

## **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. Over its 141 year history, the Service has adapted to the Nation's changing needs to become a leader in protecting and enhancing America's biological natural resources. In the face of escalating challenges such as land-use, population growth, invasive species, water scarcity, and a range of other complex issues, all of which are amplified by accelerated climate change, the Service is meeting today's pressing conservation challenges with a strategic approach.

The Service is only agency in the Federal Government whose primary responsibility is management of biological resources for the American public. The Service also helps ensure a healthy environment for people by providing opportunities for Americans to enjoy the outdoors and our shared natural heritage.

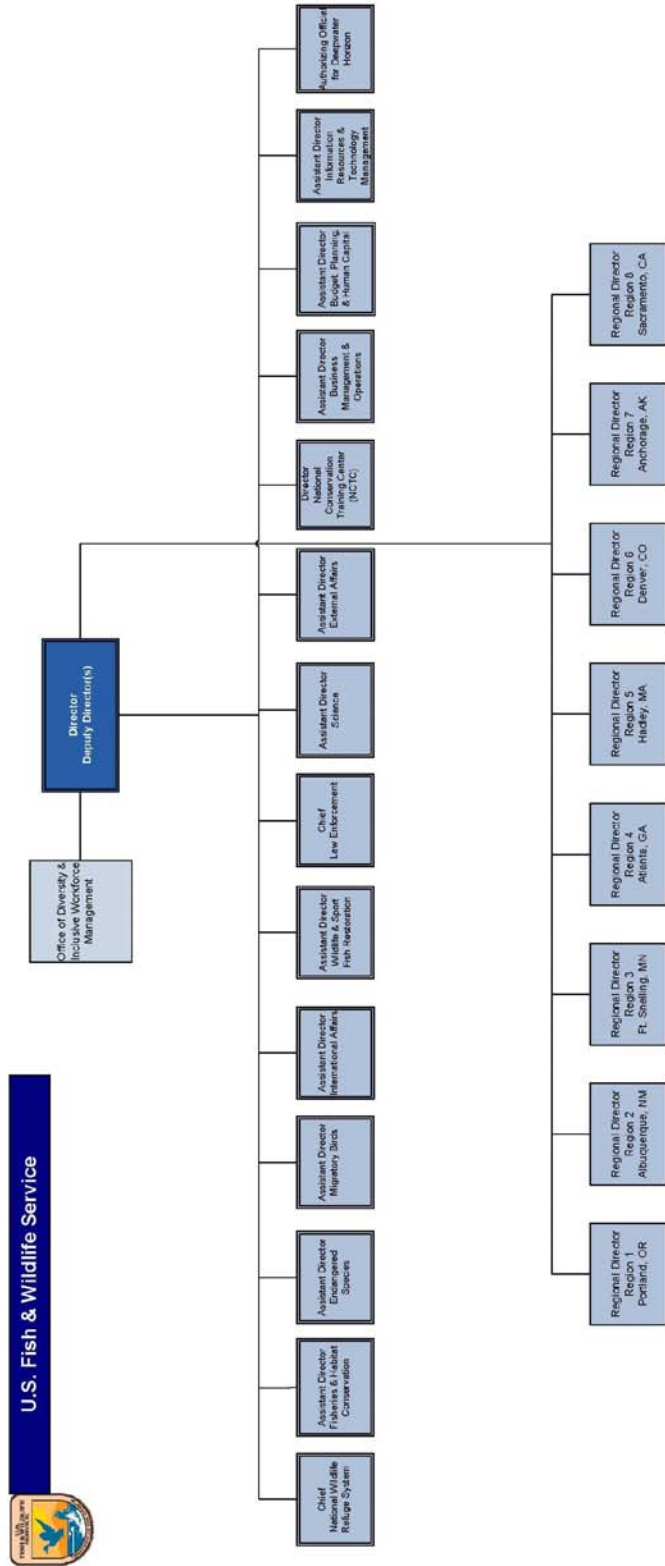
The Service is responsible for implementing and enforcing some of our Nation's most important environmental laws, such as the Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, as well as international agreements like the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

### **The Service's Organization**

The Service headquarters is in Washington, D.C. and Arlington, Virginia; with eight regional offices and over 700 field stations. These include 556 units of the National Wildlife Refuge System; 6 National Monuments; 80 Ecological Services Field Stations; 71 National Fish Hatcheries; 1 historical National Fish Hatchery (D.C. Booth in South Dakota); 65 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices; 9 Fish Health Centers; 7 Fish Technology Centers; and waterfowl production areas in 206 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, 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)



January 23, 2012  
11:00 am

### Overview of FY 2013 Budget Request

Dollars in Thousands				
Budget Authority	2011 Enacted	2012 Enacted	2013 Request	2013 Request Change from 2012 Enacted
Discretionary	1,505,130	1,475,571	1,547,586	72,015
CIAP Cancellation of Unobligated Balances			-200,000	-200,000
Mandatory	987,770	953,494	994,731	41,237
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,492,900</b>	<b>2,429,065</b>	<b>2,342,317</b>	<b>-86,748</b>
<b>FTE</b>	<b>9,508</b>	<b>9,368</b>	<b>9,290</b>	<b>-78</b>
The FTE amounts presented differ from the Budget Appendix due to subsequent changes to estimates.				

## Overview

The 2013 request for current appropriations totals \$1.55 billion, an increase of \$72.0 million compared to the FY 2012 Enacted. In addition, the budget includes a \$200 million cancellation of prior year unobligated balances. The budget also includes \$1.0 billion available under permanent appropriations, most of which will be provided directly to the states for fish and wildlife restoration and conservation. Employee pay, and other inflation increases will be funded from within totals.

This budget funds the Service's priorities, including the America's Great Outdoors, New Energy Frontier, Youth in the Great Outdoors, Cooperative Recovery, and Increased Service Science initiatives.

### America's Great Outdoors

In April of 2010 the President established the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) initiative through Presidential Memorandum. The goal of AGO is to reconnect Americans, especially young adults, to America's rivers and waterways, landscapes of national significance, ranches, farms and forests, great parks, and coasts and beaches. The AGO initiative also calls upon agencies to build upon states, local, private, and tribal priorities for the conservation of land, water, wildlife, historic, and cultural resources, creating corridors and connectivity across these outdoor spaces, and for enhancing neighborhood parks. The initiative is also focused on how the Federal Government can best advance those priorities through public private partnerships and locally supported conservation strategies. Many of the Service's resource management programs will be essential to fulfilling the goals of the AGO Initiative. In addition, effective enforcement of the Nation's wildlife laws is essential to the Service's conservation mission, including its contributions to the President's AGO Initiative.

The 2013 budget includes a total of \$106.9 million through the Land and Water Conservation Fund for land acquisitions that the Service has identified as having the greatest conservation benefits.

In addition, the budget requests increases for several grant programs administered by the Service that support AGO goals. These grant programs include the Cooperative Endangered Species Fund (+\$12.3 million) and the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund (+\$3.9 million).

In AGO listening sessions and online forums over the last two years, Americans asked for more projects like Montana's Blackfoot Challenge and South Carolina's ACE Basin Project, where conservation is

accomplished through community-level collaboration, using a network of core protected areas combined with conservation easements. The Service has responded to this by funding projects in many states that speak to these requests. For example, the Service recently established the Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Area, which conserve up to 1.1 million acres of tallgrass prairie in Kansas through voluntary, perpetual conservation easements. These conservation easements will protect habitat for more than 100 species of grassland birds and 500 plant species, and ensure the region's sustainable ranching culture, which directly supports conservation of the tallgrass prairie.

Similarly, the Service has accepted a donation of the first parcel for the new Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge could protect approximately 150,000 acres of important environmental and cultural landscapes in the Kissimmee River Valley south of Orlando, Florida. The new refuge and conservation area – the 556th unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System – is being established with the support of local ranchers, farmers and landowners who are working cooperatively with Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conserve the wildlife values on their lands while retaining their right to raise livestock or crops, an approach championed by the Obama administration.

If fully realized, the refuge and conservation area will span 150,000 acres north of Lake Okeechobee. Two-thirds of the acreage, or 100,000 acres, will be protected through conservation easements from willing sellers. With easements, private landowners retain ownership of their land, as well as the ability to continue farming or ranching the land. The easements would ensure the land could not be subdivided or developed. In addition to improving water quality and providing outdoor recreational opportunities, the proposed conservation area and refuge could protect important habitat for 88 federal and state listed species, including the Florida panther, Florida black bear, whooping crane, Everglade snail kite and the Eastern indigo snake. It could also link to approximately 690,000 acres of partner-conserved lands.

### **Youth in the Great Outdoors**

This initiative provides funding for jobs in natural resources for America's youth, including Youth Conservation Corps positions in wildlife refuges and other positions.

Workforce planning studies suggest that the bureaus are now competing for candidates who bring new competencies to the U.S. workforce. The Service must act now to ensure that talented and capable young people are ready to enter public service as natural resource professionals. The Youth and Careers in Nature program, a component of this initiative, 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. These youth programs provide opportunities to educate youth about career opportunities and promote public service as part of a life-long commitment to natural resource conservation. These programs are managed through mentoring and partnerships with Friends organizations, volunteers, educational institutions, and local conservation organizations. The Refuge System offers the following programs to provide youth with experience in conservation and wildlife management: the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), the Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP), the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP), and the Career Diversity Internship Program (CDIP). Some students who have participated in these programs have chosen a permanent, full-time career with the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

### **New Energy Frontier (+\$4.0 million)**

This initiative includes funding for conservation planning assistance (+\$0.75 million), enhanced studies of renewable energy projects on migratory birds (+\$0.75 million), technical assistance in project design and Endangered Species Act consultation (+\$1.5 million) of renewable energy projects, and to bolster Service law enforcement activities which address the impact of new energy development and ongoing energy production on wildlife and wildlife habitat (+\$1.0 million).

Energy development is a strategic priority for the Department, and the Nation, as the Service seeks to address economic, environmental, and national security challenges related to energy production and use. 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. In terms of the Department's goal to "...increase approved capacity for production of renewable (solar, wind, and geothermal) energy resources on Department of Interior managed lands, while ensuring full environmental review..."<sup>a</sup> the Service has a clear role in providing environmental review, especially in the area of Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance. The Service's ability to conduct consultations and planning activities are critical to ensuring that the nation can expand the production of renewable energy and create jobs without compromising environmental values.

#### **Cooperative Recovery (+\$5.4 million)**

This new Service initiative is a strategic approach to implementing recovery actions on National Wildlife Refuges and surrounding ecosystems. The Refuge System comprises approximately 150 million acres of land and waters, including 54 million acres of submerged land in five Marine National Monuments. These lands and waters provide habitat for species of fish, wildlife, and plants, and sanctuary for hundreds of threatened and endangered species, and secure spawning areas for native fish. With nearly 300 listed species located in or around units of the National Wildlife Refuge System, the ecosystem surrounding refuges provide important habitat for listed species, and can provide essential connectivity for species conservation.

Funding will support a cross-programmatic partnership approach to complete planning, restoration, and management actions addressing current threats to endangered species on and around wildlife refuges. The NWRS will partner with Fisheries, Endangered Species, Partners for Fish and Wildlife, and Migratory Birds to work under the Strategic Habitat Conservation framework, and in consultation with LCCs to consider proposals for endangered species recovery projects on refuges and surrounding ecosystems. As part of this process, the partnership will develop evaluation criteria for determining how priority funds will be allocated and spent.

The total requested increase includes \$2,500,000 for Refuge Wildlife and Habitat Management, \$883,000 for Partners for Fish and Wildlife, \$800,000 for Fisheries Population Assessment, \$770,000 for Adaptive Science, and \$400,000 for Endangered Species Recovery.

#### **Increased Service Science (+\$6.0 million)**

The Fish and Wildlife Service's FY 2013 budget request includes a \$6.0 million increase for additional science work on discrete project needs. This increase is split between the following three areas: \$1.0 million for developing and implementing scientifically rigorous protocols for national pesticide consultations with EPA; \$3.0 million for furthering the national Refuge Inventory and Monitoring (I&M) initiative launched by the Service in 2010; and \$2.0 million for developing a comprehensive early detection and surveillance program for Asian carp through the establishment of eDNA lab(s) at FWS' Regional Fish Technology Centers.

#### **Fixed Costs (+\$12.4 million)**

The Service includes \$12.4 million to fund fixed costs. The fixed costs include adjustments for federal; employer contributions to health benefit plans; unemployment compensation; workers compensation; and rent. Funding fixed costs prevents the erosion of program capability.

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<sup>a</sup> United States Department of Interior Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2011-2016 accessed at [http://www.doi.gov/bpp/data/PPP/DOI\\_StrategicPlan.pdf](http://www.doi.gov/bpp/data/PPP/DOI_StrategicPlan.pdf)

**Campaign to Cut Waste**

Over the last two years, the Administration has implemented a series of management reforms to curb uncontrolled growth in contract spending, terminate poorly performing information technology projects, deploy state of the art fraud detection tools, focus agency leaders on achieving ambitious improvements in high priority areas, and open Government up to the public to increase accountability and accelerate innovation.

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. Each agency is directed to establish a plan to reduce the combined costs associated with travel, employee information technology devices, printing, executive fleet efficiencies, and extraneous promotional items and other areas.

The Department of the Interior's goal is to reduce administrative spending by \$207 million from 2010 levels by the end of 2013. To meet this goal, the Department is leading efforts to reduce waste and create efficiencies by reviewing projected and actual administrative spending to allocate efficiency targets for bureaus and Departmental offices to achieve the 20 percent target. Additional details on the Campaign to Cut Waste can be found at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/11/09/executive-order-promoting-efficient-spending>.

U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE								
MAJOR ACCOUNT SUMMARY OF FISCAL YEAR 2013								
Account		2011 Actual	2012 Enacted	Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes	2013 President's Budget	Change from 2012 (+/-)
<b><u>Current Appropriations</u></b>								
Resource Management	\$000	1,245,861	1,226,177	+11,990	-3,434	+12,311	1,247,044	+20,867
	FTE	7,371	7,240		-20	-62	7,158	-82
Construction	\$000	20,804	23,051	+131	0	-4,046	19,136	-3,915
	FTE	82	82			0	82	0
Land Acquisition	\$000	54,890	54,632	+257	+3,434	+48,569	106,892	+52,260
	FTE	86	86		+20	0	106	+20
National Wildlife Refuge Fund	\$000	14,471	13,958	0	0	-13,958	0	-13,958
	FTE	0	0			0	0	0
North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	\$000	37,425	35,497	0	0	+3,928	39,425	+3,928
	FTE	9	9			0	9	0
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund	\$000	59,880	47,681	0	0	+12,319	60,000	+12,319
	FTE	18	18			0	18	0
Multinational Species Conservation Fund	\$000	9,980	9,466	0	0	+514	9,980	+514
	FTE	5	4			0	4	0
Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation	\$000	3,992	3,786	0	0	0	3,786	0
	FTE	1	1			0	1	0
State and Tribal Wildlife Grants	\$000	61,876	61,323	0	0	0	61,323	0
	FTE	26	23			0	23	0
Private Stewardship Grants	\$000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	FTE	0	0			0	0	0
Landowner Incentive Program Grants	\$000	-3,049	0	0	0	0	0	0
	FTE	2	0			0	0	0
<b>TOTAL, Current Appropriations</b>	<b>\$000</b>	<b>1,506,130</b>	<b>1,475,571</b>	<b>+12,378</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>+59,637</b>	<b>1,547,586</b>	<b>+72,015</b>
	<b>FTE</b>	<b>7,600</b>	<b>7,463</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-62</b>	<b>7,401</b>	<b>-62</b>
Coastal Impact Assistance Program Cancellation of Unobligated Balances	\$000	0	0	0	0	-200,000	-200,000	-200,000
	FTE	0	0				0	0
<b>TOTAL, Current Appropriations (w/ Coastal Impact Cancellation of Unobligated Balances)</b>	<b>\$000</b>	<b>1,506,130</b>	<b>1,475,571</b>	<b>+12,378</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-140,363</b>	<b>+1,347,586</b>	<b>-127,985</b>
	<b>FTE</b>	<b>7,600</b>	<b>7,463</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-62</b>	<b>7,401</b>	<b>-62</b>

U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE								
MAJOR ACCOUNT SUMMARY OF FISCAL YEAR 2013 REQUEST								
Account		2011 Actual	2012 Enacted	Fixed Costs(+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	2013 President's Budget	Change from 2012 (+/-)
<b>Permanent and Trust Accounts</b>								
Federal Lands Recreational Enhancement Act	\$000	5,189	5,000	0	0	0	5,000	0
	FTE	32	32	0	0	0	32	
Migratory Bird Conservation Account	\$000	50,834	47,000	0	0	+14,000	61,000	+14,000
	FTE	65	65	0	0	+10	75	+10
National Wildlife Refuge Fund	\$000	7,281	8,000	0	0	0	8,000	0
	FTE	11	11	0	0	0	11	0
North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	\$000	689	651	0	0	+49	700	+49
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund	\$000	53,714	51,356	0	0	+1,531	52,887	+1,531
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration	\$000	450,233	433,943	0	0	+11,595	445,538	+11,595
	FTE	68	53	0	0	0	53	0
Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration	\$000	411,763	399,178	0	0	+14,062	413,240	+14,062
	FTE	56	52	0	0	0	52	0
Miscellaneous Permanent Appropriations	\$000	4,413	4,366	0	0	0	4,366	0
	FTE	5	5	0	0	0	5	0
Contributed Funds	\$000	3,654	4,000	0	0	0	4,000	0
	FTE	18	18	0	0	0	18	0
Coastal Impact Assistance Program	\$000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	FTE	0	15	0	0	0	15	0
<b>Subtotal, Permanent Appropriations</b>	<b>\$000</b>	<b>987,770</b>	<b>953,494</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>41,237</b>	<b>994,731</b>	<b>41,237</b>
	<b>FTE</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>+10</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>+10</b>
Reimbursements and Allocations from others								
Reimbursable (1900 series)	FTE	837	876			+5	881	+5
Offsetting Collections 1800 serie	FTE	198	178			0	178	
Offsetting Collections 4000 serie	FTE	26	18			0	18	
Wild land Fire Management	FTE	481	471			-31	440	-31
Southern Nevada Lands	FTE	21	21			0	21	
Federal Aid - Highway	FTE	15	15			0	15	
NRDAR	FTE	48	48			0	48	
Central HAZMAT	FTE	7	7			0	7	
Forest Pest	FTE	1	1			0	1	
Energy Act - Permit Processing	FTE	19	19			0	19	
Subtotal, Other		1,653	1,654	0	0	-26	1,628	-26
<b>TOTAL FISH AND WILDLIFE</b>								
<b>SERVICE w/o Cancellation of Unobligated Balances</b>	<b>\$000</b>	<b>2,493,900</b>	<b>2,429,065</b>	<b>+12,378</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100,874</b>	<b>2,542,317</b>	<b>+113,252</b>
	<b>FTE</b>	<b>9,508</b>	<b>9,368</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-78</b>	<b>9,290</b>	<b>-78</b>
<b>TOTAL FISH AND WILDLIFE</b>								
<b>SERVICE w/ Cancellation of Unobligated Balances</b>	<b>\$000</b>	<b>2,493,900</b>	<b>2,429,065</b>	<b>+12,378</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-99,126</b>	<b>2,342,317</b>	<b>-86,748</b>
	<b>FTE</b>	<b>9,508</b>	<b>9,368</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-78</b>	<b>9,290</b>	<b>-78</b>



## Priority Goals

### Youth in the Great Outdoors Priority Goal

**Priority Goal:** By September 30, 2013, the Department of Interior will maintain the increased level of employment of individuals between the ages of 15 to 25 that was achieved in FY 2010 (35% increase in total youth employment over FY 2009) to support the Department's mission of natural and cultural resource management.

#### 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.

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 Service's hires will continue to contribute to 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. 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. These programs are managed through mentoring and partnerships with Friends organizations, volunteers, educational institutions, and local conservation organizations.

The **Fisheries 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 SCEP/STEP 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)** which will continue 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 provide 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, the most effective way to communicate with today's young people. 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 Department is presently employing a set of internal measures and milestones to monitor and track achievement of the Priority Goals. Progress in these areas will be reported and reviewed quarterly throughout the year to identify and address any need for enhanced coordination or policy measures to address barriers to the achievement of the Priority Performance Goal (PPG).

#### Youth in the Great Outdoors Priority Goal (PPG)

Performance Goal	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Plan	2011 Actual	2012 Plan	2013 PB	Change from 2012 PB to 2013
Number of youth (ages 15-25) employed	2,084	3,125	3,125	3,197	3,125	3,125	0
Comments:	FWS will continue to hire youth as resources permit. At the request level, FWS will try to maintain its current number of youth employed.						
Contributing Programs:	Most Service programs, especially NWRS, Hatcheries						

#### Renewable Energy Priority Goal

***The Priority Goal:*** By September 30, 2013, 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 11,000 Megawatts.

#### 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. Through responsible development of federally-managed resources, the Department of the Interior (DOI) can play a central role in moving the Nation toward a clean energy economy. The transition to a renewable and emission-free energy infrastructure places demands on the Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure that new technologies and energy projects have minimal impact on fish and wildlife resources. While generally regarded as clean energy, renewable energy projects, including wind, solar, wave, and geothermal, 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 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

**Conservation Planning Assistance (CPA)** 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 in order 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 towards 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 game 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 (ESA). The **ESA Consultations** program will enable Service biologists to 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 and implementable. This effort will require intense, focused, and dedicated attention from consultation staff for renewable projects for the foreseeable future.

Performance Metrics

The Department is presently employing a set of internal measures and milestones to monitor and track achievement of the Priority Goals. Progress in these areas will be reported and reviewed quarterly throughout the year to identify and address any need for enhanced coordination or policy measures to address barriers to the achievement of the PPG.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has identified the following performance measures that relate to this Priority Goal.

**Renewable Energy Priority Goal (PPG)**

Performance Goal	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Plan	2011 Actual	2012 Plan	2013 PB	Change from 2012 PB to 2013
Percent of formal/informal biological consultations and advanced planning coordination responses for Renewable Energy (solar, wind and geothermal) provided in a timely manner	n/a	62%	43%	56%	60%	69%	9%

**Renewable Energy Priority Goal (PPG)**

<b>Performance Goal</b>	<b>2009 Actual</b>	<b>2010 Actual</b>	<b>2011 Plan</b>	<b>2011 Actual</b>	<b>2012 Plan</b>	<b>2013 PB</b>	<b>Change from 2012 PB to 2013</b>
# of formal/informal biological consultations and advanced planning coordination responses provided in a timely manner for renewable energy (solar, wind and geothermal)	n/a	503	337	473	348	497	149
Total # of formal/informal biological consultations and advanced planning coordination responses for renewable energy (solar, wind and geothermal)	n/a	812	776	848	580	719	139
Note:	The number of requests for consultation or planning assistance will continue to increase, stretching resources to complete the work in a timely manner. Note that the Service responds to requests as they are submitted and does not control the number of requests received.						
Contributing Programs:	Endangered Species Consultations & Conservation Planning Assistance advanced planning coordination (Combined in this measure)						

**Climate Change Priority Goal**

***The Priority Goal:* By September 30, 2013, for 50 percent of the Nation, the Department of the Interior will identify resources that are particularly vulnerable to climate change and implement coordinated adaptation response actions.**

## Bureau Contribution

The Service uses a science-based, adaptive framework for setting and achieving cross-program conservation objectives that strategically addresses the problems fish and wildlife will face in the future. This framework, called Strategic Habitat Conservation, is based on the principles of Adaptive Management and uses population and habitat data, ecological models, and focused monitoring and assessment efforts to develop and implement strategies that result in measurable fish and wildlife population outcomes. This process uses the best available scientific information to predict how fish and wildlife populations will respond to changes in the environment, thus enabling the Service to focus habitat conservation and other management activities where they will be most effective.

The Service is working with numerous partners to develop the shared scientific and technical capacities needed to conduct landscape-scale biological planning and conservation design to inform and improve conservation delivery. Working with other DOI bureaus, state fish and wildlife agencies, other federal agencies involved in conserving fish and wildlife, non-governmental organizations, industry and the

public, the Service has established and several Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs). As a result, the Service and Department have moved closer to the long-term goal of establishing an integrated national network of 2122 LCCs capable of defining biological objectives and developing the needed understanding to create landscape conservation strategies for managing fish and wildlife resources.

LCCs will play a significant role in the Service's ecosystem restoration efforts across the nation. The regions will utilize the LCC network and the Strategic Habitat Conservation business model to work on conservation actions more effectively in our changing ecosystems, ensuring that our actions are driven by good science, respect for our partners and a focus on outcomes.

#### Implementation Strategy

The strategy also will continue building the landscape-scale, long-term inventory and monitoring network to support the **National Wildlife Refuge System**. The Service launched this national effort in 2010 to increase its collective ability to inventory and monitor wildlife and habitats and inform conservation. The Inventory and Monitoring (I&M) program element addresses critical information needs to plan and evaluate the effectiveness of conservation strategies implemented by the Service and conservation partners. These data collection efforts are needed in the face of accelerating climate change and growing threats from other environmental stressors. The program establishes consistent inventory and monitoring of environmental parameters, such as sea level rise, drought, shifting patterns of wildlife migration, habitat loss, disease, and invasive species. These data collection efforts will be coordinated with the National Park Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and other federal and state efforts. This program will directly support our LCCs to inform efficient conservation delivery and expenditure of funds.

The Service is also conducting a small number of mitigation projects to help fish and wildlife populations begin to adapt to changing environmental conditions. Projects are underway as part of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP) in the Service's **Fisheries** program and in the **Partners for Fish and Wildlife** Program.

#### Performance Metrics

The Department is presently employing a set of internal measures and milestones to monitor and track achievement of the Priority Goals. Progress in these areas are reported and reviewed quarterly throughout the year to identify and address any need for enhanced coordination or policy measures to address barriers to the achievement of the PPG.

#### Climate Change Priority Goal (PPG)

Performance Measures	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Plan	2011 Actual	2012 Target	2013 President's Budget
Number of LCCs formed	n/a	n/a	9	15	15	18	18
Number of LCCs operational	n/a	n/a	7	9	14	14	14
Number of LCCs with a management/ operating plan in place	n/a	n/a	8	12	10	14	14

## Climate Change Priority Goal (PPG)

Performance Measures	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Plan	2011 Actual	2012 Target	2013 President's Budget
Comments:	In FY 2012, the Service will focus funding and support on those LCCs that are best able to deliver priority conservation outcomes as defined by LCC partners while maintaining others at a reduced level. Targeting funding in FY 2013 will provide for continued development of critical partnerships associated with more established LCCs and will focus resources so they are used effectively to benefit fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats. The four remaining LCCs (Eastern Tallgrass Prairie & Big Rivers; Peninsular Florida; Aleutian & Bering Sea Islands; Northwestern Interior Forest) that FWS will not be fully operational until at least FY 2014.						
Contributing Programs:	Cooperative Landscape Conservation						
Number of risk and vulnerability assessments <u>initiated</u> for priority species or areas. (cumulative)	n/a	19	62	146	152	174	175
Contributing Programs:	Primarily: Refuges, Endangered Species, Cooperative Landscape Conservation, Adaptive Science, Environmental Contaminates, Partners, Coastal, etc.						
Number of risk and vulnerability assessments developed or refined ( <u>completed</u> ) for priority species or areas. (cumulative)	n/a	0	18	35	51	129	165
Contributing Programs:	Primarily: Refuges, Endangered Species, Cooperative Landscape Conservation, Adaptive Science, Environmental Contaminates, Partners, Coastal, etc.						
Number of climate change adaptation actions undertaken by DOI <u>initiated</u> (cumulative)	n/a	n/a	18	31	34	37	37
Contributing Programs:	Primarily: Refuges, Endangered Species, Cooperative Landscape Conservation, Adaptive Science, Environmental Contaminates, Partners, Coastal, etc.						
Number of climate change adaptation actions undertaken by DOI <u>completed</u> (cumulative)	n/a	n/a	0	0	13	32	35
Contributing Programs:	Primarily: Refuges, Endangered Species, Cooperative Landscape Conservation, Adaptive Science, Environmental Contaminates, Partners, Coastal, etc.						
Number of adaptation planning workshops conducted (cumulative)	n/a	n/a	13	17	15	26	26
Contributing Programs:	Cooperative Landscape Conservation, Adaptive Science						

## DOI Strategic Plan

The FY 2011-2016 DOI Strategic Plan, in compliance with the principles of the GPRA Modernization Act of 2010, provides a collection of mission objectives, goals, strategies and corresponding metrics that provide an integrated and focused approach for tracking performance across a wide range of DOI programs. While the DOI Strategic Plan for FY 2011 – FY 2016 is the foundational structure for the description of program performance measurement and planning for the FY 2013 President’s Budget, further details for achieving the Strategic Plan’s goals are presented in the DOI Annual Performance Plan and Report (APP&R). Bureau and program specific plans for FY 2013 are fully consistent with the goals, outcomes, and measures described in the FY 2011-2016 version of the DOI Strategic Plan and related implementation information in the Annual Performance Plan and Report (APP&R).

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