Activity: Migratory Birds, Law Enforcement and International Conservation
Subactivity: Migratory Bird Management

		2010 Actual	2010 Enacted/ 2011 CR	2012				Change from 2011 CR (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Admin-istrative Cost Savings (-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Conservation and Monitoring	($000)	31,010	31,010	+966	-849	-400	30,727	-283
	FTE	146	146	0		0	146	0
Avian Health and Disease	($000)	4,922	4,922	-996	-78	0	3,848	-1,074
	FTE	23	23	0		0	23	0
Permits	($000)	3,645	3,645	+5	-61	0	3,589	-56
	FTE	32	32	0		0	32	0
Federal Duck Stamp	($000)	852	852	0	-6	0	846	-6
	FTE	5	5	0		0	5	0
North American Waterfowl Management/Joint Ventures	($000)	14,054	14,054	-17	-253	+1,629	15,413	+1,359
	FTE	50	50	0	0	+6	56	+6
Total, Migratory Bird Management	**($000)**	**54,483**	**54,483**	**-42**	**-1,247**	**+1,229**	**54,423**	**-60**
	FTE	**256**	**256**	**0**	**0**	**+6**	**262**	**+6**

Program Overview

The Division of Migratory Bird Management, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Regional Migratory Bird Programs, Joint Ventures, the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Office and the FWS Office of Aviation Management comprise the Service's Migratory Bird Conservation and Management Program. These units work cooperatively to improve the number of migratory bird populations that are at healthy and sustainable levels and to prevent other birds from undergoing population declines and joining those already on the Endangered or Threatened Species Lists. Migratory Bird Program staff routinely:

- Develop and implement population surveys and other monitoring and assessment activities to determine the status of both game and non-game birds;
- Administer the issuance of permits and regulations to organizations and individuals to participate in migratory bird activities, such as hunting, scientific research, rehabilitation of injured birds, education, falconry, and taxidermy, as well as control of overabundant species;
- Participate in international treaty negotiations related to migratory birds;
- Manage overabundant bird populations and restore habitat where populations are declining;
- Manage grants that implement on-the-ground activities to conserve migratory bird habitats;
- Support national and regional-scale biological planning, project implementation, and evaluation to achieve migratory bird program objectives;
- Coordinate efforts to reduce bird mortalities resulting from collisions with equipment and structures, such as communication towers, wind turbines, transmission lines, as well as fisheries by-catch, pesticides, and other human-related causes;
- Work to engage children and adults to ensure long-term support for bird conservation and provide continued opportunities for everyone to enjoy bird-related recreation. These efforts involve collaborative partnerships with Federal, State, and municipal agencies and non-government organizations, providing outreach and educational opportunities, such as International Migratory Day, Junior Duck Stamp Program, and Urban Conservation Treaties; and

- Participate in early detection and response planning programs intended to address a broad spectrum of infectious and noninfectious diseases impacting all migratory bird species.

The Service is directed by Congress to ensure the perpetuation of migratory bird populations and their habitats for future generations. We will continue to coordinate and consult with science partners in the development and implementation of focal species strategies, and support international partners to expand and manage shared migratory bird resources for continental-scale programs. The Service will continue to work closely with outside partners to implement the tenets of Strategic Habitat Conservation, which can increase the effectiveness of migratory bird programs on the landscape, improve overall bird conservation, and prioritize management decisions for species conservation.

New Kodiak-100 with amphibious floats en-route to Alaska to be use for migratory bird surveys. Photo by Karen Bollinger, FWS

Subactivity: Migratory Bird Management
Program Element: Conservation and Monitoring

		2010 Actual	2010 Enacted/ 2011 CR	2012				Change from 2011 CR (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Administrative Cost Savings (-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Conservation and Monitoring	($000)	31,010	31,010	+966	-849	-400	30,727	-283
	FTE	146	146	0		0	146	0

Summary of 2012 Program Changes for Migratory Bird Conservation and Monitoring

Request Component	($000)	FTE
• Chesapeake Bay	+100	0
• Urban Bird Treaties	-500	0
Program Changes	**-400**	**0**
Internal Transfer - Provide for Increased Aviation Costs	+1,000	0
Internal Transfer –Office of the Science Advisor	-66	0

Justification of 2012 Program Changes

The 2012 budget request for Conservation and Monitoring is $30,727,000 and 146 FTE, a net program change of $400,000 and 0 FTE from the 2010 Enacted/ annualized 2011 Continuing Resolution.

Chesapeake Bay (+$100,000/ +0 FTE)
In support of Executive Order 13508, *Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed*, funding will be used to develop and expand monitoring protocols, evaluation tools, and research to determine bird population status and trends, and monitor the results of management actions in the Chesapeake Bay region. Monitoring will be focused on evaluating the effectiveness of conservation actions by building on existing monitoring programs (such as the Flyway Integrated Waterbird Bird Monitoring Management Program and Sea Duck Winter Surveys) and developing new programs (including a Chesapeake Bay marsh bird monitoring program).

Urban Bird Treaties (-$500,000/+0 FTE)
The Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds is a collaborative effort between the Service and participating U.S. cities, bringing together private citizens, Federal, State, and municipals, agencies, and non-governmental organizations to promote bird conservation. The 2010 budget requested an increase of $250,000 for the Urban Bird Treaties program, and Congress provided an additional $500,000 over the request. The Service's 2012 budget proposes to eliminate the unrequested portion in order to fund higher priorities.

Internal Transfer -- Provide for Increased Aviation Costs (+$1,000,000/0 FTE's)
The Service will transfer $1,000,000 from Avian Health and Disease to Conservation and Monitoring in order to cover increased aviation expenses. This funding will ensure that the Service continues to meet its regulatory core survey responsibilities for migratory birds. Nine new turbine aircraft were incorporated into the Service's aircraft fleet in support of the Migratory Bird Program at the end of FY 2010. While the new aircraft allows the expansion of survey activities into important continental-scale program areas previously uncovered because of the older aircraft limitations, the new aircraft require additional funding to support general operational costs for conducting surveys, hanger storage needs, and associated training for pilot biologists.

Migratory Birds Conservation & Monitoring - 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 6.1 Percent of all migratory bird species that are at healthy and sustainable levels (GPRA)	61.5% (561 of 912)	62.3% (568 of 912)	62.3% (568 of 912)	72.0% (725 of 1,007)	72.1% (726 of 1,007)	72.1% (726 of 1,007)	0.0%	n/a
6.1.3.1 # of management actions taken that address focal species	n/a	0	94	148	149	140	-9 (-6.0%)	n/a
6.1.3.2 total # of management actions targeted that address focal species	n/a	0	95	148	149	140	-9 (-6.0%)	n/a
Comments	We anticipate the number of individual management actions addressing focal species will be reduced.							

Program Overview

Conservation and monitoring are the two integral activities that define the key role the Service plays in addressing our treaty mandates for migratory birds. This role was underscored recently in the 2010 "State of the Birds" report, which showed that our changing environment will have an increasingly disruptive effect on bird species in all habitats. We need innovative solutions and guidance to abate the negative consequences associated with the development of alternative sources of energy and ensure that we work together to protect the health of shifting bird populations.

In FY 2012, the Service will continue to work effectively with partners in the development and implementation of conservation plans that will contribute to improving the health and sustainability of over 1,000 native migratory bird species and their habitats. Although many entities support or are involved in activities related to bird conservation, the Migratory Bird Program is the only entity, public or private, designed to address the range-wide spectrum of issues, problems, and interests related to migratory bird conservation and management. The Migratory Bird Program also develops plans and strategies to address impacts on migratory birds, including collaboration with other Service Programs to address energy development, partnerships with Federal agencies to avoid and minimize agency actions on birds, and Federal agency Memoranda of Understanding through E.O. 13186 to ensure federal stewardship of migratory birds.

Monitoring is a basic component of the Service's trust responsibility for North America's migratory bird resource, and the Service is a world-renowned leader. Monitoring and assessment activities are key parts of any interactive, science-based approach to bird conservation, and have special relevance to the

evaluation of the Service's ongoing efforts to improve the status of Birds of Management Concern, including focal species. Recent monitoring efforts have concentrated on understanding causes of population changes, assessing the effectiveness of ongoing management practices, and answering questions about the population dynamics, life history, and limiting factors that will affect the future management of this shared, international trust resource. These questions are particularly important with regard to the impact of changing environments due to climate change on abundance and distribution of migratory birds on the continental landscape. The Service's ability to monitor and understand these changes will be a direct measure of how well we can respond to the public and help birds adapt to these rapid environmental changes. Monitoring initiatives can be adapted to help deal with these influences, thus maintaining the Service's ability to make informed decisions. In addition, monitoring provides key information required for assessing energy and other development activities that have the potential to cumulatively impact bird populations.

Critical to the Migratory Bird Program's success are partnerships, which include the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, Partners in Flight, the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, Waterbird Conservation for the Americas, and migratory game bird management plans developed by the Flyway Councils. These plans were developed by coalitions of Federal and State agencies, tribal entities, foreign governments, non-governmental organizations, industry, academia, and private individuals who are committed to the conservation of birds. Survey and assessment information on migratory birds is critical to many conservation management programs. Thousands of managers, researchers and others (both government and non-government) depend upon the Migratory Bird Program's survey activities to provide accurate, comprehensive status and trend information. States rely heavily on the results of the Service's annual bird surveys for management and budgeting activities associated with migratory game and non-game birds within their own boundaries. Survey data are critical to identify and prioritize management actions and research needs, and provide a scientific, informed basis for effective migratory bird conservation and management on a national and international scale.

2012 Program Performance

During FY 2010, the List of Migratory Birds published in the Code of Federal Regulations (50 CFR § 10.13) was updated. The change reflects an update of best scientific understanding and taxonomic organization of bird species and is used to determine how many species are defined as "migratory birds" for this measure. The Migratory Bird Program will continue to work on the implementation of activities that have the greatest potential to influence future operational performance. Given the current fiscal restraints, we unfortunately anticipate there will be a decrease in the number of individual management actions supporting bird conservation efforts. For example, 6.1.3.1, number of management actions taken that address focal species will be reduced at the national roll-up level by 9 actions from our FY 2011 target.

Migratory Birds - Program 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 6.1 Percent of all migratory bird species that are at healthy and sustainable levels (GPRA)	61.5% (561 of 912)	62.3% (568 of 912)	62.3% (568 of 912)	72.0% (725 of 1,007)	72.1% (726 of 1,007)	72.1% (726 of 1,007)	0.0%	71.2% (728 of 1,022)

Migratory Birds - Program 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 Total Actual/Projected Expenditures ($000)	$28,553	$47,443	$52,137	$60,206	$61,073	$61,867	$794	$62,037
CSF Program Total Actual/Projected Expenditures ($000)	$12,173	$22,143	$25,193	$29,256	$29,636	$30,022	$385	$30,022
Actual/Projected Cost Per Species (whole dollars)	$50,897	$83,526	$91,790	$83,043	$84,123	$85,216	$1,094	$85,216
Comments:	During FY2010, the List of Migratory Birds published in the Code of Federal Regulations (50 CFR § 10.13) was updated. The change reflects an update of best scientific understanding and taxonomic organization of bird species and is used to determine how many species are defined as "migratory birds" for this measure.							

Subactivity: Migratory Bird Management
Program Element: Avian Health and Disease

		2010 Actual	2010 Enacted/ 2011 CR	2012				Change from 2011 CR (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Administrative Cost Savings (-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Avian Health and Disease	($000)	4,922	4,922	-996	-78	0	3,848	-1,074
	FTE	23	23	0		0	23	0

Summary of 2012 Program Changes for Avian Health and Disease

Internal Transfer - Provide for Increased Aviation Costs	-1,000	0

Justification of 2012 Program Changes

The 2012 budget request for the Avian Health and Disease Program is $3,848,000 and 23 FTE, with no net program change from the 2010 Enacted/ annualized 2011 Continuing Resolution. Fixed costs and related changes include an internal transfer of $1,000,000 and 0 FTEs to Conservation and Monitoring.

Internal Transfer - Provide for Increased Aviation Costs (-$1,000,000/ 0 FTEs)
The Service will transfer $1,000,000 within the Migratory Bird Management Program from Avian Health and Disease to Conservation and Monitoring to support operational costs associated with the nine new turbine aircraft. The reprogramming also supports a shift from a program focused on one disease (H5N1 avian influenza) and a small subset of avian species to a more comprehensive program addressing a broad spectrum of infectious and noninfectious disease impacting all migratory bird species.

Program Overview

Infectious diseases are increasingly placing pressure on wild bird populations. Habitat fragmentation and changes in land-use patterns have increased emerging disease risks that involve avian reservoirs and possible transfer of disease to humans and livestock. Wild bird populations are responding to changing weather patterns; with this response comes new opportunities for the spread of avian diseases. This is placing pressure on bird populations already stressed by anthropogenic factors. As we are likely to face even greater emerging disease threats in avian populations in the future, it is vitally important that the Service includes avian health and disease surveillance, response, and management in its conservation efforts.

Conducting health exams on migrating black ducks

The Migratory Bird Program has built upon its avian influenza surveillance activities of the previous few years to begin developing a nationwide avian health and disease program that supports the avian conservation, surveillance, and management goals of the Service. The work focuses on monitoring of infectious and non-infectious diseases within wild bird populations, especially those that may be influenced by a changing climate. The objectives of the program are to conduct health and disease surveillance of wild bird populations in order to; establish avian health baselines, identify existing and emerging avian health and disease risks, ensure disease preparedness and prevention, and develop, guide, and implement appropriate and effective management actions.

Subactivity: Migratory Bird Management
Program Element: Permits

		2010 Actual	2010 Enacted/ 2011 CR	2012				Change from 2011 CR (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Admin-istrative Cost Savings (-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Permits	($000)	3,645	3,645	+5	-61	0	3,589	-56
	FTE	32	32	0		0	32	0

Justification of 2012 Program Changes

The 2012 budget request for the Permits Program is $3,589,000 and 32 FTE, with no net program change from the 2010 Enacted/ annualized 2011 Continuing Resolution.

Program Overview

Under the authorities of the *Migratory Bird Treaty Act* (16 U.S.C. 703-712, MBTA), the Service is responsible for regulating activities associated with migratory birds. The *Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act* (16 U.S.C. 668, BGEPA) provides additional protections to Bald Eagles and Golden Eagles. The MBTA and the BGEPA are the primary legislation in the United States enacted for conserving migratory birds and prohibiting the taking, killing, possessing or sale of migratory birds unless permitted by regulations adopted by the Secretary of the Interior. The take of migratory birds for purposes other than hunting is administered through a permitting system (50 CFR parts 21and 22).

Use of Cost and Performance Information

- As a result of a program assessment and a programmatic strategic planning process, specific long-term outcome or annual output performance goals were developed.
- Performance measures are now tracked and reported through use of the Service's Permit Issuance and Tracking System (SPITS database). SPITS was designed in cooperation with the Service's other permit programs to track permit and species information and to facilitate species and trade monitoring.
- Workload-based staffing models have been developed for each of the eight permit offices; staffing levels and associated costs can be predicted using historical workload trends. Unit costs can be determined using the workload models for various permit types.
- Fees are charged for permit processing to help offset operational costs.
- E-permitting capability is being developed to enable the public to submit permit applications and reports electronically.

The regulation of take is a primary and traditional Service activity that integrates data-gathering activities that are used to evaluate the status of migratory bird populations. For example, various regulatory options for game bird species are considered each year during the well-defined cycle of procedures and events that result in a series of rules governing annual sport and subsistence harvest.

The mission of the Migratory Bird Permits Program is to promote the long-term conservation of migratory bird populations while providing opportunities for the public to study, use, and enjoy migratory birds consistent with the provisions of the MBTA and the BGEPA. Regulations authorizing take and possession of migratory birds focus on a limited number of allowable activities: scientific study, depredation control, falconry, raptor propagation, rehabilitation, education, taxidermy, waterfowl sale, religious use of eagles, and other purposes. The permits are administered by the eight Regional Migratory Bird Permit Offices, which process over 11,000 applications annually. Most permits are valid for 1 to 5 years, and approximately 40,000 permits are active (valid) at any time.

Policy and regulations are developed by the Division of Migratory Bird Management in the Washington Office. Sound science is a fundamental component of migratory bird permit polices and decisions. Computer technologies, such as the Service's Permits Issuance and Tracking System (SPITS), provide a tool for issuing permits and help monitor cumulative impacts to migratory bird populations. Policy and regulation development focuses on clarifying and streamlining regulatory requirements.

Bald Eagle. Photo by Katy Hopper, USFWS.

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

	2010 Actual	2010 Enacted/ 2011 CR	2012				Change from 2011 CR (+/-)
			Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Admin-istrative Cost Savings (-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Federal Duck Stamp ($000)	852	852	0	-6	0	846	-6
FTE	5	5	0	0	0	5	0

Justification of 2012 Program Changes

The 2012 budget request for the Federal Duck Stamp Program is $846,000 and 5 FTE, with no net program change from the 2010 Enacted/annualized 2011 Continuing Resolution.

Program Overview

The Federal Duck Stamp program, an internationally recognized and emulated program, supports the conservation of important migratory bird habitat through the selection, design and sale of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (commonly known as the Duck Stamp). Since 1934, the sales of Federal Duck Stamps have raised in excess of $750 million for the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (MBCF) enabling the protection of more than 5.3 million acres of prime waterfowl habitat in the National Wildlife Refuge System. Also, lands purchased with Duck Stamp dollars provide Americans with many opportunities to enjoy the outdoors by engaging in numerous activities such as hunting, fishing, hiking and wildlife watching supporting the Administration's Great Outdoors Initiative. In fiscal year 2009, sales of Duck Stamps totaled nearly $25 million. The 2012 budget proposes to increase the price of the Federal Duck Stamp from $15 to $25. This increase is necessary to offset the reduced buying power of the stamp resulting in less land conservation, due to inflation and escalating land prices since the last price increase in 1991. The 2010-2011 Duck Stamp (pictured) features Maryland artist Robert Bealle's painting of an American wigeon. His winning design retains the pictorial heritage of the first Duck Stamp created in 1934 by political cartoonist and conservationist J.N. "Ding" Darling. Minnesota artist James Hautman took first place honors at the 2010 Federal Duck Stamp Contest and his design of a pair of White-fronted geese will grace the 2011-2012 Federal Duck Stamp. The 2011-2012 Federal Duck Stamp will go on sale at the end of June, 2011.

Since 1989, the mission of the Junior Duck Stamp Program has been to provide an art and science based environmental education curriculum to help teach wildlife conservation to American schoolchildren. As ever-increasing urbanization and development limit opportunities for millions of children to connect with the outdoor environment, there are fewer occasions for them to interact with nature, to learn about environmental stewardship, or careers in wildlife conservation. The Junior Duck Stamp program provides educators with the

tools and resources designed to assist them in teaching about nature and promoting conservation. In FY 2010 the Service began an update of Junior Duck Stamp curriculum designed to make the program more relevant to today's teachers and students. This new curriculum will include using state of the art technology, social networking tools, and current scientific information (for example the impacts of rising sea levels on coastal wetland habitats); as well as being multi-culturally relevant, available to all American students, and incorporating information about careers in nature and conservation. In 2011 the National Junior Duck Stamp Contest will take place on April 15 at the Service's John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum, near Philadephia, PA. Ohio native Rui Huang's painting of a single hooded merganser drake (pictured above) took top honors at the 2010 National Junior Duck Stamp Contest held at the Minnesota Science Museum in St. Paul, MN.

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

		2010 Actual	2010 Enacted/ 2011 CR	2012				Change from 2011 CR (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Admin-istrative Cost Savings (-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
North American Waterfowl Management/Joint Ventures	($000)	14,054	14,054	-17	-253	+1,629	15,413	+1,359
	FTE	50	50	0	0	+6	56	+6

Summary of 2012 Program Changes for North American Waterfowl Management Plan/JVs

Request Component	($000)	FTE
• Joint Ventures	+1,344	+4
• Ecosystem Restoration- Chesapeake Bay	+285	+2
Program Changes	**+1,629**	**+6**

Justification of Program Changes for North American Waterfowl Management Plan/JVs

The 2012 budget request for North American Waterfowl Management Plan/Joint Ventures is $15,413,000 and 56 FTE, a net program increase of $1,629,000 and +6 FTE from the 2010 Enacted/ annualized 2011 Continuing Resolution.

Joint Ventures (+$1,344,000/ +4 FTE)

The 2012 proposed budget increase of $1,344,000 and 4 FTE for Migratory Bird Joint Ventures will enable the Service to maintain full funding for all 21 Joint Ventures, while also building additional science capacity to plan and implement more effective adaptation strategies for migratory birds in response to threats resulting from habitat loss, climate change, and other impacts on the landscape. For example, the Joint Venture partnerships will be able to integrate the spatial planning tools and other science products being developed by the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives and Climate Change Response Centers with the decision support tools they have developed for migratory birds. This will enable these partnerships to continue to conserve the highest priority habitats for migratory birds across the nation. This funding request will enable Joint Ventures to accelerate the application of regionally-based adaptation strategies among multiple partners including state agencies, local governments, private corporations and landowners, as well as non-profit organizations. Increased funding would positively impact Joint Venture stakeholders and partners by supporting: increased coordination, development of multi-organizational delivery networks, improved and increased outreach functions, initial funding for conservation delivery related projects, as well as improved spatial tracking and assessment which will enable improved analysis of habitat fragmentation, terrestrial carbon sequestration, renewable energy development, and water issues.

Migratory Birds/Joint Ventures: Chesapeake Bay Initiative (+$285,000/ +2 FTE)

Funding will be used to expand the capacity of the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture partnership and Migratory Bird Program to collaboratively protect, restore, and enhance critical migratory bird habitats throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Funding will provide additional support to Service programs and partners for waterbird and shorebird conservation in the Chesapeake Bay and Mid Atlantic Region. Funding will enable the development of decision support tools and maps for the Chesapeake Bay in the format and scale needed to guide conservation actions for birds.

Migratory Birds - North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP)/Joint Ventures - Performance Change Table

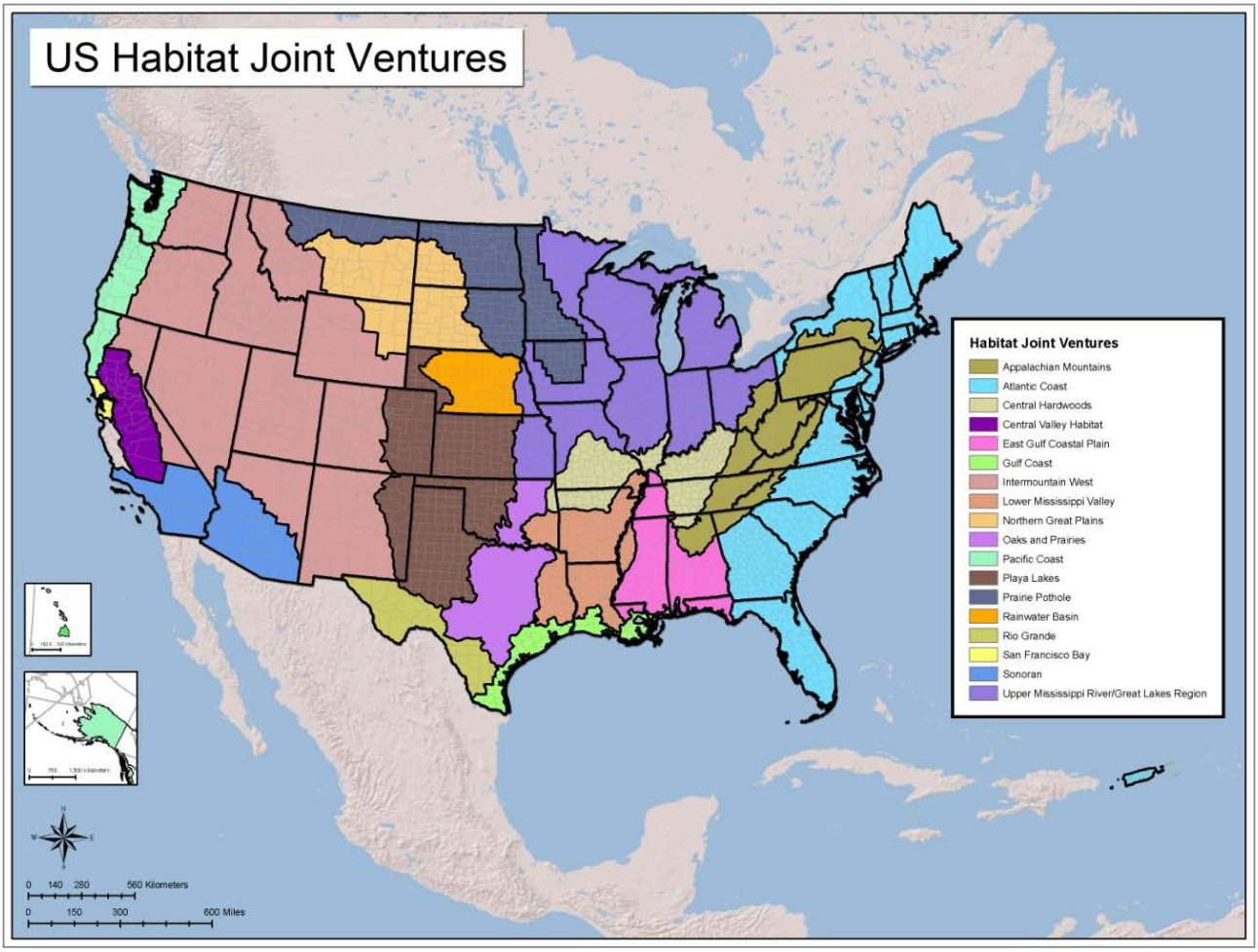
Performance Goal	2007 Actual	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Plan	2012 PB	Program Change Accruing in 2012	Program Change Accruing in Out-years
CSF 6.4 Percent of habitat needs met to achieve healthy and sustainable levels of migratory birds - cumulative	51.5% (229,656,269 of 445,882,181)	51.5% (230,334,330 of 447,161,217)	52.3% (233,903,136 of 447,209,213)	57.2% (296,983,282 of 519,506,615)	49.5% (257,044,881 of 519,655,943)	49.5% (297,741,825 of 601,388,700)	0.0% (0.1%) (40,696,944 of 81,732,757)	n/a
CSF Total Actual/Projected Expenditures ($000)	$31,303	$44,221	$47,375	$48,427	$42,460	$49,821	$7,362	n/a
CSF Program Total Actual/Projected Expenditures ($000)	$29,224	$41,316	$43,888	$45,413	$46,004	$46,602	$598	n/a
Actual/Projected Cost Per Acres (whole dollars)	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	n/a
6.4.5 # of BMC with habitat management needs identified at eco-regional scales	191	323	390	379	427	479	52 (12.2%)	n/a

Program Overview

The purpose of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) is to sustain abundant waterfowl populations by conserving landscapes, through partnerships, guided by sound science. The North American Plan is implemented by Joint Venture partnerships; regional, self-directed organizations involving Federal, State, and local governments, corporations, and a wide range of non-governmental conservation groups. The Service currently provides base operations support for 21 Joint Ventures. Joint Ventures address multiple local, regional, and continental goals for sustaining migratory bird populations by developing scientifically based landscape conservation plans and habitat projects that benefit migratory bird populations as well as many other species of fish, wildlife, and plants. By catalyzing partnerships to conserve wildlife habitat, Joint Ventures also support community-level efforts to conserve outdoor spaces and to reconnect Americans to the outdoors.

The Service uses a science-based, adaptive framework for setting and achieving cross-program habitat conservation objectives at multiple scales that is particularly well suited to strategically address the problems migratory birds face on their breeding, migration (stopover), and wintering grounds. This framework, called Strategic Habitat Conservation, is based on the principles of Adaptive Management and uses population and habitat data, ecological models, and focused monitoring and assessment efforts to develop and implement habitat conservation strategies that result in measurable bird population outcomes.

This process uses the best available scientific information to predict how bird populations respond to habitat conservation and other management activities. Joint Ventures use the products of biological planning, which are often maps or models, to design landscape conservation strategies that can direct individual habitat management expenditures to where they will have greatest effect and lowest relative cost. Joint Ventures then use these conservation strategies to enable and encourage partners to focus their conservation programs and resources on the highest priority areas in the amounts needed to sustain healthy populations of migratory bird species.



2012 Program Performance

In 2012 existing Joint Ventures will continue to develop models linking bird population objectives to habitat objectives as part of their biological planning. They will continue to use this biological planning information to inform their conservation design process which in turn provides the strategic guidance necessary for Joint Venture partners to efficiently and effectively target their conservation programs to achieve healthy bird populations. Established Joint Ventures will remain actively involved in conservation delivery and continuing existing research and monitoring efforts to evaluate management actions and improve on their biological plans. Newer Joint Ventures will rely on partner funding to develop their biological plans and conservation designs for priority bird species.

Two performance measures are in place to assess Joint Venture results. The measures are the number of birds of management concern with habitat needs identified at eco-regional scales and percent of habitat needs met to achieve healthy and sustainable levels of migratory birds. These measures record performance results at the endpoint of a planning, development, and implementation cycle that is often several years in length. Hence, funding in a particular fiscal year will not fully yield results attributable to that funding for at least 2-3 years.

Joint Venture program performance is enhanced, in part, by monitoring results of ongoing program assessments. The Service will administratively allocate funding to individual Joint Ventures based on their attainment of existing performance targets and their ability to contribute to the long term outcome goals of the Migratory Bird Program. The 2007 NAWMP Assessment Report provides information on Joint Venture performance and the future needs of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. The current Joint Ventures are responding to the recommendations provided to them through this assessment. In 2008, a significant advancement in the Joint Venture community was the development of a matrix of desired characteristics of Joint Venture partnerships that individual Joint Ventures use as a common benchmark to self assess their achievements and evaluate and prioritize future needs. This evaluation provides useful information to assist the Service in funding allocations.

Based on an increase in funding to the existing 21 Joint Ventures, performance will increase program wide. The number of acres of bird habitat needs identified will increase as individual Joint Ventures use additional funds to build science capacity, enhance partnerships, and implement effective adaptation strategies to deliver habitat conservation for birds and other wildlife. Migratory Bird Program focal species, a subset of the Birds of Management Concern, will be given priority for existing Joint Venture planning. The habitat needs of those species will be given priority in Joint Venture habitat objectives and conservation strategies, which will result in a more narrow focus on the acres of habitat identified for those priority species, and an increased efficiency of habitat delivery for conservation. Improvements in habitat performance measures will continue in out-years as the impacts to habitat conditions develop over time.

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