Secretary would publish notice of the proposed increase in the Federal Register and solicit public comment. After considering public comments, the Secretary could finalize the increase. The final increase could not exceed the proposed increase approved by the MBCC.

Program Overview

The Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (MBCF) allows the Service to acquire important waterfowl habitat. Service policy is to acquire land and water interests including, but not limited to, fee title, easements, leases, and other interests. Areas acquired become units of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and provide compatible wildlife-dependent educational and recreational opportunities that contribute to the Secretary's Youth Initiative that encourages young people to play, learn, serve, and work in the outdoors.

The MBCF receives money from the sale of Federal Duck Stamps, which all duck hunters must purchase

in order to hunt. For this reason, most of the fee title tracts are open to public hunting, including youth hunts. Acquired lands and waters also provide opportunities for non-hunters, such as bird watching and other wildlife observation. By providing habitat for ducks and other wildlife, adding more recreational lands for public enjoyment, and protecting more wetlands, these acquisitions, with State-level review and input, engage the next generation; assure sustainable, secure water supplies; and use a landscape-level approach to conservation.

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (MBCC), under authority of the *Migratory Bird Conservation Act*, considers and acts on recommendations by the Secretary of the Interior for purchase or rental of land, water, or land and water for waterfowl conservation. Further, under the Act, the MBCC can fix the price or prices at which the Service may purchase or rent such areas, and the MBCC must approve any changes. Congress also has authorized the Secretary to approve the use of the MBCF for the purchase of critical waterfowl production areas in the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR) of the northern Midwest to preserve the breeding ground for millions of waterfowl and other migratory birds. The MBCC:

- includes representatives from the Legislative and Executive Branches of government,
- invites the participation of State government officials when specific migratory bird areas are recommended to the MBCC, and
- meets at least twice per year.

The Service considers many factors before seeking approval from the MBCC for acquisitions from willing sellers, including:

- the value of the habitat to the waterfowl resource (in general or for specific species),
- the degree of threat to these values due to potential land use changes,
- the possibility of preserving habitat values through means other than Service acquisition,
- the long-term operation and maintenance costs associated with acquisition, and
- the resiliency of potential acquisitions in coastal areas, in light of climate change and rising sea levels.

The MBCC continues to support the Service's acquisition focus on vital habitat in the PPR. The accelerated conversion of waterfowl habitat to cropland in the PPR continues to spur the need for conservation and acquisition efforts to protect and buy more waterfowl production areas (WPAs). The PPR is a large land area covered with shallow wetlands and associated native prairie. The prime breeding habitat for millions of waterfowl, it includes parts of Iowa, the Dakotas, Minnesota, and Montana. The North American Waterfowl Management Plan identified the PPR as the continent's top priority for waterfowl conservation. In 2016, the Service, Ducks Unlimited, and other partners will continue working with the MBCC to expend at least 70 percent of currently available MBCF funding in the PPR to help secure the future for waterfowl and grassland species. In 2014, the Service acquired nearly 44,000 acres of WPAs, in fee and easement, for just over $44 million.

To carry out MBCC-approved projects, the MBCF supports a staff of realty specialists, land surveyors, realty assistants, cartographers, and program managers. This staff performs detailed, technical duties including boundary surveys, mapping, landowner negotiations, title curative work, case closures, and post-acquisition tracking, associated with land acquisition at national wildlife refuges and WPAs.

From 1935 to 2014, the Migratory Bird land acquisition program has received more than $1.3 billion for the acquisition of wetlands and other habitat important to waterfowl. The Service has used these funds, including some appropriations received in the early years of the program, to purchase over 3 million acres in fee title and 2.6 million acres in easements or leases, nationwide. MBCF funding is derived from the following sources:

- Federal Duck Stamp sales,
- Proceeds from import duties on certain firearms and ammunition, and

- Payments from rights-of-way on refuges and sale of refuge lands.

In addition, State reverted funds in the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration account are used for MBCF purposes.

Delivering Conservation for Migratory Birds

Since its creation, the MBCF has contributed significantly to the successful conservation of wetland birds and continues to expand conservation for waterfowl and other birds that use imperiled habitats within our Nation, including coastlines, grasslands, and forests. In addition to PPR acquisition, the following are examples of the quality waterfowl habitats acquired in FY 2014:

- The MBCC approved four projects in Texas: two at Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge; one at Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge; and one at San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge. These refuges are all in the southeastern part of the State and contain important bottomland hardwoods for wintering mallards, mottled ducks, and other waterfowl. In total, the MBCC approved the acquisition of 30 fee acres at San Bernard NWR, 1,227 fee acres at Anahuac NWR, and 710 fee acres at Trinity River NWR.
- A key fee acquisition at Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge, in Louisiana, included the remaining portion of the lake. This acquisition will resolve some management issues between the former landowners and the City of Monroe, and will provide additional public access.

A variety of waterfowl rise from a 2014 MBCC-approved acquisition of 234 fee acres at Trinity River NWR in Texas.

2016 Program Performance

The Service reports MBCF and LWCF land acquisitions for the National Wildlife Refuge System in two annual reports, the Annual Report of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission and the Annual Report of Lands Under the Control of the USFWS. The combined acquisitions support the Resource Protection goal to sustain biological communities on DOI-managed lands and waters.

Workload Indicators

	FY 2015		FY 2016			
	Est.	Est.	Estimated	Estimated	Change from 2015	
Subactivity	**($000)**	**Acres**	**($000)**	**Acres**	**($000)**	**Acres**
Refuge Acquisition	20,022	11,266	23,447	13,248	+3,425	+1,982
Waterfowl Production Areas	47,591	44,028	56,196	51,776	+8,605	+7,748
Duck Stamp Printing and Distribution Costs	750	n/a	750	n/a	-	n/a
Total	68,363	55,294	80,393	65,024	+12,030	+9,730

Acres Acquired By Fee and Easement FY 2002 - FY 2014			
FY	Fee	Easement	Total
2014	11,103	43,392	54,495
2013	7,433	52,873	60,306
2012	14,747	48,144	62,891
2011	16,719	23,160	39,879
2010	6,398	25,297	31,695
2009	13,870	27,504	41,374
2008	7,716	32,073	39,789
2007	8,041	29,147	37,188
2006	9,634	31,964	41,598
2005	13,768	49,103	62,871
2004	10,098	38,819	48,917
2003	36,164	41,706	77,870
2002	21,274	48,931	70,205
Totals	**176,965**	**492,113**	**669,078**

FY 2014 includes Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration State reverted funds

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACCOUNT

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) **Identification Code 010-18-14-5137**		**2014 Actual**	**2015 Estimate**	**2016 Estimate**
0100	Balance, start of year	3	4	5
Receipts:				
0200	Migratory Bird Hunting Stamps [010-00-513710-0-000000]	24	29	36
0201	Custom Duties on Arms and Ammunition [010-00-513720-0-000000]	44	40	39
0299	Total receipts and collections	68	69	75
0400	Total: Balances and collections	71	73	80
Appropriations:				
0500	Migratory Bird Conservation Account [010-18-5137-0-1201]	-69	-68	-75
0501	Migratory Bird Conservation Account [010-18-5137-0-1203]	-3	-5	-5
0502	Migratory Bird Conservation Account [010-18-5137-0-1232]	5	5	0
0599	Total Appropriations	-67	-68	-80
0799	Balance, end of year	4	5	0
Obligations by program activity:				
0001	Printing and sale of duck stamps	1	1	1
0003	Acquisition of refuges and other areas	64	69	80
0900	Total new obligations	65	70	81
Budgetary Resources:				
Unobligated balance:				
1000	Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	10	12	10
1021	Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	0	0	1
1050	Unobligated balance (total)	10	12	11
Budget authority:				
Appropriations, mandatory:				
1201	Appropriation (special or trust fund)	69	68	75
1203	Appropriation (previously unavailable)	3	5	5
1232	Appropriations and/or unobligated balance of appropriations temporarily reduced	-5	-5	0
1260	Appropriations, mandatory (total)	67	68	80
1930	Total budgetary resources available	77	80	91
Memorandum (non-add) entries:				
1941	Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	12	10	10
Change in obligated balance:				
Unpaid obligations:				
3000	Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	17	9	17
3010	Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	65	70	81
3020	Outlays (gross)	-73	-62	-77
3040	Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations, unexpired	0	0	-1
3050	Unpaid obligations, end of year	9	17	20
Memorandum (non-add) entries:				
3100	Obligated balance, start of year	17	9	17
3200	Obligated balance, end of year	9	17	20

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACCOUNT

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)		**2014**	**2015**	**2016**
Identification Code 010-18-14-5137		**Actual**	**Estimate**	**Estimate**
Budget authority and outlays, net:				
Mandatory:				
4090	Budget authority, gross	67	68	80
Outlays, gross:				
4100	Outlays from new mandatory authority	47	44	48
4101	Outlays from mandatory balances	26	18	29
4110	Outlays, gross (total)	73	62	77
4160	Budget authority, net (mandatory)	67	68	80
4170	Outlays, net (mandatory)	73	62	77
4180	Budget authority, net (total)	67	68	80
4190	Outlays, net (total)	73	62	77

Object Classification (O)				
Direct obligations:				
11.1	Full-time permanent	5	5	5
12.1	Civilian personnel benefits	2	2	2
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	1	1	1
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources	2	2	2
32.0	Land and structures	54	60	71
99.9	Total new obligations	64	70	81
99.5	Below reporting threshold	1	0	0
99.9	Total new obligations	65	70	81

Employment Summary (Q)				
1001	Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	64	69	74

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Recreation Fee Program

Federal Lands Recreation Fee Program

Appropriations Language

This activity does not require appropriations language as there is authority to use the receipts through September 30, 2016 (*Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015.*)

Authorizing Statutes

Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801-6814). The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) provides the authority to establish, modify, charge, and collect recreation fees at Federal recreation land and waters. The Act seeks to improve recreational facilities and visitor opportunities and services on Federal recreational lands by reinvesting receipts from fair and consistent recreational fees and pass sales. The 2016 budget proposes legislation to permanently authorize the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, which will expire on September 30, 2016.

Appropriation: Federal Lands Recreation Fee Program

	2014 Actual	2015 Estimate	2016 Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)*	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2014 (+/-)
Federal Lands Recreation Fee Program ($000)	**5,055**	**5,100**	**0**	**+73**	**5,173**	**+73**
FTE	***23***	***23***	***0***	***0***	***23***	***0***

*The amounts presented in 2014 and 2015 include the sequestration in accordance with Sec. 251A of the BBDECA, 2 U.S.C 901a. In addition, the amounts in 2014, 2015 and 2016 include amounts previously sequestered which are now available in accordance with said Act. The Recreation Fee Revenue estimate for FY 2015 and FY 2016 is 5,100.

Program Overview

The Recreation Fee Program, authorized through September 30, 2016, allows the collection of entrance and expanded amenity fees on Federal lands and waters managed by the Department of the Interior such as national wildlife refuges. The Service returns at least 80 percent of the collections to the specific refuge site of collection to offset program costs and enhance visitor facilities and programs. The Service has more than 141 refuges enrolled in the Recreation Fee Program. An additional 23 National Fish Hatchery, Ecological Service offices, or other refuge sites also sell interagency passes to improve pass availability for the public in certain regions. The Recreation Fee Program expects to collect approximately $5,100,000 in FY 2015 and FY 2016 under FLREA authority.

The FLREA did not change the Federal Duck Stamp program, which will continue to provide current stamp holders with free entry to Service entrance fee sites.

The Service is one of five bureaus, including the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Reclamation, participating in the Recreation Fee Program. The 2016 budget proposes legislation to permanently authorize the FLREA. The program currently brings in an estimated $290 million in recreation fees annually under this authority and uses them to enhance the visitor experience at Interior facilities. The Service continues to cooperate with these bureaus to update and reissue program implementation guidance to ensure compatibility and consistency across the Recreation Fee Program.

In FY2014, Service collections were used for recreation enhancements such as hiring temporary park rangers and volunteer coordinators, paying law enforcement overtime, and supporting visitor services interns and conservation corps youth crews. These temporary employees and interns provide visitor service enhancements such as increased safety, facility and trail maintenance, and interpretive and educational programs. Other direct benefits from the fee program include securing educational supplies such as spotting scopes, binoculars, and GPS units for visitor use, informational brochures and maps, interpretive signs, updated refuge signs, routine maintenance of access roads, and the “greening” of visitor facilities.

Fee dollars are also used to enhance hunting and fishing experiences by supporting hunt program administration, habitat restoration, routine maintenance and enhancements for hunting facilities, the hiring of temporary check station operators and park rangers, gate and hunt access road repairs, the printing of hunt brochures, creating or expanding youth hunts, and supporting hunting and fishing special events.

2016 Program Performance

The Recreation Fee Program directly supports the DOI Recreation Goal to provide for a quality recreation experience, including access, and enjoyment of natural and cultural resources. Each collaborating bureau also has a goal concerning costs associated with fee collections. The Service's goal is to limit collection costs to less than 20 percent of total collections.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ($000)	2014 Actual	2015 Estimate	2016 Estimate
Recreation Fee Revenues	5,055	5,100	5,173
America the Beautiful pass	[415]	[425]	[425]
Unobligated Balance Brought Forward & Recoveries	5,897	7,008	5,595
Total Funds Available	**10,952**	**12,108**	**10,768**
Obligations by Type of Project			
Facilities Routine/Annual Maintenance	771	1,106	835
Facilities Capital Improvements	165	905	883
Facilities Deferred Maintenance	313	447	204
Subtotal, asset repairs and maintenance	1,249	2,458	1,922
Visitor Services	1,404	2,030	1,798
Habitat Restoration (directly related to wildlife dependent recreation)	95	144	169
Direct Operation Costs	445	958	941
Law Enforcement (for public use and recreation)	347	473	408
Fee Management Agreement and Reservation Services	61	75	75
Administration, Overhead and Indirect Costs	343	375	375
Total Obligations	**3,944**	**6,513**	**5,688**

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
RECREATION ENHANCEMENT FEE PROGRAM

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) **Identification Code 010-18-14-5252**	**2014 Actual**	**2015 Estimate**	**2016 Estimate**
0100 Balance, start of year	0	0	0
Receipts:			
0220 Recreation Enhancement Fee, FWS [010-00-525210-0-200403]	5	5	5
0400 Total: Balances and Collections	5	5	5
Appropriations:			
0500 Recreation Enhancement Fee, FWS [010-18-5252-0-1201]	-5	-5	-5
0799 Balance, end of year	0	0	0
Obligations by program activity:			
0001 Recreation Enhancement Fee Program, FWS (Direct)	4	6	6
0900 Total new obligations	4	6	6
Budgetary resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	6	7	6
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, mandatory:			
1201 Appropriation (special or trust fund)	5	5	5
1260 Appropriations, mandatory (total)	5	5	5
1930 Total budgetary resources available	11	12	11
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	7	6	5
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	1	1	2
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	4	6	6
3020 Outlays (gross)	-4	-5	-5
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	1	2	3
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	1	1	2
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	1	2	3
Budget authority and outlays, net:			
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	5	5	5

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
RECREATION ENHANCEMENT FEE PROGRAM

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)		**2014**	**2015**	**2016**
Identification Code	**010-18-14-5252**	**Actual**	**Estimate**	**Estimate**
Outlays, gross:				
4100	Outlays from new mandatory authority	1	2	2
4101	Outlays from mandatory balances	3	3	3
4110	Outlays, gross (total)	4	5	5
4160	Budget authority, net (mandatory)	5	5	5
4170	Outlays, net (mandatory)	4	5	5
4180	Budget authority, net (total)	5	5	5
4190	Outlays, net (total)	4	5	5

Object Classification (O)				
Direct obligations:				
11.1	Full-time permanent	1	1	1
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	0	1	1
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources	1	2	2
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities	1	1	1
99.0	Subtotal, obligations	3	5	5
99.5	Below reporting threshold	1	1	1
99.9	Total new obligations	4	6	6

Employment Summary (Q)				
1001	Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	23	23	23

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Contributed Funds

Contributed Funds

Appropriations Language

Activities funded from this account do not require appropriation language since there is permanent authority to use the receipts.

Authorizing Statutes

Fish and Wildlife Service Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661-668). This Act authorized the Secretary of the Interior to accept donations of land and contributed funds in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, as amended (16 U.S.C. 743b-7421). This Act authorizes loans for commercial fishing vessels; investigations of fish and wildlife resources; and cooperation with other agencies. The Service is also authorized to accept donations of real and personal property. P.L. 105-242 amended this act to authorize cooperative agreements with nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, or State and local governments to construct, operate, maintain, or improve refuge facilities and services, and to promote volunteer outreach and education programs. Funds contributed by partners from sales and gifts must be deposited in a separate account in the treasury.

Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601-1h). This Act authorizes donations of fund, property, and personal services or facilities for the purposes of the Act.

National Wildlife Refuge System Volunteer and Community Partnership Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 742). Authorizes cooperative agreements with nonprofit partner organizations, academic institutions, or State and local governments to construct, operate, maintain, or improve refuge facilities and services, and to promote volunteer, outreach, and education programs.

National Fish Hatchery System Volunteer Act (120 STAT 2058-2061). Authorizes cooperative agreements with nonprofit partner organizations, academic institutions, or State and local governments to promote the stewardship of resources through biological monitoring or research; to construct, operate, maintain, or improve hatchery facilities, habitat and services, and to promote volunteer, outreach, and education programs.

Appropriation: Contributed Funds

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2015 (+/-)
Contributed Funds	($000)	3,689	3,000	0	0	0	3,000	0
	FTE	*20*	*20*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*20*	*0*

Program Overview

The Service accepts unsolicited contributions from other governments, private organizations, and individuals. Once collected, the funds are used to support a variety of fish and wildlife conservation projects that contribute to fulfillment of DOI goals and the Service's mission.

Contributions are difficult to accurately forecast due to external events. Annual contributions typically range from approximately $1.2 to $5.6 million. In FY 2014, the receipts totaled $3.7 million.

2016 Program Performance

The Service uses contributed funds to address its highest priority needs in concert with other types of funding. The funds in 2016 will be used for projects similar to those planned and completed in previous fiscal years. For example, the Service used contributed funds for the following activities in 2014:

Migratory Birds (KY and TN): The Service funded several wetland and habitat restoration projects in Kentucky and Tennessee. The Harper Tract Acquisition Project in Kentucky will increase wetland acres to the Boatwright Wildlife Management Area, adding significant waterfowl and migratory bird habitat along the Ohio River in Ballard County, KY. The entire tract will be open to the public for hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. Likewise, in Fayette and Shelby Counties, Tennessee, the Cannon Tract-Wolf River project will build on previous conservation work in the Wolf River Project Area by acquiring additional acres of wetland and associated upland habitat.

International Activities (Nepal): The purpose of this project was to reduce retaliatory killing of elephants within the project area to around 50% of 2013 levels, and build public awareness for long term peaceful coexistence between man and elephant. The Service collaborated to build capacity within human-elephant conflict (HEC) affected villages in Nepal and West Bengal by creating village protection committees and anti-depredation squads, enhancing the capacity of these communities to address HEC, building bio-fences to keep out migrating elephants, conducting awareness campaigns on elephants, HEC, and mitigating measures through meetings and banners/leaflets in local languages.

Photo credit: Bombay Natural History Society

Standard Form 300

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
CONTRIBUTED FUNDS

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) **Identification Code: 010-18-14-8216**	**2014 Actual**	**2015 Estimate**	**2016 Estimate**
0100 Balance, start of year	0	0	0
Receipts:			
0220 Deposits, Contributed Funds FWS [010-00-821610-200403]	4	3	3
0400 Total: Balances and Collections	4	3	3
Appropriations:			
0500 Contributed Funds [010-18-8216-0-1201]	-4	-3	-3
0799 Balance, end of year	0	0	0
Obligations by program activity:			
0001 Contributed Funds (Direct)	4	5	5
0900 Total new obligations	4	5	5
Budgetary resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	7	7	5
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, mandatory:			
1201 Appropriation (special or trust fund)	4	3	3
1260 Appropriations, mandatory (total)	4	3	3
1930 Total budgetary resources available	11	10	8
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	7	5	3
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	1	1	1
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	4	5	5
3020 Outlays (gross)	-4	-5	-5
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	1	1	1
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	1	1	1
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	1	1	1
Budget authority and outlays, net:			
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	4	3	3
Outlays, gross:			
4100 Outlays from new mandatory authority	1	1	1
4101 Outlays from mandatory balances	3	4	4
4110 Outlays, gross (total)	4	5	5
4160 Budget authority, net (mandatory)	4	3	3
4170 Outlays, net (mandatory)	4	5	5
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	4	3	3
4190 Outlays, net (total)	4	5	5

Standard Form 300

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
CONTRIBUTED FUNDS

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) **Identification Code: 010-18-14-8216**		**2014 Actual**	**2015 Estimate**	**2016 Estimate**
Object Classification (O)				
Direct obligations:				
11.1	Full-time permanent	1	1	1
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	0	1	1
26.0	Supplies and materials	1	1	1
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	1	1	1
99.0	Subtotal, obligations, Direct obligations	3	4	4
99.5	Below reporting threshold	1	1	1
99.9	Total new obligations	4	5	5
Employment Summary (Q)				
1001	Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	20	20	20

Miscellaneous Permanent Appropriations

Miscellaneous Permanent Appropriations

Appropriations Language

Activities funded from these mandatory spending accounts do not require appropriation language since they were authorized in previous years.

Authorizing Statutes

Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1985, as amended (P.L. 98-473, section 320; 98 Stat. 1874). Provides that all rents and charges collected for quarters of agencies funded by the Act shall be deposited and remain available until expended for the maintenance and operation of quarters of that agency. Authorizing language is:

> *"Notwithstanding title 5 of the United States Code or any other provision of law, after September 30, 1984, rents and charges collected by payroll deduction or otherwise for the use or occupancy of quarters of agencies funded by this Act shall thereafter be deposited in a special fund in each agency, to remain available until expended, for the maintenance and operation of the quarters of that agency…"*

Flood Control Act of 1944, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460(d)). Provides that receipts collected from the sales of timber and crops produced on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers land leased by another Federal agency for natural resources conservation may be used to cover expenses of producing these products and for managing the land for natural resource purposes. Authorizing language is:

> *"The Secretary of the Army is also authorized to grant leases of lands, including structures or facilities thereon, at water resource development projects for such periods, and upon such terms and for such purposes as he may deem reasonable in the public interest… [P]rovided further, that in any such lease or license to a Federal, State, or local governmental agency which involves lands to be utilized for the development and conservation of fish and wildlife, forests, and other natural resources, the licensee or lessee may be authorized to cut timber and harvest crops as may be necessary to further such beneficial uses and to collect and utilize the proceeds of any sales of timber and crops in the development, conservation, maintenance, and utilization of such lands."*

Truckee-Carson Pyramid Lake Water Rights Settlement Act (P.L. 101-618, section 206(f)), **as amended by *Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY 1998*** (P.L. 105-83). Authorizes certain revenues and donations from non-federal entities to be deposited into the Lahontan Valley and Pyramid Lake Fish and Wildlife Fund to support restoration and enhancement of wetlands in the Lahontan Valley and to restore and protect the Pyramid Lake fishery, including the recovery of two endangered or threatened species of fish. Payments to the Bureau of Reclamation for storage in Northern Nevada's Washoe Project that exceed the operation and maintenance costs of Stampede Reservoir are deposited into the Fund and are available without further appropriation, starting in FY 1996. Beginning in FY 1998, P.L. 105-83 provides that receipts from the sales of certain lands by the Secretary of the Interior are to be deposited into the Lahontan Valley and Pyramid Lake Fish and Wildlife Fund. Authorizing language is:

> *"Lahontan Valley and Pyramid Lake Fish and Wildlife Fund – (1) There is hereby established in the Treasury of the United States the 'Lahontan Valley and Pyramid Lake Fish and Wildlife Fund' which shall be available for deposit of donations from any source and funds provided under subsections 205(a) and (b), 206(d), and subparagraph*

208(a)(2)(C), if any, of this title; (2) Moneys deposited into this fund shall be available for appropriation to the Secretary for fish and wildlife programs for Lahontan Valley consistent with this section and for protection and restoration of the Pyramid Lake fishery consistent with plans prepared under subsection 207(a) of this title. The Secretary shall endeavor to distribute benefits from this fund on an equal basis between the Pyramid Lake fishery and the Lahontan Valley wetlands, except that moneys deposited into the fund by the State of Nevada or donated by non-Federal entities or individuals for express purposes shall be available only for such purposes and may be expended without further appropriation, and funds deposited under subparagraph 208(a)(2)(C) shall only be available for the benefit of the Pyramid Lake fishery and may be expended without further appropriation."

P.L. 105-83 – "Provided further, that the Secretary may sell land and interests in land, other than surface water rights, acquired in conformance with subsection 206(a) and 207(c) of Public Law 101-618, the receipts of which shall be deposited to the Lahontan Valley and Pyramid Lake Fish and Wildlife Fund and used exclusively for the purposes of such subsections, without regard to the limitation on the distribution of benefits in subsection 206(f)(2) of such law."

Community Partnership Enhancement Act of 1998 (P.L. 105-242**,** section 5, Section 7 of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C.742f), **as amended by *Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY 1998*** (H.R. 1856). This act authorizes the cooperative agreements with nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, or State and Local governments to construct, operate, maintain, or improve refuge facilities and services, and to promote volunteer outreach and education programs. Authorizing language is:

"Amounts received by the Secretary of the Interior as a result of projects and programs under subparagraph (B) shall be deposited in a separate account in the Treasury. Amounts in the account that are attributable to activities at a particular refuge or complex of geographically related refuges shall be available to the Secretary of the Interior, without further appropriation, to pay the cost of incidental expenses related to volunteer activities, and to carry out cooperative agreements for the refuge or complex of refuges."

Appropriation: Miscellaneous Permanent Appropriations

		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Fixed Costs (+/-)	2016 Internal Transfers (+/-)	2016 Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Budget Request	Change from 2015 (+/-)
Operations and Maintenance of Quarters	($000)	3,442	3,425	0	0	0	3,425	0
	FTE	5	5	0	0	0	5	0
Proceeds from Sales	($000)	392	400	0	0	0	400	0
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lahontan Valley & Pyramid Lake Fish and Wildlife Fund	($000)	614	550	0	0	0	550	0
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Community Partnership Enhancement	($000)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total, Miscellaneous Permanent Appropriations	**($000)**	**4,448**	**4,375**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**4,375**	**0**
	FTE	**5**	**5**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**5**	**0**

Justification of 2016 Program Changes for Miscellaneous Permanent Appropriations

The 2016 budget request for Miscellaneous Permanent Appropriations is $4,375,000 and 5 FTE, with no net program change from the 2015 Estimate.

Program Overview

Operations and Maintenance of Quarters - The Operations and Maintenance of Quarters Account (O & M Quarters) uses receipts from the rental of Service quarters to pay for maintenance and operation of those quarters. Certain circumstances, including a lack of off-site residences and site isolation, require Service personnel to occupy government-owned quarters. Such work includes protecting fish hatchery stock (ex. maintaining water flow to fish rearing ponds during freezing temperatures), monitoring water management facilities, ensuring the health and welfare of visitors, responding to fires and floods, and protecting government property. To provide for these needs, the Service manages 1,081 units comprised of 876 quarters on 227 refuges, 204 quarters on 62 hatchery facilities, and 1 quarters at an Ecological Services facility.

Quarters require routine operational maintenance, periodic rehabilitation, and upgrades to maintain safe and healthy conditions for occupants. Rental receipts are used for general maintenance and repair of quarters buildings; code and regulatory improvements; retrofitting for energy efficiency; correction of safety deficiencies, repairs to roofs and plumbing; utilities upgrades; access road repair and maintenance; grounds and other site maintenance services; and the purchase of replacement equipment such as household appliances, air conditioners, and furnaces. Funds are used to address the highest priority maintenance.

Rental rates for Service quarters are based upon comparability with private sector housing. Quarters rental rates are surveyed on a rotating basis every five years using statistical analysis of comparable rentals from 16 areas nationwide. Between surveys, rents are adjusted using the Consumer Price Index-Rent Series annual adjustment from the end of the fiscal year. Volunteers who must travel a great distance to work at a Service facility are permitted to stay in Service housing units at no cost if vacant housing units are available.

Proceeds From Sales, Water Resources Development Projects - Receipts collected from the sale of timber and crops from Refuge System lands leased or licensed from the Department of the Army may be used to pay the costs of production of the timber and crops and for managing wildlife habitat, 16 U.S.C. 460(d). Twenty-three national wildlife refuges were established as overlay projects on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers land and are administered in accordance with cooperative agreements. The agreements provide that timber and grain may be harvested and sold with the receipts returned for development, conservation, maintenance, and utilization of such lands. These expenses cannot exceed the receipt amounts deposited as proceeds from sales.

Examples of some of the projects undertaken using Proceeds from Sales receipts are: soil amendments; road construction and repairs; ditch and fence construction and maintenance. The agreements with the Corps of Engineers specify that the receipts collected on refuges must be spent within five years. This agreement structure provides for carryover balances from year to year which allows the receipts to accumulate until sufficient funds are available to support some of the larger development projects on these refuges.

Lahontan Valley and Pyramid Lake Fish and Wildlife Fund - Pursuant to the Truckee-Carson Pyramid Lake Water Rights Settlement Act of 1990, as amended, the Lahontan Valley and Pyramid Lake Fish and Wildlife Fund receives revenues and donations from non-federal parties to support the restoration and enhancement of wetlands in the Lahontan Valley and to restore and protect the Pyramid Lake fishery. Payments in excess of operation and maintenance costs of Stampede Reservoir are available without further appropriation. Donations made for express purposes and State cost-sharing funds are available without further appropriation. The Secretary is also authorized to deposit proceeds from the sale of certain lands, interests in lands, and water rights into the Pyramid Lake Fish and Wildlife Fund**.**

Wetlands in Northern Nevada's Lahontan Valley, including those at Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge and Carson Lake, are a key migration and wintering area for up to 1,000,000 waterfowl, shorebirds, and raptors traveling on the eastern edge of the Pacific Flyway. More than 250,000 ducks, 28,000 geese and 12,000 swans have been observed in the area during wet years. In addition to migratory populations, the wetlands support about 4,500 breeding pairs producing 35,000 waterfowl annually. Up to 70 bald eagles, Nevada's largest concentration, have wintered in the valley.

Stillwater NWR, NV

In 1996, the Service completed a Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision which described, analyzed and implemented a program to purchase up to 75,000 acre-feet of water from the Carson Division of the Newlands Project for Lahontan Valley wetlands. In partnership with the State of Nevada, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and the Bureau of Reclamation, 43,200 acre-feet of Newlands Project water rights have been acquired for Lahontan Valley wetlands to date. Of the acquired water rights; approximately 35,200 acre-feet were acquired by the Service, 1,800 acre-feet were acquired

by BIA and 8,900 acre-feet were acquired by the State. Water rights have been purchased from willing sellers at appraised market value. In addition to acquiring water, the Service is authorized to pay customary operations and maintenance charges to the local irrigation district for delivering the acquired water.

The Service's Lahontan National Fish Hatchery Complex is pursuing various activities to protect and restore the Pyramid Lake fishery, including operation and maintenance of Marble Bluff Fish Passage Facility, Lahontan cutthroat trout spawning and incubation operations at Marble Bluff Fish Passage Facility, and other ongoing conservation efforts for the fishes of Pyramid Lake.

Expenditures from the Lahontan Valley and Pyramid Lake Fish and Wildlife Fund continue to support the Service's water rights acquisition and land sales programs at Stillwater NWR.

Community Partnership Enhancement – The Community Partnership fund was established to encourage volunteer programs, donations, and other contributions by persons or organizations for the benefit of a particular wildlife refuge or complex. The partnership between a refuge or complex and non-federal organizations may promote public awareness of the resources of the Refuge System and public participation in the conservation of resources. Partnerships may be in the form of a non-profit organization (as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code), academic institution, or State or local government agency to carry out projects or programs for a refuge or complex.

Funds may be used to promote the education and conservation of fish, wildlife, plants, and cultural and historical resources on a refuge or complex. Projects may be approved to:

- promote stewardship of resources of the refuge through habitat maintenance, restoration and improvement, biological monitoring, or research;
- support the operation and maintenance of the refuge through constructing, operating, maintaining or improving the facilities and services of the refuge;
- increase awareness and understanding of the refuge and the Refuge System through the development, publication, or distribution of educational materials and products;
- advance education concerning the purposes of the refuge and the mission of the Refuge System through the use of the refuge as an outdoor classroom and development of other educational programs; and
- subject to the availability of funds, matching funds may be provided or in the case of property or in-kind services, the fair market value may be matched.

Volunteers complete a fishing pier at Back Bay NWR, VA

2016 Program Performance

Operation and Maintenance of Quarters

Estimated receipts in 2015 and 2016 are expected to be approximately $3,425,000 each year. Revisions continue to be made in the management of the program to reduce the operating balance of the account and target the highest priority repairs and improvements.

Proceeds From Sales, Water Resources Development Projects

Estimated receipts in 2015 and 2016 are expected to be approximately $400,000 each year. Receipts depend on the amount of the commodity harvested, current market value, and the amount of the commodity that the Service uses for wildlife habitat management purposes. Annual receipts may also vary from year to year due to the influence of natural events such as flood or drought.

Lahontan Valley and Pyramid Lake Fish and Wildlife Fund

In 2016, receipts from land sales are estimated at $550,000. The anticipated receipts have increased from prior years because of regional real estate market conditions.

Community Partnership Enhancement

Anticipated receipts for 2015 and 2016 are zero due to the expiration of an agreement with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and no other existing agreements. However, annual receipts may vary from year to year due to individual donations or activities of partners to generate donations.

Standard Form 300

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
MISCELLANEOUS PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) **Identification Code 010-18-14-9927**	**2014 Actual**	**2015 Estimate**	**2016 Estimate**
0100 Balance, start of year	0	0	0
Receipts:			
0220 Rent and Charges for Quarters	4	4	4
0400 Total receipts and collections	4	4	4
Appropriations:			
0500 Miscellaneous Permanent Approprations	-4	-4	-4
0799 Balance, end of year	0	0	0
Obligations by program activity:			
0001 Miscellaneous Permanents	3	6	6
0900 Total new obligations	3	6	6
Budgetary resources:			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	6	7	5
Budget authority:			
Appropriations, mandatory:			
1201 Appropriation (special or trust fund)	4	4	4
1260 Appropriations, mandatory (total)	4	4	4
1930 Total budgetary resources available	10	11	9
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	7	5	3
Change in obligated balance:			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	1	0	2
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	3	6	6
3020 Outlays (gross)	-4	-4	-6
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	0	2	2
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	1	0	2
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	0	2	2
Budget authority and outlays, net:			
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	4	4	4
Outlays, gross:			
4100 Outlays from new mandatory authority	1	2	2
4101 Outlays from mandatory balances	3	2	4
4110 Outlays, gross (total)	4	4	6
4160 Budget authority, net (mandatory)	4	4	4
4170 Outlays, net (mandatory)	4	4	6
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	4	4	4
4190 Outlays, net (total)	4	4	6

Standard Form 300

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
MISCELLANEOUS PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) **Identification Code 010-18-14-9927**	**2014 Actual**	**2015 Estimate**	**2016 Estimate**
Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
25.4 Operation and maintenance of facilities	1	3	3
26.0 Supplies and materials	1	2	2
99.0 Subtotal, obligations, Direct obligations	2	5	5
99.5 Below reporting threshold	1	1	1
99.9 Total new obligations	3	6	6
Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	5	5	5

Administrative Provisions and Legislative Proposals

Administrative Provisions

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service may carry out the operations of Service programs by direct expenditure, contracts, grants, cooperative agreements and reimbursable agreements with public and private entities. Appropriations and funds available to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall be available for repair of damage to public roads within and adjacent to reservation areas caused by operations of the Service; options for the purchase of land at not to exceed $1 for each option; facilities incident to such public recreational uses on conservation areas as are consistent with their primary purpose; and the maintenance and improvement of aquaria, buildings, and other facilities under the jurisdiction of the Service and to which the United States has title, and which are used pursuant to law in connection with management, and investigation of fish and wildlife resources: *Provided*, That notwithstanding 44 U.S.C. 501, the Service may, under cooperative cost sharing and partnership arrangements authorized by law, procure printing services from cooperators in connection with jointly produced publications for which the cooperators share at least one-half the cost of printing either in cash or services and the Service determines the cooperator is capable of meeting accepted quality standards: *Provided further*, That the Service may accept donated aircraft as replacements for existing aircraft: *Provided further, That the Secretary may recover costs for response, assessment and damages to National Wildlife Refuge System resources from the actions of private parties, or for costs as otherwise provided by Federal, State, or local law, regulation, or court order as a result of the destruction, loss of, or injury to any living or non-living National Wildlife Refuge System resource: Provided further, That the damages described in the previous proviso shall include the following: 1) compensation for the cost of replacing, restoring or acquiring the equivalent of the damaged National Wildlife Refuge System resource; and 2) the value of any significant loss of use of a National Wildlife Refuge System resource pending its restoration, replacement or acquisition of an equivalent resource; or 3) the value of the National Wildlife Refuge System resource in the event the resource cannot be replaced, restored or an equivalent acquired: Provided further, That any instrumentality, including but not limited to a vessel, vehicle, aircraft, or other equipment or mechanism that destroys, causes the loss of, or injures any living or non-living National Wildlife Refuge System resource or which causes the Secretary to undertake actions to prevent, minimize, or abate destruction, loss of, injury or risk to such resource shall be liable in rem to the United States for response costs and damages resulting from such destruction, loss, injury or risk to the same extent as a person is liable: Provided further, That in addition to any other authority to accept donations, the Secretary may accept donations of money or services to meet expected, immediate, or ongoing response costs and damages; response and assessment costs and damages recovered by the Secretary and donations received under this provision shall be available to the Secretary, without further appropriation, and shall remain available until expended, for damage assesments conducted, or for restoration and replacement of National Wildlife Refuge System resources and shall be managed under the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Fund as per 43 U.S.C. 1474b-1: Provided further*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, all fees collected for non-toxic shot review and approval shall be deposited under the heading "United States Fish and Wildlife Service—Resource Management" and shall be available to the Secretary, without further appropriation, to be used for expenses of processing of such non-toxic shot type or coating applications and revising regulations as necessary, and shall remain available until expended.

(Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015.)

Justification of Language Change

Addition of the following wording:

> *Provided further, That the Secretary may recover costs for response, assessment and damages to National Wildlife Refuge System resources from the actions of private parties, or for costs as otherwise provided by Federal, State, or local law, regulation, or court order as a result of the destruction, loss of, or injury to any living or non-living National Wildlife Refuge System resource: Provided further, That the damages described in the previous proviso shall include the following: 1) compensation for the cost of replacing, restoring or acquiring the equivalent of the damaged National Wildlife Refuge System resource; and 2) the value of any significant loss of use of a National Wildlife Refuge System resource pending its restoration, replacement or acquisition of an equivalent resource; or 3) the value of the National Wildlife Refuge System resource in the event the resource cannot be replaced, restored or an equivalent acquired: Provided further, That any instrumentality, including but not limited to a vessel, vehicle, aircraft, or other equipment or mechanism that destroys, causes the loss of, or injures any living or non-living National Wildlife Refuge System resource or which causes the Secretary to undertake actions to prevent, minimize, or abate destruction, loss of, injury or risk to such resource shall be liable in rem to the United States for response costs and damages resulting from such destruction, loss, injury or risk to the same extent as a person is liable: Provided further, That in addition to any other authority to accept donations, the Secretary may accept donations of money or services to meet expected, immediate, or ongoing response costs and damages; response and assessment costs and damages recovered by the Secretary and donations received under this provision shall be available to the Secretary, without further appropriation, and shall remain available untile expended, for damage assesments conducted, or for restoration and replacement of National Wildlife Refuge System resources and shall be managed under the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Fund as per 43 U.S.C. 1474b-1.*

This change adds language to provide the Service with the authority, similar to that of the National Park Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to seek compensation from responsible parties who injure or destroy NWRS or other Service resources. Under current law, when system resources are injured or destroyed, the costs of repair and restoration falls upon the appropriated budget for the affected refuge, often at the expense of other refuge programs. Competing priorities can leave Service resources languishing until the refuge obtains appropriations from Congress to address the injury. This may result in more intensive injuries, higher costs, and long-term degradation of publicly-owned Service resources. The public expects that refuge resources, and the broad range of activities they support, will be available for future generations. It follows that persons responsible for harm—not taxpayers—should pay for any injury they cause. Unlike other land management agencies, the Service only has criminal penalties (fines) for those injuries occurring on NWRS lands. In most cases, the injuries far exceed any fines recovered by the United States Government. With this authority, the recovery of damages for injury to system resources would be used to reimburse assessment costs; prevent or minimize the risk of loss; monitor ongoing effects, and/or use those funds to restore, replace or acquire resources equivalent to those injured or destroyed. In 2013, Refuges reported under the Annual Uniform Crime Report, seven cases of arson and 2,300 vandalism offenses. Monetary losses from these cases totaled $1.1 million dollars. Other reported offenses often lead to resource injury and number in the thousands, including off-road vehicle use, trespass, and other natural resources violations. Specific examples suitable for damage recovery under this provision include a case of illegally creating roads through Sequoyah Refuge (OK) including burning acreage and damming a creek; grounding of a ship on coral reefs at Northwest Hawaiian Islands Refuge: and abandonment of property on numerous refuges.

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

Extending the Interest Provision to the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) in the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act—The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Robertson) contains a provision that requires interest on Pittman-Robertson funds to be allocated to finance waterfowl conservation projects funded through the NAWCA. This provision expires at the end of FY 2015. Unless the Act is amended, interest generated will return to the Wildlife Restoration Fund for distribution according to statutory formulae.

Interest from Pittman-Robertson funds is a critical source of income for NAWCA. Since 1994, $348 million has been provided. This funding has contributed to stabilizing waterfowl populations on the continent and enhanced hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreational opportunities in the United States, Canada and Mexico. These funds can be used towards projects selected by the NAWCA Council and are matched by at least 1:1 by partners. The loss of this funding source would negatively impact the Service's ability to continue to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting.

An example of a project funded with this income is the Mississippi Delta Waterfowl Management Area Wetland Enhancement project. By combining this funding with partner resources, restoration and enhancement of important wetlands in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley is benefiting migratory waterfowl and waterbirds and improving and increasing recreational opportunities for the public.

Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act (Duck Stamp)—Language is needed to provide stability to the purchasing power of the Federal Duck Stamp. The requested language would allow limited authority for the Secretary of the Interior, with the approval of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, to increase the price of the Federal Duck Stamp to keep up with the price of inflation. The last increase approved by Congress, to take effect in June 2015, followed a period of nearly 25 years since the previous price increase. During that time, the costs of land rose significantly, causing serious erosion of the purchasing power of the Duck Stamp. This substantially constrained the Service from addressing a crisis in the prairie pothole region, where important breeding and resting habitat in the nation's "duck factory" is being converted to crop land at a fast pace.

Utilizing the Skills of Older Workers—The Department will submit a legislative proposal that provides the authority to utilize the skills of older workers as a cost-effective workforce resource to help DOI accomplish its mission and annual goals. It allows experienced workers who are retired to support projects, take on seasonal work, or help on a longer-term basis. Older workers can also serve as a resource for newer DOI staff to learn from their institutional knowledge and skills.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)— The Department will submit a legislative proposal to permanently authorize annual funding, without further appropriation or fiscal year limitation for the (Land and Water Conservation Fund) LWCF. Starting in 2017, $900 million annually in permanent funds would be available. During the transition to full permanent funding in 2017, the budget proposes $900 million in total LWCF funding in FY 2016, comprised of $500 million in permanent and $400 million in discretionary funds. The amounts requested include the authorized levels for the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture.

National Wildlife Refuge Damage Cost Recovery—This change adds language to provide the Service with the authority, similar to that of the National Park Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to seek compensation from responsible parties who injure or destroy NWRS or other Service resources. Under current law, when system resources are injured or destroyed, the costs of repair and restoration falls upon the appropriated budget for the affected refuge, often at the expense of other

refuge programs. Competing priorities can leave Service resources languishing until the refuge obtains appropriations from Congress to address the injury. This may result in more intensive injuries, higher costs, and long-term degradation of publicly-owned Service resources. The public expects that refuge resources, and the broad range of activities they support, will be available for future generations. It follows that persons responsible for harm—not taxpayers—should pay for any injury they cause. Unlike other land management agencies, the Service only has criminal penalties (fines) for those injuries occurring on Refuge lands. In most cases, the injuries far exceed any fines recovered by the Federal government. With this authority, the recovery of damages for injury to system resources would be used to reimburse assessment costs; prevent or minimize the risk of loss; monitor ongoing effects, and/or use those funds to restore, replace or acquire resources equivalent to those injured or destroyed.

Programs Requested for Elimination

Bureau/Office Name	Fish and Wildlife Service
Program Name	National Wildlife Refuge Fund
Citation	16 U.S.C. 715s
Title of Legislation	Refuge Revenue Sharing Act[1]
Last Year of Authorization	Authorized
BY Budget Request ($000)	None
Explanation of Authorization Requirement for BY	None
Program Description	Authorizes payments to be made to offset tax loses to counties in which Service fees and withdrawn public domain lands are located.

1. Non-Resource Management Program Account

Mandatory Budget and Offsetting Collections Proposal

Reference	2016 Legislative Proposal
Migratory Bird Conservation Account – See Migratory Bird Conservation Account section	After 2016, the legislation also proposes that the price of the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp can be increased by the Secretary of the Interior, with the approval of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission

Legislative Proposal

Concurrent with this budget request the Administration is proposing to amend the ***Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act,*** so that after 2016, the price of the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp can be increased by the Secretary of the Interior, with the approval of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission.

Appendices

Section 403 Compliance

Purpose: To fulfill legislative requirements for disclosure of program assessments used to support Government-wide, departmental, or agency initiatives or general operations. H. R. 83 / Public Law 113-235, Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act:

> *SEC. 403. The amount and basis of estimated overhead charges, deductions, reserves or holdbacks, including working capital fund and cost pool charges, from programs, projects, activities and subactivities to support government-wide, departmental, agency, or bureau administrative functions or headquarters, regional, or central operations shall be presented in annual budget justifications and subject to approval by the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Changes to such estimates shall be presented to the Committees on Appropriations for approval.*

Pursuant to the *Section 403* directive, the Service fully discloses its administrative costs as follows:

REGIONAL COMMON PROGRAM SERVICES: Each region has reported on common program services (shared costs) and direct charges. A few examples of these services include facilitlies management, training programs, safey initatives and local outreach programs.

NON-RESOURCE MANAGEMENT USER-PAY COST SHARE: Non-Resource Management Programs continue to pay annually for the administrative services used. The funding received from Non-Resource Management Programs supplements central, regional and Service-wide support operations. Specifically, the Non-Resource Management Programs pay for their actual use of communication services and Workers Compensation. Other costs, such as Washington and Regional office administration and Service-wide costs, such as Unemployment Compensation are measured through FTE usage.

WORKERS COMPENSATION: The Service pays workers compensation costs centrally through the Service-wide bill paying account. As a result, Programs are not aware of the costs that result from employee injuries. To address an audit finding and provide incentive for Programs to participate in the Department's Return to Work initiative, beginning in FY 2015 worker's compensation costs beyond the funded amount will be charged to the applicable Programs.

ENTERPRISE-WIDE SERVICES: In order to provide the necessary level of funding for Enterprise-wide and Working Capital Fund Direct Bill services, the Service assesses its resource management programs for costs that can be directly tracked back to users. This includes software licenses, cell phone costs, personnel system costs and the like. In addition, the Service assesses programs to support such items as contracting and personnel officers in regional and headquarters offices to provide service as programs request. These program assessments are under the oversight and administrative management of the Service's General Operations Budget Council.

RESERVES: The Service Director manages a deferred allocation fund in the amount of up to one-half of one percent of the current year Resource Management appropriation for each subactivity in excess of three million dollars. These management reserve funds are used for unanticipated requirements and are applied consistent with the original appropriation.

The Service strictly adheres to the policy that Congressional priorities must be funded in their entirety and are not subject to the deferred allocation or user pay cost share.

Below shows administrative cost estimates for FY 2015 and FY 2016:

	Fiscal Year 2015
External Administrative Costs	
WCF Centralized Billings	$23,824,500
WCF Direct Billings/Fee for Service	$10,662,400
Program Assessments	
Holdbacks, Reserves, and Deductions	$5,500,000
Bureau Administrative Costs/Central and Regional Operations	
Regional Common Program Services	$9,591,349
Non-Resource Management User-Pay Cost Share	$9,023,401
Workers Compensation	$592,000
Enterprise-Wide Services	$13,051,752

	Fiscal Year 2016
External Administrative Costs	
WCF Centralized Billings	$23,005,000
WCF Direct Billings/Fee for Service	$11,082,000
Program Assessments	
Holdbacks, Reserves, and Deductions	$6,000,000
Bureau Administrative Costs/Central and Regional Operations	
Regional Common Program Services	$9,879,089
Non-Resource Management User-Pay Cost Share	$9,146,977
Workers Compensation	$600,880
Enterprise-Wide Services	$13,443,305

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Employee Count by Grade
(Total Employment)

	FY 2014 Actuals	FY 2015 Estimate	FY 2016 Estimate
Executive Level V	1	1	1
SES	23	23	23
Subtotal	**24**	**24**	**24**
SL - 00	0	0	0
ST - 00	2	2	2
Subtotal	**2**	**2**	**2**
GS/GM -15	136	136	136
GS/GM -14	533	534	540
GS/GM -13	1,321	1,320	1,335
GS -12	1,825	1,820	1,825
GS -11	1,511	1,519	1,550
GS -10	8	8	8
GS - 9	975	985	1,040
GS - 8	125	124	125
GS - 7	575	595	655
GS - 6	242	240	242
GS - 5	477	482	535
GS - 4	222	226	226
GS - 3	107	106	110
GS - 2	17	17	18
GS - 1	8	8	8
Subtotal	**8,082**	**8,120**	**8,353**
Other Pay Schedule Systems	737	742	800
Total employment (actuals & estimates)	**8,845**	**8,888**	**9,179**

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Allocations Received from Other Accounts

	FY 2014 Actual		FY 2015 Estimate		FY 2016 Estimate	
Department Program	**Budget Authority**	**Outlays**	**Budget Authority**	**Outlays**	**Budget Authority**	**Outlays**
Department of Agriculture:						
Forest Pest Management	94,000	59,463	100,000	98,200	100,000	100,000
Department of the Interior:						
Office of Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration						
Damage Assessment 8300	2,703,231	1,543,348	2,500,000	2,560,969	2,500,000	2,500,000
Restoration 9800	21,354,549	23,943,285	21,000,000	21,106,365	21,000,000	21,000,000
Office of Wildland Fire Coordination						
Wildland Fire Management	60,486,500	61,241,928	60,000,000	60,145,950	60,000,000	60,000,000
Disaster Relief - Hurricane Sandy	0	4,175,172		68,879,880		29,519,948
Bureau of Land Management						
Central Hazardous Materials Fund	5,346,599	5,665,066	4,000,000	4,942,619	4,000,000	4,000,000
So. Nevada Public Lands Management	10,209,747	18,626,913	6,000,000	8,946,823	6,000,000	6,000,000
Energy Act - Permit Improvement	1,210,000	890,834	1,300,000	1,237,000	1,300,000	1,300,000
Department of Transportation:						
Federal Highway Administration-Discretionary	13,752	662,312	100,000	39,626	100,000	100,000
Federal Highway Administration- Mandatory	12,688,000	15,606,223	12,000,000	12,481,600	12,000,000	12,000,000
TOTAL	114,106,377	132,414,544	107,000,000	180,439,032	107,000,000	136,519,948

Expiring Authorization Citation

Bureau/Office Name	Fish and Wildlife Service
Program Name	National Volunteer Coordination Program
Citation	HR 4973, P.L. 111-357
Title of Legislation	National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Improvement Act of 2010
Last Year of Authorization	FY 2014
BY Budget Request ($000)	None
Explanation of Authorization Requirement for BY	None
Program Description	Authorizes cooperative agreements with nonprofit partner organizations, academic institutions, or State and local governments to construct, operate, maintain, or improve refuge facilities and services, and to promote volunteer, outreach, and education programs.

Expiring Authorization Citation

Bureau/Office Name	Fish and Wildlife Service
Program Name	Sikes Act, as amended
Citation	16 U.S.C. 670(a)-670(f)
Title of Legislation	Sikes Act
Last Year of Authorization	FY 2014
BY Budget Request ($000)	None
Explanation of Authorization Requirement for BY	None
Program Description	Authorizes the Secretary to cooperate with the Department of Defense, Department of Energy, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Bureau of Land Management, and State agencies in planning, developing, maintaining and rehabilitating Federal lands for the benefit of fish and wildlife resources and their habitat.

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