

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund

Appropriations Language

For expenses necessary to carry out the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.), \$5,000,000, to remain available until expended.

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

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Improvement Act of 2006, (16 U.S.C. 6101). For expenses necessary to carry out the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Improvement Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.) Authorizes competitive grants program for the conservation of Neotropical migratory birds in the United States, Latin America, Canada and the Caribbean. Authorization of Appropriations: Expired September 30, 2010. Reauthorization is pending.

Appropriation: Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund

	2010 Actual	2010 Enacted/ 2011 CR	2012			Change from 2011 CR (+/-)
			Fixed Costs and Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (\$000)	5,000	5,000	0	0	5,000	0
FTE	1	1	0	0	1	0

Justification of Program Changes for Neotropical Migratory Bird Fund

The 2012 budget request for Neotropical Migratory Bird Fund is \$5,000,000 and 1 FTE, with no net program change from the 2010 Enacted/annualized 2011 Continuing Resolution.

Program Overview

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act program provides matching grants to partners throughout the Western Hemisphere to promote the conservation of Neotropical migratory birds in the United States, Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Over 350 species of Neotropical migratory birds breed in the United States and Canada and winter in Latin America, including plovers, terns, hawks, cranes, warblers and sparrows. The populations of many of these birds are declining and several species



Upland Sandpiper is a Bird of Conservation Concern and Focal Species that has benefited from the NMBCA (Photo by Anibal Parera)

are protected as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Seventeen of these migratory birds are targeted by the Service as focal species and 62 are on the Service list of conservation concern. Ten of the 20 birds on Audubon's "List of the Top 20 Birds in Decline" are migrants that benefit from grants provided through the NMBCA.

Neotropical migratory bird populations, including securing, restoring, and managing wintering, migrating, and breeding habitat; conducting law enforcement, providing community outreach and education; and doing population research and monitoring. By law, at least 75 percent of the money must go to projects in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Canada, with the remaining 25 percent available for projects in the United States.

The program catalyzes migratory bird conservation projects that otherwise would not take place and the program serves as an important keystone funding source leveraging over \$3 of non-federal match for every grant dollar invested. The projects supported by this program respond to the full range of conservation activities needed to protect and conserve

Through 2010, conservation partners have received more than \$35 million in grant funds in support of 333 projects in 36 countries and 47 U.S. States (47 states include PR & US VI.) across the Western Hemisphere. Non-federal partners have contributed approximately \$146 million in matching funds to these projects. All bird groups have benefited, including songbirds, raptors, shorebirds, and waterfowl.

2012 Program Performance

Projects funded through NMBCA further two Fish and Wildlife Service measurable outcomes that sustain biological communities and contribute to the percent of habitat needs met to achieve healthy and

sustainable levels of migratory birds (FWS Ops Plan CSF 6.4). These measures are the number of acres restored/enhanced of habitat in U.S./Mexico/Latin America through NMBCA and the number of acres of habitat protected/secured in U.S./Mexico/Latin America through partnerships and networked lands using NMBCA. The above measures contribute to Interior Department strategies: 1) to sustain wildlife species by protecting and recovering wildlife in cooperation with partners and 2) to enhance the enjoyment and appreciation of our natural heritage. The main objective of the NMBCA program is to help partners conserve Neotropical migratory birds; this in turn results in healthier populations of these species for the American public to enjoy while bird-watching which is a significant pastime for people to enjoy our natural resources. Additionally, the program's actions contribute to the success of the Department and Service's goal that tracks the number of international species of management concern whose status has been improved in cooperation with affected countries.

In 2012 the NMBCA grant program expects to fund approximately 40 new projects with \$5 million in grant funds. These dollars will help our partners protect approximately 124,500 acres of Neotropical bird habitat and provide critical support for research and monitoring and community outreach and education across the Western Hemisphere. All of these activities are critical to the long-term conservation of Neotropical birds and help us sustain these bird populations that migrate outside of the US every year. Most NMBCA projects support complementary activities, such as habitat protection, monitoring, and education, on the same area.



Golden-cheeked Warbler (Photo by Steve Maslowski, USFWS)

For example, a series of projects funded in Colorado and across the border in Mexico's Chihuahua Desert involve protecting grassland habitats while also conducting wintering bird surveys and research to see what habitat characteristics wintering grassland bird populations require. The results of this research will help land managers better provide those grassland characteristics for threatened grassland birds. Additionally, across the Western Hemisphere, partners use NMBCA funds to educate communities about the needs of migratory birds and build capacity to support the activities necessary for their conservation. A project in El Salvador and Honduras is building capacity at protected areas and important bird areas that are critical wintering habitat for endangered golden-cheeked warblers and 55 other Neotropical migratory bird species. Partners are conducting intensive training courses for municipal and other natural resource management organizations to improve their ability to effectively manage their natural resources for migratory birds and other wildlife.

The conservation impact of NMBCA funds is increased by the partner dollars that are leveraged by the program. Every grant dollar is matched by at least three non-Federal partner dollars. NMBCA funds are directed to priority bird conservation concerns and areas. Among other factors, the NMBCA program's grant selection criteria considers whether a proposed project addresses Neotropical migrants identified as a conservation priority, including the Service's focal species priority list; whether a proposed project addresses conservation priorities of other international bird conservation plans such as Partners in Flight; and whether the proposal represents coordination among public and private organizations, such as through a Migratory Bird Joint Venture.

The projected performance for the NMBCA program in 2012 is approximately 7716 acres of restored or enhanced habitat, and 206,684 acres of protected or secured habitat in the U.S., Canada, Caribbean, and Latin America. It is important to note that the number of acres that can be protected depend upon the number of proposals that are submitted that involve protection and restoration activities. The program can fund several other activities that are important to Neotropical migratory bird conservation that do not

result in acres protected or habitat restored, at least not according to the conventional definition of protection by acquisition of property rights. So from year to year there will be fluctuation in how many acres we expect to achieve. Additionally, the 206,684 acres will be reported from projects that are completed in 2012, although they were funded in previous years and acres accomplished in any fiscal year are difficult to predict because multi-year grants may be extended beyond their scheduled end dates and partner-proposed acreage objectives are extremely variable from year to year. NMBCA-funded protection of habitat directly addresses the threats to migratory birds from tropical deforestation and wintering habitat conversion. Additionally, NMBCA-funded projects benefit migratory birds through other important project activities, such as research and monitoring of bird populations, law enforcement, and outreach and education.

Neotropical Migratory Birds Conservation Fund (NMBCF) - 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 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%)	49.4% (308,530,460 of 624,104,643)
CSF Total Actual/Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$31,303	\$44,221	\$47,375	\$48,427	\$42,460	\$49,821	\$7,362	\$51,627
CSF Program Total Actual/Projected Expenditures (\$000)	\$29,224	\$41,316	\$43,888	\$45,413	\$46,004	\$46,602	\$598	\$46,602
6.4.3 # of acres restored/enhanced of habitat in U.S./Mexico/Latin America through NMBCA	32,105	17,327	36,999	3,464	19,456	7,716	-11,740 (-60.3%)	9,365
6.4.4 # of acres protected/secured of habitat in U.S./Mexico/Latin America through partnerships and networked lands using NMBCA	409,123	79,755	497,254	176,282	22,044	206,684	184,640	114,803
Comments	Acres of habitat reported as protected or secured are the result of projects funded from several years previous that were completed during a particular fiscal year. The change in performance from 2007 to 08, 09, 10, 11, 2012 demonstrates the variability inherent in multi-year grants as to when they are proposed/funded and when they are reported as completed. This year-to-year variability is responsible for the fluctuation in reported acreages that are associated with a given fiscal year.							

Standard Form 300

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
 NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION FUND

Program and financing (in millions of dollars)	2010	2011	2012
Identification code 14-1696-0-302	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Obligations by program activity:			
0001 Neotropical Migratory Bird	5	5	5
0900 Total obligations	5	5	5
Budgetary Resources:			
1100 Appropriation, discretionary	5	5	5
1930 Total budgetary resources available	5	5	5
Change in obligated balance:			
3000 Obligated balance, start of year	8	9	9
3030 Obligations incurred	5	5	5
3040 Total outlays, gross (-)	-4	-5	-6
3090 Unpaid obligations, end of year	9	9	8
Budgetary authority and outlays, net:			
4000 Budgetary authority, gross	5	5	5
4010 Outlays from new discretionary authority	1	2	2
4011 Outlays from discretionary balances	3	3	4
4020 Total outlays (gross)	4	5	6
4180 Budget authority, net	5	5	5
4190 Outlays, net	4	5	6
Direct Obligations:			
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	5	5	5
99.9 Total obligations	5	5	5
Personnel Summary			
1001 Civilian full-time equivalent employment	1	1	1

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