

Activity: Ecological Services
Subactivity: Habitat Conservation

		2011 Actual	2012 Enacted	2013			Change From 2012 Enacted (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Partners for Fish and Wildlife	(\$000)	55,304	54,768	+206	+883	55,857	+1,089
	FTE	262	262	0	0	262	0
Conservation Planning Assistance	(\$000)	36,791	35,780	+256	+659	36,695	+915
	FTE	260	252	0	+1	253	+1
Coastal Programs	(\$000)	15,137	14,870	+82	-803	14,149	-721
	FTE	73	72	0	-2	70	-2
National Wetlands Inventory	(\$000)	5,292	5,219	+22	+500	5,741	+522
	FTE	19	19	0	0	19	0
Total, Habitat Conservation	(\$000)	112,524	110,637	+566	+1239	112,442	+1,805
	FTE	614	605	0	-1	604	-1

Program Overview

The Fish and Wildlife Service, authorized by statutes such as the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the Clean Water Act, Partners for Fish and Wildlife Act, and the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act, promotes the protection, conservation, and restoration of the Nation’s fish and wildlife resources through its Habitat Conservation program. This cooperative program provides expert technical assistance in the use and development of the Nation’s land and water resources to conserve America’s Great Outdoors. The program safeguards public and environmental health by conserving highly-threatened coastal habitats; mapping, inventorying and monitoring the Nation’s wetlands; and restoring the habitats of aquatic and terrestrial trust species.

The Habitat Conservation program’s primary habitat conservation tools are:

- Partnership-based habitat restoration, protection and conservation projects;
- Habitat conservation planning in natural resource development and use;
- Coordinated review under the National Environmental Policy Act;
- Protection, restoration and inventory of coastal habitats; and
- Assessment and mapping of the status and trends of the Nation’s wetlands.

Environmental change occurs today in ways fundamentally different from any other time in history. These changes, including sea-level rise and habitat fragmentation, are prominent conservation challenges. Service staff employs Strategic Habitat Conservation principles to provide partners with landscape-level planning assistance to address urban growth and impacts related to climate change. The program delivers resources for coastal protection and management, more readily accessible digital information to address the potential impacts of sea-level rise on coastal barriers, digitized National Wetlands Inventory wetlands data for geospatial analyses of coastal habitat change and trends and sea-level rise models, and vigorous participation in Landscape Conservation Cooperatives and landscape-scale restoration efforts for coordinated conservation delivery on the ground. In addition, the Habitat Conservation program is accelerating collaboration on the development of renewable energy with other agencies, Tribes, and non-governmental organizations to help achieve renewable energy goals.

Subactivity: Habitat Conservation
Program Element: Partners for Fish and Wildlife

		2011 Actual	2012 Enacted	2013			Change From 2012 Enacted (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Partners for Fish and Wildlife	(\$000)	55,304	54,768	+206	+883	55,857	+1,089
	FTE	262	262	0	0	262	0

Summary of 2013 Program Changes for Partners for Fish and Wildlife Service

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Cooperative Recovery	+883	0
Program Changes	+883	0

Justification of 2013 Program Changes

The 2013 budget request for the Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program is \$55,857,000 and 262 FTE, a net program change of +\$883,000 and 0 FTE from the 2012 Enacted.

Cooperative Recovery (+\$883,000/+0 FTE)

Funding will support a cross-programmatic strategic approach to implementing recovery actions on and around national wildlife refuges to address current threats to endangered species. The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program will work with the National Wildlife Refuge System, Fisheries, Endangered Species, the Science Program and Migratory Birds under the Strategic Habitat Conservation framework, and in consultation with LCCs to identify priority areas for implementation of this initiative. High priority lands will be identified using Strategic plans, focus areas, recovery plans and other tools. This effort will include seeking the cooperation of private landowners to implement habitat restoration and enhancement projects on private lands around refuges.

Program Overview

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is the Service’s voluntary, citizen- and community-based stewardship program for fish and wildlife conservation. Based on the premise that fish and wildlife conservation is a responsibility shared by citizens and government, the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program works with private landowners, other government agencies, tribes and other partners to support federal and local conservation strategies. This undertaking requires the involvement of 250 Service staff in the delivery of habitat restoration projects on private land in all 50 states and U.S. territories. These efforts support the goals of the Department’s America’s Great Outdoors initiative by using science-based management practices to restore and enhance wildlife habitat, create corridors and connectivity on the regional landscape, and protect our lands and waters for future generations.

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife program vision is: *“...to efficiently achieve voluntary habitat restoration on private lands, through financial and technical assistance, for the benefit of federal trust species.”*

This mission statement is the guiding principle in reaching the program’s ultimate outcome of increasing the number of self-sustaining populations identified as priorities by the Migratory Bird, Fisheries, and Endangered Species programs. Within the context of the Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) framework, the Service works to identify priority species habitat restoration targets necessary to increase

or sustain species populations. The resulting projects reduce the threats to fish and wildlife habitat, and enhance ecosystem and population resiliency to predicted changes. Increased integration of Program expertise into these three programs will improve efficiency and effectiveness in completing projects with private landowners that can preempt the need to list many species under the Endangered Species Act.

Use of Cost and Performance Information

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program continues to achieve results via performance-based management.

- The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program operates under a 5-year Strategic Plan developed with stakeholder input. This plan defines outcome-oriented priorities, goals and performance targets that contribute to the long-term outcome-oriented performance goals of Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, and Fisheries programs.
- Annual project selection strategically directs Program resources to sites within priority geographic focus areas.
- In an effort to improve information sharing, the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program continues to fine-tune its web-based accomplishment reporting system (Habitat Information Tracking System) by enhancing its Geographic Information capabilities and including financial information on projects.
- Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program allocates base dollars through a national performance-based allocation methodology that considers the Region’s past performance and accounts for federal trust species and opportunity in each Region.

Strong partnerships help leverage Service dollars at a 4:1 ratio or greater. Figure 1 illustrates the variety of partners in 2011 who helped achieve habitat restoration and enhancement on private lands. This program has led to the voluntary restoration of more than 3,265,000 acres of upland habitat and 1,050,000 acres of wetlands on private land, since its inception in 1987. These acres, along with 9,700 miles of enhanced stream habitat, provide valuable habitat for federal trust species.

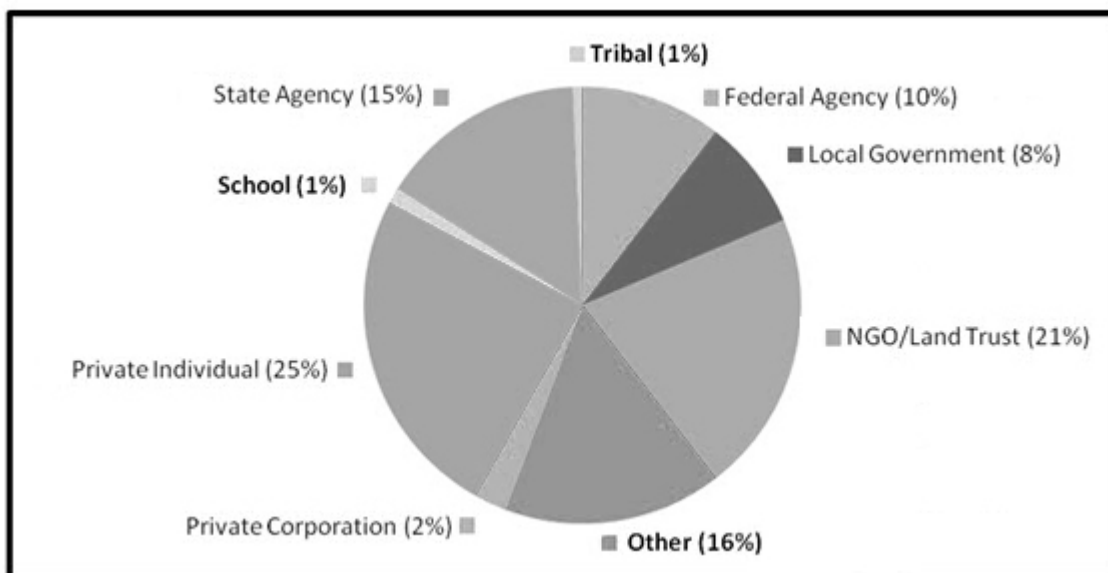


Figure 1 Partner Type Distribution in 2011 Accomplishments

Service resources are concentrated on high-value “geographic focus areas,” as identified in the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program 5-year Strategic Plan. This Plan guides the Service towards: (1) clearly

defined national and regional habitat goals, (2) improved accountability for federal dollars expended in support of the Service and its goals, (3) enhanced communication to achieve greater responsiveness to local plans and conservation priorities, and (4) an expanded commitment to serving additional partners. The Service continues to concentrate its delivery on scientifically-supported, collaboratively-established focus areas.

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program projects are community - based and developed to support the objectives of Service plans and programs such as the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, National Wildlife Refuge System, North American Waterfowl Management Plan, National Fish Habitat Action Plan, National Invasive Species Management Plan, and Service threatened and endangered species recovery plans. Collaborating with the LCCs will help develop tools and restoration strategies that can be transferred to non-Service land stewards and habitat conservation practitioners. Service partners working within and outside of LCCs are seeking to promote ecosystem adaptation and enhance ecosystem resiliency. This will be accomplished through designing restoration projects that are strategically focused to mitigate the effects of threats such as climate change and energy development.

“By maintaining land in private ownership and thus on the local tax rolls, programs like Partners also do much to support cash-poor rural counties”. – California Waterfowl Association

Many of the selected projects represent a key component of a strategic, on-the-ground response, reducing the threats to fish and wildlife habitat, and enhancing ecosystem and population resiliency to predicted changes. The projects are designed to help achieve population and habitat objectives established at landscape scale for species the Service considers most vulnerable and sensitive to habitat fragmentation, invasive species, sea-level rise, and variations in weather patterns.

Voluntary landowner agreements under this program strengthen the role of citizens in the public/private natural resource conservation partnership. In addition, Service staff serves as a bridge to owners of land adjacent to National Wildlife Refuges, to complement activities on refuge lands, contribute to the resolution of environmental issues associated with off-refuge practices, and reduce habitat fragmentation outside refuge boundaries. These efforts maintain and enhance hunting and fishing traditions by protecting wildlife, especially in areas of increased recreation, resource extraction, and development.

In FY 2013, the Service will undertake a new cross-programmatic initiative for the recovery of endangered species on and around refuges. The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program will participate in this collaborative effort with the Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, Refuges, and Fisheries programs.

2013 Program Performance

Beginning in FY 2012, a new 5-year Strategic Plan that identifies priority habitat restoration projects within geographic focus areas will guide the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. Seventy percent of Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program funds directly fund project delivery. Funds invested in habitat conservation projects on private land typically are matched at a 4:1 ratio or greater.

In FY 2013, the Service will continue to support habitat restoration efforts to benefit federal trust species. Service resources will focus on increasing the percent of self-sustaining federal trust species populations (e.g., the Apache trout, Topeka shiner, and Sage Grouse) in priority focus areas. Requested Adaptive Habitat Management dollars focus efforts on population and habitat objectives established at landscape scales for species the Service considers most vulnerable and sensitive to climate change. Projects will

reduce habitat fragmentation and increase terrestrial carbon sequestration and the availability of water for wildlife.

At the requested funding level the Service will restore an estimated additional

- 3,740 acres of priority wetlands,
- 22,885 acres of priority grassland and upland habitat, and
- 67 miles of degraded stream and riparian habitat that will benefit high-priority fish and wildlife resources dependent on private lands.

Examples of representative types of projects that will be funded with the requested FY 2013 funding include:

Citizen Weeds Warriors Anchorage, Alaska



Several invasive plant species are invading upland, riparian, and wetland habitats in the Anchorage area that will degrade habitat for the salmon that run through the heart of the city and the many migratory bird species that spend time here in the spring, summer, and fall.

To address this threat, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department (APRD) in a partnership with the Anchorage Park Foundation (APF) launched a pilot Citizen Weeds Warriors program with the support of the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. The goal of this program was to educate and train neighborhood volunteers on the identification of invasive plants and reporting procedures and encourage their participation in community weed pulls. The Citizen Weeds Warriors program now partners with Alaska Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) and Citizens Against Noxious Weeds Invading the North (CANWIN) to involve the whole community in combating invasive plants. The Service has been instrumental in the gradual transformation of this initiative from a pilot program to an effective model for urban invasive plant management.

Cub Scouts Replace European Bird Cherry with White Spruce

City of Luverne Dam Removal Project Rock County, Minnesota

This is a cooperative project between the FWS, Rock County SWCD, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the City of Luverne, MN to remove a low head raised structure concrete dam and install rock riffles to provide fish passage on the Rock River in SW Minnesota to benefit the Topeka Shiner (*Notropis topeka*). The removal of the Luverne city dam, a fixed elevation concrete structure, enabled approximately 62.5 miles of the Rock River channel to be re-opened for fish migration and habitat. This re-opened river area is an important step in restoring more habitat for the recovery of the Topeka shiner as identified in the draft



Recovery Plan. The City of Luverne and Rock County plan to promote more recreational use of the river for fishing and canoeing or kayaking as the river channel is now open for passage. The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program contributed \$83,000 of the \$407,000 total project costs, leveraging \$324,000 of partner contributions in project funding.

Hogan Longleaf Pine Restoration Richmond County, North Carolina



This project improves 222 acres of pine forests habitat for the benefit of Partners in Flight birds of conservation concern, targeting species such as the red-headed woodpecker, brown-headed nuthatch, Bachman's sparrow, Northern bobwhite, and red-cockaded woodpecker. These migratory bird trust species gain maximum benefit from open mature pine stands with wiregrass and herbaceous understory maintained by fire. While the landowners intend to manage their land so that it is economically sustainable, they are committed to manage their forests for wildlife and aesthetics. The properties are under a perpetual Working Forest Conservation Easement and the landowners are considering enrolling in the Safe Harbor Program.

Partners for Fish and Wildlife - Habitat Conservation - Performance Change and Overview Table

Performance Goal	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Plan	2013 PB	Change from 2012 Plan to 2013 PB	Long Term Target 2016
3.1.1 # of non-FWS riparian (stream/shoreline) miles restored, including through partnerships (includes miles treated for invasives & now restored) - PartnersProg - annual (GPRA)	1,084	702	538	502	238	633	395 (166%)	366
4.1.1 # of wetlands acres enhanced/restored through voluntary partnerships (includes acres treated for invasives & now restored) - annual (GPRA)	43,262	33,273	49,315	43,613	17,191	35,219	18,028 (105%)	20,372
4.1.8 # of wetland acres restored per million dollars expended	1,420	4,009	1,400	2,737	1,400	1,400	0	1,400

Partners for Fish and Wildlife - Habitat Conservation - Performance Change and Overview Table

Performance Goal	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Plan	2013 PB	Change from 2012 Plan to 2013 PB	Long Term Target 2016
4.2.1 # of non-FWS upland acres enhanced/restored through voluntary partnerships (includes acres treated for invasives & now restored) - annual (GPRA)	346,356	230,638	235,983	184,781	97,296	215,491	118,195 (122%)	124,637
5.1.14 # of fish barriers removed or installed - Partners	144	123	83	94	77	117	40 (52%)	66
Comments	Past performance provides no assurances of future performance. Future performance may vary materially from prior periods due to a number of risk factors including weather and the voluntary involvement of landowners and other cooperators.							

Subactivity: Habitat Conservation
Program Element: Conservation Planning Assistance

		2011 Actual	2012 Enacted	2013			Change From 2012 Enacted (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Conservation Planning Assistance	(\$000)	36,791	35,780	+256	+659	36,695	+915
	FTE	260	252	0	+1	253	+1

Summary of 2013 Program Changes for Conservation Planning Assistance

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Renewable Energy	+750	+2
• General Program Activities	-91	-1
Program Changes	+659	+1

Justification of 2013 Program Changes

The 2013 budget request for the Conservation Planning Assistance Program is \$36, 695,000 and 253 FTE, a net program change of +\$659,000 and +1 FTE from the 2012 Enacted.

Renewable Energy (+\$750,000/ + 2 FTE)

Since 2005, renewable energy technologies and natural gas development have provided over 90 percent of all new generating capacity in the U.S. A priority goal for the Department of the Interior is increasing the approved capacity for production of energy from domestic renewable resources to support a growing economy and protect our national interests while reducing dependence on foreign oil and climate-changing greenhouse gas emissions. The Secretary believes the Department can play a central role in moving this nation toward a clean energy economy. By September 30, 2013, increase approved capacity authorized for renewable (solar, wind, and geothermal) energy resources affecting Department of the Interior managed lands, while ensuring full environmental review, by at least 11,000 Megawatts.

Wind energy is the fastest growing renewable energy source and a priority for the Service. Wind energy production has increased approximately 70 percent in 2011 compared to 2010. Solar energy production is also increasing dramatically, with a 67 percent increase in energy production from 2010 to 2011. Conservation Planning Assistance is helping the industry plan and site facilities to minimize impacts on wildlife. Large-scale consortium-based energy production and transmission efforts make it incumbent of the Service to be involved early in the environmental planning, review and monitoring of these keystone projects. The additional program funds will be focused on large regional planning efforts, including those associated with the Western Governors Association on wind energy, desert conservation in southern California and Nevada (solar energy), and efforts associated with the Great Lakes Wind Collaborative in the Midwest. This funding will help ensure that core staff capabilities in field offices are sufficient to work closely with industry, states, Tribes, and other federal agencies (e.g. BLM, the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Forest Service, and FERC) to coordinate and expedite environmental reviews of energy projects and transmission infrastructure while conserving vital

fish and wildlife habitat. In 2013, CPA anticipates an increase in key program performance measures as follows:

- Participate in 13 additional landscape-level planning efforts
- Conserve 742 additional acres of wetland habitat
- Conserve 2570 additional acres of high-value upland habitat
- Conserve 174 additional acres of riparian habitat.

General Program Activities- (-\$91,000/ - 1 FTE)

The Service’s ability to implement core CPA activities including Transportation, Corps of Engineers wetlands/mitigation, National Environmental Policy Act coordination, and other infrastructure development activities, will be incrementally affected by this funding reduction as the Service shifts resources to other high priorities. Technical assistance, conservation planning for candidate species, and research and monitoring projects will also be affected.

Program Overview

Conservation Planning Assistance (CPA) plays a vital role in conserving America’s natural resources. This field-based program has the Service lead for reviewing and analyzing the impacts of federally-

Use of Cost and Performance Information

- **Long-term outcome goals and the CPA Strategic Plan:** CPA contributes to the long-term performance goals of the Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, and Fisheries programs. The program’s Strategic Plan emphasizes the delivery of conservation results across landscapes to more efficiently achieve Service resource priorities and goals.
- **Tracking and Integrated Logging System (TAILS):** CPA continues nationwide implementation of this web-based tracking system to increase efficiency and consistency in accomplishment reporting. TAILS provides improved predictive capabilities for budget and performance purposes, and will assist in allocating limited program resources on the basis of performance.
- **Activity Based Costing:** CPA uses this system to track and report program costs. For example, we can document Service costs associated with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission hydropower licensing work; in order to assist the Department in potentially recovering these expenses.

authorized, licensed, or funded land and water development projects on fish, wildlife, and their habitats. Service biologists work with project proponents to recommend measures that benefit fish and wildlife resources while minimizing and/or mitigating detrimental impacts. Environmental reviews are conducted under multiple federal statutes, and the program has a proven record of helping project proponents achieve conservation results. The early provision of expert technical assistance and conservation recommendations by the Service is the best method of achieving positive outcomes for the benefit of the American people and the Nation’s fish and wildlife resources.

are prominent conservation challenges, as is transition to a renewable energy-based economy. CPA provides advanced biological planning and conservation design to assist communities and industry in adapting to ongoing environmental change, while sustaining landscapes for fish and wildlife.

Environmental change occurs today in ways fundamentally different than at any other time in history. Sea-level rise, melting sea ice and habitat loss due to the growing scale of human activities

The CPA Strategic Plan outlines a conservation approach that focuses on:

- Landscape-level planning, with a focus on high-priority ecosystems;
- Four national priority needs: energy, transportation, water supply/delivery, and large-scale habitat restoration; and
- Achieving measurable on-the-ground conservation results.

CPA uses the Strategic Habitat Conservation framework to engage our partners in landscape-level planning that conserves fish and wildlife habitats while providing for other societal needs. Working

collaboratively in broad-based partnerships, Service biologists provide conservation information (e.g., geospatial data, habitat and species assessments, habitat modeling) and recommendations to sustain landscapes for fish, wildlife, and people. The participation of Service biologists, with their technical expertise and knowledge of federal environmental statutes, ensures that fish and wildlife are considered early in the planning process, thereby streamlining federal environmental compliance reviews and approvals for development projects, while conserving vital habitat and ecosystem functions. Service biologists help formulate environmental options and conservation actions, or integrate applicable measures identified in State Wildlife Action Plans or the National Fish Habitat Action Plan into development proposals. Through Service involvement, the integration of the essential elements of Strategic Habitat Conservation – setting biological objectives, developing conservation design, delivery of conservation actions, and monitoring, research, and adaptive management, is guaranteed.

New Energy Frontier – Renewable Energy Development – The unparalleled drive toward clean and renewable domestic energy has increased emphasis on expanding and accelerating hydroelectric, solar, geothermal, and wind-power projects, as well as tidal and hydrokinetic energy projects. The Service works with industry to help ensure that the Nation’s domestic energy resources are developed and delivered in an environmentally-compatible way. The program is increasingly engaged in extensive coordination with other U.S. Department of the Interior bureaus, federal agencies, states, and tribes to ensure conservation of trust resources as the nation expands transmission infrastructure and energy production from conventional (e.g., oil, gas, and coal) and renewable energy sources. The goal is to participate early with utilities and other stakeholders to develop resource protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures that will reduce risks to fish and wildlife and conserve essential habitat.

- **Hydroelectric power:** During the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensing and relicensing process, Service biologists work with industry to minimize aquatic and terrestrial impacts, and implement effective mitigation. Conservation measures recommended by Service biologists include prescriptions for fish passage, in-stream flows, and habitat acquisition and restoration. The typical 50-year duration of FERC licenses ensures these recommendations promote enduring fish and wildlife conservation benefits.
- **Wind power:** Since 2003, the Service has implemented voluntary guidelines to avoid or minimize the impacts of wind turbines on wildlife and their habitat. A Federal Advisory Committee (FAC) established by the Secretary of the Interior and convened by the Service, provided recommendations on revising these guidelines in 2010. This Service effort, in collaboration with the FAC, will develop final Land-based Wind Energy Guidelines, which are scheduled to be completed by March 2012.
- **Solar power:** The southwest has abundant solar energy resources, in addition to plentiful habitat crucial to fish and wildlife. The Service’s work with project proponents, states, and cooperating federal agencies continues to intensify as a result of Administration initiatives to identify environmentally-appropriate federal and Interior-managed lands for utility-scale solar energy development. Specifically, the Service is a cooperating agency in the joint Department of Energy and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) that is analyzing the potential effects of commercial solar energy development on nearly 22 million acres of BLM land in six southwestern States. A final PEIS is expected in FY2012. Early Service participation is helping ensure fish and wildlife concerns are identified and fully evaluated in this major landscape-scale planning and zoning effort for solar projects and transmission infrastructure. The avoidance or exclusion of environmentally-sensitive fish and wildlife resources enables more efficient project siting and federal approvals. In addition, the Service participates, as resources allow, in the review of active solar project applications with the BLM, States, and other conservation stakeholders.

- ***Geothermal power:*** About 250 million acres of Bureau of Land Management and National Forest lands in the western United States and Alaska are the principle stronghold for the Nation's geothermal energy resources. The Service participated as a cooperating agency in the joint Department of Energy and Bureau of Land Management PEIS for geothermal project leasing in 2008. Effective Service participation in landscape-level lease planning enables the BLM and Forest Service to process new requests for geothermal project leases compatibly with fish and wildlife resources on nearly 180 million acres of public lands. In addition, the Service evaluates individual projects as they are tiered off the PEIS.
- ***Wave, tidal and emerging energy technologies:*** The Service is increasingly engaged in the environmental review of innovative energy facilities that use wave energy, river flow (non-dam), and tidal flow to generate power. The program works closely with the FERC and State conservation agencies to advance environmentally-sound projects and technologies that minimize adverse impacts to fish and wildlife.

2013 Program Performance

New Energy Frontier - Project Review and Development: The Service will be well-positioned at the request level to facilitate the economic transition to cleaner renewable and conventional energy resources that are protective of fish and wildlife. The Service will possess the requisite biological capabilities to effectively participate in landscape-level siting initiatives to guide development and speed review of industry development and transmission proposals, without compromising key fish and wildlife values.

In 2013, an increase in key program performance measures including the following:

- Assisting with the planning and review of 31 additional renewable energy developments on DOI land and 77 additional projects on non-DOI land;
- Engaging early (pre-permitting) with 48 non-hydropower energy projects and 13 hydropower proposals, and
- Streamlining, through early involvement, activities associated with 11 FERC licensing requests.

These expected accomplishments will provide long-term habitat conservation benefits for federally listed and vulnerable populations of fish and wildlife, migratory birds, and other trust resources. The Service will be able to continue and expand upon the following representative accomplishments and opportunities in FY 2013:

- **Voluntary National Land-based Wind Energy Guidelines** – In 2012, the Service plans to finalize the voluntary Land-based Wind Energy Guidelines, completing a process of planning and collaboration with the wind industry and other involved stakeholders across the Nation. At such a time, the Service plans to develop, test and then deliver training programs. Trainings will be designed for all who plan, design, operate, monitor and provide technical assistance for wind energy facilities. Both public and private sector practitioners will be trained together, promoting a common understanding of the Guidelines and the process therein. A common understanding of methods and techniques will help produce wind projects that minimize project risks to both wildlife and developers.



- **Renewable Energy Priority Projects** – The Service is an active partner with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) reviewing, assessing and providing technical assistance on selected renewable energy “*Priority Projects*” on DOI land. These include solar, wind and geothermal technologies. In calendar year 2011, the Service assisted in the review, approval and permitting of 15 commercial-scale solar, wind and geothermal projects on western BLM lands. The Service assisted BLM in identifying 18 Priority Projects for calendar year 2012. These projects represent about 7,000 MW of clean, renewable energy. The Service will review and comment on project plans, assist BLM and project applicants prepare Bird and Bat Conservation Strategies, coordinate all Service recommendations, including Endangered Species, and provide other technical assistance when needed. It is anticipated that all 18 projects will have received final review by January 1, 2013. In addition to these priority projects, Service field staff will be working on an estimated 700 private-land renewable energy projects across the nation in FY 2013.

- **West Butte Wind** - The Service has been actively engaged with the BLM, the West Butte Wind Power LLC (West Butte Wind) and county governments on the review of the West Butte Wind Power Project in Deschutes and Crook Counties, Oregon under multiple authorities. West Butte Wind is proposing 52 wind turbines and a transmission line to connect to existing infrastructure. The project would provide a maximum of 104 megawatts of generating capacity. The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Field Office has commented throughout all phases of the NEPA process and has closely engaged West Butte Wind and BLM on mitigation measures that would avoid and minimize the potential for golden eagle take and impacts to sage grouse. The project was approved by BLM in 2011, with the anticipation of an eagle take permit being provided by the Service. The Service has prepared a draft permit and Environmental Assessment and anticipates issuing the permit to West Butte Wind in 2012. This will be the first eagle take permit issued by the Service. The West Butte project represents a triumph of multiple agencies, both state and federal, working together to assist in project planning and design, with the ultimate result being a project that minimizes risks to wildlife.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) - The Service assesses impacts and prepares recommendations on projects licensed by the Federal Energy Regulation Commission (FERC). The Service can influence the manner in which a permitted and/or licensed activity is carried out to help protect and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitats. As an example, the Service has been assisting the Penobscot River Restoration Trust with the **Penobscot River Restoration Project**. This project involves removing the first two dams from the lower Penobscot River and modifying a third dam to provide natural fish passage, and providing instream and riparian habitat restoration. This will provide unobstructed fish passage for anadromous fish in the Penobscot River, Maine. The project will restore endangered Atlantic salmon to more than 1,000 miles of freshwater stream habitat. The Great Works and Veazie Dams should be removed in 2012-2013. The project includes constructing a new fish lift and brood stock handling facility at the Milford dam, which will become the first dam on the river following the removal of the Great Works and Veazie dams. This shore-based fish handling/management facility will replace the fish trap currently in operation at the Veazie dam. The Service has coordinated licensing

activities with the FERC and has advised the licensee on the design of the Milford fish passage facility by providing design and modeling expertise. The sequencing of these dam removal and restoration activities is critical to the conservation program for endangered Atlantic salmon. The Service has worked closely with the Penobscot Indian Nation, American Rivers, The Atlantic Salmon Federation, Maine Audubon, The Natural Resources Council of Maine, The Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Maine Departments of Marine Resources and Environmental Protection. This effort has and will continue to demand a coordinated response by the Service, as well as creative solutions to integrate the various project construction activities and develop contingency plans for salmon management during the dam removals in the next few years.

The Service has begun early planning activities on the **Susitna-Watana Hydropower Project** with the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA). Partners involved include other federal agencies (NMFS, NPS, BLM, USGS), state agencies (ADF&G, ADNR) and several NGOs (Hydropower Reform Coalition, Alaska Ratepayers, Alaska Conservation Alliance, Alaska Center for the Environment). The proposed project would include the construction of a 700-foot high dam with a 600 megawatt powerhouse located approximately 184 river miles upstream of the mouth of the Susitna River, about halfway between Anchorage and Fairbanks. The Susitna River is approximately 320 miles long and supports all five Pacific salmon species including the fourth largest Chinook salmon stock in Alaska. If constructed, this would be the largest new hydroelectric project in the U.S. in more than 40 years, and would create a reservoir 39 miles long and 2 miles wide. The Service successfully requested that AEA complete an aquatic resource, terrestrial resource, water quality, and sediment transport data gap analysis of existing information to help identify questions that need to be answered about the proposed project before developing study plans with mutually agreed upon objectives. The Service also provided comments on the proposed FERC licensing process, began reviewing the gap analysis reports, and attended a project site visit and two FERC outreach meetings to ensure that information needs are identified prior to AEA filing a FERC Preliminary Application Document.



• **Renewable Energy Action Team (REAT)** - The Service has partnered with Bureau of Land Management (BLM), California Department of Fish and Game, and California Energy Commission (CEC) to form the Renewable Energy Action Team (REAT). The REAT is working cooperatively on project planning and environmental compliance and is focusing both on current projects and on longer-term planning for renewable energy projects in California. Examples of REAT activities include:

- Working with BLM on NEPA compliance issues in advance of section 7 consultation
- Working with BLM and CEC on coordination of NEPA and CEQA to meet ARRA or Department of Energy Loan Guarantee timeframes
- Tracking progress of solar and wind energy projects with local governments and applicants

- Developing Best Management Practices for renewable energy projects
- Working with the California Public Utilities Commission and the California Independent System Operators on issues related to proposed transmission interconnection to the electric grid
- Working with the military on issues related to projects that have effects on their operations
- Developing a large-scale desert conservation strategy (the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan) to address siting of energy projects and impacts to listed species and native ecosystems on both public and private lands.

The REAT agencies are working together to address the challenges associated with renewable energy development in the desert region of California. The agencies are working to ensure the protection and conservation of trust fish and wildlife resources while meeting the Secretary's priority to facilitate growth of the Nation's capacity to produce renewable energy.

- **Savannah Harbor Expansion Project** - The Savannah Harbor Expansion Project (SHEP) continues to be a focus of the Service in coastal Georgia. SHEP is a Congressionally-authorized Corps of Engineers transportation project to deepen the Savannah Harbor to support the larger cargo ships that can now pass through the enhanced Panama Canal. The deepening has the potential to impact water quality by releasing contaminants residing in sediments, which could in turn impact Refuge Properties. Issues include migratory bird and anadromous fish passage/conservation, the threatened shortnose sturgeon, restoring wetlands, and the water supply for the City of Savannah. This complex effort calls for a coordinated effort between Service programs, state and local agencies, and other stakeholders. Proper mitigation, the protection of water quality, managing Refuge lands and addressing the future protection of wetlands at anticipated higher sea levels, are all needed. In FY 2011, the Service completed the final Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) report and gave our concurrence to the Corps' Biological Assessment. The Service continues to discuss trust resource conservation issues with the Corps, especially the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge. Managed freshwater wetlands on the Refuge are heavily used by wintering waterfowl and have supported an average of 23% of the South Carolina waterfowl observed in mid-winter counts. Proposed mitigation is expected to minimize and mitigate for the potential changes brought about by the dredging project. This project has involved the Service working with multiple entities including the EPA, Corps, NOAA, South Carolina and Georgia State resource agencies, Georgia Ports Authority, the City of Savannah, and numerous NGOs. This long-term engagement on a large water resource development project with complex impacts, negotiations and processes is an example of the Service's commitment to addressing the ecological concerns and opportunities in projects of national importance.

- **State Route 79 Realignment Project** - Through early coordination using NEPA and Clean Water Act authorities, the Service's Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office CPA staff helped identify an innovative solution that avoided an ecologically significant vernal pool region while still providing for transportation needs. The Service is part of the State Route 79 Realignment Project Resource Agency Group (Resource Agency Group) collaboratively addressing a roadway realignment project in Riverside County, CA. At the outset, the locally preferred alternative (i.e. Central Alignment) to realign the 19-mile stretch would have resulted in severe impacts to the Salt Creek Plain. The Salt Creek Plain is arguably the most significant remaining large vernal pool area in Riverside County, with an abundance of rare and endemic species including five federally-listed species. The Central Alignment would have bisected the Salt Creek Plain, altering the hydrologic regime upon which the vernal pool habitat depends. By working together early in the planning process, the Resource Agency Group (FHWA, CalTrans, EPA, Corps of Engineers and the Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office) along with Riverside County, consultants and the City of Hemet, was able to identify a consensus alignment that avoids the Salt Creek Plain and will facilitate NEPA analysis and Clean Water Act permitting. The project will also address wildlife connectivity by incorporating numerous new bridges and culverts. The project was the recipient of the Service's 2010 Transportation Environmental Stewardship Excellence Award.

Conservation Planning Assistance - HC - Performance Change Table

Performance Goal	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Plan	2013 PB	Change from 2012 Plan to 2013 PB	Program Change Accruing in Out-years
Percent of conservation planning assistance responses with early planning for Renewable Energy (solar, wind and geothermal) provided to DOI agencies	n/a	n/a	47% (80/472)	53% (86/163)	65% (83/128)	72% (101/141)	+18 projects engaged early; + 13 projects overall	n/a
Percent of conservation planning assistance responses with early planning for Renewable Energy (solar, wind and geothermal) provided to non-DOI agencies	n/a	n/a	53% (219/417)	48% (269/556)	54% (191/356)	59% (232/392)	+ 41 projects engaged early; + 36 projects overall	n/a
Comments	Planning assistance requests on renewable energy projects on DOI and non-DOI lands continue to increase. At the request level, the Service will work on an additional 13 projects on DOI land and 36 additional non-DOI projects. The proportion that the Service will engage through early planning will increase further, with 18 additional on DOI land and 41 additional non-DOI projects.							
4.8.1 # of large-scale landscape-level planning and/or programmatic approaches in progress	447	368	429	459	237	250	13	n/a
Comments	At the request level, the Service will participate in 13 additional large-scale landscape planning or programmatic approaches							
4.8.2 # of large-scale landscape planning and/or programmatic approaches completed - annual	121	370	693	485	137	145	8	n/a
Comments	At the request level, the Service will complete 8 additional large-scale landscape planning or programmatic approaches							
14.1.5.1 # of energy activities (non-hydropower) reviewed early	1,051	1,108	1,140	1,238	822	870	48	n/a
Comments	At the request level, an addl. 48 non-hydropower energy activities are forecast to be reviewed early.							
14.1.5.2 # of energy activities (non-hydropower) reviewed	3,152	2,805	3,167	3,027	2,107	2,220	113	n/a
Comments	At the request level, an addl. 113 non-hydropower energy activities are forecast to be reviewed.							
14.2.5.1 # of hydropower activities reviewed early	663	560	436	354	237	250	13	n/a

Performance Goal	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Plan	2013 PB	Change from 2012 Plan to 2013 PB	Program Change Accruing in Out-years
Comments	At the request level, an addl. 13 hydropower energy activities are forecast to be reviewed early.							
14.2.5.2 # of hydropower activities reviewed	1,278	1,078	662	641	389	410	21	n/a
Comments	At the request level, an addl. 21 hydropower energy activities are forecast to be reviewed.							

Conservation Planning Assistance – Habitat Conservation - Performance Overview Table

Performance Goal	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Plan	2013 PB	Change from 2012 Plan to 2013 PB	Long Term Target 2016
CSF 3.2 Number of non-DOI riparian (stream/shoreline) miles managed or protected to achieve desired condition, including through partnerships (GPRA)	20,500	11,296	1,975	1,274	930	951	21	1,295
3.2.4 # of non-FWS instream miles protected/conserved through technical assistance - annual (GPRA)	2,873	1,399	845	356	303	320	17	495
3.2.5 # of non-FWS riparian (stream/shoreline) miles protected/conserved through technical assistance - annual (GPRA)	6,917	1,264	798	556	276	290	14	415
3.2.8 # of non-FWS riparian (stream/shoreline) acres protected/conserved through technical assistance - annual	30,435	24,674	6,138	8,580	3,426	3,600	174	10,305
CSF 4.4 Number of non-FWS wetland acres managed or protected to maintain desired condition, including acres managed or protected through partnerships (GPRA)	7,872,799	2,440,943	965,710	760,706	292,366	560,357	267,991	580,612

Conservation Planning Assistance – Habitat Conservation - Performance Overview Table

Performance Goal	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Plan	2013 PB	Change from 2012 Plan to 2013 PB	Long Term Target 2016
4.4.6 # of non-FWS wetland acres protected/conserved through technical assistance - annual (GPRA)	82,038	72,262	119,788	64,578	14,818	15,560	742	21,155
CSF 4.5 Number of non-FWS upland acres managed or protected to maintain desired condition, including acres managed or protected through partnerships (GPRA)	9,789,286	486,816	180,252	1,030,819	228,034	125,402	-102,632	249,945
4.5.4 # of non-FWS upland acres protected/conserved through technical assistance - annual (GPRA)	1,424,817	96,865	126,922	942,719	51,280	53,850	2,570	249,945
CSF 4.6 Number of non-FWS coastal and marine acres managed or protected to maintain desired condition, including acres managed or protected through partnerships (GPRA)	581,699	131,156	101,706	43,864	17,848	14,573	-3,275	42,220
4.6.3 # of non-FWS coastal/marine acres protected/conserved through technical assistance - annual (GPRA)	526,947	80,244	68,110	15,546	5,261	5,525	264	2,690
4.7.5 % of requests for technical assistance completed	84% (31,571/ 37,507)	86% (28,881/ 33,566)	90% (25,958/ 28,996)	90% (23,404/ 25,873)	89% (18,300/ 20,600)	89% (19,220/ 21,630)	0%	74% (20,610/ 28,000)
4.7.8.1 # of transportation activities reviewed early	1,928	1,783	1,439	1,334	1,057	1,110	53	1,175
4.8.1 # of large-scale landscape-level planning and/or programmatic approaches in progress	447	368	429	459	237	250	13	290
4.8.2 # of large-scale landscape planning and/or programmatic approaches completed - annual	121	370	693	485	137	145	8	110
5.1.20 # of miles stream/shoreline reopened to fish passage - CPA	1,100	1,122	587	264	143	150	7	315

Conservation Planning Assistance – Habitat Conservation - Performance Overview Table

Performance Goal	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Plan	2013 PB	Change from 2012 Plan to 2013 PB	Long Term Target 2016
14.1.5 % of energy activities (non-hydropower) streamlined through early involvement	33% (1,051/ 3,152)	40% (1,108/ 2,805)	36% (1,140/ 3,167)	41% (1,238/ 3,027)	39% (822/ 2,107)	39% (870/ 2,220)	0%	43% (815/ 1,890)
14.2.5.1 # of hydropower activities reviewed early	663	560	436	354	237	250	13	335
14.2.6 # of Hydropower FERC license activities streamlined through early involvement	228	205	112	132	99	105	6	115
14.2.7 # of Hydropower FERC relicense activities streamlined through early involvement	206	121	99	61	40	45	5	90
14.3.5.1 # of water supply/delivery activities reviewed early	466	755	479	446	372	390	18	360

**Subactivity: Habitat Conservation
Program Element: Coastal Program**

		2011 Actual	2012 Enacted	2013			Change From 2012 Enacted (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Coastal Programs	(\$000)	15,137	14,870	+82	-803	14,149	-721
	FTE	73	72	0	-2	70	-2

Summary of 2013 Program Changes for Coastal Program

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• General Program Activities	-803	-2
Program Changes	-803	-2

Justification of 2013 Program Changes

The 2013 budget request for the Coastal Program is \$14,149,000 and 70 FTE, a program change of -\$803,000 and -2 FTE from the 2012 Enacted.

General Program Activities (-\$803,000/-2 FTE)

The reduction will affect existing project delivery capability across all 24 Coastal Program locations and decrease the delivery of habitat protection and restoration projects in priority coastal areas. These savings are being used to fund other priorities elsewhere in the President’s Budget. Performance impacts include 35 fewer projects being undertaken; 583 fewer acres of restored/protected wetlands and 475 fewer acres of restored or protected upland habitat for federal trust species, such as migratory birds and endangered species; 2 fewer miles of restored stream and riparian habitat for inter-jurisdictional fish and native populations; and 1 less fish barrier removed.

Program Overview



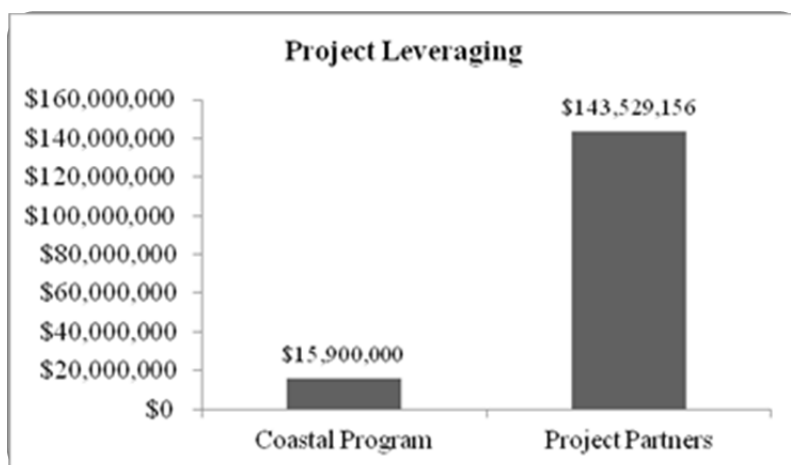
Since 1985, the Coastal Program has conserved our Nation’s coastal trust resources in collaboration with other Service programs, Federal, State and local agencies, Tribal governments and Native corporations, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, industry and private landowners. The Service implements habitat protection and restoration projects on public and private lands in 24 priority coastal ecosystems through the technical and financial assistance it provides in cooperative agreements. The Coastal Program Vision is:

“...to effectively achieve voluntary coastal habitat conservation through financial and technical assistance for the benefit of federal trust species, including threatened and endangered species, migratory birds, inter-jurisdictional fish, certain marine mammals, and species of international concern.”

The success of this program is derived from a strategic field presence and a field staff with a high level of technical expertise. Strategically-located field offices in priority coastal areas enable field staff to effectively implement landscape scale, habitat conservation projects. Expertise in a wide range of disciplines allows field staff to carry out both environmentally-successful and cost-effective habitat conservation projects. The success of the program is also based on the field staffs knowledge of the local community, its natural resources, environmental challenges, potential partners, and political and economic issues. The Service has developed long-standing and effective partnerships that allow the program to deliver landscape-scale conservation efficiently.

The primary purpose of the Coastal Program is to increase the number of self-sustaining federal trust species populations and preclude the requirement to list species under the Endangered Species Act. Conservation and restoration research indicate that if high-quality habitat is protected and restored in appropriate locations, targeted federal trust species will use these restored habitats. Since 1985, the Service has protected over 2 million acres of priority coastal habitat and has restored over 377,000 acres of critical wetland and upland habitat, and 1,750 miles of stream habitat.

By developing a diversity of partnerships, the Service is able to maximize leveraging and restoration opportunities. The Service looks to leverage both technical and financial resources in order to maximize habitat conservation and benefits to federal trust species. On average, the Service leverages at least eight non-federal dollars for every federal dollar spent. In 2011, the leveraging ratio was 10:1.



Under the Strategic Habitat Conservation framework, the Service delivers on-the-ground projects through active coordination and strong partnerships with Federal, State, and local agencies, non-governmental organizations, and private citizens, such as collaboration with the National Wildlife Refuge System and the Environmental Protection Agency’s National Estuary programs on habitat restoration and protection efforts. The Program supports federal trust species recovery, migratory bird and waterfowl management plans, migratory bird and waterfowl management plans, and State Wildlife Action Plans. The Coastal Program represents the Service on the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force and helps implement the National Coral Reef Action Strategy through planning assistance, public outreach and education. The Coastal Program is the Service lead for implementing the National Policy for the Ocean, Coasts, and Great Lakes, and coordinates with Department of the Interior through the Senior Ocean Policy team.

The Service supports America’s Great Outdoors by conserving and restoring critical habitat that ensures that fish and wildlife populations are sustained for the benefit of current and future generations of Americans. Collaborating with partners, the Service reconnects Americans with nature by maintaining long-standing hunting and fishing traditions. Working with the 182 coastal National Wildlife Refuges to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife habitats, also allows the public to experience fish, wildlife, and plants and their ecosystems in the world's largest system of conservation lands and waters.

Use of Cost and Performance Information

The Coastal Program continues to achieve its mission and contribute to strategic habitat conservation plans in priority estuarine areas via performance-based management.

- The Coastal program is operating under a 5-year Strategic Plan developed with stakeholder input that defines outcome-based program priorities, goals, and performance targets.
- Annual project selection directs program resources to priority geographic focus areas to maximize benefits to federal trust species.
- In an effort to improve information sharing, the Coastal Program continues to fine-tune the web-based accomplishment reporting system (Habitat Information Tracking System).

Working with Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) provides a framework for landscape-scale conservation delivery and implements coastal habitat conservation strategies that benefit conservation and recovery of Federal trust species. Collaborating with the LCCs will help develop tools and restoration strategies that can be transferred to non-Service land stewards and habitat conservation practitioners.

The Service is committed to addressing the growing threat to coastal ecosystems from habitat degradation. LCCs and Service partners are seeking to promote

ecosystem adaptation and enhance the resiliency of coastal ecosystems to the effects of sea-level rise and flooding, habitat fragmentation, and greenhouse gases. This will be accomplished through designing restoration projects that mitigate the effects of sea-level rise and protect coastal habitats as well as supporting projects that prevent and reduce habitat fragmentation and provide carbon sequestration through restoration of wetlands and uplands.

Coastal Barrier Resources Act Program

In FY 2012, the Service is transferring administration of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) from the Coastal Program to the National Wetlands Inventory. This transition allows the Service to: (1) maximize the use of Coastal Program funds for on-the-ground conservation and restoration efforts in light of climate change and sea-level rise and (2) identify and capitalize on efficiencies by integrating CBRA and NWI mapping and technical capabilities.

2013 Program Performance

**Kaena Point Ecosystem Restoration
Honolulu, Hawaii**



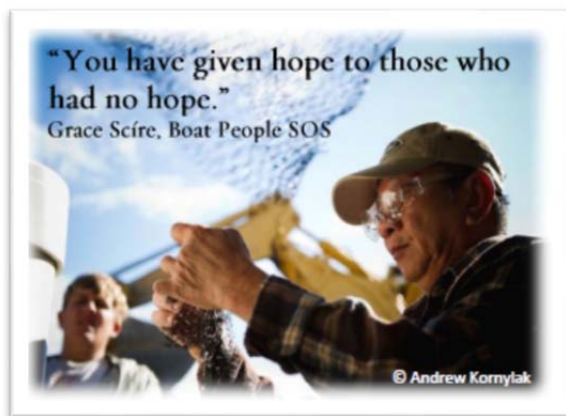
The Coastal Program, in collaboration with the Endangered Species Program, is overseeing a coastal habitat restoration project that will protect 54 acres of coastal habitat and 1.5 miles of shoreline at Kaena Point, Oahu. Kaena Point is a popular hiking destination for visitors and residents.

This project will install a new type of predator-proof fence to protect a growing colony of seabirds, rare insects, and several native plants listed as threatened and endangered species. The project will demonstrate how this new type of fencing can prevent predation of native coastal species. This will be the first time that this fence has been used in the United States, and the success of this project may lead to its use in other parts of Hawaii.

The primary project partners are the Hawaii Chapter of the Wildlife Society, which is providing project management, and the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, which owns the land and manages it as a natural area reserve.

**Helen Wood Park Living Shoreline Restoration
Mobile, Alabama**

The Service is working with The Nature Conservancy, Alabama Coastal Foundation, Mobile Baykeeper and the Ocean Foundation to restore critical Gulf Coast habitat. This partnership implemented a shoreline restoration project that placed 23,000 bags of oyster shells, forming the core of an oyster reef, which will support native oyster populations. The project also reduces coastal erosion along 1,100 feet of shoreline, and provides coastal marsh habitat for fish, crustaceans, marsh birds and shorebirds.



This project provided 9 jobs to the underserved Southeast Asian community (Boat People SOS) in Bayou La Batre. Local community members were hired to create the 23,000 reef balls for the restoration. Members of the Boat People SOS were recovering from Hurricane Katrina and Deep Horizon oil spill, and had no income during this period.

**Watts Branch Stream Restoration
Washington, DC**

The Service is collaborating with the D.C. Department of the Environment, Natural Resource Conservation Service and other agencies to restore priority stream habitat and support local economies in Washington, DC. For example, an innovative natural channel design approach to restore Watts Branch to a stable, self-sustaining stream benefits a variety of aquatic species, such as the American eel, alewife, American shad, and striped bass. The restoration also reduces sediment erosion, and provides improved riparian and wetland habitat.

This restoration also served as a spark to create a healthier local community by creating green jobs that engaged local citizens in stewardship activities, connected residents to their local waterways, and provided recreational opportunities for community youth. The restoration of Watts Branch alone has invested nearly \$3 million in the local DC community, creating jobs in manufacturing, surveying, construction, restoration, planting and maintenance of the habitat.



Watts Branch – Before restoration



Watts Branch – After restoration

Coastal Programs – Habitat Conservation - Performance Change and Overview Table

Performance Goal	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Plan	2013 PB	Change from 2012 Plan to 2013 PB	Long Term Target 2016
3.1.2 # of non-FWS riparian (stream/shoreline) miles restored, including through partnerships - CoastProg - annual (GPRA)	98	35	46	196	210	16	-194 (-92%)	21
3.2.1 # of non-FWS riparian (stream/shoreline) miles protected through voluntary partnerships - annual (GPRA)	38	91	31	59	35	17	-18 (-52%)	61
4.3.1 # of non-FWS coastal/marine wetlands acres enhanced/restored through voluntary partnerships (includes acres treated for invasives & now restored) - annual (GPRA)	35,958	17,130	10,384	13,921	6,655	4,247	-2,408 (-36%)	7,047
4.3.2 # of non-FWS coastal/marine upland acres enhanced/restored through voluntary partnerships (includes acres treated for invasives & now restored) - annual (GPRA)	10,930	8,972	10,427	14,012	4,626	5,183	557 (12%)	7,158
4.6.1 # of non-FWS coastal/marine wetlands acres protected through voluntary partnerships - annual (GPRA)	46,214	16,598	17,711	18,551	5,228	5,547	319 (6%)	n/a
4.6.2 # of non-FWS coastal/marine upland acres protected through voluntary partnerships - annual (GPRA)	8,538	34,314	15,301	9,084	6,726	2,819	-3,907 (-58%)	n/a
4.6.5.1 cumulative # acres of CBRA areas with draft digital maps	362,063	366,851	366,851	0	366,851	414,119	47,268 (13%)	595,919
4.6.5.2 total # acres of CBRA	3,112,691	3,112,691	3,112,691	3,112,691	3,112,691	3,112,691	0	3,112,691
5.1.17 # of fish barriers removed or installed - Coastal	39	34	28	35	32	26	-6 (-21%)	17
Comments	Past performance provides no assurances of future performance. Future performance may vary materially from prior periods due to a number of risk factors including weather and the voluntary involvement of landowners and other cooperators.							

Subactivity: Habitat Conservation
Program Element: National Wetlands Inventory

		2011 Actual	2012 Enacted	2013			Change From 2012 Enacted (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
National Wetlands Inventory	(\$000)	5,292	5,219	+22	+500	5,741	+522
	FTE	19	19	0	0	19	0

Summary of 2012 Program Changes for National Wetlands Inventory

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• CBRA Mapping	+500	0
Program Changes	+500	0

Justification of 2013 Program Changes

The 2013 budget request for National Wetlands Inventory is \$5,741,000 and 19 FTE, a net program change of +\$500,000 and +0 FTE from the 2012 Enacted.

CBRA Mapping (+\$500,000/ +0 FTE)

The requested increase of \$500,000 will be targeted at increasing capacity in the implementation of the CBRA, including reviewing alleged Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) mapping errors and producing comprehensively revised draft maps for Congressional consideration, per the directive of Section 4 of Public Law 109-226; conducting a “five-year review” to adjust the CBRS boundaries for erosion and accretion, per the directive of Section 4(c) of Public Law 101-591; and by using the additional funding to improve efficiencies and timeliness in determining whether properties and project sites are located within the CBRS.

Program Overview

Healthy functioning wetlands are the cornerstones of the most ecologically and economically important ecosystems in the United States. The Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986 directs the Service to map our Nation’s wetlands and deepwater habitats, distribute the data, and produce scientific reports on wetland status and trends. In addition, under OMB Circular A-16, the Service is responsible for coordinating, acquiring, maintaining, managing, and distributing the wetlands layer of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure. Section 1288 of the Clean Water Act authorizes appropriations to complete the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) and provide these data to the States to help them develop and operate clean water programs. To date, NWI has produced digital wetlands maps for about 66% of the Nation (73% of the conterminous U.S., plus another 16% in raster images). The strategic outcome achieved by NWI is a mission-critical scientifically-accurate national set of wetland habitat data provided to Federal, State, tribal, and Territorial governments, local municipalities, and the public to guide the conservation and stewardship of

Use of Cost and Performance Information

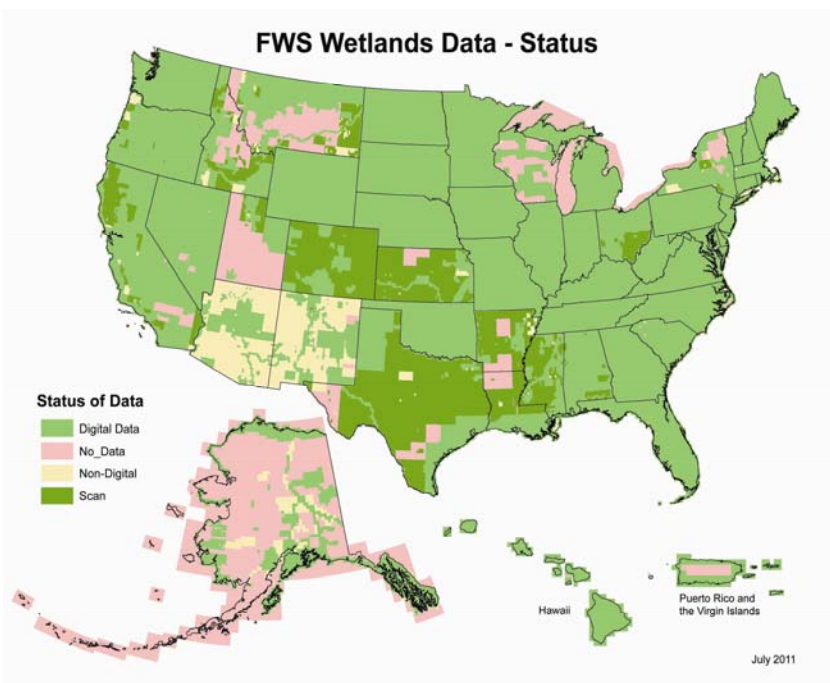
- NWI has capitalized on changing technology to upgrade its Wetlands Mapper, greatly increasing performance and delivering data at low cost for 60 million data requests.
- NWI is exploring cost-sharing strategies to facilitate and accelerate the completion of updated digital maps for the wetlands layer of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure. In 2011, NWI used appropriated funding and coordination at the regional and national level, to leverage an additional \$0.4 million in contributed funds and \$5.3 million in products or services contributed by partners to produce or digitize data for the wetlands layer of the NSDI, for a leveraging ratio of 4:1.
- NWI is participating in a GSA pilot project to put the Wetlands Mapper and the wetlands geospatial data behind it (the largest polygonal habitat database in the world) in the Cloud to test the cost-savings of serving federal data through cloud services.

wetland ecosystems. Emerging conservation issues such as sea-level rise, storm-related flooding, drought, infrastructure and energy development, and species and habitat decline, are driving the need for wetlands for robust, scientifically-sound digital data in this geospatial age.

Since 1954, the Service has been the principal Federal Agency monitoring changes to our Nation’s wetlands and producing periodic national wetlands status and trends reports. These reports (the last of which was completed in 2010) provide a quantitative measure of the areal extent of all wetlands, regardless of ownership, in the conterminous United States; have influenced Federal and state wetlands management policy; and increased public awareness of the need for wetland habitat for migratory waterfowl, endangered species, and other aquatic or wetlands-associated organisms.

NWI strongly supports Service and Department of the Interior priorities for fisheries, wildlife, and habitat conservation by providing updated geospatial data. These data, combined with other biological information, support the Service’s strategic habitat conservation approach to management and help decision-makers prioritize and assess scenarios and strategies related to species recovery, wildlife management, and wetland restoration and conservation. In addition, NWI provides its technical expertise and capabilities to address high-priority questions and related conservation and restoration tactics being carried out at the landscape/watershed scale by the Service’s Landscape Conservation Cooperatives across the Nation.

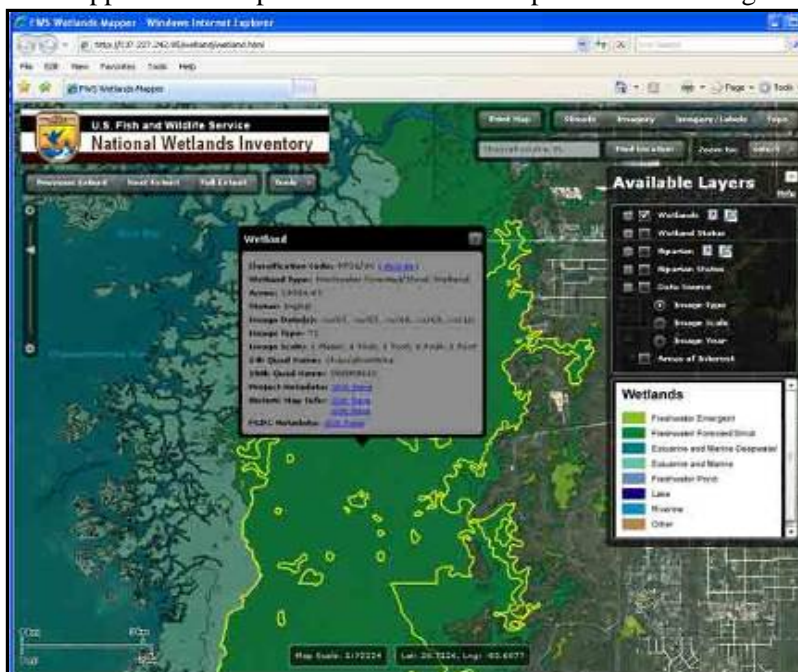
The Service’s web-based NWI mapping tool (the Wetlands Mapper) and state-of-the-art geospatial data continue to address growing demands for updated digital wetlands data and habitat assessments. The



Wetlands Mapper allows users to quickly zoom into geographic areas of the country to access wetlands data. It is accessible through the National NWI program website, which is accessed over 60 million times each year. The wetlands layer of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) is a major component of the Department’s geospatial line of business portfolio and E-government through the National Map and Data.Gov. The products produced by the NWI program are valuable tools that support the economic vitality and quality of life in local communities. The use of nationally consistent map products serve as powerful tools

to plan and fast track needed development (including energy) projects in ways that minimize environmental impacts.

NWI is guided by a Strategic Plan that supports the Department's mission to protect and manage the Nation's natural resources. It provides scientific data and other information about those resources that enable the Department to address four of the five mission areas (Provide Natural and Cultural Resource Protection and Experiences; Sustainably Manage Energy, Water, and Natural Resources; Advance Government-to-Government Relations with Indian Nations; and Provide a Scientific Foundation for Decision Making). The updated Plan will address the need for data and data analysis to support LCC priorities, sea-level rise, and energy development and will be formally adopted in FY 2012. Contributions from over 100 partner agencies and organizations have brought NWI to its current state. In FY 2013 and beyond, partnerships will be more vital than ever to completing, updating and modernizing, and maintaining a national wetlands inventory.



Coastal Barrier Resources Act Program and CBRA Funding Background

The Service's responsibilities under the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) have traditionally been delivered through the Coastal Program. CBRA seeks to conserve coastal habitats by restricting federal funding that encourages development thereby saving millions in taxpayer dollars and reducing the intensity of development in hurricane-prone and biologically-sensitive areas that provide essential spawning, nesting, nursery, and feeding habitat for many species. The Service is responsible for determining whether properties are located within the Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS), consulting with federal agencies regarding projects proposed in the CBRS, and preparing draft digital maps for consideration by Congress that update and correct existing maps.

From the mid 1990's through 2007, the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) Program was funded through the Coastal Program at approximately \$488,000 per year (with \$353,000 maintained in the Washington office and the remainder allocated among the regions for CBRA work). In FY 2008, Congress appropriated a \$1,000,000 addition to the Coastal Program, which included funding for CBRA map modernization without directing how much should be used for CBRA. The Conference Report stated "The amount provided for coastal programs includes \$1,000,000 for general program activities. The Service should use this increase for base programs and continue to update and transform the Coastal Barrier Resource Act maps to digital format." In FY 2009, Congress re-appropriated the \$1,000,000 Coastal/CBRA addition, which was subsequently rolled into the Administration's FY 2010 base request.

In FY 2012, the Service transferred CBRA administration from the Coastal Program to NWI. The purpose of this transition was to: (1) maximize the use of Coastal Program funds for on-the-ground conservation and restoration efforts in light of sea-level rise and other environmental changes and (2) identify and capitalize on efficiencies by integrating CBRA and Inventory mapping and technical capabilities. In FY 2012, \$190,000 will be allocated from the Coastal Program and \$200,000 from NWI to support CBRA. In FY 2013, CBRA base appropriations will be allocated exclusively through NWI.

The President’s FY2013 budget contains a \$500,000 increase in the NWI program specifically for CBRA program support. CBRA base funding is used to determine whether certain private properties are located within the Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS); consult with federal agencies that propose spending funds within the CBRS; review alleged mapping errors and make recommendations to Congress on whether certain areas were appropriately included within the CBRS; carry out a digital mapping pilot project; and remap additional CBRS areas using digital technology. The Service currently has 1.7 FTEs dedicated to CBRA. A portion of the base funds for CBRA are obligated to a private mapping contractor to create draft revised maps, assist with determining whether properties and project sites are located within the CBRS, and provide other technical support services related to CBRA. The amount of funding obligated to a private contractor for CBRA activities is different each year, depending on availability of funding for CBRA and program priorities, and is augmented with reimbursable funding, when available.

CBRA Base Funding History (FY2008 – 2013)

	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013 (President's Budget)
Coastal Program (1124)	\$789,000	\$789,000	\$589,000	\$390,000	\$190,000	\$0
National Wetlands Inventory (1125)	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$200,000	\$890,000
Total	\$789,000	\$789,000	\$589,000	\$390,000	\$390,000	\$890,000

2013 Program Performance

The NWI program will reduce efforts to strategically produce updated digital data in priority geographic areas, while increasing its emphasis on completing data for the Nation and leveraging partnerships for increased contributed data, expanding data distribution on-demand for decision makers, and supporting the Coastal Barrier Resources Act Program. The objective of this refocused effort is to enable the program to assist the Nation in preparing for and reacting to environmental changes and energy and infrastructure development. Wetlands data will be produced and analyzed to complement Service strategic habitat conservation initiatives that plan for environmental change and its effects on fish and wildlife resources. In particular, NWI will support landscape conservation cooperatives, or networks of expertise shared with partners in conservation. These partnerships with members of the conservation community will build shared capacities to plan, design, and deliver conservation among multiple spatial scales. The Service’s digital wetlands data will be an integral component of geospatial analyses and modeling at the landscape level. NWI will also support and integrate CBRA data management and distribution needs.



Partnering to Map and Analyze Wetland/Species Habitats on a Landscape Level.

The Service (in Region 2) has undertaken a small pilot wetland mapping project to help determine Whooping Crane stopover habitat through their migration corridor in Kansas and Oklahoma. This information is integral in the development of the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the Whooping Crane, currently being crafted by Service, States agencies, and energy companies. States participating include Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado,

New Mexico, and Texas. This bi-regional HCP (Regions 2 and 6) will be the first in the country to involve alternative fuel sources and climate change issues while protecting imperiled species on a landscape level. Texas Tech University is completing a four county project area that will be a pilot study to determine if NWI data can be used to model Whooping Crane stopover habitat. These data will help

guide energy companies currently planning wind energy projects, to avoid these important stopover habitats in their project planning. Cranes will only use wetlands which meet specific criteria for stopovers, including proximity to human development, vegetation cover, and water depth. The Whooping Crane corridor almost bisects the Great Plains LCC, and ends in the Gulf Coast Plains and Ozarks LCC. Preliminary modeling should be completed early next year. This is an example of a mapping effort that could be continued with 2013 funding.

Coastal Barrier Resources Act

CBRA prohibits the sale of Federally-backed flood insurance for most structures located within the Coastal Barrier Resource System (CBRS.) The existing maps that depict the CBRS are outdated and difficult to use. The CBRS boundaries on the maps do not always precisely follow the features they were intended to follow on-the-ground, which can have a significant financial impact on property owners and project proponents. Using the existing CBRS maps to administer CBRA takes significant time and resources, leading to inefficiencies in determining whether or not certain private properties and proposed projects are located within the CBRS and are therefore ineligible for Federal subsidies. Due to the antiquated maps that currently depict the CBRS, the consultation process with the Service can take several months to complete, resulting in adverse impacts for time sensitive projects seeking Federal funding. An additional challenge is that users of the existing maps are unable to easily integrate CBRS boundaries into Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for proactive planning, decision making, and information sharing purposes.



Misinterpretation of the CBRA maps has resulted in subsequent cancellation of numerous policies, often years after they were issued, causing significant hardships for homeowners who are required to carry flood insurance to secure their mortgages. In the most extreme cases, homeowners have learned after a storm that their property is located within the CBRS and that their homes were issued a Federal flood insurance policy in error. In such cases, homeowner's premiums are refunded and the insurance claim is not paid.

Modernizing the CBRS maps using digital technology will improve access to information; increase efficiency for infrastructure project planning; and increase accuracy and efficiency in determining whether individual properties are located within the CBRS. Comprehensive map modernization will also correct errors that affect property owners and propose appropriate additions to the CBRS, and enable digital CBRS boundaries to be incorporated into Federal, State, and local GIS. This will help ensure that people know about CBRA restrictions on Federal spending before they choose to invest in a property or pursue a project that is affected by CBRA.

In FY 2013, the CBRA program, with the \$500,000 increase, will increase capacity across all program activities. The FY 2013 funding will result in comprehensively revised draft maps for approximately 13 additional CBRA areas comprising an estimated 47,268 acres, or two percent of the total area within the CBRS. The comprehensively revised maps will correct errors that affect property owners and propose appropriate additions to the CBRS. Comprehensively revised maps require significant research and the

revised maps are made effective only through new legislation. The FY 2013 funding will result in the production of “5-year review maps” for approximately 15 percent of the total area within the CBRS through a partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The 5-year review effort is complimentary to the comprehensive map modernization effort, and will allow the Service to administratively revise the CBRS maps to account for geomorphic changes to the coastal barriers (i.e., erosion and accretion). Both mapping efforts will facilitate moving away from the outdated CBRS maps toward modernized digital maps that are more accurate and user-friendly. The FY 2013 funding will improve and expand the data distribution capabilities of the CBRA program through an online mapping tool. The FY 2013 funding will also result in a reduced wait time for customers and partners who seek a determination as to whether a particular property or project site is located within the CBRS.

National Wetlands Inventory - HC - Performance Change Table

Performance Goal	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Plan	2013 PB	Change from 2012 Plan to 2013 PB	Program Change Accruing in Out-years
CSF 4.1 Number of non-FWS wetland acres restored, including acres restored through partnerships, as specified in management plans or agreements that involve FWS - annual (GPRA)	974,658	458,713	363,141	372,004	213,378	340,270	126,892	n/a
4.1.10 % of up-to-date digital wetlands data produced for the nation to Improve Information Base, Information Management and Technical Assistance	1.4% (32 of 2,324)	1.7% (39 of 2,324)	0.9% (21 of 2,324)	4.1% (95 of 2,324)	3.5% (82 of 2,324)	2.0% (47 of 2,324)	-1.5%	0.3% (7 of 2,324)
Comments	Although level funded in FY 2013, the NWI program within this subactivity will absorb \$200,000 of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) program in FY 2012 and \$390,000 in FY 2013. To absorb this cost and other reductions, NWI will reduce by over half over two years the out-year production (using regional FLEX project funding) of current geospatial wetlands data vital to conserving wetlands, trust species, public lands, and clean water; and forgo the potential for additional leveraged partnership funding for mapping. This supports the decision of the Service to reprogram CBRA funds in the Coastal Program to maximize on-the-ground conservation and restoration efforts in light of sea-level rise and other environmental impacts and other Service priorities. The proposed subactivity funding increase is for increased capacity for the CBRA program.							
4.1.14 # of scientific/technical reports produced for the nation by NWI	18	19	9	11	14	10	-4	n/a
Comments	NWI will be producing fewer reports for fewer funded projects. Long term target reduction reflects NWI's assumption of the CBRA program in FY 2013.							

National Wetlands Inventory – Habitat Conservation - Performance Change and Overview Table

Performance Goal	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Plan	2013 PB	Change from 2012 Plan to 2013 PB	Long Term Target 2016
CSF 4.1 Number of non-FWS wetland acres restored, including acres restored through partnerships, as specified in management plans or agreements that involve FWS - annual (GPRA)	974,658	458,713	363,141	372,004	213,378	340,270	126,892	447,693
4.1.10 % of up-to-date digital wetlands data produced for the nation to Improve Information Base, Information Management and Technical Assist	1.4% (32/2,324)	1.7% (39/2,324)	0.9% (21/2,324)	4.1% (95/2,324)	3.5% (82/2,324)	2.0% (47/2,324)	-1.5%	0.3% (7/2,324)
Comments	Although level funded in FY 2013, the NWI program within this subactivity will absorb \$200,000 of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) program in FY 2012 and \$390,000 in FY 2013. To absorb this cost and other reductions, NWI will reduce by over half over two years the out-year production (using regional FLEX project funding) of current geospatial wetlands data vital to conserving wetlands, trust species, public lands, and clean water; and forgo the potential for additional leveraged partnership funding for mapping. This supports the decision of the Service to reprogram CBRA funds in the Coastal Program to maximize on-the-ground conservation and restoration efforts in light of sea-level rise and other environmental impacts and other Service priorities. The proposed subactivity funding increase is for increased capacity for the CBRA program. FY 2012 and 2013 Targets include prior-year funded and partner contributed data. Out-year Target reflects capabilities using FY 2013 allocated funding. Service emphasis is divided among data production, completing the data layer for the nation, and quality control for contributed data.							
4.1.11 Cumulative % of acres with digital data available	57.5% (1,336/ 2,324)	61% (1,418/ 2,324)	63.9% (1,486/ 2,324)	67% (1,547/ 2,324)	68.6% (1,595/ 2,324)	70% (1,626/ 2,324)	1.4%	74%
Comments	Cumulative Total increases have primarily been from partner funding to digitize existing NWI hardcopy maps; another 13% of the nation is awaiting funding to be made available online, on-demand for businesses, the public, and those States, Tribes, and local agencies currently lacking wetlands geospatial data for decision-making for clean water, wildlife and fish habitat conservation, storm-loss prevention, and energy, infrastructure, and community development. FY 2012 and 2013 Targets include prior-year funded and partner contributed data. Out-year Target reflects capabilities using FY 2013 allocated funding with increased emphasis on completing the data layer for the nation.							
4.1.14 # of scientific/technical reports produced for the nation by NWI	18	19	9	11	14	10	-4	5
Comments	NWI will be producing fewer reports for fewer funded projects. Long term target reduction reflects NWI's assumption of the CBRA program in FY 2013.							

Coastal Barrier Resources Act - HC – Combined Performance Change and Overview Table

Performance Goal	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Plan	2013 PB	Change from 2012 Plan to 2013 PB	Long Term Target 2016
CSF 4.6 Number of non-FWS coastal and marine acres managed or protected to maintain desired condition, including acres managed or protected through partnerships, as specified in management plans or agreements that involve FWS - annual (GPRA)	581,699	131,156	101,706	43,864	17,848	14,573	-3,275	42,220
4.6.5 Cumulative % of CBRA areas with draft digital maps	12% (362,063/ 3,112,691)	12% (366,851/ 3,112,691)	12% (366,851/ 3,112,691)	12% (366,851/ 3,112,691)	12% (366,851/ 3,112,691)	13% (414,119/ 3,112,691)	2%	19% (603,191/ 3,112,691)
Comments	The proposed subactivity funding increase of \$500,000 is for increased capacity for the implementation of the CBRA, including determining whether properties and project sites are located within the Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS), reviewing alleged CBRS mapping errors, and creating modernized maps that correct mapping errors and improve customer service and program efficiency. FY 2013 and long-term target increases reflect an increase in funding to produce new draft CBRS maps for Congressional consideration.							

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