

National Wildlife Refuge Fund

Appropriations Language

For expenses necessary to implement the Act of October 17, 1978 (16 U.S.C. 715s), \$0, (Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.)

Note.—A full-year 2011 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the budget was prepared; therefore, this account is operating under a continuing resolution (P.L. 111-242, as amended). The amounts included for 2011 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution.

Authorizing Statutes

Refuge Revenue Sharing Act (16 U.S.C. 715s), as amended. Authorizes payments to be made to offset tax losses to counties in which Service fee and withdrawn public domain lands are located.

Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), Section 1002 and Section 1008, 16 U.S.C. 3142 and 3148. These sections address the procedures for permitting oil and gas leases on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coastal plain (Section 1002) and other non-North Slope Federal lands in Alaska (Section 1008).

		2010 Actual	2010 Enacted / 2011 CR	2012			Change From 2011 CR (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Appropriations	(\$000)	14,500	14,500	-	-14,500	0	-14,500
Receipts (Mandatory)	(\$000)	4,795	6,000	-	-	6,000	-
Expenses for Sales	(\$000)	[2,808]	[3,000]	-	-	[3,000]	-
ANILCA-Expenses	(\$000)	[24]	[10]	-	-	[10]	-
Estimated User-Pay Cost Share	(\$000)	[287]	[151]	-	-	[144]	[-7]
Total, National Wildlife Refuge Fund	(\$000)	19,295	20,500	-	-	6,000	-14,500
	FTE	12	12	-	-	12	-

Summary of 2012 Program Changes for National Wildlife Refuge Fund

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Appropriations	-14,500	-
Program Changes	-14,500	-

Justification of 2012 Program Changes

The 2012 budget request for National Wildlife Refuge Fund is \$0 and 12 FTE, a net program change of -\$14,500,000 and 0 FTE from the 2010 Enacted/2011 annualized Continuing Resolution. Mandatory receipts are used to fund the FTEs reflected in the above table.

Appropriations (-\$14,500,000/+0 FTE)

The Service proposes the elimination of the entire appropriated (discretionary) portion (\$14,500,000) of this program. The mandatory receipts collected and allocated under the program would remain. Refuges have been found to generate tax revenue for communities far in excess of tax losses from federal land ownership. National Wildlife Refuge lands provide many public services, such as watershed protection, while placing relatively few demands on local governments for schools, fire, and police services. National Wildlife Refuges bring a multitude of visitors to nearby communities, which provide substantial economic benefits. Hunters, birdwatchers, beach goers, hikers and others bring money into local economies, generating millions of dollars in tax revenue to local, county, state and Federal levels. For example, nearly 35 million people visited national wildlife refuges in 2006, creating almost 27,000 private sector jobs and producing about \$543 million in employment income, based on a 2006 economic analysis conducted by the Service, *Banking on Nature: The Economic Benefits to Local Communities of National Wildlife Refuge Visitation*.

Program Overview

The *Refuge Revenue Sharing Act*, as amended, authorizes revenues and direct appropriations to be deposited into a special fund, the National Wildlife Refuge Fund (NWRF), and used for payments to counties in which lands are acquired in fee (fee land) or reserved from the public domain (reserved land) and managed by the Service. These revenues are derived from the sale or disposition of (1) products (e.g., timber and gravel); (2) other privileges (e.g., right-of-way and grazing permits); and/or (3) leases for public accommodations or facilities (e.g., oil and gas exploration and development) incidental to, and not in conflict with, refuge purposes.

The Act authorizes payments for Service-managed fee lands based on a formula contained in the Act that entitles counties to whatever is the highest of the following amounts: (1) 25 percent of the net receipts; (2) 3/4 of 1 percent of the fair market value of the land; or (3) 75 cents per acre. Appraisals are updated every 5 years to determine the fair market value.

If the net revenues are insufficient to make full payments for fee lands according to the formula contained in the Act, direct appropriations are authorized up to an amount equal to the difference between net receipts and full authorized payment, though, conventionally, appropriations have failed to reach this threshold.

The refuge revenue sharing payments that are made on lands reserved from the public domain and administered by the Service for fish and wildlife purposes are always 25 percent of the net receipts collected from the reserved land in the county. If no receipts are collected, no revenue sharing payment is made. However, the Department makes Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) (31 U.S.C. 6901-6907) on all public domain lands, including Service-reserved land. The Service annually reports to the Department all of our reserved land acres and the revenue sharing amount already paid on those acres. The Department then calculates the PILT amount, subtracts the amount the Service has already paid, and makes the PILT payment to the community.

**2010 Receipts from National Wildlife Refuges
(\$000) by Source**

Grazing	975
Haying	213
Forest Products	599
Raw Water	66
Mineral Resources - Oil and Gas	1,365
Mineral Resources - Sand and Gravel	84
Surplus Animal Disposal	247
Furbearers	29
Salmonoid	1
Public Use Revenues (Concession)	192
Public Use Revenues (User Fess)	154
Other	792
ANILCA	78
Total Actual Receipts for 2010	4,795

The *Refuge Revenue Sharing Act* also provides for the payment of certain expenses, for example, the field level expenses incurred in connection with revenue producing activities and the costs for appraisals and other realty operations in support of the revenue sharing program that are conducted on installations every five years. Such expenses include:

- Salaries of foresters who cruise and mark timber for sale;
- Staff salaries and supplies associated with maintenance of fences in support of grazing;
- Costs associated with sale of surplus animals and collecting refuge share of furs and crops;
- Costs of conducting land appraisals and processing and maintaining the records.

Receipts are to be deposited to the U.S. Treasury in accordance to the OMB Circular, A-11, "an official or agent of the Government who receives money for the Federal Government from any source shall deposit the money in the Treasury as soon as practicable. Allocations will be made within the Service according to an approved allocation methodology.

Sections 1008 and 1009 of the *Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA)*, 16 U.S.C. 3148, address procedures for oil and gas leasing on non-North Slope Federal lands in Alaska. Title XI of the Act, 16 U.S.C. 3161, addresses the procedures for transportation and utility systems in and across the Alaska conservation system units. The cost to process an application or administer a permit relating to utility and transportation systems or seismic exploration is paid by the applicant and deposited in the NWRP for reimbursement to the Region.

2012 Program Performance

According to current projections, payments to counties in 2012 will equal \$2,889,000, or 5 percent of the estimated full entitlement, based on appropriations of \$0 and \$2,889,000 of estimated receipts less expenses. In addition to payments to counties, national wildlife refuges provide tangible and intangible benefits to communities that bring increased tax revenues that may offset the reductions. Refuge revenue sharing payments were not intended to replace possible tax loss due to Service acquisition, but to recognize the existence of federal ownership of Refuges and lessen potential short-term hardships on local communities.

<i>(Dollars in Thousands)</i>				
	2010	2011	2012	Program
National Wildlife Refuge Fund	Actual	Estimate	Estimate	Change (+/-)
Receipts / Expenses				
Receipts Collected	4,795	6,000	6,000	0
Recoveries	11	50	50	0
Expenses for Sales	-2,808	-3,000	-3,000	0
ANILCA Expenses	-24	-10	-10	0
Estimated User-Pay Cost Share	-287	-151	-144	0
Net Receipts – Available during the following year	1,687	2,889	2,896	0
Payments to Counties				
Receipts Available - collected previous year		1,687	2,889	+1,202
Current Appropriation Request		14,500	0	-14,500
Total Available for Payments to Counties		16,187	2,889	-13,298
Authorized Level		54,819	54,819	0
Percent Payment		30%	5%	-25%

Standard Form 300

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FUND**

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) Identification code 14-5091-0-806	2010 Actual	2011 Estimate	2012 Estimate
Obligations by Program Activity:			
0001 Expenses for sales	3	3	3
0003 Payments to counties	20	17	3
0900 Total obligations	23	20	6
Budgetary Resources Available for Obligation:			
1000 Unobligated balance available, start of year	5	2	3
1900 New budget authority (gross)	20	21	6
1930 Total budgetary resources available for obligation	25	23	9
0900 New obligations (-)	-23	-20	-6
1941 Unobligated balance available, end of year	2	3	3
New Budget Authority (gross), Detail:			
Current:			
1100 Appropriation (general fund)	15	15	0
1160 Appropriation (total)	15	15	0
Permanent:			
1201 Appropriation (special fund, indefinite)	5	6	6
1900 Total new budget authority (gross)	20	21	6
Change in Unpaid Obligations:			
Unpaid obligations, start of year:			
3020 Obligated balance, start of year	1	1	0
3030 New obligations	23	20	6
4110 Total outlays, gross (-)	-23	-21	-6
3090 Obligated balance, end of year	1	0	0
Outlays, (gross) Detail:			
4080 Outlays from new current authority	15	15	0
4100 Outlays from new permanent authority	2	4	4
4101 Outlays from permanent balances	6	2	2
4110 Total, outlays (gross)	23	21	6
Net Budget Authority and Outlays:			
4180 Budget authority	20	21	6
4190 Outlays	23	21	6
Direct Obligations:			
Personnel compensation:			
11.11 Full-time permanent	1	1	1
12.52 Other Services	1	1	1
12.53 Purchase of goods and services from Gov't accounts	1	1	1
14.10 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	20	17	3
99.99 Total obligations	23	20	6
Personnel Summary:			
Direct			
Total compensable workyears:			
1001 Full-time equivalent employment	12	12	12

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