

Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

Appropriations Language

For expenses necessary to carry out section 6 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), as amended, [\$75,001,000]\$80,001,000, to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and to remain available until expended, of which [\$25,228,000 is to be derived from the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund, \$5,066,666 of which]\$5,145,706 shall be for the Idaho Salmon and Clearwater River Basins Habitat Account pursuant to the Snake River Water Rights Act of 2004[; and of which \$49,773,000 is to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund]: *Provided, That of the unobligated balances available under this heading, \$4,500,000 are permanently cancelled. (Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008.)*

Justification of Language Change

Deletion: “25,228,000 is to be derived from the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation fund, \$5,660,666 of which...”

The budget proposed that funding for the Cooperative Endangered Species fund be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund as part of the President’s 2009 budget.

Addition: “of the unobligated balances available under this heading, \$4.5 million are permanently canceled”

The budget proposes offsetting the request for new budget authority by rescinding \$4.5 million in unobligated balances. These balances are no longer necessary because they represent a recovery from a grant that could not be completed.

Authorizing Statutes

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). Prohibits the import, export, or taking of fish and wildlife and plants that are listed as threatened or endangered species; provides for adding species to and removing them from the list of threatened and endangered species, and for preparing and implementing plans for their recovery; provides for interagency cooperation to avoid take of listed species and for issuing permits for otherwise prohibited activities; and implements the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES). Authorization of Appropriations: Expired September 30, 1992.

Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460I). Authorizes appropriations to the Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire land for national wildlife refuges as otherwise authorized by law. Authorization of Appropriations: Expires September 30, 2015.

Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

		2007 Actual	2008 Enacted	2009			Change from 2008 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Conservation Grants (\$000)		9,852	9,845	-	+156	10,001	+156
HCP Planning Grants (\$000)		7,531	7,523	-	+119	7,642	+119
Species Recovery Land Acquisition (\$000)		13,977	13,965	-	+221	14,186	+221
HCP Land Acquisition Grants to States (\$000)		47,160	35,031	-	+5,477	40,508	+5,477
Nez Perce Settlement (\$000)		0	4,988	-	+158	5,146	+158
Administration (\$000)		2,481	2,479	-	+39	2,518	+39
Subtotal without Cancellation (\$000)		81,001	73,831	-	+6,170	81,001	+6,170
Cancellation of Unobligated Balance (\$000) 1/		-	-	-	-4,500	-4,500	-4,500
Total Appropriations (\$000)		81,001	73,831	-	+1,670	75,501	+1,670
<i>FTE</i>		<i>18</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>0</i>
Payment to Special Fund*		46,200	52,371	-	-	51,273	-1,098
Total, Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (\$000)		127,201	126,202	-	+1,670	126,774	+572
<i>FTE</i>		<i>26</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>-</i>

*Amounts shown reflect an annual deposit of an amount equal to 5% of total Federal Aid/Sport Fish and Lacey Act violation collections above \$500,000 into this special fund. The cumulative total payments are available for subsequent appropriation to the CESCOF.

Summary of 2009 Program Changes for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Conservation Grants	+156	-
• HCP Planning Grants	+119	-
• Species Recovery Land Acquisition	+221	-
• Cancellation of Unobligated Balance	+5,477	-
• HCP Land Acquisition Grants	-4,500	-
• Nez Perce Settlement	+158	-
• Administration	+39	-
TOTAL Program Changes	+1,670	-

Justification of 2009 Program Changes

The 2009 budget request for Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund is \$75,501,000 and 26 FTE, a net increase of \$1,670,000 and 0 FTE from the 2008 Enacted. The budget proposes offsetting the request for new budget authority by rescinding \$4.5 million in unobligated balances. This rescinds a recovery from a grant that could not be completed.

Grant Funds Restoration (\$1,670,000)

The Service is requesting that the FY 2008 rescission amount of \$1,670,000 be restored to the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation fund so that the program can continue to operate at the FY 2008 level. This is accomplished by increases in traditional grants to states (\$156,000), HCP Planning Assistance (\$119,000), Species recovery Land Acquisition (\$221,000) and HCP Land Acquisition (\$977,000)(net of +5,477,000 and -4,500,000), Nez Perce Settlement (\$158,000) and Administration (\$39,000).

Program Overview

The Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (CESCF; Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act) provides grant funding to States and territories for species and habitat conservation actions on non-federal lands, including habitat acquisition, conservation planning, habitat restoration, status surveys, captive propagation and reintroduction, research, and education. Because most listed species depend on habitat found on State and private lands, this grant assistance is crucial to listed species conservation. States and territories have been extremely effective in garnering participation of private landowners. Section 6 grants assist states and territories in building these partnerships that achieve meaningful on-the-ground conservation.

The CESCF program contributes directly to the Department's Resource Protection mission strategic goal to sustain biological communities by focusing on the conservation of the most imperiled components of these communities; CESCF grants support activities that benefit species listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Because many of these grants provide for the protection and improvement of habitat for listed species, they also contribute to the Department's Resource Protection goal to improve the health of watersheds and landscapes. The Department's relevant end outcome measures are the percent of species listed a decade or more that are in stable or improving condition and the number of candidate and species at-risk not listed due to conservation efforts.

In order to receive funds under the CESCF program, States and territories must contribute 25 percent of the estimated program costs of approved projects, or 10 percent when two or more States or territories implement a joint project. The balance of the estimated program costs is reimbursed through the grants. To ensure that State and territory programs are able to effectively carry out endangered species conservation efforts funded through these grants, a State or territory must enter into a cooperative agreement with the Service to receive grants. All 50 States currently have cooperative agreements for animals, and 44 States have agreements for plants. All but one territory have cooperative agreements for both animals and plants. In addition, in an attempt to achieve more effective conservation efforts, the Service intends to consider the priorities established in State Wildlife Conservation Plans when awarding grants, focusing on priority species and habitats.

Use of Cost and Performance Information

- HCP Land Acquisition, HCP Planning Assistance, and Species Recovery Land Acquisition Grants are awarded through national and regional competitions. The established eligibility and ranking criteria for the program and the competitions conducted to select grants allow the Service to focus the program on its overall goals and ensure that program performance goals are achieved.
- The Service continues to analyze results from previous years of the program to further refine program elements to better meet our performance goals.
- In 2006 the Service completed a program review by Leon Snead aa& Company, PC to identify potential areas of improvement in the administration of the program such as: 1) issue the RFP for Section 6 grants as soon as possible after the beginning of each new fiscal year so that proposals are submitted and approved based upon available funds, 2) ensure that the Federal share of grant drawdowns reflects the percentage that is included in the grant agreement, and 3) initiate procedures to eliminate the waiver option for preparing and submitting performance and financial reports.
- Numbers of grants awarded in FY 2007: (FY 2008 grants not yet awarded)
 - 349 Conservation Grants to States and Territories
 - 18 HCP Planning Assistance Grants
 - 21 Species Recovery Land Acquisition Grants
 - 8 HCP Land Acquisition Grants
- In FY 2008, the Service anticipated finalizing a strategic plan for the Endangered Species Program that includes new long-term outcome and annual output performance measures to respond to the 2005 PART findings. The Program will focus on the highest priority conservation objectives, listed species recovered and unlisted species-at-risk conserved.

Program Performance Overview

Performance Goal / Measure	2005 Actual	2006 Actual	2007 Plan	2007 Actual	2008 Plan	2009 President's Budget	Change from 2008 Plan to 2009	Long-term 2012 Target
Resource Protection - Sustaining Biological Communities								
CSF 7.11 Percent of prioritized listed species showing improvement in their status indicators	unk	unk	unk	unk	unk	4% (7 of 172)	---	4% (7 of 172)
CSF Total Actual/Projected Cost(\$000)	unk	unk	unk	unk	unk		---	
CSF Program Total Actual/Projected Cost(\$000)	unk	unk	unk	unk	unk	\$87,429	---	\$87,429
Actual/Projected Cost Per Unit (whole dollars)	unk	unk	unk	unk	unk		---	
Comments:	New performance measure in FY 2009.							
7.15.2 # of listed species benefiting from Endangered Species Grant Programs (Traditional and Nontraditional Section 6)	unk	unk	unk	unk	607	607	0	607
7.15.3 # of prioritized listed species benefiting from Traditional and Nontraditional Section 6 Project Awards	unk	unk	unk	unk	47	47	0	47
Comments:	New performance measure in FY 2009.							
DOI 8 Percent of candidate species where listing is unnecessary as a result of conservation actions, including actions taken through agreements (GPRA)	1.2%	1.8% (5 of 283)	1.1% (3 of 283)	1.1% (3 of 283)	0.4% (1 of 244)	0.5% (1 of 220)	0.0% (10.9%)	0.5% (1 of 212)
CSF 8.11 Percent of prioritized species-at-risk for which there is an Agency determination that the species does not meet the definition of threatened or endangered due to conservation agreements or actions	unk	unk	unk	unk	unk	7% (6 of 86)	---	12% (10 of 86)
CSF Total Actual/Projected Cost(\$000)	unk	unk	unk	unk	unk		---	
CSF Program Total Actual/Projected Cost(\$000)	unk	unk	unk	unk	unk	\$23,724	---	\$23,724
Actual/Projected Cost Per Unit (whole dollars)	unk	unk	unk	unk	unk		---	
Comments:	New performance measure in FY 2009. The program will focus its efforts on priority species. This reduces the targeted populations.							
8.11.8 # of species-at-risk benefiting from Endangered Species Grant Programs (Traditional and Nontraditional Section 6)	unk	unk	unk	unk	46	46	0	46
8.11.9 # of prioritized species-at-risk benefiting from Traditional and Nontraditional Section 6 Project Awards	unk	unk	unk	unk	14	14	0	14
Comments:	New performance measure in FY 2009.							

Unk – Unknown – The Endangered Species program does not have data from these items or it was not been available in the past.

Activity: Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund
Subactivity: Conservation Grants

		2007 Actual	2008 Enacted	2009			Change From 2008 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Conservation Grants	\$(000)	9,852	9,845	-	+156	10,001	+156
	FTE	-	-	-	-	-	-

Summary of 2009 Program Changes for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Program Changes	+156	0
TOTAL Program Changes	+156	0

Justification of 2009 Program Changes

The 2009 budget request for Conservation Grants is \$10,001,000 and 0 FTE, a net increase of \$156,000 and 0 FTE from the 2008 Enacted.

Grant Funds Restoration (\$156,000)

The restoration of the 2008 ATB rescission will enable to program to provide state and territorial agencies additional funds to support their own projects to recover listed species. Restoration of these funds will send an important message to the States' and territories about the importance of their participation and partnership in endangered species conservation and recovery.

Program Overview

Conservation Grants provide financial assistance to States and territories to implement conservation projects for listed species and species at-risk. The Service makes a regional allocation of these funds based on the number of species covered under cooperative agreements within each Service region. Each Region then solicits proposals and selects projects based on species and habitat conservation benefits as well as other factors. Through the Conservation Grants program, States receive funding to implement recovery actions for listed species, implement conservation measures for candidate species, and perform research and monitoring critical to conservation of imperiled species. These actions directly support the outcome measures for endangered, threatened, and candidate species conservation under the Department's Resource Protection goal to sustain biological communities. Activities funded by these grants aid in meeting the intermediate outcome strategies for the outcome measures relating to creation of necessary habitat conditions and managing species populations.

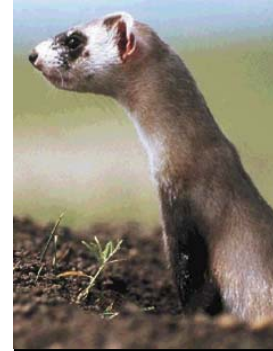
2009 Program Performance

The Service will publish a request for proposals in the third quarter of 2008 and anticipates making award announcements shortly after the FY 2009 Appropriations is enacted. Issuing the fiscal year 2009 request for proposals in fiscal year 2008 will promote timely obligation of funding and will maximize conservation resources. With the program increase, the Service expects that approximately five additional grants will be funded in FY 2009 as are expected in FY 2008 (assuming the average grant amount is constant with that of FY 2007).

The Service awarded 349 Conservation Grants in FY 2007; examples are listed below. Each project includes the federal funds provided through the CESCFC program; however, in all cases these funds were

leveraged by State, county, city, or private matching funds.

- Delineating non-breeding habitat of Steller's eider, Alaska \$52,771
- Cave surveys for endangered bats in Alabama - gray bat and Indiana bat, Alabama \$10,000
- Ecological study and comparison of two endangered astragalus species: sentry milk vetch and Mancos milk vetch, Arizona \$24,895
- Population monitoring and protection of Santa Cruz long-toed salamanders at Valencia Lagood and adjacent uplands, Santa Cruz County, California \$244,000
- Endangered plant habitat management - natural area reserves, Hawaii \$95,000
- Dwarf wedge mussel, population monitoring, Maryland \$6,000
- Razorback sucker and bonytail recovery activities, Nevada \$12,225
- Western prairie fringed orchid, North Dakota \$11,500
- Puerto Rican parrot captive breeding program, Puerto Rico \$30,000



Six states have received funding to monitor and manage reintroduced black-footed ferrets.

Activity: Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund
Subactivity: Habitat Conservation Planning Grants

		2007 Actual	2008 Enacted	2009			Change From 2008 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Habitat Conservation	\$(000)	7,531	7,523	-	+119	7,642	+119
Planning Grants	FTE	-	-	-	-	-	-

Summary of 2009 Program Changes for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Program Changes	+119	0
TOTAL Program Changes	+119	0

Justification of 2009 Program Changes

The 2009 budget request for Habitat Conservation Planning Grants is \$7,642,000 and 0 FTE, a net increase of \$119,000 and 0 FTE from the FY 2008 Enacted.

Grant Funds Restoration (\$119,000)

The restoration of the 2008 ATB rescission will provide additional funds for the HCP Planning Grants that provide funds to states and territories to support the development of Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) through the support of baseline surveys and inventories, document preparation, outreach, and similar planning activities.

Program Overview

Through the development of regional, multiple species HCPs, local governments and planning jurisdictions incorporate species conservation into local land use plans, which streamlines the project approval process and facilitates economic development. The HCP Grants program provides funding to States to assist local governments and planning jurisdictions to develop regional, multi-species HCPs, or equivalent planning documents. These grants, which fund conservation planning for listed species, support outcome measures for endangered, threatened, and candidate species conservation under the Department's Resource Protection goal to sustain biological communities. The planning activities funded help direct future implementation of intermediate outcome strategies for outcome measures pertaining to the creation of necessary habitat conditions and management of species populations.

2009 Program Performance

The Service will publish a request for proposals in the third quarter of 2008 and anticipates making award announcements shortly after the FY 2009 Appropriations is enacted. Issuing the fiscal year 2009 request for proposals in fiscal year 2008 will promote timely obligation of funding and will maximize conservation resources. The Service expects that approximately the same number of grants will be funded in FY 2009 as are expected in FY 2008, which is similar to 2007.

The Service awarded 18 HCP Planning Grants in FY 2007; examples are listed below. Each project includes the federal funds provided through the CESCO program; however, in all cases these funds were leveraged by state, county, city, or private matching funds.

- **Monitoring Plan and Protocol for the Pima County Multi-Species Conservation Plan** (Pima County, AZ): \$274,505. Pima County, in collaboration with local stakeholders, initiated a Habitat Conservation Planning project in 1999. The grant will enable Pima County to design a biological monitoring plan and protocols that will ensure biological monitoring required by the Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSCP) is scientifically valid and adequate for permit compliance. The MSCP covers 36 species of concern, including lesser long-nosed bat, southwestern willow flycatcher, desert pupfish, Gila chub, Gila topminnow, Chiricahua leopard frog, Huachuca water umbel, and Pima pineapple cactus.
- **Butte County HCP/NCCP** (Butte County, CA): \$319,200. At the northern end of the Sacramento Valley, Butte County is on the threshold of unprecedented growth. The Butte County Association of Governments, the county, and its five incorporated communities are developing a regional HCP. Potentially it will cover 330,000 acres that are home to federally listed species, including all known populations of the endangered Butte County meadowfoam, plus other species at risk. This second grant for the Butte HCP/NCCP will be used to continue the planning process.
- **Development of a Statewide Habitat Conservation Plan for Florida Beaches** (Bay, Brevard, Broward, Citrus, Collier, Lee, Levy, Manatee, Martin, Miami Dade, Monroe, Pasco, Pinellas, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Santa Rose, Sarasota, Dixie, Duval, Escambia, Flagler, Franklin, Gulf, Hernando, Hillsborough, Indian River, Jefferson, Nassau, Okaloosa, Palm Beach, Taylor, Volusia, Wakulla and Walton Counties, FL): \$257,247. This grant will provide funds to start a statewide, coastal, multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan. The plan will bring partners and stakeholders together to address potential impacts of shoreline coastal construction and to consider protection measures on beach habitat important to 15 federally listed species and two candidate species. The plan will address five species of sea turtles, five subspecies of beach mice, the roseate tern, red knot, Florida scrub jay, and four plants. The Florida coast is particularly susceptible to hurricanes. This planning process will help the State address shoreline protection while also ensuring that the needs of endangered, threatened and at-risk species are addressed in an environmentally acceptable way during shoreline recovery efforts.
- **Coordination and Planning of a Regional Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan on Kaua'i, Hawai'i.** (Kaua'i County, HI): \$367,718. The grant will help support the development of a multi-species HCP for Kaua'i County, Hawai'i. The habitats affected by the development of an HCP include mountain forests in the interior as well as lowland coastal areas within urbanized zones. These areas connect many watersheds and provide the habitat necessary to restore and recover federally listed Newell's shearwater, Hawaiian petrel, puaiohi, large Kaua'i thrush, Kaua'i O'o, Hawaiian hoary bat, green sea turtle, Blackburn sphinx moth, and Newcomb's snail. In addition the band-rumped storm petrel and Kaua'i creeper, both candidates, will benefit.
- **HCP for the Indiana Bat on Indiana State Forest Lands** (State-wide): \$375,000. This grant will help support the development of an Indiana Bat HCP covering all of the Indiana State Forest system containing about 150,000 acres in ten management units. Many of these forests contain caves in which a large proportion of endangered Indiana bats hibernate. These caves are considered essential to the continued survival of the species. This HCP also has the potential to benefit more than 30 other State-listed or species of concern which use similar portions of Indiana's State Forests. Completion of this HCP will be the first to address Indiana bat management concerns on an actively managed forest.
- **Walla Walla Basin Bi-State HCP** (Walla Walla and Columbia Counties, WA and Umatilla County, OR): \$547,458. This grant will fund the final year (6th) of an ongoing planning process

for the Walla Walla Basin HCP. The HCP development process will result in benefits to listed bull trout and mid-Columbia River summer steelhead by addressing municipal and agricultural water issues in a forum with several State and local entities in Oregon and Washington.

Activity: Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund
Subactivity: Species Recovery Land Acquisition Grants

				2009			Change From 2008 (+/-)
		2007 Actual	2008 Enacted	Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Species Recovery Land	\$(000)	13,977	13,965	-	+221	14,186	+221
Acquisition Grants	FTE	-	-	-	-	-	-

Summary of 2009 Program Changes for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Program Changes	+221	0
TOTAL Program Changes	+221	0

Justification of 2009 Program Changes

The 2009 budget request for Species Recovery Land Acquisition Grants is \$14,186,000 and 0 FTE, a net increase of \$221,000 and 0 FTE from the 2008 Enacted.

Grant Funds Restoration (\$221,000)

The restoration of the 2008 ATB rescission will enable the program to secure long term protection for listed species by enabling the program to acquire additional habitat for endangered and threatened species with approved recovery plans.

Program Overview

Loss of habitat is the primary threat to most listed species. Land acquisition is often the most effective and efficient means of safeguarding habitats essential for recovery of listed species before development or other land use changes impair or destroy key habitat values. Land acquisition is costly and often neither the Service nor the States and territories individually have the necessary resources to acquire habitats essential for recovery of listed species. Recovery Land Acquisition grant funds are matched by States and non-federal entities to acquire these habitats from willing sellers. Because the criteria used to evaluate and award grants focus on the benefits to listed species, these grants directly support the outcome measures for endangered, threatened, and candidate species conservation under the Department’s Resource Protection goal to sustain biological communities. The activities funded by these grants aid in carrying out the intermediate outcome strategies for these outcome measures relating to creation of necessary habitat conditions and managing species populations.

2009 Program Performance

The Service will publish a request for proposals in the third quarter of 2008 and anticipates making award announcements shortly after the FY 2009 Appropriations is enacted. Issuing the fiscal year 2009 request for proposals in fiscal year 2008 will promote timely obligation of funding and will maximize conservation resources. The Service expects that approximately the same number of grants will be funded in FY 2009 as are expected in FY 2008, which is similar to 2007.

The Service awarded 21 Species Recovery Land Acquisition Grants in FY 2007; examples are listed below. Each project includes the federal funds provided through the CESCOF program; however, in all cases these funds were leveraged by state, county, city, or private matching funds.

- **Yarbrough Acquisition** (Cochise County, AZ): \$685,000. The acquisition will protect through conservation easement approximately 140 acres along the San Pedro River, one of the most imperiled river systems in the Southwest. It will benefit the Southwestern willow-flycatcher and Huachuca water umbel. Preservation of the property will help prevent ongoing rapid subdivision and residential development, and groundwater pumping that removes the biological effectiveness of habitat. The San Pedro Valley supports one of the largest sub-populations of the flycatcher.
- **Laguna Mountain Skipper, Palomar Mountain** (San Diego County, CA): \$1,372,000. The grant will assist in the protection of approximately 571 acres of core Laguna Mountains skipper and San Bernardino bluegrass habitat. The proposed land acquisition is for key areas for skipper nectaring and ovipositing and support the last known stronghold for the species. It will prevent further loss and fragmentation of core skipper and bluegrass habitat in a large and essential portion of habitat and could ultimately prevent extinction of the skipper.
- **Acquisition of Three Tracts Fronting the Licking River for Mussel Recovery** (Fleming County, KY): \$673,820.50. This grant will enable the acquisition of 455 acres along the Licking River in Kentucky, principally for the protection of the endangered freshwater mussel, the fanshell. This parcel will aid in the recovery of the fanshell by enabling greater protection to one of the only three reproducing populations of this mussel and growing acreage of protected land along this river system. Acquiring this parcel and managing it in perpetuity will also benefit a candidate species (sheepnose; freshwater mussel), indirectly benefit four other federally listed, endangered mussels, and provide protected habitat for potential reintroduction efforts.
- **Habitat Protection for Whooping Cranes, Interior Least Terns and Piping Plovers on the Central Platte River** (Buffalo County, NE): \$196,006. Funding will be used to purchase an important tract of stop-over critical habitat for the endangered whooping crane, and essential breeding habitat for the threatened piping plover and endangered least tern. Wetlands and adjacent uplands in this section of the Platte River have a high risk of development in the next few years. This section of the river is also an important migratory habitat for many species of ducks, geese, and shorebirds.
- **Acquisition of San Miguel Natural Reserve for Leatherback Sea Turtles** (Puerto Rico) \$1,500,000. This grant will enable the complete acquisition of 270 acres, which includes 1.2 miles of coastline in Puerto Rico that will benefit 14 federally listed species. This area is part of the proposed Northeastern Ecological Corridor that Puerto Rico is trying to establish to protect unique strands of functional wetlands together with undeveloped shoreline, where associations of flora typical of the Puerto Rico coast prior to Spanish colonization still exist. The Luquillo beaches in the San Miguel property are the most important nesting beaches for leatherback sea turtles in areas under US jurisdiction and their long term protection is identified as a high priority. Hawksbill sea turtles also nest on these beaches. Addition species which will benefit include the West Indian manatee, brown pelican, and Puerto Rican boa.
- **Whooping Crane Sadrift Habitat** (Calhoun County, TX): \$412,750. This project proposes to acquire a conservation easement by The Nature Conservancy to preserve the 2,160-acre J. Welder Ranch, an area of coastal marsh that is optimal habitat for the endangered whooping crane and brown pelican, and the threatened piping plover. Increasing commercial and residential development pressures within, and adjacent to, currently used whooping crane habitat in Aransas and Calhoun counties make the need for habitat protection measures paramount for the recovery of these species.

Activity: Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund
Subactivity: Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Land Acquisition

		2007 Actual	2008 Enacted	2009			Change From 2008 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
HCP Land Acquisition	\$(000)	47,160	35,031	-	+5,477	40,508	+5,477
Grants	FTE	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cancellation of Unobligated Balances	(\$000)	-	-	-	-4,500	-4,500	-4,500
Total	(\$000) FTE	47,160	35,031		+977	36,008	+977

Summary of 2009 Program Changes for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Program Changes	+977	0
Total, Program Changes	+977	0

Justification of 2009 Program Changes

The 2009 budget request for Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition program is \$36,008,000 and 0 FTE, a net increase of \$977,000 and 0 FTE from the 2008 Enacted. The budget proposes offsetting the request for new budget authority by rescinding \$4.5 million in unobligated balances. This rescinds a recovery from a grant that could not be completed.

Grant Funds Restoration (+\$977,000)

The net increase of \$977,000 is met by offsetting the increase to HCP Land Acquisition Grants to States (+\$5,477,000) with a reduction from unobligated balances (-\$4,500,000). Funds will be used to provide additional grant money to requesting States and non-federal entities to purchase land from willing sellers to meet conservation goals.

Program Overview

The conservation benefits provided by HCPs can be greatly increased by protecting important habitat areas covered by HCPs. HCP Land Acquisition funds are used by states and non-federal entities to acquire habitats from willing sellers and are meant to complement, not replace, the mitigation responsibilities of HCP permittees. States and territories receive grant funds for land acquisitions associated with approved HCPs because of their authorities and close working relationships with local governments and private landowners. These grants directly support outcome measures for endangered, threatened, and candidate species conservation under the Department’s Resource Protection goal to sustain biological communities. The activities funded by these grants would carry out the intermediate outcome strategies for outcome measures relating to the creation of necessary habitat conditions and managing species populations.

2009 Program Performance

The Service will publish a request for proposals in the third quarter of 2008 and anticipates making award announcements shortly after the FY 2009 Appropriations is enacted. Issuing the fiscal year 2009 request for proposals in fiscal year 2008 will promote timely obligation of funding and will maximize conservation resources. The Service expects that approximately the same number of grants will be funded in FY 2009 as are expected in FY 2008, which is similar to 2007.

The Service awarded 8 HCP Land Acquisition Grants in FY 2007; examples are listed below. Each project includes the federal funds provided through the CESCOF program; however, in all cases these funds were leveraged by state, county, city, or private matching funds.

- **San Joaquin Multi-Species HCP** (San Joaquin County, CA): \$7,000,000. This project will acquire 2,000 acres of ecologically valuable habitat for federally listed species, including San Joaquin kit fox, California red-legged frog, three vernal pool shrimp species, and numerous sensitive species in two adjoining counties. The parcels are part the largest contiguous annual grassland remaining in the area, and contain more alkali grassland, alkali wetland, and vernal pools than does any other portion of San Joaquin County or adjacent East Contra Costa County. The land will play a pivotal role in securing a northwest-southeast movement corridor.
- **Lands Adjacent to Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge** (Charlton County, GA): \$1,500,000. Working in partnership with The Conservation Fund and others, this grant will secure timber rights on 16,000 acres of land, and will lead to the establishment of a 9,200 acre Wildlife Management Area. The project will complement the ongoing conservation efforts in the Georgia Statewide Habitat Conservation Plan for the red-cockaded woodpecker, bald eagle and flatwoods salamander. The project will offer significant opportunities for expanding the red-cockaded woodpecker population at Okefenokee NWR and will benefit many other species included in the Georgia Wildlife Action Plan, such as gopher tortoise, and Eastern indigo snake.
- **Native Fish HCP: Blackfoot Easement Project** (Lewis & Clark County, MT): \$3,887,375. The Blackfoot watershed provides crucial connectivity for many imperiled wildlife species including native bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout and mountain whitefish. Intrinsic to this system as well are the imperiled grizzly bear, gray wolf, Canada lynx, trumpeter swan, bald eagle, and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse. The lands proposed for conservation easement acquisition are adjacent to National Forest and State lands and will maintain the unfragmented landscape.
- **Balcones Canyonlands Preserve, Purcell Tract** (Travis County, TX): \$5,742,500. This project in partnership with Travis County will protect 17.6 acres of habitat within the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve that is vital for conservation of five endangered karst species and three karst species of concern. The tract surrounds entrances to three caves containing endangered karst species, including Bone Cave harvestman, Tooth Cave ground beetle, Tooth Cave spider, Tooth Cave pseudoscorpion, and Kretschmarr Cave mold beetle. These karst species cannot be recovered without protection of these features. The acquisition will also benefit two endangered songbirds, the golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo. This tract is adjacent to preserve lands already owned by Travis County; therefore, fee title purchase of this tract by the County will provide important connectivity with existing protected lands.
- **Plum Creek HCP – I-90 Wildlife Corridor, Phase III – Keechelus Ridge** (Kittitas County, WA): \$4,191,500. The Keechelus Ridge acquisition will acquire up to 670 acres along Interstate Highway 90, near Snoqualmie Pass, Washington. The acquisition will prevent development; protect habitat for northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, gray wolf, grizzly bear, Canada lynx, and bull trout; and contribute to improved habitat connectivity between the north and south Cascade Mountains for another 160 species including bald eagle, wolverine, and marten.
- **Karner Blue Butterfly HCP Land Acquisition Wisconsin** (Waupaca and Burnett Counties, WI): \$192,000. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is awarded \$192,000 to partially fund acquisition of a 97 acre and a 320 acre parcel located within Waupaca and Burnett Counties. Each parcel is located within Wisconsin State Natural Area acquisition boundaries. The Sawyer

property purchase will significantly benefits the restoration and management of the prairie/savanna/barrens ecosystem present on the complex of lands owned by the DNR. The Plum Creek, Crex Meadows and Fish Lake State Wildlife Areas lie within the Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape. Acquisition will enhance restoration and management of this ecosystem.

Activity: Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund
Subactivity: Nez Perce Settlement - Snake River Water Rights Act of 2004

	2007 Actual	2008 Enacted	2009			Change From 2008 (+/-)
			Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Nez Perce Settlement – Snake River Water Rights Act of 2004	0*	4,988	-	+158	5,146	+158
(\$000)						
FTE	-	-	-	-	-	-

*Funding provided through Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Summary of 2009 Program Changes for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Program Changes	+158	0
Total, Program Changes	+158	0

Justification of 2009 Program Changes

The 2009 budget request for Nez Perce Settlement is \$5,146,000 and 0 FTE, a net increase of \$158,000 and 0 FTE from the 2008 Enacted.

Grant Funds Restoration (\$158,000)

The Snake River Water Rights Act of 2004 authorizes appropriations payments “to the Idaho Salmon and Clearwater River Basins Habitat Account, \$5,066,666 for each of the fiscal years 2007 through 2011.” (for a total of \$25,334,000) This funding is requested through the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund account. In 2008, the across-the-board rescission on the \$5,670,000 request resulted in a rescission of \$79,000 leaving \$4,988,000 available for payment to the account. The increase in 2009 equals the amount of the rescission added to the original authorized payment.

Program Overview

Since 1998, the Nez Perce Tribe, the United States, the State of Idaho, and local communities and water users in Idaho have engaged in mediation as part of the Snake River Basin Adjudication to resolve the water rights claims of the Nez Perce Tribe in the Snake River. The Tribe’s claim to instream flow rights in the Snake River in order to protect its treaty-based fishery was one of the significant issues involved in this dispute.

In 2004 the parties reached an agreement to settle this dispute. Under the obligations of the Snake River Water Rights Act, Interior will provide \$29 million in 2007 to the Nez Perce Tribe and the State of Idaho to fund water supply and habitat restoration projects. This cooperative venture with the State and Tribe will protect threatened and endangered salmon in Idaho and restore Clearwater Basin habitat. It will allow Idaho to complete adjudication of Snake River water rights, develop a long-term public water policy, and enable the Department to fulfill trust responsibilities. The \$5,146,706 requested through the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund is for the Idaho Salmon and Clearwater River Basins Habitat Account, which was established as part of the settlement. This account will provide funding for habitat improvement projects.

Activity: Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund
Subactivity: Administration

Program Element	2007 Actual	2008 Enacted	2009			Change From 2008 (+/-)
			Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Administration (\$000)	2,481	2,479	--	+39	2,518	+39
FTE	18	21		-	21	0

Summary of 2009 Program Changes for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Program Changes	+39	0
Total, Program Changes	+39	0

Justification of 2009 Program Changes

The 2009 budget request for Administration is \$2,518,000 and 21 FTE, a net increase of \$39,000 and 0 FTE from the 2008 Enacted.

Administrative Funds Restoration (\$39,000)

The proposed increase will provide additional administrative funding necessary to ensure that the program is operated efficiently.

Program Overview

Federal grant management and administrative oversight are necessary to ensure compliance with program requirements and purposes. The funding requested for Administration allows the Service to carry out these responsibilities.

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE COOPERATIVE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)			
Identification code 14-5143-0-2-302	2007 Actual	2008 Estimate	2009 Estimate
<u>Obligations by program activity:</u>			
00.01 Grants to States	32	25	31
00.02 Grants to States/Land Acquisition/HCPs	105	65	60
00.03 Grant Administration	3	3	3
00.05 Payment to special fund unavailable receipt account	46	49	42
10.00 Total new obligations	186	142	136
<u>Budgetary resources available for obligation:</u>			
21.40 Unobligated balance carried forward, start of year	95	49	30
22.00 New budget authority (gross)	127	123	118
22.10 Resources available from recoveries of prior year obligations	13	0	0
23.90 Total budgetary resources available for obligation	235	172	148
23.95 Total new obligations (-)	-186	-142	-136
24.40 Unobligated balance carried forward, end of year	49	30	12
<u>New budget authority (gross) detail:</u>			
<u>Discretionary:</u>			
40.20 Appropriation (LWCF special fund, 14 5479) [14-5005-0-302-N-0513-01]	61	50	80
40.20 Appropriation (CESCF special fund 14 5143) [14-5005-0-302-N-0500-01]	20	25	
40.34 Appropriation temporarily reduced (HR 2764) [14-5005-0-302-N-0512-01]		-1	
40.36 Unobligated balance permanently reduced 1/			-4
43.00 Appropriation (total discretionary)	81	74	76
<u>Mandatory:</u>			
60.00 Appropriation	46	49	42
70.00 Total new budget authority (gross)	127	123	118
<u>Change in obligated balances:</u>			
72.40 Obligated balance, start of year	184	229	213
73.10 Total new obligations	186	142	136
73.20 Total outlays, gross (-)	-128	-158	-149
73.45 Recoveries of prior year obligations	-13	0	0
74.40 Obligated balance, end of year	229	213	200

	2007 Actual	2008 Estimate	2008 Estimate
<u>Outlays, (gross) detail:</u>			
86.90 Outlays from new discretionary authority	10	7	8
86.93 Outlays from discretionary balances	72	102	99
86.97 Outlays from new mandatory authority	46	49	42
87.00 Total, outlays (gross)	128	158	149
<u>Net budget authority and outlays:</u>			
89.00 Budget authority	127	123	118
90.00 Outlays	128	158	149
95.02 Unpaid obligation, end of year			
Object classification			
<u>Direct obligations:</u>			
<u>Personnel compensation:</u>			
11.1 Full-time permanent	2	2	2
11.3 Other than full-time permanent			
11.5 Other personnel compensation			
11.9 Total personnel compensation	2	2	2
12.1 Civilian personnel benefits	1	1	1
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	137	90	91
94.0 Financial transfers	46	49	42
99.95 Below reporting threshold			
99.99 Subtotal, direct obligations	186	142	136
Personnel Summary			
Total compensable workyears:			
1001 Full-time equivalent employment	26	26	26

1/ The budget proposes offsetting the request for new budget authority by rescinding \$4.5 million in unobligated balances. This rescinds a recovery from a grant that could not be completed.

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