

## Federal Lands Recreation Fee Program

### Appropriations Language

Congress passed the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) on December 8, 2004, as part of the Omnibus Appropriations bill for 2005. Approximately 169 Fish and Wildlife Service sites collect entrance fees and other receipts. Collection sites deposit all receipts into a Recreation Fee Account.

The Federal Lands Recreation Fee Program (Recreation Fee Program) demonstrates the feasibility of user generated cost recovery for the operation and maintenance of recreation areas, visitor services improvements, and habitat enhancement projects on Federal lands. Refuges use fees primarily to improve visitor access; to enhance public safety and security; to address backlogged maintenance needs; to enhance resource protection; and to cover the costs of collection. The FLREA authorizes the Recreation Fee Program through December 8, 2014.

### Authorizing Statutes

**Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act** (16 U.S.C. 6801-6814). The FLREA provides the authority to establish, modify, charge, and collect recreation fees at Federal recreation land and waters over 10 years. 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.

		2011 Actual	2012 Estimate	2013				Change from 2012 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Admin- istrative Cost Savings (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Recreation Fee Enhancement	(\$000)	5,189	5,000	0	0	0	5,000	0
<b>Total, Federal Lands Recreation Fee Program</b>	<b>(\$000) FTE</b>	<b>5,189 32</b>	<b>5,000 32</b>	<b>0 0</b>	<b>0 0</b>	<b>0 0</b>	<b>5,000 32</b>	<b>0 0</b>

### Program Overview

The FLREA authorized the Recreation Fee Program (Program) that allows the collection of entrance and expanded amenity fees on Federal lands and waters. The FLREA authorized the program for 10 years, through FY2014. The Fish and Wildlife 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 program. An additional 28 National Fish Hatchery, Ecological Services, or other sites also sell passes. The program expects to collect approximately \$5,000,000 in FY 2012 and in FY 2013 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 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 FY 2011 entrance fees at 35 different field sites collected more than \$3 million for the Service. The Service used revenues to hire temporary park ranger and volunteer coordinators, pay law enforcement overtime, and support visitor services interns. These extra employees provide for increased safety, interpretive programs, and educational activities for the public. Other direct benefits include securing educational supplies such as spotting scopes and binoculars for visitor use, informational brochures and maps, updated refuge signs, routine maintenance of trails and roads, and the “greening” of visitor facilities.

In FY 2011, Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuge in Hawaii collected \$520,000 and obligated nearly \$700,000, including funds collected in prior years. These funds were used to:

- increase and improve law enforcement presence and resource protection
- support environmental education and interpretation of the natural and cultural history of the area as well as multiple events such as Lighthouse Day, and Nēnē Awareness Day that attract thousands of visitors
- hire three AmeriCorps interns and eight temporary employees from the local community
- improve technology used to run a more efficient fee program
- continue restoration of the Kilauea Point Lighthouse

In partnership with the Kīlauea Point Natural History Association, the Service’s fee program helped fund the replacement of the lighthouse vent ball assembly and many other restoration and investigation efforts in 2011.



Photo Credit: USFWS

Photo credit: Ohana Industries

***Kīlauea Point NWR Lighthouse Ventball Replacement (replica)-After FY11 Phase 1 Restoration***

The Service collected \$1 million for hunting permits at 100 refuges across the United States in FY 2011. Fee dollars help support hunting program administration, habitat restoration, routine maintenance and enhancements for hunting facilities, the hiring of temporary check station operators and park rangers, gate and road repairs, the printing of hunt brochures, creating or expanding youth hunts, and supporting hunting and fishing special events.

In FY 2011, Kodiak NWR in Alaska collected \$24,000 from hunt permits for a variety of hunting opportunities, which enabled volunteers to assist staff with the construction of a new cabin on Uganik Island. The cabin site is adjacent to grassy hillsides, alpine tundra, and rocky beaches that provide important forage areas for Sitka Black Tail Deer and Kodiak Brown Bears, both popular game species in the fall and winter. This cabin should be a welcomed addition to Kodiak’s recreational offerings. Every year, volunteers, Youth Conservation Corps crews and seasonal staff help the Refuge with routine maintenance and weatherization of all nine cabins available for reservations through Recreation.gov.



*Volunteer crew working on the Uganik Island Cabin, and YCC crew working on weatherizing Deadman Cabin.*

The Service also collects more than \$350,000 nationwide from fishing permits and boat ramp and launching fees. With 7.1 million fishing visits and 2.8 million boat launch visits at refuges in FY 2011, refuges continue to reach out to a broad spectrum of recreation enthusiasts.

At Black Bayou NWR, fee dollars helped improve access to Black Bayou Lake. The lake is a popular fishing spot where more than 5,000 fishing boats launch on the lake each year in pursuit of largemouth bass, crappie, sunfish and catfish. An improved boat launch ramp provides access to the tree-studded, 1,600-acre lake. In FY 2011, funds allowed the refuge to purchase a new ramp for the EZ Dock that is located at the boat launch. This ramp makes the floating boat dock even more accessible to the public by spanning a gap between the dock and the land that can occur during high water periods. Other enhancements included effort to control the aquatic invasive plant Water Hyacinth throughout the lake. This invasive species plagues Black Bayou Lake by making it difficult for boats to navigate the lake and by blocking out sunlight needed by native aquatic plants. Herbicide was purchased and applied in cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.



*Canoeists making use of new ramp at Black Bayou Lake.*

**2012 Program Performance**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (\$000)	2011 Actual	2012 Estimate	2013 Estimate
Recreation Fee Revenues	5,189	5,000	5,000
America the Beautiful pass	[388]	[390]	[392]
Unobligated Balance Brought Forward & Recoveries	6,252	5,852	5,500
<b>Total Funds Available</b>	<b>11,441</b>	<b>10,852</b>	<b>10,500</b>
<b><i>Obligations by Type of Project</i></b>			
Facilities Routine/Annual Maintenance	957	1,001	975
Facilities Capital Improvements	723	609	945
Facilities Deferred Maintenance	<u>566</u>	<u>525</u>	<u>424</u>
<b>Subtotal, asset repairs and maintenance</b>	<b>2,246</b>	<b>2,135</b>	<b>2,344</b>
Visitor Services	3,035	2,496	2,743
Habitat Restoration (directly related to wildlife dependent recreation)	153	255	220
Direct Operation Costs	863	921	789
Law Enforcement (for public use and recreation)	265	408	369
Fee Management Agreement and Reservation Services	6	7	7
Administration, Overhead and Indirect Costs	385	390	400
<b>Total Obligations</b>	<b>6,953</b>	<b>6,612</b>	<b>6,872</b>

**Program Performance Summary**

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.

**Use of Cost and Performance Information**

The Service monitors the Recreation Fee Program's costs of collection to ensure they remain below 20% of total fees collected.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RECREATION FEE PROGRAM			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) Identification code 14-5252-0-303	2011 Actual	2012 Estimate	2013 Estimate
<b>Receipts:</b>			
0220 Recreation Fee Program	5	5	5
0500 Appropriation	-5	-5	-5
0799 Total Balance	0	0	0
<b>Obligations by program activity:</b>			
0001 Direct Program Activity	7	5	5
0900 Total obligations	7	5	5
<b>Budgetary resources available for obligation:</b>			
1000 Unobligated balance carried forward, start of year	6	4	4
1260 New budget authority (gross)	5	5	5
1930 Total budgetary resources available for obligation	11	9	9
0900 Total new obligations (-)	-7	-5	-5
1941 Unobligated balance carried forward, end of year	4	4	4
<b>New budget authority (gross), detail:</b>			
Permanent:			
1260 Appropriation (special fund)	5	5	5
4090 Total new budget authority (gross)	5	5	5
<b>Change in obligated balances:</b>			
3000 Unpaid obligations brought forward, Oct 1 (gross)	1	3	2
3030 Total new obligations	7	5	5
3040 Total outlays, gross (-)	-5	-6	-6
3090 Obligated balance, end of year	3	2	1
<b>Outlays, (gross) detail:</b>			
4100 Outlays from new mandatory authority	4	4	4
4101 Outlays from mandatory balances	1	2	2
4110 Total outlays (gross)	5	6	6
<b>Net budget authority and outlays:</b>			
4160 Budget authority	5	5	5
4170 Outlays	5	6	6
<b>Direct obligations:</b>			
1113 Total personnel compensation	1	1	1
1252 Other services	1	2	2
1253 Other goods and services from Federal sources	1	0	0
1254 Operation and maintenance of facilities	0	1	1
1260 Supplies and materials	1	1	1
1310 Equipment	1		
1320 Land and Structures	1		
1990 Subtotal, obligations, Direct obligations	6	5	5
99.95 Below reporting threshold	1	0	0
99.99 Total new obligations	7	5	5
<b>Personnel Summary</b>			
<b>Direct:</b>			
1001 Full-time equivalent employment	32	32	32

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