

# 2005 Hurricane Impact to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Funding and Cost Information



## History of FWS Supplemental Funding

■ On September 21, 2005, the Secretary of the Interior utilized Section 102 authority to transfer emergency funding to support agency efforts associated with Hurricane Katrina. The Service received a transfer of \$10,000,000 in unobligated balances from the agency's construction account.



photo: USFWS

Big Branch Marsh NWR  
September 4, 2005

■ On October 28, 2005, the President requested reallocation of previously requested emergency supplemental funding (Estimate No. 13, 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session). This request included \$61,000,000 to the Service for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Specifically, the request would have provided funding for immediate clean-up and repair at Service facilities damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

■ Ultimately, \$30,000,000 in emergency supplemental funding was included in the *Department of Defense, Emergency Hurricane Supplemental Appropriations to Address Hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, and Pandemic Influenza Act, 2006* (Public Law 109-148, H.R. 2863, dated December 30, 2005). These funds are being used for repair, reconstruction and operational expenses that are part of the Service's hurricane recovery efforts.

■ On February 16, 2006, the President requested additional emergency supplemental funding for hurricane recovery and reconstruction activities (Estimate No. 2, 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session). This request included \$132,400,000 to the Service for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricane Katrina and other hurricanes of the 2005 season. Specifically, the request would provide additional funds for immediate clean-up and repair needs at Service facilities in the Southeast that were damaged by hurricanes.

## Summary of Reported Damages Costs

■ The Service provides initial damage assessments promptly following each major natural disaster. These damage assessments are conducted within the first 24-48 hours after a disaster and represent both on-the-ground observations and analysis of facility inventories and historical construction costs.

■ The Service estimates that the funding included in the Administration supplemental request will allow for the removal of the hazardous materials.



photo: USFWS

Cadaver dog searches debris at Big Branch Marsh NWR on September 13, 2005.

## Summary of Incident Costs

■ The Service dispatched four Type 3 incident management teams and two search and rescue teams to assist stations and neighboring communities in recovering from the multiple storms. Teams included resources from multiple Regions and interagency resources from the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service,

## Note on prior-year supplemental:

The *Military Construction Appropriations and Emergency Hurricane Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2005* (PL 108-324, H.R. 4837, dated October 13, 2004) provided \$40,000,000 of which \$34,804,316 was directed to the Southeast Region for natural disaster response. To date, **over 80% of these funds have been obligated** and the balance is committed pending contract awards and will be obligated in the coming months.

Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Geological Survey and several State and local agencies. The total cost of incident operations was approximately \$6.6 million (double 2004 costs).

2005 FWS Hurricane Response Activities

Storm Name	Incident Commander	FWS Dates*	Peak Staffing	IMT Cost
Dennis	Housch	Jul 10-20	8	\$70,000
Katrina	Crews/Heaton	Aug 30-Sep 27	265	\$5,701,000
Rita	Wetzel	Sep 24-Oct 8	51	\$660,000
Wilma	Stratton	Oct 24-30	36	\$151,000

\* Dates do not necessarily coincide with hurricane landfall due to advance staging and evacuation of teams due to overlapping storms.

■ The Service also provided staff and equipment resources to assist with the overall federal response. Under the National Response Plan and its emergency support functions these resources were ordered to fill critical resource needs in throughout the response effort. Additive costs associated with these activities will be billed to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and total approximately \$3 - \$5 million.

*Footnotes*

<sup>1</sup> Hurricanes Dennis, Katrina, Rita and Wilma are all characterized as major hurricanes by the National Hurricane Center. A major hurricane is defined as making landfall as a Category 3 or greater on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale.