

Appropriations Language

For expenses necessary to carry out the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.), [4,500,000]\$3,960,000 to remain available until expended. (*Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008.*)

Authorizing Statutes

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Improvement Act of 2006, (16 U.S.C. 6101) For expenses necessary to carryout 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: Expires September 30, 2010.

	2007 Actual	2008 Enacted	2009			Change From 2008 (+/-)
			Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Neotropical Migratory Bird Fund (\$000)	3,941	4,430	0	-470	3,960	-470
<i>FTE</i>	1	1	-	-	1	-

Summary of 2009 Program Changes for Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund	-470	-
TOTAL Program Changes	-470	-

Justification of 2009 Program Changes

The 2009 budget request for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA) fund is \$3,960,000 and 1 FTE, a program change of -\$470,000 and 0 FTE from 2008 Enacted.

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act fund (-\$470,000)

The budget request level for Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA) grants in 2009 is \$470,000 less than the 2008 enacted budget. This request amount is essentially consistent with amounts requested over the past five years, and reflects recognition of other budgetary priorities. The NMBCA grants program receives many more high quality applications for funding every year than can be supported with available funds. In FY 2007, for example, the Service received 117 proposals requesting almost \$13.7 million, which would have been matched with \$45.5 million in partner funds; the Service was able to award grants to 37 of these 117 applicants. The FY 2009 request will enable the NMBCA grants program to address a number of priority projects and continue to pursue the NMBCA grants program's conservation and partnership goals, and yet remain consistent with the necessary budget requests to sustain other conservation priorities.

One important component of the Birds Forever initiative is focused on expanding habitat for birds. Many of the birds in decline are considered Neotropical Birds – long-distance migrants from the tropics and subtropics. The NMBCA program plays a vital role addressing migratory bird habitat loss, which was

identified in Audubon's "Common Birds in Decline" report as one of the major contributing factors to migratory bird population declines. Eleven of the 20 birds on the Audubon Society's List of the Top 20 birds in Decline are long-distance migrants that will benefit from grants provided through this program.

NMBCA grants support many bird conservation initiatives such as Partners in Flight, the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, the U.S. Shorebird Plan, and the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan; and are one of the major contributing factors to habitat conservation efforts for migratory birds in Mexico. NMBCA grants have provided more than \$1.2 million for eight (8) projects during 2005 – 2007 that were located in the five priority areas identified by the Administration (Chihuahuan Desert Grasslands; Marismas Nacionales; Calakmul, Yucatan; El Triunfo, Chiapas; and Laguna Madre). For example, on one project, "the Conservation and Restoration of Migratory Bird Habitat in Chiapas," project partners are establishing pilot forest plantation plots with saplings from at least 20 different native tree species to restore habitat connectivity among forest fragments. Partners will then share "best practices" for forest development and wildlife habitat conservation among the indigenous Mayan communities.

Program Performance Change

Performance Goal	2005 Actual	2006 Actual	2007 Actual	2008 Plan	2009 Base Budget (2008 Plan + Fixed Costs)	2009 President's Budget	Program Change Accruing in 2009	Prog Chnge Accruing in Out years
Resource Protection - Sustaining Biological Communities								
CSF 6.4 Percent of habitat needs met to achieve healthy and sustainable levels of migratory birds - cumulative (PART)	40 % (25,700,000 of 63,500,000)	45.9% (31,038,128 of 67,673,168)	51.5% (229,656,269 of 445,882,181)	52.1% (233,127,859 of 447,161,217)	52.1% (233,127,859 of 447,161,217)	55.6% (248,601,118 of 447,161,217)	3.5% (6.6%)	
CSF Total Actual/Projected Cost(\$000)	unk	\$7,963	\$29,861	\$31,039	\$31,039	\$33,894	\$2,855	
CSF Program Total Actual/Projected Cost(\$000)	unk	\$5,338	\$29,224	\$29,925	\$29,925	\$30,643	\$718	
Actual/Projected Cost Per Acres (whole dollars)	unk	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
6.4.3 # of acres restored/enhanced of habitat in U.S./Mexico/Latin America through NMBCA	5,905	16,516	32,105	18,715	18,715	10,100	-8,615 (-46.0%)	
Comments:	Acres of habitat reported as restored, or enhanced 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, and 09 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.							
6.4.4 # of acres protected/secured of habitat in U.S./Mexico/Latin America through partnerships and networked lands using NMBCA	104,394	66,964	409,123	176,641	176,641	110,000	-66,641 (-37.7%)	
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, and 09 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.							

Program Overview

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA) provides matching grants to partners throughout the ranges of migratory birds in the Western Hemisphere. Many of these long distant migrants are among those considered "common," or the birds you might see at your backyard feeder. In fact, eleven of the 20 birds on Audubon's "List of the Top 20 Birds in Decline" are long-distance migrants that benefit from grants provided through the NMBCA. The projects supported by this program respond to the full range of needed conservation activities to promote and protect these neotropical migrants, including securing habitat, providing education and outreach, and conducting research and monitoring. These activities, while closely tied to bird conservation objectives outlined and contained in international bird conservation initiatives such as Partners in Flight, are also local in nature. In coastal Maine, for example, a \$100,000 NMBCA grant to the National Audubon Society is helping to protect and restore nesting island habitat for the Common Tern and other species.

The Audubon report identified habitat loss (particularly grasslands, wetlands and tropical forests) as one of the major factors contributing to the declines of many migratory bird populations. Over the past six years, the majority of NMBCA-funded projects have targeted grasslands, tropical forest ecosystems, or wetland ecosystems outside of the United States. These projects typically involve habitat protection, restoration or enhancement, and community outreach and education which are vital to sustaining the long term conservation of habitats via local community investment in resource conservation. One example of these types of projects is a multi-year initiative, a \$168,000 NMBCA grant to the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory. This project will benefit the grasshopper sparrow and other grassland birds through habitat protection and restoration, environmental education, and bird monitoring in several western States as well as the wintering grounds in Chihuahua, Mexico.

Through FY 2007, conservation partners have received approximately \$21 million in grant funds in support of 225 projects in 34 countries and 44 U.S. States across the Western Hemisphere. Partners have contributed approximately \$97 million in matching funds to these projects. All bird groups have benefited, including songbirds, raptors, shorebirds, and waterfowl.

2009 Program Performance

In FY 2009 at the budget request level, the NMBCA grant program will fund approximately 40 new projects with \$3.96 million grant funds, and protect 110,000 acres of neotropical bird habitat. Every grant dollar will be matched by at least 3 non-Federal partner dollars; to date the program is averaging more than 4 dollars in non-Federal match to every grant dollar. This means our grant funds will leverage at least \$11.88 million in partner funds to support projects in the U.S., Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

Among other factors, the NMBCA program's grant selection criteria considers whether a proposed project addresses neotropical migrants identifies as a conservation priority, including the Service's focal species priority list. Of the nine focal species targeted for immediate concentration, five are neotropical migrants, as are an additional 55 on the larger list of focal species. The selection criteria also considers 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 Joint Venture. These criteria help ensure that the NMBCA program will continue to pursue the objectives of the Birds Forever initiative, as discussed above. They are already in use by reviewers during FY 2008 and will continue to apply to grant proposal review and development for FY 2009.

The NMBCA program directly contributes to the success of Department's Strategic Goal of Resource Protection. Projects funded through NMBCA grants explicitly 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, & PART measure). These measures are, the number of acres restored/enhanced of habitat in U.S./Mexico/Latin America through NMBCA (FWS CSF 6.4.3), and the number of acres of habitat protected/secured in U.S./Mexico/Latin America through partnerships and networked lands using NMBCA (FWS CSF 6.4.4).

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 (DOI 10, FWS Ops Plan CSF 10.1).

The planned performance for the NMBCA program in FY 2009 is approximately 10,100 acres of restored or enhanced habitat and 110,000 acres of protected or secured habitat in the U.S., Canada, Caribbean, and Latin America. These acres are the result of projects funded from several years previous that are reaching their completion during this fiscal year. Because accomplishments are generated from previous years' grant awards, these numbers would not be changed substantially from earlier years' accomplishments.

However, with the \$470,000 decrease in awarded grant funds in FY 2009 at the budget request level, the NMBCA program would anticipate slightly fewer program accomplishments in the out-years beyond FY 2009. NMBCA-funded habitat acres directly address the threats to migratory birds from tropical deforestation and wintering habitat conversion. In addition to the projected habitat accomplishments, NMBCA-funded projects will benefit migratory birds through other eligible project activities, including research and monitoring of bird populations, law enforcement, and outreach and education.

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 6.4 Percent of habitat needs met to achieve healthy and sustainable levels of migratory birds - cumulative (PART)	40.5%	45.9% (31,038,128 of 67,673,168)	58.0% (217,596,079 of 375,386,194)	51.5% (229,656,269 of 445,882,181)	52.1% (233,127,859 of 447,161,217)	55.6% (248,601,118 of 447,161,217)	3.5% (6.6%)	58.4% (278,433,252 of 477,161,217)
CSF Total Actual/Projected Cost(\$000)	unk	\$7,963	unk	\$29,861	\$31,039	\$33,894	\$2,855	\$37,961
CSF Program Total Actual/Projected Cost(\$000)	unk	\$5,338	unk	\$29,224	\$29,925	\$30,643	\$718	\$30,643
Actual/Projected Cost Per Acres (whole dollars)	unk	\$0	unk	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

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
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Standard Form 300

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

Program and financing (in millions of dollars)			
Identification code 14-1652-0-1-302	2007 Actual	2008 Estimate	2009 Estimate
Obligations by program activity:			
00.06 Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation	4	4	4
10.00 Total obligations	4	4	4
Budgetary resources available for obligation:			
21.40 Unobligated balance available, start of year	0	0	0
22.00 New budget authority (gross)	4	4	4
23.90 Total budgetary resources available for obligation	4	4	4
23.95 Total new obligations	-4	-4	-4
24.40 Unobligated balance available, end of year	0	0	0
New budget authority (gross), detail:			
40.00 Appropriation (special fund, definite)	4	4	4
43.00 Appropriation Total	4	4	4
Change in unpaid obligations:			
72.40 Obligated balance, start of year	7	7	6
73.10 Total new obligations	4	4	4
73.20 Total outlays (gross) (-)	-4	-5	-6
74.40 Obligated balance, end of year	7	6	4
Outlays (gross), detail:			
86.90 Outlays from new discretionary authority	0	1	1
86.93 Outlays from current authority	4	4	5
87.00 Total outlays (gross)	4	5	6
Net budget authority and outlays:			
89.00 Budget authority	4	4	4
90.00 Outlays	4	5	6
95.02 Unpaid Obligation, end of year	7	-	-
41.0 Grants, subsidies and contributions	4	4	4
99.9 Total obligations	4	4	4
Personnel Summary			
Total compensable workyears:			
Full-time equivalent employment	1	1	1

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