

**Activity: Ecological Services**  
**Subactivity: Habitat Conservation**

		2010 Actual	2010 Enacted / 2011 CR	2012			Budget Request	Change From 2011 CR (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Admin- istrative Cost Savings (-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
Partners for Fish and Wildlife	(\$000)	60,134	60,134	+32	-816	+50	59,400	-734
	FTE	261	261	-	-	+5	266	+5
Conservation Planning Assistance	(\$000)	35,951	35,951	-148	-805	+3,370	38,368	+2,417
	FTE	224	224	-	-	+18	242	+18
Coastal Programs	(\$000)	15,931	15,931	-20	-225	-250	15,436	-495
	FTE	69	69	-	-	-1	68	-1
National Wetlands Inventory	(\$000)	5,643	5,643	-45	-110	-250	5,238	-405
	FTE	18	18	-	-	-	18	-
<b>Total, Habitat Conservation</b>	(\$000)	<b>117,659</b>	<b>117,659</b>	<b>-181</b>	<b>-1,956</b>	<b>+2,920</b>	<b>118,442</b>	<b>+783</b>
	FTE	<b>572</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>+22</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>+22</b>

**Program Overview**

The Fish and Wildlife Service promotes the protection, conservation, and restoration of our Nation’s fish and wildlife resources through its Habitat Conservation program. This cooperative program provides expert habitat conservation planning and technical assistance in the use and development of the Nation’s land and water resources to conserve and protect the canvas of America’s Great Outdoors. The program safeguards public and environmental health by conserving highly threatened coastal habitats; mapping, inventorying and monitoring the Nation’s wetlands, and; restoring aquatic and terrestrial trust species, populations and habitats.

The Habitat Conservation program’s primary habitat conservation tools are:

- Partnership-based habitat restoration, protection and conservation projects;
- Habitat conservation planning in natural resource use and development;
- Coordinate service responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act;
- Protection, restoration and inventory of coastal habitats;
- Assessment and mapping of the status and trends of the Nation’s wetlands; and

Environmental change occurs today in ways fundamentally different from any other time in history. These changes, including sea-level rise and habitat loss and fragmentation, are prominent conservation challenges. Habitat Conservation program staff employ Strategic Habitat Conservation principles to provide partners with landscape-level planning assistance to address urban growth and impacts related to climate change. The program delivers resources for coastal protection and management; more readily accessible digital information to address the potential impacts of sea-level rise on coastal barriers; digitized National Wetlands Inventory wetlands data for geospatial analyses of coastal habitat change and trends and sea-level rise models; and vigorous participation in Landscape Conservation Cooperatives and landscape-scale restoration efforts for coordinated conservation delivery on the ground. In addition, the Habitat Conservation program is accelerating collaboration on the development of renewable energy with other agencies, Tribes, and non-governmental organizations to help achieve renewable energy goals.

**Subactivity: Habitat Conservation**  
**Program Element: Partners for Fish and Wildlife**

		2010 Actual	2010 Enacted / 2011 CR	2012			Change From 2011 CR (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Admin- istrative Cost Savings (-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Partners for Fish and Wildlife	(\$000)	60,134	60,134	+32	-816	+50	59,400	-734
	FTE	261	261	-	-	+5	266	+5

**Summary of 2012 Program Changes for Partners for Fish and Wildlife**

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Adaptive Habitat Management	+2,000	5
• Ecosystem Restoration - Chesapeake Bay	+400	0
• Maine Lakes Milfoil Invasive Project w/St. Joseph's College	-500	0
• Hawaii Invasive Species Management	-1,000	0
• Georgia Streambank Restoration	-500	0
• Natural Resource Economics w/MSU	-350	0
<b>Program Changes</b>	<b>+50</b>	<b>+5</b>

**Justification of 2012 Program Changes**

The 2012 budget request for the Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program is \$59,400 and 266 FTE, a net program change of +\$50,000 and +5 FTE from the 2010 Enacted/2011 annualized Continuing Resolution.

**Adaptive Habitat Management (+\$2,000,000/+5 FTE)**

The requested increase of \$2 million will be targeted at delivering relevant projects on private lands, which implement cost-effective measures to restore, enhance, and manage fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats. Emphasis will be placed in focus areas identified through strategic planning process to achieve population and habitat objectives at landscape scales for species most vulnerable to environmental change.

This increase will enable the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program to expand implementation of habitat restoration and enhancement projects in cooperation with private landowners within Landscape Conservation Cooperatives. To accomplish this, the Program will continue work with the states and territories in support of their Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies, and with universities and other partners to assess the benefits of habitat restoration and enhancement practices on private land for the benefit of federal trust species.

**Ecosystem Restoration - Chesapeake Bay (+\$400,000/+0 FTE)**

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program will expand direct technical and financial assistance to private landowners to restore, enhance, and manage fish and wildlife habitats on private lands in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. These actions, called for in Executive Order 13508 *Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed*, will be done in coordination with the North Atlantic and Appalachian Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs). The Service will help improve habitats for priority species through restoration and management on private lands. Priority habitats in critical need of restoration have been identified in the Nanticoke, Choptank, and Pocomoke river watersheds in Maryland and Delaware. The Service will use proven programs such as the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

to build sustainable populations of priority trust species, such as the Delmarva fox squirrel, black duck and dwarf wedge mussel.

**Maine Lakes Milfoil Invasive Project with St. Joseph's College (-\$500,000/+0 FTE)**

The Service proposes to eliminate this earmark funding through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program in 2012. The Service does not have the capability to provide technical and administrative support for this project. The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program has set habitat restoration priorities in specific geographic focus areas identified through the Program's 5-year strategic planning process and this project is not consistent with the current priorities. Funding this project would require the redirection of staff and resources to ensure proper administrative oversight, thus reducing the Service's capabilities to address higher priority activities.

**Hawaii Invasive Species Management (-\$1,000,000/+0 FTE)**

The Service proposes to eliminate this earmark funding through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program in 2012. Funding to support these efforts remains available to the State of Hawaii through other Service programs such as State and Tribal Wildlife Grants and Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration. Elimination of this funding will provide the Service with flexibility to address higher priority resource needs such as invasive species control and eradication in strategic focus areas identified in the Program's strategic plan.

**Georgia Streambank Restoration (-\$500,000/+0 FTE)**

The Service proposes to eliminate this earmark funding through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program in 2012. In prior years, funds were passed through the Service to the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission for work primarily consisting of fencing livestock out of stream channels. The budget request does not include dedicated funding for this program in 2012. Projects of this nature are eligible for consideration for funding through existing Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program funding mechanisms in Georgia. Elimination of this earmark will provide the Service with flexibility to address other high priority resource needs and opportunities while having no measurable effect on the Service's contributions to the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program Strategic Plan and associated performance goals.

**Natural Resource Economics Enterprise with Mississippi State University (-\$350,000/+0 FTE)**

The Service proposes to eliminate this earmark funding through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program in 2012. This Congressionally earmarked funding is provided to Mississippi State University to provide educational programs to assist landowners and wildlife managers. Funding for this program is eliminated as it is not consistent with the purpose or enabling legislation of the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program. Funding for these activities is available through other sources, such as State and Tribal Wildlife Grants. Elimination of this funding will allow the Service to address high priorities and opportunities, while having no measurable effect on the Service's contributions to the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program Strategic Plan and associated performance goals.

**Program Overview**

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is the Service's voluntary, citizen- and community-based stewardship program for fish and wildlife conservation. The program is based on the premise that fish and wildlife conservation is a responsibility shared by citizens and government. The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program works with private landowners, other government agencies, tribes and other partners to support federal and locally supported conservation strategies. These efforts support the goals of the Department's America's Great Outdoors initiative by restoring and enhancing wildlife habitat and serve to create corridors and connectivity on the regional landscape. The Program uses science-based management practices to restore and protect our lands and waters for future generations.

**Use of Cost and Performance Information**

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program continues to achieve mission results via performance-based management.

- The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program operates under a 5-year Strategic Plan developed with stakeholder input. This plan defines outcome-oriented Program priorities, goals and performance targets.
- The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program contributes to the long-term outcome-oriented performance goals of Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, and Fisheries programs and is working with these programs to refine outcome-oriented performance goals and measures.
- Annual project selection strategically directs Program resources to sites within priority geographic focus areas to maximize benefits to federal trust species.
- In an effort to improve information sharing, the Partners for Fish and Wildlife 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 when implementing habitat projects.

The program's strong partnerships provide for financial leveraging of Program dollars at a 4:1 ratio or greater. The voluntary, incentive-based approach to restoring habitat on private lands has led to the restoration of more than 3 million acres of upland habitat and 1,000,000 acres of wetlands, since its inception in 1987. These acres, along with 9,000 miles of enhanced stream habitat, provide valuable habitat for federal trust species. Program resources are concentrated on high-value "geographic focus areas," as identified in the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program 5-year Strategic Plan.

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife program vision is:

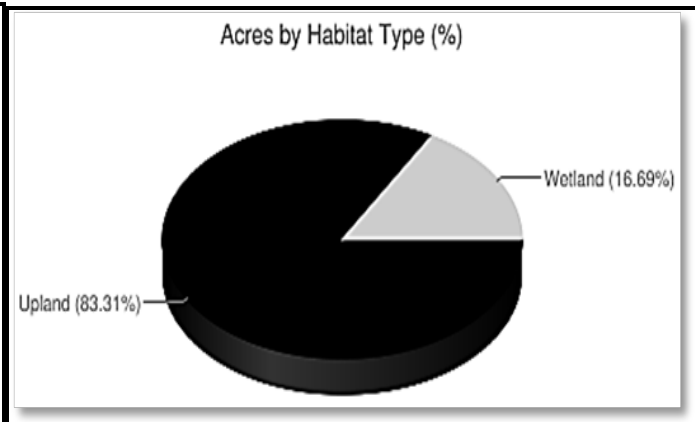
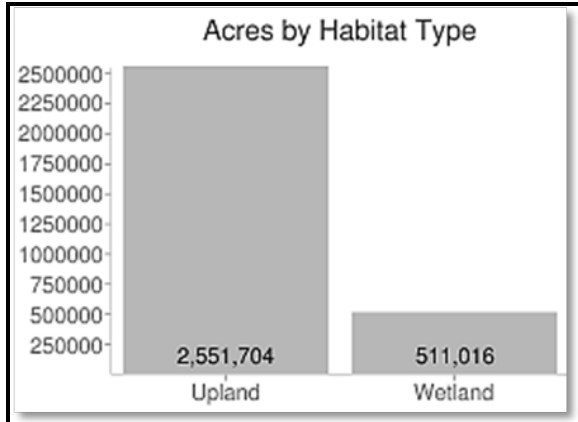
**"...to efficiently achieve voluntary habitat restoration on private lands, through financial and technical assistance, for the benefit of federal trust species."**

This mission statement is the guiding principle in reaching the program's ultimate outcome of increasing the number of self-sustaining populations identified as priorities by the Migratory Bird, Fisheries, and Endangered Species programs. The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program works closely with these programs to identify priority species and the habitat restoration targets necessary to increase or sustain their populations. Increased integration of Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program expertise into these three programs will improve efficiency and effectiveness in completing projects with private landowners that can help preempt the need to list many species under the Endangered Species Act.

**Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program National Summary Report  
(Fiscal Years 2002-2010)**

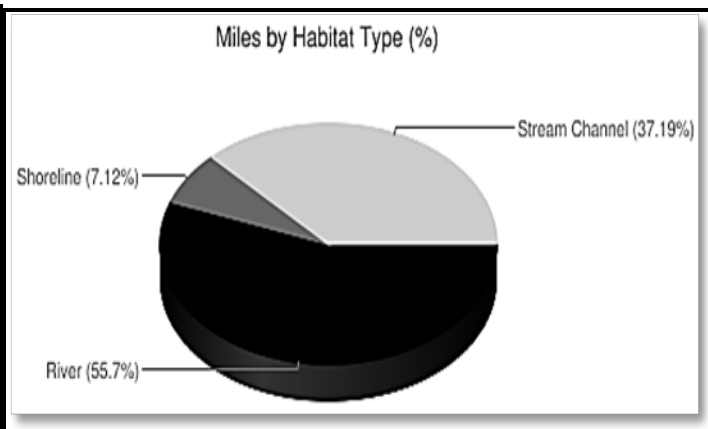
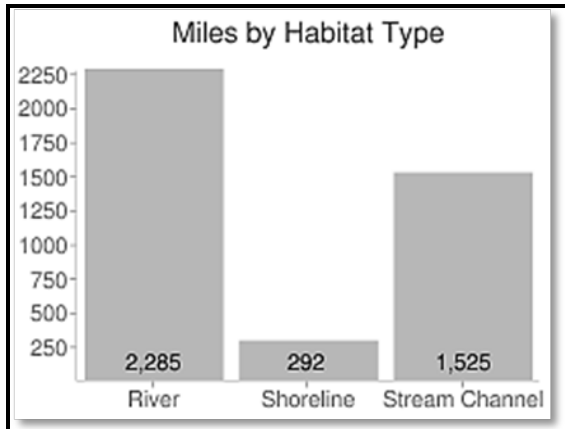
*Acres by Habitat Type*

Habitat Type	Acres	Percent of Total
Upland	2,551,704.88 acres	83.31%
Wetland	511,016.07 acres	16.69%



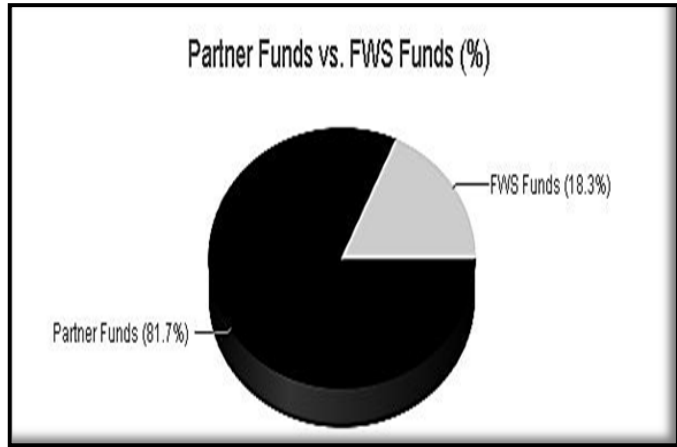
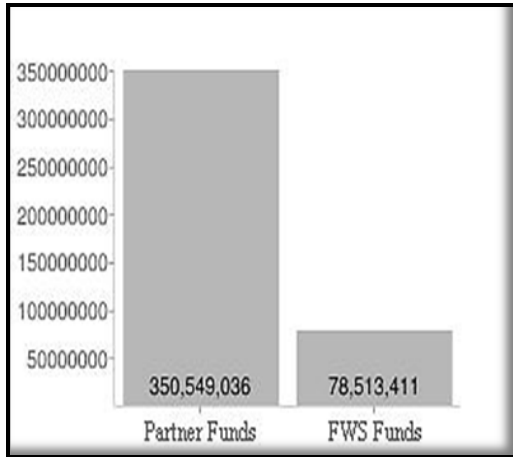
*Miles by Habitat Type*

Habitat Type	Miles	Percent of Total
River	2,285.148 miles	55.7%
Shoreline	292.006 miles	7.12%
Stream Channel	1,525.761 miles	37.19%



*Partner Leveraging*

Partner Funds	FWS Funds	Partner Leveraging
\$350,549,036	\$78,513,411	446%



**Strategic Habitat Conservation** – Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program staff work with private landowners, federal, state and other partners to identify and implement high priority habitat restoration projects. Many of these projects represent a key component of a strategic, on-the-ground response, reducing the threats to fish and wildlife habitat, and enhancing ecosystem and population resiliency to predicted changes. These projects are designed to help achieve population and habitat objectives established at landscape scale for species the Service considers most vulnerable and sensitive to habitat fragmentation, invasive species, sea-level rise, and variations in weather patterns. Program staff also serves as a bridge to owners of land adjacent to or affecting National Wildlife Refuges, to complement activities on refuge lands, contribute to the resolution of environmental issues associated with off-refuge practices, and reduce habitat fragmentation outside refuge boundaries. These efforts maintain and enhance hunting and fishing traditions by protecting wildlife, especially in areas of increased recreation, resource extraction, and development.

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program works with private landowners in priority geographic focus areas to maximize program resources. Projects are community based, developed to support the objectives of Service plans and programs, including, but not limited to the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, National Wildlife Refuge System, North American Waterfowl Management Plan, National Fish Habitat Action Plan, National Invasive Species Management Plan, and many FWS threatened and endangered species recovery plans. Since 2007, the Program has been operating in accordance with the Partners Program National Strategic Plan. The Plan guides the Program towards (1) clearly defined national and regional habitat goals, (2) improved accountability for federal dollars expended in support of the Program and its goals, (3) enhanced communication to achieve greater responsiveness to local plans and conservation priorities, and (4) an expanded commitment to serving additional partners. The Program will also continue to sharpen its focus on scientifically supported, collaboratively established focus areas to deliver its assistance. Projects are selected based on priorities identified in the Partners Program Strategic Plan and produce results that can be reported under one or more performance measures. The voluntary landowner agreements under this program strengthen the role of citizens in the public/private natural resource conservation partnership.

**2012 Program Performance**

Beginning in FY 2012, a new 5-year Strategic Plan that identifies priority habitat restoration projects within geographic focus areas will guide the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. Seventy percent of Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program funds directly fund project delivery.

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

In FY 2012, the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program will continue to support habitat restoration efforts to benefit federal trust species. Program resources will focus on increasing the percent of self-sustaining federal trust species populations (e.g., the Apache trout, Topeka shiner, and Sage Grouse) in priority focus areas.

The requested \$2,000,000 increase will be used to help achieve explicit population and habitat objectives established at landscape scales for species the Service considers most vulnerable and sensitive to environmental change. Specifically, the requested funds will enable the Program to add approximately 80 additional partnerships to the 2,000 anticipated base funded partnerships. At the requested funding level, the Service will restore an estimated additional 1,900 acres of priority wetlands, 8,100 acres of priority grassland and upland habitat, and 15 miles of degraded stream and riparian habitat that will benefit high-priority fish and wildlife resources dependent on private lands. Habitat restoration work by the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is a key element of the Service’s larger landscape approach to enhancing ecosystem and population resiliency.

Habitat fragmentation, terrestrial carbon sequestration and the availability of water for wildlife are all significant conservation challenges that will be addressed by the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. The Service will work in concert with private landowners and other partners to maintain habitat connectivity in landscapes, promote fish and wildlife migration or movement, address the threats of invasive species, build upon reforestation efforts, initiate more projects to restore grasslands, uplands, wetlands and increase efforts to address changes in water levels including in-stream habitat improvements, riparian management, and dam removal/retrofit. The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is a key program in the design and delivery of these types of projects.



Examples of representative types of projects that will be funded with the requested FY 2012 funding include:



In the **Willamette Valley Focus Area within Oregon State**, the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program collaborated with the USDA’s Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), McKenzie River Trust, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, and Cascade Pacific Recourse Conservation District on the largest wetland restoration on private land in Willamette Valley to restore 530 acres. Habitat and species restoration objectives include emergent marshes for migratory birds, wetland prairies for listed plants and streaked horned larks, and riparian hardwood forests for migratory birds. This site has already become host to the second largest population of streaked horned larks in the world. The streaked horned lark is a candidate species and is endemic to prairies of western Oregon and Washington.

In **Santa Cruz County, Arizona**, the Partners Program provided financial and technical assistance in the Santa Cruz San Pedro Focus Area to supply additional water to an existing earthen stock tank, creating

habitat for the Chiricahua leopard frog, Sonora tiger salamander and Mexican garter snake. The landowner has been invaluable in assisting the Service in the recovery and conservation of many threatened, endangered, and sensitive species on his southern Arizona cattle ranch. The ranch consists of 18,500 acres of grasslands and is protected by a conservation easement held by The Nature Conservancy and the Arizona State Parks Department.



In **Lake County, Michigan**, the Partners for Fish and Program in the Brevort to Lower Grand Focus Area partnered with Pere Marquette Watershed Council, Conservation Resource Alliance, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to remove a ten-foot high dam on Tank Creek, opening two miles of stream and providing direct benefits to interjurisdictional fish such as the brook trout, steelhead and salmon.

In **Sacramento County, California**, the Partners for Fish and Program completed a Schoolyard Habitat Project at the Orangevale Open Elementary School. This schoolyard habitat restoration / creation plan involved using native plants and natural settings to provide habitat for songbirds, bats and other pollinators, while providing maximum educational benefits to all grade levels and community members on the school campus. This project creates a multi-faceted outdoor learning space that will provide greater enrichment through stewardship and service. The overall vision for the school outdoor learning space includes a seasonal wetland with viewing deck, a fitness trail, an agricultural space to grow fruits, vegetables, compost, and an outdoor classroom structure situated within a native landscape.



**Habitat Conservation - Partners for Fish and Wildlife - Performance Overview Table**

Performance Goal	2007 Actual	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Plan	2012 PB	Change from 2011 to 2012 PB	Long Term Target 2016
CSF 3.1 Number of non-DOI riparian (stream/shoreline) miles restored, including through partnerships, as specified in plans or agreements that involve DOI (GPRA)	1,522	9,796	11,054	3,334	614	616	2	633
CSF Total Actual/ Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$39,761	\$48,748	\$45,347	\$48,773	\$9,102	\$9,248	\$146	\$9,503
CSF Program Total Actual/ Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$8,600	\$11,785	\$12,717	\$14,014	\$14,196	\$14,380	\$184	\$14,380
Actual/ Projected Cost Per Mile (whole dollars)	\$26,131	\$4,976	\$4,102	\$14,630	\$14,821	\$15,013	\$192	\$15,013
3.1.1 # of non-FWS riparian (stream/ shoreline) miles restored, including through partnerships (includes miles treated for invasives & now restored) - PartnersProg (GPRA)	791	1,084	702	538	389	389	0	366



**Habitat Conservation - Partners for Fish and Wildlife - Performance Overview Table**

Performance Goal	2007 Actual	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Plan	2012 PB	Change from 2011 to 2012 PB	Long Term Target 2016
CSF 4.1 Number of non-FWS wetland acres restored, including acres restored through partnerships, as specified in management plans or agreements that involve FWS (GPRA)	559,947	974,658	458,713	363,141	415,744	281,062	-134,682	447,693
CSF Total Actual/ Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$36,921	\$44,848	\$48,479	\$47,550	\$55,146	\$37,766	(\$17,380)	\$60,156
CSF Program Total Actual/ Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$12,717	\$16,358	\$16,823	\$19,446	\$19,699	\$19,955	\$256	\$19,955
Actual/ Projected Cost Per Acre (whole dollars)	\$66	\$46	\$106	\$131	\$133	\$134	\$1	\$134
4.1.1 # of wetlands acres enhanced/restored through voluntary partnerships (includes acres treated for invasives & now restored) (GPRA)	99,221	43,262	33,273	49,315	26,701	26,701	0	20,372
CSF 4.2 Number of non-FWS upland acres restored, including acres restored through partnerships, as specified in management plans or agreements that involve FWS (GPRA)	425,596	384,960	271,138	240,345	159,649	159,649	0	136,498
CSF Total Actual/ Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$14,126	\$14,568	\$16,759	\$15,871	\$10,679	\$10,818	\$139	\$9,249
CSF Program Total Actual/ Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$7,014	\$7,730	\$10,032	\$10,860	\$11,001	\$11,144	\$143	\$11,144
Actual/ Projected Cost Per Acre (whole dollars)	\$33	\$38	\$62	\$66	\$67	\$68	\$1	\$68
4.2.1 # of non-FWS upland acres enhanced/restored through voluntary partnerships (includes acres treated for invasives & now restored) (GPRA)	419,548	346,356	230,638	235,983	143,146	143,146	0	124,637
Comments	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. Cost figures may not reflect all the costs required to restore wetlands, uplands, or riparian habitat.							
5.1.14 # of fish barriers removed or installed – Partners	134	144	123	83	85	85	0	66

**Subactivity: Habitat Conservation**  
**Program Element: Conservation Planning Assistance**

	2010 Actual	2010 Enacted / 2011 CR	2012				Change From 2011 CR (+/-)
			Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Administrative Cost Savings (-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Conservation Planning Assistance (\$000)	35,951	35,951	-148	-805	+3,370	38,368	+2,417
FTE	224	224	-	-	+18	242	+18

**Summary of 2012 Program Changes for Conservation Planning Assistance**

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• New Energy Frontier – Project Review & Development	+2,000	+8
• Ecosystem Restoration- Gulf Coast Ecosystem	+1,500	+6
• Ecosystem Restoration- Bay Delta Ecosystem	+620	+4
• Sacramento-San Joaquin Water Study w/NAS	-750	0
<b>Program Changes</b>	<b>+3,370</b>	<b>+18</b>
Internal Transfer – Office of the Science Advisor	-193	

**Justification of 2012 Program Changes**

The 2012 budget request for the Conservation Planning Assistance Program is \$38,368,000 and 242 FTE, a net program change of +\$3,370,000 and +18 FTE from the 2010 Enacted/2011 annualized Continuing Resolution.

**New Energy Frontier – Project Review and Development (+\$2,000,000/+8 FTE)**

As steward of one-fifth of the nation's land and 1.7 billion acres of ocean, the Department has made responsible production and delivery of domestic energy a top priority. In 2009 Secretary Salazar began implementation of a comprehensive energy plan, making renewable energy a priority for the Department. The Secretary believes the Department can play a central role in moving the Nation toward a clean energy economy. Development of a renewable and emission-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, 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.

The request will strengthen the Service's capacity to provide timely environmental reviews with effective, scientific, and legally-defensible recommendations that facilitate the Nation's adaptation to emissions-free infrastructure while conserving trust resources and habitats. In addition, large-scale consortium-based energy production and transmission efforts make it incumbent on the Service to be involved early in the environmental planning, review, and monitoring of these keystone projects. For example, the Western Renewable Energy Zones effort by the Western Governors' Association and U.S. Department of Energy includes participants from 11 States, two Canadian provinces, and States in Mexico that are working to expedite delivery of 30,000 megawatts of power across the West by 2015.

Within the spectrum of renewable energy technologies, the Service will place emphasis on wind, solar, and hydroelectric energy production and infrastructure. Wind energy is now the Nation's fastest growing renewable energy source and it will continue to be a priority for the Service. The Bureau of Land

Management (BLM) has a backlog of approximately 150 solar energy applications and 280 wind project applications. Another 200 locations have been identified where applicants would like to begin test evaluations for wind projects. In addition, the U.S. Department of the Interior and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) have resolved jurisdictional issues to facilitate offshore renewable energy development. As a result, dozens of applications to build offshore wind farms can now move forward. This funding will help ensure that core staff capabilities in field offices are sufficient to work closely with industry, states, tribes, and other federal agencies (e.g., BLM, the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Forest Service, and FERC) to coordinate and expedite environmental reviews of energy projects and transmission infrastructure while conserving vital fish and wildlife habitat.

#### **Ecosystem Restoration - Gulf Coast Ecosystem (+\$1,500,000/+6 FTE)**

The proposed funds will enhance the Service's capacity to assist the Corps of Engineers (Corps), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the States of Louisiana and Mississippi, and other stakeholders to design and implement an accelerated Gulf Coast restoration program. It will enable the Service to develop and provide improved scientific information needed to evaluate impacts and benefits derived from proposed restoration efforts to ensure long term sustainability of wetlands and the fish and wildlife resources that depend upon them. Additional funds would be directed to protecting and restoring habitats for priority at-risk species identified by the Service and its partners in Mississippi and Louisiana. Moreover, funds will address priorities within the Governors' Action Plan for Healthy and Resilient Coasts developed by the Gulf of Mexico Alliance; the Gulf Coast Joint Venture of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan; other local, state, regional, national and international conservation plans; and species recovery plans.

Technical and financial assistance will be provided to local landowners and communities to implement on-the-ground projects, enhance partnerships with the states and support conservation goals of many active federal partners including Grand Bay and Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuges; Gulf of Mexico National Seashore; the lower Pearl River watershed/Devil's Swamp watershed; and the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. The additional funds would enable the Coastal Program to develop up to 5 new voluntary conservation partnership agreements that would restore or enhance up to 200 acres of strategically targeted wetlands and miles of stream habitat or shoreline.



#### **Ecosystem Restoration - Bay Delta Ecosystem (+620,000/+4 FTE)**

The Service is a leader in the Bay-Delta habitat conservation planning effort. The funding will support Service collaborative efforts with State and federal partners on key environmental reviews; help streamline final permitting and decision-making; and plan and implement water supply, water quality, and flood relief projects as part of the Action Plan. These efforts will help minimize habitat impacts to federal trust species and sustain ecosystem integrity, while improving water supply reliability.

#### **Sacramento-San Joaquin Water Study with NAS (-\$750,000/+0 FTE)**

In FY 2010, a Congressional earmark provided \$750,000 to support a water study jointly with the National Academy of Sciences. The project requires the redirection of staff and resources, thereby impacting ongoing work. The Service proposed to discontinue this unrequested funding in FY 2012 in order to fund higher priority conservation activities elsewhere in the budget request.

**Habitat Conservation - Conservation Planning Assistance - Performance Change Table**

Performance Goal	2007 Actual	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Plan	2012 PB	Program Change Accruing in 2012	Program Change Accruing in Out- years
Percent of conservation planning assistance responses with early planning for Renewable Energy (solar, wind and geothermal) provided to DOI agencies	n/a	n/a	n/a	46.5% (80 of 172)	46.3% (63 of 136)	46.6% (95 of 204)	0% (+68 projects)	n/a
Percent of conservation planning assistance responses with early planning for Renewable Energy (solar, wind and geothermal) provided to non-DOI agencies	n/a	n/a	n/a	53% (219 of 417)	34% (182 of 534)	34% (273 of 800)	0% (+266 projects)	n/a
Comments	Requests for planning assistance on renewable energy projects on both DOI and non-DOI lands continue to increase. At the request level, the Service will work on an additional 68 projects on DOI land and 266 additional non-DOI projects. The proportion that will be addressed with early planning will remain about the same.							
14.1.5.1 # of energy activities (non-hydropower) reviewed early	1,127	1,051	1,108	1,140	675	745	70 (10.4%)	n/a
Comments	At the request level, an addl. 70 non-hydropower energy activities are forecast to be reviewed early.							
14.1.5.2 # of energy activities (non-hydropower) reviewed	3,620	3,152	2,805	3,167	1,801	1,980	179 (9.9%)	n/a
Comments	At the request level, an additional 179 non-hydropower energy activities are forecast to be reviewed.							
14.2.5.1 # of hydropower activities reviewed early	404	663	560	436	242	266	24 (9.9%)	n/a
Comments	At the request level, an additional 24 hydropower activities are forecast to be reviewed early.							
14.2.5.2 # of hydropower activities reviewed	905	1,278	1,078	662	438	482	44 (10%)	n/a
Comments	At the request level, an additional 44 hydropower activities are forecast to be reviewed							
14.2.6 # of Hydropower FERC license activities streamlined through early involvement	113	228	205	112	78	86	8 (10.3%)	n/a
Comments	At the request level, an additional 8 hydropower <u>license</u> activities are forecast to be streamlined							
14.2.7 # of Hydropower FERC relicense activities streamlined through early involvement	134	206	121	99	50	55	5 (10%)	n/a
Comments	At the request level, an additional 5 hydropower <u>relicense</u> activities are forecast to be streamlined							

**Program Overview**

Conservation Planning Assistance (CPA) plays a vital role in conserving America’s natural resources. This field-based program has the Service lead for reviewing and analyzing the impacts of federally authorized, licensed, or funded land and water development projects on fish, wildlife, and their habitats. Service biologists work with project proponents to recommend measures that enhance benefits for trust habitat resources while minimizing and/or mitigating detrimental impacts. Environmental reviews are

### Use of Cost and Performance Information

- **Long-term outcome goals and the CPA Strategic Plan:** CPA contributes to the long-term performance goals of the Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, and Fisheries programs. The program's final Strategic Plan will emphasize the delivery of conservation results across landscapes to more efficiently achieve Service resource priorities and goals.
- **National Accomplishment and Performance Reporting System:** CPA continues nationwide implementation of this web-based tracking system to increase efficiency and consistency in program accomplishment reporting. This system provides improved predictive capabilities for budget and performance purposes, and to allocate limited program resources based on results.
- **Activity Based Costing:** CPA uses this agency system to track and report program costs. For example, it is being used to document and report Service costs associated with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission hydropower licensing work, in order to assist the Department in potentially recovering these expenses.

conducted under multiple federal statutes, and the program has a proven record of assisting project proponents achieve conservation results. The early provision of expert technical assistance and conservation recommendations by the Service is the best method of achieving positive outcomes for the benefit of the American people and the Nation's fish and wildlife resources.

Environmental change occurs today in ways fundamentally different than at any other time in history. Sea-level rise, melting sea ice and habitat loss due to the growing scale of human activities are prominent conservation challenges, as is transition to a renewable energy-based economy. The CPA program provides advanced biological planning and conservation design to assist communities and industry in adapting to ongoing environmental change, while sustaining landscapes for fish and wildlife.

The program is guided by its strategic plan; the four goals of the CPA strategic plan are to:

- Conserve, restore, and enhance fish and wildlife habitat;
- Develop effective partnerships;
- Develop targeted communication; and
- Foster employee excellence.

Conservation Planning Assistance focuses attention on:

- Landscape-level planning, with a focus on high-priority ecosystems;
- The Nation's highest priority needs – energy; transportation; water supply/delivery; large-scale restoration; and adapting to environmental change, such as sea-level rise; and
- Measuring on-the-ground results.

**Strategic Habitat Conservation** – Consensus-based, landscape-level land use planning that conserves fish and wildlife habitats while providing for other societal needs provides a unifying framework for the Service, communities, industry, States, and other involved stakeholders. CPA biologists collaborate in broad-based partnerships by providing technical assistance, conservation information (e.g., geospatial data, habitat and species assessments, habitat modeling) and recommendations to sustain landscapes for fish, wildlife, and people.

Specifically, CPA personnel apply their technical expertise and knowledge of federal environmental statutes to guide development projects *and* conservation actions at specific points on the landscape. The participation of CPA biologists ensures that fish and wildlife are given equal consideration early in the planning process, thereby streamlining federal environmental compliance reviews and approvals for development projects, while conserving vital habitat and crucial ecosystem functions. CPA biologists help formulate environmental options and conservation actions, or integrate applicable measures identified in State Wildlife Action Plans or the National Fish Habitat Action Plan into development proposals. CPA involvement ensures the integration of the essential elements of Strategic Habitat Conservation – setting biological objectives, developing conservation design, delivery of conservation actions, and monitoring, research, and adaptive management.

The broad roles and responsibilities of the program include environmental evaluation and technical assistance in support of priority domestic development and infrastructure projects – such as energy, transportation, and other major land and water development. For example, Conservation Planning Assistance has the lead for the Service in implementing key environmental and review provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. In addition, CPA works with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the States to expedite crucial projects while conserving fish and wildlife. The Program also provides environmental review and technical assistance to federal, state and private entities that develop, manage, and operate water infrastructure and navigation projects.

**New Energy Frontier – Renewable Energy Development** – The unparalleled drive toward clean and renewable domestic energy has led to increased emphasis on expanding and accelerating hydroelectric, solar, geothermal, and wind power projects, as well as tidal and hydrokinetic energy projects. CPA works with industry to help ensure that the Nation’s domestic energy resources are developed and delivered in an environmentally-compatible way. The program is increasingly engaged in extensive coordination with other U.S. Department of the Interior bureaus, federal agencies, states, and tribes to ensure conservation of trust resources as the nation expands transmission infrastructure and energy production from conventional (e.g., oil, gas, and coal) and renewable energy sources. For example, the BLM has initiated a Priority Projects program to promote renewable energy development on federal lands. As of 2010, there are approximately fifty projects subject to the expedited coordination and environmental review of this program. Our goal is to participate early in project planning with utilities and other stakeholders to develop resource protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures to reduce risks to fish and wildlife and conserve essential habitat.

- **Hydroelectric power:** During the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensing and relicensing process, CPA biologists work with industry to minimize aquatic and terrestrial impacts, and implement effective mitigation. Conservation measures recommended by CPA biologists include prescriptions for fish passage, in-stream flows, and habitat acquisition and restoration. The typical 50-year duration of FERC licenses ensures that when we can participate, our recommendations promote enduring fish and wildlife conservation benefits.
- **Wind power:** Since 2003, the Service has implemented voluntary interim guidelines to avoid or minimize the impacts of wind turbines on wildlife and their habitat. A Federal Advisory Committee, established by the Secretary of the Interior and convened by CPA, provided recommendations on revising these guidelines in 2010. CPA is leading a Service task force to develop final guidelines based upon the recommendations to the Secretary.
- **Solar power:** The southwest has abundant solar energy resources, in addition to plentiful habitat crucial for fish and wildlife. The Service’s work with project proponents, States, and cooperating federal agencies continues to intensify as a result of Administration and Departmental initiatives to identify environmentally-appropriate federal and Interior-managed lands for utility-scale solar energy development. Specifically, the Service is a cooperating agency in the joint Department of Energy and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) that is analyzing the potential effects of commercial solar energy development on BLM land in six southwestern States. The draft PEIS was released in December 2010 for a 90-day public comment period. The Service is crafting comments and an additional alternative for BLM consideration. A final PEIS is expected in FY2012. Early CPA participation helps ensure fish and wildlife concerns are identified and fully evaluated in this major landscape-scale planning and zoning effort for solar projects and transmission infrastructure on suitable BLM lands. The avoidance or exclusion of environmentally sensitive fish and wildlife resources enables more efficient project siting and federal approvals. In addition, the Service participates, as CPA program resources allow, in the review of active solar project applications with the

BLM, States, and other conservation stakeholders. As of 2009, the BLM had received almost 300 applications from industry that potentially encompass about two million acres of western landscapes.

- **Geothermal power:** About 250 million acres of Bureau of Land Management and National Forest lands in the western United States and Alaska are the principle stronghold of the Nation's geothermal energy resources. The Service participated as a cooperating agency in the joint Department of Energy and Bureau of Land Management PEIS for geothermal project leasing in 2008. Effective CPA participation in landscape-level lease planning enables the BLM and U.S. Forest Service to manage increasing requests for new geothermal project leases compatibly with fish and wildlife resources on nearly 180 million acres of public lands in the west. In addition, the CPA program evaluates individual projects as they are tiered off of the PEIS.
- **Wave, tidal and emerging energy technologies:** CPA is increasingly engaged in the environmental review of innovative energy facilities that use wave energy, river flow (non-dam) and tidal flow for power generation. The program works closely with the FERC and State conservation agencies to advance environmentally-sound projects and technologies that minimize adverse impacts to fish and wildlife.

### 2012 Program Performance

**New Energy Frontier - Project Review and Development:** Conservation Planning Assistance will be well-positioned at the request level to facilitate the economic transition to cleaner renewable and conventional energy resources that are protective of fish and wildlife. The program will possess the requisite biological capabilities to effectively participate in landscape-level siting initiatives to guide development and speed review of industry development and transmission proposals. In this area, CPA's goal is to help design and initiate these activities to not compromise key fish and wildlife values.

In 2012, CPA anticipates at the request level an additional increase in key program performance measures including the following:

- Assisting with the planning and review of 68 additional renewable energy developments on DOI land and 266 additional projects on non-DOI land;
- Engaging early (pre-permitting) with 745 non-hydropower energy projects and 266 hydropower proposals, and
- Streamlining, through early involvement, activities associated with 86 FERC licensing requests.

These expected accomplishments will provide long-term habitat conservation benefits for federally listed and vulnerable populations of fish and wildlife, migratory birds, and other trust resources. The CPA program will be able to continue and expand upon the following representative accomplishments and opportunities in FY 2012:

- **National Wind Turbine Guidelines Implementation** – In 2012, CPA will continue to assist industry and other involved stakeholders in collaboratively resolving conservation issues related to site selection, environmental evaluation, construction and operation of wind energy facilities across the Nation. The Service anticipates implementing the final Service Wind Turbine Guidelines which will provide guidance and recommended best management practices (BMPs) to developers. These voluntary guidelines are designed to help developers avoid and minimize wind project impacts on sensitive wildlife, particularly migratory birds and bats. The final Service Guidelines will be developed using recommendations from the Wind Turbine Guidelines Advisory Committee, a unique collaboration among federal, state, industry, and conservation entities. This conservation approach will complement ongoing Service collaboration and landscape-level planning for wind energy development in many States – including, but not limited to: Alaska, Arizona, California, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

- **Gulf Wind and Penascal Coastal Windfarms** - Corpus Christi Ecological Services Field Office staff reviewed and coordinated recommendations on the newly opened Texas Gulf Wind Phase I wind power project consisting of 118 turbines (2.4 MW) on private land in coastal Kenedy County near Kingsville, Texas. The 7,851-acre site has about 300 acres developed with turbine pads and roads. The developer and the Service are working together to complete monitoring and mitigation strategies for their Avian and Bat Protection Plan (ABPP). Service staff also reviewed and coordinated recommendations on the now-operational Penascal Wind Farm coastal wind farm also in Kenedy County. The 84 turbine project gained national scrutiny and has a first-in-the-nation 24/7 radar site monitoring and a draft ABPP that calls for computerized turbine shut down when visibility is less 1/2 mile and certain masses of birds are approaching. Additional project phases are planned at both sites.
  
- **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)** - The Service assesses impacts and prepares recommendations on projects licensed by the Federal Energy Regulation Commission. The Service can influence the manner in which a permitted and/or licensed activity is carried out to help protect and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitats. As an example, the Kilarc-Cow Creek Hydroelectric Project consists of two separate facilities on Old Cow and South Cow Creeks in Shasta County, California. The Cow Creek watershed is an important watershed for the recovery of Central Valley steelhead. On March 30, 2005, the Service signed an Agreement with Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), the California Department of Fish and Game, and others. Under the Agreement, PG&E will not seek a new FERC license for the Project but will continue operating it until the Project is decommissioned by FERC Order. The Service is now collaborating with PG&E and other stakeholders in the preparation of a Decommissioning Plan for the project. The Plan will ultimately result in restoration of instream habitat for listed anadromous fish species in Old Cow and South Cow Creeks which are tributaries to the Sacramento River.
  
- **Ruby Pipeline Natural Gas Project** - The Ruby Pipeline Project includes a 42-inch diameter, 677-mile long, natural gas pipeline and associated facilities traversing public and private lands in Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and Oregon. The project would affect 19,354 acres of land comprised of eight upland vegetation types with the majority comprised of sagebrush steppe (9,789 acres). In addition, up to 1,173 waterbodies would be crossed. The proposed action may affect several Service trust resources including the federally-listed Lahontan cutthroat trout, candidate species Columbia spotted frog, and many species of migratory birds. In Nevada, the project has the potential to affect the greater sage-grouse and pygmy rabbit, both petitioned for listing under the Endangered Species Act. In an effort to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts to these species and others, Ruby Pipeline LLC has partnered with the Service and state agencies to develop a package of conservation and mitigation plans. If fully implemented, the plans will guide the development and operation of the project while minimizing impacts to fish, wildlife and habitat.
  
- **Renewable Energy Action Team (REAT)** - The Service has partnered with Bureau of Land Management (BLM), California Department of Fish and Game, and California Energy Commission (CEC) to form the Renewable Energy Action Team (REAT). The REAT is working cooperatively on project planning and environmental compliance and is focusing both on current projects and on longer-term planning for renewable energy projects in California. Examples of REAT Conservation Planning Assistance activities include:
  - Working with BLM on NEPA compliance issues in advance of section 7 consultation;
  - Working with BLM and CEC on coordination of NEPA and CEQA to meet ARRA or Department of Energy Loan Guarantee timeframes;
  - Tracking progress of solar and wind energy projects with local governments and applicants;
  - Developing Best Management Practices for renewable energy projects;
  - Working with the California Public Utilities Commission and the California Independent System Operators on issues related to proposed transmission interconnection to the electric grid;



- Working with the military on issues related to projects that have effects on their operations, and;
- Developing a large-scale desert conservation strategy (the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan) to address siting of energy projects and impacts to listed species and native ecosystems on both public and private lands.

REAT’s work is critical in ensuring that we protect and conserve trust fish and wildlife resources while meeting the Secretary’s priority to grow the Nation’s capacity to produce renewable energy.

• **Ecosystem Restoration - Gulf Coast Ecosystem:** The Service anticipates initiation of three landscape-level planning approaches with increased FY 2012 funding. These may be in the Chenier Plain and Deltaic Plain ecoregions of Louisiana and in coastal Mississippi. The exact definition of these landscapes will depend, in part, on the direction and FY 2012 work plan priorities of the Coastal Ecosystem Restoration Working Group.

• **Ecosystem Restoration - Bay Delta Ecosystem:** The Service will be able to engage early in collaborative planning and problem-solving with federal and state agencies, as well as involved stakeholders to expedite environmental reviews. The Service will provide expert conservation recommendations for key water supply, water quality, and flood relief project actions associated with the Federal Work Plan for the Bay Delta. As a result of this conservation investment at the request level, it is estimated that up to 13 additional acres of wetlands, 246 acres of uplands, and 93 acres of marine/coastal habitat will be protected or conserved by the Service.

**Habitat Conservation - Conservation Planning Assistance - Performance Overview Table**

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Change	Long
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Plan	PB	from	Term
							2011 to	Target
							2012	2016
							PB	
CSF 3.2 Number of non-DOI riparian (stream/shoreline) miles managed or protected to achieve desired condition, including through partnerships (GPRA)	6,997	20,500	11,296	1,975	868	866	-2 (-0.2%)	1,295
CSF Total Actual/Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$4,407	\$4,813	\$4,602	\$3,443	\$1,533	\$1,549	\$16	\$2,317
CSF Program Total Actual/ Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$1,410	\$1,683	\$1,252	\$1,132	\$1,147	\$1,162	\$15	\$1,162
Actual/Projected Cost Per Mile (whole dollars)	\$630	\$235	\$407	\$1,743	\$1,766	\$1,789	\$23	\$1,789
3.2.4 # of non-FWS instream miles protected/conserved through technical assistance (GPRA)	2,131	2,873	1,399	845	266	265	-1 (-0.5%)	495
3.2.5 # of non-FWS riparian (stream/shoreline) miles protected/conserved through technical assistance (GPRA)	3,613	6,917	1,264	798	291	290	-1 (-0.4%)	415

**Habitat Conservation - Conservation Planning Assistance - Performance Overview Table**

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Change from 2011 to 2012 PB	Long Term Target 2016
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Plan	PB		
3.2.8 # of non-FWS riparian (stream/shoreline) acres protected/conserved through technical assistance	10,768	30,435	24,674	6,138	9,825	9,825	0 (0.0%)	10,305
CSF 4.4 Number of non-FWS wetland acres managed or protected to maintain desired condition, including acres managed or protected through partnerships (GPRA)	31,556,449	7,872,799	2,440,943	965,710	768,606	662,313	-106,293 (-13.8%)	580,612
CSF Total Actual/Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$28,640	\$37,147	\$37,179	\$37,045	\$29,867	\$26,072	(\$3,795)	\$22,855
CSF Program Total Actual/Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$3,602	\$3,367	\$2,721	\$3,151	\$3,191	\$3,233	\$42	\$3,233
Actual/Projected Cost Per Acre (whole dollars)	\$1	\$5	\$15	\$38	\$39	\$39	\$1	\$39
4.4.6 # of non-FWS wetland acres protected/conserved through technical assistance (GPRA)	90,927	82,038	72,262	119,788	14,638	14,640	2 (0.0%)	21,155
CSF 4.5 Number of non-FWS upland acres managed or protected to maintain desired condition, including acres managed or protected through partnerships (GPRA)	18,041,177	9,789,286	486,816	180,252	76,194	76,197	3 (0.0%)	249,945
CSF Total Actual/Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$12,526	\$14,517	\$13,842	\$14,618	\$6,260	\$6,341	\$81	\$20,801
CSF Program Total Actual/Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$3,068	\$2,972	\$2,482	\$2,811	\$2,848	\$2,885	\$37	\$2,885
Actual/Projected Cost Per Acre (whole dollars)	\$1	\$1	\$28	\$81	\$82	\$83	\$1	\$83
4.5.4 # of non-FWS upland acres protected/conserved through technical assistance (GPRA)	76,245	1,424,817	96,865	126,922	38,767	38,770	3 (0.0%)	249,945
Comments	2008 actual performance includes one million acres to implement Sage-Grouse Conservation Strategy affecting core population areas on all State lands in Wyoming.							

**Habitat Conservation - Conservation Planning Assistance - Performance Overview Table**

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Change from 2011 to 2012 PB	Long Term Target 2016
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Plan	PB		
CSF 4.6 Number of non-FWS coastal and marine acres managed or protected to maintain desired condition, including acres managed or protected through partnerships (GPRA)	99,961	581,699	131,156	101,706	12,415	12,415	0 (0.0%)	42,220
CSF Total Actual/Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$2,858	\$4,239	\$4,528	\$4,931	\$610	\$618	\$8	\$2,100
CSF Program Total Actual/ Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$559	\$602	\$649	\$656	\$665	\$674	\$9	\$674
Actual/Projected Cost Per Acre (whole dollars)	\$29	\$7	\$35	\$48	\$49	\$50	\$1	\$50
4.6.3 # of non-FWS coastal/ marine acres protected/ conserved through technical assistance (GPRA)	80,522	526,947	80,244	68,110	2,570	2,570	0 (0.0%)	2,690
Comments	2008 actual performance includes 500,000 acres of deep-water acres from FWS collaboration with Corps of Engineers for large coastal mitigation bank.							
4.7.5 % of requests for technical assistance completed	613% (57,316 of 9,354)	84% (31,571 of 37,507)	86% (28,881 of 33,566)	90% (25,958 of 28,996)	84% (18,686 of 22,343)	78% (18,700 of 24,000)	-6% (-6.8%)	74% (20,610 of 28,000)
4.7.8.1 # of transportation activities reviewed early	851	1,928	1,783	1,439	939	940	1 (0.1%)	1,175
4.8.1 # of large-scale landscape-level planning and/or programmatic approaches in progress	71	447	368	429	200	200	0	290
4.8.2 # of large-scale landscape planning and/or programmatic approaches completed		121	370	693	104	105	1 (1.0%)	110
5.1.20 # of miles stream/shoreline reopened to fish passage	1,279	1,100	1,122	587	339	340	1 (0.4%)	315
CSF 14.1 Energy (NOT including hydropower): Percent of advanced planning coordination responses and formal/informal biological consultations provided in a timely manner	59% (3,928 of 6,647)	53% (2,633 of 4,980)	55% (2,300 of 4,177)	49% (2,262 of 4,600)	51% (1,502 of 2,933)	63% (2,665 of 4,201)	12% (23.9%)	64% (2,735 of 4,290)
CSF Total Actual/Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$2,909	\$3,955	\$3,940	\$5,574	\$3,749	\$6,739	\$2,990	\$6,916

## Habitat Conservation - Conservation Planning Assistance - Performance Overview Table

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Change from 2011 to 2012 PB	Long Term Target 2016
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Plan	PB		
CSF Program Total Actual/Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$1,321	\$1,343	\$1,089	\$1,410	\$1,428	\$1,447	\$19	\$1,447
Actual/Projected Cost Per Consultations (whole dollars)	\$741	\$1,502	\$1,713	\$2,464	\$2,496	\$2,529	\$33	\$2,529
14.1.5 % of energy activities (non-hydropower) streamlined through early involvement	31% (1,127 of 3,620)	33% (1,051 of 3,152)	40% (1,108 of 2,805)	36% (1,140 of 3,167)	37% (675 of 1,801)	38% (745 of 1,980)	0% (0.4%)	43% (815 of 1,890)
CSF 14.2 Hydropower Energy: Percent of advanced planning coordination responses and formal/informal biological consultations provided in a timely manner	46% (543 of 1,174)	54% (721 of 1,343)	53% (600 of 1,123)	67% (465 of 693)	57% (267 of 468)	57% (291 of 512)	0% (-0.4%)	51% (366 of 719)
CSF Total Actual/Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$3,404	\$4,663	\$5,271	\$5,111	\$2,973	\$3,282	\$309	\$4,128
CSF Program Total Actual/Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$3,267	\$3,047	\$2,992	\$2,949	\$2,988	\$3,026	\$38	\$3,026
Actual/Projected Cost Per Consultations (whole dollars)	\$6,268	\$6,468	\$8,785	\$10,992	\$11,135	\$11,279	\$144	\$11,279
14.2.5.1 # of hydropower activities reviewed early	404	663	560	436	242	266	24 (9.9%)	335
14.2.6 # of Hydropower FERC license activities streamlined through early involvement	113	228	205	112	78	86	8 (10.3%)	115
14.2.7 # of Hydropower FERC relicense activities streamlined through early involvement	134	206	121	99	50	55	5 (10.0%)	90
CSF 14.3 Water: Percent of advanced planning coordination responses and formal/informal biological consultations provided in a timely manner	73% (1,892 of 2,587)	57% (1,283 of 2,265)	65% (1,799 of 2,761)	59% (1,142 of 1,934)	61% (841 of 1,385)	61% (844 of 1,385)	0% (0.4%)	65% (1,120 of 1,733)
CSF Total Actual/Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$3,307	\$3,649	\$3,525	\$4,167	\$3,109	\$3,160	\$51	\$4,194
CSF Program Total Actual/Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$670	\$738	\$727	\$1,196	\$1,212	\$1,228	\$16	\$1,228
Actual/Projected Cost Per Consultations (whole dollars)	\$1,748	\$2,844	\$1,959	\$3,649	\$3,696	\$3,744	\$48	\$3,744
14.3.5.1 # of water supply/delivery activities reviewed early	614	466	755	479	352	355	3 (0.9%)	360

**Subactivity: Habitat Conservation  
Program Element: Coastal Program**

		2010 Actual	2010 Enacted / 2011 CR	2012			Change From 2011 CR (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Admin- istrative Cost Savings (-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
Coastal Program	(\$000)	15,931	15,931	-20	-225	-250	15,436	-495
	FTE	69	69	-	-	-1	68	-1

**Summary of 2012 Program Changes for Coastal Program**

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• General Program Activities	-1,000	-2
• Ecosystem Restoration - Chesapeake Bay	+500	0
• Ecosystem Restoration - Gulf Coast Ecosystem	+250	1
<b>Program Changes</b>	<b>-250</b>	<b>-1</b>
Internal Transfer – Office of the Science Advisor	-32	

**Justification of 2012 Program Changes**

The 2012 budget request for the Coastal Program is \$15,436,000 and 68 FTE, a program change of -\$250,000 and -1 FTE from 2010 Enacted/2011 annualized Continuing Resolution.

**General Program Activities (-\$1,000,000/-2 FTE)**

The 2012 budget request eliminates \$1.0 million not requested but added in 2010 by Congress for Coastal Program general activities. The savings are being used to fund other priorities elsewhere in the President's Budget. The Coastal Program will meet most of its accomplishment targets specified in the Regional Step-down plan(s) portion of its Strategic Plan.

**Ecosystem Restoration - Chesapeake Bay (+\$500,000/+0 FTE)**

The Chesapeake Bay watershed supports more than 2,700 plant and animal species, including numerous federal trust species. The Chesapeake Bay Protection and Restoration Executive Order 13508 *Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* called for the Service and other federal agencies to develop a plan to achieve a healthy watershed supporting sustainable populations of fish and wildlife resources. Additional funds will be targeted to meet the highest priority needs identified in the action plan. These actions will be done in coordination with the North Atlantic and Appalachian Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs).

The Coastal Program will expand direct technical and financial assistance in partnership with other conservation stakeholders in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to restore, protect, and enhance fish and wildlife habitats. The Service will help improve habitats for priority species through restoration and management on and off Service lands. Priority habitats in critical need of restoration have been identified in the Nanticoke, Choptank, and Pocomoke, and James River watersheds in Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia. The Service will use proven programs such as the Coastal Program to build sustainable populations of priority trust species, such as the Delmarva fox squirrel, black duck and dwarf wedge mussel.

**Ecosystem Restoration - Gulf Coast Ecosystem (+\$250,000/+1 FTE)**

The proposed increase will enhance Service capabilities to address the decline of coastal habitats in Mississippi (MS) and Louisiana (LA), and contribute directly to designing and implementing an accelerated Gulf Coast restoration program. Funding would be directed to protect and restore habitats for priority at-risk species identified by the Service and its partners in MS and LA, and will address priorities of the Governors' Action Plan for Healthy and Resilient Coasts developed by the Gulf of Mexico Alliance; the Gulf Coast Joint Venture of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan; other local, State, regional, national and international conservation plans; and species recovery plans. These funds will directly contribute to and integrate with ecosystem and fish and wildlife trust resource restoration and sustainability along the northern Gulf Coast.

Technical and financial assistance will be provided to local landowners and communities to implement on-the-ground projects, enhance partnerships with the states and support conservation goals of many active federal partners including Grand Bay and Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuges; Gulf of Mexico National Seashore; the lower Pearl River watershed/Devil's Swamp watershed; and the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. The additional funds would enable the Coastal Program to develop up to five new voluntary conservation partnership agreements that would restore or enhance up to 200 acres of strategically targeted wetlands and up to two miles of stream habitat or shoreline. These efforts will complement larger federal/state/local restoration efforts such as the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA), and those being conducted by the Corps, EPA, NOAA and others.

**Program Overview**

The Coastal Program works cooperatively with States, Tribes, governmental and non-governmental organizations, industry, and private landowners to conserve our Nation's coastal trust resources. The Program provides technical and financial assistance in 24 high-priority coastal areas in the form of cost sharing with partners in support of restoration and protection of coastal habitats.

The Coastal Program Vision is:

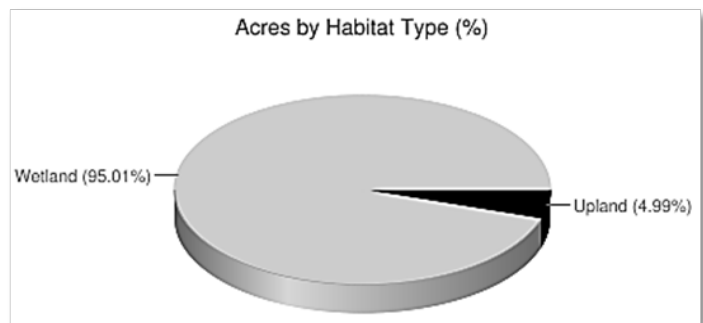
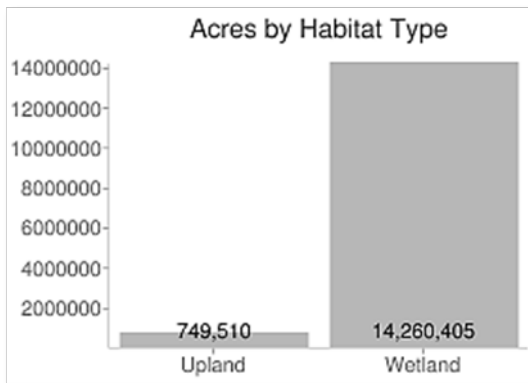
**“...to effectively achieve voluntary coastal habitat conservation through financial and technical assistance for the benefit of federal trust species, including threatened and endangered species, migratory birds, inter-jurisdictional fish, certain marine mammals, and species of international concern.”**

The desired outcome is to increase the number of self-sustaining federal trust species populations. At least four non-federal dollars are leveraged for every federal dollar spent.

**Costal Program National Summary Report**  
 Fiscal Years (2002-2010)

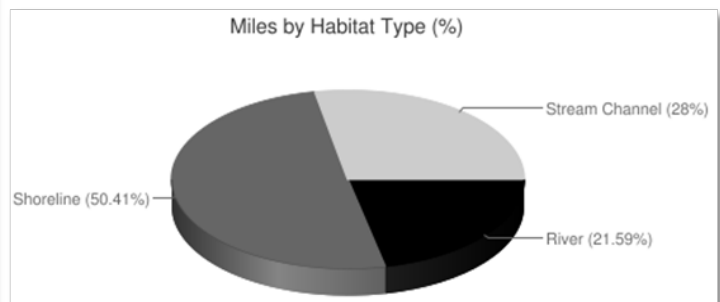
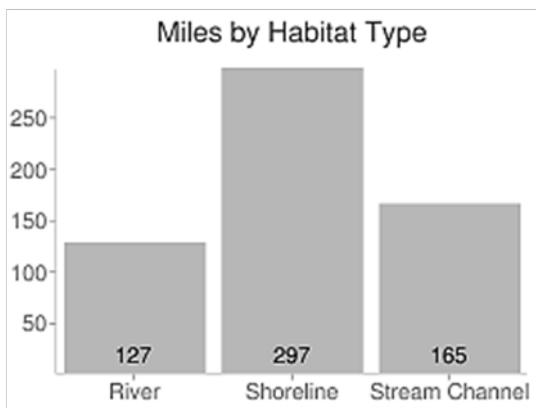
*Acres by Habitat Type*

Habitat Type	Acres	Percent of Total
Upland	749,510.37 acres	4.99%
Wetland	14,260,405.18 acres	95.01%



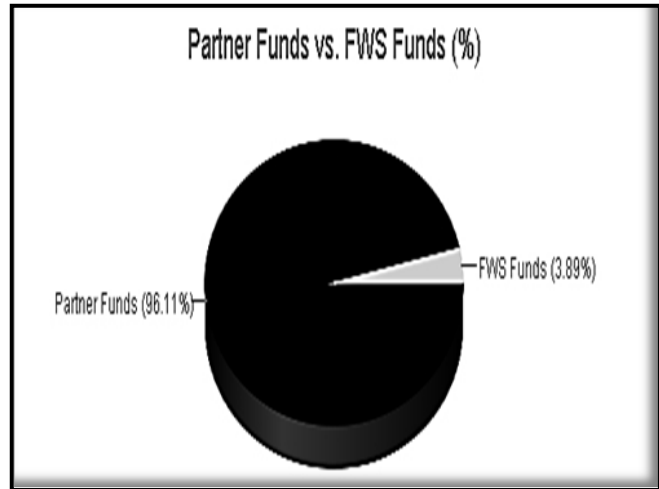
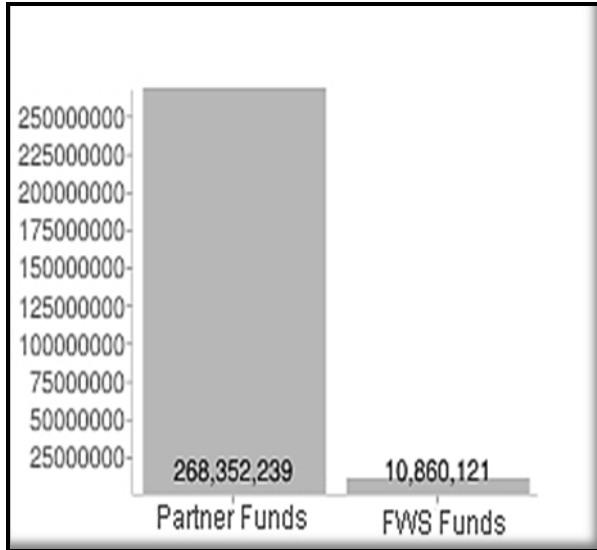
*Miles by Habitat Type*

Habitat Type	Miles	Percent of Total
River	127.512 miles	21.59%
Shoreline	297.73 miles	50.41%
Stream Channel	165.373 miles	28%



*Partner Leveraging*

<b>Partner Funds</b>	<b>FWS Funds</b>	<b>Partner Leveraging</b>
\$268,352,239	\$10,860,121	2,471%



**Strategic Habitat Conservation** – Through the Coastal Program, the Service will continue to deliver on-the-ground projects through active coordination and strong partnerships with governmental and non-governmental organizations and private citizens. For example, the Program collaborates with the National Wildlife Refuge System and the Environmental Protection Agency’s National Estuary programs on habitat restoration and protection efforts. In addition, the Program supports federal trust species recovery, migratory bird and waterfowl management plans, migratory bird and waterfowl management plans, and State Wildlife Action Plans. The Program also directly supports the implementation of the National Coral Reef Action Strategy through planning assistance, public outreach and education, and the National Policy for the Ocean, Coasts, and Great Lakes, including coastal and marine spatial planning.

The Coastal Program supports America’s Great Outdoors by conserving and restoring critical habitat that will ensure that fish and wildlife populations are sustained for the benefit of current and future generations of Americans. Collaborating with State agencies, Tribes, private landowners, industry, and other federal agencies, the Coastal Program is reconnecting Americans with nature by maintaining long-standing hunting and fishing traditions. The Coastal Program also works with National Wildlife Refuges to conserve and enhance the habitats at the refuges, which allows the public to experience the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and habitats found in the world’s premier system of public lands and waters.

**Use of Cost and Performance Information**

The Coastal Program continues to achieve its mission and contribute to strategic habitat conservation plans in priority estuarine areas via performance-based management.

- The Coastal program is operating under a 5-year Strategic Plan developed with stakeholder input that defines outcome-based program priorities, goals, and performance targets.
- Annual project selection is directing program resources to sites within priority geographic focus areas to maximize benefits to federal trust species.
- In an effort to improve information sharing, the Coastal Program continues to fine-tune the web-based accomplishment reporting system (Habitat Information Tracking System).



The Coastal Program will work with Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) to provide a framework for landscape-scale conservation delivery and to implement coastal habitat conservation strategies that benefit conservation and recovery of Federal trust species. The Coastal Program will work with LCCs to develop tools and restoration strategies that can be transferred to non-Service land stewards and habitat conservation practitioners.

The Coastal Program is committed to addressing the growing threat to coastal ecosystems from habitat degradation. Working with the LCCs and our partners, the Coastal Program will promote ecosystem adaptation and enhance the resiliency of coastal ecosystems to the effects of sea-level rise and flooding, habitat fragmentation, and greenhouse gases. The Coastal Program will design projects, such as marsh restoration and living shorelines that will mitigate the effects of sea-level rise and protect coastal habitats. The Coastal Program will also support projects that prevent and reduce habitat fragmentation (including control of invasive species) to maintain habitat connectivity and facilitate fish and wildlife movements and migration. The Coastal Program will also support projects that provide carbon sequestration through restoration of wetlands and uplands.

### **Coastal Barrier Resources Act Program**

The Service's responsibilities under the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) have traditionally been delivered through the Coastal Program. The CBRA seeks to conserve coastal habitats by restricting federal funding that encourages development, thereby reducing the intensity of development, in hurricane prone and biologically sensitive areas that provide essential spawning, nesting, nursery, and feeding habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife species. The Service is responsible for determining whether properties are located within the Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS), consulting with federal agencies regarding projects proposed in the CBRS, and preparing draft digital maps for consideration by Congress that update and correct existing maps. In FY 2012, the Service will begin to transition CBRA administration from the Coastal Program to the National Wetlands Inventory. The purpose of this transition is to: (1) maximize the use of Coastal Program funds for on-the-ground conservation and restoration efforts in light of climate change and sea-level rise and (2) identify and capitalize on efficiencies by integrating CBRA and NWI mapping and technical capabilities. The results of this transition will be described in the President's proposed budget for fiscal year 2013.

### **2012 Program Performance**

In FY 2012, the Coastal Program will continue to direct resources to projects within priority geographic focus areas identified in regional strategic plans. Project selection is guided by strategic conservation plans of coastal communities, eco-regional plans, and strategies of coastal States and prominent non-governmental organizations. The Coastal Program will continue to provide valuable technical assistance to strategic habitat conservation planning within the Service and federal agency community. Lastly, a key issue for the Coastal Program is to engage stakeholders and partners in developing strategic responses to various predicted sea-level rise scenarios. Guided by these projections, in FY 2012 the Coastal Program overall plans to restore approximately 4,700 acres of wetlands, 5,700 acres of uplands, 18 miles of riparian corridor, and remove 27 barriers to fish passage. Assistance to communities will help permanently protect 6,100 acres of wetlands, 3,100 acres of uplands, and 19 miles of riparian and stream habitat through landowner and cooperative agreements.

This work will occur in priority geographic focus areas such as the as the Chesapeake Bay region, the Lower Columbia River Focus Area in Oregon, the Lower Detroit River Focus Area in Michigan, and the Coastal Kodiak Island Archipelago Focus Area in Alaska.



In the **State of Maryland**, the Coastal Program is working with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and American Rivers to identify and prioritize dam removals and fish passage projects. Dams and other fish passage barriers block the spawning migration of commercial and recreational fish, including American eel, American shad, river herring, and resident fish. This partnership will result in restoration projects that will reopen critical fish habitat in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. This strategic planning

effort supports America's Great Outdoors by promoting community-based recreation and conservation, and creating aquatic habitat connectivity.

In **Clatsop County, Oregon**, the Coastal Program worked with the Lower Columbia River Estuary Program to implement a habitat restoration project on Perkins Creek, a tributary of the Skipanon River, which is approximately four miles in length. The project sites are tidally-influenced and provide valuable spawning and rearing habitats for threatened and endangered fish. This project aims to restore fish passage; wetland and riparian habitats for endangered salmonids on private lands near permanently protected property owned by the National Park Service; and to restore and enhance tidally influenced wetlands and spruce swamp, a rare habitat type in the Lower Columbia River region. The project will benefit Coho Salmon, steelhead, coastal cutthroat trout, and western brook lamprey.



The Coastal Program is conducting a wetland restoration project on a 155-acre parcel located in **Monroe County, Michigan** that was acquired by the US Fish and Wildlife Service in 2003. This property includes 70 acres of agricultural fields adjacent to Lake Erie, in the Lower Detroit River Focus Area. The fields have been diked on three sides to keep lake water out and are artificially drained with tiles and ditches that must be pumped to facilitate agricultural production. The Coastal Program restored wetland functions to 44.8 acres on this site by removing drain tiles and constructing a low-level berm to restore hydrology and to prevent flooding off-site properties. A water control structure was installed in the

berm to facilitate wetland management. The wetland will be managed to promote the establishment of native wetland plants to provide high quality habitat for resident and migratory waterfowl and to control the invasion of invasive species such as Phragmites, as well as enhance 30 acres of adjacent emergent wetland on Lake Erie/Swan Creek bottomland by controlling undesirable runoff.



**Afognak Island, Alaska** has long been recognized as a unique ecosystem, consisting of superb coastal, terrestrial, and riparian habitat supporting abundant wildlife, including many threatened, endangered, and candidate species and species of special concern under the federal Endangered Species Act. The lakes and streams along the north coast of the island in the Coastal Kodiak Island Archipelago Focus Area support anadromous and resident fish populations, and its Sitka spruce coastal rainforests provide excellent habitat for Kodiak brown bear, Roosevelt elk, and Sitka black-tailed deer. The Coastal Program is collaborating with American Land Conservancy, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Afognak Joint Venture, State of Alaska, Exxon Valdez Trustees and Uyak & Uganik Natives, Inc., to build upon previous land protection successes on Afognak Island. The partnership is working toward protection of coastal resources on Perenosa, Delphin, Discoverer and Paramanof Bays. Targeted resources include remote coastline,

wetland and rainforest, pristine wild salmon spawning streams, sheltered bays, and ideal habitat for marbled murrelets, harlequin duck, pigeon guillemot, numerous marine mammals, herring, wintering sea ducks, Kodiak brown bear, and Roosevelt elk.

#### **Ecosystem Restoration - Chesapeake Bay**

The Coastal Program will expand technical and financial assistance in partnership with other conservation stakeholders in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to restore, protect, and enhance fish and wildlife habitats. At the request level, the Program will restore 15 miles of riparian habitat and stream/shoreline miles, 4 acres of uplands, and 375 acres of wetlands and through voluntary partnerships permanently protect 750 acres of wetland and 600 acres of uplands.

#### **Ecosystem Restoration - Gulf Coast Ecosystem**

The Service proposes to increase the capacity of the Coastal Program along the central coast of the Gulf of Mexico to deliver targeted habitat conservation in high priority resource areas that are currently underserved. The central Gulf coast contains some of the world's most diverse and productive ecosystems including a large percentage of the Nation's estuaries, barrier islands, and fresh and saltwater marshes. This area provides valuable coastal habitat and a critical stopover for hundreds of species of neotropical migratory birds, wading and shorebirds, and large populations of wintering waterfowl. Fragile barrier islands protect submerged vegetation that is recognized as the most critical nursery grounds for the Gulf of Mexico fishery. These barrier islands, inland bays, and coastal flatlands provide essential habitat for numerous threatened and endangered species such as the Alabama beach mouse, Mississippi sandhill crane, woodstork, Alabama red bellied turtle, Gulf sturgeon and sea turtles. Projects will address priorities of the Governor's Action Plan for Healthy and Resilient Coasts developed by the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, the Gulf Coast Joint Venture of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, and other local, state, regional, national and international conservation plans, and species recovery plans. Technical and financial assistance will be provided to local landowners and communities to implement on-the-ground projects that would restore or enhance up to 200 acres of strategically targeted wetlands and two miles of stream habitat. These funds will also enhance partnerships with the states and support conservation goals of many active Federal partners including Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge, Gulf of Mexico National Seashore and the Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

**Coastal Barrier Resources Act Program**

In 2011, the Service finalized a Digital Mapping Pilot Project that created final recommended maps for 70 CBRA units and an accompanying report to Congress. In 2012 the Service will use existing base funds to focus on increasing the efficiency of our general CBRA administration. The Service will not produce any additional draft maps in 2012.

**Habitat Conservation - Coastal Programs - Performance Overview Table**

<b>Performance Goal</b>	<b>2007 Actual</b>	<b>2008 Actual</b>	<b>2009 Actual</b>	<b>2010 Actual</b>	<b>2011 Plan</b>	<b>2012 PB</b>	<b>Change from 2011 to 2012 PB</b>	<b>Long Term Target 2016</b>
CSF 3.1 Number of non-DOI riparian (stream/shoreline) miles restored, including through partnerships, as specified in plans or agreements that involve DOI (GPRA)	1,522	9,796	11,054	3,334	614	616	2 (0.3%)	n/a
CSF Total Actual/Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$39,761	\$48,748	\$45,347	\$48,773	\$9,102	\$9,248	\$146	n/a
CSF Program Total Actual/Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$567	\$832	\$1,057	\$1,550	\$1,570	\$1,591	\$21	n/a
Actual/Projected Cost Per Mile (whole dollars)	\$26,131	\$4,976	\$4,102	\$14,630	\$14,821	\$15,013	\$192	n/a
3.1.2 # of non-FWS riparian (stream/shoreline) miles restored, including through partnerships - CoastProg (GPRA)	123	98	35	46	18	18	0 (1.4%)	n/a
CSF 3.2 Number of non-DOI riparian (stream/shoreline) miles managed or protected to achieve desired condition, including through partnerships, as specified in plans or agreements that involve DOI (GPRA)	6,997	20,500	11,296	1,975	868	866	-2 (-0.2%)	n/a
CSF Total Actual/Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$4,407	\$4,813	\$4,602	\$3,443	\$1,533	\$1,549	\$16	n/a
CSF Program Total Actual/Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$65	\$44	\$28	\$41	\$41	\$42	\$1	n/a
Actual/Projected Cost Per Mile (whole dollars)	\$630	\$235	\$407	\$1,743	\$1,766	\$1,789	\$23	n/a
3.2.1 # of non-FWS riparian (stream/shoreline) miles protected through voluntary partnerships (GPRA)	19	38	91	31	19	19	0 (1.6%)	n/a

Habitat Conservation - Coastal Programs - Performance Overview Table

Performance Goal	2007 Actual	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Plan	2012 PB	Change from 2011 to 2012 PB	Long Term Target 2016
CSF 4.3 Number of non-FWS coastal and marine acres restored, including acres restored through partnerships, as specified in management plans or agreements that involve FWS (GPRA)	55,175	51,174	85,925	80,128	12,245	12,248	3 (0.0%)	n/a
CSF Total Actual/Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$8,346	\$13,673	\$13,409	\$16,884	\$2,614	\$2,648	\$34	n/a
CSF Program Total Actual/Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$6,225	\$6,797	\$7,073	\$8,421	\$8,531	\$8,641	\$110	n/a
Actual/Projected Cost Per Acre (whole dollars)	\$151	\$267	\$156	\$211	\$213	\$216	\$3	n/a
4.3.1 # of non-FWS coastal/marine wetlands acres enhanced/ restored through voluntary partnerships (includes acres treated for invasives & now restored) (GPRA)	41,781	35,958	17,130	10,384	4,758	4,758	0	n/a
4.3.2 # of non-FWS coastal/marine upland acres enhanced/ restored through voluntary partnerships (includes acres treated for invasives & now restored) (GPRA)	13,394	10,930	8,972	10,427	5,742	5,742	0	n/a
CSF 4.6 Number of non-FWS coastal and marine acres managed or protected to maintain desired condition, including acres managed or protected through partnerships, as specified in management plans or agreements that involve FWS (GPRA)	99,961	581,699	131,156	101,706	12,415	12,415	0	n/a
CSF Total Actual/Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$2,858	\$4,239	\$4,528	\$4,931	\$610	\$618	\$8	n/a
CSF Program Total Actual/Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$1,535	\$1,844	\$1,906	\$2,215	\$2,244	\$2,273	\$29	n/a
Actual/Projected Cost Per Acre (whole dollars)	\$29	\$7	\$35	\$48	\$49	\$50	\$1	n/a
4.6.1 # of non-FWS coastal/marine wetlands acres protected through voluntary partnerships (GPRA)	11,638	46,214	16,598	17,711	6,105	6,105	0	n/a

**Habitat Conservation - Coastal Programs - Performance Overview Table**

<b>Performance Goal</b>	<b>2007 Actual</b>	<b>2008 Actual</b>	<b>2009 Actual</b>	<b>2010 Actual</b>	<b>2011 Plan</b>	<b>2012 PB</b>	<b>Change from 2011 to 2012 PB</b>	<b>Long Term Target 2016</b>
4.6.2 # of non-FWS coastal/marine upland acres protected through voluntary partnerships (GPRA)	7,801	8,538	34,314	15,301	3,177	3,177	0	n/a
Comments	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. Cost figures may not reflect all the costs required to restore wetlands, uplands, or riparian habitat.							
4.6.5 Cumulative % of CBRA areas with draft digital maps	12% (369,158 of 3,112,691)	12% (362,063 of 3,112,691)	12% (366,851 of 3,112,691)	12% (366,851 of 3,112,691)	12% (366,851 of 3,112,691)	12% (366,851 of 3,112,691)	0%	n/a
5.1.17 # of fish barriers removed or installed - Coastal	11	39	34	28	27	27	0	n/a

**Subactivity: Habitat Conservation**  
**Program Element: National Wetlands Inventory**

		2010 Actual	2010 Enacted / 2011 CR	2012			Change From 2011 CR (+/-)	
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Admin- istrative Cost Savings (-)	Program Changes (+/-)		Budget Request
National Wetlands Inventory	(\$000)	5,643	5,643	-45	-110	-250	5,238	-405
	FTE	18	18	-	-	-	18	-

**Summary of 2011 Program Changes for National Wetlands Inventory**

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• General Program Activities	-250	0
<b>Program Changes</b>	<b>-250</b>	<b>0</b>
Internal Transfer –Office of the Science Advisor	-48	

**Justification of 2012 Program Changes**

The 2011 budget request for National Wetlands Inventory is \$5,238,000 and 18 FTE, a net program change of -\$250,000 and -0 FTE from the annualized 2010 Enacted/2011 annualized Continuing Resolution.

**General Program Activities (-\$250,000/-0 FTE)**

The 2012 budget request eliminates \$250,000 added in 2010 by Congress for the National Wetlands Inventory and further reduces the Program for DOI-wide changes and transfers. The proposed reduction would reduce the production of current geospatial habitat information to guide the conservation and stewardship of the Nation’s wetlands and aquatic species by 14.2 million acres, 25 percent of the data expected in FY 2011. Loss of funds will impact the ability to provide quality control for partner-contributed data, maintain state-of-the-art data distribution for 60 million data requests, and manage cooperative agreements. Digital wetlands data comprise the foundation of geographically-targeted wetland assessment and change studies for fish, wildlife, and federal lands planning and management (including sea-level rise, drought, and flood adaptation through Landscape Conservation Cooperatives), infrastructure and energy development, American Great Outdoor initiatives, and emergency preparedness.

**Habitat Conservation - National Wetlands Inventory - Performance Change Table**

Performance Goal	2007 Actual	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Plan	2012 PB	Program Change Accruing in 2012	Program Change Accruing in Out- years
CSF 4.1 Number of non-FWS wetland acres restored, including acres restored through partnerships, as specified in management plans or agreements that involve FWS (GPRA)	559,947	974,658	458,713	363,141	415,744	281,062	-134,682 (-32.4%)	n/a



CSF Total Actual/Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$36,921	\$44,848	\$48,479	\$47,550	\$55,146	\$37,766	(\$17,380)	n/a
CSF Program Total Actual/Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$1,456	\$1,292	\$1,847	\$1,677	\$1,699	\$1,721	\$22	n/a
Actual/Projected Cost Per Acre (whole dollars)	\$66	\$46	\$106	\$131	\$133	\$134	\$1	n/a
4.1.10 % of up-to-date digital wetlands data produced for the nation to Improve Information Base, Information Management and Technical Assistance	2.4% (56 of 2,324)	1.4% (32 of 2,324)	1.7% (39 of 2,324)	0.9% (21 of 2,324)	2.4% (56 of 2,325)	1.8% (42 of 2,324)	-0.6% (-25.3%)	n/a
Comments	The proposed reduction will decrease the amount of current, refined wetland map updating by about 25%, challenging our initiative to work with partners to complete and update the nation, as the Service concentrates on higher priorities. Acres in millions.							
Comments	The program also supports many other Service goals in habitat, fisheries, migratory birds, marine mammals, endangered species, etc.							



Coastal saltmarsh, Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. Kelly Fike, FWS

**Program Overview**

Wetlands are the cornerstone of the Nation’s most ecologically and economically important ecosystems, which benefit fish, wildlife, and people. Emerging conservation issues such as sea-level rise, storm flooding, drought, infrastructure development, energy development and species and habitat declines, are driving the need for wetlands digital data in this geospatial age. The Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986 directs the Service to map our nation’s wetlands and deepwater habitats, distribute the data, and produce scientific reports on the status and trends of wetlands. The National Wetlands Inventory has produced digital wetlands maps for about 64 percent of the nation. The Inventory provides Federal, state, tribal, and local governments and the public with contemporary map and scientific data over the Internet that is widely used to help identify, conserve, and restore wetland resources across the American



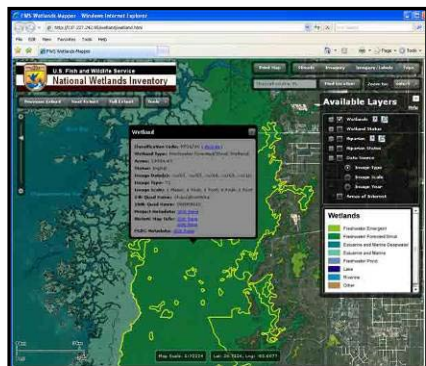
landscape. The Inventory also prepares periodic national wetlands status and trends reports; the last such analysis was completed in 2010. These reports serve as a basis for federal wetlands policy.

The Inventory supports Service and Departmental priorities regarding fisheries, wildlife, and habitat conservation by providing updated geospatial data produced by the Inventory and contributing partners. These data, combined with other biological information, support the Service’s Strategic Habitat Conservation and help resource managers and decision-makers guide, prioritize, and assess species recovery, wildlife management, and wetland restoration and conservation.

The Inventory is integrating with Landscape Conservation Cooperatives by using its technical expertise and capabilities, and developing projects, to support LCC efforts.

**Use of Cost and Performance Information**

- The Inventory has capitalized on changing technology to upgrade its Wetlands Mapper, greatly increasing performance and delivering data at low cost for 60 million data requests.
- The Inventory is exploring cost-sharing strategies to facilitate and accelerate the completion of updated digital maps for the wetlands layer of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure. In 2010, NWI used appropriated funding and coordination at the regional and national level, to leverage an additional \$0.6 million in contributed funds and \$1.4 million in products or services contributed by partners to produce or digitize data for the wetlands layer



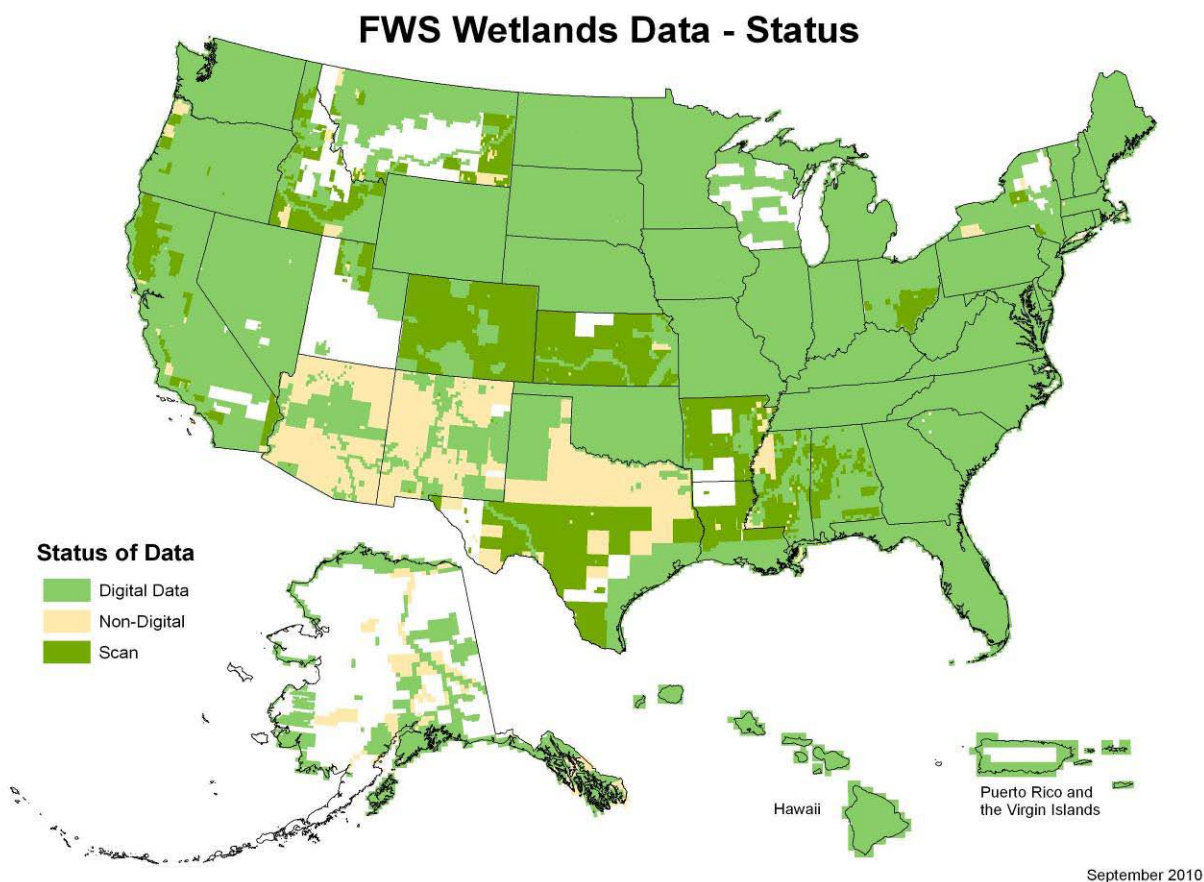
The Service’s modernized Internet mapping services and state-of-the-art geospatial data continue to address growing demands for updated digital wetlands data and habitat assessments. The Service uses an upgraded wetlands mapper, deployed in FY 2010, which allows users to quickly zoom into geographic areas of the country to access wetlands data. This mapper is accessible through the program’s website, which is accessed over 60 million times each year. Under OMB Circular A-16, the Service is responsible for coordinating, acquiring, maintaining, managing, and distributing the wetlands layer of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). The wetlands layer is a major component of Department’s

geospatial line of business portfolio and E-government through the Geospatial One-Stop initiative, the National Map, and Data.Gov. The economic vitality and quality of life in local communities is enhanced by the use of nationally consistent map products as powerful tools to plan and fast track needed development (including energy) projects in ways that minimize environmental impacts.

The Inventory is guided by a Strategic Plan that supports the Department’s mission to protect and manage the Nation’s natural resources and provide scientific and other information about those resources, contributing data to enable the Department to address four of the five mission areas (Provide Natural and Cultural Resource Protection and Experiences; Sustainably Manage Energy, Water, and Natural Resources; Advance Government-to-Government Relations with Indian Nations; and Provide a Scientific Foundation for Decision Making). The Plan is being updated to address Service and Departmental strategic plans or mandates and OMB requirements, including the need for data and data analysis to support LCC priorities, sea-level rise, and energy development. A draft five-year plan was developed in FY 2010 that will be formally adopted in FY 2011. In addition, in FY 2012, the Service will begin to transition the administration of the Coastal Barriers Resource Act (CBRA) from the Coastal Program to the National Wetlands Inventory. The purpose of this transition is to: (1) maximize the use of Coastal Program funds for on-the-ground conservation and restoration efforts in light of sea-level rise and other environmental impacts; and (2) and enhance, identify and capitalize on efficiencies provided by integrating CBRA and NWI mapping and technical capabilities. The results of this transition will be described in the President’s proposed budget for fiscal year 2013.

The strategic outcome achieved by the Inventory is to provide mission-critical habitat information in state-of-the-art digital formats to guide the conservation and stewardship of the Nation’s wetlands and aquatic resources for the benefit of the American people. Program restructuring has aligned the Inventory

to more efficiently and effectively support Service, Departmental, and national priorities. Digital wetlands data comprise the foundation of geographically targeted wetland assessment and change studies and modeling for resource planning and management, infrastructure development, and emergency preparedness. NWI has gotten where it is today with the contributions of over 100 partner agencies or organizations. In FY 2012 and beyond, partnerships will be more vital than ever to completing and maintaining a national wetlands inventory.



### 2012 Program Performance

The Inventory will strategically produce updated digital data in priority geographic areas. The focus of this continuing effort is to enable the program to assist in preparing for and reacting to environmental changes. Wetlands data will be produced and analyzed to complement Service strategic habitat conservation initiatives that plan for environmental change and its effects on fish and wildlife resources. In particular, the Inventory will support “landscape conservation cooperatives,” or networks of expertise shared with partners in conservation. These partnerships with members of the conservation community will build shared capacities to plan, design and deliver conservation among multiple spatial scales. The Service’s digital wetlands data will be an integral component of geospatial analyses and modeling at the landscape level.

The Service will maintain its capabilities for handling and distributing geospatial data. This includes incorporating, and conducting quality control of data contributed by non-federal partners. The Service will continue its leadership role as chair of the wetlands subcommittee of the Federal Geographic Data

Committee in development of the wetlands layer of the NSDI. The Service estimates there will be seamless digital wetlands data available on-line for about 68 percent of the nation by the end of FY 2011, an increase of one percent over FY 2010. Additionally, the Inventory will modernize and update wetlands data for 1.8 percent of the nation. These efforts will support real-time access for resource management decision-making. The Inventory will produce approximately five reports documenting the status and change in wetlands in key areas. In addition, the program will continue to train outside organizations on the national standards for wetlands classification and mapping, assist natural resource planners in using and analyzing wetlands digital data, and examine the technology to make wetlands mapping and data delivery more efficient and cost effective.

The Service has developed and maintains a close working relationship with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Office of Water Information. The Service’s National Standards and Support Team (NSST) partners with USGS staff who assist with emerging technologies, geographic information science and database management. The NSST will continue to deliver the wetlands layer of the NSDI, and respond to over 60 million online requests. The number of customers and data contributors continues to grow as the Service adds additional areas of coverage to the Wetlands Mapper. The program will continue to emphasize cooperater coordination, quality control review, and data stewardship.

**Habitat Conservation - National Wetlands Inventory - Performance Overview Table**

	2007 Actual	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Plan	2012 PB	Change from 2011 to 2012 PB	Long Term Target 2016
CSF 4.1 Number of non-FWS wetland acres restored, including acres restored through partnerships, as specified in management plans or agreements that involve FWS (GPRA)	559,947	974,658	458,713	363,141	415,744	281,062	-134,682 (-2.4%)	447,693
CSF Total Actual/Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$36,921	\$44,848	\$48,479	\$47,550	\$55,146	\$37,766	(\$17,380)	\$60,156
CSF Program Total Actual/Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$1,456	\$1,292	\$1,847	\$1,677	\$1,699	\$1,721	\$22	\$1,721
Actual/Projected Cost Per Acre (whole dollars)	\$66	\$46	\$106	\$131	\$133	\$134	\$1	\$134
4.1.10 % of up-to-date digital wetlands data produced for the nation to Improve Information Base, Information Management and Technical Assistance	2.4% (56 of 2,324)	1.4% (32 of 2,324)	1.7% (39 of 2,324)	0.9% (21 of 2,324)	2.4% (56 of 2,325)	1.8% (42 of 2,324)	-0.6%	1.4% (32 of 2,324)

**Habitat Conservation - National Wetlands Inventory - Performance Overview Table**

	2007 Actual	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Plan	2012 PB	Change from 2011 to 2012 PB	Long Term Target 2016
Comments	The proposed reduction will decrease the amount of current, refined wetland map updating by about 25%, challenging our initiative to work with partners to complete and update the nation, as the Service concentrates on higher priorities. Acres in millions. Long term target reduction reflects the estimate of the impact of NWI's assumption of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) program in FY 2013, which is currently funded by the Coastal Program.							
4.1.11 Cumulative % of acres with digital data available	55.7% (1,294 of 2,324)	57.5% (1,336 of 2,324)	61.0% (1,418 of 2,324)	63.9% (1,486 of 2,324)	67.0% (1,556 of 2,325)	68.0% (1,580 of 2,324)	1.0%	70.0% (1,627 of 2,324)
Comments	Cumulative Total estimated increase is primarily from partner funding to digitize existing NWI hardcopy maps; another 13% of the nation is awaiting funding to be made available online, on-demand for businesses, the public, and those States, Tribes, and local agencies currently lacking wetlands geospatial data for decision-making for clean water, wildlife and fish habitat conservation, storm-loss prevention, and energy, infrastructure, and community development.							
4.1.12 Cumulative % of acres with digital maps 10 years old or less	5.1% (118 of 2,324)	5.9% (136 of 2,324)	6.9% (160 of 2,324)	7.8% (181 of 2,324)	8.5% (198 of 2,325)	8.3% (193 of 2,324)	-0.2%	9.8% (228 of 2,324)
Comments	More data are estimated to age out of the category than will be added. Target is 100%, with all data updated at a minimum of every ten years, or more often as needed.							
4.1.13 # of professionals trained by NWI	547	583	293	109	145	500	355 (244.8%)	500
Comments	NWI is developing online training to encourage and enable partnerships for increased data contributions to leverage existing funding.							
4.1.14 # of scientific/technical reports produced for the nation by NWI	13	18	19	9	18	9	-9 (-50.0%)	5
Comments	NWI will be producing fewer reports for fewer funded projects. Long term target reduction reflects NWI's assumption of the CBRA program in FY 2013.							